

OPC



News

Go Environmentally Safe, Clean Energy NOW  
Ocean Protection Coalition

VOL I No 1

www.oceanprotection.org

May 24, 2009

*This is the official newsletter of the Fort Bragg chapter of the Ocean Protection Coalition, an affiliate of the Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance. The Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance is an alliance of citizen organizations on ridges, valleys and waterways of the Mendocino Coast. The Ocean Protection Coalition and Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance are tax exempt, IRS-approved non profit organizations.*



Noyo Harbor entrance and the old mill site (right). PG&E's wave energy test area would have fronted the old mill site (area to the right of the photo). Now the danger to our coast comes from the Green Wave permit.

photo by Ed Oberweiser

## Welcome to the OPC News!

By Judith Vidaver

This is the first edition of the OPC News. Thanks to Ed Oberweiser's generous offer to edit and publish this newsletter, we'll keep you updated on the latest news regarding ocean energy and other developments harmful to the ocean. We'll present actions we can all take to protect the ocean as well as alternatives to ocean energy development.

Primarily a monthly e-publication, the OPC News will also be available in hard copy by subscription and for a small donation.

We welcome article submissions. The deadline for submitted articles will be the seventh of each month. Please limit your submissions to 700 words or less. Send them to [indigoa@mcn.org](mailto:indigoa@mcn.org)

Our biggest news story is PG&E's announcement that it's abandoning its plans to test wave power devices off Fort Bragg. We

were thrilled to hear the news, but dismayed that Green Wave still wants to install up to 100 Pelamis machines close to the village of Mendocino. More details inside (see page 4).

### A Bit of History

The Ocean Protection Coalition (OPC) was founded more than 20 years ago when the Mendocino, California coast was threatened by the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS). It planned to lease the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off northern California for oil and gas extraction and production.

Before that, locals cut their organizational teeth on the Navy's attempts to dump old nuclear submarines into our Noyo Canyon and PG&E's plan to build nuclear power plants at Point Arena and other places on the coast.

When George Bush I and his Texas oil cronies sent their government lackeys to Fort Bragg, OPC and the community were ready. A year

of organizing resulted in the legendary "Fort Bragg Oil Hearing." It lasted three days and nights with nearly continuous testimony by more than three thousand folks adamantly and universally opposed to drilling off our coast.

Our tiny community sent MMS packing, and escorted them out with songs, seaweed and T-shirts emblazoned with "I Survived the Fort Bragg Oil Hearing."

When the MMS panel reported back to Washington, they made it clear to their bosses that the profits to be made drilling off the Mendocino Coast would not be worth the effort of quelling local opposition.

Soon after the hearings, George Bush I declared a moratorium on OCS leases that held until it was lifted last year by George Bush II and Congress. Activists thought their work was done and went back to their normal lives as loggers, sea

See **Welcome** page 3

# PG&E quits Fort Bragg wave power project

By OPC News staff

Bill Toman, director of PG&E's Wave Energy Connect project, recently announced PG&E would be abandoning its plans to test a variety of wave generating devices and eventually installing a wave power plant off the shore from Fort Bragg.

At a meeting of the Mendocino Coast Steering Committee on Wave Energy (MCSCWE), Toman cited the inadequacy of Fort Bragg's Noyo harbor to deploy and service the giant wave power machines as their reason for withdrawing from the area.

The project would have been the prototype for wave power generation technology in the US. However the only thing it generated was controversy from the time the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) refused to grant local communities the right to participate in the permit process.

After FERC's issuance of a preliminary permit in February 2008, locals voiced their discontent at being shut out of the process. They expressed concerns that such development in the ocean would devastate one of the four most productive marine ecosystems in the world. This was reminiscent of the historic 1988 Fort Bragg Oil Hearings when thousands of locals opposed plans to drill for oil off the coast of Mendocino.

Fishermen fear they will be excluded from prime fishing

grounds. Local sea vegetable harvesters are concerned that the devices, each 500 feet long and 15 feet high, will reduce wave action, harming the productive inter tidal



One of the reasons PG&E gave for giving up on the Fort Bragg site

zone.

Businesses worry that the devices, which would be lighted at night and visible as well as audible from the town's most scenic areas, will jeopardize tourism, the town's main source of income.

Property owners wonder if their property values will decrease. Nearly everyone is fiercely protective of the spiritual gifts from the sea, citing the need to retain the Mendocino Coast in its pristine condition.

Preliminary studies published by Hatfield Marine Lab in Oregon and by the State of California listing potential impacts of wave energy only fueled the opposition.

However, PG&E is still committed to researching the potential of wave power and is shifting its focus to Humboldt County where it also has a preliminary permit from FERC. PG&E claims the harbor there is adequate for their needs. *The*

*company estimates it may be seven or more years before wave power goes on line - if ever.* Commenting on the PG&E decision, Beth Mitchell, FERC liaison for the FISH (Fishermen Interested In Safe Hydrokinetics) committee said, "One down, one to go - we still need to be vigilant in regards to Green Wave."

