

Comments for the December 9, 2025, [OPC meeting agenda](#):  
From Keith Rootsart, Giant Kelp Restoration Project in Monterey

#### **Agenda Item 4. 2026-2030 OPC Strategic Plan**

In 2023, Assembly Bill 1407 sought a 5,000 acre target for kelp restoration by 2050. Strategic Plan Objective 3.3.2 establishes a 500 acre target for kelp restoration by 2030; 10% of the 2050 goal. Since the kelp crisis began a decade ago, progress towards this objective has not advanced because kelp restoration is still unfunded and illegal. Let's get started!

#### **Agenda Item 6. Climate Vulnerability of California's Natural Surfing Capital**

This is a great study that should be extended to other ocean recreational activities like diving, kayaking, and tourism in Monterey. Kelp restoration is a low-cost nature-based solution to mitigate the effects of sea level rise by reducing beach erosion, making better waves for surf riders, and provides a rich biodiverse habitat for over 800 species that benefit all ocean lovers.

#### **Agenda Item 9. Proposition 4 Emergency Regulations**

We advised the Council that the kelp crisis was urgent in 2019. Now the Monterey urchin outbreak has wrecked kelp forests from Monterey to Morro Bay. After a decade of hoping the crisis would cure itself, these regulations are no longer an emergency response, but an expensive recovery. Costs will continue to escalate exponentially the longer it takes to obtain funding and permission. We remain committed to helping our kelp.



Keith Rootsart, 2019 OPC Meeting



Keith Rootsart and friends, 2024 Mermaid Convention

#### **Agenda Item 10. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

The 2025 Proposition 68 grant funding for Advancing 30x30 in Coastal Waters accepted 145 Letters of Interest to submit full applications for only a dozen projects. The criteria for acceptance were very broad and not vetted for which projects the State was interested in pursuing; most applicants will be disappointed. Our LOI was accepted and we submitted a full application for consideration.

Thank you.

TO: Ocean Protection Council members

FR: Eileen Boken,  
State and Federal Legislative Liaison

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods\*

\*For identification purposes only.

RE: Written Submission for December 9, 2025 Ocean Protection Council Meeting Agenda Item #10 Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

NEW SUBJECT

Below is the link to an article on climate change and new research on the role of nitrogen fixation in climate change in the Arctic:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/scientists-stunned-uncovering-remarkable-discovery-234000656.html>

NEW SUBJECT

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), which reports to the Natural Resources Agency, is fully funding a grant for the pilot project to install offshore desalination off the coast of Fort Bragg.

The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods sponsored a presentation of the Oneka Technologies product on November 12, 2025 as San Francisco is built out and would be unable to accommodate onshore desal.

NEW SUBJECT

I'm encouraging the Natural Resources Agency to support the Bay Delta Plan rather than the Voluntary Agreement as the Voluntary Agreement is non-binding.

NEW SUBJECT

I'm opposing the renewal of the sandmining leases in San Francisco Bay.

NEW SUBJECT

Attached is a resolution by the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods which was passed unanimously at its November General Assembly meeting.

The resolution urges the current Mayor to transfer the Emergency Firefighting Water System aka Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS) from the SF Public Utilities Commission back to the SF Fire Department.

Transferring AWSS from the SF Fire Department to the SF Public Utilities Commission on May 10, 2010 was then San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's serious miscalculation and needs to be corrected.



November 18, 2025

Mayor Daniel Lurie  
Paul Yep, Chief for Public Safety  
Han Zou, Communication Director  
Dean Crispen, Chief of Fire Department  
Garreth Miller, Assistant Deputy Chief, ESER Project Manager  
Carla Short, Director of Department of Public Works  
Scott Anderson, Deputy Director for Project Delivery  
Stephen Robinson, Assistant General Manager for Infrastructure  
Carmen Chu, City Administrator  
Brian Strong, Director for Office of Resilience and Capital Planning

## CSFN Resolution Advocating for the Transfer of the Auxiliary Water Supply System

WHEREAS, As a result of the 1906 earthquake, San Francisco voters approved a General Obligation Bond to build a firefighting system of water pipes, hydrants and pumps which are independent of the City's drinking water system.

WHEREAS, This system was completed in 1913 and was designated as the Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS).

WHEREAS, In 1913 AWSS coverage was primarily in the northeast quadrant of the City.

WHEREAS, Even though AWSS has been expanded since 1913, large areas in both the Westside and Southeast currently have no AWSS protection.

WHEREAS, Since 1913 AWSS and its assets have been under the jurisdiction of the SF Fire Department (SFFD) with design and engineering under the auspices of the SF Department of Public Works (SFDPW).

WHEREAS, In 2010, despite an ESER Bond being on the ballot, then Mayor Gavin Newsom balanced the City's Great Recession budget by transferring AWSS jurisdiction and assets from the SFFD to the SFPUC.

WHEREAS, Since 2010 the SFPUC has implemented a number of AWSS policies which have had significantly negative impacts on the system.

WHEREAS, Instead of expanding AWSS, the SFPUC installed a system of cisterns on the Westside.

WHEREAS, Even though SFFD has only 44 fire apparatus, a single cistern requires two fire apparatus to extinguish fires; one to pump water out of the cistern and one to extinguish the fires.

WHEREAS, Once the fires are extinguished, a cistern does not automatically refill but must be refilled manually.

WHEREAS, The SFPUC then attempted to implement the Flexible Water Supply System (FWSS) which uses 350 lb hoses but was forced to abandon this approach as infeasible.

WHEREAS, The SFPUC is now attempting to implement a potable (drinking) water AWSS system which theoretically has the co-benefits of using a single water pipe for both drinking water and emergency firefighting.

WHEREAS, Although the SFPUC has stated that this concept comes from Japan, no fire departments in Japan seem to use it.

WHEREAS, Despite its naming convention, potable water AWSS does not primarily use drinking water but primarily uses "raw" water from Lake Merced.

WHEREAS, Once raw water enters drinking water pipes, the SF Department of Public Health would be required to issue a "boil water" alert.

WHEREAS, Once the catastrophic fires have been completely extinguished, water pipes which have been contaminated with raw water would need to be flushed out over a period of weeks even months.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, Based on the SFPUC's numerous policy missteps regarding AWSS, CSFN insists that the current mayor initiate a process to transfer the AWSS jurisdiction and assets from the SFPUC back to the SFFD including current unencumbered and encumbered AWSS funds in the Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response (ESER) Bond program, as well as, any future AWSS funds from the proposed June 2026 ESER Bond.

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President CSFN  
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