



**Public Meeting: Evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program
Hilton Santa Monica Hotel and Suites, Santa Monica, CA**

August 10, 2026

These public comments were taken from the written transcript produced by the Adobe Connect recording of the meeting. On two short occasions, the main audio failed and the transcript was produced using a back-up audio recorder. The introductory remarks from the NOAA moderators were copied from the written script they read, not the recording.

Spelling errors were corrected, an inappropriate portion of one public comment was removed, and background talk from the audience picked up by the microphone was not included. Comments made after the three-minute limit per comment were not included. Some conversation between NOAA moderators and commenters related to speaking order was removed. Where NOAA reviewers could not identify specific words, the transcript is marked [unintelligible].

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Welcome everyone. My name is Keelin Kuipers. I am the Acting Director for NOAA's Office for Coastal Management and I will be leading this public meeting. Thank you for coming.

I am joined on the dais by my colleague Joelle Gore, who serves as a leader for the National Coastal Zone Management Program for our office.

We are also joined by a team of NOAA colleagues, including from our Office of Law Enforcement, who are here to support the meeting. NOAA Staff: Please raise your hands. If you have a question, please either find a NOAA team member or simply raise your hand and they will come to you. will be working to ensure that everything runs smoothly today.

I want to remind everyone that this meeting is being recorded and may be subject to release pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. If you would like to provide public comment anonymously, please email your comments the email address that's stated in the Federal Register notice. Names and organizations do not need to be part of the comments. However, the email address that transmits those comments and the comments themselves will be part of the public record.

Now I will provide an overview of the purpose of the meeting, followed by an overview of logistics and the process we'll use today to hear from as many of you as possible.

California's coastal management program is part of the National Coastal Zone Management Program. The national program authorized by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 is a voluntary partnership between the federal government and coastal and Great Lakes states and territories. State and territorial coastal zone management programs balance the demands of coastal resource use, economic development, and conservation. California's coastal zone management program is administered through three agencies. The California Coastal Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the California State Coastal Conservancy.

Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act requires NOAA to conduct a continuing review of the performance of the federally approved coastal zone management programs, including California's coastal management program. During the evaluation, NOAA considers the extent to which the state of California has implemented and enforced the approved program, addressed the coastal zone management needs identified in the CZMA, and adhered to the terms of any grant, loan, or cooperative agreement funded under the CZMA.

On June 26, 2026, NOAA published a *Federal Register* notice announcing this in-person public meeting in Santa Monica and two virtual public meetings that will take place over the next two days in order to gather any new input on the performance of California's coastal management program, particularly regarding five specific areas. These are spaceport infrastructure, offshore oil production, pipeline maintenance, desalination projects, and undersea cables. These public meetings will add to the input obtained from the previous public meeting held in August 2024 as part of NOAA's evaluation.

When the evaluation is complete, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of the final findings. Copies of the transcript from this and the virtual meetings held on August 11th and 12th will be available upon request via the email that has been set up for comments, once they are complete. In addition, copies of the submitted written comments will be available via email as the same email that you will find in the *Federal Register* notice. This email can be found in the notice as well as the one pager that's available in the registration area.

NOAA's response to the comments will be included in the final evaluation document after its availability has been announced in the *Federal Register*. NOAA will not respond to any comments written or oral during the public meetings this week.

I know there are also likely several representatives from the media in the room as well. And I will share that NOAA will not be responding to media during this meeting. However, all media inquiries should be directed to NOAA's public affairs office. The contact information is included in the one pager that's available in the registration area.

Before we begin, I also want to cover some logistics about today's session. I will give an overview of the process and then we will begin the public comment portion of the proceedings.

We have a long list of speakers today, and we would like to keep the proceedings moving smoothly so that we can get in as many comments as possible. We will move through the preregistered speaker list in the order that they registered, and we will call up speakers in groups of 10 using the numbered cards that you received when you checked in. As each group of 10 comes up, they will sit in the numbered seats in the front row in numerical order. So this row here to my right is where we're gonna start. NOAA team members will help you find your seat. Please use the side aisles, so these aisles up here on either side of the room, to come to the front. We will ask each speaker to the microphone by speaker number and last name, and a NOAA team member will help usher speakers on deck to the center aisle.

Each speaker will have up to three minutes to provide a comment. At the two minute 50 second mark, we will provide you with a time warning by showing you a yellow card. Please end your remarks by the three-minute mark to provide as many commenters as possible the time to speak. At three minutes and five seconds, we will show a red card and the microphone will be cut off. When you finish, please exit the microphone using the middle aisle.

As each group of 10 gets close to finishing, we will pause and invite the next group of speakers to come to the front on the opposite side to sit on deck. Periodically, we will also ask speakers who missed their turn to join the on-deck speakers. We will move through the list of speakers using this process that I've described until we adjourn. With agreement from the hotel, we were able to extend the meeting today until 6.30 p.m., but unfortunately, we cannot extend it further. At this point, we will close the public comments.

Should we not get to all the speakers today, there are two ways to provide public comment. There will be two virtual public meetings on August 11th and 12th. We have a QR code to register for these meetings at the registration table. And you can also ask any of the NOAA team members here in attendance today for this information. And in addition, you may also submit written comments for the record. These will be accepted via email until 11:59 PM Pacific Time on August 22nd, 2026.

If for some reason you need to leave the room and you plan to re-enter, please get a re-entry pass from the registration desk so that you do not lose your seat. We may have individuals that are

seeking to come into the room once we are full, and so we want to be able to provide that space for you if you do plan to re-enter.

We are now opening the floor for public comment.

Numbers 1 through 10, please move to the front row if you're not already here, and I know a team member will help you line up. As we move through the list, please make sure to take your place on deck. And I'm going to also ask that speakers 1, 2, and 3, please come to the center aisle.

Speaker number one, Kiekow Heimer, please approach the microphone, state your name, and provide your comment.

Speaking: Taryn Kiekow Heimer (7:23)

Good afternoon. My name is Taryn Kiekow Heimer, and I'm the Director of Ocean Energy at NRDC's Santa Monica office. NOAA should not take the unprecedented step of dismantling or weakening California's coastal management program. For nearly 50 years, that program has done exactly what Congress intended under the Coastal Zone Management Act. It has protected the public's coast, supported a thriving economy, and ensured that federal actions respect state coastal policies.

My family regularly visits White Point Beach, where we enjoy tide pooling, hiking, swimming, and we do not want to see industrialization take away that experience from our children or our children's children.

California's coastal management program has kept one of the most valuable and beloved coastlines in the world open to the public, including my White Point Beach. It secured more than 1,600 public beach access dedications, and it preserved wetlands, dunes, and other sensitive habitats while supporting the second largest coastal economy in the country. This is not a record of obstruction. It is a record of effective governance, science-based decision-making, public participation, and long-term stewardship that has supported thriving coastal communities.

Just last year in a draft evaluation, NOAA itself concluded that California is successfully implementing its program. The Department of Commerce cannot now seek to decertify California's program based on political considerations or wholly unsupported claims of environmental extremism.

California's authority over its coast is not a favor to be withdrawn on the whims of politics, red or blue. It is a right grounded in federal law and earned through decades of successful implementation and proven results. This is how local voices and the long-term economic value

of a healthy coast are weighed against narrow, short-term industrial interests. Weakening California's authority will not lead to better governance. It will silence coastal communities, sideline science, and pave the way for offshore drilling and other destructive projects that Californians have repeatedly and overwhelmingly rejected.

As our oceans plunge deeper into crisis, NOAA should be defending, not dismantling, California's successful programs. I urge you to protect our coast, protect federal state partnership, and protect the public interest. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Kiekow Heimer for her comments.

Alright, speaker number two, Torgun. Please state your name and provide your comment

Speaker: George Torgun (10:30)

Good afternoon, my name is George Torgun. I'm a senior attorney with the oceans program at Earth Justice based in San Francisco.

On the first day of his second term in office, President Trump signed an executive order to allegedly end the weaponization of the federal government against perceived political opponents. Yet since that day, the administration has failed entirely in this mission. With this review being just one of the latest examples. Based on his letter directing this review, Secretary Lutnick's interest in coastal issues appears to stem entirely from California's alleged obstruction of Elon Musk's spaceport development, which Mr. Lutnick labels as, quote, environmental extremism.

With the Commission's review of SpaceX increasing operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base, is not environmental extremism. Rather, it is simply implementing the law as written. Just as the agency with the broad support of Californians has done for the past 50 years. Congress passed the CZMA in 1972 because of the threats posed by coastline development. Identifying the need to find a proper balance between protecting the natural environment and allowing appropriate economic uses. Consistent with the Constitution, the law asked states like California to take an active role in the management of their coastal waters within their boundaries. Since 1977, the Coastal Commission has done exactly that. Working to ensure that development projects are consistent with its coastal program. Making California's coastline one of the most treasured, productive, and biologically diverse places on the planet.

During Trump's first term in 2019, NOAA found that California was successfully implementing and enforcing its coastal program and addressing the coastal management needs identified in the act. That review contained 13 suggested recommendations, none of which had to do with spaceports, oil and gas development, pipelines, or desal. Even more recently, just last year NOAA completed a draft report with the very same findings. This current review should

conclude no differently. When the Trump administration's billionaire cronies want to increase rocket launches to further a private company's bottom line, it is absolutely crucial that we have a public agency that will stand up and question whether the pollution, noise, loss of public access, and other adverse impacts are compatible with the purposes of our Coastal Act. Californians treasure our coastline. We don't want it turned into launch pads, oil platforms, or private billionaire beach clubs. I urge NOAA to end the weaponization of the federal government and find that California continues to successfully implement its coastal management program. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Torgun for his comments.

Alright, speaker number three, Polefka. Please state your name and provide your comments.

Speaking: Maggie Hall (13:32)

I'm speaker number four.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

You're number four. Okay. All right. I do want to just pause for a moment and see if Ms. Polefka is in the room. Okay, we'll go ahead then. All right, speaker number four, Hall, please provide your comment.

Speaking: Maggie Hall (13:49)

Good afternoon, I'm Maggie Hall, Deputy Chief Counsel at the Environmental Defense Center based in Santa Barbara. We're a nonprofit environmental law firm that defends nature and advances environmental justice on the California Central Coast through advocacy and legal action. We have a history of nearly 50 years protecting the California coastline in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties, and the California coastal management program has been integral to our work. Through the consistency review process, the state plays a critical role in cooperating with the federal government to ensure the protection of our coastal resources. In turn, that opens an important public process that gives local communities a voice to participate in decision making.

The Coastal Act policies involving public access, recreation, marine environment, land resources, development, and industrial activities are all essential tools in guiding the consideration of projects that affect coastal resources, especially in the face of the climate crisis and competing demands on our coast. And the majority of the time, the state does not object to federal proposals, but on the limited occasion that it does, it's for good reason. For example, when the federal government was considering extending offshore oil leases in the Santa Barbara Channel region in the 1990s, the state played a critical role in the consistency review process, which ultimately led to the retirement of 36 offshore oil leases that dated back to 1968 to 84.

This outcome was warranted to protect coastal resources and has enormously benefited fisheries and tourism, which contribute significantly to the state and national economy.

And in 2022, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the state's right to consistency review of a federal offshore fracking proposal. In the case EDC v. BOEM, the court recognized the important role of the Coastal Zone Management Act in the federal government in California having an important role to play to keep the coastline safe and prosperous. Going forward, if the federal government proceeds with its five-year leasing program for new oil development and potentially California lease sales, it will be critical for California to review these actions for consistency with the program. California has not only been successful in implementing the CCMP, it is a nationwide leader, as the NOAA 2019 evaluation shows. There is no basis to conclude anything other than California is appropriately implementing its program and addressing coastal management needs. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you, Ms. Hall, for your comment.

All right, speaker number five.

Stauffer. Please provide your comment.

Speaking: Pete Stauffer (16:54)

Good afternoon. My name is Pete Stauffer. I'm the Senior Ocean Protection Manager with the Surfrider Foundation, and I live in San Clemente, California. Surfrider is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean waves and beaches for all people. I want to start by thanking all the hardworking NOAA staff whose efforts help ensure the stewardship of our nation's ocean coasts and Great Lakes. Surfrider appreciates your service and we will continue to advocate for your agency's critical mission. At the same time, I want to express Surfrider's strongest objection to the federal administration's reopened and targeted review of California's coastal management program. This is a politically motivated federal action to target California's coastal protections at the direct expense of ocean health, beach access, and our communities.

California's coastal management program is a national model of excellence that has a proven track record of protecting our state's outstanding ocean and coastal resources. Our world-class beaches, surf spots, fishing grounds, and wildlife are national treasures that are enjoyed and valued by residents and visitors alike. Our state's coastline is also an economic engine that supports over 600,000 jobs and contributes to a \$60 billion coastal economy. From coastal recreation, tourism, fishing, shipping, science, and education, our state's economy is fundamentally dependent on a clean and healthy coastal environment.

Further, California's coastal management program exemplifies the type of federal-state collaboration that the Coastal Zone Management Act was intended to foster. On federal projects, California has approved or negotiated improvement 96% of the time and objected only a very small percentage of the time. Federal consistency is a core part of the CZMA that ensures that states and communities have a meaningful voice in federal decisions made off of our coasts. Surfrider and our members participate in and appreciate this process. This voice is urgently needed now given the administration's reckless proposal to open the entire California coast to new offshore oil and gas development. Offshore drilling is not only an existential threat to our environment, our economy, and way of life. It's also opposed by an overwhelming majority of Californians.

In short, I ask that NOAA immediately stop this politically motivated review and rightfully conclude, as you already have, that California is adhering to its approved program. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Stauffer for his comment.
Speaker number six, Asakan, please.

Speaking: Anupa Asokan (20:12)

Hi, my name is Anupa Asokan. I'm the founder and executive director of Fish On, and I'm here representing our recreational fishing community. I imagine, or I'm assuming some of you might be here visiting from Silver Spring or DC, NOAA headquarters. And while you're here, I invite you to walk right down out onto the Santa Monica Pier and you can actually drop a hook and line in the water and fish. And that's one of the amazing things about the state of California is that anyone can fish on any of our piers or jetties across the state. It's open to anyone. And so in a place where the coast is our backdrop, we really take pride in the fact that our beaches and coastal waters are public spaces for everyone to enjoy, no matter how you choose to recreate. Now, whether or not anything's biting when you do drop that line in the water is another debate, but it's a debate that we get to have here among the people that know these waters, love it, and depend on our coast. We shouldn't have to debate whether or not these industries can come in and threaten our way of life in the first place and all the opportunities that we do have.

I am also working on things like boosting our white sea bass fishery, clean water issues, protecting and recovering some of our kelp forests off the coast, these are tangible ways to support our community of anglers and spearfishers across the state. None of that is going to be possible if we weaken the protections that keep our coast public, healthy, and accessible, and instead advance these industrial uses that would fundamentally change our coast that we really depend on.

Our coastal economy is valued at \$51 billion. That's year after year for tackle stores, surf shops, dive operations, charter boats, restaurants, tourism, and countless other businesses. Fishing is a part of that economy, but for many people it's also a way that we put food on the table, connect with family, our community, and experience the ocean firsthand. We cannot be sacrificing an economy that supports millions of Californians and a coast that belongs to all of us in order to make it easier for a handful of industries to develop here. We can't fish in an ocean that's destroyed by these industries.

So please help us protect our coast, invest in our communities, the communities that depend on it, and let us make the decisions about our coast here in California, not in Silver Spring, not in D.C. The coast belongs to us, and we should be the ones deciding what happens. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Asokan for her comment. Speaker number seven, Prom.

Speaking: Staley Prom (23:00)

Hi, good afternoon. I'm Staley Prom, Senior Staff Attorney with the Surfrider Foundation. Consistent with the overarching purpose of the CZMA, these reviews are intended to assess whether states are implementing and enforcing their programs to protect their coastal resources. As you will continue to hear, Surfrider and our members can attest that the Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy, and Bay Conservation and Development Commission are implementing and enforcing the Coastal Act and other policies effectively and protecting our members' beaches and recreational uses up and down the coast. The agencies sufficiently monitor and inspect coastal development for program conformity, are responsive when Surfrider raises concerns about blocked access or unpermitted development and take appropriate enforcement for violations. In NOAA's recent reviews, you concluded that not only is California adhering to its program, but has taken a leadership role in addressing climate change and protecting public access. Surfrider agrees.

A scheduled review was nearly complete with California's program earning high praise when the Secretary of Commerce reopened this public comment process. NOAA's draft evaluation findings published in 2025, which are a part of this review, recognize the program's accomplishments, including exceptional work promoting recreational public access and achievements addressing sea level rise and coastal hazards. This exceptional work continues today.

While this reopening invites testimony on particular issues, which Surfrider will address, this is still part of an ongoing continuing review process in which NOAA is required to consider all aspects of the approved program. NOAA cannot disregard the information already collected that led to your conclusions of adherence or limit your review of the agency's adherence to the

program since the 2025 draft findings to specific categories. Therefore, you'll be hearing from Surfrider not only about how the Commission is properly adhering to the program when it comes to spaceport, offshore oil and desal activity, but also the many other ways the Commission is properly implementing its program.

Surfrider members recreate all along California's coast including areas impacted by rocket launches and oil who benefit from the Commission's decisions enforcing its policies. Regarding spaceport, we commented at the federal consistency hearings for increased rocket launches at Vandenberg, sharing our concerns about potential beach closures, marine debris, and impacts on recreation. The Commission listened to and shared our concerns and required access mitigation, but for its proper objection on other bases. We also supported the Commission's recent decisions regarding unpermitted oil pipeline work in Santa Barbara where it effectively enforced program requirements. Surfrider members walk, surf, swim, and otherwise recreate at beaches impacted by past oil spills and know too well about the risks to recreation posed by such activities. Our members benefit from the agency's faithful adherence to California's program and deserve to continue benefiting from it. Thank you.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

We'd like to call speakers 11 through 20 to move to the front on my left if you wouldn't mind lining up on deck. Thank you very much speakers 11 through 20.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Okay, thank you to Ms. Prom for her comment.
Now we're on speaker eight, Hutzel.

Speaking: Amy Hutzel (26:35)

Good afternoon. I'm Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy. The Conservancy is one of three legs of California's successful and innovative coastal management program. We work closely with the Commission and BCDC to manage coastal resources and increase public access. We've helped California achieve the CZMA's goals for America's coastal zones in collaboration with NOAA. The Conservancy has granted \$2 billion in state funding over the past 50 years, often matching federal funds many times over to protect and restore coastal habitats, preserve agricultural lands, revitalize urban water fronts, build the bay trail, and the coastal trail, build public access ways to beaches, provide campgrounds and other low-cost overnight accommodations, support educational programs on the coast, help communities adapt to sea level rise and extreme storms and increase our wildfire resilience on the coast.

We've worked to achieve federal priorities, including improvements to our national wildlife refuges and our national parks, using sediment from federal shipping channels for shoreline

resilience, increasing wildfire resilience on Forest Service lands, and addressing coastal flooding and sea level rise to protect federal lands.

We have a 50 year track record of successfully planning and implementing on the ground projects. Projects that support tourism and economic development. Projects that connect people to the coast and to the bay. Projects that protect communities from natural hazards. The Conservancy, Coastal Commission, and BCDC have successfully implemented the CZMA in California. NOAA said that themselves in the draft evaluation report they sent to us in May of last year. NOAA described our three agencies' accomplishments with words like exceptional, successful, efficient, creative, flexible, and faster and better. NOAA wrote, this evaluation concludes that the state of California is successfully implementing and enforcing its federally approved coastal management program. And I hope that we can continue a longstanding, productive, good faith partnership. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Hutzel for her comments. Speaker number 10, Bixby.

Speaking: Grant Bixby (29:46)

I'm Grant Bixby with BayPAC, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast. And with our sister organizations, we represent over 65,000 businesses, hundreds of thousands of employees, and millions of customers who all believe that offshore oil and gas is bad for business.

We are chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, realtors associations, fishing groups, outdoor retailers, major national and international brands, hoteliers, restaurateurs, and mom-and-pop shops and businesses of all stripes. What businesses want is a clear understanding of the rules, predictability in government, and the ability to plan. If the federal government takes unilateral action to weaken the CZMA or decertifies California, then the new regulatory environment landscape will be one of chaos and unpredictability.

For more than 50 years, business has benefited from the cooperative deliberative process the CZMA has laid out between federal government and coastal states. But how do we know the CZMA has worked? We know it's worked because California has the world's fourth largest economy. Our coastal economy generates more than \$50 billion per year in GDP. People from all over the world flock to our beaches and coastline to patronize our businesses. We have the largest and busiest ports on the West Coast that supply the entire Western United States. Our military bases protect our homeland and project power across the Pacific. We simply have the most diversified economy and resilient economy in the entire United States.

California agencies have protected and promoted the brand of California, working in concert with NOAA and the federal government and providing business community with a stable platform for growth. A coastline with clean beaches, clean water, all open for business. An offshore oil spill shuts all this activity down in an instant. The brand of California is not offshore oil and gas, nor should it be. Offshore mineral resources make up 1% of our coastal economy employment. These are NOAA's own numbers. Should we put the other 99% of our employment at risk of closure and devastation?