Green Wave, a Limited Liability Corporation composed of real estate developers was granted a preliminary permit to test the feasibility of installing up to 100 wave generators off the coast of Mendocino. It is unclear how this decision will affect that project.

Judith Vidaver, Chair of the Ocean Protection Coalition which was opposed to the project, said, "We salute PG&E's wisdom in recognizing the Mendocino Coast as inappropriate for such heavy industrialization.

Their decision will help protect one of the world's most productive marine ecosystems. We are concerned that they are still pursuing a technology that is proving unfeasible while wasting precious time and money that could be spent now on proven technologies such as conservation, solar, land-based wind and geothermal."

Vidaver thanked the Mendocino Coast community for their involvement and said, "Though they didn't state it, I'm sure the overwhelming local opposition to the project had something to do with PG&E's withdrawal from Fort Bragg.

"Vidaver added, "The ocean is the most important factor reducing the impacts of global warming. We cannot risk further compromising its ability to do its job with risky experiments when climatologists give us only around five years to get climate change under control."

## Useful ocean protection links

Here are some useful websites for ocean protection activists.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Technical Memorandum 92. This study describes the complex ecological setting and the major processes in the coastal Pacific Ocean: <http://>

[/spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/tm/](http://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/tm/)

For studies on potential impacts of wave power: [http://oceanenergy.epri.com/attachments/wave/reports/007\\_Wave\\_Envr\\_Issues\\_Rpt.pdf](http://oceanenergy.epri.com/attachments/wave/reports/007_Wave_Envr_Issues_Rpt.pdf) <http://ocsenergy.anl.gov/guide/wave/index.cfm> and [www.energy.ca.gov/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/)

[2008publications/CEC-500-2008-083/](http://2008publications/CEC-500-2008-083/)).

For those who would like to help circulate a petition against the industrialization of our oceans please download a copy of the Ocean sanctuary Alliance petition available at: <http://www.mendocinocountry.com/> and spread them around

# OPC comments on Navy exercises

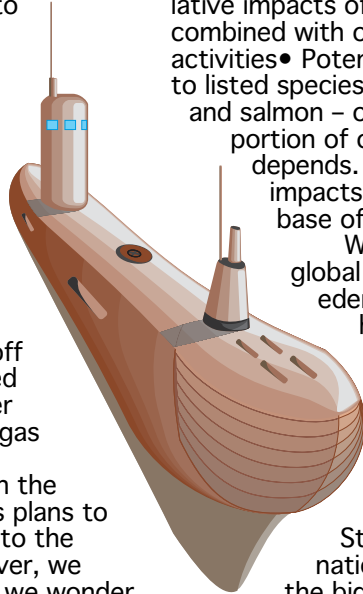
The Ocean Protection Coalition is a 501(c)3, non profit group of citizens and organizations dedicated to protecting the Mendocino County coast, the ocean and its many resources. We are compelled to such efforts because we recognize that we are blessed with one of the four most productive marine ecosystems in the world. We know the ocean is our greatest asset. The well-being of the ocean affects every aspect of our lives.

Currently we are resisting plans to install hydrokinetic power plants off our coast as well as renewed efforts to open up our outer continental shelf to oil and gas development.

We're gratified to learn the Navy said it has dropped its plans to release depleted uranium into the marine environment. However, we know it emits radiation and we wonder if the recently appearing "dead zones" off the Pacific Northwest might not be attributable to depleted uranium's prior use by the Navy

We're especially concerned regarding the following:

- The lack of adequate notice of hearings and inadequate information as to what the Navy actually plans and therefore, the public's inability to



assess potential impacts • The use of a plethora of toxic chemicals known to be harmful to all forms of life • Sonic weapons tests known to be harmful to marine animals • The potential cumulative impacts of Navy activities when combined with ocean energy extraction activities • Potential negative impacts to listed species such as the gray whale and salmon – on which a considerable portion of our local income depends. • Potential negative impacts to phytoplankton – the base of the food chain.

We are experiencing a global emergency unprecedented in the history of humankind.

Climate change caused by global warming threatens not just the national security of the United States, but of all nations. Indeed, it's the biggest threat to all life on the planet.

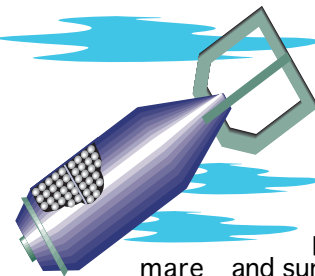
The ocean has the greatest potential to ameliorate the effects of global warming. Every component of the ocean ecosystem plays its part in the delicate balance that allows life to flourish on Earth.

