

Caltrans Coastal Program and Interagency Agreement

FACT SHEET NO. 1 | UPDATED JANUARY 2017

About the Caltrans Coastal Program

The Caltrans Coastal Program trains, educates, and coordinates with Caltrans staff working on projects in the California coastal zone that must comply with the California Coastal Act. The California Coastal Commission (Commission), which implements the Coastal Act, has a rigorous and complex process of reviewing and approving projects in the coastal zone. The Coastal Program serves as a link between Caltrans Districts and the Commission, and assists Districts in navigating and understanding coastal policies and requirements.

Interagency Agreement

The Coastal Program implements an Interagency Agreement (Agreement) with the Commission. The Agreement was established in 2000 to respond to the need for early and active Commission staff participation in Caltrans' project development process to comply with the Coastal Act and applicable Local Coastal Programs (LCPs). The current Agreement extends through 2020.

The Agreement provides a level of predictability that helps Caltrans and Commission staff identify projects, workload, and potential issues early in the Caltrans project delivery process. Past efforts to streamline scoping, coordination, and reviews with regulatory agencies were challenged due to lack of staffing and resources. As a result, there was frequently a lack of communication on projects in the coastal zone. The Interagency Agreement has allowed for closer coordination and communication of Caltrans and Commission staff throughout the project delivery process. Ongoing collaboration assists both agencies in meeting their statutory responsibilities, and also fosters the creation of a modern multimodal transportation network that complements the spectacular resources—natural, cultural, and visual—of the state.

Caltrans Coastal Projects

As the state department responsible for the transportation infrastructure in California, Caltrans is often involved in projects in the coastal zone. Such projects must satisfy the requirements of Caltrans' mission and regulations, as well as the policies of the Coastal Act. The project development process is the meeting place of engineering, resource protection, and aesthetic considerations that must be evaluated by both Caltrans and the Commission. An effective and collaborative working partnership between the two entities is important for both to meet their common mandate of serving the people of California.

About the Coastal Commission

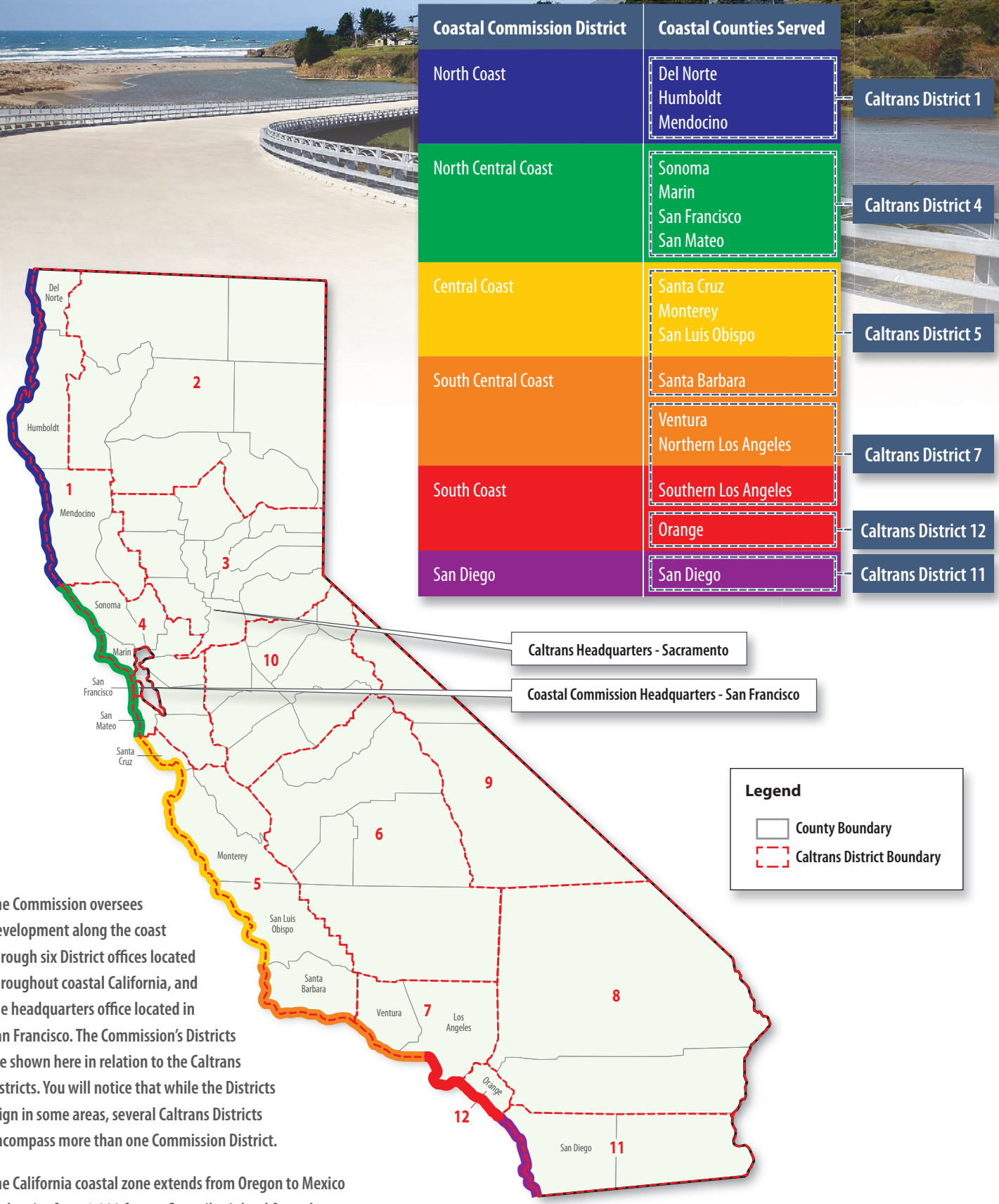
The Commission, in partnership with coastal cities and counties, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone. Development projects (including transportation projects) in the coastal zone generally require a coastal development permit from either the Commission or a local jurisdiction with a Commission-certified local coastal program (LCP). In addition, projects must meet the requirements of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

The Coastal Program prepares guidance and tools to assist Caltrans staff working on projects in coastal zone. Available information includes:

- SER Volume 5 (Coastal Requirements)
- Coastal projects Annotated Outline
- In-person and Online Training and Informational Modules



CALIFORNIA COASTAL ZONE



The Commission oversees development along the coast through six District offices located throughout coastal California, and the headquarters office located in San Francisco. The Commission's Districts are shown here in relation to the Caltrans districts. You will notice that while the Districts align in some areas, several Caltrans Districts encompass more than one Commission District.

The California coastal zone extends from Oregon to Mexico and varies from 1,000 feet to five miles inland from the coast.