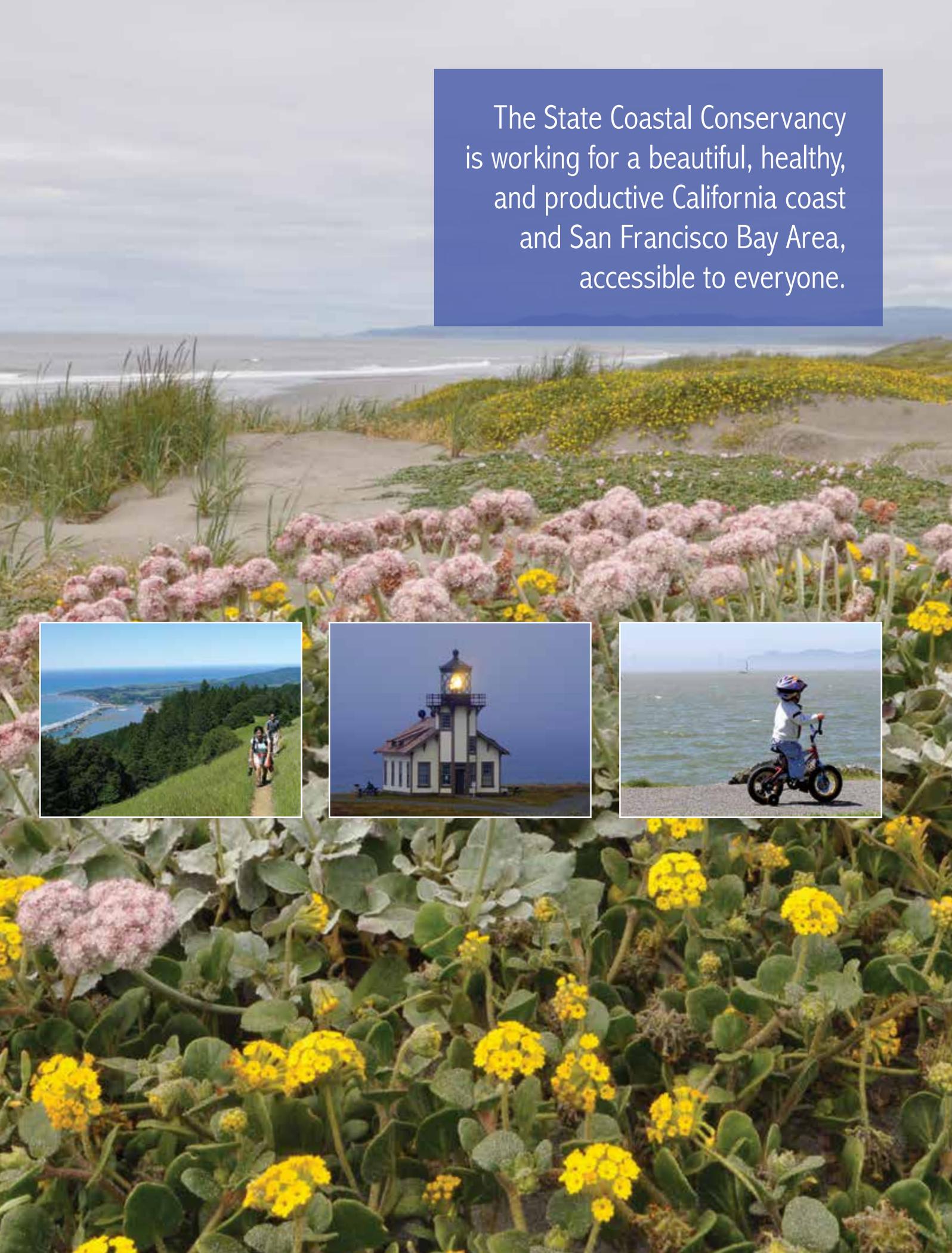


The State Coastal Conservancy is working for a beautiful, healthy, and productive California coast and San Francisco Bay Area, accessible to everyone.



The Conservancy has been working for more than 35 years to protect and improve California's world-renowned coast.

The Conservancy's creative, non-regulatory approach has enabled the conservation of vast areas of natural lands, parks, and farmland, the construction of hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails, and the restoration of working waterfronts along the entire length of the coast.

To accomplish its goals, the Conservancy relies on strong partnerships with public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities throughout the coast and around San Francisco Bay. This network of partners helps ensure that the Conservancy's work is responsive to on-going coastal needs and opportunities.