The ocean is already severely stressed and reaching its limits on the

ability to continue doing its job. We need to immediately stop all activities that compromise the ocean's ability to function as the most important element in the Earth's life support system. We need to find ways of bringing its processes back into balance. The military burns one third of the fossil fuels consumed in this country. It needs, as do the rest of us, to drastically curtail its use of non-renewable energy.

Additionally, if the Navy and the rest of the "Defense" Department are sincerely interested in protecting the people of the U.S., their focus needs to shift from seeking enemies from beyond our borders.

We all need to acknowledge that the primary threat to our security is climate change.



The military has enormous resources that could perhaps make the difference between a planetary nightmare and survival. If this Navy plan is not contributing to this effort, then the only rational decision must be for a "no project" alternative.

Thank you for your consideration of this most important matter.

## Welcome from page 1

vegetable harvesters, fishers, educators, inn owners, students, parents and regular folks. But alas, we discovered there's no end to the greed and folly of humankind.

Several times in the intervening years, attempts were made to lift the moratorium and OPC has been resurrected for the defense of our ocean. OPC had been geared up since the 2006 attempt to lift the moratorium.

Then the GOP (Grand "Oil" Party) finally killed the moratorium with their "Drill, Baby, Drill" campaign. Does anyone else suspect intentional manipulation of gas prices before the election by the oil companies?

This shock came while the coast was already being threatened by proposals to install wave power

"parks" in our prime fishing grounds and directly over the San Andreas fault. Now, the Navy wants to expand their destructive, five-year weapons testing program which can damage and pollute the marine ecosystem far beyond the boundaries of their proclaimed test range. As you can tell, OPC has a full plate. Fortunately, we have a great steering committee composed of hardworking and self-sacrificing seasoned organizers. We're fiercely protective of our ocean, taking seriously our responsibility to protect one of the world's four most productive marine ecosystems. We know the survival of much of the sea life on the west coast depends on the health of the waters off our shore. We know the survival of all life on the planet depends on the ocean. The ocean generates the weather, provides us with oxygen,

food, a medium of transport, endless recreational opportunities and spiritual solace. Of increasing importance is its role of moderating the effects of climate change. Sadly, we also know the ocean is imperiled. Fishery collapses, garbage patches, chemical pollution, global warming effects (such as increased water temperatures, acidification and spreading dead zones) are all compromising its ability to perform its life-giving functions. The mission of OPC is to "protect the ocean and all life therein." We'll do our best, but remember, any organization is only as good as the engaged community it represents. Thank you for your continuing support to protect our ocean – our most important asset.

–Judith Vidaver, OPC Chair

# Green Wave **ACTION ALERT:** Ask FERC to rescind their permit

By OPC News staff

On May 1 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted a preliminary permit to Green Wave, a group of Southern California real estate developers to study the feasibility of installing a wave power plant.

According to Elizabeth Mitchell, FERC liaison with the FISH (Fishermen Interested In Safe Hydrokinetics) committee, the project location is in the Pacific Ocean between 0.5 and 2.6 miles offshore running roughly north and south between Point Cabrillo and the Navarro River mouth in Mendocino County. This is right along the Gray Whale migration path and some of our most scenic coastline.

The project area covers approximately 17 square miles. The preliminary permit specifies that the proposed project will consist of 10 to 100 Pelamis or OPT hydrokinetic devices having a total installed capacity of 100 megawatts. It will also include a proposed two to three mile-long and a 36-kilovolt transmission line.

These generators are gigantic: nearly 500 feet long, 15 feet tall and weigh 770 tons. They have to be highly visible to avoid collisions with boats so they're painted bright orange and are lighted at night.

Their moving parts are very noisy. The mooring systems require huge concrete installations on the ocean floor and the mooring lines can entangle whales. A huge area of prime fishing ground would be off limits. Unlike the PG&E project which snuck in under the community's nose, the Green Wave proposal received enough

advance notice to generate more than 50 requests for "intervenor" status - the most ever received for a wave project.

Intervenors include members of the general public, the City of Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, FISH, the Sierra Club, Pacific

case law (*In National Wildlife Federation v. FERC, 801 F.2d 1505*) "requires FERC to develop a comprehensive plan ... before the issuance of preliminary permits, and not just before licensing, if the ecological system is complex, and the proposed projects are numerous.

"In these situations, FERC's issuance of preliminary permits is arbitrary and capricious, and an abuse of discretion, if FERC has not: 1) prepared a comprehensive plan; 2) required permittees to conduct studies to provide data by which cumulative impacts of proposed projects can be assessed; 3) collected baseline environmental data and furnished it to the permittees; and 4) included uniform study criteria and guidelines in

the permit articles. Any decision by FERC not to develop a comprehensive plan must be supported by substantial evidence on the record..."

