

MEETING SUMMARY

June 24, 2010

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

June 25, 2010

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Executive Office, Room 406
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

DAY 1 – June 24

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance:

Lester Snow, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair
Cindy Tuck for Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Cindy Aronberg for John Chiang, State Controller, Chair of the State Lands Commission
Susan Golding, Public Member
Bill Craven for Fran Pavley, State Senator

Absent:

Geraldine Knatz, Public Member
Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember

1. Welcome and Announcements

Secretary Snow welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented about the morning's field trip to the Bren School and Marine Science Institute at U.C. Santa Barbara where the council saw an ocean acidification research project partly funded by the OPC. Secretary Snow spoke about the special meeting held by OPC on June 1^{6th} to discuss a letter to the Obama Administration about the recent International Whale Commission (IWC) meeting in Morocco. Executive Director of the OPC, Dr. Amber Mace then provided an overview of progress at the recent IWC meeting.

Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, and Dr. Amber Mace, Executive Director of OPC, spoke about the retirement of Russ Moll, director of the U.C. Sea Grant Program.

2. Public comment on non-agenda items

Ashley Blacow – Oceana – Spoke in support of AB 2125 for marine spatial planning and thanked the council for their efforts.

Lee Moldauer – Coastal Resource Center for the Central Coast and Citizens Planning Association – Thanked the OPC for its efforts and for engaging local communities.

Sarah Sikich – Heal the Bay – Spoke in support of AB 1998, the ban on plastic bags.

Richard Sadowski – Individual – Encouraged the council to support research and development for sea level rise adaptation.

Sara Aminzadeh – California Coastal Alliance – Requested that sea level rise adaptation be placed on the agenda for the September OPC meeting.

Chris Cohen – Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System – Thanked the OPC for supporting ocean observing in California and spoke of the need for future funding.

Paul Weakland – Individual – Spoke about his concerns regarding the source of funds used by the OPC and stressed the need for more transparency.

3. Report from the Executive Director

Dr. Amber Mace, Executive Director, provided an update on the OPC steering committee, efforts regarding once through cooling, the Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization, the Coastal and Ocean Climate Adaptation Team (CO-CAT), the marine debris steering committee, and the updated OPC webpage. Dr. Mace introduced Fred Keeley, Santa Cruz County Treasurer, former California Assemblyman and current member of the OPC evaluation expert advisory panel.

Mr. Keeley spoke in detail about the OPC evaluation process.

4. Report from the Council Secretary

Sam Schuchat presented the report of the Council Secretary in which he discussed the status of SB 1690 and the Dungeness Crab Task Force. Mr. Schuchat also addressed OPC efforts to facilitate a work group to establish protocol for carbon sequestration, provided an update on the California Sustainable Seafood Initiative panel, and announced the appointment of Moira McEnespy as the OPC Project Manager. He also spoke in detail about the status of OPC funds for current and future projects.

5. Report from the Science Advisor

Skyli McAfee, Science Advisor to the OPC, spoke about the OPC Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT), the Marine Protected Area Monitoring Enterprise, the OPC-Sea Grant collaboration, and the study on oil and gas platform decommissioning.

6. Update on the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Steve Edinger, California Office of Oil Spill Prevention Response (OSPR) Administrator, gave an update on the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill.

7. OPC staff gave updates on OPC programs and projects

Laura Engeman, Project Manager, gave an update on the Department of Fish and Game Workplan. She introduced Dr. Jen Casselle, Partnership for the Interdisciplinary Study of Coastal Oceans (PISCO). Dr. Casselle discussed the results of SCUBA surveys in and

around marine protected areas.

Brian Baird spoke about the collaborative efforts of the West Coast Governors Agreement and the upcoming California World Ocean (CWO) conference.

Public Comment:

Leila Monroe – Natural Resources Defense Council – Spoke about what the WCGA can do to ensure that federal efforts for Marine Spatial Planning are enforced.

- 8. Action:** To approve the Consent Calendar.

It was moved for approval by Aronberg, seconded by Golding.

Ayes: Aronberg, Snow, Golding Nays:0

- 9. Action:** Doug George, OPC Project Manager, presented the staff recommendation to grant \$2.75 million to the statewide aerial coastal topographic LiDAR and imagery project and introduced Christina Cairns to speak on behalf of the grantee. Christina Cairns, NOAA Coastal Services Center West Coast Regional Office, discussed the importance of the LiDAR data collection.

It was moved for approval by Golding, seconded by Aronberg.

Ayes: Aronberg, Snow, Golding Nays:0

- 10. Action:** Pam Rittelmeyer, California OPC Sea Grant Fellow, presented the staff recommendation to grant \$912,000 to the California Sea Grant Program and the University of Southern California Sea Grant Program.

Public Comment:

Chris Cohen – Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System – Spoke in support. It was moved for approval by Aronberg, seconded by Golding.

Ayes: Aronberg, Snow, Golding Nays:0

- 11. Action:** Neal Fishman, Program Manager, presented the staff recommendation to grant \$380,706 to the Regents of the University of California, U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine for research to detect the fecal parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* in water samples.

Public Comment:

Bruce Steele – Individual – Spoke in support.

Marla Jo Bruton – Individual – Spoke in support.

Richard Sadowski – Individual – Spoke in support.

Christina Cairns - NOAA Coastal Services Center West Coast Regional Office - Spoke in support.

Dr. Mace presented Heather Fritz, UC Davis graduate student. Ms. Fritz discussed her research on *Toxoplasma gondii* and spoke in support of the staff recommendation.

