

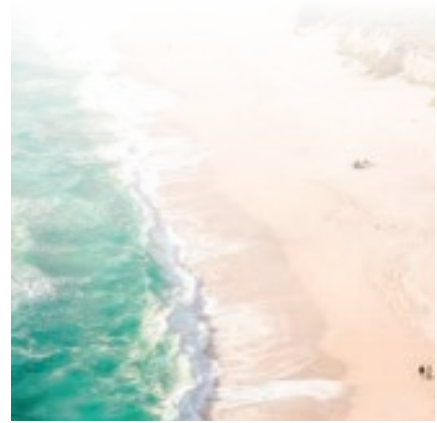
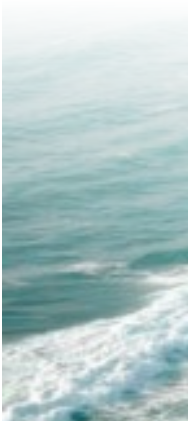


OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 7, 2021 – February 23, 2022

Providing an update on outcomes and accomplishments since the previous OPC Meeting.



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- Goal 4: Support Ocean Health through a Sustainable Blue Economy*

GOAL 1: SAFEGUARD COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Enhancing California Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Monitoring Kickoff

On December 16, members from monitoring programs representing the Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies, California Cooperative Fisheries Investigation, NOAA West Coast Ocean

Acidification Regional Survey Cruises, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program, and Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System participated in a kickoff meeting to coordinate efforts related to standardization and reporting of ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) monitoring data. This effort was funded at the [June 2021 OPC Council](#) meeting and advances OPC Strategic Plan Target 1.2.4 to support the development of an ocean acidification and hypoxia monitoring and observation system optimized to deliver decision-relevant information that serves user needs by 2023. The meeting focused on presentations from the monitoring programs on current sampling plans, protocols, and analysis with discussion focused on project milestones and opportunities for coordination.

Improving Understanding of Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Vulnerability and Impacts

Since its approval at the [June 2021 OPC Council](#) meeting, OPC has partnered with California Sea Grant (CASG) to release a competitive solicitation for projects supporting ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) research, monitoring, and synthesis priorities. CASG released a request for proposals in July 2021 that resulted in 16 full proposals totaling \$11,614,250. Full proposals were reviewed in December 2021 by a technical review panel composed of academic scientists, subject matter experts, and state and federal agency staff. The review panel recommended a ranked list of projects for funding and project selection recommendations were made collaboratively between OPC and CASG, and in coordination with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff. The four recommended projects for selection are on the February 23 Council meeting agenda under [Item 4](#).

Prop 68 Chapter 10 Solicitation Scoping

OPC has approximately \$9.5 million remaining in its Prop 68 Chapter 10 appropriation. OPC's Chapter 10 appropriation pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 - Proposition 68 (Public Resources Code §80130) may be used for projects that plan, develop, and implement climate adaptation and resiliency projects. Staff is currently scoping a competitive solicitation that would be released in Spring 2022. Topics that are being considered include an assessment of contaminated sites that are vulnerable to sea level rise, mapping vulnerable coastal habitats, and projects that support coastal resilience and sea level rise adaptation.

Sea-Level Rise Action Plan and New Federal Technical Report

Following the endorsement of the [Sea-Level Rise Principles](#), the State Sea-Level Rise Leadership Team, made up of 17 agencies and departments, collaboratively developed the State Agency Sea-Level Rise Action Plan (Action Plan). The Action Plan establishes a critical five-year roadmap of state agency actions to address and adapt to SLR and build coastal resilience across California. It formalizes and accelerates coordinated state agency efforts to prepare for the impacts of SLR; demonstrates state responsibility and leadership; increases transparency on state priorities; provides a foundation for further adaption action at the local and regional level; and identifies opportunities to leverage financial resources to maximize implementation. OPC staff will provide an update on the Action Plan at the February 23, 2022 Council meeting under Item 7 and anticipate releasing the Action Plan in the coming weeks. The Action Plan is a living document that will be informed by public input over the next several months.