This is simple math. If NOAA and the federal administration want to demonstrate that they are pro-business, the members of BayPAC and our many friends and stakeholders here in this room and outside ask that they protect our marine economy and they honor the CZMA. Shake our hand. Don't cut it off. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Bixby for his comment. Speaker number 11, Gaudins.

Speaking: Marcela Gaudins (33:02)

Good afternoon. My name is Marcela Gaudins from San Diego, California. I'm wearing a couple hats here today. I serve as the vice chair of the California Coast Conservancy, the California agency working to preserve, protect, and restore the resources of our California coast. Today, however, I am here before you as a mother and as a founder and executive director of Azul, an Ocean Justice organization working with Latino communities to protect our blue world.

At Azul, we are proud to stand in strong support of California's coastal management program and the decades of leadership it has demonstrated in protecting one of our state's most valuable public resources, our coast. California's coast belongs to everyone. It is not just an economic resource or a scenic destination. It is part of our shared heritage, culture, food systems, way of life, and identity. The California coastal management program together with the work of our agencies and institutions here have become not just a national model, but an international model for balancing conservation, responsible development, and public access.

The California coast belongs to everyone, not just those with the power and plans to profit from it. This is the promise that California has implemented and upheld for almost five decades. Weakening governance will come at the expense of communities that can least afford the risks. Frontline communities have fought for decades to improve our California Coastal Act, making it, again, a world-renowned benchmark for just and equitable coastal governance.

Over the years, California has made important progress by investing in coastal access, protecting public beaches, supporting underserved communities, and increasingly incorporating environmental justice into coastal planning and decision-making. Local and state leaders

understand that the unique ecological, cultural, economic importance of California's coastline, in a way, we understand in a way that cannot be replicated by decisions made far from the communities most affected. Beaches are not a luxury. They are the democratic commons that bring people together as equals. And any management and review process should rise to that level.

On the off chance that there is any kind of political motivation for this one, I'm sure it's not, I wish to share some numbers with you. In our last latest poll, [unintelligible], the National Poll of Latino Voters, we found that 80% of all Latino voters in the U.S. were more likely to vote for candidates that they see as ocean champions. We also found that 91% agree that clean beaches and coasts and oceans are vital to our economy and our quality of life, and 78% support bans on new offshore oil and gas drilling. This, by the way, is bipartisan numbers along the way.

We urge NOAA to affirm the strength of California's program and the critical role it plays in protecting our coast for current and future generations. California must retain the authority to manage and protect our own coastline...[microphone turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Graudins for her comment.
Mr. Rodoni.

Speaking: Dennis Rodoni (36:32)

Good afternoon. My name is Dennis Rodoni and I'm District 4 Supervisor and I'm speaking on behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors. District 4 includes nearly all of Marin's coastline and many of the rural communities whose livelihoods are directly tied to the health of our coast. I could spend all afternoon talking about the environmental importance of this coastline, our marine sanctuaries, our wildlife, and natural resources that make this place so special. But today I want to focus on something equally important, the economic consequences that could result if California's coastal oversight is weakened.

A \$51 billion coastal economy and coastline is at risk. Marin County is deeply concerned by this off-cycle review of the coastal management program. The Coastal Zone Management Act was built on a partnership between the federal government and coastal states. Launching that extraordinary review focused on a narrow set of federally prioritized issues raises serious concern about state and local autonomy and whether this process is being used to weaken California's longstanding coastal protections. We are particularly concerned that this review could be used to facilitate new offshore oil and gas leasing off our coastline. Marin has long opposed any new expanded offshore drilling because of the significant risk it poses to our communities and our economy. The waters off Marin County support globally significant marine ecosystems, productive commercial and recreational fisheries, and a thriving visitor economy

that depends on a healthy coastline. Our communities also understand firsthand the devastating consequences of oil spills. In 1971, two standard oil tankers collided near the Golden Gate Bridge spilling approximately 800,000 gallons of oil into the ocean and coating Marin County's beaches. Although thousands of local volunteers worked tirelessly to rescue wildlife and construct a boom to help protect Bolinas Lagoon, the spill caused lasting damage to the wildlife, sensitive habitat, and the marine ecosystem. That experience continues to shape our commitment to preventing future offshore drilling off the California coast.

Any future federal actions must continue to respect the California coastal management program and the Coastal Zone Management Act's consistency requirement, including formal review by the California Coastal Commission. Decisions to affect the California coast must be based on sound science, existing law, and meaningful conversation with communities that bear the consequences. We urge NOAA to respect the longstanding partnership between the federal government and coastal states and uphold state and local authority under the Coastal Zone Management Act and preserve California's strong coastal protections. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Rodoni for his comment.

Speaker number 13, Huckelbridge.

Speaking: Kate Huckelbridge (39:41)

Hi, my name is Kate Huckelbridge. I'm the executive director of the California Coastal Commission, one of the three agencies that make up the California coastal management program, now under review. And it's quite an experience to be on the side of the mic.

California has had a strong and productive partnership with the federal government since 1978 when our coastal management program was approved under the Coastal Zone Management Act. At the Coastal Commission alone, we have reviewed over 3,700 projects. In 97% of those cases, we approve that project as submitted or work collaboratively to improve it so it could move forward.

Only in a small number of cases did we reach an impasse. Some of those projects proceeded, despite the Commission's objection, and some did not. But in every instance, the Coastal Zone Management Act worked exactly as intended, creating a process for states and the federal government to work through their differences to ensure a balance of economic development and protection of coastal resources.

We have decades of demonstrated success to point to. For example, partnering with the US Army Corps to use dredge sand to replenish eroded beaches, working with the Navy to limit impacts on marine ecosystems, and protecting the world-famous trestle surf break in San Diego

County from the damaging effects of an ill-advised toll road, an area that will now serve as the surfing venue for the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Efforts like these support California's thriving \$51 billion coastal economy, roughly half of which comes from tourism and recreation. According to data from NOAA, our state's blue economy has grown steadily over the last decade and now employs over half a million people. NOAA's own evaluation of our program just last year found strong performance and highlighted similar successes. That glowing review, however, was never finalized or released. California has received very little information about why this new federal review is being undertaken. Still, we welcome a fair and transparent evaluation. Our record speaks for itself. Decades of responsible stewardship, effective collaboration, and a booming coastal economy that continues to grow and is a vital part of California's standing as the world's fourth largest economy. The public agrees. According to a new poll by the Public Policy Institute of California, more than 90% of voters say the condition of oceans and beaches are important to their quality of life and the state's economy, and more than half support even stronger safeguards.

We sincerely hope that this review is not merely a pretense for removing California's ability to hold public hearings on offshore oil and gas projects. Californians deserve a say about what happens on their coast. They have a right to make their voices heard. I encourage everyone here to share their thoughts with NOAA. You have until August 22nd to submit written comments. And I hope this won't be the last chance for the public to participate in federal decision-making along California's iconic coastline. Thank you and everybody.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Hucklebridge for her comment.

Speaker number 14, Goldzband

Speaking: Larry Goldzband (42:52)

Thank you. I'm Larry Goldzband, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, commonly known as BCDC. BCDC is one of three agencies that administers the approved California coastal management program. During its 61-year history, BCDC has transformed the bay from a backyard full of debris, ringed by dumps and shunned by the public, into a beautiful and successful natural resource and economic driver. The Bay is now everyone's front yard, larger, cleaner, and inviting, and the public has remarkable access to its vast economic resources, natural habitats, and recreational opportunities.

Secretary Lutnick's decision to reopen NOAA's most recent Section 312 evaluation is baffling. He states that California has, quote, a long record of obstructing technological innovation, economic development, and related federal efforts in the name of environmental extremism. Not so. The “and” in conservation and development signifies that economic growth and

environmental protection are not competing interests. Instead, their success is inseparable. The Bay Area thrives economically because it is a great place to live and work if you want to be on the Bay Trail, swim or sail in the Bay, enjoy living in the West's largest estuary, all while participating in the world's most dynamic economy.

BCDC authorizes large and small natural habitats in the Bay while approving billions of dollars of private and public investment from underwater infrastructure to biotech campuses, from seaport and airport improvements, to the most beautiful ballpark in the major leagues. And the 312 reopening misunderstands how the Coastal Zone Management Act works in California. The CZMA compels individual states and the federal government to work together to develop coastal plans that satisfy each and enables the Bay Area public to help shape the future of the Bay. That is why the Army Corps of Engineers runs dredging operations in San Francisco Bay to promote maritime activity and uses that sediment to expand natural habitats that improve coastal resilience. That is why Alcatraz Island is the second most visited national park in the United States. Our partnership combined with citizen participation, drive the Bay's economic development, environmental protection, and public access that are the envy of the world.

Finally, the reopening is a pretext for NOAA to withdraw grant funding and compel politically motivated changes to our coastal management program. However, it would be illegal to do that. California's coastal agencies are in full compliance with the federally approved coastal program, and they always have been under every president and Congress. Simply put, NOAA has no factual, policy, or legal basis to impose interim sanctions or to demand changes to California's incredibly successful coastal program. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Goldzband for his comment. Speaker number 15, Gilfillan.

Speaking: Lisa Gilfillan (46:03)

Good pronunciation. My name is Lisa Gilfillan. I am with Oceana. It's the largest international advocacy organization dedicated solely to ocean conservation. I'm grateful I followed these folks because I got to do some quick editing while I waited. And just like many of the folks here in the room, I live here in California and the coast is vital to our daily lives. Maintaining California's federal consistency authority is critical now. As NOAA and everyone in this room knows, the federal government is considering new offshore oil and gas lease sales off the entire California coast, starting with Southern and Central California as early as next year. That's five months from now.

In this review, NOAA must not attempt to undermine California's legal authority to review federal activities and protect our state's coast and communities through the Coastal Zone Management Act. For 57 years, California has rejected new offshore oil leasing in state waters,

and for more than four decades, it has consistently opposed new federal leasing. The Coastal Commission's scrutiny of offshore drilling is not new obstructionist policy. It is the implementation of a longstanding bipartisan California commitment to protect our coast.

The public record is unmistakable. The Public Policy Institute of California's July survey found that the majority of California residents still oppose more offshore oil drilling, and 82% of those that were polled view the Coastal Commission as a good thing for California. During BOEM's recent review of the proposed five-year leasing plan, more than 300,000 Americans submitted comments in opposition, many of those were from Californians. We don't want this. Our state elected representatives are delivering that exact same message. Just last week, the legislature, with 83 Senate and Assembly bipartisan co-authors, adopted SJR 12, which opposes new offshore drilling, calling for California's exclusion from this and any future federal leasing plans and requesting full environmental review and meaningful public input. Additionally, AB 1448 has passed the assembly. It's advanced to the third reading in the Senate on Thursday. It would prevent existing infrastructure in state waters from supporting new federal leases. Local governments have spoken out as well. At least 25 California cities and counties have passed resolutions against expanded drilling under the current proposal, including where we're standing today in the city of Santa Monica and the county of Los Angeles. This is sustained measurable opposition expressed through polling, public comments, local resolutions and bipartisan legislative action. It should not be dismissed or overridden. We value our coast and our Commissions and conservancies. Please uphold California's program, preserve the Commission's authority and do not use this review to pressure California into accepting new offshore drilling that its residents, businesses, and elected representatives have repeatedly rejected. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Guilfland for her comment. I do want to pause and see if Speaker 16 Charter is in the room.

Speaker 17, Mueller.

Speaking: Ray Mueller (49:42)

Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Ray Mueller I represent the third district of San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, which encompasses nearly our entire county coastline. I traveled here today to express support for the California coastal management program and express our county's unequivocal opposition to the issuance of any offshore oil drilling leases and permits off our coast. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recently passed a unanimous resolution opposing these leases and permits. Introducing offshore oil drilling threatens decades of conservation and puts our irreplaceable environment and economy at catastrophic risk.

We have to acknowledge the extraordinary importance of our coastline. These waters bridge the Monterey Bay and Greater Farallons National Marine Sanctuaries, acting as a biological super

engine for the California current upwelling system. An oil spill in this nutrient-rich zone would not be contained to our local beaches or even our coast. It would trigger a catastrophic chain reaction across the entire West Coast. The toxins would poison the food chain, starving migratory salmon, ground fish, and Dungeness crab, crippling a multi-billion dollar commercial fishing ecosystem stretching from Baja to British Columbia. Additionally, pushing toxic soil into the fragile estuaries like Pescadero Marsh, would cause generational damage to critical nurseries for endangered species. It would deal a devastating blow to our local economy. Pillar Point and Half Moon Bay and nearby San Francisco are working fishing harbors and the historic lifeblood of our coastal community. Generations have relied on the coastal ecosystems to sustain their livelihoods.

Finally, tourism sustains our coast. Millions travel the iconic Highway 1 to watch migratory whales, explore Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, and witness the big wave surf at Mavericks. Ecotourism thrives strictly because this coastline is protected. The industrialization of our horizon would chill visitation and jeopardize thousands of jobs. Effective public policy must be practical, and there's nothing practical about risking our fragile marine ecosystem, our fishing industry, and our sustainable local economy with political moves to enable fossil fuel extraction. Our coastline is not a resource to be extracted and discarded. It's our home, our economy, and our enduring legacy. We depend on the California coastal management program to protect us. And I urge you to definitively reject any plans to weaken the California coastal management program.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

At this time, we want to call speakers 21 through 30 to come sit on my right, please. Thank you, speakers 21 through 30.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Mueller for his comment. Speaker 18, Ellenberger.

Speaking:Maureen Ellenberger (52:25)

Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Maureen Ellenberger. I'm a former VA executive in Washington, a former CEO, and now an activist and stakeholder who lives in Santa Barbara, California. I'm here to provide stakeholder input on California's coastal management program. Let me just say, I'm a fan. The program works. 50 years ago, California created a system to enforce the rules and regulations that keep our coast, our wildlife, and our community safe. This program exists to stop fly-by-night operations like Sable Offshore from corroding our waters with aging pipelines. It exists to say no when the answer should be no. I walk in Shoreline Park every morning. I can see eight oil platforms from the park. Eight ticking time bombs. I also know that there's a system in place with the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Management Act to manage that from expanding farther. That system works. It does exactly what it was designed to

do. In 2025, the Coastal Commission reviewed 160 coastal permits, approved 250 waivers, reviewed 39 federal projects, amended 71 local coastal plans. It's a functioning system, managing hundreds of decisions every year, a system that balances economic development with protection. It's a system that works.

This isn't a performance evaluation. A real evaluation would ask, does this program implement and enforce coastal management effectively? The answer is yes. Your own 2025 evaluation said the same thing. So this isn't about performance. This is about power. It's about whether the Trump administration can strip California's authority because they don't like the answers the Coastal Commission gave to oil companies. Because California says no to Sable Offshore, no to working without development permits and breaking the laws, and no to projects that will foul our water and destroy our communities. And that answer is costing big oil billions of dollars.

I'm scared. Not because we haven't built something worth protecting. We have. I'm scared because this meeting is performance theater. In some ways, the decision's already been made. But I'm speaking today anyway, so there's a record. So years from now, when those platforms multiply and the water gets dirty, when people lose access to the coast they thought was theirs, everyone will know we fought for this, that we did not consent, that we will keep fighting. We will fight you in court. We will fight you in Congress. We will fight you in every way we know how. I have faith we will get our country back. The coast belongs to all of us, not to the dark lords of extraction, to all of us, and we will keep it.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Ellenberger for her comments.

Speaker number 19, Harmon.

Speaking: Meagan Harmon (55:45)

Hi, my name is Meagan Harmon. I'm the chair of the California Coastal Commission. I'm a member of the Santa Barbara City Council, a practicing lawyer, and my most important role, I'm a mom to three young kids. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

The California coastal management program is a partnership that for decades has provided the public with a unique venue for learning about and voicing their opinion on major projects along California's coastline. Nowhere is this more critically important than in Santa Barbara County where I'm from, specifically because this partnership allows us into the review of offshore oil and gas leases. Oil has been a part of our county's history for generations. I now live and work in the city of Santa Barbara, but I grew up in North County, in Lompoc, a small, more conservative, working-class town that I'm so proud to be from. Growing up there, and locals will know what I'm talking about. I remember during the holiday season, looking out at the offshore platforms and thinking I was seeing Christmas trees over the water. These projects have been a part of my

life for as long as I can remember. But so too have been the devastating spills and the permanent consequences. The awareness that generational environmental and economic impacts are just one cracked well casing away. This awareness is woven into the fabric of our daily lives. And yet for every year that oil extraction has been a reality in Santa Barbara County, it's generated as many opinions locally from that deep fear and concern all the way to recognition of the often well-paying and steady job opportunities the industry can provide.

So I say all that to be clear that my comments today are not political and they're not about my personal views on oil and gas. Instead, I wanna share with you what I've seen across my county, what I know to be true for every resident, regardless of politics. In Santa Barbara County, we all believe in transparency. We place immense value on the opportunity to weigh in no matter the outcome. That's particularly true when we're talking about oil. To me, that transparency, that chance to contribute, that's exactly what this program embodies. So I think about my neighbors, about all Californians really, whether you're working on the rig or you're an environmental advocate or, like me, you're a mom who just really loves to take her kids to the beach. We deserve a public process that gives us a say in what happens on our coast. That's the heart of what this program's provided for nearly 50 years and what I sincerely hope it will continue to provide for the next 50 and more. Thank you for your time.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Harmon for her comment.

Speaker number 20, Crowfoot.

Speaking: Wade Crowfoot (58:39)

Thank you so much. My name is Wade Crowfoot, and I serve as our California Natural Resources Secretary, and I lead the agency that includes the three entities that implement our California coastal management program. I want to first of all thank and express appreciation to NOAA personnel for almost five decades of successful partnership implementing our state's coastal management program. I also want to thank career NOAA personnel, many of whom are staffing this hearing today, for their continued diligence doing good work amidst what we believe are destabilizing budget cuts, the loss of scientific monitoring and science programs across the agency. I can't say it as well as the people that you've heard from and that you'll hear from over this month about the love Californians have of their coast and the anger and fear that this review generates. I'll summarize the importance of California's coast by explaining, though, that over two-thirds of our residents live in California's coastal counties. Hundreds of thousands of jobs are supported by our California coast, and our coastal economic activities represent 51 billion dollars of economic output.

53 years ago national leaders came together across the aisle, overwhelmingly bipartisan, and passed the CZMA for a very clear and simple purpose. California coastal communities, be they small, large, red or blue, want a say in their future. That law was passed or signed by President Nixon and ushered in five decades of effective collaboration across 35 American states. Never before has a review like this appeared to upset that five decades of collaboration. Never before has revocation been threatened of a state's coastal management program that has demonstrated at every turn to be reasonably and effectively implementing that program.

The sudden review doesn't appear to be based on science or facts, but on unfounded political assertions. I submitted a letter, we submitted a letter, this week that details in the five priority activity areas that were mentioned in the Commerce Secretary's press release, that it's very clear that the Coastal Commission and the other state agencies have effectually discharged their responsibility under the coastal management program. And whether it's spaceport development or fiber optics, a strong record of ultimately supporting federal activities while helping those activities be better.

Our data suggests that of 35 states that have implemented our coastal programs, they have concurred with federal activities or permits 95% of the time. In California, that figure is 96%. Um, simply put Federal agencies have existing pathways to continue federal activities or proposed permits, even despite state or local opposition. So therefore...[microphone was turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Secretary Crowfoot for his comment.

Next speaker, speaker 21, Hickman.

Speaking: Bill Hickman (01:02:07)

Hello, my name is Bill Hickman with the Surfrider Foundation. I help to support our volunteer-led chapters from Ventura, where I live, up to Santa Cruz. And in short, the California coastal management program is working. For nearly 50 years, the Coastal Commission has worked closely with federal agencies to review projects under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Since California's coastal management program was approved, the Commission has reviewed more than 3,700 federally and regulated projects to make sure they are consistent with California's coastal policies. Ninety-six percent of the time, the Commission negotiates improvements so the project can move forward. I greatly appreciate all the work the Commission has done to help protect the coast. As an avid surfer and beachgoer, I really appreciate the coast is not scarred by tall buildings and that the coast is not totally covered with seawalls and armoring that kill beaches. I also appreciate the effort to protect clean water and the coastal economy from the threat of oil spills from offshore oil drilling.

As a specific example of the great work the Commission is doing carrying out California's program, Surfrider Foundation, including myself and our Central Coast Chapter, supported the Commission's August 2024 approval of NOAA's consistency determination for the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary designation. In making this approval, the Commission agreed with NOAA that designating this area as a National Marine Sanctuary is consistent with California's coastal policies. The decision benefits the coast as the designation will help protect this special biologically diverse area from oil and gas development and deep-sea mining and the risk those activities pose to the California coast.

