



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 29, 2012

10:00 am - noon

Sierra Hearing Room – CalEPA Building

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

Members in Attendance

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair

Matt Rodriguez, Secretary for Environmental Protection

Alan Gordon for John Chiang, State Controller, Chair of the State Lands Commission

Geraldine Knatz, Public Member

Bill Craven for Fran Pavley, State Senator

Cody Naylor for Toni Atkins, State Assemblymember

Secretary Laird called the meeting to order at 10:03am

1. Welcome and Council Member Announcements

Secretary Laird called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Secretary Laird acknowledged that hurricane Sandy has highlighted the importance of sea level rise and extreme events in regard to coastal planning and preparation. He also noted the recent meeting by the Ocean Protection Councils Science Advisory Team on the issue of ocean acidification and highlighted the importance of this work in context of the recently completed report on ocean acidification by Washington State's Blue Ribbon Panel.

Secretary Rodriguez reported ARB's successful completion of the first auction of carbon credits. The Secretary Rodriguez noted that this auction was an important milestone in the states efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Report from the Executive Director

Executive Director Kuhlman thanked Secretary Laird for his comments on ocean acidification and highlighted recent sea level rise workshops along the West Coast to present findings of the National Research Council report to coastal managers. Ms. Kuhlman reported that the Japanese Government will be granting five million dollars in funding to the West Coast States to help cover the costs of dealing with marine debris generated from last year's Japanese earthquake and

tsunami. These funds will be received by NOAA and disbursed in California by the California Emergency Management Agency.

Ms Kuhlman reported that OPC, NOAA and the shellfish industry will be engaging in the shellfish initiative which will continue to be developed. Finally, the Director informed the Council that a number of Sea Grant Fellows will be hired this year to continue the great work that the California State Sea Grant Fellowship does building capacity and helping support agency engagement on ocean issues.

3. Report from the Science Advisor

Skyli McAfee, OPC Science Advisor and Executive Director of the Ocean Science Trust, reported on the November Science Advisory Team (SAT) meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to consider the best way to empanel experts on ocean acidification as an emerging issue for the State of California. Ms. McAfee thanked Secretary Laird for speaking at the start of the SAT meeting and supporting their efforts. Ms. McAfee noted that the Washington ocean acidification report findings were presented and California state decision makers were in attendance at the meeting, to begin the discussion about who should be on the panel and what can be learned from the Washington report.

Ms. McAfee informed the Council that members of the OPC staff and Monitoring Enterprise staff have been visiting the North Coast to engage the Northern Coastal communities and obtain input into the development of that region's baseline monitoring program.

Finally, Ms. McAfee highlighted for the council the upcoming February 27th, State of the Central Coast Symposium, a forum on the first five years of marine protected area (MPA) monitoring and management in California's Central Coast region.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Sea-Level Rise:

Ms. Kuhlman introduced this item requesting Council authorization to disburse up to \$2,500,000 to fund competitive grants to create vulnerability assessments, data collection and updates to Local Coastal Programs to help local governments plan for adaptation to sea-level rise and associated climate change impacts along the open coast of California.

Mary Small, OPC Program Manager and Coastal Conservancy Deputy Executive Officer, recommended the authorization be approved. Ms. Small informed the council that after initial approval, staff will return to the Council in the spring with specific grant criteria and an outline of the program. This will be followed by a selection process with the recommended grantee proposals presented to the council in the fall to receive authorization for disbursement. Ms. Small described for the council the ongoing need for this work to be done and described it as a natural extension of the work the OPC has been doing on sea level rise.

Charles Lester, California Coastal Commission (Commission) Executive Director, expressed his support for the proposal. He noted the Commission's 40 year history of coastal management and remarked that climate change issues will be an enormous future challenge. Mr. Lester informed the Council that many communities have Local Coastal Programs that need updating to include climate change considerations specifically. However he stated that there is a lack of staff capacity at CCC to do this work though they will do their best to support this work additional funding is required to complete the work.

