

## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2005 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Scripps Library, Eckart Building  
8755 Biological Grade, La Jolla, California

#### **Council Members in Attendance:**

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair  
Cruz Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor, Chair of the State Lands Commission  
Alan Lloyd, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Bill Craven for Sheila Kuehl, State Senator, Ex officio Member  
Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember, Ex officio Member

#### **Meeting Highlights:**

- *Voted* to send a letter to members of Congress and the President stating, “Any pending federal legislation regarding Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing must retain all protections from the Congressional leasing moratorium and should seek to make these protections permanent.”
- *Voted* on a motion for the chair to work with staff to frame the issues regarding once-through cooling for coastal power plants and hold a special meeting, if necessary, on this issue.
- *Directed* staff to investigate options for developing a long-term vision for the council, establishing a science advisory team, hiring an executive director and staff, developing integrated financing mechanisms, and establishing a process to review state legislation.
- *Adopted* the California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy.
- *Released* the Preliminary Strategic Plan for the California Coastal Ocean Observing System for public comment.
- *Requested* public input on the priority areas proposed for the State Water Resources Control Board’s \$10 million commitment to the OPC. The two priority areas proposed by State Water Board staff are Areas of Special Biological Significance and Rapid Indicators.

#### **Projects:**

- *Dedicated* \$1 million to ocean and coastal research through a partnership with California’s Sea Grant programs.
- *Became* the major sponsor of the California and the World Ocean Conference 2006, hosted by the California Resources Agency and California Environmental Protection Agency, to be held September 17-20, 2006 in Long Beach, California by committing \$150,000.
- *Authorized* the use of \$2 million of state funds to contribute to the public/private partnership focused on the removal the Matilija Dam on the Ventura River.
- *Funded a* \$101,300 planning grant to develop a revolving loan fund for sustainable fisheries.
- *Authorized* the use of \$50,000 to conduct a study to analyze options for permanent funding for ocean and coastal protection.

#### **1. Welcome, introductions, and council member announcements**

*Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair*

The Chair opened the third session of the California Ocean Protection Council (council).

Chair announcements:

- Summarized the July 22, 2005 California Ocean Economic Summit held by the California Biodiversity Council, during which the council released the “California’s Ocean Economy” report. The study concluded that California has the largest Ocean Economy in the US and ranks number one overall for both employment and gross state product (GSP). The two most dominant sectors in California’s Ocean Economy are Tourism/Recreation and Marine Transportation.
- Announced Resources Agency’s active pursuit of sponsorships for the California and the World Ocean (CWO) 2006 conference, to be held from Sept. 17 through Sept. 20, 2006 in Long Beach, California.
- With regard to offshore oil and gas developments: In August, the Coastal Commission objected to 10 federal consistency determinations on lease terms for 36 undeveloped OCS oil and gas leases in the Northern Santa Maria Basin and Santa Barbara Channel, based on lack of adequate information provided by the U.S. Department of Interior’s Minerals Management Service. The Service will not be able to extend the terms of these leases without satisfying this requirement. DOI requested comments on 5-year oil and gas plan; the Governor is preparing comments due on October 11, 2005. Governor and OPC letters suggest that federal government policy must not get in the way of California’s efforts to preserve the state’s environment. The policy of this administration has been and will continue to be strong objection to any new leases or lease extensions to protect the shorelines. The letters also include three recommendations: strengthening of the oil and gas lease moratorium language; prohibit federal funds to be spent on oil and gas lease planning; and oppose any efforts to reduce the states’ ability under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) to prevent inappropriate federal development of these leases.

Announcements from other council members:

- Alan Lloyd: The State Water Resources Control Board will have a workshop on Sept. 26, 2005 to receive comments on cooling water structures relating to entrainment, held at Laguna Beach City Hall.
- Paul Thayer (for Lt. Gov. Bustamante): The State Lands Commission will meet in San Diego in Dec. 2005; location not yet set.

