



MEETING SUMMARY

April 17, 2007

12:00 p.m.

Beach Resort Monterey
Point Cabrillo Room
2600 Sand Dunes Drive
Monterey, CA

Present:

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair
Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection
John Garamendi, Lieutenant Governor, Chair of the State Lands Commission

Absent:

Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember
Darrell Steinberg, State Senator

1. Secretary Chrisman welcomed everyone to the meeting and deferred opening remarks until after the discussion on the West Coast Agreement on Ocean Health.
2. Secretary Chrisman introduced Leon Panetta, Co-Chair of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, who provided remarks on the importance of regional ocean governance and the status of progress made at the national level since the release of the two national ocean reports. Mr. Panetta commended the three governors on the actions taken to date and urged the states to be specific about achievable actions.

Following Mr. Panetta's remarks, Secretary Chrisman introduced the state representatives:

Brian Baird, California Assistant Secretary, Ocean and Coastal Policy
Jessica Hamilton, Oregon's Governor's Office, Natural Resource Policy Advisor
Brian Lynn, Washington Department of Ecology

The state representatives reviewed the actions taken as a result of the West Coast Agreement on Ocean Health and the discussed possible actions that could be included in the regional action plan that will be released this fall.

Following the remarks by the state representatives, Gerhard Kuska, White House Council on Environmental Quality, discussed how the federal government will coordinate with the West Coast states as progress is made and introduced the three

appointed regional contacts who each provided brief remarks.

Regional Federal Contacts:

Dr. Fred Piltz – Minerals Management Service
Dr. Usha Varanasi – NOAA Fisheries
Mr. Paul Michel – Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Public Comment

- Al Wanger – California Coastal Commission – strongly supports OPC calling on President Bush and Congress to fund non-point source pollution programs and supports focus on seven priority areas of discussion document. Mr. Wanger suggested including climate change impacts to the discussion paper and amending the Coastal Zone Management Act to include climate change elements
- Maurice Hill – Minerals Management Service – supports the West Coast states working with MMS on alternative ocean energies
- Kate Wing – NRDC – urged the OPC and state to take action on programmatic planning for alternative energy sources in the marine environment
- Zeke Grader – Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations – stressed the importance of protecting water quality to support fish populations and discussed the need for standards for desalinization, aquaculture, and ocean energy to protect other ocean resources
- Cindi Dawson – Reef Check California – stressed the important role community monitoring groups could play in achieving regional goals
- Liz O’Donoghue – The Nature Conservancy – discussed a new online ecosystem-based management tool
- Santi Roberts – Oceana – suggested creating a comprehensive ecological inventory as a data source for management decisions
- Harry Wong – California Ships to Reefs – discussed how their goal of sinking 10-20 ships in the next few years would help achieve several of the regional goals
- Sarah Abramson – Heal the Bay – supports prioritizing actions and suggested including marine debris control as a priority issue
- Heather Kerkering – CenCOOS – stressed that the Regional Associations on the West Coast have already established relationships and have determined research priorities that mesh well with the Governors’ Agreement; offered to help with future actions
- Rudy Murillo – Scripps Institution of Oceanography – reiterated the comments of Ms. Kerkering regarding the potential role of the Regional Associations

Following public comment, the council members made recommendations for changes to the West Coast Agreement discussion document and directed staff to bring these suggested changes back to the June meeting for council concurrence.

Include climate change as an issue
Include work done on marine debris
Pursue options to complete coast-wide maps

3. There was no vote to allow voting representatives since all council members were present

Chrisman introduced Mr. Mark Zacharias, Director, Marine Planning with Integrated Land Management Bureau, Province of British Columbia, who was present on behalf of Premier Gordon Campbell. Mr. Zacharias expressed British Columbia's interest in fostering collaborations along the West Coast.

4. Eben Schwartz, Chair, Marine Debris Steering Committee, California Coastal Commission, gave an update on the activities of the marine debris steering committee to implement the directives in the council's Resolution for Reducing and Preventing Marine Debris.

Raissa Lerner, Deputy Attorney General, Reed Sato, Director for the Office of Enforcement, State Water Resources Control Board, and Jonathan Bishop, Region 4, Regional Water Quality Control Board all briefly discussed marine debris enforcement efforts and issues.

5. Public comment was heard on non-agenda items.

- Anjali Jaiswal – NRDC – Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant
- Jim Curland – Defenders of Wildlife – Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant and sea otter research funding
- Joey Racano – Ocean Outfall Group – Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant and establishing a marine reserve to protect sea lions in La Jolla
- Steve Shimek – The Otter Project – Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant
- Marla Jo Bruton – Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant and Los Osos sewage issues
- Sarah Corbin – Surfrider Foundation – Morro Bay-Cayucos wastewater treatment plant
- Aida Navarro – Wildcoast – mission of Wildcoast
- Les Strnad – Camp SEALab – outdoor ocean science programs

6. Andrea Lewis, California Environmental Protection Agency, presented progress made on the Education and Environment Initiative and provided council members with draft ocean-related curricula.

7. Drew Bohan gave the report of the Executive Policy Officer. Mr. Bohan briefly reviewed the status of progress made towards the goals of the OPC Strategic Plan.

8. Sam Schuchat presented the report of the council Secretary

- a. It was moved (Garamendi) and seconded (Adams) to adopt Environmental Review Objectives, Criteria and Procedures for the Ocean Protection Council as amended.

Approved Ayes: Garamendi, Adams, Chrisman Nays: none

- b. Mr. Schuchat updated the council members on the progress of several OPC-funded projects and discussed several new bills related to the OPC or OPC issues.
- 9. Amber Mace gave the report of the Science Advisor and announced that a call for nominations would be released shortly for members of the OPC Science Advisory Team.
- 10. Secretary Chrisman adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.