Last, a final example closer to home for me. In April 2026, the Commission approved the city of Ventura's application for rock armoring across 600 feet of public beach to protect the Ventura Promenade, a pre-coastal act structure. That's near Surfer's Point. The City has been armoring this stretch of eroding beach since at least 2011 with no long-term plan, and the beach has paid the price. While Surfrider opposes to armoring, we supported the Commission's beach protective permit conditions that require the City of Ventura to draft a long-term hazards plan that evaluates feasible alternatives to armoring, providing a glimmer of hope for the beach's future. So please continue to respect states' rights. Protect the California coastal management program so we can help protect the coast for future generations. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Hickman for his comment.

Speaker 22, Katz.

Speaking: Alex Katz (01:04:52)

Hi, I'm Alex Katz. I'm executive director of the Environmental Defense Center in Santa Barbara. We're a non-profit environmental law firm focused on California's Central Coast.

NOAA's last evaluation of California's program appropriately recognized the state as a leader in addressing, this is a quote, climate change, habitat restoration, conservation, sediment management, public access, and improved implementation of local coastal programs.

California's program has been a model. So, what has changed? And unfortunately, what has changed is that this administration has a vision that is radically different from what people here in California and across the nation want for this coast.

You're hearing in this room that there's a lot of concern that this review is a pretext, it's a way for the administration to override California law and allow projects that would otherwise be considered too dangerous for the environment, for our economy, and for human health and safety. And we are seeing many examples of this now. In Santa Barbara County, the administration has issued an unprecedented order. Allowing the Sable oil company to operate

outside of state laws and even in violation of court orders to operate an old pipeline that you may have heard was responsible for one of the worst oil spills in California history in 2015. That's the Plains Oil Spill at Refugio State Beach. We call it the Plains Oil Spill because that's the name of the company that was responsible for it, not the place where it happened. And off of Ventura County, the administration has expedited a proposal from the oil company D-Corps to allow fracking in the Santa Barbara Channel, which would be the first case of fracking off of the California coast.

So. An oil spill can't tell the difference between federal and state jurisdiction. More drilling will inevitably mean more spills. That's why it's essential that there's a process for collaboration between state and federal agencies to work together to manage coastal resources. California's program, again, is a story of successful collaboration as decades of implementation demonstrates.

So instead of a review that seems transparently to be political and in bad faith, work with us to protect this coast which is a national treasure, not just for Californians but for all Americans. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Katz for his comment.

Speaker 23, Paravicini.

Speaking: Chloe Paravicini (01:08:01)

Hi, thank you for the opportunity to comment today. My name is Chloe Paravicini and I represent Oceana here in Los Angeles. On behalf of Oceana's more than 137,000 California members, I'm here to express our opposition to the expansion of offshore oil and gas production off the coast of California. Offshore oil drilling presents an existential threat to California's thriving coastal economy, biologically diverse ocean ecosystems, and critical military testing and training zones. It jeopardizes our way of life and why many of us choose to call California home. Earlier, my colleague Lisa described the overwhelming bipartisan opposition to expanded offshore oil drilling in state and federal waters, and the Commission's appropriate review of the state's interest over the years. Again, I'm going to reiterate why and what's at stake.

In 1994, California banned new oil and gas leasing in state waters. In 2018, we outlawed the construction of infrastructure to support new federal oil and gas leases. And just last week the state legislature passed a bipartisan resolution to reaffirm this position. This opposition is rooted in California's painful history with oil spills. In 1969 the San Barbara oil spill spilled approximately 4.2 million gallons of oil into the ocean over 11 days. In 2015, the same area was devastated by 120,000 gallons of oil that spilled from a ruptured pipeline which ran through Refugio State Beach and into the ocean. This spill damaged approximately 3,700 acres of habitat and killed or injured hundreds of birds, dolphins, seals, and sea lions. The beach remained closed

for nearly two months while the surrounding area suffered \$4.5 million in losses. In 2021, the Huntington Beach oil spill oiled 13 protected areas, caused fish enclosures, and canceled part of the Pacific Air Show, a large tourist event in Huntington Beach. The three disasters combined have spilled nearly 4.35 million gallons of crude oil into our waters.

The Commission has helped our economy thrive through its implementation of the coastal management program. The ocean economy contributes 51.3 billion to California's GDP, nearly half of which comes from coastal tourism and recreation. California fisheries generate millions and employ thousands of Californians. This is all at stake.

Finally, offshore drilling in Southern California jeopardizes our national security. Facilities like Camp Pendleton and the San Clemente Island Range Complex use the waters off California for testing and training essential to the defense of our country. In a letter to the administration, the California congressional delegation stated that the possibility of an oil spill could quote, undermine military readiness, impose risks to national security, end quote. Between 2010 and 2022, more than 7,300 oil spills occurred in federal waters, averaging more than one spill per day for 12 years nationally. By expanding offshore drilling off our coast, it's not a question of if an oil spill will happen, but when.

This unwarranted review of California's coastal management program sets a dangerous precedent of federal overreach into how states manage their own coasts. With our economy, our security, and our ocean at risk, I urge you to maintain the Coastal Commission's authority to defend our coasts from offshore drilling. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Paravicini for her comment.

I also do want to check if Speaker 24 Cummings is in the room. It's you. All right. Excellent. Supervisor Cummings, please speak.

Speaking: Justin Cummings (01:11:21)

Thank you very much. My name is Justin Cummings. I'm the 3rd District County Supervisor of Santa Cruz County. I'm also a biologist by trade with a PhD from the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UC Santa Cruz. I'm the co-chair and founder of the Save My Coast Coalition, which is a nonpartisan coalition of coastal cities and counties who are committed to protecting our coastal environments and coastal economies. I'm also the former Central Coast representative on the California Coastal Commission, where I served in that role from April 2023 to May 2025 and served as chair of the California Coastal Commission from January to May of 2025. And I'm here today to speak in support of maintaining our California coastal management program.

The Coastal Zone Management Act was created in 1972 with the goal of preserving, protecting, developing, and where possible, restoring or enhancing the resources of our coastal zone. Here in California, the lead agency responsible for our coastal management program, which is largely based on the California Coastal Act, has been the California Coastal Commission along with the Coastal Conservancy and BCDC. Given the recent concerns that were raised by NOAA, I actually decided to go back and review every coastal management program review going as far back as the first review ever conducted in 1977, published in 1979. In each review, NOAA highlights areas of successful performance and areas for improvement, but there's been a common conclusion across all of the studies, and I think last year's draft review said it the best, this evaluation concludes that the state of California is successfully implementing and enforcing its federally approved coastal management program, adhering to the terms of the federal financial assistance awards, and addressing coastal management needs identified in section 303, 2A through K of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

So for the past almost 50 years across Democratic and Republican administrations at both the state and federal level, our state agencies have worked closely with our federal partners on projects of federal and state interests, whether they be offshore oil, spaceports, underwater, fiber optic cables, desalination, offshore wind, and many others to ensure that these activities are done in such a way to minimize and mitigate negative impacts on human health, our environment, and our local economies.

The California coastal management program has helped us achieve a \$51 billion coastal economy and is a model for the rest of the world. Based on the state's ongoing track record of success, which is reflected in all of the previous coastal management program reviews, I recommend that NOAA continue working with our state partners on refining and enhancing our successful coastal management program. Currently, there is no legal basis or justification for eliminating this program. Our state agencies have faithfully upheld their duties to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, and I ask that NOAA do the same. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you, Supervisor Cummings, for your comment.

Speaker 25, Kruthers in the room.

26 Griego, in the room?

Speaker 27, Deehan.

Speaking: Laura Deehan (01:14:37)

That's me.

Hello there. My name is Laura Deehan. I'm the state director for Environment California, a statewide environmental advocacy group. I'm a Richmond resident up in Northern California and

also a mother. And Environment California works for all Californians to protect our air, our water, and to help make sure we have a livable future for all of us. And if there's one thing that we found that all Californians agree on, it's that we love our coast and our ocean. We love our breathtaking beaches. We love our dramatic coastal bluffs with the fresh sea breezes. We love the chance to spot the dolphins and sea turtles and sea otters playing in the surf. California's coast is iconic. And it's a healthy ocean. A coastline that's beautiful, is a source of joy and serenity, and the foundation of so much of our lives here in the state.

In contrast, oil spills, dead seabirds, turtles, beaches that are so polluted that they're not safe to swim or fish in. That is not the future that we want. The people who live here deserve to have a say on the future of our home and our backyard. And that's why after the worst oil spill in our state's history, President Nixon responded with the Coastal Zone Management Act to give states and local government and the people of this day a chance to speak up and have a voice on what happens here.

Quite a lot has changed since then. But one thing that has not changed, we still don't want any more devastating oil spills to hurt our beaches and our marine life. We still don't want our public beaches to be shut off, taken away from us by powerful special interests trying to build up industries, serving their own short-term interest at the expense of the rest of us.

So along with millions of Californians, I'm calling on you today to help make sure we protect a healthy ocean and our coast in the future so that we can preserve the right to have a say in what happens in our home. We strongly oppose any weakening to the coastal zone management program. It is absolutely critical that local towns, local residents, people that live here have a voice to ensure that our state's greatest treasure, our coast and our ocean are protected long into the future. Thank you.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Will speakers number 31 through 40 come and sit up front to, I'm sorry, to my left, speakers 31 through 40.

And if speaker number three, Pilefka has arrived, please also join the speakers on my left on deck. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Deehan for her comments.

Speaker number 28, Gutierrez.

Speaking: Cris Gutierrez (01:18:05)

Good afternoon. I am Cris Gutierrez. I am a resident of Santa Monica and the co-founder and an advisor for Climate Action Santa Monica. As a retired teacher and a dedicated environmentalist,

I work as a community activist and mentor to many young people who are now listening and paying attention as they also struggle with the climate challenges that we have confronted them with. I'm actually happy to be in this august audience and participants with the professional NOAA leaders to help you understand from my personal experience and witness about the management of our gorgeous natural coastal resources and the life that abounds there. As I was born in Santa Monica, I grew up on the beach, played volleyball, I was tumbled in the waves, running in the early hours or at sunset, swimming in the ocean's caress, along with dolphins leaping and frolicking.

Let's face it, we all start with nature. We are all fellow creatures, including our NOAA staff here. Fellow creatures of the biosphere. So let me remind us that all life began in the ocean. To quote a recent article on UCLA Professor Brunk's and Berkeley Professor Marshall's narration of life, Earth was an ocean world, and it was in this global ocean that life formed for the very first time. That is a scientific and sacred understanding that needs to guide us in all of our choices. That is why your work at NOAA, in collaboration with our Coastal Commission and our coastal conservancies who manage the coastal areas are so critical.

The final evaluation that you've heard of several times here, like a Greek chorus, echoes that California is successfully implementing and enforcing its federally approved coastal management program. To deviate from that assessment, would be anathema to California's coastal zone management program and to the Act under which authority it operates. It would be anathema to NOAA's original integrity. To possibly take an unprecedented step of decertifying that...our management program, in order for an extreme industry to take place, more oil drilling, that is, would lead to further climate destabilization and heating of our oceans. Today, our Santa Monica summer typical levels of temperatures are around 65 degrees. Now it's 76 degrees. So I want to close with Rachel Carlson reminding us, when they went ashore, the animal...
[microphone was turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Gutierrez for her comment.

Speaker number 29, Partch.

Speaker number 30, Dembo.

Speaking: Wendy Dembo

Hi my name is Wendy Dembo and I'm a concerned Santa Monica resident and mom. I love the beach and the ocean. Almost 70 years ago, my dad brought his bride back to California. They moved to the Palisades as my mom wanted to live by the beach. I grew up going to the beach, perhaps spending too much time in the sun, my dermatologist would probably concur. My brother is a surfer and a foiler. I spent many very very early mornings walking the beach as my daughter surfed on her middle school surf team. Even with the protections of the California

Coastal Commission, I wasn't thrilled when my daughter as a junior lifeguard jumped off the Santa Monica Pier, because it traditionally has the worst water quality in California.

I walk almost every day to look at the ocean. I often see cars lined up on the coast highway to park at the first parking lot after coming out of the McClure tunnel. It is though their excitement of getting to the beach makes people forget that California has a large coast. The ocean and the beach are for everyone to use and enjoy not for the highest bidder to take profit from and leave polluted. I urge you to reject any changes to the California coastal management program. It's working thank you

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Dembo for her comment.

Speaker 31 Wasserman.

Speaking: Zack Wasserman (01:23:16)

My name is Zack Wasserman and I am the chair of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. One of the three agencies NOAA is re-examining today. I've been chair of BCDC for the past 14 years, and I very much appreciate the partnership that we have had with NOAA. This hearing makes me feel very much like the loving husband who is asked, when did you stop beating your wife? That question, like this hearing, is based on assumptions that are simply not true.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, the ocean, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. BCDC's mission is to protect and enhance the San Francisco Bay and to encourage the Bay's responsible and productive use for this and future generations. Those missions are very closely aligned.

I believe that NOAA continues to try to fulfill its mission, despite repeated efforts by the current administration to undermine and erase scientific facts it finds inconvenient or that contradict its ideological beliefs. I recognize that we are not so much speaking to the NOAA staff in this room, but to the people in Washington who control NOAA, and to the secretary who has caused this hearing to occur.

The most important word in BCDC's title is the word and. We help to conserve and develop in, under, and around our wonderful bay. We've approved maintenance of pipelines under the bay that support our airports, improvements to traffic lanes on bridges that support commuters, and development of office buildings adjacent to the bay and the mining of sand under the bay for construction, all while increasing public access to the bay and ensuring the environmental protection of the bay. In the past year alone, we've added 60 acres of bay surface, restored 76

acres of wetland habitat, and added over half a mile of New Bay Trail and two and a half acres of new public access. We are focusing much of our efforts with NOAA's help on how to adapt to the very real threat of rising sea levels. A joint BCDC-MTC study projected that the damage from rising sea levels to Bay Area infrastructure and property could exceed \$230 billion. Adapting our bay to meet that challenge could easily cost \$110 billion. Those are real problems. The false assumptions that have caused this hearing to happen are not.

NOAA completed its regular five-year evaluation of BCDC and its sister agencies last year and gave full approval to our actions. That report has not been released. I ask NOAA to actually read it, to release it, and not waste any more taxpayer money on pursuing false accusations. We have real work to do. Let's do it together.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Chair Wasserman for his comment.
Speaker 32, Morton.

Speaking: Ted Morton (01:26:36)

Good afternoon. My name is Ted Morton. I'm executive director of Santa Barbara Channel Keeper, an environmental conservation organization that works to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds.

I'm here today to express our strong support for California's coastal zone management program, especially the role state agencies play in reviewing federal projects that affect coastal resources. For 48 years, California and NOAA have worked cooperatively through this program to balance coastal and marine protection and a healthy coastal economy. The program has successfully ensured public access at California beaches, conserved critical habitats, restored more than 100,000 acres of habitat, advanced essential research, provided funding and technical assistance, and initiated actions on emerging issues such as climate adaptation.

Standard periodic assessments over the past decades have consistently demonstrated that the state is successfully implementing the program. It is obvious that this current evaluation is a response to political pressure in Washington, DC. This unusual out-of-cycle assessment stems from an executive order related to spaceport infrastructure that has swollen to include other special interests of the administration and corporations, such as offshore oil drilling. But not surprisingly, the administration is not seeking input on the impact of significant reductions in the workforce, funding, technical assistance, and research on this partnership. Actions taken over the past 18 months that disregard the law and state oversight only affirm how critically important it is that state agencies engage and fulfill the responsibilities and authorities they hold under California's Coastal Act and the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

Take Sable as one example. Since 2024, Sable Offshore has aggressively pushed a scheme to restart offshore oil drilling off of Gaviota Coast using damaged onshore pipelines that were responsible for a massive oil spill in 2015. In April 2025, the Coastal Commission decisively acted to issue a record \$18 million fine to Sable for rebuilding an oil pipeline without the proper permits, including excavation with heavy equipment that negatively impacted vegetation and wetlands. In recent months, the Trump administration has interjected in unprecedented ways. It reclassified pipelines that operate between the Gaviota Coast and Kern County as interstate. Approved Sable's restart plan unilaterally, and issued special permits to waive pipeline safety requirements. The Secretary of Energy issued an order under a Cold War statute to immediately prioritize pipeline transportation of oil from the Gaviota Coast. These actions have been taken without transparency and certainly without a robust process to engage local and state officials and the Santa Barbara community who oppose the plan overwhelmingly.

So NOAA, today I respectfully urge you, don't diminish California's voice in protecting our coast, don't dismantle the successful partnership and program, and don't enable this power grab. Thank you.

Speaking: Mark Friedman (01:29:50)

My name is Mark Friedman and I'm a member of the National Association of Machinists and, along with the longshore workers, we're obviously very concerned about any changes because the Commission also regulates the port and transportation routes and everything related to it. I'm also a science teacher and taught for 14 years in the only inner-city program for marine science in Inglewood. And now I teach at the LA Maritime Institute, in a bilingual program there. With the help of the Commission, we bring 7,000 students a year on board our tall sailing ships for science activities. This is the only bilingual education program in the state, and it was funded by the Commission. We build environmental ambassadors, young people who take this information back to their families and their communities and act on it. This attack on the Commission is part of the bigger picture attack on the CDC, the NIH, every single environmental gain that we have made since the environmental movement in the 1970s. It is an attempt to roll back all advances. It is in line with the rollback of civil rights legislation, women's rights legislation, trade union legislation. It is part and parcel of the same reactionary program of the Trump administration in Washington.

I think those of us here in the audience, hundreds of us speak for Rachel Carson. We speak for the First Nations. We speak for the youth. We speak for Greta Thunberg, who would be here today, I am sure, speaking out. Young people today who are fearful of their future with climate change. What future do they have when we start rolling back these environmental gains? The Commission needs more power to carry out environmental enforcement, to stop privatization along the shores and routes that people can take to the shores, to stop the leasing. We demand,

for example, Governor Newsom, who falsely claims to be an environmentalist, and then leases 21 new drilling sites to oil companies. We know where the money is that is paying him.

We need to, and carry out more laws that protect. Trump doesn't care about laws. He doesn't care about laws when he attacks Iran, when he's talking about going in and attacking Cuba. And we must view these in that whole big picture. If Cuba can carry out enormous campaigns for environmental change, planting mangroves around their island, food production moved up the mountains, housing for 30,000 people to move them away from the coast given the rise of water, then we can do it. And just like the people of Milwaukee...[microphone was turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Professor Friedman for his comments.

Speaker 34, Schmidt.

Speaking: Tevin Schmitt (01:33:21)

Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Tevin Schmitt. I am the watershed scientist for the Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation. I am providing comments today on behalf of Wishtoyo, opposing NOAA's audit of the California coastal management program. To begin, this federal audit for the CCMP is nothing more than blatant political maneuvering by the current White House administration and Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick. NOAA conducted a thorough review of the CCMP in 2024 and published findings in 2025 that California had successfully implemented and enforced its federally approved program. The audit before us today is a waste of taxpayer money and a waste of time for NOAA staff who are facing a 17% workforce cut.

NOAA's audit of the program seeks to weaken state agencies' regulation of offshore oil production, pipeline restarts, deep seabed mining, spaceport infrastructure, and desalination projects. These deeply unpopular projects seek to strip mine California's coast for its resources at an incalculable cost to cultural resources, indigenous lifeways, local economies, commercial and recreational fisheries, tourism, and California's aesthetic beauty. California's state regulatory bodies have long managed coastal developments, carefully balancing conservation efforts with economic development. What happened to the age-old conservative platform of protecting states' rights? Or is that just to strip away reproductive rights and defend chattel slavery? I digress.

Take a closer look at the current White House administration's actions along the California coast over the past year and a half. These include opening offshore federal waters to oil and gas leasing for the first time in decades, using emergency powers to restart a pipeline system that caused a massive oil spill in 2015, despite state court orders and California law requiring state approval and safety reviews, permitting fracking operations for a 45-year-old oil platform, and permitting

the expansion of Vandenberg Space for Space's rocket launch program despite public backlash and public health concerns and the ozone layer. All these projects are deeply unpopular among local communities, with grassroots coalitions formed to oppose these developments. We strongly oppose the review of the California coastal management program and support the California Coastal Commission, California Coastal Conservancy, and San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's management of the CCMP. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Schmitt for his comments.

Speaker 35, Koller.

Speaking: Matt Koller (01:35:58)

Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Matt Koller and I am the offshore drilling campaign manager for Surfrider Foundation. I am speaking today on behalf of our members who work to protect and enjoy California's oceans, waves, and beaches for their friends, families, and communities every single day. I'm here to speak in support of California's coastal management program, which has received glowing reviews from NOAA over decades of Section 312 evaluations for one reason, because it works. It ensures that Californians have a say in how our coast is managed, protects public access to our beaches, and supports a thriving coastal economy worth more than \$50 billion annually.