“The California Coastal Conservancy has a long record of creating real improvements for the state's environment. As California faces ongoing and new challenges, including climate change, the Coastal Conservancy's work will be even more critical.”

Steven J. McCormick, President
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Inset photos: Judy Irving; Mike Baird; Judy Irving



PROTECTING THE COAST

Natural lands and wildlife habitat

THE CONSERVANCY...

- has protected more than 300,000 acres of natural and scenic lands along California's coast and in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- is a leader in restoring wetlands along the coast and in San Francisco Bay.
- works with local communities to remove barriers to fish migration, greatly expanding habitat for salmon and trout.
- helps local communities manage the spread of invasive plants and animals that have overrun natural areas and threaten the health of the environment.

Clean water

THE CONSERVANCY...

- helps cities remove trash from waterways before it enters the ocean.
- is greening our urban areas to improve air quality and allow water to filter through the earth instead of running through gutters and pipes.
- restores floodplains and wetlands to slow flows of rainwater to replenish groundwater and filter pollutants and sediment.



Ocean waters

THE CONSERVANCY...

- spearheaded an ocean observing program to map the surface water currents off the coast of California, informing critical needs such as oil spill response, beach water quality, search and rescue, and climate change analysis.
- fosters community-based efforts to remove and prevent the dumping of marine debris, including derelict fishing gear that traps marine mammals and is a hazard to boats.
- pioneered underwater restoration of kelp, eelgrass, and oysters.





Mike Baird

ENJOYING THE COAST

Hiking and biking trails

THE CONSERVANCY...

- has constructed hundreds of miles of trails for hikers, bikers, and equestrians to help individuals and families experience the spectacular beauty of California's coastal lands and the San Francisco Bay Area.
- supports regional trails that link communities to parks and natural lands and enable bicycling commuters to leave their cars at home.
- leads construction of the California Coastal Trail, which one day will run uninterrupted from Mexico to Oregon and unite all of California's coastal communities.
- constructs boardwalks, trails, and pathways designed to give wheelchair riders the opportunity to explore the coastal environment.

Beaches

THE CONSERVANCY...

- works with local communities to install picnic areas, restrooms, and parking lots at public beaches.
- constructs stairways and pathways to help many thousands of residents and visitors safely reach California's world-renowned beaches.
- has helped make information about wheelchair-accessible beaches, parks, and natural areas throughout California's coast available online at www.wheelingcalcoast.org.



Visual Sensory/Correy Thompson

Environmental education

THE CONSERVANCY...

- supports the construction of visitor centers in natural areas and exhibit displays in visitor centers, aquariums, and museums.
- funds a variety of environmental education and hands-on volunteer programs for schools and community organizations.



Dick Weyman



Judy Irving





IMPROVING COASTAL ECONOMIES

Working lands

THE CONSERVANCY...

- has helped keep thousands of acres of California's coastal farmland and timberland in production.
- has made it economically feasible for many family farms to keep operating in return for agreements that prevent their conversion to other uses.
- has dedicated large areas of North Coast forests to sustainable timber production that will support local economies well into the future.

Waterfronts

THE CONSERVANCY...

- helps many communities reclaim and revitalize their working waterfronts, making them more accessible to residents and visitors and promoting commercial uses that are both more profitable and more sustainable.
- has assisted in the restoration and development of most of California's urban piers.
- supports tall ships festivals that have introduced thousands of visitors to California's ports and underscored the importance of these areas to our culture and commerce.

Commercial fishing

THE CONSERVANCY...

- has supported the commercial fishing industry by supplying equipment and repairing dockside facilities.

David Fenton

Jonathan Koehler

Dena Justice

Karl Kroeber

FACING FUTURE CHALLENGES

The health of California's human communities and natural habitats depends on their resilience — their ability to rebound from adverse conditions. Protecting our forests, wetlands, creeks, and other natural areas will help nature buffer the effects of extreme weather, sea level rise, rising temperatures, drought, and wildfire. The Conservancy is working with communities to plan now for climate change and carry out projects that reduce potential damage through nature-based strategies. These projects reduce greenhouse gases, diminish hazards to harbors and ports, and make coastal communities and natural lands more resilient to a changing environment.



Visual Sensory/Correy Thompson

The Coastal Conservancy, established in 1976, is an agency of the State of California within the Natural Resources Agency. It consists of a seven-member board: the Secretary for Natural Resources, the Director of the Department of Finance, the Chair of the Coastal Commission, two public members appointed by the Governor, and one public member each appointed by the President pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly. Six nonvoting legislative oversight members are also part of the Conservancy's governance, three each from the Senate and the Assembly.

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