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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 11 – December 9, 2024

*Providing an update on outcomes
and accomplishments since the
previous OPC Meeting.*

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2026 – 2030 OPC Strategic Plan

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has initiated a public process to solicit early public feedback to inform OPC's forthcoming 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. Building from the current [2020-2025 Strategic Plan](#) centered on the four goals of Climate Change, Equity, Biodiversity, and the Sustainable Blue Economy, the new Strategic Plan will guide OPC's work to protect California's coast and ocean over the next five years.

OPC staff held a virtual [public listening session](#) and separate virtual tribal roundtable on November 20, 2024 to seek public and tribal priorities regarding local projects, ocean research, conservation, and enhanced community engagement. Members of the public are invited to share their priorities to inform the draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan using an [online form](#), or attending an in-person regional listening session in early 2025. In-person sessions will be held in January and February; exact dates and locations will be announced in coming weeks on OPC's website and email listserv.

Budget: Proposition 4

A ballot initiative, the [Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024](#) was approved by the Senate and Assembly, and signed by the Acting Governor, on July 3, 2024 placing this initiative on the November 2024 ballot. Voters approved the \$10 billion bond for water, wildfire, and climate projects, including \$135 million to OPC for projects that advance resilience for ocean and coastal ecosystems and \$75 million for projects to advance sea level rise adaptation. OPC leadership will be coordinating closely with leadership from the State Coastal Conservancy, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Parks, and other state agencies to maximize coordination and leveraged Prop 4 investments that improve coastal and ocean ecosystem health, climate resilience and public access.

Updates By Strategic Plan Goal

Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change

Upcoming Funding Opportunity for Tribal Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning

OPC is currently in the process of developing a new funding opportunity to help California Native American tribes develop sea level rise adaptation plans with information specific to tribal cultural resources. This opportunity will provide funding and support for tribes to lead projects that identify culturally significant sites, such as sacred lands, burial grounds, and other heritage areas, that are at risk from sea level rise, and create or inform adaptation plans to ensure those sites or cultural resources are protected from the impacts of sea level rise.

This effort will help tribes identify and address risks to cultural resources and assist tribal engagement and consultation of local and regional sea level rise planning processes. By conducting their own assessments, tribes will be better positioned to engage with jurisdictions during sea level rise planning processes, ensuring that tribal concerns are appropriately considered without compromising the confidentiality of sensitive cultural information. Additional details on this funding opportunity are expected to be released in early 2025.

Emerging Issue: marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR)

Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) refers to technologies, practices and approaches that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and intend to durably store it for decades to centuries. Ocean based, or marine approaches are collectively referred to as mCDR. Approaches for mCDR range from biological approaches, including increasing phytoplankton production or sinking biomass to the deep ocean, and alteration of seawater chemistry through engineering processes that extract carbon dioxide from seawater and/or the increase pH. OPC has engaged in understanding the latest scientific information regarding the efficacy of these approaches to remove carbon and potential environmental risks of mCDR specific to California; this included attending a workshop in November 2024 hosted by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and Ocean Science Trust (OST), consisting of state agencies, scientific experts, industry representatives, and environmental advocacy organizations. Several technical and regulatory considerations remain for these prototype approaches to be evaluated at pilot and/or larger scales in open waters, specifically in California.

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy released a [National Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Research Strategy](#) on November 12, 2024, identifying how the federal government may fill information gaps related to the potential positive effects and negative environmental, social, and human health impacts of mCDR. OPC will continue to work with external partners to track the state of the science related to ocean carbon removal technologies and consider the potential risks and co-benefits of this emerging field. This topic will be brought as an informational item to the Council in early 2025.

Goal 2: Advance Equity Across Ocean and Coastal Policies and Actions

Environmental Justice Advisory Board for California's Coast and Ocean

The inaugural [Environmental Justice Advisory Board for California's Coast and Ocean](#) (EJ Advisory Board, or Board) was established through an ongoing partnership between the [Better World Group](#) (BWG) and OPC. The Board, comprised of seven members with expertise in equity, tribal engagement, environmental justice, and community outreach, collaborates to provide equity-

centered insights and guidance to help the State address the ocean and coastal needs of California communities, including tribes.

