



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS California Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

The [California Ocean Protection Council](#) (OPC) is soliciting nominations for members of the **California Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT)**. The OPC-SAT provides a unique opportunity for scientists to help incorporate the best available science into statewide decisions made by the OPC.

The OPC is a high level council established by the [California Ocean Protection Act](#) of 2004 to ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. The council consists of the Secretary for Resources [Mike Chrisman](#) (Chair); State Lands Commission Chair, Lieutenant Gov. [John Garamendi](#); Secretary for Environmental Protection [Linda Adams](#); two public members, [Susan Golding](#), CEO and president of the Golding Group, and [Geraldine Knatz](#), executive director of the Port of Los Angeles; and two non voting members, Sen. [Darrell Steinberg](#) and Assemblyman [Pedro Nava](#).

The OPC's principal mandates are: (1) to establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data between agencies on coast and ocean resources, and (2) to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources. In order to carry out these provisions, the OPC developed a Five-Year Strategic Plan that calls for the establishment of a **Science Advisory Team**.

In February 2006, the [California Ocean Science Trust](#) (CalOST) Executive Director was formally designated as the OPC Science Advisor and was authorized to co-chair the Science Advisory Team 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. Establishing the OPC-SAT builds on recommendations by Gov. Schwarzenegger's Ocean Action Strategy and both the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to change the way oceans are managed.

Primary Tasks

OPC-SAT members may be called upon to:

- Develop recommendations on scientific issues identified by the OPC;
- 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;
- Convene technical working groups to address critical management problems;
- Assist in ranking and refining annual research priorities; and
- Identify critical emerging science issues that should be of concern to the OPC and the state

OPC-SAT Qualifications

The OPC-SAT will consist of 10-15 leading scientists from a broad range of ocean and coastal disciplines. High priority will be given to recruiting members who have extensive disciplinary contact networks as well as 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.

Scope

OPC activities span the full range of state agency programs and authorities related to protecting and conserving coastal waters and ocean ecosystems using an ecosystem-based approach. Topic areas include fisheries, marine protected areas, human uses, water quality, sediment management, climate change, rare and endangered species, exotics, monitoring, scientific research, and enforcement.

Conflict of Interest

In general, OPC-SAT members will be eligible to apply for OPC funds for research support but will be expected to recuse themselves from review processes or decisions where they have a clear financial or other personal interest in the outcome.

Compensation

OPC-SAT members shall serve without compensation. However, members will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses related to participation.

Commitment

OPC-SAT members will be appointed by the OPC to serve a 3-year term with possibility for renewal. An individual's time commitment will depend on the number of requests from the OPC and the disciplines relevant to the requests. Staff will be provided to support OPC-SAT efforts and the OPC Science Advisor will coordinate requests for assistance. OPC-SAT members will only meet via phone or in person when necessary. Most work will occur via email.

Nomination Process

Self nominations are encouraged. Nominations should be submitted electronically to Dr. Amber Mace, science advisor to the California Ocean Protection Council, at amber.mace@calost.org. The deadline for submission is Sept. 14, 2007. Additional nominees may be considered after this date to fill any significant gaps. Nominations must include:

- (1) Full name, title, institutional affiliation, contact information, areas of expertise, rationale for nomination, confirmation of the nominee's willingness to serve; and
- (2) Electronic submission of a curriculum vitae.

Vetting and Selection Process

The OPC Science Advisor, with the assistance of the CalOST Trustees, leading scientists, and management and policy experts, will select candidates for consideration by the OPC based on professional qualifications and the need for balanced representation across the OPC-SAT in terms of disciplinary representation, perspectives, affiliations, and geography. The candidates will then be vetted by an independent body to ensure selection criteria are met. The Science Advisor will recommend a final list of candidates to the OPC for approval. In subsequent years, new members may be nominated annually, and will be reviewed and approved at the discretion of the OPC.