



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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To: California Ocean and Coastal Community

From: John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources and Chair, California Ocean Protection Council

Date: June 10, 2014

Subject: Highlights from the June 10, 2014 OPC meeting

The Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) June 10, 2014 meeting in Sacramento addressed topics including membership of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team and long-term MPA monitoring. The following are highlights from the meeting. The meeting webcast will be posted to the following website within the next 24 hours:

<http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/meetings/> (click on "webcast" to the right of "June 10"). I look forward to seeing you at the next OPC meeting currently being scheduled for late August 2014.

Agenda **Appointment to the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT)**

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The Council appointed Mr. Barry Wayne McCovey, Jr. to the OPC-SAT. Mr. McCovey has served as a fisheries biologist with the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program for over 10 years. Mr. McCovey received his B.S. in fisheries biology from Humboldt State University. Pursuant to AB 1056 (Leno), the OPC established a Science Advisory Team consisting up to 25 respected scientists from across a range of ocean and coastal disciplines and research institutions. The mission of the OPC-SAT is to support the OPC in ensuring that the best available science informs OPC policy and funding decisions.

Agenda **Authorization to disburse up to \$3,000,000 for long-term monitoring of the Central Coast marine protected area (MPA) network**

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The Council authorized \$3,000,000 to support scientific monitoring of the Central Coast regional MPA network. Data collected with OPC support will be used to adaptively manage the MPAs, as called for in the Marine Life Protection Act, and broadly inform other ocean resource management issues such as climate change, fisheries, and water quality. The Central Coast region is the first region to enter the next phase of the adaptive management cycle, and funds were authorized for disbursement beginning this fall and continuing of the next five years. Monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the state Monitoring Framework and updated Central Coast Monitoring Plan, to be considered for adoption by the Fish and Game Commission later this summer. OPC funds will provide a portion of the funds necessary for

a robust Central Coast monitoring initiative, and funds will be leveraged through a partnership-based approach.

The OPC meeting was preceded by a workshop on “The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan” (Partnership Plan). The Partnership Plan is an overarching guidance document developed under the leadership of Ocean Protection (OPC) in collaboration with several state agencies for a variety of entities to understand how they can participate in the stewardship of marine protected areas. OPC and partnering state agency staff received very helpful comments to improve this document. The plan is currently available on the [OPC website](#) and public comments will be accepted until July 18, 2014 (a longer public comment period is provided for tribes and tribal communities).

For more meeting details, please visit our website: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/meetings/>