This year, the Board has convened for three quarterly sessions, offering advice on statewide OPC initiatives to better align the State's efforts with the priorities of under-resourced communities. At this Council meeting, OPC staff will present an Information Item ([Item 5](#)) detailing the Board's role in engaging with the State, its membership, structure, and contributions to-date. This includes co-developed shared priorities outlined in the Final EJ Advisory Board Charter ([Exhibit A](#)). With BWG's facilitation and leadership, the EJ Advisory Board will continue meeting quarterly with OPC and state partners to advance equity in ocean and coastal initiatives.

Equity Plan Biennial Assessment

Two years following the adoption of its [Equity Plan](#) in October 2022, OPC is beginning to scope the development of the Plan's first Biennial Assessment. This assessment will track progress, report findings, and identify opportunities for improvement, ensuring accountability and transparency in achieving OPC's equity goals while identifying opportunities to share lessons-learned to assess and advance equity across state agencies. Over the past two years, OPC has provided quarterly updates at Council meetings and highlighted key initiatives in CNRA's [Equity Year-in-Review](#) reports.

The Biennial Assessment will establish a more structured approach to refining benchmarks, tracking progress, and addressing gaps to measure meaningful progress in meeting the goals of the Equity Plan. Better World Group will provide support in developing the assessment and engage the EJ Advisory Board in to advise on community needs, proposed metrics, and offer recommendations to strengthen the Plan's implementation and sustain OPC's equity work.

Goal 3: Enhance Coastal and Marine Biodiversity

United Nations Biodiversity Summit (COP 16) in Cali, Colombia

A group of California leaders, including Secretary Crowfoot and legislative members, traveled to Cali, Colombia in October to showcase California's leadership on biodiversity at the United Nations Biodiversity Summit (the 16th Conference of Parties, or COP 16). CNRA's Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy/OPC Executive Director Jenn Eckerle, OPC Senior Biodiversity Program Manager and Tribal Liaison Mike Esgro, as well as Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat Meghan Hertel and Assistant Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat Madeline Drake, were part of the California delegation. Through speaking engagements, panel discussions, and meetings with national and subnational leaders from across the globe, California highlighted its progress toward conserving 30% of state lands and coastal waters by 2030 and showcased that protecting nature

and fighting climate change are essential for economic security and prosperity. OPC's reflections on the Summit were captured in a [blog post](#) published last month.

Designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

On October 11, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the designation of the [Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary](#) by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This new Sanctuary covers over 4,500 square miles offshore California's Central Coast and will safeguard marine life and habitats, protect areas of cultural significance to California Native American tribes, and prioritize tribal stewardship of the Sanctuary. It is the first tribally-led Sanctuary in the National Marine Sanctuary System and the third largest Sanctuary in the nation. OPC is committed to supporting the long-term management of this new Sanctuary, which will include participation on the Sanctuary Advisory Council and the Intergovernmental Policy Council. The final designation is expected to be complete by early December.

National Ocean Biodiversity Strategy

In June 2024, the United States National Science and Technology Council released the [National Ocean Biodiversity Strategy](#) to strengthen coordination among federal, tribal, state, and non-governmental partners to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage marine biodiversity. On September 26, Executive Director Jenn Eckerle participated on a virtual panel hosted by the Lenfest Ocean Program and Marine Biodiversity Dialogues, titled "Conserving Ocean Life in America – Reflections from State Managers and Practitioners on Implementing the National Ocean Biodiversity Strategy." Topics included California's ongoing efforts to protect marine biodiversity, including advancing California's goal to conserve 30% of state lands and waters by 2030, and how this work can meaningfully inform and leverage federal efforts to implement the National Ocean Biodiversity Strategy. The [panel recording is available](#).