I'm originally from the East Coast, where beaches are not always as accessible, and the public access rights that we enjoy here are not always as protected as they are in California. When I was a graduate student at UC Santa Barbara, one of my favorite ways to decompress was spending an afternoon at Haskell's Beach in Goleta, where families gathered alongside guests staying nearby Bakara Resort, sharing the same stretch of coastline. In many parts of the country, that hotel would have tried to keep its beach exclusively for hotel guests and off limits to broke graduate students like myself. Instead, the California Coastal Commission requires that the Bakara maintain public parking spaces and a beach access trail, ensuring that our coast is available to everyone and not just a privileged few.

As Californians, that's just one example of our vision for our coastline, that it belongs to everyone. This public access doesn't happen by accident. It's something that we've fought for over generations, and it's something we must continue to defend. California's beaches, fisheries, marine ecosystems, and world-class recreational opportunities support an economy that draws visitors from around the world. We welcome economic development, but we wanted to proceed thoughtfully using the best available science and balancing economic opportunity with protecting the resources that make our coast so special. That is exactly what the coastal management program has done for the past 50 years.

Just as importantly, the coastal management program ensures that Californians have a meaningful voice in federal decisions affecting our coast. Whether the issue is offshore drilling, rocket launches, desalination projects, or undersea cables, Californians deserve a seat at the table to ensure that these projects are responsibly developed in a way that reflects our state's values. So on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation and our members, I urge NOAA to continue your longstanding partnership with the state of California and reaffirm your support for our coastal management program. Together, we can continue protecting the public access, healthy beaches, vibrant coastal economy, and shared vision for California's coast that generations of Californians have worked so hard to protect. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Koller for his comment.

Speaker 36, Cook.

Speaking: Irene Cook (01:39:08)

My name is Irene Cook. I speak as a member of the Society of Fearless Grandmothers, Santa Barbara. We're elder women. We're elder women who care passionately about the world we're leaving to our grandchildren. We advocate for leaders who work to protect our planet and all its creatures, to regenerate complex systems of nature, and to build a sustainable world for future generations. That's why several of us have made the trip to speak up for the coastal management program, which embodies these values. We recognize that humans are not separate from nature, but part of the sacred web of all life on earth.

So I must speak out vigorously against this sham of a proceeding. It is clear that this review is not motivated by genuine concern that the coastal zone management program is not doing its job. Almost 50 years ago, the people of California said loud and clear that we want to protect our coast for future generations. And ever since, the coastal zone management program has been doing the people's work as the people directed it to do. That's how it's supposed to work in a democracy. That is not extremism.

If you want to see extremism, look no further than the White House. Today's charade is not a process that's a legitimate part of our democracy. Like so many other vital underpinnings of our society in 2026, this review is just another tool of an authoritarian regime corrupted by extreme wealth, intent on serving only their corporate donors for the sole purpose of profit at the expense of public health and safety. Just last year, the draft findings of NOAA's regularly scheduled review stated that California had successfully implemented and enforced its programs. But the Trump administration, big surprise, failed, refused to finalize that report.

For decades, federal and state agencies have collaborated to protect our coast. But now, instead of working together, the Trump administration is threatening to undermine our state's ability to safeguard our shores. I urge you to refuse to be influenced by the administration's bogus claims and unlawful threats. Please adopt findings that are consistent with the existing 2025 draft report. I would reiterate what my colleague Maureen said, we will not stop fighting. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Cook for her comment.

Speaker 37, Eckerle.

Speaking: Jenn Eckerle (01:42:05)

Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Jenn Eckerle. I am the Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy for the California Natural Resources Agency. I'm also the Executive Director of the California Ocean Protection Council. I'm here today to strongly oppose any effort to decertify or weaken California's coastal management. This unprecedented review undermines nearly 50 years of federal-state partnerships designed to protect our coastlines, a partnership that has successfully moved federal activities forward while balancing tribal and local community priorities, economic opportunities, public access, and environmental protection.

I grew up in New York, but I moved to California 25 years ago after being awestruck by the drama and the beauty of California's coast while I was on a family trip when I was 16 years old. I am not alone. Residents and visitors cherish our magnificent coastline, driving the state's \$51 billion coastal economy supported by tourism, fishing, shipping, and coastal recreation. This blue economy relies on careful planning and development activities that maintain ocean health, and protect local jobs, businesses, and public safety.

As a diver, swimmer, and once upon a time surfer, I can tell you firsthand that the people in our state who care about the coast and expect to have a voice in what happens to it extends far beyond this room and the written comments that you will receive about this proposed action.

California's coastal management program provides public transparency on federal actions affecting our coast and enables community members to engage on these topics. Local communities and state policymakers must have a say in what happens on our coast. In many cases, members of the public only learn about and are able to comment on the impacts of federal projects, permits, and activities because our state agency review processes under the coastal management program. These activities include military training, closures of public beaches and coastal campgrounds, and leasing of offshore waters for energy development. Federal projects are often modified and improved through these state agency reviews under the CZMA. Removing this important avenue for local community knowledge and feedback on federal projects is counter to the spirit of the CZMA.

We've seen the consequences of offshore drilling disasters, including catastrophic oil spills. These spills have devastated ecosystems, shut down local fisheries, closed beach access, and resulted in economic losses for coastal businesses. Californians are deeply concerned about the health, safety, and environmental risks of oil drilling and our coastal zone management program is critical to minimize these risks. Our track record over the last...[microphone turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Joelle Gore

I would like to call speakers 41 through 50 to come line up and have a seat at my right and the chairs up front to my right. Thank you.

Speaking: Michal Lynch (1:45:48)

My name is Michal Lynch. I'm a resident of Santa Barbara, but like a couple of speakers previous to me, I'm also from the East Coast. And I want to point out what we saw on the East Coast. When private industry which is dedicated to its own interests and not to the public, by definition. When private industry decides what's going to happen along the coast, our economies suffer. Our entire state suffers. That's what happened on the East Coast over and over again before these rules were put in, before these Commissions were put in. When I came to California, I was amazed at how much access there is that we didn't have on the East Coast. Don't take that away from us.

The Commission listens. The Commission understands and asks questions when they don't. They're trying to enforce what the public wants. Including what other industries within the public want, not just one industry. I also want to point out what happens when those large industries managed to get permits to use our oceans. And when there is a spill. This isn't a matter of, oh, the pretty beach isn't accessible today. This is a matter of you can't drive to work without the stench. And you can't walk anywhere because you can't breathe comfortably. Because those oils are toxic. They literally poison us. I've known people who became so sick because they had the misfortune of living somewhere vaguely close to where one of the spills was.

We're asking to have our lives protected. That's what the Coastal Commission does for us. This is a matter of the economy and states' rights. We have a right to protect ourselves, to protect our economy, to protect our health. And this feels like outrageous oversight and overreach. The Coastal Management Act was built on cooperative federalism, which means that Congress intended for states to take the lead in managing their own coastlines, and California has successfully done it for decades. Don't get in our way, please.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Lynch for her comment.

Speaker 39 Millar.

Speaking: Carol Millar (01:48:46)

Hi, my name is Carol Millar. I'm a Santa Barbara resident. We were asked to comment on 303(2) of the Coastal Zone Management Act. It's obvious that the emphasis in that section is on conservation, restoration, and being good stewards for future generations. My generation has benefited enormously from the dual oversight provided by that act and the Coastal Commission. My hope is that my children and future grandchildren, I hope my daughters are listening, will also benefit from that oversight.

The Coastal Commission was born out of a majority of Californians fearing excessive development of our coast. I had a front row view of how well it did its job right off the bat. My cousins grew up on the Costa Dorada, right above Barcelona. That meant that from the early 1970s on, I visited that coast with my family. Initially it was quite idyllic, small fish swimming in the warm clear Mediterranean waters near shore where we would try to catch them. There were very few hotels lying on the beach and the sand was white and clean. Over the decade, the picture changed. Hotels, apartments, campgrounds sprang up indiscriminately. Infrastructure didn't keep up with the rampant, rapid, and frankly, very ugly development. And soon instead of swimming along small fish, we occasionally spotted human feces. And instead of running clean sand through our fingers, we found a mixture of garbage and sand. That's when our Spanish family decided to move to the interior of the country.

Back in Santa Barbara, the beach that was our second home remained pretty much the same. The cliffs were and still remain unblemished by development. And I'm happy to say that while I've swum along clumps of algae due to climate change, I've never found a human turd. There have been other effects of climate change too, of course. The tide pools that I hopped around as a kid have so little life in them now that I rarely see children hunting for anything in them. That's just one example of climate change causing devastating biodiversity loss. So the last thing we need to do is degrade more by extraction. I along with many others, am appalled that the federal government has overridden the Coastal Commission and allowed Sable to restart drilling. And to me, a survivor of both the 1969 and 2015 oil spills, any offshore drilling is obviously, unacceptably risky. And yes, I do drive an EV. The Spanish scenario I outlined took place in the waning days of the Franco dictatorship, it's really only under a dictatorship that wholesale pillaging of the environment can take place. In a true democracy, it's very clear that the majority of people care about the health of the planet and by extension their own health.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Millar for her comment.

Speaker number 40, Mueller.

Speaking: Kate Mueller (01:51:40)

My name is Kate Mueller. I'm an environmental installation artist. I'm here today to add my voice alongside the many who have come out of a place of deep love and concern for our environment.

My work over the last year and a half has given me the opportunity to interact with California coastal Commissions on a handful of occasions. The thing that has been impressed on me through those interactions is that these people love our ocean and that they make choices and recommendations from a place that prioritizes care for our ocean.

I grew up in Oxnard, California, not far from here. Oxnard's beaches are unbelievably beautiful and also backdropped with the reminders of deeply short-term thinking. The EPA listed the Halco Engineering Company as a Superfund site in 2007. Despite being listed as a priority, the heavy metals and low-level radioactive waste still remain at Ormond Beach and the surrounding wetlands. I mention this as a reminder that undoing damage that has already been done is far more difficult than problem solving and negotiating up top what is right.

California Coastal Commissions helps our state's ability to exercise their right to weigh in on what happens to our coast with a view towards long-term health of our water and our coastal communities. I would encourage you in this review to remember that when damage is done, it's our communities that pay the price.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Miller for her comment.

Speaker 41, Broberg.

Speaking: Sharon Broberg (01:53:40)

Hi, my name is Sharon Broberg and I'm a business owner from Santa Barbara. After listening to all the other knowledgeable speakers, I see that my comments are going to be mostly a love letter to the California Coastal Commission.

The California coastal program has a record of approving well-sited projects and objecting only when there's documented harm. I'm reminded of a conversation I had a few years ago with an Egyptian friend of my daughter's. He said the pristine Egyptian Mediterranean coastline is tied up by wealthy landowners' estates. There's very few public beaches, often miles from where people live. We can thank the Coastal Act for preventing the same in California.

I moved to California from Florida in 1973. I wasn't here for the 1969 oil spill. But I was here for the 2015 one off of the Gaviota Coast. Caused by a corroded pipeline and despicable management of the pipeline's owner. This is the same corroded pipeline now owned by Sable Offshore Oil Company. An oil spill or other threat can't tell the difference between federal and state jurisdiction. The California coastal management plan is essential to ensure collaboration between federal and state governments.

And why is this important to me? I'd like to tell you about a personal story of one canyon in California. When I arrived here in 1973, I joined an intentional community in Santa Barbara. Tajiguas Ranch, a 3,200-acre ranch spanning from the mountaintop to the ocean, at the time was owned by a movie star investment group with plans to build many houses for the wealthy. Their plans were foiled by the Coastal Commission. We, a group of several hundred young people, were able to buy Tajiguas Ranch for no money down, with the stipulation that 100 acres of avocados be planted in lieu of a down payment. The land has remained in agriculture. The riparian corridor of Tajiguas Creek is preserved. By luck of geography, this canyon was not hurt by the 2015 oil spill.

I've not been back to Tajiguas Ranch for 50 years, but I plan to take a hike this Friday. It's now conserved.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Broberg for her comment.
Speaker 42 Nickols.

Speaking: Kerry Nickols (01:56:50)

Good afternoon, NOAA representatives, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Dr. Kerry Nickols, and I am the science and policy director for a local nonprofit, Heal the Bay, who for 40 years has worked to keep our coastal waters and watersheds safe, healthy, and clean. I was born in California and have lived in this state my whole life, and I'm grateful for protections provided to the California coastline by California's coastal management program that have spanned my lifetime.

The area off the coast of California is one of the most biodiverse and productive areas in the world. In addition to the incredible beauty and environmental importance of this area, the ocean and coast of California is fundamental to Californians and Americans. Over two thirds of the California population live in coastal counties and 70% of GDP is tied to coastal counties. California is proof that a thriving economy can go hand in hand with environmental protections. Businesses in California depend on coastal health, which to date has been done in coordination between state and federal entities, which to NOAA's own assessment has been going extremely well.

This current review of the CCMP is completely inappropriate. The CCMP was just evaluated in 2024 and the evaluation found that the program was working exactly as intended. You are wasting our tax dollars to go against your agency's own findings because of the personal gain and interests of the federal administration. And you are doing so at the risk of irreparable damage to the precious ecosystems off the California coast. This is happening without need. 96% of projects from the federal government have been done in coordination with improvements for California's people, coastline, and economy, and approved. The very premise of this hearing that California is blocking national interests is false.

Science should drive coastal planning, not politics. We hear a lot about states' rights until it comes to California. California's coast and ocean are already under attack from pollution, ocean warming, sea level rise, ocean acidification, and more. Organizations like Heal the Bay and people like myself are trying so hard to address these threats to protect the ocean and the benefits that the ocean provides for humanity. Please leave California's coast alone and let us get back to this important work instead of defending the coast from our own federal government special interests. And lastly, I want to thank all of the NOAA employees who are forced to endure the actions of the federal administration every day, but keep showing up to try to protect our coast. I look forward to the day when science has a seat back at the table.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Dr. Nichols for her comments.

Speaker 43, Saucier.

Speaking: Terry Saucier (04:59:44)

Good afternoon, my name is Terry Saucier, I'm a 35 year LA resident and my husband and I raised our family here. Together we've explored the natural beauty of California's mountains, valleys, and coastlines, as well as discover the abundant and unique wildlife that lives there. I've dedicated the last decade volunteering at my local neighborhood council with many organizations advocating for the protection of our communities, natural resources, and biodiversity. In addition, I've spoken at California Coastal Commission hearings and witnessed firsthand how the Commission respectfully, professionally, proactively reviews projects and concerns by businesses and community members. And that's why I'm standing here today.

I'm speaking in support of California's coastal management program and Coastal Commission, which for the past 50 years successfully overseeing nearly 4,000 negotiations on coastal projects in part with the federal government to protect our economy, natural security, and coastal environment. This recent federally mandated review comes less than two years after last. That timing isn't about improving coastal management, it's about weakening it. This isn't only a California issue. If the federal government can override and approve state coastal management

program, it sets a dangerous precedent that puts every coastal state's right to manage its shoreline at risk.

A strong, well-funded coastal management program is needed now more than ever. California communities and coastlines are under threat from the effects of climate change. Wildfires, warming oceans, rising sea levels, and drought, as well as heavy rains, flooding, and landslides, like the kind we're expecting with the El Nino. We're watching plastic pollution accumulate and habitat disappear, and we haven't forgotten recent oil spills like that in Refugio and Huntington Beach. The California Coastal Commission is what stands between our coastline and dangerous offshore oil drilling, deep sea mining, destructive desalination projects, and others that threaten our coastal communities and marine ecosystems.

California leads the nation in environmental protection of its land, air, and water. It leads in scientific and academic research and federal laboratories and high-tech industries. It ranks first in agriculture, and manufacturing output. California is also number one in the country for tourism. Environmental stewardship and economic opportunity go hand in hand. We don't have to choose. So my ask is simple. Stand up to this attack. Defend the California coastal management program and Coastal Commission, which has consistently and successfully balanced coastal protections, public access, and economic opportunity. Let's ensure that future generations can also experience the extraordinary beauty of California's coastlines, oceans, and wildlife for many years to come. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Saucier for her comments.

Speaker 45, Oelsen.

Speaking: Ashley Oelsen (02:02:10)

Hi, my name is Ashley Oelsen. I'm a conservation biologist, a member of Santa Monica Sustainability and Environment Commission, former chair of the city's Clean Oceans and Beaches Oversight Committee, and a former directorate fellow with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Because of that experience, I want to begin by acknowledging the difficult position federal employees can find themselves in during changes in presidential administrations. During my time at Fish and Wildlife, I saw firsthand how dramatically an administration can affect the interpretation and implementation of environmental law. Federal employees are expected to follow lawful directives and respect the office of the presidency regardless of their views. So I understand the institution you represent, and I appreciate the responsibility you carry today.

But I also understand what is at stake. For the past four years, I have conducted a bottlenose dolphin photo identification project here in Santa Monica Bay. I have photographed individuals, compared dorsal fins across catalogs, and followed the relationships and social structure

that use our coastline. That work led me directly to NOAA's research following the 2015 oil spill in Santa Barbara. The research included 66 coastal bottlenose dolphins of which I've personally observed 31 traveling through Santa Monica Bay. There is one consistent thing with all of these dolphins. They are in bad condition with skin lesions from chemicals, pollution, scars from boat strikes and parasites, a sign of poor health. NOAA's assessment documented extraordinary consequences from the oil spill. Quote, the findings from these studies are presenting a picture of chronic poor health, failed pregnancies, and increased mortality.

A decade after that oil spill, restoration work is still ongoing. Here in Santa Monica Bay, we in the last few years, we're watching it rapidly change before our eyes, and all of this is happening with our existing coastal protections in place. Imagine having fewer. Lastly, it's appropriate this meeting is here in Santa Monica. For months, residents have been learning the Coastal Act, organizing around it, showing up at hearings, and fighting proposed legislation at both the local and state levels. So when this meeting was announced, we knew exactly what to do. We successfully fought AB 1740, then the governor's trailer bill, and we will fight whatever comes next.

And if I might add a final thought in keeping with the old adage of leading by example, might I suggest that the federal government begins its renewed offshore drilling program off the coast of Palm Beach, Florida. Gilded in gold and clearly visible from Mar-a-Lago. Thank you

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Oelsen for her comment.

Speaker 46, Van Denburgh.

Speaking: Elizabeth Van Denburgh (02:05:10)

Good afternoon. I am Elizabeth Van Denburgh, an MBA and California CPA, inactive. I have loved California's ocean since I was six, when my family drove from Phoenix to San Diego for summer vacations. I am now the chair of the Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition, representing a Santa Monica neighborhood of about 12,000 residences. Our community includes part of the coastal zone atop the bluffs above Pacific Coast Highway. Coastal protection and public access are not abstract issues for us. They are daily realities as they are for our visitors.

Today, NOAA seeks input on spaceports, offshore oil, pipelines, desalination, and undersea cables. That is quite an industrial checklist for a performance evaluation. California's August 5th, 2026, submission reports a 96% concurrence rate across more than 3,700 federal and federally regulated projects. That includes only two non-concurrences among more than 135 space launch reviews, both which still proceeded. Nearly 90% concurrence in 243 offshore oil and gas reviews. No federal consistency objections to pipeline repair or maintenance. Concurrence for all

19 undersea cable reviews. Streamlined concurrence for the sole CZMA desalination review. If 96% concurrence is obstruction, the word has lost its meaning.

The record shows a functioning system which conditions and occasional objections are part of a normal coastal management, not barriers to development. We are told this is a high-stakes federal versus state conflict. In practice, the governing law is clear. The Coastal Zone Management Act gives coastal states like California the authority to review federal actions for consistency with the approved coastal policies. That framework is not optional and it is not symbolic. It is the mechanism Congress created to balance national activity with state coastal stewardship.

As one observer noted, the administration is essentially looking to silence the voices of states and local governments. There's no parallel to what we're seeing here. This would result in a massive power grab and a very dangerous chilling effect on the coastal states. That was Meg Caldwell, who leads the Stanford's Environmental and National Resources Law and Policy Program for more than two decades. The concern is not theoretical. Is it about whether coastal states retain a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their shore lines? Put simply, this is not a potato-potato situation. The statute is not interchangeable language. Congress already defined the balance and the CZMA preserves state authority through federal consistency reviews.

Please follow the evidence and the law, preserve California's approved coastal program, and protect the coastline held in trust for everyone, including girls like me who may come to love California ocean as much as I do. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you, Ms. Van Denburgh for her comment.

I do want to check and see if speaker 47 Quigley is in the room.

Okay. Speaker 48 Christensen.

Speaking: Anna Christensen (02:08:37)

My name is Anna Christensen. I'm speaking for Sierra Club, Sierra Club California today.

Okay, so you might have heard of Sierra Club. We are a pretty big organization.

The California coast benefits the state and nation as a whole. Our \$51 billion coastal economy is based on tourism, recreation, maritime industries, and other businesses that rely on a healthy coastal ecosystem. California's coastal revenues contribute to the national GDP and federal budget. Protecting California's coast ensures our present and our future well-being. Federal decisions impacting coastal areas are best made in consultation with coastal states and communities. The Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 72 requires that both federal and

state agencies, quote, preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore or enhance the coastal resources of the nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations, unquote. It doesn't mention oil drilling. CZMA authorizes states to create their own coastal zone management plans in order to participate in federal decisions impacting coastal development and coastal resources. The collaborative approach enables informed long-term decision-making based on input from both national and local sources and avoids the repercussions of ill-advised projects that result in environmental or economic harm.

