



MEETING SUMMARY

February 29, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Ventura City Hall

501 Poli Street

Ventura, CA

Present:

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair

Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection

John Garamendi, Lieutenant Governor, Chair of the State Lands Commission

Voting Representative: Paul Thayer, Executive Director, State Lands Commission

Susan Golding, Public Member

Geraldine Knatz, Public Member

Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember

Bill Craven for Darrell Steinberg, State Senator

1. Secretary Chrisman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Rick Cole, the manager of the City of Ventura, welcomed the OPC to Ventura. He discussed how Ventura is aiming to be a national model of Low Impact Development (LID) through the emphasis of the land/sea connection.

Secretary Chrisman reviewed the agenda and touched on several topics of note, including the West Coast Governors' Agreement Action Plan and the "Thank You Ocean" campaign. He congratulated the Resources Agency's Brian Baird and Amy Boone for receiving awards from Coastal America for their work on the campaign and congratulated Mr. Baird for receiving NOAA's Susan Snow-Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Finally, Secretary Chrisman extended his thanks to the City and County of Ventura, the Ventura Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, and the Ocean Conservancy for their help organizing the OPC field trip.

Pedro Nava made comments regarding naval sonar and how it should be limited due to the harmful effects on marine mammals. He stated that action is needed to protect California grey whale populations.

Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, discussed issues being addressed by the Coastal States Organization (CSO). He noted that the states, including California, were applauded for their work on promoting ocean-related issues. In the recently published Joint Ocean Commission Report Card the states received an “A-” while the federal government received an average grade of a “C.” He went on to describe the CSO Chair’s Initiative to obtain nationwide consensus on three issues: (1) establishing a national ocean trust fund, (2) creating guidelines and standards for adapting to climate change, and (3) the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Mr. Baird will present more information on this at the next OPC meeting.

3. It was moved (Garamendi) and seconded (Golding) to elect Secretary Chrisman as the council chairperson for the next year.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Adams, Garamendi, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

4. Public comment was heard on non-agenda items

Zeke Grader – Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations – Opposes the use of state money to study the decommissioning of obsolete oil platforms

Christopher Voss – California Abalone Association – Spoke about the implementation of the Marine Life Management Act for the abalone fishery

Paul Jenkin – Surfrider Foundation – Discussed the need for ecosystem-based management approaches and the need to spend federal funding on Surfer’s Point

Reed Addis – Conservation Strategy Group – Discussed AB 1225 and the impacts of climate change, New Zealand’s Environment Day on June 5, 2008, and fishery reform projects

Mike McCorkle – Southern California Trawlers Association – Discussed issues related to oil platform decommissioning

George Steinbach – California Artificial Reef Enhancement Program – Discussed issues related to oil platform decommissioning

5. It was moved (Knatz) and seconded (Adams) to adopt the OPC Science Advisory Team and to approve the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust as co-chair of the team.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Adams, Garamendi, Golding, Knatz Nays: 0

6. Drew Bohan, Executive Policy Officer, set the stage for the presentations and panel discussion related to state policy regarding impacts of stormwater runoff and pollution with the primary emphasis on LID.

Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, gave a presentation on the status of beach closures in California. He referenced four focus areas: collaboration, monitoring, research, and remediation.

Eric Berntsen, State Water Resources Control Board, presented an overview of the Water Board's regulatory role in stormwater permitting. He emphasized that the Water Board should integrate LID and hydromodifications into all future work and policy.

Dan Cloak, Consultant, presented the history and current status of LID in California and discussed incentives and barriers to broader LID implementation statewide.

Drew Bohan introduced the panelists and led a moderated discussion about LID implementation and how the OPC can promote these approaches to reducing runoff within California.

