



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

Mike Chrisman, *Secretary for Resources, Council Chair*
Cruz Bustamante, *Lieutenant Governor*
Alan Lloyd, *Secretary for Environmental Protection*
Sheila Kuehl, *State Senator, Ex officio Member*
Pedro Nava, *State Assemblymember, Ex officio Member*

MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean and Coastal Community

FROM: Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council

DATE: October 4, 2005

SUBJECT: Ocean Protection Council Sept. meeting highlights

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) met at Scripps Institution of Oceanography on Friday, Sept. 23, 2005. Below is a summary of the actions taken by the council at this meeting.

Meeting Highlights

- *Voted* to send a letter to members of Congress and the President stating, "Any pending federal legislation regarding Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing must retain all protections from the Congressional leasing moratorium and should seek to make these protections permanent." The letter sent Sept. 27 is posted at http://resources.ca.gov/copc/OPC_energy_letter_2005-09-27.pdf.
- *Voted* on a motion for the chair to work with staff to frame the issues regarding once-through cooling for coastal power plants and hold a special meeting, if necessary, on this issue.
- *Directed* staff to investigate options for developing a long-term vision for the council, establishing a science advisory team, hiring an executive director and staff, developing integrated financing mechanisms, and establishing a process to review state legislation.
- *Adopted* the California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy http://resources.ca.gov/copc/InfoResOut_Strategy_2005-09-30.pdf.
- *Released* the Preliminary Strategic Plan for the California Coastal Ocean Observing System http://www.scc.ca.gov/opcbb/0509COPC08F_CalCOOS_Report_DRAFT.pdf. Please submit comments on this draft plan by Nov. 28, 2005. (See http://resources.ca.gov/copc/documents_for_comment.html for more information)
- *Requested* public input on the priority areas proposed for the State Water Resources Control Board's \$10 million commitment to the OPC. The two priority areas proposed by State Water Board staff are Areas of Special Biological Significance and Rapid Indicators.

Please submit comments on these priorities by Nov. 28, 2005. (See http://resources.ca.gov/copc/comment_instructions.html for more information)

Projects

- *Dedicated* \$1 million to ocean and coastal research through a partnership with California's Sea Grant programs.
- *Became* the major sponsor of the California and the World Ocean Conference 2006, hosted by the California Resources Agency and California Environmental Protection Agency, to be held September 17-20, 2006 in Long Beach, California by committing \$150,000.
- *Authorized* the use of \$2 million of state funds to contribute to the public/private partnership focused on the removal the Matilija Dam on the Ventura River.
- *Funded* a \$101,300 planning grant to develop a revolving loan fund for sustainable fisheries.
- *Authorized* the use of \$50,000 to conduct a study to analyze options for permanent funding for ocean and coastal protection.

Thank you for your interest in protecting California's ocean and coast. The agenda, briefing documents, and archived Web cast of the meeting can be found at http://resources.ca.gov/copc/9-23-05_meeting/.

Please visit <http://resources.ca.gov/copc/> for more information on the California Ocean Protection Council.