Although NOAA's June 2025 report found that California was successfully implementing and enforcing CZMA, the Commerce Department ordered a performance evaluation for spaceport infrastructure, offshore oil drilling, pipeline maintenance, desal projects, and undersea cables. An additional review focusing primarily on extractive industrial development feeds the false narrative that the CCMP is being used to block such projects in federal waters and on federal property. However, the CCMP requires California to make determinations of consistency with state laws. California does not issue or deny coastal development permits for federal projects. I'm not going to repeat what we've been doing for the past 48 years, 3,700 federal actions, 96% cases approved.

What I'm going to say is that this is actually an issue of transparency and accountability to the tax paying public. Will NOAA withhold federal funding and undermine California's ability to review, comment on, and collaborate with federal agencies on federal projects and impact our California coast? The Department of Commerce and NOAA must not prioritize specific industry goals and projects, but instead consider proven and potential benefits and risks involved in authentic coastal management and development in California, nationally and globally. CZMA is working as intended, not by rubber stamping developers or politicians' wish lists, but by reviewing and improving federal projects to the best of the state's ability. The reality is that transforming and transitioning away from extractive, polluting industrialization to a sustainable economy is both profitable and possible. That's for Mr. Lutnick, profitable, Mr. Lutnick, since you care so much about that. And guess what, it's ours to make.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

We'd like to call speakers 51 through 60 to come in the seats here on my left, 51 through 60. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Christensen for her comment.
Speaker 49 Leshner.

Speaking: Hana Leshner (02:12:38)

Good afternoon. My name is Hana Leshner. As an 18 year resident of Santa Monica and California and a mother of two young children, I'm speaking today to say that the California coastal management program is working and it must be protected.

Our coastline is a shared public space, essential to our community's wellbeing and the engine of our local economy. Raising healthy kids means protecting them from environmental pollution, and here in Santa Monica, clean unpolluted beaches aren't a luxury. They are vital to the physical health of our children, keep our small businesses thriving, drive local tourism, and sustain the vibrant community where I'm raising my family. Our coastal management program works because it treats our coast as a shared resource. It balances economic interests with keeping our waters clean, our ecosystems resilient, and our shorelines open to everyone.

When the program prevents offshore drilling, when it does, it protects us from toxic oil spills that endanger public health, destroy coastal ecosystems, and bring local beach economies to a standstill. Our local economy and our children's future depend directly on a healthy coast. I urge you to affirm the effectiveness and importance of the California coastal management program. Please keep this shared space protected for our community, our children, and generations to come. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Leshner for her comment.
Christie.

Speaking: Sarah Christie (02:14:10)

Good afternoon, I'm Sarah Christie, Legislative Director for the California Coastal Commission. I represent the agency in Sacramento.

On Friday, 12 members of the legislature, representing approximately 8 million Californians, submitted a comment letter for your consideration today. Robbie Steinberg, District Director for Assemblymember Rick Zabor, who represents Santa Monica, is here today to read highlights from that letter. However, he's waitlisted. So in the event that you don't get to his number today, he's asked me to impart the letter's key point. And that is this, quoting directly from the letter.

Continuously since the 1970s, NOAA or the US Department of Commerce has formally determined that California's implementation of the California Coastal Act satisfies, complements, or is consistent with the CZMA. The strongest evidence comes from NOAA's program approval and subsequent amendment approvals. This is not a program standing in the way of national priorities. It's a program operating exactly as the CZMA was intended.

That letter was signed by Senators Josh Becker, John Laird, Henry Stern, Ana Caballero, and Ben Allen. And Assembly Members Isaac Bryan, Tasha Borner, Chris Rogers, Mark Berman, Rick Zabur, Don Addis, and Gail Pellerin. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Christie for her comment.

I do want to check and see if speaker 51 Quill is in the room. All right, go ahead Mr. Quill.

Speaking: Michael Quill (02:16:09)

Well, first of all, thank you for your patience and attention. What a day. My name is Michael Quill. I'm from Los Angeles Waterkeeper. I'm the Marine Programs Director there, and I have a PhD in Eco-psychology. So how I got to be here is a long story, but very appropriate for what's going on.

So NOAA itself the Coastal Zone Management Act as tasked with giving states a strong voice in federal decision-making affecting coastal resources. California's program has been federally certified since 1977. Federal consistency is not merely symbolic, alright. NOAA, the Coastal Commission, and the Coastal Conservancy has supported LA Waterkeeper in our efforts to diversify our marine program, build relationships with schools, NGOs, government organizations, fishing clubs, allied enforcement agencies supporting water and ocean activity monitoring and restoration work, allowing us to continue to nurture and build a network of familiarity and with a variety of coastal players as the business of nonprofit environmentalism continues to evolve.

So, now we are challenged to refocus, to reset, reboot, and explore possible legal responses to this federal action. How to counter with laws and regulations, with supportive institutions we assumed were solid and consistently be so and they suddenly aren't. We are swimming into unknown waters here.

Defense is not an act enough. Nature has taught us that we are no truly separate systems, and what happens upstream eventually reaches the ocean downstream. What happens to one community affects the other. And the same is true of the institutions and organizations to protect this coast. Damaging and weakening of what moves to the community to damage the whole as it damages one and challenges the strength of our networks of coastal resilience. Relationships serve as foundations on which resilient collaborations are built. Relationships, the strength of California's coastal management program has never belonged to a single agency or organization and the federal challenge is calling on us, all of us who depend upon and care for this coast here today because the coast itself teaches us that survival comes through connection not isolation. Our task is not only to resist what we believe is wrong, the federal action is calling us to expand and make our networks stronger and more difficult to dismantle. It's coming, and we got

to develop an alternate game plan for our future. Obviously, we should not weaken the infrastructure in precisely the moment that we need it the most, but here we are. The California Coastal Commission provides a continuity and installation that we can turn to and participate with science and community input. When the rules and regulations we once followed don't apply, what holds? The Coastal Commission is part of the answer as we navigate these as are...[microphone turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Quill for his comment. I would also like to check and see if Speaker 52 Reed is in the room.

Speaker 53 Lee, please come to the microphone.

Speaking: Jaime Lee (02:19:40)

Thank you and good afternoon. My name is Jamie Lee and I'm a California Coastal Commissioner. I'm also a real estate executive and developer with more than two decades of experience investing in California.

Over the past 13 years, I've delivered 7,000 new housing units across 40 projects in the city of Los Angeles alone. I've also served as president of the Los Angeles Harbor Commission, overseeing the Port of Los Angeles, also known as America's port and the largest container port in the Western hemisphere. So I understand firsthand how regulation has real consequences for investment, housing, jobs, and economic growth. And from that perspective, I know that California's coastal management program has struck the right balance.

California has never had to choose between innovation and stewardship. The state that brought the world the personal computer revolution, the first internet transmission, and companies like Google, Apple, Nvidia, and SpaceX, is also the state that chose to protect one of the world's greatest coastlines. Those are not contradictory ideas. They are the fabric of California's spirit. We are the fourth largest economy in the world. Our marine economy alone supports more than 600,000 jobs and generates more than 50 billion in annual economic output.

As someone who has spent my career creating value through real estate, I can tell you this, a healthy, accessible coastline is not simply an environmental asset. It is one of our nation's greatest economic assets. The question before us is not whether removing every constraint would make individual projects, say to launch one more rocket ship or to produce one more barrel of oil easier. Of course it would. The real question is whether maximizing any one industry is the right economic policy for a coastline that must support a myriad of critical industries in an unparalleled quality of life.

Good policy does not optimize the use of a scarce resource at the expense of every other use. It maximizes the long-term value of that resource. And California's coastline is one of the most public, precious resources anywhere on earth.

The record speaks for itself. Since 1978, California has reviewed more than 3,700 federal and federally related projects, 96% of them moving forward. A regulatory program with a 96% approval rate is not a program that is designed to stop industry. It is a program designed to nurture industry growth alongside responsible stewardship. California's success has never come from asking us to choose between prosperity and protection. It has come from insisting that we can and must do both. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Commissioner Lee for her comments.

I'm going to check and see if Speaker 54 Holscher is in the room.

How about speaker 55 Blind?

Speaker 56, Rapp?

Speaking: Melissa Rapp (02:22:51)

Yes.

Hi, my name is Melissa Rapp. I'm a retired physician and I'm president of Sea and Sage Audubon Society in Orange County. We represent nearly over 3,500 members and probably an additional 3,000 supporters. And I thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Orange County has a deep and lasting connection to the coast. From above Huntington Beach to below Laguna Beach and our coastal wetlands, our economy, our community, and our quality of life are intricately tied to the healthy ocean and a healthy coastline. Sea and Sage Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds, wildlife, and their habitats. Every year, we invest thousands of dollars, tens of thousands of volunteer hours in conservation, education, and habitat programs throughout Orange County and along our coast.

We have also seen firsthand why strong coastal protections matter. Following the 2021 oil spill off of Huntington Beach, we witnessed the damage an oil spill can cause to wildlife, coastal ecosystems, communities, and our local economy. Birds are particularly vulnerable to these events. Protecting our coastal resources before damage occurs is far more effective than trying to restore them afterward. That is why Sea and Sage Audubon supports California's coastal management program and the federal state partnership established under the Coastal Zone Management Act. We believe the current program is working. California has decades of experience protecting and managing its unique coastal resources. The California Coastal Commission and the other state agencies have developed substantial expertise in evaluating projects that may affect our coast while working with federal agencies to allow appropriate

projects to move forward. We recognize that federal agencies have important responsibilities, including national defense, infrastructure, energy, transportation, and economic development.

Protecting California's coast and supporting responsible federal projects do not have to be competing goals. The current federal-state partnership provides a process for addressing both. We respectfully ask NOAA through this performance evaluation to find that the California coastal management program is effectively implementing its federally approved program and does not require any changes, no weakening of its authorities or federal intervention. Thank you so much for listening and thank you so much for your time.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Rapp for her comments.

Speaker 57, Richards.

Speaking: Gail Richards (02:25:55)

My name is Gail Richards. I'm also a member of Sea and Sage Audubon, and that was our fearless president. I am the past president of Sea and Sage Audubon Society in Orange County. It is the Orange County chapter of the National Audubon Society. We have, as she has mentioned, 3,200 active members and another group of people that support almost everything that National Audubon is supporting. We're a broad-based conservation organization focused on the protection of birds and other wildlife and the places that they live, including our shores and our oceans.

Today, I'm speaking today on behalf of the birds and the other wildlife. They count on us to protect them from oil spills, declining fish in the oceans, the ecological effects of multiple space launches, pollution including, I'm sorry, the multiple effects of space launches, including the noise and the pollution and the pollution that is affecting our mammal sea life. We pride ourselves in serving members from all walks of life, even from opposing political viewpoints. The love of birds brings us together, and we work hard to promote reasonable and balanced approaches to protecting them. We understand the incredible and complex pressures to develop our coast and sustain one of the largest economies in the world, which are in large dependent on healthy coastlines and clean oceans.

In Orange County, we have witnessed hundreds of examples of how balanced and thoughtful coastal policies, such as the Coastal Management Act and the Coastal Act, have been implemented. The Coastal Zone Management Act was signed into law to ensure coordination between federal government and 35 coastal states on coastal activities to allow for development when it's appropriate and protect coastal resources in the process. We witnessed the approval of a desalination plant in Dana Point by the Coastal Commission because it was well-planned. On the other hand, we saw a Commission to deny a desalination plant in Huntington Beach, consistent

with CZMA guidelines because it was not well planned and posed a significant threat to the coast, the ocean, and local communities.

As President Sea and Sage and a member of Sea and Sage for 25 years, I have witnessed a strong partnership between the needs of California and NOAA to protect our precious coastlines. We want to thank you for that partnership. We do ask that you do not break what has been working for 50 years. I would like to close by saying I'm probably one of those fearless grandmothers. I have seven grandchildren, most of them adults, and four great-grandchildren. I wish they could see me now. It breaks my heart to think that I'm standing here in this room right now pleading...[microphone turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Joelle Gore

I'd like to call speakers 61 through 70 to come up to my right and sit in the speaker chairs in the front.

Number 58, Murrieta.

Speaking: Fátima Murrieta (02:29:27)

Good afternoon, NOAA representatives. My name is Fátima Murrieta and I'm with Jobs to Move America, where I work with communities across the country to create good jobs while advancing our environmental protections. I grew up in the South Bay and I currently dedicate much of my time working alongside workers in the ports in San Pedro and San Francisco, California. And through this work, I've seen firsthand that healthy coastal systems create healthy communities for all, and an injustice to one is an injustice to all. Fishing, tourism, recreation, shipping, and manufacturing all rely on healthy ocean and coastline. When these ecosystems are damaged, our communities and local economies suffer. This is why California's coastal management program is so essential. We cannot afford to weaken these protections to serve corporate interests.

As we saw with the devastating Palisades fire, climate impacts are already disrupting communities. These challenges demand stronger environmental protections, not weaker ones. Instead of undermining California's hard fought protections, the federal government should work with us and invest in improving water quality, protecting coastal systems, and creating good jobs, building a more resilient future. As a lifelong Californian, I urge NOAA to respect our local decision-making, preserve California's coastal protections, including public access, and end this unnecessary review today. Thank you.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Thank you, Ms. Murrieta.

Speaker 59 Brownsey.

Speaking: Donna Brownsey (02:31:12)

Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Donna Brownsey. And I just have to say before I start, I've never been prouder to be a Californian than to hear these comments from everybody in the room.

I am here today as one of the millions of Californians who love our beautiful and restorative and productive coast. I live in a small North Coast community in Mendocino County where the ocean has provided a livelihood for families for thousands of years. I fully and strongly support the statements and positions of our governor, Secretary of Natural Resources, and the leadership of our state coastal agencies, and the thousands of local community coastal organizations up and down the state. I know that NOAA and you, the staff, have worked collaboratively with our state and local agencies for decades. For your service, I am grateful. I served for seven years on the Coastal Commission, two as chair. I know firsthand how we work together with the technical expertise of our separate offices, producing agreements that benefited both the federal applicant and state interests.

It's disheartening to me that our federal government has abandoned any notions of state sovereignty, which is the true reason for this review. Its purpose is to deny the power of our voices on any commercial or federal projects. It is a federal government that chooses subordination to collaboration. It is also instructive to know a little bit of history. It was almost 50 years ago that an injunction requested by the oil industry to stay the operation of the CZMA and the CMP for the state of California was lifted. Thus the law went into effect. So today we are not surprised that the same oil industry seeks to again eliminate the protections of the CZMA and the public participation that it requires. They do not want any interference in their projects or barriers to the maximization of their profits. It is likely that if unregulated there will be oil spills and other negative impacts on our coastal resources and beloved beaches. We know that you up on this dais are not blind to the complexity and the beauty of our California coast. What your superiors may not know is that we have been here before. There is a profound bond between all Californians and our coast. It is intrinsically who we are. Public access, public participation, and protection of our coast are core values. We will not be silenced, nor will we walk away. Thank you.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Thank you, Ms. Brownsey.

Speaker 60, Koller.

61, Parks.

Speaker 62, Margitan.

Speaking: Cassandra Margitan (02:34:25)

Good afternoon, my name is Cassandra Margitan, and I'm a volunteer at Sea and Sage Audubon, which is the Orange County Chapter of National Audubon Society. We actively work to protect birds from habitat loss, window and building collisions, and pollution, and we show the public the beauty of all wildlife. Each week, I do surveys counting the number of birds in coastal areas like Bolsa Chica and Huntington Beach. I also work with California State Parks to monitor western snowy plovers, a threatened species that nests on our sandy beaches.

I am here to speak in support of California's coastal management program. Volunteering has shown me the impact that oil spills and habitat loss have on wildlife. Oiled birds dehydrated, skinny, and dying. Drones terrifying elegant terns and causing them to abandon thousands of eggs. And without the coastal management program, we will undoubtedly see more of these disasters. But it's not just birds who depend on the coast. People live and work here. And life is better for everyone when we protect the shore. We can safely swim, surf, and spend time with family at California beaches. And some of the largest revenue-generating events happen on our coastline.

In Huntington Beach, we have the professional volleyball tournament of AVP and the US Open of Surfing, which is the largest surfing competition in the world, brings \$40 million to our community and supports thousands of jobs. All of this is possible because we have regulations that protect our coastline. But if these regulations are weakened, we stand to lose all of that. And our physical and economic health will suffer.

The California Coastal Commission protects the health and well-being of people and wildlife who live in coastal cities. But it has also proven itself to be supportive of the local economy and military. The Coastal Commission approved a desalination plant in Dana Point. It approved the development of 111 homes spanning 50 acres in Bolsa Chica, and it has continually approved the Navy's warfare training program, negotiating with the Navy to mitigate its impact on wildlife. This has been working. It does not need to be overturned.

Rather than weaken the protections we have, please work with this partnership. Please work with this partnership. Please work with California Coastal Commission to find solutions like it has been doing for years. Thank you for giving residents like me the chance to speak. I appreciate your time.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Margitan for her comments.

I want to check and see if speaker 63 Unser is in the room.

Speaker 64 Jackson.

Speaking: Ray Jackson (02:37:31)

Thank you. Good afternoon, ladies. And NOAA, thank you for being here. I'm Hermosa Beach City Council member and former Mayor Ray Jackson, a lifelong public servant. I had the privilege of wearing the Army uniform for more than 30 years, starting as a private during the Cold War and retiring from the Pentagon as a colonel with deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. I also have the honor of serving as a Senate appointee to the California Coastal Commission, representing Los Angeles and Orange counties. That means not just the beach cities, but all 122 cities across counties representing more than 13 million people, because the California coast belongs to everyone equally, regardless of zip code or proximity to our iconic coastline. And if you haven't already, I'd suggest taking a drive up the coast to see and feel firsthand why bucket lists exist. The California coastline really is that special.

Of the 12 California Coastal Commissioners, six are locally elected officials appointed to represent specific regions throughout the state. That's an important part of the Coastal Act because it ensures that local governments and the communities we represent have a seat at the table. The Coastal Zone Management Act extends that principle to federal coastal decision-making by ensuring that local governments have a voice through California's coastal management framework. And that local voice matters. We see things up close. We hear directly from residents. We see how short-term rentals affect housing costs and how sea level rise threatens infrastructure. We are on the front lines when there are oil spills, coastal flooding, or disasters. And when something goes wrong, we are the ones helping our communities recover and rebuild.

So when we talk about potentially decertifying the California coastal management program, we're not talking about a technical adjustment. We're talking about removing a core layer of local voice from decisions about our coast. That would be a serious step backwards, and in my view, a direct hit to the principles of representative government. If there's one message I want the federal government to hear today, it is this. Working with the Coastal Commission through the CZMA to incorporate the perspectives, priorities, and values of local governments makes federal projects better. It makes them more durable and it makes them less likely to end up in court or create unintended consequences that erode public trust. We do not always agree, that's not a flaw in the system, that's a system working as intended. The diversity of opinion we see across California and across this country is not a weakness, it is one of our greatest strengths. We've been doing this right for 50 years. We should continue to build on that success, not turn away from it. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be heard today, and thank you for what you do.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Jackson for his comments.
I would like to call Speaker 65 Savage

Speaking: Jennifer Savage (02:40:42)

Hi, my name is Jennifer Savage. I'm Surfrider Foundation's California Policy Associate Director and a resident of Humboldt County.

I offer you three examples of evidence that California's coastal management program is working. First, the numbers. The California Coastal Commission has found 97% of proposed federal projects consistent with California's laws. More than 135 aerospace and space launch projects have been reviewed with only two objected to. The Commission has reviewed and concurred with all 118 undersea cable projects brought forth. The Commission has 49 years of consistent offshore oil and gas review. This is a partnership between the state and federal government that is meeting the shared goals of the CZMA, as noted in NOAA's 2024 evaluation.

My second example is regarding the charge of environmental extremism. Surfrider Foundation is an environmental nonprofit dedicated to the protection of the world's ocean waves and beaches. We have attended every single California Coastal Commission meeting for more than a decade, and we track the Commission's votes on agenda items every month. If the Commission was only concerned with the environment, our job would be easy. Frankly, I would probably not have a job. But since the Commission is tasked with balancing environmental, economic, and development interests, we actually don't agree with them all the time. And as a result of this careful balance, California has both the fourth largest economy in the world and a coast and ocean that are protected and that all people can enjoy.

