



CALIFORNIA  
Coastal Commission

The California Coastal Commission is a state agency established by voter initiative in 1972 (Proposition 20) and made permanent by the Legislature in the California Coastal Act of 1976.

The California Coastal Commission works in partnership with local governments to protect shoreline public access and recreation, terrestrial and marine habitats, views of the coast and scenic coastal areas, agricultural lands, and more, by regulating proposed development along the coast and in nearby areas.

Through its forty-plus year history of ensuring that development proposals are consistent with the Coastal Act, the Commission's actions have resulted in more than 2,000 easements for public access statewide and resulted in tens of thousands of acres statewide of created or restored sensitive habitats and agricultural lands, viewsheds and sensitive habitats placed into permanent legal protection.

You too can help protect the California coastline! If you see development occurring on or near the coast that may not have a permit, or that impairs natural resources or limits access within the Coastal Zone, or you believe previous development meets these criteria, please contact your local government or the local Commission district office.

## COMMISSION DISTRICT OFFICES

(Listed by county served)

### NORTH COAST

Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino  
**(707) 826-8950**

### NORTH CENTRAL COAST

Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo  
**(415) 904-5260**

### CENTRAL COAST

Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo  
**(831) 427-4863**

### SOUTH CENTRAL COAST

Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles  
**(805) 585-1800**

### SOUTH COAST

Los Angeles and Orange  
**(562) 590-5071**

### SAN DIEGO COAST

San Diego  
**(619) 767-2370**

### ENERGY AND OCEAN RESOURCES

Counties Statewide  
**(415) 904-5200**

## OTHER RELEVANT CONTACTS

### San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

For development affecting the SF Bay  
(415) 352-3600/[www.bcdc.ca.gov](http://www.bcdc.ca.gov)

### CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

For activities affecting fish and wildlife  
(888) 334-2258/[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

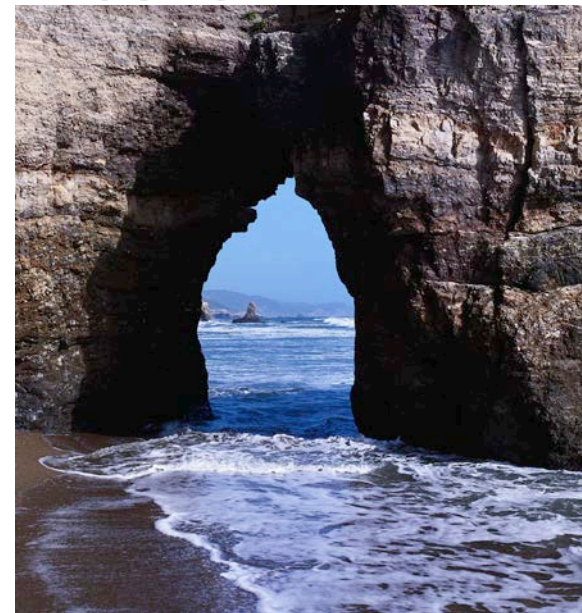
### CA State Parks

For activities affecting state parks  
(916) 653-5618/[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

### CA Water Resources Control Board

For activities affecting water quality  
(866) 563-3107/[www.swrcb.ca.gov](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov)

# PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S COASTLINE AND



# UPHOLDING THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACT

HOW YOU CAN HELP:  
*Recognizing and Reporting  
Violations*



## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

455 Market Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone (415) 904-5200  
<http://www.coastal.ca.gov>

## WHAT IS A COASTAL ACT VIOLATION?

A violation of the Coastal Act can occur in two main instances. First, when someone undertakes development that requires a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the Coastal Commission or a local government, without obtaining such a permit. Second, when someone takes an action that is prohibited by or inconsistent with the conditions of a previously issued permit.

***If you witness development activity in the Coastal Zone, it may require a separate Coastal Development Permit. Activities that harm natural resources in the coastal zone or impact public access may also require a Coastal Development Permit or be prohibited by an existing permit.***

The term “development” is defined by the Coastal Act very broadly. It covers many activities, including—but not limited to—the construction of homes or other structures; the grading of earth and the removal of major vegetation; the disposal of liquid or solid waste; and actions discouraging public access to the coast (such as the placement of fencing, gates or no parking/trespassing signs). Any such activity is regulated by the Coastal Act if it is within the Coastal Zone, which is an area along the coast of variable width, in some cases extending up to five miles inland, including coastal mountains.

For such activities, a CDP may be required from the Coastal Commission or a local government with a certified local coastal program. A CDP is separate from, and in addition to, other city or county permits that may be required.

Obtaining a CDP involves a separate permitting process designed to ensure that development along the coast occurs in a way that conserves, sustains, and makes prudent use of California’s natural and recreational coastal resources.

Additionally, previously issued CDPs may have terms or conditions attached, which are designed to minimize damage to coastal resources and maximize public coastal access.

## THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC

While the Commission’s enforcement staff actively monitors development activities within the Coastal Zone to the extent possible, the Commission relies substantially upon the public’s help in its efforts to stop Coastal Act violations and to protect public access and natural resources along California’s coast.

Members of the public have discovered and reported many violations of the Coastal Act that have negatively affected natural resources along the coast or limited the public’s ability to access coastal beaches or other recreational sites.

If you think you have witnessed a violation and do not wish to approach the contractor or property owner, or they do not respond to your concerns, you can contact your local government or a local Commission office to make a confidential report.

THIS PAMPHLET IS INTENDED ONLY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONSULT THE COASTAL ACT (IN THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, DIVISION 20) AND THE COMMISSION’S REGULATIONS (CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 14, DIVISION 5.5)

## HOW TO REPORT A VIOLATION

If you believe a violation is occurring, you should contact your local Commission office or, in an area that has a certified local coastal program, you should contact your local government’s code enforcement office (either office can direct your report correctly). The following types of information about Coastal Act violations are helpful:

- the location of the activity, including an address or assessor’s parcel number and/or the owner of the property
- a description of the activity and coastal resources affected (i.e., public access)
- who is doing the work, including a contractor’s name or license number
- the date the activity began
- the best location to view the activity
- your name and phone number so the agency can get in touch with you if more information is needed
- photos and/or video of the activity, with description of the location and camera viewpoint, date, and time of the activity

Please refer to the back page for a list of district offices to contact in the event that you witness a possible violation. District offices can also refer you to your local government if you do not know the appropriate agency.

***If you request, your violation report can remain anonymous.***

To learn more about the laws and regulations of the Coastal Act and the Commission:  
<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccatc.html>

***Thanks for helping protect our coast!***