## **2. ACTION: Consideration of adoption of June 10 meeting minutes**

The Chair requested consideration and adoption of last meeting minutes, including any comments or corrections. Nava clarified his remarks on affordable parking were related to encouraging public participation and access; asked that minutes be modified to indicate context. Minutes approved.

## **3. Public comment on non-agenda items**

(Guidelines: keep speaking time to 3-5 minutes.)

- Dick Seymour: Researcher at Scripps, principle on ocean data gathering efforts. Presented California Airborne LiDAR Terrain Mapping (CalTM) and the requirements to get CalTM operating: data analysis facility, airplane, and a LiDAR system. Benefits include on-demand surveys, cost reduction, and the ability to respond rapidly to disaster. When asked by the council to provide a cost estimate, Seymour responded that he could provide an estimate at a later time.
- Rodolphe Streichenberger: President of the Marine Forests Society (MFS; Newport Beach, California). Argued against the duplicity of the permit process at the California Coastal Commission (CCC), and stated that the California Coastal Act created a bureaucracy of permits. Asks the council to do something about the jurisdictions of permits in Coastal Act Sections 30600a and 30106, and to review and suggest changes/corrections to the Coastal Act for the first time in 29 years.
- Tony Melum: Member of Marine Forests Society and retired Tidelands Administrator for the City of Newport Beach. Noticed benefits of private groups' enhancement of upland areas and believes private successes may be duplicated in intertidal and nearshore habitats. Proposed the Marine Forests Society implement small-scale marine habitat enhancement projects conducted by volunteers and environmental groups on State tidelands. These areas would be protected from open access resulting in overfishing, but exclusive fishing rights; would be granted. Welcomed inquiries and support.
- Mark Rauscher: Assistant Environmental Director of Surfrider. Strongly supports OPC efforts. Urged the Council to develop a greater vision to facilitate restoration projects, to protect pristine areas and maintain integrity of intact watersheds and habitats. There are zero incidents of watersheds on coast recovering once degraded. Maintaining the integrity of these areas should be critical to the OPC. He urged protection of San Mateo Creek, and other watersheds, as pilot projects for this complete protection effort. Urged development of institutional linkages at all levels to work toward a vision of healthy coasts.
- James Hudnall: Save Our Seals Coalition; naturalist. Discussed harbor seals at Children's Beach in La Jolla. The La Jolla rookery is a tourist attraction. City Council lets the public chase seals away and recently a Judge ordered the city to dredge the beach. There has been a public effort to prevent public from disturbing the seals by making public stay behind a raked line. Harbor seals are an important part of ecosystem: rich kelp beds; but their role is not exactly known.

DIRECTIVE TO STAFF: Lloyd asked staff to follow up on this issue.

- Steve Foltz: Chesapeake Fish Company and Gillnet Fisherman. Urged the council to look at gillnet fishery laws and regulations and to change them; the council can help achieve balance, including between recreational and commercial fishers.
- Aimee David: Monterey Bay Aquarium's new Center for the Future of the Oceans. Commended the council's work. Urged actions to be informed and guided by science,

and to move California toward ecosystem based management. Urged a long range vision for the council, and the integrated work of all state agencies.

- James Hogan: Gen-Probe Inc. (the company screens much of nation's blood supply for various pathogens). Spoke in support of rapid indicator testing for beach water quality. Urged support of research funding to bring technology on line ASAP.
- Pete Halmay: Sea urchin fisherman. Urged a change in fishery management to allow fishermen to take over duties including data collection to improve management.

DISCUSSION. Chair announced the council is implementing the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) and it is critical that fishermen stay involved and lay out future of marine protection and conservation.

- Gabriel Solmer: San Diego Baykeeper. Echoed the harbor seal issue. Discussed devastating impacts of one-through cooling at power plants. Believes the council should coordinate state agencies.

DIRECTIVE TO STAFF: The council's role in the hearings on once-through cooling has not been determined. It is an appropriate issue. Report requested from staff and the Energy Commission, and decision to act on it based on that at another meeting.