Third, as I mentioned, I came down from Humboldt County, which I can tell you is exactly 679 miles north. I drove down 101, and I can also tell you that the people of California are very happy with the California coastal management program, even if they don't know about it, which probably most of them don't. But I know that they are happy with it because thousands of people were spending the weekend at the beach. I just drove about the entire length of the state. And wow, people love going to our beaches. I had a lot of time to think about that while I was inching along in traffic. So, if the California coastal management program wasn't working, our coast would be dotted with offshore oil rigs and other harmful extractive industries instead of with happy beach goers. The amount of traffic may call into question our transit systems, but it was a glorious testament to 50 years of California's coastal management program working. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Savage for her comments.

Speaker 66, Hoffman.

Speaking: Morgan Hoffman (02:43:28)

My name is Morgan, representing Future Swell, and I'm a science communicator, tide pooler, and freediver based on Kumeyaay land, what is now known as San Diego. I heavily oppose this out-of-cycle review of California's CZMP. We've seen time and time again that this administration does not have our planet's best interest in mind or people, and we cannot weaken this program that protects something as precious and as vital as the California coast.

The irony should not be lost on you that the federal government is trying to weaken legislation that was brought about after an oil spill to drill more oil. These waters sustain lives. They hold cultural significance. They employ over 600,000 people. And I can speak from personal experience when I say they've both saved and changed my life.

All of that is at risk to harmful federal projects if this program is weakened. Oil spills and seep seabed mining and seismic testing to name a few. I've seen firsthand in Orange County the tar that is still scarring the rocks from the Amplify spill of 2021 and I've heard far worse up in Santa Barbara from the Plains spill of 2015. Ultimately we know that drilling is one of the main goals of this review. The administration is aware that offshore drilling is wildly unpopular among Californians on a bipartisan level and weakening our authority to push back is the new plan to move forward with these destructive projects.

But I urge you, NOAA, to defend the state's authority and protect this program. We cherish this coast. La Jolla is my backyard. It's one of the most biodiverse and pristine stretches of coast in all of California. And that is a result of marine protections thanks to this coastal management program and the Coastal Commission.

I'm so thankful to be a Californian and I think I speak for all Californians when I say we cannot sacrifice the health of our ocean and our people so that a few oil executives can get richer. I know each of our green sea turtles in La Jolla by name and the thought of them someday being affected by an oil spill or seismic testing genuinely sickens me. We are tired of seeing profits put over people, over wildlife, and over the planet. It is very, very obvious what the right decision is and I urge you to make the right decision. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Hoffman for her comments.
Speaker 67, Gold.

Speaking: Mark Gold (02:45:51)

Thank you. My name's Dr. Mark Gold. I'm here as a California resident. But as a point of background, I'm a former deputy secretary for Coastal Ocean Policy, the former director of the Ocean Protection Council, a former coastal Commissioner, and a former member of the Coastal

States Organization. So I've had a long history of working with the three agencies as well as the federal government on CZMA and Coastal Act issues.

A few things just to cover, which is, number one, I have great empathy for you. I am right now, the director at Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the CalCOFI Monitoring Program. So I work with NOAA each and every day on a wide variety of important scientific issues and monitoring programs. And so to see NOAA upfront as sort of the pinata for this effort, is absolutely ridiculous. And I empathize your position here.

You've heard so many things from so many people so far. And just to add, the consistency determination program working with the federal government has worked incredibly well. On the aquaculture side, which I think is one of the issues that you have talked about, the state now has a sustainable aquaculture program. I think it's important to note, it does not include fin fish, so no tuna ranching, thank you. And also, no focus on invasive species that could cause problems to our marine biodiversity here.

We've also seen this push for industrialization, yet at the same time, this administration has spent billions of dollars, billions, on stopping floating offshore wind development off of California, which is renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions. And so with that, it's a little inconsistent, obviously, in the two policies here.

On sea level rise, there is no state doing more on sea level rise than California right now. We have a sea level rise action plan. You have coastal resiliency as part of everything that our agencies, the three major agencies, work on, including numerous other agencies like the State Lands Commission, really a model for the rest of the country in a lot of ways.

Wetlands protection, second to none on what really is being focused on. Access is one thing that you've heard from a lot of people. But just to put it into perspective, if you're non-locals here, which is you can go to our beaches and actually use them and not have to pay to be there. And how many states in the United States can you actually do that?

And so, obviously I'm running out of time here. A couple of things to just end up with, which is the 2019 review was done during the Trump administration and was incredibly positive. So I don't know what's changed between now and then, other than it's gotten a lot stronger in coastal zone management. So there's a place to start if you don't like the 2024 review they're both incredibly positive...[microphone turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Joelle Gore

We'd like to call speakers number 71 through 80 to come up to the front on my left. Speakers 71 through 80.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Dr. Gold for his comments.

I'm going to check and see if Speaker 68 Gordon is in the room.

Speaker 69, Kauffman.

Speaker 71, Hoyer.

Speaker 73, Calderon.

Speaking: Tina Calderon (2:50:33)

Hello, relatives. I'm Tina Calderon. I'm Gabrielino Tongva in Chumash, and I work for Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples as the director of our Ocean Protectors Program. SPI is a California indigenous-led environmental organization which works tirelessly to protect our waters and lands and to ensure local tribes lead this work upon their ancestral homelands in perpetuity. Our Chumash Nation has a great relationship with many NOAA staff members who have given wonderful support for our annual Tomo crossing, our traditional canoe, from Ventura to Santa Cruz Island, we call Limuw.

I'm very familiar with the amazing scientific work NOAA does in an effort to keep the federally regulated salt water safe and healthy. And, I understand many staff members were let go not long ago due to the current administration's funding cuts. So I'm sure being tasked to oversee the federal evaluation of California's coastal management program once again is a difficult one, especially with less staff.

California's citizens have voted for the strictest regulations as the ocean is extremely precious to us. The federal government should not overturn the people's laws. The California Coastal Commission, in my view, is absolutely necessary in maintaining state-regulated sea waters and the coastal lands, which includes my own tribal territory.

The ocean ecosystem and all marine life deserves to thrive. We all have the responsibility to be sure it does. I urge you to support California's voters' desire to keep our coastal management program intact. It's not broken and doesn't need fixing. No offshore oil, no fracking, no desalination, no deep sea mining, no leasing to the highest bidder, and no federal overreach on our California coast. Kaqinaš Liyu, I thank you all.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Calderon for her comments.

I'm going to check and see if Speaker 74 Russell is in the room.

Speaker 75, Small.

Speaking: Mary Small (02:53:14)

Good afternoon. My name is Mary Small and I am speaking as a resident of California. I'm retired. But before I retired, I worked for more than 20 years for the California Coastal Conservancy. And I worked firsthand on the 2019 and the 2024 CZM evaluations. So I know from my personal experience that both of those evaluations involved a lot of hard work from NOAA staff, from the state staff, from the public, and actually from staff of coastal programs around the country.

As you've heard and you know, the 2019 review, which was completed during the first Trump administration, found that the program was exceptional. The Secretary of Commerce letter states that a separate review of the review conducted under an unprecedented process under Executive Order 14335 found issues with the draft 2024 evaluation. But the Secretary of Commerce's review, this unprecedented review, has not been released to the public. So the Department of Commerce should release its review and the specific issues identified in the draft 2024 312 evaluation so that the public and the agencies can see what those issues are.

As the 73 speakers before me have said, you know, the California coastal program is working. And under the Coastal Zone Management Act, the vision is to balance economic development, recreation, infrastructure, resource conservation, all of these coastal resources, and California has proven that we can do that. We don't have to choose between economic prosperity and environmental protection. Through our strong partnership with NOAA and the state agencies and the local governments and the nonprofit stakeholders and the citizens of California we have achieved that vision of the CZMA, and I am confident that a fair evaluation of the program should show that that partnership should continue. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Small for her comments.

Check and see if Speaker 76 Siegel is in the room.

Speaker 77, Gucovsky.

Speaker 78, Tam.

Speaker 79, Grifman.

Speaking: Phyllis Grifman (02:56:09)

Thank you. I'm Phyllis Grifman. I'm former director of a NOAA Sea Grant program, co-chair of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, and I serve on a number of advisory boards and boards of director.

I've studied the multiple uses of the coast around the nation for over 30 years. California is notable not only for the huge numbers of people who depend on it for recreation, business, and visitation, but an economic value in the billions of coastal business and resources it brings to the

state and the nation's economies. California has long been a model for effective collaboration between state natural resource managers and the federal government. The state recognizes the imperative of responsible management of oil and gas extraction, commercial recreational fishing, urban infrastructure, and thousands of jobs at stake, and oversees a \$50 billion coastal economy. Additionally, with five major ports, the ports of LA and Long Beach alone, accounting for over 45% of goods coming into the US, California oversees a vast network of vital national transportation and goods movement. Consistency is the key to maintaining that contribution to the nation and strong environmental protections coupled with effective management ensure a stable environment that fosters investment. Without it, businesses and municipalities cannot function. This is not extremism, it is the opposite. Careful and measured planning and management.

As allies with the federal government, California agencies ensure consistency with the CZMA review of federally proposed projects, which most often represents collaboration to approve and sometimes improve large projects. Analysis most often includes not only industries involved, but coastal communities, the stakeholders, and associated agencies at both the state and federal levels. When these projects are not immediately approved, they're successfully negotiated. It often means wins for both the state, the federal government, industry, and the public. Working with the federal government has helped shape decisions that protect public access, support local economies, safeguard natural resources, and ensure that local and tribal voices are considered.

Ironically, there is no scientific justification for this re-review, although NOAA is purportedly a science agency. And by the way, who is using NOAA science projects? For example, its sea level rise viewer? California agencies, the very ones that are subject of this unwarranted attack. The site review conducted in 2024 found that California programs work effectively to implement and enforce CZM. That report should be released. California has already proven itself to be an effective partner by balancing the very difficult choices and policies that make for efficient, effective, and responsible ocean and coastal management. Thank you very much. And thank you all for your patience today.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Grifman for her comments.

Speaker 80, Silverstein.

Speaking: Mitch Silverstein (02:59:28)

Thank you. My name is Mitch Silverstein. Thanks for the opportunity to speak today. I'm a lifelong Californian and I live in North San Diego County. Like millions of coastal Californians and the more than 30 million visitors who come just to San Diego County each year, I love our beaches and our ocean. The California coastline is second to none and despite being the most

populous state, we have the most protected and publicly accessible coastline in the country. We also have the largest and most productive coastal economy in the nation.

That balance we've achieved is not an accident. It's thanks to the will of the people. In 1972, Californians passed a landmark coastal protection initiative, despite being vastly outspent by well-funded corporate opposition. In 1976, that victory became permanent state law, the California Coastal Act. This year marks the Act's 50th anniversary, and 50 years later, over 80% of Californians still say the Coastal Commission, which enforces it, has been good for our state. That's according to a recent nonpartisan poll by the Public Policy Institute of California.

I work for Surfrider Foundation as our California Policy Senior Coordinator. Much of my job involves monitoring the Coastal Commission, and advocating for Surfrider's priorities before the agency: protecting and preserving access to California's ocean waves and beaches for everyone. In this role, I review every single Commission agenda, and that includes federal consistency determinations. Commission staff are skilled, thorough, and professional, respectful and collaborative with both federal agencies and companies operating in federal waters. Their execution of California's coastal management program has been exemplary. As others have noted today, 96% of projects that come before the Commission are approved. Our state's coastal management plan has passed every prior NOAA review without incident. That record is a far cry from environmental extremism that the Commerce Secretary has accused us of.

Simply put, Surfrider and the vast majority of Californians stand united against a federal takeover of our right to weigh in on projects that affect our coast and our lives. The Commission's Federal Consistency Review upholds our will as Californians and gives us all proper noticing and the ability to make our voices heard on every single proposal. I ask NOAA to respect California law, the California people, and the ocean we all depend on. Continue to support our coastal management program. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Silverstein for his comments.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Will speakers number 81 through 90 line up on my right, please. 81 through 90.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

I'd like to check and see if Speaker 82 Bercy is in the room.

Speaker 83, Marquez.

Speaker 84 Wauters.

Speaking: Sarah Wauters (03:02:48)

Good afternoon.

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about the California coastal management program. I'm here to provide stakeholder feedback.

As others have said, I am a fan. My daughter spent all of her youth surfing pretty much every single day in Southern California coastal waters and continues to do so in Central California now, close to the Vandenberg Space Force Base. During her youth, I loved every minute of watching surf competitions alongside a community that truly loves the ocean. Now I enjoy the open space of the Bayona wetlands as a docent teaching children about biodiversity, watershed science, and the importance of wetlands. I am an example of the public that week in and week out does the work to protect the coast through my work on the Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee. We guide and provide community input on all development that occurs in the coastal zone of Venice, California, one of the most visited and beloved neighborhoods and beaches in California.

The committee works collaboratively with developers to hear the opinions of our neighborhood and to move such projects towards sensitivity to public access and conservancy at the coast, if we can. Some of those developments we do turn down. This collaboration is proper, as it is our community that lives by, surfs in, swims in, explores, and enjoys access to the coast in Venice. This democratic participation of people like me and the committee and the Venice Neighborhood Council, members of which are in this room, is part of the process determined by the Coastal Commission to retain public input, and it works.

The state of California and its people manage the coast with a great deal of care and both Californians access to the coast and the ocean water's health and biodiversity. The pollution that would result from greater oil drilling and greater commercial use of the ocean would only result in greater pollution and degradation of the ocean habitat at our coast, as many scientists have urged you to realize.

It's not only about oil spills. Drilling causes massive disruption to the wildlife of our ocean waters, and we need to be mindful of this daily impact. This would challenge Californians' ability to enjoy the coast as we Venetians do now.

Please do not allow the federal government to dismantle or abrogate the respect that the present partnership embodies. I oppose the off-cycle federal review of California's coastal management for political purposes, and I advise that you protect the California coastal management program. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Wauters for her comments.

Let me check and see if speaker 85, Wright, is in the room.

Speaker 86, Messer.

Speaker 87, Firestone.

Speaker 88, Dagit.

Speaking: Rosi Dagit (03:06:13)

Good afternoon. Thank you so much for hanging in there. There's been a lot of commentary today, and I would like to start by saying that I, too, oppose the off-cycle review, and I encourage NOAA to certify the 2024-2025 review that was done.

I come to this because I am a marine biologist and I'm a restorationist. I've been working in the Santa Monica Bay for over 35 years, mostly working with endangered southern steelhead trout and tidewater gobies, which are under the purview of NOAA National Marine Fisheries. So I've worked a lot with our NOAA partners for many, many years on many different projects and the thing that really strikes me is that in the past we've always worked with a sense of collaboration, with a sense of working towards the common goal of doing the best that we can do to restore and to recover and to protect all of our ocean resources.

There's no need to repeat all of the many things that have been already said today, but I would like to encourage NOAA to think about how it's possible to work within the current administrative constraints and do the right thing. We have worked with the Coastal Commission, with the State Coastal Conservancy, for many years. They are excellent at collaboration. Most recently, for almost 25 years, they've been helping guide the restoration of Topanga Lagoon, as well as many other Southern California coastal wetland areas. Together, we have come up with good solutions, and I think that that speaks to the track record of the Coastal Commission in doing the best job possible to protect our coast. So I encourage NOAA to follow that same example and to continue to protect all of these important resources. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Dagit for her comments.

I'd like to check if speaker 89 Abdul-Wahid is in the room.

Speaker 90, York.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

And will speakers number 91 through 100 please come to the front?
on my left, 91 to 100.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Speaker 91, Wolke.

Speaking: Diane Wolke (03:09:21)

Good afternoon, I'm Diane Wolke. I'm a resident of Oceanside, California and I'm speaking today as a mom, as a coastal resident, and as a grandma. I'm also a retired advanced practice nurse and public health nurse.

In addition to having an eye on SpaceX at Vandenberg, the federal administration is also seeking to develop commercial real estate and initiate a 185 billion dollar Golden Dome defense shield on Camp Pendleton together with commercial real estate to fund that project. I happen to live three miles from the Superfund site on Camp Pendleton, which in fact is 66 sites that are in need of cleanup, still, after many years. Both SpaceX and Golden Dome programs are recipes for disaster, both from a public and environmental health perspective.

I've led educational efforts and proudly witnessed the Coastal Commission's growing awareness of plastic pollution crises impacting our fragile coast. Californians are being subjected to non-communicable diseases and cancers from plastics. The cash cow of the plastics industry is the synthetic turf industry which is continuing to roll out 1,100 acres of plastic turf in California annually, the equivalent of 870 football fields. I'd like to personally take the opportunity to thank former Commissioner Brownsey and Cummings for their epic win with the UCSB proposed plastic field in December of 2023. In fact, the Coastal Commission is no longer allowing plastic turf to be installed in the Coastal Commission permit zone.

Plastic endangers both human health and environmental health through the entire life cycle. Currently, we have 600 quadrillion, that's six with 17 zeros, of microplastics and another 26 quadrillion microplastics released into our atmosphere from the ocean every single year. This is not a small issue. We have reports now from over five countries reporting synthetic turf microplastics found in the oceans, and these microplastics also impact our marine animals. It's estimated that roughly 1 million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastics in our oceans. In its 2024 report, the World Wildlife Fund reports a loss of 73% of wildlife populations in the period from 1970 to 2020.

So, I urge you to certify the report. There's no justifiable reason not to. We need to protect our coasts. We need to protect it not only for ourselves but for future...[microphone turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Wolke for her comments.

Speaker 93, Ainsworth.

Speaking: John Ainsworth (03:12:45)

Thank you. My name is John Ainsworth. I worked for the Coastal Commission for 34 years, including my final seven years as its executive director. I am now gratefully retired.

I have personally participated in several periodic reviews and what is happening with this review is unprecedented and quite frankly bizarre. There is absolutely no basis for reopening the periodic review conducted in 2024. The draft periodic review report prepared in 2025 did not identify any major deficiencies with California's coastal program and was positive overall. I would also note that California is recognized as the gold standard for integrated coastal management in the United States and around the world.

So how did this surprise review come about? It appears to have been triggered by a petulant trillionaire who pumped hundreds of million dollars into the president's campaigns, helped dismantle a number of important federal agencies, and became upset with the Commission over a federal consistency process for increased rocket launches at Vandenberg spaceport. Launches that would have adversely impacted and affected ocean, coastal and ocean resources.

The other actor in this drama is an oil company that blatantly and repeatedly violated the Coastal Act, repairing a pipeline in a way that destroyed environmentally sensitive habitats. This kind of lawless behavior is encouraged by administration that clearly does not believe in the rule of law and is pursuing a vengeance and retribution campaign against states that do not bend to his will.

Secretary Lutnick also asserts the Commission is somehow blocking new desalinization plants. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Commission has approved desal plants in several locations in California. The Commission has also acknowledged that desalinization, it will be an important part of California's future water portfolio. If the administration were serious about future desal plants in California, it would fund a desalinization siting study to identify locations where these plants would have the least impact on coastal and ocean resources.

I would also note, like all human institutions, the Commission has made some mistakes from time to time. And unlike the current administration, however, the Commission acknowledges its mistakes and takes the necessary steps to ensure they do not happen again.

I think we all know where this review was headed, decertification of California's management program. Of course, there is no legitimate or legal basis for this action. And thankfully California's attorney general has been pushing back hard against many of the illegal actions. This

would simply add another case to the 83 lawsuits the attorney general has already filed. And even if the program is decertified, California will continue to fight to protect its precious coastal resources...[microphone turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Ainsworth for his comments.

Speaker 95, Steinberg.

Speaking: Robbie Steinberg (03:16:14)

Hi, my name is Robbie Steinberg, and I'm here on behalf of Assemblymember Rick Chavez-Zabir, who represents Santa Monica in the state legislature. Assemblymember Zabir and 11 other members of the state legislature have written a joint letter on this review, which has been submitted to NOAA. I will just share a few excerpts.

Since the 1970s, NOAA, or the US Department of Commerce, has continuously determined that California's implementation of the California Coastal Act satisfies, complements, or is consistent with the CZMA. Note that California has successfully addressed, through direct approval or coordinated changes, more than 96% of the 3700 federal actions under the CZMA.

The stated rationale for this review is to ensure that California gives sufficient weight to economic development and federal priorities in areas including offshore energy, transportation, infrastructure, and commercial space development. The evidence of our state's partnership with federal agencies speaks for our consistency with the CZMA.

To this end, a few examples. Since 1980, the California Coastal Commission has reviewed at least 135 aerospace and space launch related projects under its coastal program and objected to only two, both over unresolved procedural issues and documented harm to endangered wildlife from sonic booms. The California Coastal Commission has reviewed 18 undersea fiber optic cable projects over the past 30 years and concurred with every one while securing protections for fishing grounds, marine habitat, and whale and sea turtle safety along the way. The California Coastal Commission has conducted offshore oil and gas reviews, including pipeline infrastructure consistently for 49 years, approving well-sited projects while requiring real safeguards against spill risk and habitat damage. And finally, the California Coastal Commission has approved more than a dozen seawater desalination plants statewide, including two full-scale plants in recent years, Doheny and Monterey Peninsula, to produce nearly 10 million gallons per day.

