



California Ocean Protection Council

Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel

1230 J Street

Sacramento, CA

March 3, 2010

Council Members in Attendance:

Lester Snow, Secretary for the Natural Resources, Council Chair

Cindy Tuck, Undersecretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency, representative for Linda Adams

John Chiang, State Controller, Chair of the State Lands Commission

*Cindy Aronberg, representative for John Chiang

Geraldine Knatz, Public Member

Fran Pavley, State Senator

Absent:

Susan Golding, Public Member

Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember

1. Secretary Snow expressed his pleasure in assuming his new role as Secretary for the Natural Resources Agency and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave the council members and attendees a summary of his previous 30 years in water resource management at both the local and state levels. He articulated his understanding of the need for integrated and sustainable ocean resource management. Secretary Snow introduced Skyli McAfee as the new Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Science Advisor.

Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, gave an update on the Obama Administration's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. Mr. Baird announced that the OPC submitted a comment letter to the Task Force on the draft Interim Framework for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. The final framework should be released in the coming months. He also noted that a recent Thank You Ocean (TYO) event was held at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach honoring Edward J Olmas for his ongoing involvement as a spokesperson for the TYO campaign.

John Chiang nominated Secretary Snow as the next Council Chairperson. It was seconded by Cindy Tuck and Secretary Snow accepted. Secretary Snow was elected Council Chairperson by unanimous consent.

2. Public comments on non-agenda items:

- Dr. Jan Freiwald - Reef Check California - Thanked the council and staff for supporting the collection of baseline data for the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Reef Check will be participating in the effort through its citizen scuba surveys.
 - Dr. Chris Pincetich – Sea Turtle Restoration Project- announced an open comment period ending on April 23, 2010 for NOAA’s proposed critical habitat areas for leather back sea turtles. He requested a letter of support from the OPC.
 - Samantha Murray - Ocean Conservancy – thanked the council for their support for MLPA monitoring and announced that baseline data is starting to be collected on the North Coast.
3. Dr. Amber Mace presented the report of the Executive Director, which highlighted OPC accomplishments including progress on the California Climate Adaptation Strategy, Collaborative Fisheries Research, Aquaculture, and a LiDAR report. Looking ahead, she spoke of OPC’s future priorities on Seafloor Mapping, the MLPA, the evaluation of Marine Life Management Act (MLMA), the California Fisheries Challenge, Marine Debris legislation, and Marine Spatial Planning. She requested Council approval of recommended appointees for an expert advisory panel to assist with the OPC program evaluation.

Geraldine Knatz asked for information on the contractor conducting the OPC program evaluation. Wendy Pratt with the NewPoint Group, described her organization’s experience as an independent evaluator of agencies in resource management.

It was moved (Tuck) and seconded (Chiang) to consider the appointment of the recommended members of the OPC Evaluation Expert Advisory Panel and delegate authority to the council chair to appoint replacement members.

APPROVED Ayes: Chiang, Knatz, Pavley, Tuck Nays: 0

4. Sam Schuchat, presented the report of the Council Secretary, in which he announced that the MLMA Lessons Learned Report is scheduled for release in a few weeks. He gave updates on the Sustainable Seafood Program and the Dungeness Crab Task Force, and he announced that in the coming week a report will be issued on the environmental assessment of single use vs. reusable bags. He also mentioned that OPC staff is developing protocols for carbon sequestration in fresh water and presented the current OPC budget.

He announced that Project Manager Cina Loarie will be leaving to pursue a master’s degree in Nursing, and Project Manager Christina Cairns is moving on to NOAA’s Coastal Services Center. He introduced the new Sea Grant Fellows Erinn McKell, Pam Rittelmeyer, and Elizabeth Rogers, and the new OPC lawyer Kyle Nast.

5. Skyli McAfee expressed that she is very pleased to be the newly appointed Executive Director of Ocean Science Trust and the OPC Science Advisor. She thanked Steve Weisberg for his excellent management as the interim advisor. She highlighted the oil and gas study report that will be coming in the spring. She also stated that the MPA Monitoring Enterprise’s North Coast Plan will be reviewed in April and eleven baseline monitoring programs will be underway by the spring in the North Coast. In addition, she mentioned that OST is continuing to work with OPC on the Wetlands Carbon Sequestration Initiative with workshops and ongoing peer reviews.

6. Brian Baird announced that the California World Ocean (CWO) Conference will take place at the San Francisco Hyatt Regency Hotel September 7-10, 2010. Over \$100,000 has been raised in sponsorship from philanthropic organizations, federal agencies, private industry, academia, and the Port of Los Angeles. The Call for Presentations is due on April 15. Dr. Amber Mace said that there will be an OPC meeting on the first day of the conference.

Rachelle Fisher, Former Sea Grant Fellow, Consultant to the Dungeness Crab Task Force, reported on the recent meeting and accomplishments of the Dungeness Crab Task Force.

Public Comment:

- Maggie Ostdahl - Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) – Expressed her appreciation of the hard work of OPC and Dungeness Crab Taskforce (DCTF) and that the taskforce has added much needed expertise and made critical moves to advance the management of this fishery.

