



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

Item 5

TO: California Ocean Protection Council
FROM: Cyndi Dawson, OPC Marine Protected Areas Policy Advisor
DATE: September 22, 2015
RE: Proposed resolution regarding the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan

ATTACHMENTS:

1. "MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18" Executive Summary
2. "MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18"
3. Proposed Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council regarding the "MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18".

REQUESTED ACTION:

As directed by the Council staff has developed a work plan to implement [The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan](#)¹(Partnership Plan). Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council adopt the resolution in Attachment 4 on "MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18" pursuant to Sections 35500 *et. seq.* of the Public Resources Code.

SUMMARY: The attached proposed resolution will implement the Partnership Plan:

1. Endorse the "MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18" (Work Plan) and commit to supporting its implementation. The Work Plan outlines the shared strategic priorities among the members and identifies key actions and outcomes related to the management of the statewide network of MPAs.
2. Endorse and recognize the work of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team whose members play a direct or key support role in the management of the statewide network of MPAs as being critical for the long-term durability and success of the network at meeting the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act.

PURPOSE:

On December 2, 2014, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) endorsed the Partnership Plan and directed staff to return to the Council with a work plan to implement the partnership approach. To meet that goal, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) staff has led the MPA Statewide Leadership Team (Leadership Team) in the creation of a work plan to guide and coordinate their activities over the next three years. As envisioned in the Partnership Plan the Leadership Team membership has expanded to incorporate additional members that play a direct or key supporting role in MPA network management. The Work Plan reflects the shared strategic priorities, key actions and outcomes related to MPA network management among the Leadership Team members. The Leadership Team has four primary focal areas which direct their work including: outreach and education; enforcement and compliance; research and monitoring; and policy and permitting. The focal areas developed

¹ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/docs/mpa/APPROVED_FINAL_MPA_Partnership_Plan_12022014.pdf

by the Leadership Team encompass all aspects of MPA management and require active engagement in each focal area to ensure effective and efficient management of the MPA network.

The scope of California’s network of MPAs, which span over 1100 miles of coast and multiple agency jurisdictions and mandates, requires a bold approach to management focused on developing active effective partnerships that leverage resources and increase efficiencies. The Work Plan is a significant step in breaking down traditional silos and setting forth ambitious yet achievable outcomes. The Work Plan includes a shared vision of both the members as well as a wide range of other partners. Each of the members did significant scoping both within departments and programs inside their agency as well as with a wide range of outside partners to inform the development of the Work Plan. In addition to this internal and external scoping, the Director of the MPA Collaborative Network holds a seat on the Leadership Team. This provides a direct conduit by which information from stakeholders, involved in the 14 local MPA Collaborative groups associated with coastal counties, to inform the development of the Work Plan as well as future work of the Leadership Team.

The resolution before you recognizes the need for the MPA Statewide Leadership Team to serve as a standing body to coordinate MPA network management actions which often overlap between agency jurisdictions and mandates. In addition, the resolution recognizes the “MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18” as being a foundational document that will guide the work and priorities of the Leadership Team on tasks related to MPA network management over the next three years. The resolution also formalizes the MPA Statewide Leadership Team and broadly defines its role and responsibilities.

BACKGROUND ON MPA STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP TEAM:

On April 13, 2015, Secretary for Natural Resources Laird convened a meeting of the expanded Leadership Team. The expanded membership reflects an improved understanding developed in the Partnership Plan of the roles, processes and partners that are needed to effectively manage the statewide MPA network. After the initial convening of the expanded Leadership Team, a working group was formed to create a work plan to guide MPA network management priorities over the next three years. This work plan was identified in the Partnership Plan as being needed for implementation. The Work Plan sets out a prioritized road map agreed upon amongst members that will guide MPA related work for the next three years beginning in FY 15/16. In alignment with the priorities in the [OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan](http://www.opc.ca.gov/strategic-plan/)², the OPC leads the Leadership Team with a focus on promoting and leveraging resources to increase agency efficiency and to ensure coordinated science-based decision making.

The expanded Leadership Team has defined a bold new vision of partnering among state and federal agencies and other partners, with a focus on working together in innovative ways. The Leadership Team has formalized its membership and committed to working collaboratively on a comprehensive range of topics to ensure active communication and collaboration regarding all aspects of MPA network management. The Leadership Team will act as a standing body that meets regularly to work together to ensure the effective and efficient management of the statewide network of MPAs.



² <http://www.opc.ca.gov/strategic-plan/>

CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION ACT:

As outlined in the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA), the OPC is responsible for coordinating activities of state agencies that are related to the protection and conservation of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems, and is designated by SB 96 as the lead agency for guiding the policy direction of the network of MPAs. In this leadership capacity, OPC leads the MPA Statewide Leadership Team, to address the existing and emerging management needs of the statewide network of MPAs designated under the Marine Life Protection Act. The Work Plan outlines roles and a responsibility of the primary agencies and groups involved in MPA management and provides avenues for continued engagement.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE OPC'S STRATEGIC GOAL(S) AND OBJECTIVES:

Beyond its connection to OPC's legislative mandate, the proposed resolution regarding the MPA Statewide Leadership Team also fulfills numerous elements of the OPC's Five-Year Strategic Plan 2012-2017, in which the OPC has committed to:

- "Build on the foundation laid by the MLMA and MLPA, and partner with the regulatory bodies charged with implementing these statutes to help advance sustainable ocean ecosystem management in the state." (Issue C)
- "Work with partners to effectively advance MPA management, enforcement, monitoring, education, and outreach across a broad range of public and private entities that are engaged in marine resource protection and restoration activities." (Issue 8).

The Leadership Team incorporates local stakeholders input through scoping conducted by agency and representation of the MPA Collaboratives. The Leadership Team provides a venue for fulfilling additional elements of the OPC's Five-Year Strategic Plan 2012-2017 outlined in objective 8.1 which commits to:

- "Support effective implementation of MPAs consistent with the MLPA through strategic partnerships."
- "Support efforts to increase public awareness of MPAs by participating in a working group with appropriate local, state and federal agencies, tribal governments, private foundations, NGOs, educators, and other relevant entities to facilitate development and implementation of a coordinated public education strategy."

The agency roles and responsibilities outlined in the Work Plan additionally fulfill objective 8.2:

- "Support coordination of MLPA partners to facilitate communication, collaboration, and cost effective implementation of the MLPA"