

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

**September 7, 2010**

**1 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

Hyatt Regency San Francisco

5 Embarcadero Center

San Francisco, CA 94111

### **Council Members in Attendance:**

Lester Snow, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair

Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection

Geraldine Knatz, Public Member

Paul Thayer for John Chiang, State Controller, Chair of the State Lands Commission

### **Absent:**

Susan Golding, Public Member

Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember

Fran Pavley, State Senator

### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

Secretary Snow welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave some background on the mission of the OPC to provide high level ocean management leadership in California. Secretary Snow noted that the OPC was celebrating five years of its existence and that the meeting would include a discussion of the OPC's accomplishments and the OPC's next strategic plan process.

Secretary Adams welcomed everyone to the California and World Ocean (CWO) conference and meeting. Secretary Adams highlighted: CalEPA's new authority to regulate the discharge from cruise ship vessels in California waters, the Education and Environment Initiative's development of 85 units of environmental curriculum for K-12 schools, the Department of Toxic Substances Control plan to release its proposed Green Chemistry regulations in September, and that the Air Resources Board is on track to implement AB 32 which includes the design of a carbon market and a Western states carbon trading program. Secretary Adams noted that California policies are already creating green jobs at 10 times the rate of other sectors.

Paul Thayer announced that the Prevention First 2010 conference will be held in Long Beach on October 19-20, 2010. He noted that this was a timely conference with the Gulf oil spill this year and that the conference would discuss various factors and components of offshore oil issues, invasive species, and other topics relevant to the State Lands Commission.

Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy at the Natural Resources Agency, announced that the CWO conference was honored to have many international, national, and local leaders in attendance for the conference event including President Tong from the island nation of Kiribati, NOAA Director Dr. Jane Lubchenco, David Rockefeller, and Congressman Sam Farr.

## **2. Report from the Executive Director**

Dr. Amber Mace, Executive Director, noted that the OPC has had tremendous accomplishments in the last five years and that the first half of the meeting would focus on these. Dr. Mace updated the Council on several OPC staff efforts that were recommended in the draft OPC evaluation including: a Director's report that will be provided at all future meetings which summarizes all OPC activities that occur between OPC meetings, the reconvening of the OPC Steering committee on July 30, 2010, updates to the OPC website including a new list of all OPC projects, 2-page descriptions of OPC accomplishments, and an updated summary of OPC outcomes in relation to the 2006 OPC strategic plan.

Geraldine Knatz noted that there was no representation of industrial uses of the ocean on the Steering Committee, but acknowledged that there may not be a good state agency that can represent these industries.

## **3. Report from the Executive Officer**

Sam Schuchat introduced Moira McEnespy, the new program manager for OPC, and announced that Neal Fishman would be retiring this fall. He noted that OPC is now in a hiring and promotions freeze, so there will not be any new staff until this is lifted and OPC will remain understaffed for awhile. He also provided an update for the Council on the Sustainable Seafood Initiative and announced it will have a draft proposal at the next OPC meeting on an eco-label protocol for California sustainable seafood. He also presented the OPC Budget summary.

Secretary Snow made an announcement that he had the privilege of joining Senator Diane Feinstein for a celebration of the restoration of the San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds and pointed to this as a useful reminder that progress in ocean and coastal health is being made.

## **4. Report from the Science Advisor**

Skyli McAfee let the Council know that her report would be presented later as part of the OPC accomplishments.

## **5. OPC Five-Year Accomplishments**

Dr. Amber Mace led the discussion noting that the following projects represent the core strengths of the OPC.

- Sheila Semans, Project Specialist, introduced the integrated coastal mapping program which now consists of both seafloor and shoreline mapping. She gave a detailed presentation on the needs for this primary data set, the mapping technologies used, and the millions of non-state dollars leveraged with OPC's investment in the program. She emphasized that it was a project of partnerships, and that the maps were already providing valuable information for state agencies, as well as unexpected new information about the ocean that we didn't previously have. Rikk Kvitek, California State University of Monterey Bay, also gave a visual presentation of the maps and information already derived from the project. He noted that mapping the

land/sea transition remains a challenge, but that a variety of innovative ideas are being used to fill this mapping gap.

Geraldine Knatz questioned whether anyone can currently find the archeological sites. Rikk Kvitek answered that there are some risks of having this information open to the public, but that the public is also valuable in identifying the anomalies seen on the maps.

Secretary Adams congratulated the project team for the great work in such a quick timeframe.

Becky Smyth from NOAA Coastal Service Center emphasized that the project has been about partnerships and that success has been due to private sector partners keeping the project on schedule, the leveraging of resources, and exceptional staff leadership at the OPC.

Brian Baird added that this model is also informing other mapping efforts on the West Coast.