ACTION: Nava motioned that the Chair work with staff on this issue; and if necessary call a special meeting to reach conclusion on framing the issues on once through cooling. Cruz seconded. Lloyd abstained because Water Board is considering. Moved.

- Rebecca Verity: University of California's Office of the President. As move forward with scientific panel and vision planning in January, use the UC Office of the President as a resource.
- Leimana DaMate: Represents Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council, formed in January, for which she represents the Association of Civil Clubs. Hawaii's council is looking at management with ecosystem based protection for resources (ahupua'a concept), and she urged this for California. Also, urged involving Native Americans that live along the coastline. In Hawaii, they're looking at the cultural practices of Native Hawaiians for guidance, as well as community based management, in managing resources.

DISCUSSION. Chair requested that as the strategic vision is drafted, DaMate stay involved.

#### 4. Federal and State affairs

*Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Resources Agency  
Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy, Council Secretary*

Brian Baird presented the federal affairs report:

- Admiral James Watkins and Leon Panetta announced a joint ocean initiative with the mission of accelerating the pace of reform.

- CA needs a better way of working collaboratively with the feds and this should be part of strategic planning strategy.
- Bills since last meeting include Oceans 21 and BOB. Both of these look at large scale reforms, and are omnibus bills. Expected that, due to jurisdictional and other issues, they will not move forward in their current state.
- Woolsey Bill will expand boundaries of Cordell Bank and Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Bill is now in House Resources Committee.
- There are now over 50 bills in Congress including reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Act, bills regarding aquaculture, a bill for ocean observing, and an organic act for NOAA.

Sam Schuchat presented the state affairs report. Schuchat asked the Chair to direct staff on how the council would like these updates to be presented in the future.

- Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) task force has made progress: Fish and Game Commission has adopted the master plan framework. A Central Coast Group will assess the existing MPAs in the Central coast and will make recommendations. A science advisory team is advising the process.
- Marine Life Management Act (MLMA): The state now has 3 fishery management plans (FMPs) in place. An abalone recovery plan is still in draft (for the last 6 years). A master plan has been developed that includes a priority list of FMPs. The top 3 FMPS are for the nearshore shark, CA halibut, and sea urchin FMPs.
- Other state legislation: AB601 (salmon stamp program); AB749 (dungeness crab fishery); SD163 (money for OPC Trust fund, and other entities); SB658 (vehicle registration fees).

Comment from council members:

- Nava is struck by the inconsistency in the direction of council work as it relates to marine protection and trying to coordinate different agencies and efforts given what is the crisis of the oceans. Dismayed by hearing encouraging efforts from the federal end regarding marine protection and then learning of the House Budget Reconciliation Act.

**ACTION:** Nava moved – with discussion afterward – to ask the Chair to send a letter to Congressmen Pombo, Chair of Resources Committee (draft letter attached to handout). Lt. Gov. Bustamante seconded.

**DISCUSSION:** Nava discussed the House Budget Reconciliation Act (through Pombo) rendering a great deal of the council's work irrelevant. Section 6265 should give us pause: Termination of effect of laws prohibiting the spending of appropriated funds for certain purposes. The proposal rolls back efforts the council/State has been engaged in to protect the coast by allowing federal fund spending for outer continental shelf development. Other provisions of the proposal fly in the face of science. It allows for categorical exemption from NEPA of seismic airguns for oil exploration. Further, other elements of this proposal essentially kill the 25-year bipartisan Congressional OCS oil and gas moratorium. Nava stated that it is important that the council act immediately, and as the Governor and this administration have been a champion of coastal protection and in fighting offshore oil development, it is consistent to ask the Chair to send a letter to the federal government and

Congressman Pombo that the council has serious concerns with this direction on the federal side. Chair agreed.

