



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair
John Garamendi, Lieutenant Governor, State Lands Commission Chair
Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Susan Golding, Public Member
Geraldine Knatz, Public Member
Darrell Steinberg, State Senator
Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Sam Schuchat, Ocean Protection Council Secretary

DATE: February 29, 2008

RE: Election of Chair to the Ocean Protection Council

REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends the California Ocean Protection Council elect a voting member of the Council to serve as chair of the Council at this meeting until the first council meeting in 2009.

BACKGROUND:

Recent legislative changes to the Ocean Protection Council's enabling legislation, the California Ocean Protection Act, now require that the Council elect a chairperson each calendar year. Assembly Bill 1056 (Leno, 2007) repealed that section of the California Ocean Protection Act that tasked the Secretary of the Resources Agency with chairing Council meetings. The new section 35605 of the Public Resources Code now provides:

At the council's first meeting in a calendar year, the council shall elect a chair from among its voting members.

The Chair is generally responsible for ensuring an orderly meeting, a full discussion on issues before the Council, and clear instructions to its staff concerning the will of the Council.¹

Suggested Procedure for Electing the Chairperson

Staff suggests that nominations for Chair be made by voting members as the second order of business at the February 29, 2008 meeting, after the election of alternates (if any), and provided a quorum is present. If there is more than one nomination, a vote shall be taken. If there is only one candidate, a decision by unanimous consent will be sufficient. The new chair will then preside over the remainder of the February 29th meeting, and remain chair until the January, 2009 meeting. In this way, the new Chair will serve for four meetings of the Council, as suggested by the legislation.

¹ See generally *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* § 47.