On February 15, 2022, the federal multi-agency [2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report](#) was released. This Report provides the most up-to-date sea level rise projections for the nation and

downscaled regional projections. Findings from the report include increased certainty around sea level rise projections in the near term (through 2050). For the Northwest region of the United States, that includes a high scenario of 1 foot by 2050. High tide flooding events are projected to increase in frequency, with significant consequences for infrastructure, communities and ecosystems if adaptation measures are not implemented. Additionally, there will be greater acceleration of sea level rise by end of century and beyond, based on increased scientific understanding of ice sheet melt from both Greenland and Antarctica, with up to 6 feet of sea level rise by 2100 and 11 feet by 2150 for the Northwest region under a high scenario. The projections in this report will be used to support the planned update of the State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance in 2023.

GOAL 2: ADVANCE EQUITY ACROSS OCEAN AND COASTAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Tribal Engagement Strategy

In fall 2021, OPC engaged more than 10 coastal tribes through listening sessions and government-to-government consultations aimed at soliciting tribes' perspectives on two key issues: 1) best practices for outreach and engagement between OPC and tribes, and 2) tribes' priorities for the coast and ocean. Based on feedback received from tribes, OPC has developed a draft Tribal Engagement Strategy, which is intended to serve as a framework for enhanced partnership between OPC and tribes on coastal and ocean issues. The draft Strategy is currently being reviewed by CNRA's Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs and the Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisory, and it will be distributed to tribes for further consultation and collaboration later this month. OPC anticipates bringing a final Tribal Engagement Strategy to the Council for consideration and possible adoption at its June 14, 2022 meeting.

Equity Plan Development

OPC staff, in collaboration with grantee, Better World Group (BWG), are in the process of finalizing the draft OPC Equity Plan for anticipated public release and comment next week. The Plan aims to advance more equitable and comprehensive ocean and coastal science research, policies, programs and projects that reflect the connection between people, communities, and natural systems. Additionally, OPC is committed to adopting and implementing a Plan that will promote environmental justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, both in its internal operations and its work with and for the public. The Plan's goals, objectives, and strategies have been shaped with collective input from OPC staff, leadership, the [Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Advisory Group](#) and [CNRA's Assistant Secretary for Equity and EJ, Moisés Moreno-Rivera](#). The draft Equity Plan will solicit public feedback in March, during a 30-day period. Feedback and outcomes from public comment will inform the final proposed Plan, which OPC staff anticipate bringing to the Council for consideration and possible adoption at its June 14, 2022 meeting.

GOAL 3: ENHANCE COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Statewide Microplastics Strategy

OPC staff prepared and released the [Statewide Microplastics Strategy](#), developed pursuant Senate Bill 1263 (Portantino, 2018). The Statewide Microplastics Strategy builds from the findings of the OPC Science Advisory Team (OPC SAT) interdisciplinary microplastics working group, convened by the Ocean Science Trust and funded by OPC, which released the report entitled [Assessing the Risk of Microplastic Pollution in California](#) in Spring 2021. The Strategy outlines a two-track approach to comprehensively manage microplastics in California. The first track emphasizes pollution

prevention and pathway interventions with recommendations for immediate, multi-benefit 'no regrets' actions to reduce microplastics pollution. The second track outlines a comprehensive research strategy to enhance understanding of microplastic sources, pathways, risk, and to inform future management solutions specific to California. The draft Strategy was available for public comment from December 21, 2021 to January 21, 2022 and will be considered for adoption at the February 23, 2022 OPC Meeting under [Item 6](#).

California Restoration and Mitigation Policy

OPC staff have developed a draft policy for restoration and mitigation in coastal and ocean habitats. Although habitat restoration and mitigation activities have been occurring for years in California, the state currently lacks a comprehensive policy for such activities within marine waters, resulting in a piecemeal and inconsistent approach. This new policy will provide a consistent, standardized foundation for evaluation and approval of such efforts. It will include summaries of the best available science related to restoration in various habitats (e.g. eelgrass beds, kelp forests, rocky intertidal zones) as well as specific guidance on invasive species removal, artificial reefs, living shorelines, and restoration in marine protected areas (MPAs). In the coming months, the draft policy will be reviewed by scientific and agency partners before finalization and public release at the end of 2022.