Public Comment on House Budget Reconciliation Act:

- Warren Chabot, Vice President of the Ocean Conservancy. Stated that this legislation has strategically not been made public, and is proposed for action in about 5 days in the House Resources Committee. It proposes to immediately eliminate offshore oil and gas moratoria, and will allow lease sales to be exempt from NEPA. Specifically, it requires that 75% of areas under moratorium (the entire eastern and western seaboard of the U.S.) be opened up to leasing and proposes that lease sales conducted be exempt from NEPA. The proposal proclaims that the federal 5-year plan constitutes adequate environmental protection.

ACTION: Lt. Gov. Bustamante believes a letter to Pombo is not sufficient and added to the motion that the letter goes to the California delegation and to the President. Moved.

Additional public comment on federal and state affairs:

- Paul Michel, EPA Region IX. Suggested adding coastal hazard planning to the list of enhanced collaborative efforts with the feds. To see the federal linkages, perhaps the council should invite federal agencies to attend a meeting(s) and talk with the council directly. Chair agreed.
- Steve Aceti: Director of the California Coastal Coalition. Co-sponsor of SB658: coastal counties can voluntarily impose a vehicle registration fee. Important to urge the Governor to sign the bill; asked if council or council members can assist.

DISCUSSION. Chair commented that individually council members have venues to support legislation, but the council needs a clearly defined process to respond to specific bills. He wants this to be part of the strategic planning effort. Bustamante argued in support of the bill and will personally write a letter to the Governor. Bustamante believes that in the future, when a process is in place for responding to legislation, the council could actually propose legislation as well. Lloyd abstained from commenting on the bill. Craven (as Senator Kuehl's representative) thanked Aceti, agreed with Chair that the council should support this type of legislation in the future, and that the council must establish a process, but this is a key piece of legislation for funding the kinds of projects that the council was established to support and so should respond. Nava cannot second the motion for the council to make a recommendation to ask Governor to sign the bill, and motion died.

## 5. Ocean Action Plan implementation summary

*Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Resources Agency*

Brian Baird reviewed status of tasks related to the Ocean Action Plan, comprehensively and briefly (refer to Ocean Action Plan task chart):

- Chair has submitted letters to various entities and met with representatives on issues and continues to work to push the envelope on the recommendations of the US Commission

on Ocean Policy and Pew Ocean Commission. Chair suggested the council continue aggressively to join Watkins and Panetta to push the Bush administration.

- Item 2: staff is creating a user-friendly inventory of laws. CWO moving forward.
- Item 3 is satisfied by the release of the economic report and the Economic Summit. From that, the council may establish an economic advisory group.
- Items 4-9: adopting the strategy is on the agenda today.
- Item 10: a project to analyze options for permanent funding is on the agenda today.
- Item 11: a new MOU is being implemented. Some of the priorities are already being used by State Water Board's grant program.
- Item 12: State Water Board has committed \$10 million dollars for these programs, which needs approval by the council.
- Item 13: will be discussed in the long-term visioning process, later on the agenda today.
- Significant progress made on MLPA; should be a model for nation.
- Coastal sediment master plan is scheduled for released early next year.
- On offshore oil and gas development: the Governor will comment on the 5-year lease program; the council just approved a letter on this issue.

DISCUSSION. Craven asked Chair when to expect the budget process proposed by administration to contain the type of integrated funding approach among agencies that was contemplated by the Ocean Protection Act itself. The council needs to learn more about plans to integrate the budget for these agencies ASAP. Chair agreed. Bustamante suggested a seminar where different agencies speak to the council, at the same time allowing the various stakeholders to participate and listen so can get a broad cross-section of ideas on how this might take place. Recommended soliciting input from scientists and others who might also present thoughts and ideas on how to get the biggest bang for the buck. Then, council can come up with a set of recommendations to pass on to the legislature. Chair commented these are excellent suggestions.

Public comment:

- Dick Seymour: Ocean Resource Advisory Panel (ORAP) speaker. ORAP will meet at the end of October to look at the problem of state-fed interactions in this field.

