

CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

Staff Recommendation
September 23, 2005

California and the World Ocean 2006 Conference

Developed By: Amber Mace

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration of and possible determination as a high priority, the provision of up to \$150,000 to the Coastal Conservancy Association to plan and sponsor California and the World Ocean 2006, and authorization for the Secretary to take action needed to provide for its planning or implementation.

NEAREST OCEAN or COASTAL LOCATION: The conference will be held in Long Beach.

AGENCY OR ENTITY RECOMMENDING PROJECT: State Coastal Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy Association, California Resources Agency, and the California Environmental Protection Agency

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Letters of Support

RESOLUTION:

“The Ocean Protection Council finds pursuant to Sections 35600 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code that the California and the World Ocean 2006 conference, as herein described, is a high priority for ocean conservation and authorizes the Secretary to take actions necessary for its planning or implementation, including the allocation of up to \$150,000 of ocean protection funds reserved by the Coastal Conservancy for use in this project.”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Staff is recommending that the Ocean Protection Council find that the California and the World Ocean 2006 Conference (*CWO '06*) is a high priority project, and that it authorize the Council's Secretary to take actions needed to provide for facilities and services related to the project, including the allocation of up to \$150,000 of ocean protection funds.

As was the case in both 1997 and 2002, *CWO '06* is expected to lead to significant advances in ocean science, law, policy and management. This conference was called for in the Governor's ocean agenda: *Protecting our Ocean: California's Action Strategy*. It would be the fourth such conference since 1964 and is expected to draw approximately 1,000 scientists, engineers, activists, and government officials from around the world to share information about the ocean.

CALIFORNIA AND THE WORLD OCEAN 2006 CONFERENCE

The creation of the California Ocean Protection Council, the expansion of the Coastal Conservancy's role in ocean governance, and recent legislative appropriations for ocean protection were a direct result of the interaction between scientists and policy makers at the 2002 California ocean conference and the subsequent publication of the Pew Oceans Commission and United States Commission on Ocean Policy reports. The 2002 conference highlighted scientific papers and policy reports on diverse topics including: governance; ocean and coastal resource economics; habitats and ecosystem management; fisheries and aquaculture; energy, climate and transportation; coastal sediment management and shoreline processes; research, data and technology; and science and education. Previous conferences focused on how California's increasing population impacted each of these areas and created a call to action based on deterioration of ocean indicators.

CWO '06 will focus on current and increasing threats to the ocean environment, but will also highlight how well California, the nation and other countries have responded to threats over a four year period. It will evaluate how changes in law and policy, and recent investments in resource restoration and enhancement have impacted the ocean environment. The exchange of information about both successes and failures is expected to directly lead to better future projects to restore ocean resources, and to reduce threats to ocean ecosystems.

The proposed funding would be granted to the Coastal Conservancy Association to contract with meeting planners, a conference facility, meeting recorders, administrative staff, and to publish the conference extended abstracts. The Association will be fiscal agent for the conference, also receiving and expending funds from other governmental and nongovernmental sources.

PROJECT FINANCING

Possible Funding Sources:

Coastal Conservancy	\$150,000
Registration and Event Fees	100,000
Anticipated Foundation Grants/Donations	150,000

Total Project Cost **\$400,000**

The Coastal Conservancy funding would come either from an appropriation from the Environmental License Plate Fund for ocean protection, or an appropriation of tidelands oil revenues to the Resources Agency, for the same purpose. The Conservancy administers the tidelands funds for the Resources Agency through an interagency agreement.

CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA'S OCEAN ACTION STRATEGY: The proposed project is consistent with action item 2, which calls for sponsoring a California and the World Ocean conference in 2006 (see Action Strategy page 13). The proposed project is also consistent with action item 4 in that the *CWO '06* will help develop a state-wide ocean and coastal research and outreach strategy with clearly stated priorities for California by evaluating and presenting past restoration projects and management strategies to enable better decision-making for the future. In addition, the conference will help implement action item 7 in that it will help to launch an ocean and coastal stewardship media campaign by working with members of government,

academia, industry, and non-governmental organizations, all of whom are expected to be participants in CWO '06. The conference and its proceedings will be publicized and made available to the media.