California Coast and Ocean Report Card

OPC and OST are seeking input on the first California Coast and Ocean Report Card, a new product that will use a scientific, indicator-based approach to grade the health of California's coast and ocean. The Report Card is intended to serve as a tool to inform the public and decision-makers about the status of ocean health and to highlight areas where the state can focus solutions. Input is welcome from the public and especially from monitoring programs, community science groups, science networks, and community organizations. Members of the public are invited to fill out an [online submission form](#) (hosted by OST) with a December 9, 2024 priority deadline, although the survey will remain open through 2025.

Conserving 30% of California's Coastal Waters by 2030 (30x30)

In early November, OPC staff completed a 120-day public comment period on the draft-decision making framework parallel with a 150-day tribal consultation period. This public comment period was accompanied by statewide virtual webinars and in-person workshops in three locations across the State: Arcata (North Coast), Monterey (Central Coast), and San Diego (South Coast). Staff also presented the draft framework at the Monterey Bay and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. Updates on the outcomes of this public comment and next steps for advancing 30x30 in coastal waters will be presented during [Item 6a](#) and [Item 6b](#) at the December 9, 2024 Council meeting. Public comment and feedback received during tribal consultation will inform refinement of the draft document which will be presented for consideration and possible adoption at the March 4, 2025 Council meeting.

Ongoing efforts to advance 30x30 in coastal waters include continued partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) to adaptively manage marine protected areas (MPAs), deepening the state's partnership with federal managers to strengthen biodiversity protections in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and, in collaboration with CNRA, initiating early tribal consultation to further explore the concept of Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas. OPC staff additionally attended the annual [30x30 Partnership Summit](#) in October 2024, where staff hosted a Coastal Waters Workshop session and engaged with partners and community members on their coast and ocean priorities for 30x30 efforts.

Supporting the MPA Petition Process

OPC continues to collaborate with CDFW and the FGC to develop and implement a transparent, science-based approach to evaluate petitions submitted by the public proposing changes to the MPA network. At the September Council meeting, OPC [approved investments](#) for developing two tools for petition evaluation: the SeaSketch mapping tool and updating the Connectivity Model. OPC staff is working with the respective project Principal Investigators to develop and roll out the tools in 2025. OPC staff provided an update on the progress and utility of these tools at the November 6, 2024 FGC [Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\) meeting](#). At this meeting, CDFW presented draft recommendations on five of the MPA petitions submitted by the public. CDFW's draft recommendations were approved to be presented at the full FGC meeting in December. The MRC also announced the opportunity for petitioners of the remaining 15 petitions to submit amendments by January 10, 2025. Once amendments are received, evaluation of the remaining 15 petitions will begin.

Advancing the Development of the Kelp Restoration and Management Plan

On October 1, OPC staff, supported by CDFW and California Sea Grant, convened the [Kelp Restoration and Management Plan](#) Science Advisory Committee (SAC) for the fifth time since the group was assembled in 2023. This virtual meeting focused on refining the measurable variables that affect kelp forests ecologically, socially, and economically, as well as their interactions with one another. The SAC will convene virtually in December to develop recommendations for management actions that can influence these variables toward the restoration of California's iconic kelp forests.

Water Quality Monitoring Council: eDNA

The Water Quality Monitoring Council, mandated by statute (SB 1070, Kehoe, 2006) to coordinate and integrate water quality data, held a [focused meeting](#) on September 26 related to state and national priorities related to environmental DNA (eDNA), including an informational presentation on the development of the Intertidal Biodiversity DNA Barcode Library (Intertidal Library), funded by OPC as directed by the Legislature in the Budget Act of 2023. To expand capacity for future coordinated ocean and coastal monitoring, and to align the state's needs with the development of the Intertidal Library, OPC staff gave a presentation on a pathway to integrate eDNA sampling into current and future monitoring programs. A recording of the meeting is [available here](#).

