

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
MARCH 21, 2023**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

INFORMATION ITEM ON THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION MODELING OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S COASTAL OCEAN.

DISCUSSION

pH and oxygen levels are falling in ocean waters. Most of these changes result from global climate change, but in some places, local discharges of human sources of nutrients can exacerbate this problem. The Ocean Protection Council's Strategic Plan (2020) identified assessment of how land-based nitrogen sources affect ocean conditions in California as a next step in developing management strategies and encouraged development of a coupled physical-biogeochemical model to achieve that. Scientists from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) will present the preliminary results from that modeling for Southern California.

POLICY ISSUE

The preliminary findings of this modeling are the bases for proposed incentives for nutrient removal in the State Revolving Fund Policy, which will be the subject of a separate Board item.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an information item with no fiscal impact.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

This is an information item with no impact to the Regional Boards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item. No staff recommendation will be presented.