

Special Committee on Desalination and Recycling

Item 3b

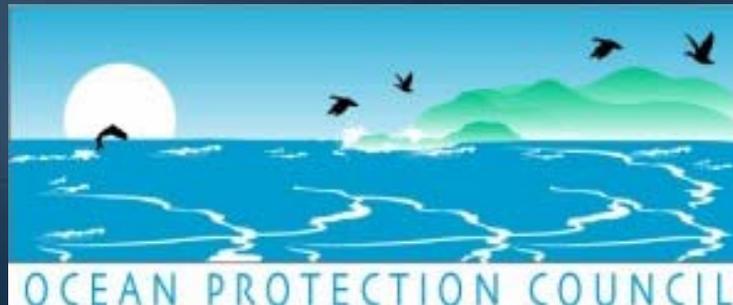
Subject: Oral Report on the Ocean Protection Council's draft Strategic Action Plan

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Item 3b
April 9, 2012

What is the Ocean Protection Council?

- Created in 2004 by Ocean Protection Act
- Mission: coordinate ocean resource management and protection
- Recommends changes to state laws and regulations
- No regulatory powers, BUT . . .
. . . Issues influential policies and resolutions



Council Membership



John Laird
Secretary for
Natural
Resources,
Council Chair



John Chiang
State Controller



Matt

Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection



Fran Pavley
Senator



Toni Atkins
State Assembly



Geraldine Knatz
Public Member



Susan Golding
Public Member

How Does the OPC Influence Policy?

- 2006 Resolution on Once-Through Cooling
- Power plant intake impacts can be significant
- Urged SWRCB to implement state regulations
 - Require reductions in marine impacts
 - Encourage use of “most protective controls” to achieve 90 to 95% impact reduction
- SWRCB followed OPC’s recommendations
 - Adopted once-through cooling policy in 2010

2012 Strategic Plan Update

- Adopted in February
- Sets priorities for next five years
- Focus areas
 - Science-based decision making
 - Climate change
 - Sustainable fisheries and marine ecosystems
 - Coastal / ocean impacts from land-based sources
 - Existing and emerging ocean uses
- Seawater desalination under emerging uses

August 2011 Draft

- Set general goals for most focus areas
- But specific actions for desalination
 - Develop criteria for State and local water planning
 - Seek independent review of sub-surface intakes
 - Apply once-through cooling policy to desalination
- Proposed policies for Ocean Plan:
 - No open ocean intakes
 - No co-locating with power plants
- Could have eliminated several member agency projects

MWD Actions

- Testimony at public workshops

- CalDesal effectively coordinated water agencies



- Message points

- Desalination recommendations overly restrictive
- Could undermine the SWRCB Ocean Plan process
- Water planning already covered by existing law
- Differentiate seawater desalination from power plant once-through cooling

A New Plan was Adopted in February

- Process was open and participatory
 - Addresses many water agency concerns
- Final recommendations
 - Coordinate State seawater desalination policy
 - Assist SWRCB in developing Ocean Plan regulations
 - Provide input to DWR's Water Plan update
 - Review benefits of sub-surface intake systems
 - Assess mitigation measures for once-through cooling intakes
- Consistent with other focus area approaches
- OPC may consider a resolution on seawater desalination

Next Steps

- Track implementation
 - e.g., SWRCB Ocean Plan Update
- Monitor desalination in DWR's Water Plan
- Work with CalDesal to monitor potential OPC resolution for seawater desalination

Questions?