## **6. Planning, readiness, and coordination of oil spill response**

*Carl Moore, Administrator, Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response*

Carl Moore presented on planning, readiness, and coordination of oil spills. He discussed OSPR programs and its mission.

DISCUSSION. Bustamante noted there has been criticism regarding OSPR database that tracks the information needed and asked if any work has been done to address those criticisms. Moore responded there is a need to go back and confirm that sensitivity index is still current. Bustamante encouraged OSPR to close the gap (in information accessibility) so that State has information before spills happen. Expressed concern about trust account for oil spill response. If OSPR has to act, will need funds; concerned the amount will be too little to cover the first few days after a spill. Concerned about account from 5cent/per barrel fee; account should be 25 million annually, and is about 8. Moore responded it's about 12; the

fee has created a reserve that is very high and OSPR looking at reducing fee. Bustamante heard that there have been requests on the fund that were not approved and is concerned that there's a reserve because actions are not funded. Wanted to know what requests have been made, for how much, etc. Concerned we have the funds to do things and now we're looking at taking funds away.

Public Comment:

- Linda Sheehan: California Coastkeeper Alliance; on OSPR technical committee. Commented that meeting the minimum mandates does not show preparedness. She submitted a letter highlighting gaps in the program, including oil spill response drill readiness (understaffing) and other issues. Urged OPC to re-read the audit, recommend the fee stay at 5 cents, and spend the money on necessary tasks. The Chair requested a regular report back on the audits, and Bustamante would like a report on what took place at the next meeting.

### **End of Morning Session – 30 Minute Break for lunch**

#### **7. Funding and project status**

*Sam Shuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy, Council Secretary*  
*Dominic Gregorio, Chief, Ocean Unit, State Water Resources Control Board*

Schuchat stated that council staff will encumber about half of Conservancy funds. Regarding projects approved at the last meeting, 3 of 4 are in the field:

- a. Derelict fishing gear
- b. ROV folks are looking for matching money and are in the field in Channel Islands
- c. Klamath Dam work will begin by end of September

Dominic Gregorio presented on two priorities considered by the State Water Board:

- 1) Human Health (development of rapid indicators): Need improved method for monitoring bacterial levels that is rapid and reliable.
- 2) Marine Life (addressing discharges in areas of special biological significance (ASBS's)): Protect marine life from urban run-off.

- Alan Patten with the Division of Financial Assistance updated the council on \$10 million that was designated for joint Water Board and council priorities. Sought council concurrence on the two priorities discussed by Gregorio: rapid assessment and ASBS's. At the June 2005 meeting, the Board directed staff to develop guidelines to address priorities and to include a step for council review. More than \$10 million will go toward council priorities; additional funds include the Water Board's ongoing Prop 40 and 50 funds that may be available.

DISCUSSION. Chair stated that the council was not aware of this action item and must publicly notice this for an opportunity to comment.

Public comment:



- Steve Weisberg: SCCWRP. He has worked with the Water Board on bringing rapid technology to fruition. Suggested refining methods and technology transfer instead of developing new techniques.
- Linda Sheehan: California Coastkeeper Alliance. Supported both priorities suggested.
- Warner Chabot: Ocean Conservancy. Supported both priorities.

## 8. Staff report

*Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy, Council Secretary*

- ACTION:** Schuchat indicated that staff has amended the Interim Funding, Project Selection, and Application Guidelines and requested approval. Moved and approved.
- ACTION:** Schuchat discussed greater efficiency for meetings. Council moved and adopted a proposed delegation of authority to the Secretary to take the following actions as necessary and appropriate for operations of the Council, consistent with applicable law and policies of the Council, without specific further Council authorization: a) to place items of \$100,000 or less with no known opposition on the Council's consent agenda; b) to negotiate and enter into agreements and contracts for technical and other services needed to develop Council-related projects costing no more than \$100,000, and c) apply for funds from persons or entities for Council support and project work, make required representations, negotiate and enter into agreements to obtain funds, accept funds, assign grant and similar applications and funds.
- ACTION:** Schuchat described the proposed 2006 council meeting schedule. The calendar does not rule out additional meetings. Council moved and approved.
- Schuchat discussed plans for the council's long-term vision and recommended development of a strategic planning process that would include public workshops and transparency. The Conservancy has the Center for Collaborative Policy on retainer for the Conservancy's strategic planning process, and the council may use them as a resource.