Sam Schuchat, Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) Executive Director informed the Council that under the recently signed Senate Bill 1066 the Conservancy has explicit and expanded authority to work on climate change. He also noted that the Conservancy has worked on vulnerability assessments and has helped complete managed retreat projects. Mr. Schuchat stated that both the Conservancy and the Commission would seek to support planning approaches that protect coastal resources. Finally, Mr. Schuchat noted that pending appropriations for dealing with the effects of hurricane Sandy may include planning monies that the proposed grant funds from this appropriation may be used as matching funds.

Public Comment:

- Michael McCormick, Governors Office of Planning and Research: OPR supports this as it supports local governments land use guidelines. This is a valuable effort to leverage other funding from other sources such as the Strategic Growth Council and to address sea level rise with a more holistic approach.
- Sean Bothwell, California Coastkeeper Alliance: Spoke in favor of the recommendation noting Coastkeeper has worked with the OPC on sea lever rise guidance. He asked for the inclusion of ecosystem based guidelines in the assessments and updates.
- Kristy Foy, Long Beach Citizen: Strongly supports this proposal and it is timely for California's coastal communities.
- Leila Monroe, NRDC: Strongly support this action, stated that the item comes at a great time and seed monies could snowball further. Ms. Monroe noted that the recommendation does not include less tangible requirements, such as leadership, communications, cross jurisdictional support, and social vulnerabilities.
- Chris Mertens, The Nature Conservancy: Provided a letter of support and stated the Nature Conservancy's support for the recommendation noting that California is proactive to include sea level rise in local decision making. However he noted that local communities have little capacity to meet these needs.
- Richard Sadowski, Morro Bay resident: Supported staff on this issue and supported more funding for the Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission. However he asked that funding go to infrastructure projects such as waste water treatment facilities.

Secretary Rodriquez requested that the selection criteria and adequate outreach to coastal communities be established as part of the plan. Ms. Knatz moved for approval, it was seconded by Mr. Naylor and carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. **Coast and Ocean Geo-spatial Data:**

Laura Engeman, OPC Project Manager, reported to the Council on progress by the OPC and its partners to support state agencies' use and sharing of scientific and geospatial information for coastal- and ocean-relevant decision making. Assembly Bill 2125 mandated that OPC take a leadership role on this issue. OPC completed a scoping study that recommended creation of a coastal and marine data portal at the same time that the California Technology Agency announced a concurrent effort to build a statewide geoportal. As a result, these two efforts have been combined and OPC is leading the work to incorporate marine and coastal data into the California Geoportal. A dedicated Coastal and Ocean data page is being created and will include data such as the seafloor mapping bathymetry which has been used in a number of different applications. Coastal shoreline elevation data (LiDAR) is quickly becoming a highly demanded data set and is used in applications such as NOAA's sea level rise data viewer. In addition, the West Coast Governors Alliance Regional Data Framework Action Coordination Team has received approximately \$850,000 for regional data efforts. OPC staff and its partners are actively participating in the development of a workplan for these funds to link California's data with its the west coast regional partners.

Public Comment:

- Leila Monroe, NRDC: Issued a statement of support for the data efforts and tool development that the OPC are building, noting these efforts will strengthen the ability of agencies to carry out their mandates, as was seen in the MLPA process. She encouraged the Council to look at this project as one without an endpoint but one that will continue to evolve with a growing list of needed data layers.
- Marla Joe Bruton, COAST Alliance: Supported this effort as it is needed in California for integration and collaboration among agencies. She noted her opposition to the acoustic seismic testing in the Morro Bay region.

6. **Water Quality:**

Jonathon Bishop, Chief Deputy Director of the State Water Resources Control Board, reported on the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed trash policy that will identify trash as a separate pollutant and establish methods to control trash pollution in waterways, statewide. Mr. Bishop noted that although trash is a widespread problem it is completely preventable. The trash policy will address the stormwater system as this is the main way that trash pollutes waterbodies. He described the current practice of targeting high trash areas, high density urban areas, under stormwater permits and including capture devices that have become more affordable for

removing trash less than 5 mm in size. SWRCB staff anticipates their board will consider a final policy by fall of 2013.