So on behalf of the California State Legislature, we ask you and NOAA staff to take an honest review of California's success at coordinating with federal partners to spur economic growth within the coastal zone and the San Francisco Bay area while at the same time protecting the

state's coastline. This is not a program standing in the way of national priorities. It's a program operating exactly as the CZMA was intended. We expect the data, evidence, and longstanding historical records, not politics, will inform your judgment. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Steinberg for his comments.

I'd like to check and see if speaker 96, Goni Santala, is in the room.

97, Estabrook.

98, Fay.

99 Purcell.

Speaking: Douglas Fay (03:19:40)

I'm Douglas Fay. Thank you for being here. It's nice to see you here in my hometown of Santa Monica. I was born and raised here as my father was. I'm going to start with a prop. It's a book called Dirty Water that you really need to read. It tells the truth. There's even a quote here by Dr. Gold on the back cover. But I'm here in support of you strengthening your relationship with the state of California, but most importantly strengthening your relationships with other federal agencies, most notably EPA.

The reason why I'm saying that is because the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, a state agency under the Water Quality Control Board, is funded by US EPA Region 9 through the National Estuaries Program. And they state that the Santa Monica Bay is a 312 square mile estuary. It's a bay, it's a lie. And if you put that under fraud, waste, and abuse and question that action that's been going on for 40 years, it's alarming. Because the Santa Monica Bay was going to be designated a Superfund site. It is the most polluted bay in the state of California.

The California Coastal Commission has not protected it. The local politicians in the state have not protected it. They are charged with restoring and enhancing the Santa Monica Bay. That's been their mission statement for over 40 years. They're getting money through the National Estuaries Program, and they're not completing the task. And there are nonprofits like Heal the Bay that are not completing the task, that are joining with them and assisting them in this sham.

And if you look at the country being 35, 30 trillion dollars in debt to other nations, and you look at our resource that should be a world-class fishery as it once was, you kind of question what's going on here. Are the speakers being truthful or are they lying? And I'm here to tell you the truth. My grandfather and others formed the Ocean Fish Protective Association here in Venice, California in 1949. They were the pioneering environmental group. My father was the late Dr. Ramin C. Fay, UCLA trained biochemist, PhD in biochemistry at UCLA, did his post-doctoral work in oceanography at USC. You should be very familiar with my father's work. He fought to protect the coast. And, it isn't happening. So are you going to just go with the same old plan or

are you going to work with the federal government and fix the problems here? Because you may be doing well in other parts of the state, but you're doing a terrible job here.

I'm speaking on behalf of the ecology and my family and those that want sound stewardship, which is not happening here. People have lied to you today and that's unfortunate.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Fay for his comments.

I'd like to also see Speaker 99 Purcell, yeah?

Speaking: Leslie Purcell (03:23:07)

Hi, I'm Leslie Purcell. I'm a Sierra Club member as well, and I would like to thank NOAA for all their work. I go to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary meetings on occasion and I've been coming to the Coastal Commission meetings for many years too. I really appreciate the Coastal Commission's work and the CZMA and how that has allowed the state to manage our coastlines and protect them and I know there's a lot more that could be done. And so we just encourage that and keep up the good work.

In terms of the space launches that are part of this spaceport, part of this supposed new review, I'd just like to say that it was through the federal consistency that we found out about this rather exponential increase a couple years ago of space launches from Vandenberg and people hadn't even really been realizing that until we found it and brought it up at one of the Coastal Commission hearings. So it's important work and we want to encourage more serious review of these kinds of issues.

In terms of federal consistency and the offshore oil, this Thursday the Coastal Commission is going to be hearing this item which is relating to 16 wells being proposed to be fracked around platform Gilda offshore Ventura. I live in Ventura and we get occasional oil washing up on the beaches too and we need to not increase the oil production but actually work to phase it out. So I appreciate all of that. Thank you very much. I brought my little friend who wanted to say hi.

And she wants just to remind everybody that there are a lot of maritime habitats out there and creatures, sea creatures that need protection too. So we got to appreciate them and watch out for them. So thank you very much.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Purcell for her comments.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Will speakers 101 to 110, come to the front row on the right my right speakers 101 to 110, thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Speaker 100, Mantanona.

Speaking: Alex Mantanona (03:26:58)

Good afternoon. My name is Alex Mantanona. I am a policy advocate with the Central Coast Alliance United for Sustainable Economy or CAUSE. We represent hundreds of working class citizens in six cities between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. I also serve on the statewide environmental justice advisory committee for the California Air Resources Board. And today we are here at this meeting because Politics have gotten involved with what they shouldn't be involved in, right. We're dealing with an administration that has just been openly hostile to so many of our citizens and our non-citizen neighbors for the past year and a half, right. For the NOAA staff here, I feel for you because, me personally, I was supposed to be working for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. I got caught in the DOGE cuts. So I understand what it feels to have the ax over your head. Right. After that, I had to go deal with the Palisades fire and that burn scar, which is only four miles away, that I spent six months at is just this stark reminder of the stakes of what the coastal management plan is going to be dealing with.

The oil extraction and the fracking that has harmed our coast in the past and can harm our coast again in the future. The spaceport infrastructure that is harming our residents and disrupting their sleep patterns out of our city in Lompoc up north, these things are real tangible effects that are just thrashing our coast, right?

And so when you have somebody say there's environmental extremism, somebody who definitely loves a certain island in the Caribbean and has a well-documented past of that, and he's threatening the health of our Channel Islands, I just find it kind of ridiculous. I look at the extremism that is happening in the federal government of masked agents in our cities, of wars being caused around the world, of oil companies that are making billions and billions of dollars of extra profit, and the billionaires that buy elections developing a spaceport. And I kind of see like this extremism and I just want to grab my head and shriek because it is ridiculous. And I think we see a lot of people around here, we know that things are not perfect with industrialization. But we know how to manage our own coast and develop it responsibly. So please make sure that you keep the citizens of California and respect our 10th Amendment rights. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Mantonona for providing his comments.
Speaker 101, Mulrennan.

Speaking: Matt Mulrennan (03:29:14)

Thank you so much to everybody who stuck around here today. I'm here to represent oil and gas. I'm trying to expand it. I'm just kidding, guys.

OK, I'm Matt Mulrennan. I'm a marine scientist. I went to Scripps Institution of Oceanography. I worked at Oceanography as well. I was at XPRIZE, Invest. And now it lasts a long time. I've been on impact investing and sustainable impact investing. That's kind of what I'm here to talk about.

So we've supported close to 50 companies in the sustainable ocean economy. Many of them are based here or piloting here in California. And it's really led by the next generation of leaders who are trying to reduce pollution and create hardware jobs that we, quite frankly, can't lose to AI. Some of these projects have been approved by the Commission as well and have moved forward. So we have Onika. It's the first desal permitted in California because it's powered by waves and it's low on the brine. So it's solving a lot of the problems that happen with desal and it's going to be providing fresh water to Fort Bragg.

We have CalWave, the longest running wave energy project. It was off the Scripps Pier. That was the longest project in the US. Navier Hydrofoiling Electric Boats, which is transforming maritime industries. And now going to be providing hundreds of boats to the Maldives. Primitives, that's using overpopulated purple sea urchins and turning them into marble countertops.

So it's just, California is innovating its future in the new blue economy. And the Commission is supporting this. So SOA, where I work, has also opposed deep sea mining. And this was a part of what was being proposed off the California coast. Dozens of countries have just come together in Jamaica, where we attended the International Seabed Authority. And they signed on to a moratorium against deep sea mining. It's just really just strip mining of the seafloor. It doesn't make sense environmentally or economically. And startups are already getting more minerals and metals from brine waste, from desal, or even wastewater treatment.

And then on energy. So I did a lot of rabble rousing as an offshore drilling scientist at Oceanography. And I'll just give you a preview that it's going to be really tough to get offshore drilling permitted here in California. I will say that. We did work off the East Coast. Hundreds of mayors, Republicans, and Democrats signed letters to the government. Fishers, scientists, real estate investors, they did not want it. They do not want offshore drilling. They do not want the infrastructure, the refineries, the eyesore, the oil spill risk. They couldn't even get the first step

permitted, which was seismic testing. So they want to open up the coast here to drilling. The Trump admin does. And I just think that's the wrong move on offshore energy. We have cheaper and better alternatives already. Technology is beating the crap out of fuels, is the bottom line. Specifically in the ocean space, wind is just blowing oil away.

As a recovering scientist, I would have to give a prediction or a little percentage. And I'll say that the likelihood you're going to permit offshore drilling is 0% off California. And it's 100% due to the people in this room.

Thank you to Mr. Mulrennan for his comments.

I do also want to remind everyone that we have extended the comment period until 6:30. We have one hour remaining for public comments.

All right. Speaker 102, Vito.

Speaker 103, Hanscom.

Speaking: Marsha Hanscom (03:32:52)

Honorable NOAA staff, Marsha Hanscom, my community is Playa Del Rey on the Los Angeles coast here. I'm a community organizer with Defend Bayona Wetlands and the Coastal Lands Action Network and director of Los Angeles Coast Forever.

We are in a climate emergency. I know that hasn't been said much lately because the top of our federal administration has sort of changed the terms of the debate, but the science hasn't changed. We are in a climate emergency. So, extremists, the California Coastal Commission, really? That hasn't been my experience. It's extremists to continue to prioritize oil and fossil gas extraction when we have fires all over the country and especially here on the West Coast. When we have heat issues that people are dying from. We're in a climate emergency.

So I wanna just tell you a little bit about my experience. 33 years of advocating at the Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy mostly speaking for the wildlife, the birds, the dolphins who can't speak for themselves. During that time, I got to know some of my worthy opponents, the lawyers and lobbyists who are not here in this room today, apparently, but, you know, who are ever present at the Coastal Commission, and I finally, after many years of these worthy opponents getting to know each other, I was invited on several occasions to come to some of their conferences that they put on to talk about how horrible all these laws are that they were getting paid to work on.

And in fact, one of them now is an assembly member, Speaker, Assembly Rick Sabur. And he fairly wanted to make sure that those lobbyists and lawyers heard the other side. And so I, part of, I was like the token other side. And so I went through the applications for the year before

every time. And just like Secretary Crowfoot said and Maureen Ellenberg said, 95 to 98 percent of everything was always approved. And that was not just federal consistency, but all of the applications. So, they are not extremists.

What they do though, the Commission staff that is valuable and why everybody here likes a lot of what they do is that they provide conditions that help make these things better and help to protect our coast. They don't always do everything we want and then we have to sue and get a better result and clarify the law. So if you want to do something, give them more money and...[microphone turned off due to time limit].

Thank you to Ms. Hanscom for her comments.

I want to check and see if Speaker 105 Rush is in the room.

Speaker 106 Graves.

You're 95. Okay. Would you, no, I know. Actually just come, I think she, yeah. Yeah.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Just come right on up to the front. We'll work you in.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Yea, we'll get you there. Thank you for raising that.

Okay, I'm gonna check and see if Speaker 107, Clay Park.

Yeah. Okay.

Speaking: Lea Clay Park (03:36:45)

Hi there. My name is Lea Park and I'm a California native a resident of San Diego County and a commercial real estate broker who has over 30 years of experience doing business in areas subject to Coastal Commission purview. Thank you to the professionals at NOAA for their past partnership and for the opportunity to speak today.

When considering the Coastal Commission, its role, and its management plan, it's important to understand why the Commission was created in the first place. Prior to the Commission's creation by California voters in the early 70s, development on the coast of California was rapidly resulting in the privatization of the beach and access thereto, while fossil fuel production ran unchecked, culminating in the infamous Union oil spill in 1969 that fouled the Santa Barbara beaches with over three million gallons of crude oil. The federal government, the Coastal Commission, have for the past 50 plus years worked together successfully to preserve coastal access and the overall coastal environment. During this time, California's economy has grown from the eighth largest in the world to the fourth. This is not environmental extremism. It is thoughtful management rooted in democracy and the public interest.

Elon Musk, Scott Lutnick, the billionaire bros, are behind the so-called review that is nothing more than a pretext for scrapping the management plan and selling out California's precious coastal resources to their sycophants and enablers, as they have already done by allowing Houston-based Sable to restart its pipeline. This pipeline was responsible for the leak of 140,000 gallons off the coast of San Barbara in 2015. This same company spilled 25,000 gallons of crude into the LA River just about nine days ago in May.

California's recently approved coastal management plan needs no further review. It has been and should remain a necessary bulwark against corporate greed that would sacrifice the health, economy, and the recreation of nearly 40 million California residents, not to mention 150 million tourists for the benefit of a few out-of-state billionaires. Secretary Lutnick, we're not laughing. There is nothing funny about this. Stop wasting taxpayer money in the sham review and let the good people at NOAA get back to work protecting California's coast. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Clay Park for her comments.
Speaker 97 Estabrook.

Speaking: Polly Estabrook (03:39:23)

Hi. My name is Polly Estabrook. I'm a retired electrical engineer, mother of two, and grandmother of two. I am an active member in my Los Angeles community and a member of several local environmental organizations. My community and I are profoundly concerned about the impact of climate change on the world the next generations will inherit. It's our very serious responsibility to ensure that the planet we leave them is as filled with wonder and beauty as ours was. Yes, our children and future generations need jobs. Yes, economic development is important. Yes, we must enable commerce and economic growth along our beautiful California coast. Yet we must balance this with protecting our oceans and coastlines as their health is intricately tied to our health.

Fortunately, the California coastal management program understands how to balance growth and coastal environmental protection wisely. They have allowed coastal industries to flourish while protecting marine resources, habitat restoration, and creating the immensely productive marine protection areas. Californians, as you've heard today through all the polls and whatever, Californians place immense value on keeping our oceans and the creatures they live in there healthy and on keeping our shorelines clean. Californians understand that protecting our coastal waters helps the environment by restoring marine life, combating climate change, and improving coastal resilience.

Why do they understand this? Because they understand that reversing overfishing is good for our fisheries because it keeps our ecosystems healthy and ensures food security. Why? Because they understand that healthy oceans absorb a third of the human generated CO₂ emissions and balance out the ones that we ourselves are producing. Why? Because as our world approaches the 1.3 degree C increase in average global temperature that we never wanted to get to at this time, and our storms carry more power, coastal ecosystems absorb storm energy and protect shorelines.

If new industries like seaports, offshore oil drilling, etc. want to be allowed to develop, then let them make their plans. Let them be evaluated by the California Coastal Commission as they have in the past. Let there be done in a transparent fashion. No backdoor arrangements, not when we're going towards 1.5 C. My Los Angeles community and I really thank the Coastal Commission for their wise leadership and hope that...[microphone turned off due to time limit]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you, Ms. Estabrook, for your comments.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Will speakers number 111 and 120 come sit in the front row on my left? Speakers 111 and 120. And if there are any speakers in the room that are prior to number 120 who missed their spot, please check in with our NOAA staff on the left here as well. Thank you.

[Question from the crowd: What if you don't know your number]

Check in with our NOAA staff in the back. Katie, can you raise your hand?

Katie. Can you raise your hand?

If you don't know your number, please check in with Katie.

Speaker 108 Wall.

Speaker 108, Wall in the room.

Speaker 109 Jones.

Speaker 110, Danielson.

Speaker 111 Levenova.

Speaker 112, Maxson.

Speaker 113 Crowel.

Speaker 114 Katers.

Speaker 115, Leininger.

Speaker 117. Ordoñez-Calderón

Speaker 118, Rokab.

Speaker 119. Feinstein

Speaking: Michael Feinstein (03:44:46)

Good afternoon, Michael Feinstein, former Santa Monica mayor, city council member, co-founder of the Green Party here in California. And I want to speak a little bit to the premise of why we're here. For decades, private, rapacious interests that have sought to privatize benefits and socialize costs and do this all to profit at the expense of people and planet, have been running a propaganda campaign to promote the lie that the environment and the economy are in conflict and that we can only have a strong economy if we rape the environment. And here in California, we know that a healthy economy is based upon a healthy environment, and that's why in trying to do our best with that we have a vibrant coastal economy with jobs and recreation and tourism and respecting other species.

And for those reasons, I join everybody here in opposing this administration's attempts to dismantle our coastal protection program. Sitting here listening to everybody, unless you've had a personal experience being kidnapped by ICE or have a family member or a friend that's been kidnapped by those thugs or maybe your support programs that have come from the government have been cut and hurt you, a lot of us don't have direct experience with the evil of this administration. and we watch it on TV or social media. But in listening to all the precious ecological wisdom from all the speakers here today, and thinking about how much this administration wants to ignore that. One, it makes me think of how much I love this state and, two, how eventually we are going to overcome these criminals and thugs and throw them out. But even though a lot of people have said we're going to continue to fight back, we've been harmed and scarred in unrecoverable ways with this experience. And that just needs to be on the federal record. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you, Mr. Feinstein for your comments.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Are there any speakers in the room that come prior to Speaker 120?

Raise your hand.

Can you come up please? 119?

Okay, you're next.

Can you tell us your number again and your name?

Speaking: Ann Greenspun

119, Ann, A-N-N, Greenspun.

G-R-E-E-N-S-P-U-N

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

You can, should I start now? Sure, we're just gonna make sure we have you on the list, so just one moment.

Speaking: Ann Greenspun

I checked in out front.

119.

Oh, you know what? It's 19.

I couldn't hear back there so i'll come back oh no no

Speaking: Joelle Gore

19, got you, got you. Okay, we'll come back to you. You signed up today. We're working with all the speakers who signed up prior today.

Thank you.

Okay, we're on 120.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

120, okay, excellent. Okay, speaker 120, Lambe.

121, Shelton.

122, Prichard.

123, Shetter.

124, Knudson.

125, Lappen

127, Garcia.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

126 is. 126, Katie.

Are you?

Last Name?

Speaking: Leah Yananton

Yananton, Y-A-N-A-N-T-O-N

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

We're just checking the list, yeah.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

We're good.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Okay, yes, please speak.

Speaking: Leah Yananton (03:49:38)

My name is Leah, oh wait, let me adjust this mic, please, before you start the time. Thanks. Testing. Okay. Thank you.

My name is Leah Yananton and I learned about this meeting on Friday. So I've had a stomach ache all weekend, really nervous about this. And since Friday, since I learned about this meeting, Elon Musk has become 29.7 billion dollars richer. Jeff Bezos has become \$3.2 billion richer and this is corporate tyranny. I hear this phrase of political motivated. I think that's a distraction. Politics is when you get votes and you rally for votes. Elon Musk bought this election. He has violated our rights. He has offered money to persuade people to vote for Trump. And I'm really upset, of course, about the whole war economy. And I'm human, and I'm an American citizen. And look, I have two minutes left while Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos have a plan to circle the planet in satellites. And I felt Elon Musk's sonic booms through my bones when I was in the Channel Islands. A marine preserve, the Santa Barbara Harbor is a whale heritage area. We know our cetacean relatives have very sensitive ears. Marine mammals have very sensitive ears and sonars. Underwater is beautiful. I just started scuba diving. It is like paradise underwater. So the egoism to want to drill, the short-term greed is terrifying.

I have 10 seconds left, while these people are getting richer and I'm getting poorer because I've spent whole of my whole day here unable to work at my job because these people want to turn our planet into trash. My sign protect our home. It's in the gold...[microphone turned off due to time limit].

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Yananton for her comments.
Speaker 127, Garcia.

Speaking: Sally Garcia (03:53:18)

Good afternoon. My name is Sally Garcia, and I'm speaking as a Los Angeles Outreach Manager with the National Parks Conservation Association, a more than 100-year-old organization dedicated to protecting our national parks. I work with communities across Southern California to connect people with our national parks and public lands. A big part of my work is helping people see themselves in these places and giving them the opportunity to become advocates for the places they care about. That work has taught me something incredibly important. People care deeply about their parks, public lands, and waters, but protecting those places means looking beyond their boundaries.

Channel Islands National Park is a great example. The park and the ocean around it are connected. Nearly half of the park is actually beneath the surface of the sea. Just its kelp forests support more than a thousand species of marine life. People also depend on these waters for fishing, boating and recreation and coastal communities depend on a healthy ocean.

Indigenous communities also continue to maintain deep cultural connections to and use these waters. What happens offshore does not stay offshore. That is why expanding oil and gas development concerns us. We already know what an oil spill can do to California's coast. We saw it with the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill and again with the 2015 Refugio oil spill, which affected about 150 miles of coastline. These events did not just affect wildlife. They affected people, businesses, and communities that depend on the ocean. But you can't look at oil drilling only through the lens of what happens when a spill occurs. Drilling and oil infrastructure create ongoing impacts as well. They disturb habitat, create underwater noise and artificial light, and add pollution to an already stressed marine life. California and NOAA have spent decades building protections for these waters. That work has value and we should build on it, not move backward.

NPCA urges NOAA and the California coastal management program to maintain strong protections for California's coastal waters and rejects efforts to expand offshore oil and gas development. Our national parks deserve protection not only from what happens inside their boundaries, but from threats that begin beyond them. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Garcia for her comments.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Will any speakers from 128 to 135, please come up to the front. You can sit on my right. Thank you, 128 to 135.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

128, Arguelles.