Goal 4: Support Ocean Health Through Sustainable Blue Economy

Evaluating Aquaculture Science Needs

This fall, OPC staff attended two aquaculture workshops hosted by the Ocean Science Trust. The first workshop, held on October 24, presented an opportunity to share knowledge and research findings on ocean acidification and hypoxia and shellfish aquaculture community vulnerability and adaptation on the U.S. West coast. The second workshop, held on November 1, [Farmed Seaweed Science Needs in California](#), focused on priority science needs for understanding the role of farmed seaweed in restoration, resilience, and climate change in California. These workshops highlighted current science and knowledge gaps and will inform development of OPC's forthcoming Aquaculture Action Plan.

Protecting Whales and Sea Turtles and Ensuring Thriving Fisheries

OPC staff attended meetings of the [Dungeness Crab Working Group](#) on October 3 and the [Dungeness Crab Task Force](#) on October 29 and 30. Topics of discussion included lost gear recovery, pop-up fishing gear testing, the establishment of the federal Take Reduction Team, and fisherman-led whale surveys. OPC staff will continue to evaluate next steps for reducing entanglement and

ensuring a thriving fishery through collaborative partnerships with CDFW, NGOs, and the fishing community, promotion of best available science, gear innovation, and response and outreach.

CDFW continues to manage the Dungeness Crab Fishery through the [Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program](#). The Director of CDFW conducted a [risk assessment](#) for the fishery on October 25. This assessment delayed the opening of the commercial season in zones 3-6, implemented a recreational crab trap prohibition in zones 3 and 4, and issued a recreational fleet advisory for all fishing zones. CDFW completed another [risk assessment](#) on November 21, which established a season delay for all commercial fishing zones, a recreational crab trap prohibition of zones 3 and 4, and a recreational fleet advisory for all fishing zones. Quality concerns are expected to delay season opening in commercial zones 1 and 2 until at least December 16, and the recreational fishery in zone 1 is currently closed due to elevated domoic acid levels.

Initial Scoping for a West Coast Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind

OPC, in collaboration with state agency partners, is leading initial scoping and discussions for a West Coast Science Collaborative (WCSC) for Offshore Wind. This effort recognizes that responsible offshore wind development on the West Coast will require comprehensive, innovative, and coordinated environmental research and monitoring to understand and minimize impacts to wildlife and marine ecosystems. Initial discussions have identified a need for a WCSC, similar to the [Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind](#) established on the East Coast, to provide independent and objective scientific expertise that can inform coordinated environmental research, monitoring and analysis, and support regulatory decision making and ongoing adaptive management.

OPC, in collaboration with the Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, CDFW, and the California Energy Commission, has developed an initial draft scope to catalyze early and targeted discussions with federal, NGO, and tribal partners. In late October 2024, OPC sent letters requesting early consultation with California Native American tribes and anticipates initiating a public process in early 2025 to gather broader feedback and finalize a scope. OPC received \$3M in the Budget Act of 2024 to initiate scoping and launch of WCSC. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has offered an additional \$700K to support the scoping effort, which could include facilitation, workshop planning, outreach materials, and compensation for tribal participation, among other activities.

Completed Proposition 84 Projects

In 2018, the Council [unanimously approved 24 research projects](#) totaling \$6 million in funding through the Proposition 84 Competitive Grants Program. The projects were administered by

California Sea Grant and University of Southern California (USC) Sea Grant to support state priorities related to sea level rise adaptation and coastal resilience, coastal sediment management, marine pollution, and marine renewable energy. Projects were completed with final data and deliverables received this past year.

