



MEETING SUMMARY

May 15, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Tsakopoulos Library Galleria
East Meeting Room
828 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2589

Present:

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair
Cindy Tuck for Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Cindy Aronberg for John Chiang, State Controller, Chair of the State Lands Commission
Susan Golding, Public Member
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member
Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember
Bill Craven for Darrell Steinberg, State Senator

1. Secretary Chrisman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He discussed the status of the salmon population decline on the West Coast and the timeline of events associated with the fishery closure. Secretary Chrisman also reported on progress of the Marine Life Protection Act, highlighting that in April 2007, the Blue Ribbon Task Force made its recommendation about a preferred alternative for marine protected areas (MPAs) in the North Central Coast.

He talked about the workshops on fisheries management and collaborative fisheries research that were held by OPC staff since the February meeting. The workshops emphasized the need for MPA monitoring and stating that the next OPC meeting in September will focus on fisheries.

The Coastal Impact Assistance Plan was released for public comment on May 1. To comment, visit www.resources.ca.gov/ocean/CIAP; comments are due by May 30, 2008.

Member Susan Golding suggested two issues that the OPC could potentially address in the future:

- (1) The use of new technology for monitoring and enforcing MPAs
- (2) How contaminants like endocrine disruptors and human medications are impacting aquatic species

2. It was moved (Golding) and seconded (Aronberg) to adopt the resolution to endorse the Ocean and Coastal Community Call for Action

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Tuck, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Warner Chabot – Ocean Conservancy – spoke in support

Zeke Grader – Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations – spoke in support and emphasized the importance of a national trust fund

In addition, the council members agreed to convene an additional meeting, by teleconference, in the next few months to consider a resolution to support the Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (HR 21). This new meeting date will be posted on the OPC Web site when a specific date is chosen.

Public Comment:

Warner Chabot – Ocean Conservancy – Gave a brief description of HR 21 and supported the OPC holding a special meeting to discuss the act

Zeke Grader – Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations – Requested support for HR 21

David Beckman – Natural Resources Defense Council – Requested support for HR 21

3. Public comment was heard on non-agenda items

Reed Addis – Conservation Strategy Group – provided suggestions for future OPC funding priorities and urged the council to coordinate funding among multiple state agencies and to consider priorities over a 3-5 year period

Sarah Abramson – Heal the Bay – urged that the marine debris resolution be translated into action

Steve Aceti – California Coastal Coalition – discussed the need for funding for public awareness as an approach to reducing marine debris

4. Abe Doherty, Project Manager, discussed the recent release of the California Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Plan and the need for interagency coordination in AIS management.

- A. Andy Cohen of the San Francisco Estuary Institute discussed the importance of prevention of AIS introductions

- B. Susan Ellis of the Department of Fish and Game discussed priority actions from the AIS Management Plan

- C. Maurya Falkner of the State Lands Commission discussed the commission’s program for preventing invasive species introductions from commercial shipping vectors

It was moved (Golding) and seconded (Aronberg) to authorize the grant of up to \$1,000,000 to the California Ocean Science Trust for the invasive species vector risk assessments project.

(The amended staff recommendation is linked to the agenda.)

Approved as amended Ayes: Chrisman, Tuck, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Ted Grosholz – University of California, Davis – Recommended being flexible with the list of vectors to study

Shelley Luce – Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission – Spoke in support and recommended that monitoring and research should also be considered as an AIS vector

Cyndi Dawson – Reef Check California – Suggested that Reef Check volunteers can be utilized to detect AIS introductions

5. It was moved (Aronberg) and seconded (Golding) to adopt the resolution to promote low impact development to improve the quality of California's ocean and coastal waters.

(The amended resolution is linked to the agenda.)

Approved as amended Ayes: Chrisman, Tuck, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Shelley Luce – Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission – spoke in support

Al Wanger – California Coastal Commission – spoke in support

Timothy Lawrence – University of California, Davis – spoke in support

Tom Lyons – California Coastkeeper Alliance – spoke in support and provided amendments to the resolution

David Beckman – National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – spoke in support and provided amendments to the resolution

Sarah Abramson – Heal the Bay – spoke in support and specifically supported amendments provided by NRDC

Jeff Brosseau – California Stormwater Quality Association – spoke in support and specifically supported amendments provided by NRDC

Steve Weisberg – Southern California Coastal Water Research Project – discussed participation at the Southern California workshop on LID

6. It was moved (Knatz) and seconded (Golding) to authorize the grant of up to \$1,621,750 to the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) and to the San Jose State University Research Foundation to conduct a second year of baseline monitoring for the Central California Coast MPAs designated under the Marine Life Protection Act.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Shelley Luce – Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission – spoke in support

Warner Chabot – Ocean Conservancy – spoke in support

7. It was moved (Golding) and seconded (Knatz) to authorize the grant of up to \$247,500 to the Institute for Fisheries Resources to provide vessel support for Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) monitoring and other research activities in the central coast region.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Warner Chabot – Ocean Conservancy – spoke in support

8. It was moved (Golding) and seconded (Knatz) to authorize the grant of up to \$957,000 to the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association to implement the study of sediment transport and reuse in the coastal nearshore at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, San Diego County.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Steve Aceti – California Coastal Coalition – spoke in support

Clif Davenport – Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup – spoke in support

9. Items 9b and 9c were removed from the consent calendar

It was moved (Knatz) and seconded (Aronberg) to approve the remaining consent item:
Authorization to grant up to \$350,000 to the Pacific Institute to conduct the Coastal Infrastructure and Resources Impact project to examine the economic value and infrastructure impacts from future sea level rise.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

- 9b. It was moved (Golding) and seconded (Knatz) to disburse up to \$166,021 to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration (CEMAR) for the Southern Steelhead Resources Project.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Sarah Abramson – Heal the Bay – Urged that this project should be coordinated with other similar reports from the region

- 9c. It was moved (Aronberg) and seconded (Knatz) to adopt the revised funding priorities for FY 07/08

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Aronberg, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Cyndi Dawson – Reef Check California – Urged the council to consider volunteer organizations to help achieve council goals

10. Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember and OPC member, discussed the status of the Pacific gray whale and requested that the council consider a resolution on the matter at the next meeting.
11. Amber Mace, Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust, presented the report of the Science Advisor that included updates on the OPC Science Advisory Team, work to coordinate data regarding harmful algal blooms and the status of this year's Sea Grant funding.
12. Drew Bohan presented the report of the Executive Policy Officer that included updates on the Marine Debris Action Plan, the OPC Strategic Plan, and efforts to improve water quality enforcement.
13. Sam Schuchat presented the report of the Council Secretary that included updates on OPC projects and the status of the OPC budget.
14. Secretary Chrisman adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.