

CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

Staff Recommendation
September 23, 2005

Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research

Developed By: Rebecca Pollock

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration and possible determination as a high priority the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research project to provide up to \$1,000,000 to Sea Grant to administer an ocean research grant program, and authorization for the Secretary to take actions needed to provide for its planning or implementation.

OCEAN or COASTAL LOCATION: Statewide

AGENCY OR ENTITY RECOMMENDING PROJECT: State Coastal Conservancy, California Resources Agency, and California Sea Grant

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program Proposal Review Processes

Exhibit 2: Letters of Support

RESOLUTION:

“The Ocean Protection Council finds pursuant to Sections 35600, *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code that the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research, as herein described, is of high priority for ocean conservation and authorizes the Secretary to take actions necessary for its planning or implementation, including the allocation of up to \$1,000,000 through an agreement with the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program (“Sea Grant”) for the purposes of this partnership.”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (Council) authorize a partnership for ocean and coastal research with Sea Grant. The proposed \$1,000,000 grant to Sea Grant would provide

PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEAN AND COASTAL RESEARCH

initial funding for the partnership, in which Sea Grant would administer the solicitation, review, and grant award process for scientific research proposals submitted for funding in 2006. The list of research projects recommended by Sea Grant for funding would be presented to the Council for the Council's concurrence prior to awarding grants.

One of the Council's primary objectives is to provide high-quality research to support management of ocean and coastal resources. The proposed partnership between the Council and Sea Grant is the first recommended action in the Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy submitted to the Council for consideration at this meeting. The Strategy suggests that the Council establish a firm commitment to fund research activities that support effective ocean management. Research is necessary in order to fill existing gaps in knowledge that hinder effective policy and decision-making, particularly critical as we move towards ecosystem-based management. This partnership would support data collection, synthesis, and dissemination of information that is essential to coastal and ocean resource management.

The California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program have offered to partner with the Council by coordinating the request for proposals, the peer review process, and post-award grant administration. Sea Grant has an established, highly respected process for evaluating, prioritizing and administering research grants related to coastal and ocean resources. Projects are selected on the basis of a competitive review process and address a wide range of marine-related issues.

California's Sea Grant Programs

Nationally, the Sea Grant College Network consists of 30 university-based programs funded primarily by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and dedicated to the understanding, conservation, and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. The California Sea Grant College Program is the largest of the 30 Sea Grant programs, and works along the entire state coastline and coastal watersheds. It is administered by the University of California and is based at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego. Among their top priority issues are: marine fisheries, water quality and sediment, ecosystem-based management, invasive species, aquaculture, marine protected areas, human health, and habitat restoration. The University of Southern California Sea Grant focuses primarily on the state's southern coastal metropolitan region, with particular emphasis on topics related to the urban ocean. Their priorities include protecting water quality, improving port and marine transportation operations, ensuring shoreline stability and preventing coastal hazards, and promoting the sustainable development of coastal areas.

The two programs review projects and administer grant awards according to the same national standard, and therefore undergo the same review process, which would facilitate the Council's interactions with both programs. Sea Grant's credible review process can provide effective project review and selection services to the Council with minimal overhead (see Exhibit 1). Currently, the Council does not have procedures in place to solicit proposals for scientific research projects, and staff has determined that creating an internal grant review process would be costly and largely redundant of the Sea Grant process.

Existing Relationship and Shared Priorities

The proposed partnership would benefit from an existing relationship between the Resources Agency and Sea Grant. The Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP) was

PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEAN AND COASTAL RESEARCH

formed through legislation to enable the state to have a role in the review of scientific proposals submitted to Sea Grant. RASGAP reviews project proposals to determine their benefit to the management of the state's ocean and coastal resources. It is chaired by the Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy and consists of representatives from state government, state legislature, state universities, and industry.

Because of shared priorities and the existing relationship between Sea Grant and the Council, coordinating Council research projects with the Sea Grant review process is practical and cost effective. An additional benefit of the proposed partnership will be joint decisions on supporting research that achieves common objectives of the Council and Sea Grant.

