



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Resources Agency
Leah Akins, Ocean and Coastal Policy Analyst, Resources Agency

DATE: September 15, 2005

RE: Consideration of adoption of California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy (Agenda Item #9)

Requested Action

Staff recommends that the council adopt the following resolution:

"The California Ocean Protection Council adopts the attached *California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research and Outreach Strategy*."

Background

California's ocean action plan, *Protecting our Ocean: California's Action Strategy*, calls on the California Ocean Protection Council to develop a state-wide ocean and coastal information, research, and outreach strategy (Action 4). This strategy will help the council fulfill the mandate of the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA). In the strategy, council staff is recommending six actions (Section III) to help the council achieve COPA's mandate to improve monitoring and data gathering and advance scientific understanding to continually improve efforts to protect, conserve, restore, and manage coastal waters and ocean ecosystems. The strategy contains a policy for state funded research projects (Section IV) and information, research, and outreach needs (V and VI) that staff is recommending that the council use to prioritize projects for funding.

The strategy was developed by the following process:

- Council staff partnered with the California Sea Grant College and Extension Programs, the University of California Marine Council, the California Ocean Science Trust, and the Resources Agency to co-sponsor a workshop to help identify California's high priority ocean and coastal information, research, and outreach needs.
- Based on the results of this workshop, council staff developed a Draft Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy and solicited public comment on the draft strategy.
- Council staff revised the draft strategy based on public comment and scientific advice and is presenting the attached revised strategy to the council on September 23, 2005 for its adoption.