## **6. OPC Five-Year Program Evaluation**

Secretary Snow announced that due to presenter's schedules, the OPC Evaluation would be heard next, and then the agenda would return to the OPC accomplishments.

Dr. Amber Mace described the purpose and background of the OPC evaluation process and introduced the Expert Advisory panelists that presented the evaluation findings and recommendations: Terry Tamminen of Seventh Generation Advisors, Celeste Cantu of the Santa Ana Watershed Authority, and the Honorable Fred Keeley, Santa Cruz County Treasurer.

- Terry Tamminen highlighted the OPC's success in advancing policies through resolutions such as marine debris and supported the evaluation recommendation that the OPC should further embrace its leadership role by more directly involving council members. He noted the OPC could refine its model to be more strategic such as building staff functions to focus on policy leadership, science, and communication. He also supported the recommendation that the OPC narrow its focus when it embarks on new strategic plan process in early 2011.
- Celeste Cantu underscored that the OPC is not designed to be top-down and requires a unique structure to develop innovative approaches to ocean management. She summarized the evaluation's findings that the Ocean Science Trust and the OPC have improved science integration into decision-making and supported the evaluation recommendation that the OPC Science Advisory Team stay on track. She also discussed the OPC's challenge in coordination as outlined in its mandate, but suggested that this takes time and the OPC can improve agency collaboration by instituting innovative ways to help solve problems.

- Fred Keeley expressed his excitement that the OPC model is working and noted the OPC's investment in the ocean encouraged others to do the same thing. He also supported the evaluation recommendation that spending decisions can be even better if OPC has a more refined strategy. He recommended that a communication strategy be part of the next strategic plan and that more engagement of council members could also improve the ability of the OPC to champion ocean policies.

The council members and the panel members had a detailed discussion on some of the OPC evaluation findings on resolutions, council member engagement, and how to best transition OPC into the next administration.

**Public Comment:**

- Michael Endicott, Sierra Club California – Encouraged the OPC to keep making resolutions that push the edge of science and recommended not just stop at 10 meters for mapping because these data are needed for more localized planning.
- Linda Sheehan, California Coastkeepers Alliance – Encouraged the OPC to think more broadly about its leadership role. She suggested that the evaluation report tried to rein the OPC more than is necessary because there is opportunity to push, while respecting agency boundaries.

## **5. OPC Five-Year Accomplishments (*continued*)**

- b. Valerie Termini, Project Manager, presented the OPC's accomplishments on sustainable fisheries, and emphasized that partnerships with stakeholders (NGOs and fishermen) and agencies made these projects successful. She presented the Central Coast Groundfish Project as an example where OPC supported an effort to establish a sustainable groundfish fishery in the central coast which resulted in informing groundfish management and establishing a model for fishery reform. She introduced Michael Bell, Project Director at The Nature Conservancy and Chris Kubiak, a fishermen from Morro Bay. Michael Bell described the project in more detail and emphasized that the project partnership of diverse stakeholders had a powerful voice in the policy realm for promoting gear switching, electronic monitoring, and community fishing associations and that the project was also a great opportunity to initiate collaborative research to determine trawling impacts and best way to manage this fishing approach. Chris Kubiak also noted that the strength of the project was collaboration.
- c. Abe Doherty, Project Specialist, presented the OPC's unique role in addressing climate change. He emphasized that climate science was rapidly evolving, so OPC has actively funded a variety of research projects to provide the state and local partners with the latest science on sea level rise projections, potential sea level rise impacts, and ocean acidification. He noted that OPC

coordinated state agency leaders with jurisdiction over the coast and ocean to draft the coast and ocean chapter of the state's climate adaptation strategy. He also described how OPC convened a state working group to prioritize strategies, complete a vulnerability assessment, and implement near term actions, such as the development of greenhouse gas offset protocols for coastal wetlands. He introduced Gregg Albright, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy & Integration, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, who commended OPC for creating a model forum where agencies can move toward an interest-based concerted approach to deal with impacts of climate change.

- d. Skyli McAfee, Science Advisor and Ocean Science Trust (OST) Executive Director presented the OPC's accomplishments in integrating science into policy. She noted that the OPC has demonstrated its commitment to science by establishing a Scientific Advisory Team and designating a science advisor that is outside of its agency to maintain objectivity. She gave examples of how OST and the Science Team had harvested relevant science and worked with the OPC to identify research needs. She introduced Dr. Steve Weisberg, the chair of the Science Advisory Team who thanked the OPC for embracing science integration and welcoming the Science Advisory Team. He noted that scientists rarely have an opportunity to work alongside the state and have direct feedback in decision-making process and that this empowerment is incentive for scientist engagement.