FERC has done none of the above. We need to hold FERC accountable by telling them to rescind their issuance of the Green Wave permit until they have complied with the law.

Remember, only those who previously requested intervenor status may now request a rehearing. FERC's deadline for receiving your request for a rehearing is May 31. If you don't have a computer or don't want to wrestle with their e-filing process, we suggest you send it by mail.

Include Green Wave Mendocino Project No. P-13053-000 as reference in your title. Mailing address: Kimberly D. Bose Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20426

For electronic filing:  
[www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp)



Green Wave wants to put Pelamis devices like these off the Mendocino coast

Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the Institute For Fisheries Resources and OPC. Once a project is approved, intervenors can request rehearings on FERC decisions and, if necessary, litigate.

Many of the intervenors, including OPC, also signed on to a request filed by Elizabeth Mitchell for FERC to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the scores of hydrokinetic projects being proposed around the country. By issuing the Green Wave permit, FERC denied this request. These groups are filing a joint request for a rehearing drafted by Elizabeth Mitchell.

Anyone else who wants to become an intervenor must file a request for a rehearing on their decision to issue Green Wave a permit. The reason for a rehearing is FERC's stated intent to deal with all these proposed projects on a case by case basis, with no comprehensive planning whatsoever.

The Federal Powers Act and

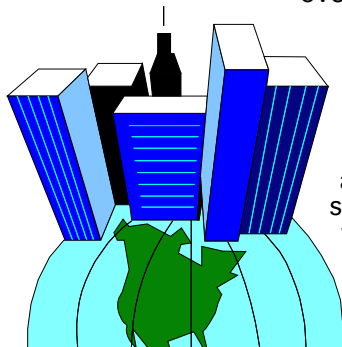
# Big business pressures Obama, Congress to weaken ocean industrialization oversight

By OPC News staff

The Obama administration has finally finished setting the new rules for offshore energy development. Obama's new guidelines have a different focus than George W. Bush's drill, drill, drill (oil and gas only) policy,

Obama's approach will also include "renewable" energy technologies. He wants to develop the vast wind power potential on the outer continental shelf.

The new rule is very complex and addresses leasing, decommissioning, revenue sharing with states and financial assurance.



## Background

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 gave the Secretary of the Interior authority over federal offshore areas for exploration and mineral development.

The 2005 Energy Policy Act (EPACT) expanded the Secretary's powers to include granting leases, rights of way and easements on the outer continental shelf for energy developed from sources other than oil.

EPACT placed all energy projects whether from renewable or non-renewable sources, under the authority of the Minerals Management Service (MMS). The MMS is a bureau within the Department of the Interior in charge of managing the Outer Continental Shelf. No energy project could be sited without a lease from the MMS.

EPACT called for the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations within nine months to establish a renewable energy program. The MMS decided not to consider any new proposals for renewable energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf until the new regulations were finished.

So the development of renewable energy's future on the Outer Continental Shelf was put on hold until the new rules were issued from the Secretary of the Interior.

When Barack Obama was elected president in the 2008

elections, he immediately pledged support for a plan for long-term economic growth.

To accelerate the creation of a clean energy economy, Obama said, "we will double our capacity to generate alternative sources of energy like wind, solar and biofuels over the next three years."

Obama's new Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, said the United States needed a new energy plan that made it energy independent. He also said that vital to the success of that ambition was creating the rules and a framework for governing renewable energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf.

## The conflict between, economic growth, energy development and environmental protection

The final version of the new rules and the focus on economic stimulation of renewable energy are viewed as positive developments for offshore wind projects. However, there will be tension between Obama's economic goals and environmental laws like The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that govern permits for, and operations of, new energy projects.

The big business viewpoint is that the legitimate purpose of environmental laws will be used by "environmental fanatics" to block or delay the energy projects that Obama hopes will help stimulate the economy. The Congressional Budget Office suggested waiving environmental and judicial reviews as a key way congressional representatives could speed up Obama's desired economic stimulus.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce encouraged Congress to likewise speed up the permitting process for renewable energy projects that will be financed by Obama's economic stimulus package to keep the economy growing.

Congress responded by writing a provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will require that sufficient resources be dedicated to speeding up the NEPA review of projects funded

by the act.

The MMS lowered the number of reviews necessary for projects to receive commercial leases under the Act. As it was originally written, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act required three separate NEPA and Coastal Zone Management reviews for competitively issued commercial leases. MMS lowered the requirement to two.

The wind power industry will no doubt be pleased with the Obama administration's recent emphasis on widening the focus of energy source development to add renewables, replacing Bush's "drill baby drill" policy.

A May 12, 2009 article appeared on the Mondaq website ([www.mondaq.com](http://www.mondaq.com)). This web site was created for the benefit of, in the site's own words, "legal counsel of international organizations, financial directors of companies involved in international trade and investment managers."

The authors, Kevin A. Ewing, Jason B. Hutt, Tracy D. Hester and Michael D. Olsen said, "the streamlining of NEPA and CZMA reviews is good news, and the wind industry should be pleased with the Administration's recent movement toward a broader energy portfolio."

"But offshore wind developers can still count on a costly, complicated and lengthy regulatory process that, in the end, remains subject to challenge in federal court. If the past is any guide, project opponents will seek to derail or overturn MMS."

Mondaq's pro-industry authors advise their readers about which parts of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) environmental defenders will likely use to defend the ocean and its sea life.

Mondaq's authors conclude that, while Obama's new focus offers opportunity for economic development of the Outer Continental Shelf, entrepreneurs in the field of renewable energy projects would be well advised to get themselves some professional consultants. Entrepreneurs will need this help to guide them smoothly through the environmen-

# What's wrong with wave power

By Judith Vidaver

The Ocean Protection Coalition opposes plans to industrialize the ocean by energy extraction. The ocean is the most important component in the earth's life support system. We have already compromised its ability to function with pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction and, now, global warming. We agree that we urgently need to develop carbon-free energy sources.

However, the ocean, stressed as it is, isn't the place to get them. A panel of scientists, convened by the state of Oregon, concluded that wave power projects may affect water circulation and currents. They may also reduce wave action and disrupt sediment transport, affecting beaches. Cables could entangle marine species, such as turtles and whales, and emit electromagnetic radiation.

Migration paths of whales and other marine mammals would be disrupted. Noise produced by these devices could be harmful to marine animals and annoying to humans. These gigantic machines – nearly 500 feet long and weighing nearly

800 tons – would be painted bright orange and lighted at night, degrading wild and scenic ocean vistas. Our Mendocino coast is recognized as one of the four most productive marine ecosystems in the world and is a major visitor destination. Lost tourist dollars would far exceed any income generated by the projects being proposed for our coast.



Photo of a Pelamis wave energy converter [www.pelamiswave.com/content.php?id=161](http://www.pelamiswave.com/content.php?id=161)

Installations of these machines are proposed directly over the San Andreas fault anchored in our crumbly substrate. There would be no quick and easy way to retrieve them if they break loose in an earthquake or during one of our fierce storms.

The global warming emergency demands immediate actions if we are to avoid the worst effects. This threat is so extreme that we can't afford to waste time or money on a technology that already has already failed.

## Wave Power fails in Portugal

Check out the recent demise of the Portugal Pelamis project ([www.treehugger.com/files/](http://www.treehugger.com/files/))

## 2009/03/portugal-pelamis-wave-power-project-dead-in-the-water.php)

We need to reduce our use of fossil fuels and focus all our efforts on proven sources of non-carbon energy, such as land-based solar, wind and geothermal. The effort to deploy wave power will stretch far into the future because any ocean industrialization is highly controversial. Controversy delays projects and adds to the cost. Also, so far it's proving to be unfeasible because the ocean is such a challenging environment to work in.

Locally PG&E is pursuing wave power conversion development and has estimated *it will be at least seven years before the system will come on line*. This doesn't even take into account any legal or environmental challenges. Climatologists give us less than six years to reduce our carbon emissions.

The ocean is the most critical element in the amelioration of global warming. It is already stressed to the maximum with marine ecosystems collapsing all over the planet. We can't afford any more experiments that might result in unintended consequences. We can't reverse the productivity of our local ocean. Arrays of energy extracting machines could disrupt the natural processes upon which much of the western Pacific depends.

## Obama from page 5

tal "obstacles" to commercial success.

The Mondaq web site offers advice and articles free to business. On the web site is the following statement;

"It is the professional firms' support for Mondaq which allows us to offer the information free to our users."

The Obama administration and Congress are under pressure from big business to speed up the approval process. They have already weakened the environmental scrutiny of new energy projects.

This is the kind of assault on the environment that groups like OPC are facing without the huge amounts of financial resources that big business can bring to bear.

While Obama's decision to include renewable energy technologies is admirable, OPC feels that the government's centralized approach to renewables is the wrong one. It's time to localize our energy generating capacities, put solar power on every roof and spend capital on supporting energy-efficient building and transportation technologies.

It's wrong to use unworkable, centralized, "renewable" energy generation technology such as wave power. More than half of the energy generated is lost, both by building centralized power generating stations and using long distribution lines.

OPC and other like-minded organizations can only change the government's mindset with the support of people who understand

that life on earth depends on making the health of the planet's life support system priority number one.

We can't tolerate any more environmental "sacrifice areas" being created so business can profit off the death of the Earth. The very existence of life on Earth is at stake. OPC hopes this newsletter will make more people aware of the dire straits we're in by spreading better ideas for addressing global warming.

OPC is enthused by the number of people and organizations springing up out of nowhere to defend life on Earth. Please join with us and the Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance (<http://rcwa.us/>) here on the Mendocino Coast in our efforts. We will be glad to welcome you to the struggle (see last page).

# New OCS regulations are out – come to June 26, SF MMS meeting

**OPC Just received this from Minerals and Management Service (MMS)**

*Could this be another opportunity for us to tell them what we think of industrializing the ocean? Possibly not but we need to find out what they have in mind. OPC will be going. Please consider joining us.–*

*Judith Vidvaver – OPC Chair*

At a meeting in San Francisco MMS will explain new regulations for renewable energy activities on outer continental shelf

Dear Offshore Renewable Energy Stakeholder: On April 29, 2009, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued the final regulatory framework on renewable energy and alternate uses of existing facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf.

You are receiving this email as a notification that the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) will be holding a series of regional stakeholder workshops in June and to invite you to "save the date" to attend and

participate in one that is convenient to you.

The workshops are being held to allow stakeholders to learn about the newly published regulatory framework for renewable energy activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Attendees will learn about the regulatory framework and the MMS leasing process.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff will participate at some of the locations to discuss FERC's role in the issuance of licenses for wave or ocean current projects on the OCS. Time will be provided for discussion and questions and answers. Leases issued under the new regulatory framework will authorize activities related to renewable energy development, such as commercial development of offshore wind, wave or ocean current or non-commercial activities related to assessing renewable energy potential in an area. There will be a Northern California, June 26 meeting in San

Francisco – Location: To be decided. Time: 9:00 a.m.- noon Additional information about the new regulatory framework for offshore renewable energy is available at [www.mms.gov/offshore/renewableenergy](http://www.mms.gov/offshore/renewableenergy). You will find a link to the final regulatory framework on this site.

If you have any questions about the workshops, please reply to this email or call Ecosystem Management & Associates (EM&A), the contracted coordinator and facilitator for the workshops, at 410-394-2929.

We will send a second email with actual locations once they are confirmed. This information will also be posted on our website as soon as it is available. We look forward to seeing you in June.

Thank you! Sincerely, Maureen A. Bornholdt Program Manager Office of Offshore Alternative Energy Programs Minerals Management Service U.S. Department of the Interior

## Energy development off the Mendocino coast is uncertain

By Judith Vidaver

We all wonder what the Obama administration has in store for us regarding energy development off our coast. The federal government has jurisdiction over waters beyond the states' three mile jurisdictional boundaries.

At an April 16 Department of the Interior (DOI) meeting in San Francisco, many Mendocino County residents heard a report on energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off Northern California.

We learned that wind potential is superb and that floating wind platforms are in the works. We learned that wave energy potential is also great for the OCS at present, though the Feds are not concerning

themselves with it.

This is because the technology is unproven and because the feds think wave power generation is more feasible in shallower, near-shore state waters. Interior Secretary Salazar explained that the DOI and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) are looking seriously at the most recent OCS plan – the 010-2015 plan, inherited from the Bush administration.

*This plan opens up the entire United States Outer Continental Shelf for oil and gas development. It was thrown together by the Bush administration after the moratorium on leasing new tracts for oil*

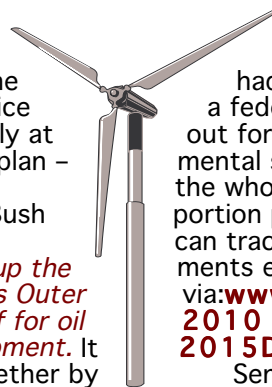
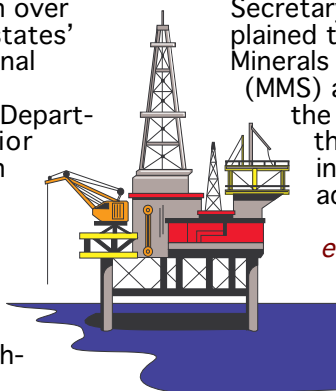
drilling was lifted. This plan proposes commencing lease sales off Northern California in 2010. MMS is accepting comments on this plan until September 21,

2009.

Bush's previous five-year Outer Continental Shelf plan, adopted in 2007 and set to run until 2012, vastly expanded oil drilling in sensitive areas of Alaska. Several tracts had already been leased when a federal court threw the plan out for lack of sufficient environmental studies. It is uncertain if the whole plan is invalid or just the portion pertaining to Alaska. You can track this plan and file comments electronically via: [www.mms.gov/5-year/2010DPPComments.htm](http://www.mms.gov/5-year/2010DPPComments.htm)

Send written comments by September 12, 2009 on the 2010 – 2015 plan to:

Ms. Renee Orr, Chief Leasing Division Minerals Management Service, MS 4010381 Elden Street Herndon, VA 20170-4817



# OPC holds renewable energy rally

By Char Flum, OPC Vice Chair

On May 21, prior to the PG&E's WaveConnect meeting at Portuguese Hall, the Ocean Protection Coalition had an inspiring and informational rally focused on solar power as a credible alternative to damaging our ocean and local economy with wave power generation. Several speakers gave informative presentations.