- [Coastal Flood Projections and Socioeconomic Impacts Due to Sea Level Rise and Storms for the North Coast Using the Coastal Storm Modeling System \(CoSMoS\)](#). P. Barnard, United States Geological Survey (USGS), M. Fitzgibbon, Point Blue Conservation Science, and M. Hayden, *Our Coast Our Future*. Administered by USC Sea Grant
- [Groundwater inundation hazards and socioeconomic impacts due to sea-level rise across the California coast](#). P. Barnard, United States Geological Survey (USGS), M. Fitzgibbon, Point Blue Conservation Science, and K. Befus, University of Arkansas. Administered by USC Sea Grant.
- [Tribal Intertidal Digital Ecological Surveys \(TIDES\) Project: Using Large-Area Imaging to Assess Intertidal Vulnerability to Sea-Level Rise with Coastal Indigenous Nations](#). J. Smith and S. Giddings, University of California, San Diego. Administered by USC Sea Grant.
- [Using Green Engineering Techniques to Restore Coastal Sand Dunes in Border Field State Park, San Diego, CA](#). H. Elwany and F. Scarelli, Coastal Environments, Inc, D. Hubbard, University of California, Santa Barbara. Administered by USC Sea Grant.
- [Statewide assessment of California cliff erosion and retreat](#). A. Young and M. Merrifield, University of California, San Diego. Administered by USC Sea Grant.
- [Humboldt Coastal Resilience Project \(HCRP\): Analyzing beach-dune morphodynamics and vegetation controls on coastal resiliency to develop decision support tools and adaptation measures for sea-level rise and extreme events along the Eureka Littoral Cell, Northern California](#). I. Walker, Arizona State University and A. Pickart, United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Administered by USC Sea Grant.
- [Assessing the combined effects of ocean acidification and warming on disease susceptibility and restoration success of the critically endangered white abalone](#). K. Aquilino, University of California, Davis. Administered by California Sea Grant.
- [Geography of Stress: Impacts of Ocean Acidification Along the California Coast](#). T. Hill, University of California, Davis. Administered by California Sea Grant.
- [An ecophysiological framework to assess hypoxia driven habitat loss in the California Current Ecosystem](#) [Project link forthcoming in December 2024]. C. Deutsch, Princeton University. Administered by California Sea Grant.
- [Interaction Between Microplastics and Pathogen Pollutants in Marine Ecosystems: Implications for Seafood Safety](#). K. Shapiro, University of California, Davis and C. Rochman, University of Toronto. Administered by USC Sea Grant.

- [Advancing Portable Detection Capabilities of Harmful algal Bloom species in California Waters.](#) *H. Bowers, San Jose State University and J. Smith, San Jose State University. Administered by USC Sea Grant.*
- [Multiple Stressors and Toxic Pseudo-nitzschia Blooms in California Waters: Understanding the Complex Interactive Impacts of Nutrients, Temperature, and Carbonate Chemistry.](#) *D. Hutchins, University of Southern California and F. Feixue, University of Southern California. Administered by USC Sea Grant.*
- [Present and Future Climatic Drivers of Domoic Acid Toxicity in Coastal Ecosystems of California.](#) *W. Cochlan, San Francisco State University. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [Linking Terrestrial Pollution to Estuarine Water Quality: Quantification of the Role of Groundwater in the Transport, Transformation, and Removal of Agricultural Pollutants in Elkhorn Slough, CA.](#) *M. Zimmer, University of California, Santa Cruz. Administered by USC Sea Grant.*
- [Improving management under MLMA by accounting for effects of MLPA MPAs on fisheries.](#) *L. Botsford, University of California, Davis. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [Benefits beyond biomass: Bio-physical feedbacks within Marine Protected Areas may promote ecosystem resilience in the face of global climate change.](#) *A. Stier, University of California, Santa Barbara. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [A DNA Metabarcoding Approach to Monitoring Fish Spawning and Population Connectivity in Coastal Southern and Central California.](#) *R. Burton, University of California, San Diego. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [A multi-faceted approach to enhance sustainability of the California spiny lobster fishery.](#) *K. Hovel, San Diego State University. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [Understanding ocean warming impacts on shrinking body sizes of California fishes Linking pattern & mechanism to support future sustainable fisheries.](#) *L. Komoroske, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [The population Dynamics of Southern California Paralabrax spp. in the face of a changing ocean.](#) *B. Semmens, University of California, San Diego. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [Habitat characterization, fishery development and stock structure of swordfish off California.](#) *C. Sepulveda, Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [Sea Feeds: Identification and culture of Californian marine macroalgae capable of reducing greenhouse gas production from ruminant livestock.](#) *L. Gardner, San Jose State University. Administered by California Sea Grant.*
- [Wave Energy Conversion in California under the present and future Climate and economic feasibility analysis of different technologies \(WE3C\).](#) *B. Reguero, University of California, Santa Cruz. Administered by USC Sea Grant.*

- [California Offshore Wind: Workforce and Grid Integration Analysis](#). R. Collier, University of California, Berkeley. Administered by USC Sea Grant.

