



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OPC MINUTES

**July 24, 2008
10:00-11:00 a.m.**

Via teleconference from various locations

Present:

Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair
Cindy Tuck for Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Cindy Aronberg for John Chiang, State Controller, Chair of the State Lands Commission
Susan Golding, Public Member
Ben Turner for Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember
Bill Craven for Darrell Steinberg, State Senator

Secretary Chrisman welcomed everyone and stated that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) would today consider supporting the specific objectives of the House of Representatives bill *Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act* (H.R. 21). Secretary Chrisman introduced the OPC members participating in the call.

Drew Bohan, Executive Policy Officer, reported that staff had reviewed H.R. 21, as requested by the OPC in its May 15, 2008 meeting. Mr. Bohan provided an overview of the four key objectives of H.R. 21, as described in the staff recommendation:

1. Establish a national policy to protect ocean resources and create an organizational framework to better coordinate federal activities related to ocean resources
2. Codify the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) functions and responsibilities
3. Provide for regional ocean governance and strategic planning
4. Establish a national ocean trust fund to provide funding to support ocean and coastal management

Drew Bohan presented the staff recommendation that the chair send a letter on behalf of the council to express support for the specific objectives of H.R. 21. Mr. Bohan clarified that the letter does not express support for the bill itself, since the language of the bill may be amended during the legislative process.

Chairman Chrisman opened the meeting to public comment from the four meeting locations.

La Jolla

Rick Seymour, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, expressed concern about lack of definitions for some of the language in H.R. 21 (including marine and marine ecosystems).

Los Angeles

Brian Meux, Santa Monica Baykeeper, supported staff recommendation and expressed the need for national guidance to improve living systems, the ocean, and management. He agreed that precise definitions would be an improvement to the bill.

Oakland

Leila Monroe, Natural Resources Defense Council, expressed her belief that H.R. 21 is in line with the vision and goals of OPC, summarized entities in support of H.R. 21 and expressed NRDC's support of the four objectives of H.R. 21 and noted that they address key points from the Pew Oceans Commission and U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy reports.

Michael Stocker, Ocean Conservation Research, commented that a lot of work has gone into the bill over the last 5 years and that H.R. 21 has a clear and concise strategy. He stressed the importance of bill and stated support for the staff recommendation..

David Helvarg, Blue Frontier Campaign, stated that there is a need for a comprehensive ocean bill, following on the two national commission's reports on the state of the ocean. He commented that H.R. 21 represents a good opportunity to engage the public and a broad coalition to work on concerns with the ocean. He stated that there is a need to make sure that definitions are clear.

Warner Chabot, Ocean Conservancy, stated that the Ocean Conservancy strongly endorses the bill and urges the OPC to support the letter as described in the staff report.

Sacramento

There was no public comment.

Chair Chrisman then asked for questions and comments from the members.

Susan Golding stated that she is strongly supportive of the staff recommendation to send the letter. She observed that the only objections to H.R. 21 that were raised during public comment at this meeting were related to the need to clarify definitions. Ms. Golding noted that it would be helpful to have a definition of "abundance," as used in the definition of "marine ecosystem health."

Cindy Aronberg read a statement by John Chiang stating the need for H.R. 21 to provide a national standard to help unify federal and state management efforts to protect coastal ecosystems and to make comprehensive ocean protection a national priority. She also asked why staff was recommending support of the principles of the bill, but not the bill itself. Secretary Chrisman explained that the bill may undergo future amendments and that it was uncertain what the final

version of the bill would state. Ms. Aronberg requested that the letter include a subject line stating “Support for the objectives of H.R. 21” to clarify the intent of the letter.

Ben Turner expressed support for the staff recommendation.

Cindy Tuck stated her support of the staff recommendation.

Council Vote

Susan Golding moved to approve the staff recommendation to send the letter with the modification suggested by Ms. Aronberg, and direct OPC staff to work with the bill’s author to craft clear definitions for the bill.

Cindy Aronberg seconded.

Chairman Chrisman took the vote by role call:

Ms. Golding – aye

Ms. Aronberg – aye

Ms. Tuck – aye

Chair Chrisman – aye

Motion passed.

Chairman Chrisman thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.