**DIRECTIVE TO STAFF:** By the next meeting, the process will be laid out, culminating in June of next year.

**DISCUSSION.** On the establishment of an independent science advisory body to the council. Lloyd suggested it include scientists with different expertise that will meet regularly, to provide independent input to the Council; Craven agreed. Nava stated that the council will be improved by such a panel, will bring credibility, and can drive policies. Chair asserted that the council needs a Sacramento-based executive officer.

Public comment:

- Linda Sheehan: California Coastkeeper Alliance. Urged the council to develop a management system that integrates land and sea and to create an independent scientific advisory panel. Stated that accountability, transparency, and efficiency in the science panel are key.
- Warner Chabot: Ocean Conservancy. Urged the creation of science advisory group and suggests that they solicit names from such groups as Sea Grant. Also, a model that might be used is the Marine Mammal Commission's scientific advisory panel. The council may

also consider adopting a procedure that Chrisman used on the state Fish and Game Commission where they meet in smaller groups more frequently. For example, create small sub-committees that may be one or two council members, like one ex officio, and one voting member, to work with staff.

- E. Schuchat reviewed the status of tasks from the June 10 meeting, and briefly discussed the Solomon letter.
- F. Schuchat described the Preliminary Strategic Plan for CalCOOS: The plan will be up for public comment on the council website; and staff would like to bring this back at next council meeting. Schuchat thinks there's an urgent need and that the council should quickly think about the next step.
- G. Schuchat discussed the Fair Political Practices Act's conflict of interest regulations. The council will have to adopt conflict of interest regulations as a council.

**9. ACTION: Consideration of adoption of California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy**

*Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Resources Agency*

*Leah Akins, Ocean and Coastal Policy Analyst, Resources Agency*

Brian Baird reviewed the recommendations within the amended draft Information, Research and Outreach Strategy (IRO). Recommendation 1 is a research program should be administered by SeaGrant, which could be a national model. Urged the council Chair to write the Commission on Ocean Policy to get support for research.

Leah Akins discussed the development of the IRO and information priorities including research for ecosystem based management, monitoring programs, seafloor mapping, and integrated ocean observing system. Mentioned implementation of the IRO.

Public Comment:

- Linda Sheehan: California Coastkeeper Alliance. Highlighted public accessibility of the information.
- Rudy Murillo: Scripps, on behalf of Charles Kennel and John Orcutt. Endorsed the IRO.
- Nigella Hillgarth: Director of the Scripps Birch Aquarium. Offered thanks.
- Sam Schuchat commented that Zeke Grader, of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), provided comments on this agenda item in a letter because he could not attend the meeting; Grader supports the IRO.

ACTION: Chair moved to adopt this strategy; approved.

**10. Projects**

*Staff*

- A. Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research  
*Rebecca Pollock, State Coastal Conservancy*

Rebecca Pollock presented the partnership.

- Russ Moll, Director of the California Sea Grant College Program, stated that there will be an inundation of request for proposals to the council and is looking forward to partnering and working out what is worthwhile research. Sea Grant has an excellent record of peer review, and has a matching requirement that will increase the investment. Will not be limited to UC applicants.
- Linda Duguay, Director of the USC Sea Grant Program, stated the two Sea Grant Programs have a 30-year history in being involved in ocean and coastal research.