California's 30x30 Initiative

On December 15, CNRA released a draft of [Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature](#) for public review and comment. OPC worked closely with Dr. Jennifer Norris, CNRA's Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, on the coastal and ocean components of the *Pathways* document. The strategy for conserving 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030 will include the 16% of state waters currently protected within the state's [MPA network](#) and a prioritized focus on working with federal resource managers to strengthen biodiversity conservation measures in California's federally managed National Marine Sanctuaries, which currently cover 40.6% of state waters. This percentage will increase if the proposed Chumash Heritage NMS (see below) gets approved. Sanctuaries provide an opportunity for California to meet or exceed the 30x30 target while ensuring that access and sustainable use are maintained. As *Pathways* is finalized, OPC looks forward to working with Sanctuaries, tribes, fishing and environmental communities, and others to identify areas that are important for biodiversity in California's coastal waters, assess major threats to biodiversity, and explore additional protections that could be implemented to address those threats.

Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

January 31 marked the end of the public comment period for the proposed designation of the [Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary](#), which would protect marine ecosystems, maritime heritage, and cultural values of indigenous communities on California's central and south coasts. OPC worked closely with Secretary Crowfoot to develop and submit a [comment letter](#) expressing strong support for the proposed Sanctuary, which would protect an ecologically significant transition zone and provide opportunities to restore and revitalize Chumash stewardship of ancestral lands and waters.

Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan: 2021-2025

The MPA Statewide Leadership Team advises the Secretary for Natural Resources on all things related to MPA governance and is made up of representatives from state and federal agencies, California Native American Tribes, and non-governmental partners. The Leadership Team's [2021-2025 Work Plan](#) has been released and is now available online. The four-year Work Plan identifies

shared priorities and outlines key actions for the partners to accomplish together to make progress toward achieving the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act. The Work Plan is comprised of strategic priorities, actions, and outcomes within the four focal areas of the statewide MPA Management Program which include: Outreach & Education, Enforcement & Compliance, Research & Monitoring, and Policy & Permitting.

MPA Long-Term Monitoring Technical Reports Are Now Available

Results from the MPA Network long-term monitoring programs [are now available online in seven technical reports](#). These projects represent collaboration between California researchers, OPC, California Sea Grant, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). After a decade since Network implementation, the State is in the process of evaluating the MPA Network and progress towards meeting the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act. To prepare for this first-ever Decadal Management Review of the MPA Management Program, OPC has invested significantly in both baseline and long-term monitoring projects to track changes in California's MPA Network over time. These monitoring projects are only one component of the Decadal Management Review; CDFW will look to several other sources to inform the Review report, including long-standing MPA partners and California Native American Tribes. The Decadal Management Review report will be released publicly in January 2023 and presented to the Fish and Game Commission in February 2023.

MPA Small Grants Program

Since 2017, OPC has partnered with the non-profit organization Coastal Quest to administer its MPA Small Grants Program to increase MPA outreach and education efforts statewide. Coastal Quest administered a call for proposals in 2018 and 2020, which has disbursed over \$1.2 million directly to all 14 [MPA Collaboratives](#) and 12 community organizations to create locally relevant outreach content for a broad range of ocean users in multiple languages. An update on the success of this program to date and possible approval of funding to administer a third round of competitive grants is on the February 23 Council meeting agenda under [Item 5](#).

MPA Decadal Management Review Community Meetings

In Fall 2021, CDFW, in partnership with OPC, hosted a series of four virtual Community Meetings focused on the upcoming MPA Decadal Management Review. Participants expressed an interest in engaging with MPA science and monitoring, as well as a desire for increased collaboration and participation across agencies, organizations, and community groups in MPA management. Participants also stated their preference for increased and diversified communications and outreach from state agencies and partner organizations. A summary of the key themes of community input is available in this [here](#); this feedback will help inform the MPA Decadal Management Review.

