California Coastal Voices
Exploring and Communicating Coastal Science, Engineering, and Policy
Teacher-Guided and Student-Driven Projects from the California Coastal Commission
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The California Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 and made permanent by the California Legislature in 1976 with the passage of the California Coastal Act. The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination. The Commission’s Public Education Program, including the Whale Tail® Grants, is funded through purchases of Whale Tail® License Plates and donations to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund on California tax forms.

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California Coastal Voices
Exploring and Communicating Coastal Science, Engineering, and Policy in California

Teacher Support Pieces

Introduction
Organizing for Student Success: Routines & Project Management Tools
Essential Elements of Project-Based Learning

Teacher-Guided Inquiry Projects

A Sense of the Coast: Getting to Know the Golden Shore
How can we make sense of interacting Earth systems on California’s coast?
Integrates biology and earth science. Emphasis on systems thinking and modeling.

Concrete Questions: Engineering Solutions for a Changing Coast
How can we use engineering practices to protect natural and human communities on sandy shores?
Integrates physical and earth science. Emphasis on constructing explanations and proposing solutions.

Coastal Voices: Speaking Up for the Beach
How can Californians use the Public Trust Doctrine & the California Coastal Act to protect access to beaches?
Integrates science, policy, and civic readiness. Emphasis on evaluating and communicating solutions.

Student-Driven Community-Based Projects

A Sense of Nature: Who’s at the Beach?
How can we expand park and beach access for all Californians?
Integrates biology, earth science, and history-social science. Emphasis on systems thinking and modeling.

Concrete Questions: Restoring our Land and Water
How can we use science, policy, and nature-based engineering practices for ecological restoration in California?
Integrates earth, biology, and physical science. Emphasis on constructing arguments and proposing solutions.

Coastal Voices: More Than a Career
How can I make protecting and enhancing coast and ocean environments into a career?
For college, career, and civic readiness. Emphasis on obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Readings & Resources

Making Sense of Images
Guiding Questions for Image Analysis
The Public Trust Doctrine
Introduction to the California Coastal Act
Student Guide to Personalized Learning Plans
Sample Group Contract
Teacher Checklist for Student-Driven Projects
Asking the Right Questions
Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning Guide
Tips for Effective Communication in Public Settings
Students Taking Action on Science & Policy & Communicating to Public Audiences
Rubrics
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