CONSISTENCY WITH OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL'S INTERIM PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

Mandatory Criteria

1. Furthers the following statutory purposes and policies of the Ocean Protection Act:

- **Improves management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems:** The *CWO '06* will evaluate and disseminate information that will result in improved management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.
- **Encourages those activities and uses that are consistent with sustainable, long-term protection and conservation of ocean and coastal resources:** Various ocean restoration and enhancement projects will be evaluated and presented at the *CWO '06*, encouraging selection of future projects based upon past successful projects.
- **Promotes aesthetic, educational and recreational uses of the coast and ocean:** The proceedings from the *CWO '06* will be available to educators and others interested in coastal and ocean issues.
- **Improve monitoring, data gathering, and advances in scientific understanding of the ocean and coastal environment:** A primary purpose of the *CWO '06* is to advance the scientific understanding of the ocean and coastal environment, including related monitoring and data gathering activities.
- **Improves the health of fish and fosters sustainable fisheries in ocean and coastal waters:** The *CWO '06* will evaluate and present data related to functioning ocean ecosystems which will promote improved fisheries.
- **Helps to integrate and coordinate the state's laws and institutions responsible for protecting and conserving ocean and coastal resources:** The *CWO '06* will promote integrated and coordinated laws and institutions for protecting and conserving ocean resources by providing a forum for scientists and policy makers from around the world to gather, review and evaluate current projects and issues related to ocean management.
- **Helps to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data:** A primary purpose of the *CWO '06* is to collect and share scientific data related to ocean issues.
- **Benefits or furthers existing state programs or legislative mandates:** The *CWO '06* was called for in the Governor's ocean agenda: *Protecting Our Ocean: California's Action Strategy*. Recent legislative appropriations for ocean protection were the direct result of the interaction between scientists and policy makers at the 2002 California ocean conference and subsequent publication of the Pew Oceans Commission and United States Commission on Ocean Policy reports.
- **Identify changes in federal law and policy necessary to achieve the state's goals for the coast and ocean:** The *CWO '06* will provide a forum for identifying potential changes in law and policy that may be necessary to achieve the state's goals for the coast and ocean.

2. Consistent with the purposes of the funding source: See Project Financing Section above.

3. **Has demonstrable support from the public:** (Exhibit 2: Letters of Support).
4. **Relates directly to the ocean, coast, associated estuaries, and coastal-draining watersheds:** Information evaluated and presented at the *CWO '06* will be used to develop restoration projects and management policies directly effecting ocean resources.
5. **Has greater-than-local interest:** The *CWO '06* will be held in the coastal city of Long Beach, but will attract scientists and scholars from around the world.

Additional Criteria

1. **Helps implement the California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy and other priorities of local, state or federal advisory groups, or scientific or policy reports, adopted by the council:** See Consistency with California's Ocean Action Strategy above.
2. **The project would not occur without Council participation:** The Legislature appropriated funds to the Coastal Conservancy specifically to carry out this type of meeting. Without these funds the conference could not attract the broad range of scientists and students expected to attend and the information developed could not be broadly disseminated.
3. **The project has an element of urgency (there is an immediate threat to a coastal/ocean resource from development or natural or economic conditions, a pressing need, or a fleeting opportunity):** The conference will be held in the fall of 2006. Funding is needed now to secure space and facilities and to publicize the event.
4. **The project helps resolve more than one issue:** The conference will focus on ocean health which relates directly to fisheries and other ocean economic activities, recreational uses, and environmental concerns.
5. **The project includes a contribution of funds or services by other entities:** Government grants, private donations, and registration fees will jointly fund the conference.
6. **The project helps with conflict resolution:** Many conflicts in ocean management have resulted from a lack of an integrated and coordinated approach among state, federal and international government and private entities. The *CWO '06* will help resolve this issue by providing a forum for shared information and policy making.
7. **The project is ready to implement (grantee or contractor will start and finish the project in a timely manner):** The conference is in the pre-planning stage and sponsors are ready to move ahead.
8. **The project involves a combination of local, state, or federal agencies or is a public/private partnership:** The conference has attracted the interest of state, federal and international government, and private entities and participation is expected from all of these sources.