



California Ocean Protection Council

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) was established in 2004 by the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA). Created to integrate and coordinate the state's laws and institutions responsible for conserving and protecting ocean resources, OPC was tasked with the following four primary objectives:

- **Coordinate activities of ocean-related state agencies to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean and coastal resources;**
- **Establish policies to coordinate among agencies the collection and sharing of scientific data related to coast and ocean resources;**
- **Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law and policy to achieve COPA goals;**
- **Identify and recommend changes in federal law and policy to the Governor and Legislature.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

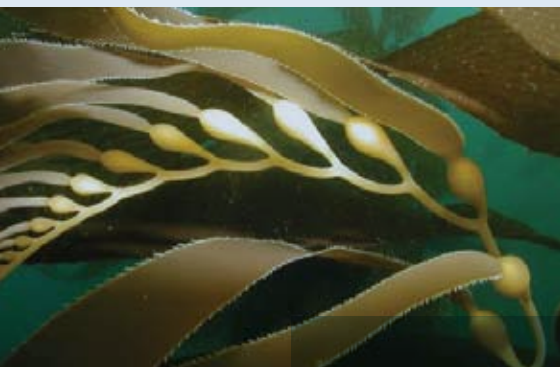
- **Lester Snow**, *Secretary for Resources, Council Chair*
- **Linda Adams**, *Secretary for Environmental Protection*
- **John Chiang**, *State Controller, Chair of the State Lands Commission*
- **Susan Golding**, *Public Member, CEO and President of the Golding Group*
- **Geraldine Knatz**, *Public Member, Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles*
- **Pedro Nava**, *State Assemblymember (non-voting)*
- **Fran Pavley**, *State Senator (non-voting)*

OPC ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2005–2010)

Through the OPC, the state has an opportunity to bring leadership to ocean and coastal management in California. OPC accomplishes this by elevating ocean and coastal issues to the cabinet level of state government, raising public awareness about ocean and coastal threats and solutions, bringing agencies and stakeholders together to improve ocean and coastal policy and management, and strengthening the integration of science in governmental decisions. The following are some specific examples of successful OPC initiatives over the last five years:

- **Seafloor and Shoreline Mapping**

Led efforts to complete a statewide map of the seafloor and develop a national model for seafloor mapping. The OPC leveraged the state's \$15 million to bring in an additional \$14.5 million for implementing the project and is now kicking off a shoreline mapping effort to create a seamless onshore-offshore high resolution elevation map of the state's 1,100-mile coastal zone.



- **Science Integration**

Established a team of internationally renowned scientists to provide scientific expertise directly to OPC decision making.

- **Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation**

Led the development of the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategies for the ocean and coast and coordinates a statewide team to begin implementing these strategies.

- **Marine Debris**

Brought widespread attention to the problem of marine debris and spurred legislation and local government action to reduce debris pollution.

- **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

Launched a cutting-edge monitoring program for the statewide MPA network.

- **Innovative Fisheries Management**

Invested over \$8 million in preserving California fisheries through community-based collaborations, innovative market approaches, and building capacity and data for improved fishery management.

- **Directed scientific studies and research**

Funded technical and objective reports to inform key state marine management issues such as offshore oil and gas, invasive species, and once-through cooling.

To learn more about the OPC, please visit www.opc.ca.gov.



The mission of the California Ocean Protection Council is to ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.