

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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LCP Update Guide

Section 1. Public Access

One of the fundamental goals of the Coastal Act is to provide maximum public access to the coast. This includes protecting *existing* and providing *new* public access. The authority for this mandate partially derives from the California Constitution, which declares that “access to the navigable waters of this State shall be always attainable for the people thereof.” (Article 10, Section 4 of the California Constitution.) The Coastal Act also recognizes that the provision of public access needs to take into account public safety concerns and the protection of private property and natural resources from overuse.

LCPs are essential to reaching the goal of maximum public access. Coastal Act §30500 requires that each LCP contain a specific Coastal Access Component to “assure that maximum public access to the coastal and public recreation areas is provided.” In general, LCPs should provide policies and standards to assure that existing public access is protected, and that maximum public access to and along the shoreline is both planned for and provided with new development when warranted. Pursuant to Coastal Act §30531, LCPs should, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate a public access inventory, including a map showing the specific locations of existing and proposed public access to the coast.

In light of continuing population growth that may increase demand to use California’s beaches and shoreline recreational resources, updated LCP Access Components need to reflect new information and changed conditions. Access components should also reflect new laws related to both the California Coastal Trail (CCT) and complete streets as described below.

What should an updated public access component include?

- ❑ Descriptions and maps of existing, required, suitable and planned access, including segments of the California Coastal Trail and the status and location of those subject to offers to dedicate easements or deed restrictions;
- ❑ Estimates of visitor and facilities use (see Section 2 - Recreation of this Guide);
- ❑ Estimates of unmet and future demand and identification of deficiencies by location and type of access;

Review the principal Coastal Act policies concerning public access -- Sections 30210 through 30214 and 30500(a) and 30604(c), at:
<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/coastact.pdf>

- ❑ Assessments of any public safety or fragile resources concerns that may require additional access management measures;
- ❑ Identification of encroachments on, or disincentives to use of, public beaches or accessways (e.g. illegal no parking signs or barriers, private development or landscaping on beaches) and measures to remove or reduce them;
- ❑ Measures to ensure new access, through the regulatory program or other mechanisms;
- ❑ Measures to manage access and other activities on beaches in a manner that protects the public access;
- ❑ Measures to expand access through sufficient parking and alternative transportation;
- ❑ Identification of potential prescriptive rights and measures to ensure such rights are protected;
- ❑ Measures to site new development to not impede access and to be compatible with public access areas;
- ❑ Mitigation measures for unavoidable impacts of recreational beach loss from permitted development;
- ❑ Zoning ordinance provisions that provide for accessways and access facilities;
- ❑ Signing provisions.

Additional guidance on some of these topics is discussed later in this section. The Commission staff is currently updating, and expanding digital coastal access inventory data. You are welcome to contact staff regarding such information when updating your coastal access component.

Where can I read some examples of updated access components?

Some revised Public Access components are:

- ❑ **City of San Diego La Jolla Community Plan and Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan** (see especially pages 30 - 33 and Appendices/Access Inventories), at: <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/pdf/cp/cpljfullversion.pdf>
- ❑ **City of Newport Beach Coastal Land Use Plan** Chapter 3 Public Access and Recreation, at: http://www.city.newport-beach.ca.us/PLN/LCP/Internet%20PDFs/CLUP_Part%203_Public%20Access%20and%20Recreation.pdf