

CALIFORNIA'S COASTAL PROGRAM UNDER ASSAULT

A covert effort to fire the Coastal Commission's Executive Director has come to light. Commissioners leading this effort have the worst environmental voting records (see back). Ironically, this includes Commissioners that report to Governor Brown, who signed the landmark Coastal Act in 1976.

Environmental leaders are calling this an assault on the Coastal Act. They suggest the *real* reason is to intimidate Commission's staff or replace them with those more compliant to coastal developers. The controversy has received state and national news attention.

Commissioners will vote to fire the Executive Director, behind closed doors on Wednesday, Feb. 10, when the Commission meets in Morro Bay. A public hearing precedes the "private" vote. The accomplishments of the Commission, led by the Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester are exceptional (see partial list below). So why the attempted coup?

The 12 Coastal Commissioners are appointed (four each), by the Governor, Assembly Speaker and Senate President. **We urge these three leaders to immediately investigate and publicly address the *real* reasons for this controversy that threatens the integrity of the coastal program on its 40th Anniversary.**

This action is opposed by Surfrider Foundation, the Sierra Club, Heal the Bay, California Coastkeeper, Environment California and dozens of other organizations from Del Norte to San Diego County.

"I applaud the Coastal Commission... Their action demonstrates their commitment to their mission to protect our resources... California's coast and ocean is sacred to the voters of this state and has been for many decades since voters overwhelmingly passed the Coastal Zone Conservation Act in 1972..."
– Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Santa Monica Patch, Aug. 20, 2013

"The entire California coast is an iconic symbol of the Golden State and is integral to our economy and our lifestyle. This time of year, millions of our neighbors to the North and East look out of frosted windows over snow-piled drives and dream of California beaches. Our giving this important enforcement tool to the California Coastal Commission is helping keep that dream alive – and open to everyone." – Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, San Diego Union Tribune San Diego, Feb. 5, 2015

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SELECTED RECENT COASTAL COMMISSION STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Achieved 2015 budget success.** Awarded \$3 million augmentation to support Local Coastal Program (LCP) and Climate Change Adaptation Planning.
- **Improved and expanded LCP Grant Program to assist local governments.** The LCP program is working faster, more collaboratively, with more successful outcomes.
- **Prepared Comprehensive Sea Level Rise Guidance document adopted unanimously by the Commission.** Commission staff are now launching adaptation planning statewide and working closely with the state leadership group to implement *Safeguarding California*.
- **Prepared the Commission's first detailed Strategic Plan.** Remarkably, after only two years, 80 percent of actions are completed or are in progress.
- **Created position and hired new Public Information Officer and new web administrator.** These positions improve public outreach, including through social media, and have launched a how to get to "Your Coast" public access Smart Phone app.
- **Implementing new data management system.** This new system provides planning and permitting information to the public and has increased the transparency of Commission actions.
- **Successfully implemented new Administrative Penalty authority granted by the Legislature.** Staff are using this authority to protect public access to the beach, and multiple long-standing cases have been resolved without fines or penalties levied.
- **Addressing Workforce Diversity.** Staff has been actively engaged through enhanced outreach and recruitment strategies as outlined in the 2014 Report and 2015 Update prepared for the Coastal Commission.
- **Currently streamlining regulations for Local Coastal Programs.** This streamlining has reduced the backlog and processing time for permit appeals.

Coastal Commission Conservation Voting Chart 2015

Prepared by ActCoastal, a project of the Surfrider Foundation, WILDCOAST and Environment California

Commissioner	Appointed By	Anti-Conservation Votes	Pro-Conservation Votes	Conservation Vote Score
Mary Shallenberger	Senate Pro Tem	5	14	74%
Carole Groom	Speaker of the Assembly	6	13	68%
Mary Luévano	Speaker of the Assembly	3	6	67%
Steve Kinsey	Senate Pro Tem	8	10	56%
Roberto Uranga	Senate Pro Tem	8	8	50%
Dana Bochco	Senate Pro Tem	9	9	50%
Erik Howell*	Governor	11	8	42%
Mark Vargas	Speaker of the Assembly	11	7	39%
Effie Turnbull-Sanders*	Governor	12	6	33%
Wendy Mitchell*	Governor	10	5	33%
Martha McClure*	Governor	13	6	32%
Gregory Cox	Speaker of the Assembly	13	6	32%