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Subject: Highlights from the October 17, 2016 Ocean Protection Council meeting
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CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair
 Matt Rodriguez, Secretary for Environmental Protection
 Betty Yee, State Controller, State Lands Commission Chair
 Fran Pavley, State Senator
 Bill Quirk, State Assemblymember
 Geraldine Knatz, Public Member
 Michael Brown, Public Member

To: California Ocean and Coastal Community
From: John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources and Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
Date: October 19, 2016
Subject: Highlights from the October 17, 2016 Ocean Protection Council meeting

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) held a meeting on Monday, October 17, 2016 in Sacramento. Topics of discussion included consideration of funding under Proposition 84 for 16 projects totaling just over \$6 million. Additionally, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting Proposition 67 as on the November 8, 2016 ballot, which upholds the statewide single-use plastic bag ban. Below are highlights from the meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the next OPC meeting.

The Council unanimously approved the following 16 projects for funding under Proposition 84 (Laird-aye; Rodriguez-aye; Baker-aye; Knatz-aye; Brown-aye). Additional information can be found in the [Summary of Proposed Projects](#) or by accessing the staff recommendations for the individual projects on the [OPC's website](#).

Item	Description
4a-f	<p>Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia.</p> <p>The six ocean acidification and hypoxia projects enhance our understanding and employ strategies and tools to best prepare for, mitigate and adapt to ocean acidification and hypoxia across California. All the projects were recommended next steps by the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel, convened at the request of OPC, in its spring 2016 “Major Findings, Recommendations, and Actions” report.</p>
4g-4h	<p>Sea-level Rise.</p> <p>OPC approved two projects to ensure that the State of California is prepared for and successfully adapts to the impacts of sea-level rise and storms. One project supports the U.S. Geological Survey to expand the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) to cover the Central Coast, and to update shoreline change rates statewide. This project also supports Point Blue Conservation Science in making the sea-level rise and coastal hazard maps from the CoSMoS model more accessible through extending the “Our Coast, Our Future” (OCOF) web tool to the Central Coast. The second project will provide the scientific underpinning for an</p>

	<p>update to the State of California Sea-level Rise Guidance Document. California Ocean Science Trust will convene a working group of the OPC-Science Advisory Team to summarize the best available science on sea-level rise, particularly with respect to recent studies on ice melt.</p>
4i-4j	<p>Sediment Management. These two projects—beach restoration at Surfer’s Beach in San Mateo County and an assessment of the extent, location, and physical properties of sand resources-- aim to 1). improve the policies and regulatory practices in ways that restore natural sediment processes, while increasing opportunities for sediment reuse and 2). increase the availability of data and tools that can influence sediment-related planning decisions.</p>
4k-4l	<p>Marine Protected Areas. The two MPA projects complete priority tasks laid out in the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan. The MPA Signage Project - Round 2 builds on previous investments that resulted in the installation of 195 regulatory and interpretive signs across the MPA Network. Round 2 will address and build on priority sign needs identified in Round 1 by working with local stakeholders to design and install 150 - 160 signs that will improve the enjoyment and regulation compliance of visitors to the MPA Network. The MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program will continue to build and formalize an active partnership with the MPA Collaborative Network. The project will result in a ratified Collaborative Network Charter and a first round of funding at \$10,000 to each of the 14 MPA Collaboratives that are part of the Network to complete projects that address the priority needs identified in the MPA Statewide Leadership Work Plan.</p>
4m-4o	<p>Marine Pollution. The three marine pollution projects approved address urgent high-priority needs while laying the groundwork to build out the marine pollution program in a strategic, inclusive, and effective way. The update of the OPC Implementation Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter (Strategy) will use a collaborative process to develop new priorities and projects for the marine pollution program to pursue. The Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group project will provide funding for urgent collaborative research projects to reduce and prevent whale entanglement. The Unpackaged Community project will reduce a community’s reliance on single-use disposable packaging and will demonstrate an innovative method to address high-priority sources of litter.</p>
4p	<p>Sustainable Fisheries. The fisheries project approved provides guidance on the socioeconomic questions and information needs that are most important for fishery managers to address and a framework for building that information and integrating it into management, specifically the MLMA Master Plan Amendment. This project will result in a guidance document for fisheries managers that details how to incorporate socioeconomic and human dimensions information into California fisheries management.</p>

Additionally, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting Proposition 67 as on the

November 8, 2016 ballot, which upholds the statewide single-use plastic bag ban (Laird-aye; Rodriquez-aye; Baker-aye; Knatz-aye; Brown-aye)

Item	Description
5	Single-use Plastic Bags. The Council unanimously adopted a resolution stating that the statewide bag ban in Senate Bill 270 is consistent with the Ocean Protection Council’s 2008 Implementation Strategy; local bag bans have been shown to be effective at reducing plastic bag pollution, such that a statewide ban is a prudent next step towards reducing marine plastic pollution; that given the existing evidence, the statewide bag ban is likely to reduce impacts that otherwise compromise the health of the ocean, and prevent pollution of the State’s waterways at the source; and supports Proposition 67 as on the November 8, 2016 ballot, which upholds the statewide bag ban.

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