



Discussion Item

September 10, 2024

Item 4

Discussion Item:

Council Priorities and Process to Inform OPC's 2026-2023 Strategic Plan

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Project Summary:

On February 20, 2020, the Ocean Protection Council adopted the [Strategic Plan to Protect California's Coast and Ocean](#) setting priorities to guide OPC's work through 2025. As we look ahead to the next five years and institutionalizing our priorities through 2030, OPC staff is initiating the process to develop OPC's 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan, with the goal of final approval by the Council at its December 2025 public meeting. This discussion item serves to solicit initial input from the Council on key priorities that should be incorporated in OPC's next strategic plan.

Background and Discussion Questions:

The 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan is centered around four goals and issue-specific objectives and targets, as summarized below:

- **Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change**
 - Sea level rise, coastal storms, flooding, ocean acidification and hypoxia, wetland and seagrass restoration, understanding climate impacts, climate resilience from marine protected areas
- **Goal 2: Advance Equity Across Ocean and Coastal Policies and Actions**
 - Enhancing engagement with California Native American tribes and underserved communities, coastal access, beach water quality
- **Goal 3: Enhance Coastal and Marine Biodiversity**
 - Marine protected areas, water quality, plastics, kelp forest recovery, sustainable fisheries, invasive species

- **Goal 4: Support Ocean Health through a Sustainable Blue Economy**

- Sustainable seafood and fishing communities, sustainable aquaculture, offshore oil platform decommissioning, offshore wind, decarbonizing ports, coastal tourism

To inform our strategic planning process for 2026 - 2030, we request feedback from the Council on the following questions:

- What are your top priorities for OPC’s work through 2030?
- Will the four current goals of climate change, equity, biodiversity and sustainable blue economy adequately encompass the breadth of our work in the next strategic plan?
- Are there priorities in the current plan that should be carried through and/or new priorities that should be included?

Timeline:

Fall 2024: Initiate Council discussion; early tribal consultation; coordination with state agency partners.

Winter 2024/Spring 2025: Host webinar and at least three in-person regional public listening sessions and separate tribally focused roundtables to solicit recommendations on strategic plan priorities; continued interagency coordination.

Late Spring 2025/Early Summer 2025: Release first draft and open public comment; host webinar(s); receive Council feedback during June 10 public meeting; tribal consultation on the draft plan; agency coordination.

Late Summer/Early Fall 2025: Revise draft based on Council, state agency, tribal and public input.

November 2025: Release final Strategic Plan.

December 2025: Council approval at December 9 public meeting.