



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Amber Mace, OPC Science Advisor

DATE: February 29, 2007

RE: Adoption of the OPC Science Advisory Team

ATTACHMENTS: (1) [Recommendations for members of the OPC Scientific Advisory Team](#)
(2) [Biographic sketch for each recommended member](#)
(3) [Selection criteria](#)
(4) [Complete list of nominees](#)

REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends the council approve the following resolution:

“The Ocean Protection Council approves and adopts the attached nominees as members of the OPC Science Advisory Team and directs the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust to co-chair the team.”

BACKGROUND

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Five-Year Strategic Plan calls for the establishment of a Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) and AB1056, signed by the Governor in September of 2007, requires the OPC to establish a science advisory body. In February 2006, the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust (CalOST) was formally designated as the OPC Science Advisor and was authorized to co-chair the OPC-SAT and oversee its creation. The goal of the OPC-SAT is to ensure that the best available science is applied to OPC policy decisions. The Science Advisor will call on members of the team to provide expert review, advice, and synthesis of scientific inquiries made by OPC or its staff. They will work with the Science Advisor directly or will recommend other experts for reviews or special-topic working groups to discuss research priorities and critical management problems. The members will not meet regularly, however all meetings will be open to the public and noticed in advance. The members will consist of volunteer scientists who are willing to donate their time and expertise to assist the council in addressing the significant challenges to ocean health facing California and the nation. Members will serve under the direction of the OPC Science Advisor and serve at the pleasure of the OPC. This recommended team will meet all the requirements set forth in the OPC strategic plan and AB1056.

Primary Tasks

OPC-SAT members may be called upon to:

- Respond to scientific questions posed by the OPC;
- Evaluate the technical merit of scientific and technical projects developed for OPC or recommend experts to provide advice;
- Provide technical advice to OPC staff;
- Assist in convening or participating in technical working groups and science forums to address critical management problems;
- Assist in ranking and refining annual scientific research priorities; and
- Identify critical emerging science issues of concern to the OPC.

There are currently 25 nominees presented here for consideration and appointment to the OPC-SAT. The selection criteria that the OPC adopted at the October 2007 meeting provided a framework to identify the top candidates out of 117 nominations. The OPC Science Advisor developed this set of recommendations based on the selection criteria, as well as expert advice from leading scientists, NGO and management and policy experts, including members of the California Ocean Science Trust and the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies. The recommended nominees represent a balance in terms of expertise relevant to OPC's deliberations identified in the OPC strategic plan and the California Information Research and Outreach Strategy, as well as disciplinary representation, institutional affiliations, and geography. In subsequent years, new names will be nominated annually or biannually, subject to OPC request, review, and approval.

The proposed candidates meet all of the selection criteria and have the qualifications necessary to fulfill their responsibilities as effective members of the OPC Science Advisory Team.