



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Amber Mace, OPC Science Advisor

DATE: October 25, 2007

RE: Adoption of Selection Criteria for the OPC Science Advisory Team

ATTACHMENTS: [Exhibit 1: OPC-SAT Selection Criteria](#)
[Exhibit 2: OPC-SAT Call for Nominations](#)

REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends the council approve the following resolution:

“The Ocean Protection Council approves and adopts the attached selection criteria for members of the OPC Science Advisory Team and directs the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust to select and recommended members to the council for final approval by the council.”

BACKGROUND

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Five-Year Strategic Plan calls for the establishment of a Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT). In February 2006, the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust (CalOST) was formally designated as the OPC Science Advisor and was authorized to co-chair the OPC-SAT and oversee its creation. The goal of the OPC-SAT is to ensure that the best available science is applied to OPC policy decisions. Members of the team will assist in reaching this goal by developing recommendations on scientific issues identified by the OPC and by convening working groups and forums to discuss research priorities and critical management problems. All meetings will be open to the public and noticed in advance. The team will consist of volunteer scientists who are willing to donate their time and expertise to assist the council in addressing the significant challenges to ocean health facing California and the nation. Members will serve under the direction of the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust and at the pleasure of the council.

The Governor recently signed AB1056 which requires the OPC to establish a science advisory body. The team proposed here will meet all the requirements set forth in that legislation.

Primary Tasks

OPC-SAT members may be called upon to:

- Respond to information requests from the OPC;
- Evaluate the technical merit of scientific and technical projects proposed to the OPC;
- Provide technical advice on OPC agenda items and reports;
- Assist in convening or participating in technical working groups and science forums to address critical management problems;
- Develop recommendations on scientific issues identified by the OPC;
- Assist in ranking and refining annual priorities; and
- Identify critical emerging science issues of concern to the OPC.

The OPC-SAT will consist of 10-15 leading scientists from a broad range of ocean and coastal disciplines. Priority will be given to recruiting members who are well connected in the academic community as well as those that have a demonstrated interest in interdisciplinary approaches and in working at the interface between science and public policy. Representation will be balanced across disciplines, perspectives, affiliations, geographies, and other factors. Applicants need not be from California to be considered.

Staff is recommending the Council adopt a set of specific selection criteria that will help ensure candidates have the qualifications necessary to fulfill their responsibilities as effective members of the OPC Science Advisory Team.