



CONSENT ITEM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council
FROM: Deborah Halberstadt, Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council
Liz Whiteman, Executive Director, Ocean Science Trust, co-chair, Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team
Gretchen Hofmann, University of California, Santa Barbara, co-chair, Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team
DATE: May 23, 2019
SUBJECT: New Member Selection for the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

SUMMARY:

In October 2018, Ocean Science Trust (OST) conducted a public nomination process on behalf of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to identify candidates to fill multiple vacancies on the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC SAT). The purpose of this memo is to describe the selection process for new members and provide recommendations for scientists that have been identified with unanimous support following evaluation by the OPC SAT Executive Committee, which includes OPC and OST leadership.

PROCESS FOR FILLING OPC SAT VACANCIES:

In recent years, OPC SAT leadership and members have expressed a desire to bring in new expertise and perspectives in order to continue meeting the needs of OPC programs. Many members have served since the initial establishment of the OPC SAT in 2008. In 2018, several members volunteered to step down, offering an opportunity to reflect on expertise gaps.

When vacancies arise on the OPC SAT, a determination of the type of expertise needed to fill the vacancy is made by the OPC upon consultation with OST and the OPC SAT Executive Committee. The 2018 new member solicitation¹ was a broad call for nominations of individuals who could provide scientific guidance to support the goals across OPC's priority program areas and funding initiatives. To complement existing

¹ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2018/10/OPC-SAT-Vacancy-Announcement-2018-19-1.pdf

expertise on the OPC SAT, the OPC SAT Executive Committee was particularly interested in individuals with knowledge in the areas of social science, resource economics, fisheries science, coastal engineering, geology, environmental toxicology and public health, and ocean data technology and management.

Upon formulation of a vacancy description, OST initiated a 30-day public nomination process from October 17 through November 17, 2018. The vacancy announcement was posted on OPC and OST websites, distributed over the OPC listserv, and spread through other public platforms. The response to the vacancy was significant – OST received approximately 50 highly qualified nominees from universities and research institutions in California and beyond.

Following the nomination period, OST contacted each nominee to confirm their interest in serving, and to gain additional, standardized background for the selection process. OST compiled all materials and engaged with the OPC SAT Executive Committee to narrow the list of nominees. Upon final deliberation, the OPC SAT Executive Committee identified ten candidates for your consideration that collectively best met the needs identified in the request for nominations. Their CVs can be accessed here:

http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2019/05/OPC-SAT-2019-candidate-CV-combined.pdf.

RECOMMENDED NOMINEES:

We submit the following nominees for consideration for formal confirmation by OPC at its public meeting on May 23, 2019:

Nominee	Expertise
Dr. Clarissa Anderson , Executive Director, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System, Scripps Institution of Oceanography	Oceanography, harmful algal blooms, coastal monitoring
Dr. Marissa Baskett , Associate Professor, University of California Davis	Theoretical and evolutionary ecology
Dr. Juliette Finzi Hart , Oceanographer, Director of Outreach, United States Geological Survey	Climate science and coastal adaptation

Dr. Eunha Hoh , Division Head of Environmental Health, San Diego State University	Water quality, environmental toxicology
Dr. Anne Kapuscinski , Director, Coastal Science and Policy Institute, Professor, University of California Santa Cruz	Sustainability science, aquaculture
Dr. Kristy Kroeker , Associate Professor, University of California Santa Cruz	Global change ecology, coastal sustainability, climate change
Dr. Arielle Levine , Associate Professor, San Diego State University	Human-environment interactions, natural resource governance, social-ecological systems
Dr. Carrie Pomeroy , Marine Advisor/Specialist, California Sea Grant Extension Program, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego	Social science of fisheries and fishing communities
Dr. Laurie Richmond , Associate Professor, Humboldt State University	Human dimensions of natural resources, fisheries, tribal communities
Dr. James Sanchirico , Professor, University of California Davis	Resource economics, policy design, implementation, and evaluation for marine conservation

New members of the OPC SAT will be asked to serve an initial three-year term, with the possibility of renewal, as described in more detail below.

ABOUT THE OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL SCIENCE ADVISORY TEAM:

Assembly Bill 1056 - an amendment to the California Ocean Protection Act - required that the OPC establish a “science advisory team of distinguished scientists to assist it in

meeting the purposes of the California Ocean Protection Act.” To that end, OPC established a Science Advisory Team with the mission of ensuring the best available science supports OPC policy and funding decisions. Currently, the OPC SAT consists of 20 members across a range of ocean and coastal disciplines and research institutions. Members include expertise in natural and social science, law, and tribal perspectives and interests in coastal and ocean resource management.

OST serves as Secretariat of the OPC SAT, providing essential governance and day-to-day oversight functions. OST is a nonprofit organization, created by legislation, and staffed by a team of science-to-policy experts based jointly in Sacramento and Oakland. OST works statewide and collaborates with scientists and policy leaders across the West Coast and nationally. The OST Executive Director also serves as co-chair of the OPC SAT.

THE ROLE OF THE OPC SAT:

OPC SAT members operate in a complex institutional and political space and serve as an effective portal to the wider scientific community. Members must be willing to respond to the state’s needs, and provide requested information or reviews, sometimes on short notice. This means not only availability, but a proven track record of working collaboratively and constructively with people from a range of backgrounds and perspectives. New members of the OPC SAT are asked to serve an initial three-year term, with the possibility of renewal (three term maximum). OPC SAT members are expected to actively engage in activities to the best of their ability and consistent with their area of expertise.

The OPC SAT supports the state with advice related, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Providing recommendations on high level strategic planning to OPC based on emerging issues and/or scientific innovations;
- Identifying critical emerging science issues that should be of concern to the state, and recommending potential actions that OPC could take to respond to these issues;
- Assisting in describing, refining, and ranking research priorities;
- Developing recommendations on scientific issues identified by OPC;
- Responding to information requests from OPC;
- Evaluating the technical merit of scientific and technical projects proposed to OPC;
- Suggesting outside experts to serve as peer reviewers for OPC proposals and projects, as well as products of other state, federal, and non-governmental entities;
- Providing technical expertise and advice on and review of OPC project reports, literature reviews, and agenda items; and
- Convening technical working groups to address critical management problems.