

## Executive Director's Report — May 5, 2016

Thank you very much Chair Wasserman.

My family was at Grand Canyon National Park during the week when the Commission last met. Experiencing something that big and wonderful puts our daily issues such as BCDC needing a short-term cash advance or waiting for the Governor's May Revise in their rightful place. That being said, great things are accomplished by putting a lot of small things together, so we'll keep on working at BCDC.

### **BUDGET and STAFFING:**

As I alluded to just now, on the advice of the Department of Finance we have made contact with the State Controller's Office to arrange a short-term cash advance that will get us through this fiscal year without running in the red. I want to stress that this is a cash-flow crunch, not a structural budget issue. Put simply, the imposition of the State's new accounting and budgeting system that did not allow us to close our books from last fiscal year until six months into this fiscal year also has not enabled Sebastian and Anna to bill our staff's time working on our grants and contracts. One more bit of not so good news – we still do not have a chief budget officer. We are now exploring the possibility of contracting with the Coastal Commission for this service.

Thankfully, we also have some good news. Unless any Commissioner objects, we shall hire Christine Nutile as our Records Manager. Ms. Nutile has an

undergraduate degree in English Literature and Modern Dance from Cal – a dancing Bear – and a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State, a very Spartan looking school. She has worked at PG&E and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. We are excited for her to come on board as she will help us move our records fully into the digital age, which will reduce our dependence on 4 by 6 index cards to access our permit records.

You will remember that you received a memo from me last week informing you that we also planned to hire Cherise Johnson as a new Office Technician to replace Greg Ogata, who transferred to BCDC's Legal and Enforcement Unit. As no Commissioner raised an eyebrow at the news, I want to ask Cherise to stand up – she comes to BCDC from the City Manager's Office in Berkeley where she provided temporary clerical support, and from the State of California's Department of Toxic Substances Control for which she provided clerical and technical support for nine years. She has a Bachelors of Arts in Technical Management from DeVry University. We welcome Cherise to BCDC's Clerical Unit.

Last week, Brenda Goeden was in Charleston and, after wandering the streets for a few days, she found a NOAA Coastal Fellow to join BCDC for two years. Unless I hear otherwise, Alex Braud (Bro) will start his Fellowship with BCDC in August. Alex earned his BS in Geography with a minor in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, and his BA with a focus on Disaster Science and Management, from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He is a Tiger through and through – he will soon earn his Master's degree in Environmental

Studies and Public Administration from LSU. He has undertaken public outreach activities with stakeholders of South Carolina's working waterfronts, and also has very strong GIS and programming skills.

## **POLICY**

I have mentioned to several of you that BCDC's Enforcement Unit will soon be bringing to you and the Enforcement Committee several large-scale issues for resolution. You should know that on April 22 I issued an Executive Director's Cease & Desist Order to begin resolving alleged violations of the Mac Act and the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act involving unpermitted fill and development activities at an island known as Pt. Buckler. I cannot provide details concerning the violations at this time, and we have not provided the Commission with a copy of the Order, because this matter is likely to come before the Commission for its consideration prior the Order's expiration date.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I urge you all in the strongest possible way to attend BCDC's next meeting – in two weeks, on May 19 – when you will have the opportunity to discuss the staff recommendations that have arisen from your previous three public workshops on rising sea level policy issues.

That completes my report, Chair Wasserman, and I am happy to answer any questions you all may have.