

September 7, 2011

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email to opc.comments@scc.ca.gov

Re: Comments on OPC Draft Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Laird,

As a California resident and a college undergraduate majoring in Environmental Science, I am concerned about our coastal resources and am writing to submit my comments on the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) Draft Strategic Plan with a focus on the Desalination and Once-Through Cooling Section.

I am very concerned about attempts by proponents of ocean desalination to push the Ocean Protection Council away from one of its key guidance principals from the Ocean Protection Act, "recognizing the 'precautionary principle': where the possibility of serious harm exists, lack of scientific certainty should not preclude action to prevent the harm" as it relates to the use of once through cooling pipes for desalination.

With this in mind, I am requesting that in the re-drafting of the language in the desalination section of the OPC Strategic Plan that consistency with previous SWRCB and OPC positions on the use of OTC pipes is kept in mind. I also support the call for all agencies to work together to develop better site locations and design criteria and for the independent review of alternative intake designs. We need to end the current obsession with co-location of desalination plants with existing power plants and explore new alternatives that better protect the environment.

In closing, I would like to remind all Californians that the Ocean Protection Act states that the offshore waters and ocean resources of California are held in trust for the people, and that State decisions affecting coastal waters and the ocean environment should be designed and implemented to conserve the health and diversity of ocean life and ecosystems. Current ocean desalination technology is simply not compatible with the goal of maintaining healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems and the sustainable use of ocean resources.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Glenn Cajar
Earth & Environmental Sciences, Undergraduate
University of California, Irvine