Speaking: Dennis Arguelles (03:55:48)

Good evening. My name is Dennis Arguelles. And like Sally, I work for the National Parks Conservation Association. I am the Southern California Director. And today I speak on behalf of our 150,000 members within California, as well as 1.2 million across the country.

And I want to talk, like Sally, a little bit about Channel Islands National Park. Some people call it America's Galapagos. Now, the ecological importance of the Channel Islands goes back to the 1930s with the creation of the Channel Islands National Monument. So even back then, we knew

the importance of that ecosystem. And then after the Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969, NOAA itself identified concerns following that spill as a key reason for the establishment of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Now today, both Channel Islands National Park and the Marine Sanctuary protect almost 1,500 square miles that include kelp forests, rocky reefs, deep water and seagrass beds, and other sensitive habitats, numerous marine mammals, including the largest pinniped colony on the West Coast, seals, dolphins, whales, seabirds, fish and mollusk populations, as well as historic and cultural resources related to our indigenous communities and our maritime history.

This area is an interconnected marine ecosystem, and oil spills or other industrial accidents would cause disproportionate and irreversible damage to the previously described resources, as well as the region's economically important commercial and recreational fishery, tourism, and marine recreation. Existing oil infrastructure is already a liability, as demonstrated by the 2015 Refugio oil spill, or as I learned earlier today, better or more aptly called the Plains oil spill, which affected nearly 150 miles of our central and southern California coasts. The fact that Sable Offshore has restarted its operations in the Santa Barbara Channel is unconscionable.

So to be clear, we oppose this off-cycle review. And NPCA urges NOAA to continue building on the success, the decades of success, of the California coastal management program. The Channel Islands marine ecosystem is too ecologically and economically important to justify the risks posed by renewed and expanded oil drilling, and protecting the long-term health of the water should take precedent over expanding any offshore fossil fuel development. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Okay, thank you to Mr. Arguelles for his comments.
Speaker 129, Kendall.

Speaking: Alison Kendall (03:58:18)

Hello, my name is Alison Kendall. I'm an architect and planner here in Santa Monica and a business owner. I have a small business in addition to planning and designing sustainable communities and homes. I'm also a partner in Island Times Charters, a sailboat charter to cruise the magnificent Channel Islands National Park. Each cruise passes those looming oil platforms offshore and reminds us how vulnerable this unique ecosystem is to the environmental damage, like the 2015 Plains oil spill or the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, which led to passage of the Coastal Management Act.

California's Coastal Management Act has done an excellent job of protecting our state's incomparable natural, cultural, economic, and social resources for the benefit of all Californians and for visitors from all over the world. I've worked closely as a city planner in San Francisco

with the Coastal Commission, BCDP, and many state agencies, including the State Lands Commission, on major redevelopment and reuse planning projects, including Treasure Island, the Bay Bridge rebuild, and transforming the Presidio of San Francisco into a national park. I know how seriously they examine all aspects of a proposed project and how carefully they develop mitigations and conditions to allow improvements to proceed while protecting the precious natural resource, which is our coast.

As a parent of a marine biologist who studied and researched marine mammals at universities and marine reserves from Berkeley and Santa Cruz to Monterey to San Diego, I know that these research insights are of worldwide significance in addressing natural disasters, water and air pollution challenges, human and wildlife health, and the growing impacts of climate change on all aspects of our lives and our environment.

Over 50 years, Californians have proved that we are fully qualified and very well equipped to recognize the value of our coastal resources and to manage them in a way that maximizes their health, beauty, and sustainability so that generations of visitors and residents can appreciate them in the years to come. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Kendall for her comments.

Speaker 130, González.

Speaker 131, Cottle.

Speaker 132, Bean.

Speaker 133, Roos.

[Inaudible question from the crowd clarifying the name called]

R-O-O-S is what I have. It may be misspelled.

It's Sarah.

Speaker 134, Waiya.

Speaker 135, Muntanera.

We have reached the end of our preregistered speaker list and I will begin calling speakers who registered today.

First on the list is Watts.

It looks like Ms. Muntanera also registered today, so just calling one more time.

Goswami.

Speaking: Anita Goswami (04:02:43)

Hi there. I'm Anita Goswami. I've lived here in California for 50 years. I've been a resident, a citizen. I'm here to be part of the legal record, the social media record, and the public record. I think the drivers for this out of cycle review are a few companies wanting to remove anything in their way, taking advantage of loud tantrums against blue states coupled with the federal administration's war against its own people and its systematic and deliberate destruction of intellect, of science, and rights at all levels across the country and across the world.

The precious marine ecosystem has been mentioned already. I also am concerned about the flora and the fauna, beautiful cliffs and beaches of our coast that are accessible to us all. I'm highly concerned that the coast will be sold to developers and all that nature and beauty destroyed while we have scarce water and infrastructure and high wildfire risks. And those developments will be gazing out on oil rigs and oil spills while some will feel their windows shake from the rocket launches.

I was horrified to learn about Sable today and to hear about the fracking. I'm horrified about that. I urge NOAA to stand strong, because that is the real challenge today, is that as an agency in the federal government to stand strong and to do what is right. We spoke earlier, others spoke about the fact that the California Coastal Commission and all of these groups that are working together have done that while preserving their rights, the rights of the people, the Constitutional rights, the Constitution that we all swore to defend, to protect, to follow. That is what the California Coastal Commission is doing. That's what this program has done, is that they have managed, and they've managed it while keeping, while balancing those rights, balancing protection, doing this, you know, having sea turtles that we can count, having a wonderful coast, a beautiful coast, sunsets that we can go out and look at a place that is yes it, the bucket list would begin with the California coast. This is what it's about the beauty is there people all over the world come here and the Commission, they did this the program did this with encouraging a tremendously vibrant economy, bringing it all together, we can do this. We do this well already. I urge NOAA, and I know that you've got a really tough job here, release the positive performance report. Do not decertify the program. This is supporting what is working. You know, don't destroy it at all. Support the people of this state, the people of this country, the visitors to this coast. Just support the planet. Thank you so much.

Thank you to Ms. Goswami for her comments.

Next speaker on the list is Wilkinson.

Labiche.

Speaking: Orla Labiche (04:06:21)

Hi. Good afternoon. Thank you for the time to give my comment. My name is Orla Labiche. I am a concerned resident like many others here. I'm from Santa Monica and I'm speaking today in support of California's coastal management program. I'm just gonna take this out.

I, like millions of other Californians, frequent my local beach for swimming, surfing, recreating, finding peace inside myself, and I have a deep appreciation for our beautiful beaches and biodiversity that thrives within them. I'm here today because I do not take for granted that this coastline and that so many love and enjoy and rely on economically is possible because of California's coastal management program. As you've heard many other speakers already communicate, the California Coastal Commission has decades long record of approving well-sited projects. It has worked with federal authorities to move forward 96% of projects, and when I was in school, a 96% was an A, well above a passing grade. So I'm not really sure what's changed here besides some political motivations. And I'm deeply troubled by them. I am deeply troubled by this off-cadence review, especially after California's program was found successfully implementing and enforcing what it was supposed to be doing in 2024. And I'm worried about what this does to my state's rights to regulate the actions along our coasts.

The people of California do not want this. You've heard from many of them today. There are so many more that cannot be here today in the middle of a work day and spend their entire day in this room. They don't want this. And I'm urging NOAA to stop this politically motivated review and strongly oppose any weakening to the coastal zone management program. The state and its residents deserve to continue to have their say on what happens on our beautiful coastline. Thank you very much.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Labiche for her comments.

Next speaker is Williams.

Hazelleaf.

Speaking: Tom Hazelleaf (04:09:03)

Tom Hazelleaf. I live in Seal Beach, California. I'm going to jump around a little because I don't want to repeat what other people have said. Oil is last century's energy source. It can't compete in price with renewables. When the music stops, fossil fuel companies will face billions or more likely trillions of dollars in stranded assets. We don't need to be putting more oil platforms off our coast.

At a 2024 meeting with Oil executives at Mar-a-Lago, Mr. Trump stated he would roll back environmental rules in return for a total of a billion dollars in donations to his campaign. Is this hearing part of that? This premature re-evaluation seems to have been motivated by the same

logic as our president's denial of disaster aid to blue states. It's going to tie up progress while costing millions in legal fees for lawsuits that will continue beyond his tenure as president.

And I still haven't heard anyone supporting the proposal to reevaluate California's coastal management plan. Thank you very much.

Thank you to Mr. Hazelleaf for his comments.
Steiner.

Speaking: Louise Steiner (04:10:56)

Hello, thank you for the meeting and thank you to everyone who spoke so knowledgeably and well about this situation. I am here a little bit selfishly because I have been fortunate enough to live on the beach in Santa Monica for 50 years. I raised my daughter here and I see out my window every morning, every evening, all day the beauty and the diversity of the flora and fauna that exists along this coast and in front of my, out of my window. And so you can probably hear the beating of my heart, I'm so nervous, but you will hear the breaking of my heart. If, if the federal government gets to take what we have and break it and smash it and plunder it and rape it. So, um.

Also just one last note. Lutnick and the other one, the commerce one, um, are both doing a bill to gut the Endangered Species Act. So that speaks a lot to where the government is going and what they're doing. So thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Steiner for her comments.
Ross.

Speaking: Kate Ross (04:12:42)

Hello, my name is Kate Ross, and if my voice wavers, sorry, it's because I haven't eaten all day because I've been here and I keep having to step outside because I have to keep paying for more parking. But I am a permaculture designer, and when we take a truly holistic approach to ecosystem management, we must look at governance structures that determine regulatory framework meant to protect our environment. Since, historically, private industry has not self-regulated in a way that comprehensively protects the average citizen. If they did, environmental racism would not be a thing.

One advantage in this fight for the ocean is that stakeholders and beachfront property owners tend to have the abundant resources needed to fight back against destructive development. Listen, there's no point in me trying to tell NOAA about environmental impacts of these

industries. That's your job. I have a question for the activists present at this hearing. What will we do if NOAA folds to this oligarchy and fails to protect the state of California. As a federal agency, their hands are tied by the Trump admin. We already know that if the midterms change the balance of the legislative branch, which of course I hope they do, Trump will continue to utilize his power of executive order to accomplish anything he determines to be profitable. We know all he cares about is money. His alliances with the oil and gas industry, as well as his personal stake in the creation of the Space Force, and of course his friendship with Musk, well, I don't know if it's still a friendship, but we know he backs him in some way, mean that he will, of course, push those agendas past our environmental priorities. So I ask you, what is, and I don't really ask you, well, it's kind of rhetorical, but I ask you to really ponder what is our plan B to protect our coastlines from a hostile federal government.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Ross for her comments.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Will speakers, Smith, Samuel, Reagan, please come up. And Smith is next with Samuel and Reagan on deck if you're in the room.

Speakers Mahir and Khan and Everett.

Speaking: Sarah Mahir (04:15:24)

I guess it's safe to say good evening now, huh?

My name is Sarah Mahir, and I am a lifelong coastal resident of Venice and Santa Monica. And I just want to say very important to protect, but I am here speaking for Frankie Arona, Executive Director of the Society of Native Nations.

We stand in solidarity with the Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples of California whose ancestral homelands, waters, sacred places, cultural resources, and ways of life could be affected by decisions concerning California's coast. Indigenous peoples are rights holders, not stakeholders. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is clear. Article 3 affirms the right to self-determination. Article 18 affirms the right to participate in decision-making through our own representatives. Article 19 establishes that states shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples through their representative institutions in order to obtain their free prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing measures that may affect them. Furthermore, articles 25 and 32 protect Indigenous people's relationships with our lands, territories, waters, coastal seas, and other resources and establish requirements for consultation and cooperation regarding projects affecting them.

A public hearing or opportunities to submit comments does not replace consultation with Indigenous peoples. Nor does it constitute free prior and informed consent. We have also recently engaged the International Seabed Authority where we have called for safeguards against deep seabed mining and extractive activities that threaten ocean ecosystems. The continuing scientific uncertainty surrounding potentially serious and irreversible damage from deep seabed mining demonstrates why precautionary approach must guide decisions affecting our oceans. For Indigenous peoples, the ocean, seabed, coastal waters, rivers, lands, and ecosystems are not separate, they are interconnected.

We therefore call upon this administration and NOAA to ensure that no action, no action weakening our coastal or environmental protections moves forward without meaningful consultation with the affected Tribal Nations, Indigenous peoples, and respect for their free and prior informed consent. We stand with the tribal and Indigenous peoples of California in the defense of their sovereignty, self-determination, ancestral lands and waters, and the rights of future generations. Thank you very much.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you, Ms. Mahir, for your comments.

Speaking: Joelle Gore

I'm double-checking Speaker Khan.

Speaking: Connor Everts (04:18:33)

Connor. I'm not here to con you. My name is Connor Everts. I am happy to have this opportunity. I want to thank you for the long day and extending the time. I did register, but somehow I never got a number, but I stuck it out because I think this is really important. There's not much left to say. It's been a great day of comments. I'm honored to come after Frankie, who I worked with on desalination for many years. And other marine intrusion and extractions that don't belong. But why we're really here today is the oil spill that created the Coastal Commission and what that did to the coast and people's awareness when oil covered birds and we saw. Where we are now seems to be undoing all the work we've all done for 47 years on environmental issues. And how do we stop that and how do we resist and how do we rise up like we did before to support NOAA, to support the Coastal Commission, to support the other organizations underneath, including NMFS and others who I've worked with, that's misspelled, it's not a nymph, but for steelhead recovery and wetlands recovery and all the issues that we're now dealing with the hottest Pacific temperatures ever and a super El Nino that's going to bring even more pollution into the issue and more fires and more issues, we have to move forward and not go backwards. Thank you very much.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Everts for his comments.

Reminder that we have extended the comments until 6.30 PM. We have 10 minutes remaining for public comments.

Next speaker is McDowell.

Speaking: Leslie McDowell (04:20:31)

My name is Leslie McDowell. I have lived here for 64 years. My grandfather played volleyball on the beach in Venice. My mother visited Santa Monica Beach with her friends, and at 86, she rides her bike on the beach twice a week. It's for her mental health. I have a picture of myself on the beach at six months, wearing nothing but a diaper and a bow on my head. I have pictures of myself with my children playing in the sand at Santa Monica Beach. I believe our four generations have been able to enjoy the coast because of the excellent shepherding of the Coastal Commission.

I was at the Refugio oil spill in 2015. My husband had a legal meeting and I went down to the beach and took some pictures and saw all the globs of oil on the beach, the men in white suits trying to clean all that garbage up, which spread over seven miles of coastline, and tar balls affected beaches over 100 miles away. I have brothers who surf, who swim in the ocean now, and if those things were to happen again, we would all be impacted.

It was Nixon who said, because there are no local or state boundaries to the problems of our environment, the federal government must play an active positive role, but Washington must not displace the state and local initiative. Land use policy is a basic responsibility of state and local governments. They are closer to the problem and closer to the people.

Howard Lutnick has charged us with environmental extremism. I believe what we are seeing is extreme greed by a small group of people. The California coast isn't just a California treasure or a national treasure. It's an international treasure. All you have to do is walk down the boardwalk along Santa Monica and spend some time listening to the different languages of the visitors there. When are we going to put people over profits? I urge NOAA to uphold our coastal protections. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

All right. I have five speakers remaining on the list. I'm just going to call all the names and then I'm just going to ask whoever is still here then just to line up at the mic.

So the first on my list is Mann.

followed by Galanty, Greenspun, Lachman, and Uiera.

Speaking: Jonathan Mann (04:23:42)

Jonathan Mann and I'm proud to say I'm an extremist. Not just about the environment. I'm a neo-Marxist revisionist. So when they call me a communist, they're a little bit off the Marx.

Now I'm going to talk about some things that haven't been mentioned tonight about the environment. And we are in danger of ecological collapse, the sixth extinction. We've already had five, but this one is caused by human beings. Now, I'm a pragmatist and a realist, and I understand that the measure of a civilization is the amount of energy that we consume. And I was born the month and the year of the atomic age. This is the anniversary of the bomb, this month. And it's continuing. The population when I was born was two and a half billion people. It's accelerating. Beyond our control.

There's no real way to stop what's happening. We cannot reverse climate change on Earth. We got into this mess because of technology. We're going to get out of this by technology, clean technology. And a lot of people are offended by that approach.

We have to leave this planet and harvest the resources of the solar system. I know a lot of people think we should spend money on Earth. But to get the energy to clean up this planet, there is an island of plastic the size of Texas in the Pacific Ocean. It's going to take energy to clean that up. And we're not going to get the energy from Earth. We have to get the energy from space. We need to put industry in outer space. By going to the moon, we can build a stepping stone to gather those resources.

I know everybody in this room hates Elon Musk and he's crazy, I agree. But we are in a capitalist society, I recognize that. Even though I'm a Marxist, the corporate capitalists control the means of production. With artificial intelligence and robotics, there will be no jobs left, no one to consume those products, but if we use that technology to build a colony on the moon, and from there, we can have all the resources that we need to save our planet. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Mr. Mann for his comments.

Speaking: Mitchell Lachman

I think, you know, I came here and...

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

I'm sorry, I don't mean to interrupt, can you start with your name?

Speaking: Mitchell Lachman

My name is Mitchell Lachman. I thought that this meeting was about who is going to, what organization's gonna have the ultimate jurisdiction. And on the ocean and the environment.

And I like collaboration. There's a lot of organizations that are collaborating, trying to help save, you know, clean up the ocean. But the Coastal Commission, as far as I know, going back to the seventies was dealing with this. It was the State California elected people who elected the Coastal Commission. And I believe that's a law. And I think that's a state law. And if the feds want to get into it, I think we have state rights. There are such a thing as state rights. So, you know, the feds and us, all these organizations, you, me, we're all trying to clean up the ocean do the best we can by the way I've been around here for about oh I don't know 70 years plus probably and the ocean has deteriorated and I just gave a little spiel about who's got the ultimate jurisdiction and I again I'll say I believe the Coastal Commission does. It was elected by the people. I think that's the law.

But as far as getting into, in hindsight, you probably know, I know, but I'll say it again, what you know. It's a Hyperion plant. They used to do, stir up the toilet water and dump it out. It's been laying on the sand for decades. And before the Coastal Commission, the DDT was put out off Palos Verdes, and it's staying there in the barrels. And this all has accumulated to a lack of, let's say, high nitrogen in the water where the seals are dying and the fish are gone.

So I make a recommendation, and it's a big one, but what do other cities do along the coast where they just don't dump into the ocean. A lot of cities are dumping their effluent into the ocean, including Santa Cruz. There was a canyon on the north side of town, and Bill Fieberling, the engineer, wanted to dump the sewage water into this canyon, which was a microscope, a world of life, it's gone. And this stuff gets stirred up and.

So getting back to the Bay, [microphone cut due to time]

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Mr. Lachman, I apologize, yeah

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Thank you, Mr. Lachman. We'll have to go to the next speaker. Thank you.

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Ms. Greenspun

Speaking: Annie Greenspun

Thank you for your patience. Hi, my name is Annie Greenspun. I'm a resident of Santa Monica for 49 years and a member of one of our neighborhood groups.

There's nothing better than looking out at the blue ocean and seeing, oil rigs? Our beautiful ocean brings visitors from all over L.A., especially in this heat, Santa Monica and Malibu, and honestly, all over the world. Our ocean is free, and we are mesmerized by its beauty, its use, and unencumbered views. I want to thank the Coastal Commission, especially Raymond Jackson, who spoke to our Rotary Club and our many neighborhood groups about the Coastal Commission and what you do. I'm amazed that they make \$100 a meeting, or \$12.50 an hour for eight hours, I guess, whichever is higher. Congratulations for your dedication and hard work, and they also have other real jobs. They have long hours and they work for all of us. I'm looking at your faces on the dais as you listen to each of us with interest and I feel hopeful and I feel thankful.

Honestly, my children and grandchildren schlep up to visit us, but I know it's really going to the beach for the fun, the sun, the boogie boarding and surfing, building sandcastles. It's for all ages. I share their joy. After all, isn't that the California dream or California dreaming? I guess we could sing on the way out. I don't want to relive the nightmare of the disaster that happened in Santa Barbara with the leak of oil in the ocean. Please keep our coastline protected. Keep laws as they are, the process is working, the audience is listening and my last question is, is there a way for us to get copies of what everybody said today?

Speaking: Joelle Gore

Transcripts will be available send us an email to the email address that's in the *Federal Register* notice it's also on a one pager that's available at the registration table

Speaking: Annie Greenspun

Thank you

Speaking: Keelin Kuipers

Thank you to Ms. Greenspun for her comments.

And this is the close of the meeting. So thank you to all for attending today. The written comment period remains open until 11:59 PM Pacific time on August 22nd, 2026. There are two additional virtual public meetings tomorrow and Wednesday.

As you leave the room, if you need a QR code for the virtual public meetings or have any other questions, please visit the registration area or find a NOAA team member.

Thank you to everyone and safe travels home.