Screening for Contaminants of Emerging Concern in the Southern California Bight

In 2018, OPC funded the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to [screen sediment and fish tissue samples](#) from the Southern California Bight for emerging contaminants as a special study that was conducted through the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program (Bight '18). The study completed in December 2021 with results to be included in the forthcoming Bight '18 report. The special study evaluated over 100 different sediment and fish samples collected as part of the Bight '18 regional monitoring survey to determine whether bioscreening and nontargeted analyses are effective tools for large-scale screening or monitoring. As one of the first applications of newly adapted bioscreening tools, the study demonstrated bioscreening as an effective tool for assessing sediment samples, with nontargeted analyses demonstrating potential

to enhance toxicity identification, and provided additional recommendations to validate and expand endpoints used for sediment quality assessment and to identify new emerging contaminants for further study.

Panel Addressing Emerging Contaminants in Aquatic Ecosystems

The OPC-funded [expert panel](#) on emerging contaminants in aquatic ecosystems held a week-long working session and public webinar on February 10, 2022. The panel is continuing to hold standing meetings to address its charge and assess the current state of scientific knowledge on the risks of CECs impacting human health and the environment in freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems of the State. Its final report is expected in Fall 2022. The panel's final report will update the [2012 recommendations](#), include monitoring recommendations for emerging contaminants in state waters, and guide the development of a statewide management strategy for emerging contaminants, with a goal of preventing water quality impairments through management action.

GOAL 4: SUPPORT OCEAN HEALTH THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Spatial Mapping of North Coast Commercial Fishing Grounds

The Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association (HFMA) in collaboration with the Salmon Trollers Marketing Association and the Crescent City Commercial Fishermen's Association mapped oceanic fishing grounds west of the coastal counties of Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino for the purposes of defining areas of importance to local commercial fishing fleets and associated coastal fishing communities. The fishing associations developed a [StoryMap](#) to share the narrative and mapping layers collaboratively produced by the North Coast fishing communities. The project aligns with Objective 4.4 of OPC's Strategic Plan to guide sustainable renewable energy projects, particularly target 4.4.1 regarding funding research and baseline data collection to assess the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of potential offshore wind projects.

Offshore Wind

The Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) is moving forward with its timeline aimed at announcing lease sales in late 2022. BOEM has designated two Wind Energy Areas (WEA) offshore of Morro Bay and Humboldt Bay. BOEM released its [draft Environmental Assessment](#) for the Humboldt Bay WEA as part of the formal environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act. Agencies submitted a joint comment letter in response, focused on the need for additional environmental, ocean use, and cultural resource information. The California Coastal Commission is preparing for consistency determination (CD) hearings for the Humboldt WEA in April 2022 and the Morro Bay WEA in June or July 2022. OPC is supporting the CD process through funding a series of projects that have been identified as key environmental and cultural information gaps. Two projects focused on spatial environmental and ocean use mapping and modeling projects are planned to release their project fundings are public webinars scheduled for March 18 and March 22. A report focused on Tribal cultural resources related to the Humboldt WEA is also expected in March.

California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program

California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) has been bringing together the expertise and ideas of fishermen and scientists to gather information for MPA and fisheries management since 2007. In September 2021, [OPC approved \\$500,000 to CCFRP](#) to continue monitoring along the Central Coast for the upcoming 2022 field season, with the expectation that the remaining funds would be provided from external sources. However, the outstanding \$500,000

to support statewide monitoring was not fulfilled, leaving a gap in a critically important monitoring program. [Item 8](#) at the February 23, 2022 Council meeting recommends approval of funding to address this gap, allowing CCFRP to expand monitoring statewide for the upcoming field season and provide much-needed scientific information to continue assessments of the efficacy of California’s MPAs and support of sustainable fisheries management.

Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture

The development of the statewide Aquaculture Action Plan is proceeding on schedule with planned completion by 2023. The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) and California Sea Grant, in close partnership with OPC staff, have completed an initial draft of the Action Plan. The draft was reviewed by the Aquaculture Leadership Team, with member agencies providing detailed feedback. OPC staff compiled all agency comments and are coordinating with NCEAS and CA Sea Grant on next steps in the plan development process.

PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DELEGATED AUTHORITY

| Grantee | Project | Amount | Description |
|------------------------------|---|-----------|---|
| UCSC | Central Coast Fishing Heritage Mapping Project 2021-22 | \$112,090 | This project will collate and develop mapping products from data previously collected by fishing associations to provide a narrative around historical and current fishing grounds to inform offshore wind development. |
| California Energy Commission | North Coast Offshore Wind: Cultural Resources Inventory | \$199,951 | This project will support state agencies and north coast tribes in developing and sharing a common collection of cultural resources data to help inform future state actions related to offshore wind energy development. |

LEGISLATION

The following are coastal and ocean-related bills currently being tracked by OPC staff:

[AB 30 \(Kalra\)](#) – Outdoor access to nature: environmental equity.

This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state that all Californians have safe and affordable access to nature and access to the benefits of nature, and would require all relevant state agencies, including the Natural Resources Agency, state departments, including the Department of Transportation, and their respective departments, boards, and commissions to incorporate this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria, or making expenditures, pertinent to the uses of outdoor access to nature, as provided.

AB 1279 (Muratsuchi) – Coastal resources: sustainable kelp.

This bill would require OPC to work with private and nonprofit entities to bring sustainable kelp to the coastal waters of the state, as provided, and to review and assess data from existing research and ongoing pilot projects to identify critical knowledge gaps related to, among other things, kelp forest ecosystems.

AB 1611 (Davies) – Oil spills: notification of hitting pipelines: civil penalties.

This bill would require a person to notify specified state and federal entities that a vessel hit or likely hit a pipeline in waters of the state, within 24 hours of knowing that the vessel did so or likely did so and would subject that person to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$50,000.

AB1690 (Rivas) – Tobacco products: single-use components.

This bill would prohibit a person or entity from selling, giving, or furnishing to another person of any age in this state a cigarette utilizing a single-use filter made of any material, an attachable and single-use plastic device meant to facilitate manual manipulation or filtration of a tobacco product, or a single-use electronic cigarette or vaporizer device; would prohibit that selling, giving, or furnishing, whether conducted directly or indirectly through an in-person transaction, or by means of any public or private method of shipment or delivery to an address in this state; would authorize a city attorney, county counsel, or district attorney to assess a \$500 civil fine against each person determined to have violated those prohibitions in a proceeding conducted pursuant to the procedures of the enforcing agency, as specified.

AB1724 (Stone) – Washing machines: microfiber filtration.

This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2024, that all washing machines sold as new in California contain a microfiber filtration system. The bill would also require all state-owned washing machines to contain a microfiber filtration system.

AB1832 (Rivas) – Tidelands and submerged lands: hard mineral extraction.

This bill would prohibit the State Lands Commission or a local trustee of granted public trust lands from granting leases or issuing permits for the extraction or removal of hard minerals, as defined, from tidelands and submerged lands of the state.

AB 2026 (Friedman, Ting) – Recycling: plastic packaging and carryout bags.

This bill would prohibit an online retailer that sells or offers for sale and ships purchased products in or into the state from using single-use plastic packaging that consists of shipping envelopes, cushioning, or void fill to package or transport the products, on and after January 1, 2024, for large online retailers, as defined, and on and after January 1, 2026, for small online retailers, as defined; prohibit a manufacturer, retailer, producer, or other distributor that sells or offers for sale and ships purchased products in or into the state from using expanded or extruded polystyrene packaging to package or transport the products, except as provided; make a violation of the foregoing requirements subject to civil penalties and would require penalties collected by the Attorney General to be deposited into the Plastic Packaging Reduction Penalty Account, which the bill would create, for expenditure by the Attorney General, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to enforce those requirements; and establish the At-Store Recycling Program.

AB 2016 (Bauer-Kahan) – State Water Resources Control Board: desalination plant: feasibility study.

