



# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

## California Coast and Ocean Report *Status, Progress, and What's Ahead* 2026

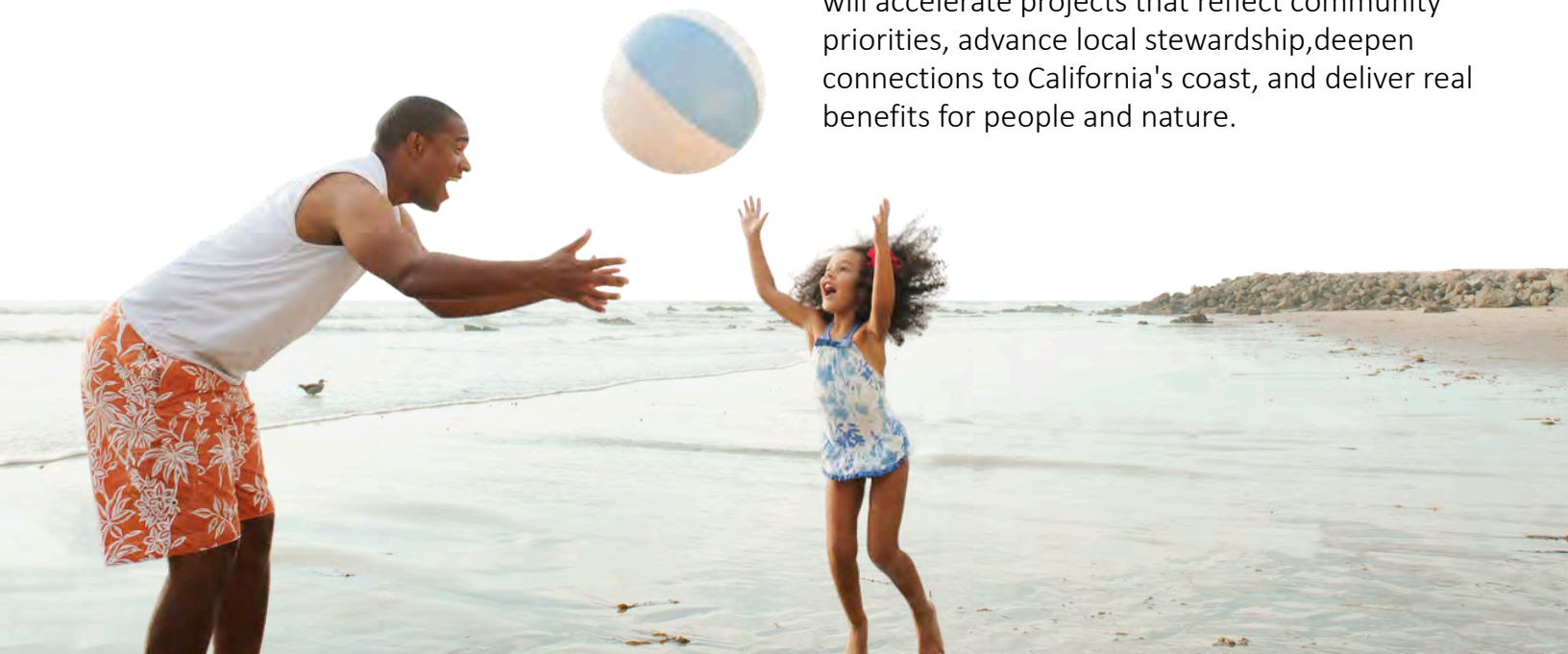
California is renowned for its extraordinary biodiversity and the incredible diversity of its communities. People from across the state visit our world-class coastline to recreate, connect with nature, and seek relief from the inland summer heat. However, historical and ongoing injustices, including the displacement of California Native American tribes, redlining, exclusion from land use decisions, and concentrated pollution, has impacted how many experience and access the coast. While the state has made progress to remedy these harms, much work remains – because access to a healthy coast and ocean is a shared right of all Californians.

### PROGRESS

California is actively breaking down barriers to coastal access and funding, and including communities in the decisions that impact them. Guided by OPC's first-ever **Equity Plan** and **Tribal Engagement Strategy** to center tribal and community needs, nearly **50% of OPC-funded projects** since 2022 have **directly benefited environmental justice communities** and California Native American tribes.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Intentional, community-led action is central to a healthy coast and ocean for all. Proposition 4, the **2024 Climate Bond**, directs a historic **\$10 billion to help the state prepare for a changing climate**, with at least 40% of all funds required to provide meaningful and direct benefits to California Native American tribes and other vulnerable communities. This historic investment, coupled with new state programs, will accelerate projects that reflect community priorities, advance local stewardship, deepen connections to California's coast, and deliver real benefits for people and nature.



## DEEPER DIVE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

First convened in 2024, the **Environmental Justice Advisory Board for California's Coast and Ocean** advises OPC on the ocean and coastal needs of California communities. The inaugural seven-member Board elevates tribal and environmental justice community priorities, evaluates the state's progress on **maximizing community benefits**, advises on **equitable grantmaking**, and strengthens **regional networks and partnerships**.

## REDUCING BARRIERS TO FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- **Technical Assistance:** SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Program. OPC's first technical assistance program removed barriers for applicants and has resulted in over \$19 million awarded to tribes and local communities.
- **Environmental Justice Small Grants Program:** OPC funded two rounds of grants for community- and tribally-led projects increasing coastal stewardship and access, including a partnership with the Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grants Program.
- **Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program:** Through a first-of-its-kind funding program, CNRA awarded \$101 million to support tribal multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects, including ancestral land return and habitat restoration.

## DEEPER DIVE: TRIBAL MARINE STEWARDS NETWORK

The **Tribal Marine Stewards Network** (TMSN) is an alliance of six California Native American tribes (the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria) stewarding, protecting, and restoring ocean and coastal resources across their ancestral territories. Launched as an OPC-funded pilot in 2020, the Network conducts tribally-led research, monitoring, and education to support **environmental stewardship, economic security, community well-being, and cultural vitality**.



In 2022, members of the Wiyot Tribe celebrated the purchase, with support from OPC, of one of the last pieces of undeveloped coastal wetland and upland near Humboldt Bay.



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