Implementation of the Partnership

The Council will consult with Sea Grant regarding any unsolicited research proposals received to determine if such proposals should be directed to Sea Grant. The general parameters of the review process would be as follows:

- (a) The annual release of the Sea Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) in late January will be organized to include the RFP for Council research projects. From submission of preliminary proposals to the decision on final funding for projects, the review process will take approximately six months.
- (b) Proposals directed to the Council will be reviewed by the same committees and complete the same process as Sea Grant proposals. This thorough process begins with the screening of preliminary proposals and involves two review committees (one scientific/technical committee and one focused on state priorities), ad hoc peer reviews, dialogue with proposal authors, written comments accompanying each decision, and a mechanism for handling appeals.
- (c) The Council will have a team of participants in all stages of the review process, including final ranking. Projects submitted to Sea Grant will be reviewed for consistency with research priorities according to the Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy, if adopted.
- (d) Projects selected through this review process will be presented to the Council for final endorsement of grant awards.
- (e) Sea Grant will provide all post-award grant administration, including reporting and financial accounting by charging up to 12% in administrative costs on the grants awarded.

Scientific research addressing Council priorities will close gaps in knowledge that hinder appropriate management and protection efforts. The selection of scientifically sound research projects is critical. Implementing a strong, proven review process will allow the Council to select and fund such projects. This time-intensive process can be most efficiently carried out through the partnership proposed with Sea Grant. If the partnership is successful and if there are funds available in coming years, this partnership could become an annual award to Sea Grant.

PROJECT FINANCING

Funding Sources:

PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEAN AND COASTAL RESEARCH

Ocean Protection Council to California Sea Grant College Program	\$800,000
Ocean Protection Council to U.S.C. Sea Grant Program	\$200,000
Grant Awardees' Funding Match	<u>\$440,000</u>

Total Project Cost **\$1,440,000**

Staff anticipates using \$1,000,000 of the Ocean Protection Council's Tidelands Oil funds, appropriated to the Secretary of Resources in the FY 04/05 for projects authorized pursuant to the Ocean Protection Act. The Resources Agency has entered into an interagency agreement with the Conservancy to administer these funds on behalf of the Council and recommend projects for funding.

The agreement with Sea Grant will place a cap on university overhead for proposed projects. Further, Council research proposals funded through this partnership could entail matching requirements similar to Sea Grant, normally a 50% match, which would expand the return on investment of Council funds.

CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA'S OCEAN ACTION STRATEGY: The proposed project is consistent with action item number four in that it supports recommendations relating to research initiatives in the Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy.

CONSISTENCY WITH OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

Mandatory Criteria

1. Furthers the following statutory purposes and policies of the Ocean Protection Act:

- **Improves management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems:** Scientific research adhering to Ocean Protection Council priorities will help close gaps in knowledge that hinder appropriate management decisions and protection efforts.
- **Promotes aesthetic, educational and recreational uses of the coast and ocean:** Support of scientific research not only encourages the use of the coast and ocean environments for educational purposes, it results in advanced knowledge essential for understanding the importance of conserving these ecosystems and resources for future aesthetic, educational, and recreational use.
- **Improve monitoring, data gathering, and advances in scientific understanding of the ocean and coastal environment:** The selection and funding of scientifically sound, high priority research projects concerning the ocean and coast is crucial to pertinent and timely data gathering and to enhancing present understanding.
- **Improves the health of fish and fosters sustainable fisheries in ocean and coastal waters:** Fisheries-targeted scientific research and subsequent dissemination of information will encourage appropriate management and conservation efforts for sustainable fisheries.
- **Helps to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data:** The proposed partnership provides a mechanism for appropriate solicitation, review, and selection of research projects that support Council priorities.

PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEAN AND COASTAL RESEARCH

2. **Consistent with the purposes of the funding source:** See Project Financing Section above.
3. **Has demonstrable support from the public:** The project is supported by both the California Sea Grant College and University of Southern California Sea Grant Programs, in addition to marine labs and research institutions across the state, non-governmental organizations, and federal and state government agencies. Letters of support are attached as Exhibit 2.
4. **Relates directly to the ocean, coast, associated estuaries, and coastal-draining watersheds:** This partnership will fund research projects that have their focus in various locations across the state, including coastal and nearshore areas and state waters.
5. **Has greater-than-local interest:** Research projects conducted at locations across the state provide knowledge and understanding of the entire state's coastal and marine resources.