Legislation

The following is an update on coastal and ocean-related legislative proposals tracked by OPC staff at the end of this legislative session:

[AB 106 \(Gabriel\)](#): This authorizes the Legislature suspend the authority to expend one-time funding provided in Section 2 of the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Budget Acts until June 30, 2024. (Chapter 9, Statutes of 2024).

[AB 1284 \(Ramos\)](#): This bill encourages the Secretary of Natural Resource or the Secretary's delegate to enter into co-governance and co-management agreements with federally recognized tribes for the purpose of shared responsibility, decision-making, and partnership in resource management and conservation within a tribe's ancestral lands and waters. Signed by Governor on September 27, 2024. (Chapter 657, Statutes of 2024).

[AB 1533 \(Utilities and Energy Committee\)](#): This bill specifies that energy generated by the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant could not be counted toward the state's "zero carbon" energy goals after August 26, 2025. Signed by Governor on September 22, 2024. (Chapter 353, Statutes of 2024).

[AB 1797 \(Wood\)](#): This bill establishes the Dungeness crab (*Metacarcinus magister*) as the official state crustacean. Signed by Governor on September 27, 2024. (Chapter 667, Statutes of 2024).

[AB 1881 \(Davies\)](#): This bill amends the Coastal Act to allow the Governor's appointment to the Commission who is currently required to reside in and work with environmental justice communities to, alternatively, have a professional background in geology, environmental engineering, carpentry, or building and construction trades. Signed by Governor on July 15, 2024. (Chapter 88, Statutes of 2024).

[AB 1992 \(Boerner\)](#): This bill would amend the Coastal Act to explicitly authorize the Coastal Commission to authorize blue and teal carbon demonstration projects, defined as the creation or restoration of coastal wetland, intertidal, or marine habitats or ecosystems, including, but not limited to, seagrasses and wetlands that capture carbon. [Vetoed by Governor](#) on September 22, 2024.

[AB 2214 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#): This bill would require OPC, on or before March 1, 2025, the council to establish and lead an interagency coordination group and adopt a workplan to implement the

Statewide Microplastics Strategy on or before December 31, 2025. [Vetoed by Governor](#) on September 22, 2024.

[AB 2537 \(Addis\)](#): This bill would create the Offshore Wind Community Capacity Building Fund Grant Account in the Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection Program for the California Energy Commission to award for capacity building grants within local communities and tribal communities to engage in the process of offshore wind energy development. [Vetoed by Governor](#) on September 22, 2024.

[AB 2298 \(Hart\)](#): This bill would require OPC to participate in an advisory capacity to the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program to support coastal air districts in their efforts to implement a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California coast in order to reduce air pollution, the risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts. Held in Senate Appropriations.

[AB 2572 \(Muratsuchi\)](#): This bill would require the California Air Resources Board to develop a plan to include ocean carbon dioxide removal technology and projects that it determines are environmentally safe and sustainable into the Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program by January 1, 2027. Held in Assembly Appropriations.

[SB 867 \(Allen\)](#): This bill enacts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10 billion to finance projects for safe drinking water, water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, and related projects. This bill includes \$135 million to OPC for projects that advance resilience for ocean and coastal ecosystems and \$75 million for projects to advance sea level rise adaptation. Signed by Governor on July 3, 2024. (Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024).

[SB 951 \(Weiner\)](#): This bill amends the Coastal Act to exempt a city and county from specific appeal provisions related to developments approved by a coastal county. Signed by Governor on September 27, 2024. (Chapter 775, Statutes of 2024).