

## MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean and Coastal Community

FROM: Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy

DATE: June 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Ocean Protection Council: new developments including research strategy, project priorities, and upcoming economic summit

The California Ocean Protection Council held its second meeting on Friday June 10, 2005 in San Francisco. A brief summary of the meeting highlights are below, but first I want to call your attention to four announcements from this meeting.

- The council adopted interim guidelines for funding, project selection, and application procedures [http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/copc/6-10-05\\_meeting/application\\_guidelines\\_memo.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/copc/6-10-05_meeting/application_guidelines_memo.pdf)  
[http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/copc/6-10-05\\_meeting/application\\_guidelines.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/copc/6-10-05_meeting/application_guidelines.pdf). Please send public comment, with "OPC guidelines" in the subject, line to [tcorrigan@scc.ca.gov](mailto:tcorrigan@scc.ca.gov) until July 18, 2005. If you are interested in applying for project funds from the council, please refer to these guidelines.
- Council staff is soliciting public comment on the *Draft California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy* [http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/copc/6-10-05\\_meeting/research\\_draft\\_strategy.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/copc/6-10-05_meeting/research_draft_strategy.pdf) that was presented at the council's meeting. Please submit your written comments by July 25 to [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov). The draft strategy will be discussed at the California Ocean Science Trust meeting, July 6, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., and public participation is welcome. The meeting will be held at Martin Johnson House, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 9500 Gilman Drive, 0210, La Jolla, California.
- Council staff is organizing the Ocean and Coastal Economic Summit with the California Biodiversity Council that will be held in Long Beach, California, on July 21-22. Please download the invitation from <http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/oceans.html> for more information.
- If you were unable to attend the June 10, Ocean Protection Council meeting, a video recording is available at <http://www.slo-span.org/stateav.htm#Special%20Meetings>.

### ***Meeting highlights***

**Four new projects approved.** The council approved four new projects that will further the objectives of the California Ocean Protection Act. These projects will provide funding for:

- An underwater remotely operated vehicle to improve resource management and protection in the Channel Islands marine protected areas;
- A pilot project for the restoration of critical eelgrass and native oyster habitat in the San Francisco Bay;
- A sediment study of Klamath River dams to develop management recommendations for restoring native salmonid habitat;
- A pilot project to find and remove derelict fishing gear in state waters.

**Federal affairs.** The meeting included a discussion of federal affairs, including the letters sent by the council, the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Lands Commission on a variety of pressing federal issues. These letters address the following issues:

- Opposition to efforts to lift the moratorium on offshore oil and gas;
- Support for the re-authorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act;
- Commitment to protect state's role in siting Liquefied Natural Gas facilities;
- Support for the U.S. ratification of the U.N. Resolution on Law of the Sea.

**Progress on Governor's Ocean Action Plan.** The council was briefed on the substantial progress made towards implementing the Governor's ocean action plan including:

- California Ocean and Coastal Inventory of Relevant Law (Action 2);
- California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy (Action 4);
- Education and Environment Initiative (Action 5);
- Efforts to reduce marine debris by state and local governments (Action 13);
- Coastal Sediment Management Working Group (Ongoing Action).

For more information on the Ocean Protection Council and to access the briefing documents for this meeting, please visit our Web site at <http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/copcl>.