Additional Criteria

1. **Helps implement the California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy and other priorities of local, state or federal advisory groups, or scientific or policy reports, adopted by the Council:** The proposed project implements the first recommendation of the Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy proposed for the Council's adoption today. Through the partnership, appropriate funds are encumbered for research activities that other Council funding sources cannot support. The partnership assists in meeting requirements of the California Ocean Protection Act by allocating funding specifically for scientific research, and providing a credible body to support the Council with functions related to pre- and post-award functions. This commitment to research activities also reflects the Strategy's principle of maximizing investments by seeking matching funds and in-kind services through each project funded.
2. **The project would not occur without Council participation:** The project involves expenditure on behalf of the Council to provide the staffing, infrastructure, and process to solicit, review, and award grants for scientific research funded by the Council.
3. **The project includes a contribution of funds or services by other entities:** The Sea Grant funding process requires matching funds by the grantee. The Council may choose to install similar requirements for research project funding requests by including language in the agreement with Sea Grant and the request for proposals that Sea Grant disseminates.
4. **The project is ready to implement (grantee or contractor will start and finish the project in a timely manner):** Sea Grant has the infrastructure in place to immediately proceed with the partnership should the funding be allocated.

California Sea Grant College Program Proposal Review Process

The California Sea Grant College Program solicits proposals for a variety of funding opportunities. The process described below is for submission to the annual omnibus competition. In addition to the omnibus competition, the program administers National Sea Grant College competitions that include a variety of fellowships, National Strategic Investments, and special one-time funding opportunities; the process described below does not pertain to these other special competitions.

Each year a call for preliminary project proposals is widely distributed throughout California. On average, of the nearly 100 preliminary proposals received annually, 40% advance to the full proposal stage, of which one third are approved for funding.

The Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP) conducts the initial review of preliminary proposals. Input from RASGAP is directed toward identifying and meeting priorities for state funding according to the needs identified in the document entitled "Summary of California Ocean Management Research Needs" located on the California Sea Grant website (<http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu>).

A subcommittee of the California Sea Grant Advisory Board made up of stakeholders and user groups, as well as the California Sea Grant Advisors, review the preliminary proposals for potential application to California's problems and opportunities in coastal/marine science, education, and outreach.

The California Sea Grant Committee, comprised of academic scientists with expertise in the areas funded by the program, conducts the second review of preliminary proposals. At this stage, screening is based on the project's innovative approach, uniqueness of the idea, importance and appropriateness to Sea Grant. Each proposal is considered on its own merits without regard for campus or institutional affiliation. Full proposals are requested on those topics that rate highly on these criteria.

Declined preliminary proposals may be appealed in writing to the Director of California Sea Grant. Appeal letters must reach the California Sea Grant office by May 27, 2005.

Full proposals are mailed to external merit reviewers. The California Sea Grant Committee meets a second time to evaluate full proposals with the benefit of the written merit reviews. Criteria for selection at this step include: (1) rationale; (2) scientific merit and impact or outreach quality; (3) innovativeness; (4) programmatic justification; (5) practical impact and user relationships; (6) relationship to Sea Grant priorities; and (7) qualifications and past record of investigators or past record of program components. Merit reviews, user collaboration, expected impact (scientific and practical), and letters of support from potential users help determine whether these criteria are met.

When all the input from the external merit reviewers, the California Sea Grant Committee, and RASGAP is received, the California Sea Grant Management Team makes the final decisions regarding approval of proposals for funding. The National Sea Grant Office is then notified of those decisions.

Proposals selected for inclusion in the institutional proposal may be returned to the authors for revision. After revisions are made, new and renewal proposals are compiled by the California Sea Grant College Program into a published institutional proposal containing project and program summaries, budget pages, full proposal narratives, curricula vitae, and letters of support. The institutional proposal, called the California Sea Grant College Program Omnibus, is submitted to the National Sea Grant College Program for funding and implementation on March 1 of the following year.

If you have any questions, or desire more information about this process, please do not hesitate to call the California Sea Grant office at (858) 534-4440.



USC Sea Grant Program Proposal Review Process

Sea Grant Advisory Council

Provides input on USC Sea Grant research priorities for the biennial Call for Proposals.

Call for Preliminary Proposals

Issued early in the year (January/February) biennially. Includes information on Sea Grant research priorities relevant to the "Urban Ocean" theme, and the State of California Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP) Statement of Research Needs.

