

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 57 was approved as  
Minute Item No. 59 by the California State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 2 to 0 at its 06/07/04  
meeting.

Minute Item  
59

06/07/04  
P. Thayer

RESOLUTION REGARDING OCEANS

Regular Item 59: Commissioners listened to presentation by  
Executive Officer pertaining to a resolution supporting the Pew  
Commission and the U.S. Ocean Commission reports.

The Commission adopted the resolution by a 2-0 vote.

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**RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
RECOGNIZING THE THREATS TO AMERICA'S OCEANS AND URGING  
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE U.S.  
COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY AND PEW OCEANS COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, Our oceans are the nation's largest public trust resource. Their riches are vast and bountiful, fragile and mysterious. The genetic, species, habitat, and ecosystem diversity of the oceans is believed to exceed that of any other Earth system; and

**WHEREAS**, California alone holds title to more than 3.1 million acres of ocean—these tide and submerged lands under the jurisdiction of the California State Lands Commission stretch three nautical miles offshore. Also known as sovereign lands and Public Trust Lands, they belong to all Californians and all Californians, as well as the Commission, need to assist in insuring their health; and

**WHEREAS**, These Public Trust Lands have generated more than seven billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000) in revenues for California that have funded construction of our state colleges and universities, as well as an array of environmental projects to preserve and protect the natural and recreational resources of the state, including Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout; and

**WHEREAS**, Ocean resources contribute more than seventeen billion dollars (\$17,000,000,000) to the state's economy—ten billion dollars (\$10,000,000,000) of which is from coastal tourism; and, thousands of jobs in fishing, recreation and tourism depend on healthy functioning coastal ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, Reports prepared by both the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the independent Pew Oceans Commission conclude our oceans are in crisis. Marine life and coastal habitats are straining under the increasing pressure of our use. Point and nonpoint pollution, invasive species, and coastal development threaten the health of our oceans. Our fisheries are unable to sustain themselves and destructive fishing practices are damaging vital habitat and the food chain; and

**WHEREAS**, Both ocean commissions recommend the use of an ecosystem-based management approach to formulating ocean policy. Addressing the complex interrelationships among the ocean, land, air, and all living creatures, including humans, and considering the interactions among multiple activities that affect entire systems is essential in maintaining living oceans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the California State Lands Commission finds that the ocean is a public trust resource that every public agency and every Californian has a responsibility to protect. That protection must be ensured by coordinated governance guided by principles of sustainability, precaution, ecosystem health, recognition of the interconnectedness between land and ocean, good science and improved understanding of coastal and ocean ecosystems, and full public participation in decision making; and be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That the Commission supports the preparation and recommendations of the oceans reports prepared by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the independent Pew Oceans Commission that significantly improve stewardship of our coast and oceans, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Commission urges implementation of the recommendations that address new and existing threats to our coasts and oceans through effective mandatory programs and targeted incentive programs, coordinate management of our coasts and oceans more effectively from both geographic and governance perspectives, fund our ocean programs fully and thoughtfully, and ensure the collection of better information about the health, resources and characteristics of the ocean and related coastal watersheds; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That in particular the recommendation that we in government adopt a new policy framework that is based on the concept of "the whole," which implements an ecosystem-based approach to managing our invaluable coasts and oceans, is paramount to creating a much healthier ocean environment and an opportunity to provide for our children a bountiful ocean legacy; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Commission directs its Executive Officer to transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission and to all Commission members from California, to the Governor of California, to the California Secretary of Resources and the California Secretary for Environmental Protection, to the United States Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, to the House Committee on Resources, to the House Ocean Caucus, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

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