Panelist included:

- David Beckman, *Natural Resources Defense Council*
- Eric Berntsen, *State Water Resources Control Board*
- Dan Cloak, *Consultant*
- Martina Frey, *Tetra Tech Inc.*
- Andrew Henderson, *Building Industry Association*
- Gerhardt Hubner, *Ventura County Watershed Protection District*
- Fran Spivy-Weber, *State Water Resources Control Board*
- Eric Stein, *Southern California Coastal Water Research Project*
- Al Wanger, *California Coastal Commission*

Public comment

Clark Anderson – Local Government Commission

Mark Gold – Heal the Bay

Geoff Brosseau – California Stormwater Quality Association

Timothy Lawrence – UC Davis Center for Water and Land Use

Angela Haren – California Coastkeeper Alliance

Reed Addis – Conservation Strategy Group

Susan Zaleski – USC Sea Grant

Monica Hunter – Planning and Conservation League Foundation

Richard E. T. Sadowski – Public

Robert Almy – Santa Barbara County Water Agency

Kira Redmond – Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Paul Jenkins – Surfrider Foundation

Michael Thomas – Central Coast Water Quality Control Board

Marla Jo Bruton – Ocean Outfall Group

Joe Geever – Surfrider Foundation

Cameron Benson – City of Santa Barbara

Rachel Couch, Project Manager, gave a summary of the discussion on LID and water quality and proposed recommendations for future actions. The OPC directed staff to hold two public workshops (one in Southern California and one in northern California) and then propose policy options for the council members to consider at the May meeting.

7. It was moved (Golding) and seconded (Knatz) to adopt the 2009 Ocean Protection Council funding priorities for Sea Grant projects and to authorize the grant of up to \$1

million to the University of California Sea Grant and University of Southern California Sea Grant programs to fund research that directly supports the OPC's strategic plan.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Adams, Golding, Knatz, Thayer Nays: 0

8. It was moved (Golding) and seconded (Adams) to authorize the grant of up to \$242,000 to the University of California, Davis to prepare plans, designs, and environmental documents for the California Marine Ecosystem Health Laboratory.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Adams, Golding, Knatz, Thayer Nays: 0

Public comment

David A. Jessup – California Department of Fish and Game – Spoke in support

Jim Curland – Defenders of Wildlife – Spoke in support

Frances Gulland – Marine Mammal Center – Spoke in support

9. It was moved (Adams) and seconded (Knatz) to approve the consent calendar as presented.

Approved Ayes: Chrisman, Adams, Golding, Knatz, Thayer Nays: 0

- a. Authorization to provide up to \$60,000 to the University of California Marine Council (UCMC) to fund two graduate fellowships.
- b. Authorization to grant up to \$87,500 to the National Geographic Society for the planning and completion of the Northern California Coastal Geotourism MapGuide project: Salmon Country.

10. Steve Edinger, Assistant Chief, Law Enforcement Division, Department of Fish and Game discussed the November 7, 2007 San Francisco Bay oil spill. He commented on the strengths of the response that included the Area Contingency Plan, oiled wildlife care network, participation by state agencies, and the weaknesses that included the notification of spill, liaisons, and volunteer management.

Sam Schuchat, Council Secretary, discussed the lessons learned from the use of ocean observing data in spill response in the San Francisco Bay oil spill. He commented on how CeNCOOS was able to model the spill trajectory correctly but there were barriers to the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA incorporating these data into their response efforts.

Public comment

Zeke Grader – Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

Angela Haren – California Coastkeeper Alliance

Jen Kovecses – San Francisco Baykeeper

11. Christine Blackburn, Project Manager, gave a review of OPC work related to once-through cooling at coastal power plants and introduced the two speakers:

Tim Havey of Tetra Tech, Inc. discussed the OPC-funded study *Alternative Cooling System Analysis for California's Coastal Power Plants*

Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, presented the status of the Water Board policy related to 316(b) and provided a timeline for its release

Public comment

Tom Ford – Santa Monica Baykeeper
Zeke Grader – Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations
Mark Gold – Heal the Bay
Jen Kovecses – San Francisco Baykeeper
Richard Sadowski – Public
Joe Geever – Surfrider Foundation
David Nelson – Public
Marla Jo Bruton – Public
Conner Everts – Desalinization Response Group
Mark Krause – Pacific Gas and Electric
Angela Haren – California Coastkeeper Alliance

12. Drew Bohan presented the report of the Executive Policy Officer that included updates on the Marine Debris Resolution Draft Implementation Plan, water quality enforcement, and the OPC strategic plan.

Public comment

Mark Gold – Heal the Bay – Commented on marine debris and gave updates

13. Sam Schuchat presented the report of the Council Secretary that included updates on OPC staffing, previously funded projects, and the status of the OPC funding.
14. Secretary Chrisman adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.