**Public Comment:**

- Mike Sutton, California Fish and Game Commission - Thanked OPC for its investment in fisheries and marine protected areas.
- Joey Racano California Ocean Outfall Group - Thanked the OPC for being cutting edge.
- Dr. Jeanine Pfeifer, resident of Mendocino County – Requested more information on science and OPC in north counties. She recommended increasing social scientists on the Science Advisory Team, and having the MPA Monitoring Enterprise reach out to constituents for input and collaboration.
- Don Maruska, San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem Alliance - Noted that there is a real role for OPC to work with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Commission to figure out new ways to manage fisheries through a collaboration of communities and fishery stakeholders. He suggested OPC weave the MLMA report and other efforts into a coherent goal.

**7. Federal Appropriate Request and National Ocean Policy and Funding**

Dr. Amber Mace, Executive Director, requested Council approval to send a letter to the U.S. Senate leadership that states the OPC supports the new national commitment to dedicate funding to coastal and ocean management and the principles in the National Endowment for the Oceans Act, requests support in the President's budget for regional ocean partnerships, and supports legislation improvements to the Coastal

Impact Assistance Program to reduce delays in payments to the state from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Enforcement and Regulation.

**Public Comment:**

- Kaitlin Gaffney, Ocean Conservancy – Spoke in support
- Chris Cohen, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System - Spoke in support.
- Leila Monroe, Natural Resources Defense Council – Spoke in support.

It was moved for approval by Adams, seconded by Knatz.

**Ayes: Snow, Adams, Knatz, Thayer**

**Nays:0**

**8. OPC Strategic Plan**

Dr. Amber Mace requested the Council consider and approve a conceptual work plan for updating the OPC's five year strategic plan. She described principles highlighted in the evaluation that will underline development of the plan and the proposed work plan steps for identifying future OPC issue areas: develop a clear problem statement and rationale for OPC engagement in the issue, outline stakeholders, prioritize strategic actions, and develop an action plan and anticipated outcomes, goals, and potential sources of funding. She stated that the OPC might retain a facilitator to guide it through the process and have a plan by end of 2011.

Geraldine Knatz mentioned that she appreciated the summary crosswalk of what OPC has done on the last strategic plan and would welcome the opportunity to brainstorm on the next plan and process.

**Public Comment:**

- Dr. Jeanine Pfieffer, resident of Mendocino County – Noted that only 8 of 15 pages were in the provided copies and requested that OPC give guidance for how local communities can participate in the process.
- Joey Racano, California Ocean Outfall Group – mentioned that independent funding is important to OPC success.

It was moved for approval by Knatz, seconded by Adams.

**Ayes: Snow, Adams, Knatz, Thayer**

**Nays:0**

**9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

- James Hudell, La Jolla Friends of the Seals – Expressed concern for the harbor seal rookery in La Jolla and requested that OPC send a letter to the San Diego mayor requesting that he declare an emergency.
- Dr. Irwin Haydock, Six California Generations – Thanked the OPC for all it has done.
- Joey Racano, California Ocean Outfall Group – Discussed the San Diego 301H sewer waiver and noted that this is the last waiver in California for secondary treated discharge.

- Linda Sheehan, California Coastkeepers Alliance – Spoke on behalf of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council and suggested that it is a great example of coordination and leveraging resources. She suggested that OPC and the public look to the Web portal for data and requested assistance in helping populate the oceans portal next.
- Emily Edder, Save the Bay – Noted that organizations look to OPC for leadership on marine debris and that OPC's strategy has driven local efforts. She suggested that California cannot meet the goals of the plan without strong legislation at state and local levels.
- Henry Pontarelli, Lisa Wise Consulting – Described the Port of San Diego Commercial Fisheries Revitalization Project and the Morro Bay Commercial Fisheries Business Plan, funded by the Coastal Conservancy.
- Joseph Partanski, Healthy Ships and Healthy Ports – Urged OPC to become a portal of information for stakeholders. He suggested including ports and waters in Mexico and to cooperate more with them.
- Rikki Dunsmore, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Introduced the Enhanced Ecosystem based Management Initiative and invited participation in the effort because it could serve as model for ecosystem-based management and marine spatial planning. She noted that the Sanctuary director, Paul Michel, was willing to give OPC a presentation at future meeting and invited anyone to join the Initiative's October meeting.
- Leila Monroe, Natural Resources Defense Council – Noted she was happy to see improvements to OPC's materials and transparency and suggested that OPC continue to dedicate resources to communication and website improvements.
- Leslie Tamminen, Clean Seas Coalition/Seventh Generation Advisors – Urged OPC to make the Legislature aware of its policies and the science with which the policies are based. She noted that public relations with legislators are not lobbying, but a basic duty of the OPC.

**10.** Secretary Snow observed that the dedication and passion of those engaged in ocean issues is impressive and adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.