RASGAP Review of Preliminary Proposals

Proposals are scored on the basis of relevance to State needs in March/April. A score of 1 indicates top priority for funding from the state, 2 and 3 are acceptable for state funding, 4 indicates the project is unacceptable for receiving funding from the state. USC Sea Grant's policy is not to fund projects that have received a RASGAP rank of 4.

Sea Grant Academic Coordinating Committee Review of Preliminary Proposals

This panel considers the quality of the science proposed and its relevance for the USC Sea Grant program theme; along with the scores from the RASGAP Review and the participation of a RASGAP member. Ranking of preliminary proposals for determining requests for full proposals.

Request for Full Proposals

The Sea Grant Director and Associate Director consider rankings provided by the Academic Coordinating Committee and RASGAP. Potential principal investigators are invited to submit full proposals and provided the full set of proposal requirements and forms.

Peer Review

Upon receipt of full proposals, requests for peer reviews are sent to reviewers, followed by phone calls to confirm that reviews will be conducted.

Technical Review

USC Sea Grant assembles a panel of Technical Reviewers, most of whom are from outside of California, or have specific expertise in areas represented in full proposals. The panel assesses the proposals, along with the set of peer reviews and ranks them in terms of scientific quality, capabilities of potential principal investigators, and relevance to USC Sea Grant priorities and issues of importance to Southern California and the nation.

RASGAP Review

Full proposals are again reviewed by the State RASGAP committee, which again ranks them with respect to State research priorities.

Funding Decisions

Funding decisions are made after consideration of all reviews and rankings, determination of funding resources and assembly of collaborative relationships and matching funds. Principal investigators are informed of decisions.



THE ABALONE FARM, INC.

P.O. BOX 136 CAYUCOS, CA 93430 805/995-2495 FAX # 805/995-0236 LIC # 0014 DEALER # 6862

August 29, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Rebecca Pollock, Project Manager

RE: Support for the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

This letter is in support of the idea of a partnership between the the Ocean Protection Council and California's two Sea Grant programs: the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program. The purpose would be to use some of the Ocean Protection Council's money on research that will help California better manage its marine and coastal resources.

This partnership idea makes good sense because Sea Grant already has a very good system set up for getting top notch scientists to submit research proposals and for thoroughly evaluating, reviewing and selecting the best ones. This way the Ocean Protection Council does not have to re-invent the wheel, but instead can make use of the machinery already in place. This I think will make the process very efficient and well managed.

Sincerely yours,

George Trevelyan, Ph.D.
Research and Development
The Abalone Farm, Inc.

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AUG 31 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
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831/459-4026 | 831/459-4882 FAX

August 30, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Rebecca Pollock, Project Manager

RE: Support for the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

I strongly support the proposed partnership between the new California Ocean Protection Council and California's two Sea Grant programs: the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program. I understand that through this partnership, these programs would administer scientific research grants funded by the Council.

As the Chair of the University of California Marine Council, Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and also a member of the California Sea Grant Advisory Committee, I feel strongly that research is necessary in order to fill existing gaps in knowledge that hinder effective policy and decision-making. I understand that one of the Council's primary objectives is to provide high-quality information and data based on solid research in order to support good management of ocean and coastal resources.

The Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy submitted to the Council for adoption suggests that a firm commitment be made to funding scientific research. This overlaps the goals of the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program, and signals a natural partnership. Both the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant

have a credible extensive review process in place that includes peer review, scientific review, and state priority review panels.

Sea Grant also requires a 50% match for research awards, a stipulation that, if required for Council awards, could further augment Council investment in scientific research. The proposed partnership will significantly extend the reach of the Council's solicitation to a large pool of potential applicants for funding and provide critical peer review such that only the strongest and most relevant proposals are funded.

I encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that the partnership to review, fund, and administer scientific research projects with the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program is of high priority, and the Coastal Conservancy to authorize expenditure of \$1,000,000 of Council funding it at its next meeting.

