

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.