

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
JUNE 21, 2017

ITEM:	10
SUBJECT:	Information item: The California Ocean Science Trust State of the California South Coast: Findings from Baseline Monitoring of Marine Protected Areas.
PURPOSE:	Provide the San Diego Water Board with 1) a general overview of Marine Protected Areas and associated management strategies; and 2) present the key baseline monitoring findings from the <a href="#">California South Coast Marine Protected Areas Report</a> (Report)
RECOMMENDATION:	This is an information only item; the San Diego Water Board will take no action.
KEY ISSUES:	The information in this Report allows coastal resource managers, such as the San Diego Water Board and its partners, to make well-informed and protective management decisions (i.e., information in this Report will contribute to designing long-term monitoring programs and will inform adaptive management strategies for the State's South Coast Marine Protected Areas).
PRACTICAL VISION:	The baseline monitoring findings in this Report are fully consistent with the San Diego Water Board's Monitoring and Assessment Framework of the Practical Vision.
DISCUSSION:	<p>One resource management or conservation strategy used to safeguard the marine environment is the establishment of areas of enhanced protections, in which portions of the coast are set aside for limited or more restricted human use.</p> <p>These areas of enhanced protections are designated as Marine Protected Areas or MPAs and exist for some of the most ecologically sensitive areas around the world including Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Fiji, the Galapagos Islands, and others.</p> <p>With the passage of the Marine Life Protection Act in 1999, California became the first state in the nation to require a statewide network of MPAs to protect the State's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems. The California coast is designated into</p>

four MPAs, specifically the California North Coast, North Central Coast, Central Coast, and South Coast.

Today's presentation will summarize the baseline monitoring findings of the Marine Protected Areas in California South Coast.

Baseline monitoring provides an assessment of the current conditions of an area at a specific point in time. The findings in this Report provide a snapshot of the ecological and socioeconomic conditions in the South Coast MPAs between 2011 to 2015.

As described in the San Diego Water Board's Monitoring and Assessment Framework, an assessment of baseline conditions is needed, and can be used to compare future monitoring results in order to determine long-term MPA status and trends.

That comparison, between baseline and long-term monitoring, indicates whether or not the conservation/management strategies are effective. If conditions at any given MPA are improving or staying relatively stable, that indicates that the management strategies used are largely effective and should remain unchanged. If however the conditions of the MPA are worsening, as compared to that MPA's baseline conditions, that tells the resource manager that the management strategies employed have not been effective and indicates that changes to current management strategies should be made.

LEGAL CONCERNS:	None.
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	None.
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:	None.
COMPLIANCE RECORD:	None.
PUBLIC NOTICE:	This item was publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the June 21, 2017 meeting.