Christina Cairns, Project Manager, announced that former Secretary Chrisman submitted comments on the President Obama's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Interim Framework. She stated that OPC has begun coordinating among state agencies and is considering forming a subcommittee of the California GIS Council for data sharing and identifying data gaps.

Public Comment:

- Leila Monroe – Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)- Discussed NRDC's recommendations for the Interim Framework. She stressed the importance of publically available and transparent baseline data.
- Samantha Murray - Ocean Conservancy - Asked the council to please consider the hallmarks of the MLPA when moving ahead with MSP.

7. Sam Schuchat discussed state legislation, including bills that are being drafted regarding: reducing marine debris, marine spatial planning, sustainable seafood, salmon and steelhead restoration projects, and artificial reefs.

Dr. Amber Mace discussed federal legislation in which an ocean observation bill and a coastal restoration act have been signed into law. She pointed out that bills the OPC is tracking are the National Sustainable Offshore Aquaculture Act, Climate legislation, the Renewable and Environmental Energy Research Act, as well as a Harmful Algal Bloom Research and Control Amendment Act.

8. Laura Engeman, Project Manager, introduced the panel on Hydrokinetic Energy Development and each of the speakers:

- *Ian Caliendo, Pacific Gas and Electric Company*
- *Cordel Stillman, Sonoma County Water Resources Agency*
- *Tom Luster, California Coastal Commission*
- *Sarah Henkel, Hatfield Marine Laboratory, Oregon State University*
- *Jena Carter, The Nature Conservancy*

Following the presentations, there was a question and answer session with the panelists and council members. Laura Engeman made a recommendation that the OPC adopt a resolution to establish the

California Marine Renewable Energy Working Group and to support the collection and dissemination of state agency data for use in marine renewable energy planning and management.

It was moved (Tuck) and seconded (Aronberg).

Public Comments:

- Joan Barminski – Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service - Expressed support for the staff recommendation and looks forward to future opportunities for collaboration.
- Leila Monroe – Natural Resources Defense Council – Spoke in support of the creation of a working group and stressed the importance of making regulation both more effective and more protective.
- Paul Siri - Private Ocean Policy Consultant – Spoke in favor of the recommendation for a working group.
- Heather Kerkering –Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) - Encouraged the council to adopt the resolution for a working group and expressed interest in being a part of it.
- Eugenia Laychak - California Energy Commission – Expressed support for acting as co-chair of the working group and thanked OPC for forming the informal group that has been in place.

APPROVED Ayes: Aronberg, Knatz, Tuck Nays: 0

9. Skyli McAfee introduced Dr. Gary Griggs, OPC Science Advisory Team (SAT) co-chair, who presented the *Spotlight on Science*. Dr. Griggs discussed the SAT's Consensus Statement on Ocean Observing.
10. Sheila Semans, Project Specialist, gave an overview of the current status of Ocean Observing efforts being led by OPC.

It was moved (Tuck) and seconded (Knatz) to accept a recommendation to consider and possibly adopt a resolution to continue support of Ocean Observing in California.

Public Comments:

- Chris Cohen - Southern California Ocean Observing System - Encouraged the council to adopt the resolution.
- Heather Kerkering - Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) - Encouraged the Council to support more funding for Ocean Observing Systems.
- Dominic Gregorio - State Water Board - Spoke in support of the recommendation.
- Paul Siri - Private Ocean Policy Consultant - Emphasized the need for better information for management and recommended that the council approve the resolution.

APPROVED Ayes: Aronberg, Knatz, Tuck Nays: 0

11. Valerie Termini, Project Manager, gave an overview of AB 1217 requiring the OPC to develop a sustainable seafood promotion program in California and described the role of a California Sustainable Seafood Advisory Panel in assisting OPC staff to implement this mandate.

It was moved (Knatz) and seconded (Aronberg) to accept the staff recommendations for appointments to the California Sustainable Seafood Advisory Panel and delegate authority to the council chair to appoint replacement members.

Public Comments:

- Paul Siri - Private Ocean Policy Consultant – This gives us opportunity to link environmental science with economics to help fisheries.
- Crystal Muhlenkamp - Monterey Bay Aquarium – Expressed support for the list of appointees.

APPROVED Ayes: Aronberg, Knatz, Tuck Nays: 0

12. Sheila Semans, Project Specialist, provided an overview of the California Seafloor Mapping program and described federal funding awarded to OPC for this program. She introduced Sam Johnson from the U.S. Geological Survey. Mr. Johnson presented bathymetric and backscatter imagery that the USGS recently collected in Monterey Bay.

It was moved (Knatz) and seconded (Aronberg) to authorize OPC to accept and disburse up to \$1,710,000 of federal grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Minerals Management Service Coastal Impact Assistance Program to implement the California Seafloor Mapping Program.

APPROVED Ayes: Aronberg, Knatz, Tuck Nays: 0

13. Secretary Snow announced that the next OPC meeting will take place in Santa Barbara in June. He thanked everyone for their participation and stated that the staff, panelists, and public speakers demonstrated the importance of collecting valuable data sets and then making the information available to the decision makers.

Secretary Snow adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm.