

## **Expert Advisory Committee Scope Statement: Study to Provide Information Related to Oil and Gas Platform Decommissioning Alternatives in California**

### Project Background

The potential decommissioning of oil and gas platforms in the State Tidelands and on the Outer Continental Shelf off the California coast is a complex issue requiring careful collection and analysis of information on decommissioning alternatives. To help address these needs, the California Ocean Science Trust (OST) recently released a Request for Proposal (RFP) and is searching for a consultant to conduct a Study to Provide Information Related to Oil and Gas Platform Decommissioning Alternatives in California. Given the importance of the issue, it is essential that the study process is thorough, deliberative, and incorporates the expertise of a broad range of individuals in relevant disciplines. Therefore, OST currently is soliciting nominations for members of an Expert Advisory Committee that will provide constructive guidance to the consultant throughout the course of the study.

The Study to Provide Information Related to Oil and Gas Platform Decommissioning Alternatives in California will help the State examine the alternatives for decommissioning existing oil and gas platforms. The project will be funded jointly by the California Ocean Protection Council, Chevron Corporation, and the Ocean Conservancy, who will soon consider authorizing up to \$450,000 in funding to hire a qualified Contractor. The purpose of this study is to assemble and examine scientific and legal information that will frame future State policy discussions on the alternatives for decommissioned platforms. Information developed through this study will be used by the California Resources Agency to evaluate and inform policy discussions. The 9-month study will be an iterative process where the selected Contractor will work with the California Ocean Science Trust and Expert Advisory Committee.

### Expert Advisory Committee Scope

The Expert Advisory Committee for the Study to Provide Information Related to Oil and Gas Platform Decommissioning Alternatives in California will play a critical role in ensuring that the State receives authoritative and robust advice on this important issue. The committee will review the selected consultant's products, advise on the study process, and, more generally, deepen the expertise that helps to shape the project findings.

Members of the Expert Advisory Committee will be responsible for the following tasks and deliverables:

1. Review and evaluate project proposals.
2. Review and comment on the Interim Deliverable prepared by the Contractors<sup>1</sup>.
3. Participate in an Interim Meeting with the Contractor. This Expert Advisory Committee meeting will serve as a forum for discussion and collaborative problem solving by the

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 4.4 in the RFP for more information about the Interim Deliverable and the Interim Meeting.



Contractor and the Expert Advisory Committee members, and will include consideration of the Expert Advisory Committee's comments on the Interim Deliverable. The meeting will be facilitated jointly by OST and the Expert Advisory Committee.

4. Review and evaluate the Contractor's Draft Final Report.
5. Participate in the Final Advisory Committee Meeting. This meeting will focus on clarifying needed changes and refinements to the draft report and any gap-filling research and analysis that might be warranted. As with the first meeting, this one will serve as a forum for collaborative problem solving.

### Committee Formation

The OST will solicit nominations for potential members of the Expert Advisory Committee. Potential Advisory Committee members should have expertise in fields relevant to the study, such as *Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Development, Socioeconomics, Marine Ecology, Water/Air Quality, Fisheries Biology, California Coastal and Marine Law and Policy*, and more. Overall, the composition of the Expert Advisory Committee will reflect the breadth of disciplines outlined in Section 5.1 of the RFP. After receiving nominations, OST will conduct interviews with the nominees and select team members.

### Nominations

All nominations should be submitted by email to Amber Mace at [amber.mace@calost.org](mailto:amber.mace@calost.org). Individuals submitting nominations should include the name of the individual, their institutional affiliation, and a brief paragraph (less than 250 words) explaining why the individual is qualified for the Expert Advisory Committee. Self nominations are welcome. Priority consideration will be given to nominations received by **November 24, 2008**.

### Timeline

<i>Event</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Nominations due	11-24-08
Interviews with potential committee members	12-1-08 to 12-8-08
Final selection of committee members	12-12-08
Review of proposals by Advisory Committee	12-19-08 to 1-21-09
Advisory Committee provides comments on Interim Deliverable	5-13-09
Interim Advisory Committee meeting	5-20-09

Advisory Committee provides comments on Draft Final Report 9-16-09

Final Advisory Committee Meeting 9-23-09

### Compensation

Members of the Expert Advisory Committee will receive an honorarium.

### Additional Information

The California Ocean Science Trust (OST) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation established pursuant to the [California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000](#) to encourage coordinated, multi-agency, multi-institution approaches to translating ocean science to management and policy applications. For more information on the California Ocean Science Trust or to view the RFP, please visit: <http://www.calost.org>.

Any questions regarding the Advisory Committee should be sent by email to Amber Mace at [amber.mace@calost.org](mailto:amber.mace@calost.org).