This bill would require the board to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study of the potential impact of desalination plants within the state

[AB 2078 \(Flora\)](#) – Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program. The bill would, upon the appropriation of \$10,000,000 from the General Fund for these purposes, require the department to research, develop, and implement new observations, prediction models, novel forecasting methods, and tailored decision support systems through science and technology advances, demonstration and integration into department operations, to improve predictions of atmospheric rivers and their impacts on water supply, flooding, post-wildfire debris flows, and environmental conditions; would also require the department to all actions within its existing authority to operate reservoirs in a manner that improves flood protection in the state and to reoperate flood control and water storage facilities to capture water generated by atmospheric rivers, thereby increasing water supply, hydropower availability, and the reliability of water resources in the state, and to consider refined climate projections of extreme weather and water events and changes in Sierra snow.

[AB 2106 \(Rivas, C. Garcia\)](#) – Water quality: permits. This bill would require, on or before January 31, 2023, the state board to initiate a series of hearings to evaluate the California stormwater program and the state's progress towards attainment of beneficial uses and compliance with water quality standards as they pertain to permits issued pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act.

[AB 2108 \(Rivas, C. Garcia\)](#) – Water policy: environmental justice and tribal community representation. This bill would require that one of the persons appointed by the Governor to the state board be qualified in the field of water supply and water quality relating to environmental justice or tribal communities. The bill would also require that at least one person appointed to each regional board have specialized experience to represent environmental justice or tribal communities.

[AB 2109 \(Bennett, Bloom\)](#) – White sharks: prohibition on use of attractants. This bill would also make it unlawful to use any bait, lure, or chum to attract any white shark or to place any bait, lure, or chum into the water when a white shark is either visible or known to be present except if the activity is authorized by a permit issued by the department for scientific, educational, or propagation purposes.

[AB 2241 \(Nguyen\)](#) – Coastal resources: California Coastal Commission: scientific advice and recommendations. Under existing law, the Legislature finds and declares that sound and timely scientific recommendations are necessary for many coastal planning, conservation, and development decisions and that the commission should interact with members of the scientific and academic communities in the social, physical, and natural sciences so that the commission may receive technical advice and recommendations with regard to its decisionmaking, especially with regard to issues that include, among other specified issues, coastal erosion and geology, marine biodiversity, and wetland restoration; this bill would make a nonsubstantive change to the latter provision.

[AB 2257 \(Boener Horvath\)](#) – State lands: oil and gas leases: cost study. This bill would require the State Lands Commission to develop, on or before____, a cost study that measures the fiscal impact of a voluntary buy-out of any lease interests remaining as of January 1, 2023, in actively producing state offshore oil and gas leases in state waters, as provided.

[AB 2278 \(Kalra\)](#) – Natural resources: coastal and ocean resources.

Existing law creates the California Ocean Protection Act, which includes various legislative findings and declarations related to coastal and ocean resources; this bill would make a nonsubstantive change to these provisions.

[AB 2287 \(Stone\)](#) – California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000.

This bill would authorize the Ocean Trust to administer grants and expenditures of the trust for specified purposes from private and public fund sources, including, but not limited to, direct appropriations from the annual Budget Act and block grants from other state agencies with relevant need for coordination and engagement with the trust.

[AB 2346 \(Gabriel\)](#) – Outdoor recreation: Equitable Access Grant Program.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to, among other things, establish the Equitable Access Grant Program under the administration of the Natural Resources Agency to increase equitable access to outdoor recreational opportunities for all Californians.

[AB 2348 \(Mullin\)](#) – Sea level rise planning: database.

Existing law requires, on or before January 1, 2016, and until January 1, 2023, the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with the Ocean Protection Council, to create, update biannually, and post on an internet website a Planning for Sea Level Rise Database describing steps being taken throughout the state to prepare for, and adapt to, sea level rise; this bill would make a nonsubstantive change to this provision.

[AB 2362 \(Mullin\)](#) – Ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation projects: permitting.

This bill would require the agency, on or before July 1, 2023, and in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Food and Agriculture, and the California Environmental Protection Agency, to establish an interagency working group to accelerate and streamline permitting for ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation projects.

[SB 54 \(Allen\)](#) – Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act.

Enacts Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act, which will reduce amount of disposables packaging and food waste entering waste stream.

[SB 867 \(Laird\)](#) – Sea level rise planning: database.

