

Ocean Day 2023

Bridging science to policy on offshore oil platform decommissioning

Asm. Gregg Hart
California State Assembly
<https://a37.asmdc.org/>



Assemblymember Gregg Hart was elected to the California State Assembly in November of 2022 to represent the 37th Assembly District, which spans the coast from Santa Barbara to Arroyo Grande and includes Point Conception and the northern Channel Islands. With a deep understanding of local people and local issues, he is proud to have served the Santa Barbara community for more than 30 years – as a Planning Commissioner, City Council Member, California Coastal Commissioner, and Santa Barbara County Supervisor. Assemblymember Hart began his professional career as a Legislative Assistant for former State Assemblymember Jack O’Connell and went on to become the original manager of the Santa Barbara County Association of Government’s (SBCAG) Traffic Solutions program. There, he promoted local green and sustainable transportation options. Hart graduated from Santa Barbara City College and the University of California, Santa Barbara. Assemblymember Hart has a long history of fighting to increase educational opportunities, reduce poverty, prepare for emergencies, and support the health and safety of the people of California’s Central Coast.

Dr. Jeremy Claisse
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
<https://www.claisselab.com/>



Dr. Jeremy Claisse is an Associate Professor of Quantitative Marine Ecology at Cal Poly Pomona. He investigates the life history and ecology of marine organisms associated with reef ecosystems, including kelp forest systems here in California, coral reef systems in Hawaii, and human-built reef habitats, with a particular emphasis on marine conservation, fisheries management, and marine protected areas. For over a decade he has conducted federally-funded research on how fish use the structure underneath California’s offshore oil platforms as habitat. Jeremy currently has funding from CSU COAST and the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to investigate the function of artificial reefs, including seafloor oil pipelines and other marine infrastructure. Jeremy holds a Ph.D. in Zoology with an emphasis in ecology and conservation biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Jennifer Lucchesi
California State Lands Commission
<http://slc.ca.gov>



The California State Lands Commission (SLC) appointed Jennifer Lucchesi as its Executive Officer in December 2012. Since her appointment, Jennifer has led SLC through the successful adoption of two Strategic Plans, returned more than 16,000 acres to California's Coastal Sanctuary, while implementing three major offshore oil and gas facility abandonment and decommissioning programs. Jennifer is establishing SLC as a leader in addressing the impacts of the climate crisis through responsibly transitioning its portfolio of approximately 4 million acres of lands to clean and renewable energy development, adapting to sea level rise, protecting and enhancing public access, and sustainable forest management. Jennifer began her career at the Commission in November 1999 as a land agent after graduating with a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She attended evening classes at the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law and began her legal career at the Commission in 2006 after earning her Juris Doctor. Jennifer has worked for the Commission on projects with an emphasis on land use, wetlands and open space management, oil and gas development and decommissioning, renewable energy, waterfront redevelopment, and boundary issues.

Esperanza Vielma
Executive Director, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water



From community activist to Executive Director, Esperanza Vielma is deeply rooted in serving underrepresented and disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley. Espe's vision to serve her community led her to attend the University of California, Berkeley where she honed her skills for community activism and advocacy. She has served on the Executive Board for the University of California-Chicanx Latinx Alumni Association and the Cal Alumni Association Board of Directors. Espe is currently serving on the Advisory Board for UC Berkeley's LatinX and The Environment Initiative. In addition to her academic activism, Espe is an active voice for the environmental justice community in the Valley. As the Executive Director of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW), she has been instrumental in educating and empowering underrepresented and disadvantaged communities to find their voice and advocate on their own behalf before regulatory agencies, elected officials and community stakeholders.

Hosted by the CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology and the California Ocean Science Trust



COAST is the CSU affinity group for marine and coastal related activities. COAST integrates systemwide resources and promotes interdisciplinary multi-campus collaborations to advance our knowledge of coastal and marine systems.

California Ocean Science Trust is dedicated to accelerating progress towards a healthy and productive ocean future for California. Created by state legislation, OST bridges the gap between cutting-edge scientific research and sound ocean management.