It was moved for approval by Aronberg, seconded by Golding.

Ayes: Aronberg, Snow, Golding, Tuck Nays:0

Secretary Snow concluded the meeting for the day at 4:15 p.m.

DAY 2 – June 25

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance:

Lester Snow, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair
Cindy Tuck for Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection
John Chiang, State Controller, Chair of the State Lands Commission
Susan Golding, Public Member
Geraldine Knatz, Public Meeting
Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember
Bill Craven for Fran Pavley, State Senator

Welcome and Announcements

Chairman Snow convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Sam Schuchat mentioned that the date for the November OPC meeting needs to be changed and council members should respond with their availability.

Public comment on non-agenda items

Marlo Jo Bruton – Individual – Spoke in support of the accomplishments of the OPC and reiterated her support for research to detect the fecal parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* in water samples.

Richard Sadowski – Individual – Suggested the council fund efforts for sea level rise adaptation and for enforcing marine reserves.

Merit McCrea – Individual – Presented underwater video of fish presence near an oil platform.

Paul Weakland – Individual – Spoke regarding the source of funds used by the OPC and stressed the need for more transparency.

12. Spotlight on Science

Skyli McAfee introduced Dr. Gretchen Hoffman, Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dr. Hoffman presented on the consequences of Ocean Acidification on the California Coast.

Public comment:

Bruce Steele – Individual – Spoke about the need to start thinking about the carbon footprint of the various different fisheries.

Sara Aminzadeh – California Coastal Keeper – Thanked the council for the spotlight on ocean acidification.

Richard Sadowski – Individual – Spoke of the important role that marine reserves can have for the monitoring of ocean acidification.

Linda Krop – Environmental Defense Center – Spoke of the need to coordinate all agencies, NGOs, and stakeholders in order to implement recommendations to improve the health of the ocean.

13. Report on the Marine Life Management Act Lessons Learned Study

Sam Schuchat, Council Secretary, gave an update on the Marine Life Management Act Lessons (MLMA) Learned Study. Mr. Schuchat introduced Richard Rogers, the Fish and Game Commissioner, and Tom Barnes from the Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Rogers gave an update of the Commission's recent vote to endorse the MLMA lessons learned. Mr. Barnes spoke about the Department of Fish and Game's letter to the commission regarding the MLMA lessons learned.

Public comment:

Melissa Locke – San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem Alliance (SLOSEA) – Presented recommendations to facilitate coordination between agencies and stakeholders.

Paul Weakland – Individual – Expressed concern that the lessons learned will not be implemented.

Greg Helms – Ocean Conservancy – Encouraged the council to move forward with the lessons learned.

Tom Raftican – Sportfishing Conservancy - Spoke in support of using the lessons learned to manage fisheries.

Marla Jo Bruton – Individual – Stressed the importance of keeping the public informed and involved.

14. Panel Discussion

Neal Fishman, Program Manager, opened the discussion about the Oil Platform Decommissioning Study.

Skyli McAfee described the report as an objective study that has been rigorously peer-reviewed. She introduced Diani Pietri, Program Manager for OST.

Diani Pietri described the process with which the study was conducted and introduced the two panels.

Panel 1:

Dr. Brock Bernstein, Independent Consultant

Andy Bressler, Retired, formally of Texaco's California Business Unit

Dr. Dan Pondella, professor at Occidental College

Panel 2:

Linda Krop, Environmental Defense Center

Garry Brown, Orange County Coastkeepers

Doug Anthony, Energy Division of Santa Barbara County

Discussants:

Alison Dettmer, California Coastal Commission

Cy Oggins, State Lands Commission

Public comment (*see video record for detailed comments*):

Hannah-Beth Jackson – former Assemblywoman – Encouraged a public comment period of at least 45 days.

Leila Monroe – Natural Resources Defense Center – Suggested that the OPC communicate to the legislature that the report is a draft until further review.

Kristi Birney Rieman – Environmental Defense Center - Suggested a public and agency review period of 45 days.

Kristen Hislop - Environmental Defense Center – Spoke about the data gaps in the study and suggested that research be conducted on a case by case basis.

Sara Aminzadeh – California Coastkeeper Alliance – Suggested the report be classified as a draft, conduct a public review process, and look at the issue on a case by case basis.

Geof Bard – Individual – Concurred with the previous comments about classifying the report as a draft and involving stakeholders in the review process.

Mike McCorckle – Southern California Trawlers Association – Spoke of the need to study each rig on a case by case basis and stated that the research does not conclude what will happen if the platforms are topped off.

Andrew Lee – California Ships to Reefs, Inc. – Stated that artificial reefs are good for the economy and the environment and suggested breaking the platforms apart to create more artificial reefs.

Tom Raftican – Sportfishing Conservancy – Spoke in support of the comprehensive effort of the report and encouraged peer review before the model is used as a decision-support tool.

Kira Redmond – Santa Barbara Channelkeeper – Suggested that the council accept public comment.

George Steinbach – California Artificial Reef Enhancement Program – Stated that this report is comprehensive and informative.

Mike Murray – Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary – Stated that the study needs further input from agencies and the public.

Stephanie Mutz – Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) - Suggested classifying the report as a draft and conducting a public and agency review process.

Secretary Snow announced that the report is considered final. However, the OPC agreed to take additional written public comment for 30 days on the general issue of Oil Platform Decommissioning and the comments will be made available to the public and decision makers on the OPC website.

15. Secretary Snow adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.