Sincerely,



Gary B. Griggs
Director-Institute of Marine Sciences
Chair-University of California Marine Council

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Planning, Policy, and Design

Sept. 5, 2005

School of Social Ecology
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Irvine, CA 92697-7075
(949) 824-3480
FAX (949) 824-8566

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Rebecca Pollock, Project Manager

RE: Support for the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the partnership between the Ocean Protection Council and California's two Sea Grant programs: the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program. Through this partnership, scientific research grants funded by the Council would be administered by these programs. I am a member of the Sea Grant Advisory Board and have had an opportunity to witness the accomplishments of Sea Grant for a number of years. I am not eligible to apply for grants, and have no conflict of interest in my support of this very promising partnership. It is my strong impression that the following are accurate and true statements:

- The California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program have a credible, proven, and extensive review process in place that includes peer review, scientific review, and state priority review panels.
- Sea Grant's annual request for proposals solicits high-quality research projects and requires a 50 percent match for grant awards, a stipulation that, if required for Council awards, could further augment Council investment in scientific research.
- The partnership will extend the reach of the Council's solicitation to a large pool of potential applicants for funding.
- The absence of credible information is a real impediment to effective decision-making and policy. One of the Council's primary objectives is to provide high-quality research to support management of ocean and coastal resources. The Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy submitted to the Council for adoption suggests that a firm commitment be made to funding scientific research. This overlaps the goals of the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program and signals a natural partnership.

I encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that the partnership to review, fund, and administer scientific research projects with the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program is of high priority, and the Coastal Conservancy to authorize expenditure of \$1,000,000 of Council funding it at its next meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Ingram". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Helen Ingram
Warmington Chair in the Social Ecology of Peace and International Cooperation
Professor of Social Ecology and Political Science

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SEP 12 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH, ASSOC. VICE CHANCELLOR-MARINE AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR, UCSD CENTER FOR EARTH OBSERVATIONS & APPLICATIONS
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION

9500 GILMAN DRIVE
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TEL: (858) 534-2836
FAX: (858) 453-0167

6 September 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
c/o Rebessa Pollack
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the partnership between the Ocean Protection Council and California's two Sea Grant programs: the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program. Through this collaboration, scientific research grants funded by the Council would be fairly and effectively administered.

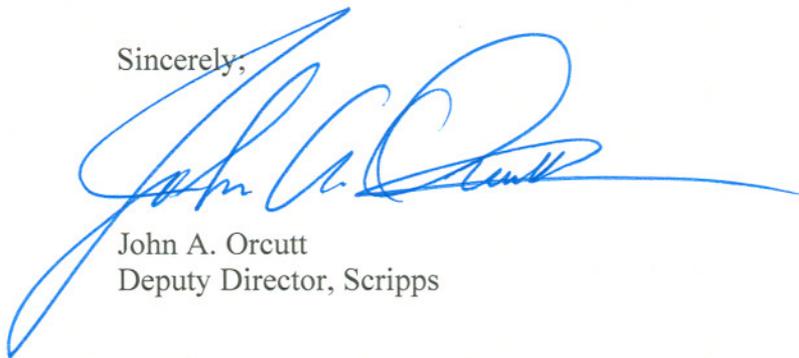
Scripps Institution of Oceanography provides space and financial support for the California Sea Grant College Program and the Institution believes that the principles of Sea Grant, including extensive scientific peer review as well as consideration of State priorities, make it the logical entity for this function. It is critical that the Council support the national standards that provide direction to Sea Grant while supplementing these principles with its own priorities including those stated by the California Ocean Protection Act and the developing Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy. The Council, from our perspective, is well versed on the research necessary to fill existing gaps in knowledge that hinder effective policy and decision-making. An expanded pool of applicants for such funding within California is critical to pursuing solutions.

Presently, any expansion of the responsibilities of Sea Grant beyond their current funding levels is likely to require additional staff and space. In the case of the California Sea Grant program that occupies a building at Scripps, any expansion will almost certainly require additional, incremental resources. We are committed to working with the Council to make this work.

I encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that the partnership to review, fund, and administer scientific research projects with the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program is of high priority, and that the

Coastal Conservancy authorize expenditure of \$1,000,000 of Council funds at its next meeting.

Sincerely,



John A. Orcutt
Deputy Director, Scripps

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SEP 12 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF



CITY OF LONG BEACH

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

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September 7, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Rebecca Pollock, Project Manager

Subject: Support for the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco:

I would like to express my strong support for the partnership between the Ocean Protection Council and California's two Sea Grant programs: the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program. Through this partnership, these programs would administer scientific research grants funded by the Council.

