

Selection Criteria

Science Advisory Team for the California Ocean Protection Council

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.

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.

Vetting and Selection Process

The OPC Science Advisor, with the assistance of the CalOST Trustees, leading scientists, and management and policy experts, will select a slate of names for consideration based on professional qualifications, expertise, and balanced representation across the OPC-SAT in terms of disciplinary representation, perspectives, affiliations, and geography. The slate of names will then be vetted by an independent outside body to ensure candidates meet selection criteria. The Science Advisor will present the recommended members to the OPC for final approval. In subsequent years, new names may be nominated annually, subject to OPC request, review, and approval.

In general, each scientist serving on the OPC-SAT should be:

- Willing to respond to the state's needs and provide requested information or reviews, sometimes on short notice;
- Frequently sought after for their expertise and advice;
- In possession of an advanced degree, PhD preferred, with at least 5 years experience in a related field;
- Well-established in their particular field with at least 10 peer reviewed publications and widely recognized for their expertise among their peers;
- Maintains an extensive inter-disciplinary contact network;
- Highly credible and a good team player;
- Strongly interested, and preferably experienced, in working at the interface between science and public policy and/or resource management;

Exhibit 1

The OPC-SAT as a whole will be selected to capture and balance a range of:

- Perspectives and experience;
- Diversity;
- The natural and social science disciplinary fields relevant to the OPC's deliberations;
- Experience with various ocean habitats and systems and policy issues and applications;
- Affiliations, including academia, NGOs, public agencies, and the private sector;
- Experience with various geographies along the California coast.

Due to the fact that members of the OPC-SAT team will be providing scientific recommendations on policy issues before the OPC, the members will be required to comply the OPC's statement of incompatible activities and the conflict of interest code, as applicable.