This bill would extend the sunset date for Sea Level Rise Planning Database until January 1, 2028.

[SB 1101 \(Caballero\)](#) – Carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration framework.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to create a policy framework for carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration and engineered carbon removal technologies in the state that contributes to the achievement of the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and that includes, among other components, the establishment of a coordinated process for the streamlined and comprehensive review and permitting of projects and infrastructure that capture, utilize, transport, and sequester carbon.

PERSONNEL NOTES



Sarah Stangle, Administration and Finance Analyst. Sarah Stangle joined OPC in February 2022. She is the Administration and Finance Analyst responsible for providing analytical support for the OPC. Prior to her current role, Sarah worked for CAL FIRE as the finance analyst and emergency purchaser including purchasing on California's second largest wildfire, the "Dixie" wildland fire. Sarah received a B.S. in Business Administration from CSU Monterey Bay. In Sarah's free time she enjoys outdoor activities. Sarah's passion is traveling the world and immersing herself in new cultures. Places she visited include Italy, Greece, and next on the list is Germany.



Elyse Goin, California Sea Grant Fellow. Elyse Goin is joining the Ocean Protection Council's Biodiversity Program as a 2022 California Sea Grant State Fellow. She recently completed her Masters of Advanced Studies degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. For her capstone project Elyse worked with coastal communities of her family's home island of Trinidad and Tobago to assess their responses to climate change impacts. She combined traditional knowledge and science to reveal people's risk perceptions of climate change impacts occurring along the coast. Prior to graduate school, Elyse worked as a science educator both on land and at sea at The Birch Aquarium and The Escondido Creek Conservancy. Elyse also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from UC San Diego- Go Tritons! She is looking forward to advancing the State's 30x30 goals and participating in the review of the network of Marine Protected Areas, all while pursuing inclusion of various community voices. Elyse enjoys exploring the great outdoors, taking Samba dance lessons, learning a new language and watching home DIY renovation shows.



Megan Williams, California Sea Grant Fellow. Megan Williams joined OPC in January as the 2022 California Sea Grant State Fellow in the Climate Change Program. Megan supports OPC's efforts to prepare for and adapt to climate change through projects relating to ocean acidification, sea-level rise, and offshore wind. She earned her MS in Biology from CSU Northridge, where she studied the impacts of climate change on shifting community structure of both Caribbean and Pacific coral reefs. Prior to graduate school, Megan worked on the conservation and restoration of Florida Keys reefs and provided educational materials relating to marine science and climate change to classrooms throughout the US. She also holds a BS in Marine Science and Biology from the University of Miami. In her free time, Megan loves to be outdoors at the beach, diving, or hiking, or getting into a new artistic project.

COMMUNICATIONS

Include any relevant communication updates, including a list of media highlights in this format:

Media Highlights:

- LAT: [Rising sea levels pose perilous threat to California as study raises new alarms](#)
- YouTube: [Prairie Creek restoration kicks off Redwood Trails Gateway Project](#)
- Washington Post: [Will Rising Seas Drown the California Dream?](#)
- Merced Sunstar: [Rising sea levels could submerge major Northern California highway, Caltrans report says](#)
- MSN: [Photos from the king tides show what permanent sea level rise could look like in San Francisco Bay Area by 2050](#)
- LAT: [California redwood forest to be returned to tribal group](#)
- Inside Climate News: [As the Biden Administration Eyes Wind Leases Off California's Coast, the Port of Humboldt Sees Opportunity](#)
- Monterey Herald: [A good virus comes to the rescue of California's abalone](#)
- NYT: [Why Are Freakish Fish Washing Ashore in California?](#)

Staff Publications:

- Marine Policy: [U.S. exempted fishing permits: Role, value, and lessons learned for adaptive fisheries management](#)
- Global Change Biology: [Putting the Pacific marine heatwave into perspective: The response of larval fish off southern California to unprecedented warming in 2014–2016 relative to the previous 65 years](#)
- Frontiers in Marine Science: [A National Status Report on United States Coral Reefs Based on 2012–2018 Data From National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Coral Reef Monitoring Program](#)

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