One of the Council's primary objectives is to provide high-quality research to support management of ocean and coastal resources. The Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy submitted to the Council for adoption suggests that a firm commitment be made to funding scientific research. This overlaps the goals of the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program, and signals a natural partnership.

I believe that the partnership will extend the reach of the Council's solicitation to a large pool of potential applicants for funding. Sea Grant's annual request for proposals solicits high quality research projects and requires a 50% match for grant awards, a stipulation that, if required for Council awards, could further augment Council investment in scientific research.

Sea Grant's criteria for reviewing proposals are set by national standards that the Council could emulate and supplement with its own priorities, as stated in the California Ocean Protection Act and the draft Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy.

"We create and enhance the quality of life through people, places, programs and partnerships"

Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership
September 7, 2005
Page 2

I encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that the partnership to review, fund, and administer scientific research projects with the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program is of high priority and to encourage the Coastal Conservancy to authorize expenditure of \$1,000,000 of Council funding it at its next meeting.

Sincerely,



Dennis Eschen
Manager of Planning & Development

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SEP 12 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



September 8, 2005

College of Letters, Arts
And Sciences

Wrigley Institute for
Environmental Studies

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Rebecca Pollock, Project Manager

RE: Support for the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for
Ocean and Coastal Research

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

One of the primary objectives of the Ocean Protection Council is to provide the highest quality research possible to support the management of California's ocean and coastal resources. The Information, Research and Outreach Strategy submitted for adoption by the Council indicates that a firm commitment be made to funding scientific research. I am writing to endorse the creation of a partnership between the Council and California's Sea Grant programs for the solicitation and review of research projects. In this partnership, the two Sea Grant programs will administer the scientific research grants funded by the Council.

The partnership between the Ocean Protection Council and California's Sea Grant programs -- the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program -- will provide California with a strong research program that will ensure that it has the information necessary for managing its coastal and ocean resources.

California's Sea Grant Programs have credible, proven, and extensive review processes in place that include peer review, scientific review, and state priority review panels. Sea Grant's criteria for reviewing scientific proposals match the national standards employed by the National Science Foundation and other federal research programs. Sea Grant's annual request for proposals solicits high quality research projects and requires a 50% match for grant awards, a stipulation that, if required for Council awards, could further augment Council investment in scientific research.

University of
Southern California
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California 90089-0371
Tel: 213 740 6780
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web page: <http://wrigley.usc.edu/>

The California Ocean Protection Act and the draft Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy includes priorities for research that will be included by Sea Grant in its solicitations for research proposals from a large pool of scientists working on coastal and ocean problems. Ocean and coastal scientists in California are familiar with the Sea Grant Programs and their proposal review processes. This will help to ensure high quality proposals that address the Council's need for research that provides knowledge for effective policy and decision making.

I encourage the Ocean Protection Council to establish the partnership to review, fund, and administer scientific research projects with the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program. I encourage the Council to make this a high priority, and to authorize the California Coastal Conservancy expenditure of \$1,000,000 of Council funding it at its next meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Michaels", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Anthony Michaels, Director
The Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
University of Southern California

California Science Center

700 State Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037
Telephone 323.SCIENCE(724.3623)
Fax 213.744.2034

September 12, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Rebecca Pollock, Project Manager

RE: Support for the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant Partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

I am writing to express my strong support for the partnership between the Ocean Protection Council and California's two Sea Grant programs: the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program. Through this partnership, scientific research grants funded by the Council would be administered by these programs.

The California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant have established track records in soliciting, reviewing and funding high quality marine science research projects. As a member of the USC Sea Grant Advisory Committee I can speak directly to the rigor and quality of the review process that we use to select the best proposals for funding. The criteria that we use are set by the national Sea Grant office and could easily be used by the council in setting up a review process for this proposed partnership. Sea Grant solicitations reach a large pool of potential applicants which would extend the reach of the Council's solicitation effort. If the goal of the Council is to provide high-quality research to support management of the ocean and coastal resources, drawing from as large a pool of qualified applicants as possible would seem to be extremely important.

