From: Tom Hazelleaf
To: Opc.comments@scc.ca.gov
Subject: Strategic Plan Comments
Date: Sunday, September 18, 2011 10:45:31 AM

September 19, 2011
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John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources Chair, California Ocean Protection Council California Natural Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814
Opc.comments@scc.ca.gov

Re: Strategic Plan

Dear Chair and Members,

I am concerned that the protection of tidal wetlands is not effectively addressed in your draft strategic plan. Page 19 of the plan it states: "We decided not to address how tidal wetlands will evolve with SLR, since this issue is being addressed by other state agencies and regional collaborative." However, the OPC is tasked by the California Adaptation Strategy to develop "Decision Guidance," which includes "Allow continuation of important natural processes…and avoid any impacts to neighboring habitats or structures." Hence, because there is a need for policy to protect tidal wetlands from sea-level rise and because the OPC was tasked in the CAS to develop "Decision Guidance" to provide protection for neighboring habitat, I hope the OPC will accept responsibility for sea-level rise policy for tidal wetlands in its strategic plan.

As to desalinization, many ocean desalination project backers are currently applying for permits. There is not now any clear state guidance on the location and design of the facilities, nor on the technology required to protect marine life from deadly ocean water intakes.

OPC played a critical role in coordinating several agencies to ensure that our coastal power plants could be modernized with cooling technologies that eliminated marine life mortality from "once-through cooling" (OTC). These antiquated systems have already been proven to cause significant harm to marine ecosystems.

Practices have now been identified for withdrawing seawater from sub-seafloor intakes that avoid the marine life mortality from "open-ocean intakes" for desalination projects. However, if ocean desalination facilities perpetuate the use of out-dated open-ocean intakes, it would undermine the purpose of OPC's past Resolution on Once Through Cooling and the work by numerous State agencies to protect marine life from this long outdated and destructive process.

I encourage the OPC to immediately start work to protect our coast and ocean from proposed ocean desalination facilities. I ask that OPC adopt a Strategic Plan that reflects its commitment to protect our coast and ocean from desalination facilities, consistent with its related work on OTC facilities.

Sincerely,
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