Meg Courtney, Fort Bragg City Council member, gave an overview of some of the many programs the City is developing to reduce its carbon footprint.

Courtney said Fort Bragg is the first city in Mendocino County to estimate its greenhouse gas emissions. Projects include adopting green building codes and creating a pedestrian-friendly downtown.

Kate Collins, from Gaia Energy Systems, shared information about the current state of solar photovoltaic electricity generation. It was encouraging to learn that solar is quite practical for Mendocino and that the cost of solar arrays is actually going down.

Steven Heckerth, a local solar

expert, discussed the long term financial savings potential of solar – especially in the transportation sector. His beautiful solar/electric Porsche sports car with a top speed



Rally attendees listen to the latest in renewable energy news

of 130 mph and a range of 150 miles generated a lot of interest. A lively presentation about possibilities for local energy generation was given by Tony Orth who traveled from Willits to talk about the Area Energy Authority (AEA) he is working to create with local and County governments. An AEA would allow us to develop a county-wide energy plan and apply for funding to implement it.

MCTV filmed and will broadcast the OPC rally and the PG&E meeting. After the rally, PG&E held its

meeting in Portuguese Hall explaining the decision to leave Fort Bragg. PG&E said the main drawback was the inadequacy of Noyo Harbor to stage a large-scale industrial operation.

PG&E introduced the team who would conduct the feasibility studies for building a wave power testing facility in Humboldt Bay.

PG&E described both what environmental studies would be done and the regulatory process for licensing a pilot project.

The utility solicited nominations for volunteers to participate with PG&E in future stakeholders meetings. Though PG&E's plan didn't pan out for them, Green Wave is still on the front burner, as a proposed wave testing site off the coast of Mendocino Village. OPC will be engaging with them.

With the removal of the threat of wave power development off Fort Bragg, we have new hope to pursue the protection everywhere against ocean industrialization. We need your support in this effort which could go on for years. Please contact us to learn how you can help.

We need volunteer time if you have it – financial support is welcome if you can't afford the time. We desperately need someone who can help us get a website going.

# Localized energy is the only way to go

By Ed Oberweiser

In this dangerous time period for life on Earth, we need to update the antiquated United States energy system, a massive centralized power source and its accompanying fragile and widespread distribution grid.

More than thirty years ago, Amory Lovins' book, *Soft Energy Paths* (published in 1978), told us why this system is no good.

"The whole idea of huge centralized sources of energy distributing the energy over long distances to end users is outmoded and highly inefficient. At least half of energy growth never reaches the consumer because it is lost earlier in elaborate conversions in an increasingly inefficient fuel chain dominated by electricity generation (which wastes two thirds of the fuel). "It's obvious that generating energy off the coasts of the U.S. and distributing it to the central inland areas won't help the worsening U.S. economic situation. Centrally located,

large power stations are uneconomical. Each one destroys about 4,000 net jobs and they tie up billions of dollars non productively for a decade, according to Lovins.

Lovins continues, "It is the conservation, solar, environmental, and related social programs that yield the most energy, jobs and monetary returns per dollar invested. Energy conservation programs and shifts of investment from energy wasting to social programs create anywhere from tens of thousands to nearly a million net jobs per quintillion joules/year saved.

"These are lasting jobs that use widespread or readily learned skills and need personal initiative and responsibility not transient jobs requiring exotic skills already in short supply."

The destruction of the environment caused by coal mining and burning coal (adding massive amounts of CO2 to the atmosphere) is massive. Nuclear power and its accompa-

nying uranium mining and the eons-long decaying nuclear wastes are just as destructive and even more expensive.

It's obvious this can't go on any longer. We've witnessed the damage caused by drilling for oil, burning it and transporting it in supertankers. The examples of destruction in Valdez Alaska, Santa Barbara, California and the San Francisco Bay are only a few of many worldwide disasters.

I attended a lecture in 1990 by Dr. Donald Aitken at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Oregon. He stressed the importance and magnitude of what energy conservation could contribute to the U.S. economy.

Aitken has served as the Executive Director of the Western Regional Solar Energy Center for the U.S. Department of Energy and as Senior Staff Scientist for Renewable Energy Policy and Economics with the Union of

**See Energy page 9**



# We need a local area energy authority

By Judith Vidaver

On May 4th the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) discussed creating a Joint Powers Authority to deal with energy issues in Mendocino County.

