

**CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION**

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AS PROPOSED BY STAFF**RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION SUPPORTING
THE OCEAN CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, AND NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR
THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (HR 21), WHICH WOULD IMPROVE THE STEWARDSHIP
AND MANAGEMENT OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, California's coast and ocean environments are unique and valuable assets of the State; they provide life to abundant animal and plant species, a broad range of recreational opportunities, and a variety of goods and services that are valuable to its citizens' quality of life and the State and national economy, and are enjoyed and loved by domestic and international visitors; and

WHEREAS, the California State Lands Commission has jurisdiction over the state-owned tide and submerged lands from the shoreline out three nautical miles into the Pacific Ocean, as well as the lands underlying California's bays, and navigable lakes and rivers; and

WHEREAS, the California State Lands Commission is charged with managing these lands pursuant to the Public Trust Doctrine, a common law precept that requires these lands to be protected for purposes and uses that provide a benefit to the statewide public related to maritime commerce, navigation, fisheries, and other water dependent or water-oriented purposes and uses, including, but not limited to, public access, recreation, waterfront visitor serving uses, and preservation of the lands in their natural state for scientific study, open space, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, both the Pew Oceans Commission and the United States Commission on Ocean Policy conducted major national ocean policy studies considering the fate of the United States' oceans in the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, both Commissions concluded that human activities have severely stressed ocean systems and that major changes in ocean management are needed to stop degradation of ocean resources and to restore and protect the oceans for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the ocean commissions further found that better management of the oceans required an ecosystem-based approach, implemented through coordinated, regional mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, America's waters are managed under 140 different laws spread across 20 different government agencies with little coordination, creating an inefficient system that has been referred to as "the chaos in the sea"; and

WHEREAS, the bill in Congress entitled the Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (HR 21), introduced by Congressman Sam Farr, would implement the recommendations of the Pew Oceans Commission and the United States Commission on Ocean Policy by: (1) establishing a comprehensive and unifying National Oceans Policy and guiding principles for use and management of U.S. coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes and their resources; (2) formally codifying the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), strengthening its important mission and functions; (3) enhancing national oceans governance structure, including codifying the Committee on Ocean Policy; (4) promoting ecosystem-based, regional oceans governance, including collaborations among federal, state, and local management entities; (5) enhancing responsible ocean stewardship through education, information collection, and citizen involvement; and (6) establishing an Oceans and Great Lakes Conservation Trust Fund to support the purposes and policies of this Act; and

WHEREAS, the goals of HR 21 are consistent with the California State Lands Commission's dedication to responsible, comprehensive, and efficient management of California's coastal waters to protect California's ocean environment now and in the future; therefore, be it

Resolved by the California State Lands Commission that it supports the enactment by Congress of Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act, which would improve the stewardship and management of ocean and coastal resources; and be it further

Resolved, that the Commission's Executive Officer transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Governor of California, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Chairs and Members of the House of Representatives' Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science and Technology, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and to the California Ocean Protection Council.