Sea Grant has always had a focus on connecting basic research to issues of policy and decision-making. This proposed partnership could lead to more of the research necessary to fill existing gaps in our knowledge of the coast and ocean and lead to better policy and decision-making.

I encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that the partnership to review, fund, and administer scientific research projects with the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program is of high priority, and the Coastal Conservancy to authorize expenditure of \$1,000,000 of Council funding it at its next meeting.

Sincerely;



Charles D. Kopczak, Ph.D.
Curator of Ecology





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

September 15, 2005

Dear Chair Chrisman:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the items under the Project Section in the September 23, 2005 agenda.

A. Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant joint-partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research

I would like to lend my support to the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant joint-partnership for ocean and coastal research. Many excellent reasons for supporting the partnership are mentioned in the letter of support from Dr. Ingram. Thus, I would like to like to second her points. I would also add that the rate at which information is growing makes such a partnership an excellent benefit to the state, which has the near impossible job of carrying out a number of regulatory functions and simultaneously gathering and interpreting new information as it becomes available. This type of partnership should aid the state in acquiring the information it has identified as needed, as well as aiding the state by examining subject areas that will arise in the next five years.

B. Sustainable Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund planning project

I lend my strongest support to this aspect of the agenda. As an elected official on a local water district, I have seen the Water Recycling Fund (previously referred to as SWRCB revolving fund) support many excellent projects. The low interest rate and the fact that the funds are repaid, allows the program to continue producing results through funds being available for future projects from which all Californians can benefit.

C. California and World Oceans Conference '06

I also believe that such a conference would help the visibility of the program and also extend the knowledge of the State.

D. Consideration of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program

No comment.

Sincerely,

Betty H. Olson, PhD.
Professor
Dept. Environmental Health Science and Policy
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September 14, 2005

*The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Rebecca Pollock, Project Manager*

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

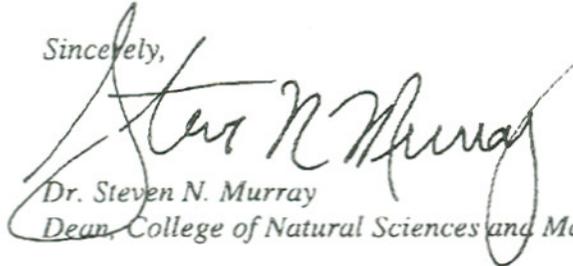
The California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program have made extraordinary contributions to science-based management of California's coastal resources. They have managed to capture and effectively use federal funding together with matching contributions from state, other nonfederal governmental agencies, and private sources to add a much needed scientific perspective to coastal resource management. I respectfully submit that the State of California has gained immeasurably by the activities of these two California Sea Grant programs. Hence, I give my strongest support for the development of a meaningful partnership between the Ocean Protection Council and California's two Sea Grant programs. Given their excellent track records in managing funds and generating cutting edge, applied scientific knowledge, I believe that these programs and their managers are eminently qualified to administer scientific research grants funded by the Council.

Based on my experiences with Federal Advisory Committees (FACs), and as a past and now current member of the State's Marine Life Protection Act Science Team, I can attest that that the availability of sound science is the foundation for effective coastal resource management. Frequently, members of the public and stakeholders have interests that run counter to the best scientific solutions to coastal problems. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that the science sponsored by the Ocean Protection Council is the best available in its content and that it has passed the highest standards in its generation. The California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program have highly credible and proven track records in sponsoring high quality scientific research. They have in place an extensive proposal process that includes strong scientific peer review, and State priority review. Existing standards criteria for reviewing proposals are nationally accepted. Moreover, Sea Grant's proposal process requires a 50 % match for grant awards, a stipulation that, if required for Council awards, could further augment Council investment in scientific research. Lastly, California's Sea Grant programs have effective outreach programs for funneling the results of scientific research directly to decision-makers. Clearly, the goals of the California Sea Grant

College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program, and those of the Ocean Protection Council are in alignment, making this collaboration a truly natural partnership.

In summary, I give my strongest support to the formation of a partnership between the California Sea Grant College Program and University of Southern California Sea Grant Program and the Ocean Protection Council to review, fund, and administer scientific research projects for the benefit of Californians. I recommend that the Coastal Conservancy authorize expenditure of \$1,000,000 of Council funding towards this end.

Sincerely,



Dr. Steven N. Murray
Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics