



MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Sam Schuchat, Secretary, OPC

DATE: November 28, 2006

RE: Adoption of Funding Guidelines

ATTACHMENT: OPC Funding Guidelines

REQUESTED ACTION: Staff recommends that the council approve the following resolution:

*“The Ocean Protection Council approves the attached *Ocean Protection Council Funding Guidelines*, to replace the *California Ocean Protection Council Interim Funding, Project Selection, and Application Guidelines* adopted on June 5, 2005.”*

BACKGROUND:

At its June 5, 2005 the OPC adopted interim funding, project selection, and application guidelines to direct organizations seeking funding for ocean related projects, studies, or research. These guidelines were based on the policies contained in the California Ocean Protection Act, and the availability of initial funding from the Legislature for ocean protection projects. Since the adoption of those guidelines, the OPC has adopted a strategic plan outlining a set of priority actions for ocean protection. Additionally, the passage of Proposition 84 will make \$90 million available for ocean protection activities through the OPC.

If adopted, the attached guidelines would replace the 2005 interim guidelines. The new guidelines are intended to establish OPC priorities consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Ocean Protection Act and the 2005 interim guidelines, but do so by reference to the strategic plan. Most significantly, the new guidelines include dual procedures for selecting projects. These include yearly competitive grant solicitations as well as directed projects. Competitive grant solicitations will help to ensure inclusion, openness, and innovation in the types of projects selected. Directed projects will help to ensure that key State priorities and opportunity projects can be accomplished in a timely way.