Public Comment:

- Sam Schuchat read a section of the comment letter submitted by Zeke Grader. Grader supports the partnership with conditions; argued for collaborative research between fishermen and researchers, which might help attract federal funds.
- Rick Algert: City of Morro Bay Harbor Director. Endorsed prioritized collaborative research here.
- Leigh Johnson, Sea Grant Extension Program. Endorsed collaborative research beyond state borders, for example: water quality and invasive research. Urged including language that will allow work with Mexico.

DISCUSSION. Lloyd asked about Sea Grant's overhead; Moll responded <10 percent.

**ACTION:** Council moved, seconded, and determined that it is a high priority project and authorized the council Secretary to disburse up to \$1,000,000 for its implementation, with inclusion of collaborative efforts and transboundary efforts.

B. Sustainable Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund Planning Project  
*Marina Cazorla, State Coastal Conservancy*

Marina Cazorla presented the planning project.

- Kate Bosnan, Environmental Defense. Spoke on the purpose of the fund and the state of fisheries. There is a lack of money to implement changes and lack of access to existing capital.

DISCUSSION. The loan amount, funding source, etc, will be defined by the business plan.

Public comment:

- Zeke Grader, PCFFA. In his letter, the PCFFA supported the project.
- Rick Algert, City of Morro Bay. Commented that he does not support buy-backs. Instead, look at different markets with higher value landings.
- Tom Raftican, United Anglers. Did not request to speak, but submitted a form voicing support.
- Peter H. Flournoy, American Fishermens Research Foundation and Western Fishboat Owners Association. Congratulated council on scope of the endeavor. Voiced strong support.

**ACTION:** Council moved, seconded, and determined that it is a high priority project and authorized the council Secretary to disburse up to \$101,300 for its implementation.

C. California and the World Ocean '06 Conference  
*Amber Mace, Resources Agency*

Amber Mace presented the conference.

Public comment:

- Peter H. Flouroy, American Fishermens Research Foundation and Western Fishboat Owners Association. Is supportive but insisted organizers must reach out to fishermen as key stakeholders.
- Warner Chabot, Russell Moll, and Linda Duguay submitted forms in support of the conference but did not speak.

DISCUSSION. The conference theme is implementing the council's vision process – revolve around implementing the Strategic Plan. Lloyd commented that the council should sponsor the conference in order to keep registration costs down for attendance and increased public participation. Mace emphasized that historically conference fees have been low to encourage participation of students, etc.

**ACTION:** Council moved, seconded, and determined that it is a high priority project and authorized the council Secretary to disburse up to \$150,000 for its implementation.

D. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program  
*Neal Fishman, State Coastal Conservancy*

Neal Fishman presented the restoration project.

- Jeff Prant and Sue Hughes, County Watershed Protection District, presented a tour of dam and provide details on removal and expected results. There is no opposition to removal of the dam from the community.

DISCUSSION. Nava believes this is a commendable project; have brought many people together and satisfy apprehensions. This will be a great example for the nation.

Public comment:

- Mark Rauscher, Surfrider Foundation. Spoke in support of the project.

**ACTION:** Council moved, seconded, and determined that it is a high priority project and authorized the council Secretary to disburse up to \$2,000,000 for its implementation.

E. Request for Proposals to Analyze Options for Permanent Funding for Ocean and Coastal Protection  
*Neal Fishman, State Coastal Conservancy*

Neal Fishman presented the RFP.

Public comment:

- Al Wenger, Coastal Commission. Spoke in support. An opportunity exists for agencies charged with ocean and coastal management to be sustained and to sustain the council. The study can help inform about future funding and help with council objectives.
- Jim Housner, Recreational boater. Has problem on the fees paid for his four boats. Concerned when hears assessment fees. Hopes there will be a massive public education process.

**ACTION:** Council moved, seconded, and determined that it is a high priority project and authorized the council Secretary to disburse up to \$50,000 for its implementation.

## **11. Next steps**

### *Council members*

The Chair made closing comments. The council staff may want to consider as a potential option planning meetings to go over night – noon one day to noon the next – because there is so much on the agenda.