11:31 Secretary Laird left the meeting due to travel obligations.

Public Comment:

- Sean Bothwell, California Coastkeeper Alliance: As a member of public trash advisory group supports this policy and wants OPC to continue to support this work and other work on marine debris. He requested that the marine debris steering committee be reconvened and noted that SWRCB does not have authority to address source reductions.
- Leila Monroe, NRDC: Strong support for the work SWRCB is doing and would offer that this is a global issue and the solutions found locally may have global utility.
- Nathan Weaver, Environment California: Stated his members are concerned about pollution and marine debris and noted that there are front-end solutions such as source controls and modifications.
- Sue Vang, Californians Against Waste: Support the work being done but also requested efforts for source reduction. Asked that the Council renew its February 2007 recommendation to reduce marine debris and bottles as source for plastic pollution.
- George Leonard, Ocean Conservancy: Noted his organization organizes ocean cleanup day internationally and supports SWRCB's work on this issue.

7. Water Quality:

Ken Schiff, Deputy Director Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, presented a report evaluating the impact of 40 years of implementing the Clean Water Act on the southern California coastal ocean. Mr. Schiff noted that the population has doubled during that time but that the amount of effluent being released has remained unchanged. Mr. Schiff described a concurrent increase in secondary waste water treatment which has reduced measurements of several effluent indicators that are linked to nutrient inputs. He also noted that the reduction in effluent has led to a reduction in pesticides and other chemicals which can be seen indirectly in a reduced number of fish with physical abnormalities. However, while there has been a reduction in PCB's and DDT the unchanging mercury levels are still problematic. Mr. Schiff described how as stormwater became proportionally more responsible for pollution inputs to the ocean and increased treatment of stormwater has led to measurable increases in beach water quality. He summed up stating that the Clean Water Act has had a positive impact on ocean water quality though there are 100,000 new chemicals being produced and the CWA does not address this issue therefore solving large scale wastewater problems requires a new perspective.

Public Comment:

- Sean Bothwell Coast Keeper Alliance: Supports the SWRCB work and supports the listing water bodies as impacted due to low flow.

- Linda Sheehan, Earth Law Center: Supports the SWRCB's effort and asked for support for water rights for water ways including listing water bodies as impacted due to low flow. She noted that the CWA has had great benefits but that climate change is overwhelming these benefits. OPC has been a leader in championing ocean science, advocate championing ocean and coastal law. Need to develop a process to identify needs for changing current law. Ms. Sheehan asked that the OPC develop a process for recommending policy and water rights for water ways and ecosystems.
- Richard Sadowski, Morro Bay: Noted that the CWA views the collection and treatment parts of the infrastructure system as separate systems. He also requested efforts to fix the current waiver system.
- Marla Joe Bruton, Morro Bay resident: Supported the forty years of benefits that the CWA has produced but is wary of proposed changes to the law and lack of current enforcement. Urged Council to include treatment data in the data portal.

8. Council Member Requests for Future Agenda Items

Cat Kuhlman, OPC Executive Director

No requests at this time

9. Public comment on non-agenda items

- Sean Bothwell, California Coastkeeper Alliance: Appreciates OPC Staff collaboration with DWR on the coastal water plan update. Asked the OPC to expand its efforts for developing an integrated water management plan. Mr. Bothwell was concerned that the separation of agencies is not allowing integration to occur on water management.
- Teri Shore, Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle: Thanked the OPC for its past support of Leatherback turtle conservation. Provided an update on the status of Leatherback turtles. Asked the OPC to oppose any expansion to the drift gill-net swordfish fishery by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.
- Rhea Williamson, Dean of Research Humboldt State University: Thanked the OPC for their collaborative efforts on ocean issues that will affect stakeholders she works to support, specifically the young citizens entering colleges like HSU. Ms. Williamson asked the Council to consider that within the CSU system there are 7 waterfront laboratories active in research germane to the issues and challenges the OPC is working to address and are a valuable resource that can be leveraged through further collaboration. .
- Richard Sadowski, COAST Alliance: Against PG&E seismic testing at Diablo Canyon.

10. Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned 12:23