



**Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council
on Implementation of the Safeguarding California Plan for Reducing Climate Risks**

Adopted on August 27, 2014

WHEREAS, the State of California released the *Safeguarding California Plan for Reducing Climate Risks: an Update to the 2009 Climate Adaptation Strategy* (“*Safeguarding Plan*”), on July 31, 2014, to provide policy guidance for state decision makers as part of continuing efforts to prepare for climate risks; and

WHEREAS, the *Safeguarding Plan* sets forth policy on hazard avoidance for new development to minimize the adverse effects of sea-level rise, erosion and storms and calls for new development to be carefully considered in light of principles described in the *Safeguarding Plan* and any recommendations resulting from the State Coastal Leadership Group on Sea-level Rise, of which the Ocean Protection Council (“OPC”) is a member; and

WHEREAS, the *Safeguarding Plan* identifies several actions for OPC leadership, including working with the State Coastal Leadership Group on Sea-level Rise to lead a process to improve the capacity of entities at multiple scales to more effectively act to reduce risks from sea-level rise, storms and erosion; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 OPC Resolution on Sea-level Rise provides recommendations that are still relevant and important for all state agencies and non-state entities implementing projects or programs with state funds or on state lands, to include consideration of sea-level rise in all relevant decisions and to avoid high risk decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby

RESOLVES that OPC staff continue to collaborate with senior management of the agencies that comprise the State Coastal Leadership Group on Sea-level Rise and with others to develop a concise visionary action plan to describe what success looks like for different time periods; to present a framework for bold action to reduce climate risks and protect what Californians value about our coast and ocean; and to identify changes to state and federal policies and funding streams that are necessary to implement the vision. This process will include engaging entities working on many scales to learn what is working, what could be expanded and what else needs to be done. OPC staff will bring this visionary action plan to the Council by the fall of 2015; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that state agencies and non-state entities implementing projects or programs with state funds should encourage innovative design of new structures and infrastructure in areas vulnerable to sea-level rise, storms and erosion and priority should be given to green or nature-based solutions that use natural processes and habitats to reduce risk from flooding and erosion; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that state agencies and non-state entities implementing projects or programs with state funds or on state lands should support and encourage progress toward a more integrated ecosystem approach to ocean management; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that state agencies and non-state entities implementing projects or programs with state funds or on state lands should reduce risk from climate impacts to the coast and ocean, by implementing the *Safeguarding Plan's* recommendation to incorporate climate risk considerations into all relevant decision-making, including related to infrastructure, in such a way that it:

1. Encourages iterative approaches;
2. Protects California's most vulnerable populations;
3. Achieves multiple benefits from efforts to reduce climate risks and prioritizes green infrastructure solutions;
4. Integrates climate risk reduction with emissions reductions to the fullest extent possible; and
5. Develops metrics and indicators to track progress on efforts to reduce climate risk.

FURTHER RESOLVES that state agencies and non-state entities implementing projects or programs with state funds or on state lands should follow the guiding principles from the Safeguarding Plan:

- Use the best available science to identify risks and adaptation strategies;
- Understand that an effective strategy for preparing for climate risks should evolve as new information is available;
- Involve all relevant stakeholders;
- Establish and maintain strong partnerships across all levels of government, tribes, businesses, landowners, and non-governmental organizations;
- Give priority to strategies that also achieve benefits other than climate risk reduction benefits, including additional benefits to public health, the economy, environmental justice, and conservation of natural resources; and
- Ensure that strategies to reduce climate risk are coordinated, to the extent possible, with the state's efforts to reduce GHG emissions and other local, national and international efforts.