



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Drew Bohan, Executive Policy Officer

DATE: October 25, 2007

RE: Staff Recommendation Regarding the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Draft Action Plan

ATTACHMENTS: (1) [West Coast Governors' Agreement Draft Action Plan](#)
(2) [OPC Issue Matrix](#)
(3) [June 14, 2007 Letter](#) to Mike Carrier, Oregon Natural Resources Policy Advisor and Jay Manning, Washington Department of Ecology Director
(4) [October 25, 2007 letter of support for the Draft Action Plan](#)

REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends the council approve the following resolution:

“The Ocean Protection Council has reviewed and supports the Draft Action Plan for the West Coast Governors' Agreement and directs staff to send the attached letter on behalf of the Council.”

BACKGROUND:

At the April 17, 2007 Ocean Protection Council (OPC) meeting in Monterey, the OPC heard testimony from representatives from California, Oregon, Washington, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality regarding the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (signed by Gov. Theodore Kulongoski of Oregon, Gov. Christine Gregoire of Washington, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California on September 18, 2006). The OPC heard public comment on a “discussion paper” that identified a suite of potential actions that the three states were considering pursuing.

At the subsequent OPC meeting in San Francisco on June 14, 2007, the OPC unanimously agreed to send a letter to Mike Carrier, Oregon Natural Resources Policy Advisor and Jay Manning, Washington Department of Ecology Director, to express the OPC's recommendations regarding the action plan (see attached).

Additional public workshops were held in California, Oregon, and Washington in the summer of 2007 to solicit feedback on the discussion paper. Public comment and the comments from the OPC informed the development of the attached Draft Action Plan.

A brief overview on the OPC recommendations from the June 2007 meeting and a synopsis of potential actions in the West Coast Governors' Agreement Draft Action Plan are outlined below. Most of the OPC recommendations have been incorporated into the Draft Action Plan. Please see attached matrix which outlines exact language used in the Draft Action Plan.

The staff recommends council support of the Draft Action Plan and approval to send the attached letter to the Natural Resources Policy Director for the State of Oregon, and the Director of the Department of Ecology for the State of Washington.

Overarching recommendations

OPC recommendations:

- Support creation of a national trust fund.

Corresponding actions in Draft Action Plan:

- Overarching recommendation: Encourage establishment of a national trust fund.

Priority Area 1: Ensure Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches

OPC recommendations:

- Enforce water quality laws and seek federal support for the non-point source pollution funding.
- Set a regional marine debris reduction goal.
- Establish a sulfur emission control area (SECA) off the West Coast.

Corresponding actions in draft plan:

- Action 1.1: Work with the Administration and the U.S. Congress to provide adequate funding for coastal water quality programs to reduce polluted runoff and enhance monitoring and enforcement of water quality regulations to improve the health of the West Coast coastal waters.
- Action 1.4: Marine debris: Establish baseline estimate of marine debris and derelict gear off the West Coast and set reduction goals.
- Action 1.5: Urge the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to ratify MARPOL Annex VI and complete the International Maritime Organization application for designation of the West Coast as a Sulfur Emissions Control Area (SECA).

Priority Area 4: Reduce Adverse Impacts of Offshore Development

OPC recommendations:

- Develop a coordinated plan with the federal agencies to evaluate the potential for and impacts of new renewable ocean energy projects off the West Coast.

Corresponding actions in Draft Action Plan:

- Action 4.2: Explore the feasibility of offshore alternative ocean energy development and evaluate the potential environmental impacts of these technologies.

Priority Area 6: Research

OPC recommendations:

- Address climate change impacts within the three states.
- Create a regional ocean and coastal research plan in collaboration with Sea Grant.
- Develop a coordinated ocean observing system.

- Create a high-resolution map of the seafloor in all state waters along the West Coast.

Corresponding actions in Draft Action Plan:

- Overarching recommendation in Draft Action Plan: Collaborate on a West Coast-wide assessment of shoreline changes and impacts from climate change and develop actions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts and hazards of climate change.
- Action 6.1: Regional Research Plan: The three states will support the ongoing Sea Grant process by identifying funding sources and partners for a sustained approach to ocean and coastal research.
- Action 6.1: Coordinated Ocean Monitoring: The three states will work with the four ocean observation systems collaborative efforts along the West Coast, federal agencies, tribes and academia to invest in monitoring to address priority issues.
- Action 6.2: Seafloor Mapping: The three states will complete a seafloor map of the state tidelands and submerged lands out to three miles with federal support by 2020.

Priority Area 7: Sustainable Economic Development

OPC recommendations:

- Examine the California Fisheries Fund as a model of a revolving loan fund to help fishermen transition to a more economically and environmentally sustainable fishery.

Corresponding actions in Draft Action Plan:

- Action 7.1: The three states will support local planning efforts for working waterfronts to promote sustainable fisheries and prioritize coastal-dependent businesses and infrastructure through grant processes and federal assistance programs. The states will consider establishing loan programs for coastal communities similar to the California Fisheries Fund and encourage completion of sustainable fishery certification, such as through the Marine Stewardship Council.