MCOG is a committee of governmental representatives from four incorporated cities (Fort Bragg, Pt. Arena, Willits and Ukiah) and Mendocino County.

Its mission is to deal with common issues. Primarily they deal with transportation issues, though could deal with nearly anything.

This discussion revolved around a proposal, presented by Tony Orth of Willits. He proposed the creation of a new Area Energy Authority (AEA) within MCOG to collaborate on energy issues facing the County. As we know, energy is THE issue most

effecting our future. It shows up everywhere; the economy, global warming, the local environment, our health, etc.

The Obama administration is promising to revitalize the economy through renewable energy independence and is making funding available.

The State of California has recently passed legislation [AB 811] that allows local governments to apply for grants to help homeowners and businesses initiate energy saving/generation programs.

These include weatherization, solar installation and even building local energy generation plants.

Many cities and counties are already instituting programs such as Sonoma County's energy independence program. Mendocino is running behind the curve and is in

danger of losing out on funding opportunities.

Because we have such a small and scattered population base, it makes sense to compete for funding sources on a county-wide basis. The creation of an Area

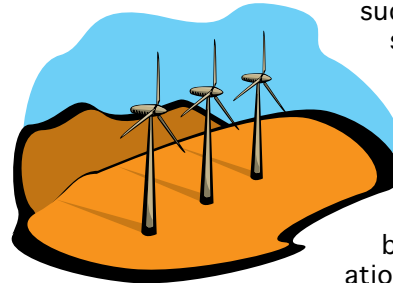
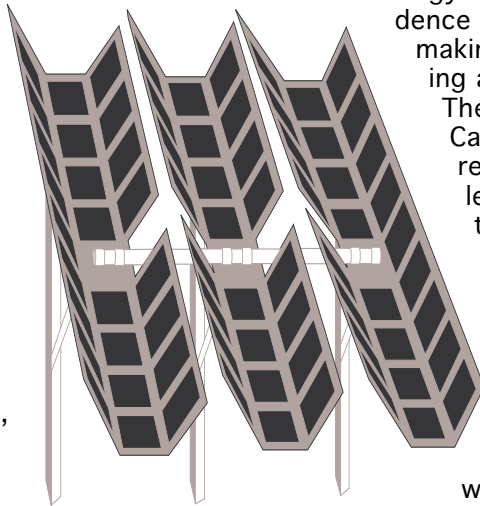
Energy Authority would

be the most effective means of doing this. At the same time, it would provide an open and transparent community process for planning our energy future.

The majority of the MCOG members seemed to understand the urgency of this issue. However, they need our input to move forward.

They will be bringing this issue before their respective Boards and Councils for direction.

Please contact your City Council members and County Supervisors and encourage them to support and expedite creation of an Area Energy Authority (see back page for officials contact information).



## Energy from page 8

Concerned Scientists.

He told us that Germany and Japan both produced one dollar's worth of goods with half the energy used by the U. S. to produce that same dollar's worth of goods.

Aitken explained that much of America's energy waste could be taken care of with technical fixes. He said if all the single pane windows in the U.S. were replaced with double-paned ones, we would eliminate the need for all the energy we get from the Alaska Pipeline.

Another example he gave was that merely dimming the lights in offices over desks next to windows in the U.S. would eliminate the need for 30 nuclear power plants.

Aitken said the money saved through technical fixes and energy

conservation could be more properly used to create desperately needed jobs by building needed mass transit and repairing the unsafe bridges in use in the U.S. today.

In a lecture in Stinson Beach, California in 2005 (see a video of it on the internet at: <http://eon.blip.tv/file/141152/>), Aitken explained that all the electric needs of the United States could be met by a 150 square mile field of solar panels feeding into the grid. However, he said, this is not the way to do it. Those 150 square miles could be more efficiently distributed over rooftops all over the country, eliminating a highly wasteful long distance energy grid.

Every area of the U.S. has potential for locally generating energy from a

renewable energy source. There is high potential for wind generation in North and South Dakota and Texas. Nevada, Southern California, New Mexico and Arizona have huge amounts of sunlight falling on them most of the year. Every area of the U.S. could generate electricity from the sun part of each year.

The idea of generating wave energy from the ocean in one of the world's most important ocean nutrient upwelling areas and sending it into the general U.S. energy grid makes no sense at all. Not only is it inefficient, but it would also be extremely damaging to the ocean environment. It would ruin the beauty of our scenic coastline and damage the tourist industry which creates sorely needed jobs.

## Write Your Officials

**President Barack Obama** – The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500, (202) 456-1111, FAX (202) 456,2461, web - <http://whitehouse.gov>

**U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer** – District Office: 1700 Montgomery St., Suite 240, SF 94111, (415) 403-0100, FAX (202) 224-0454, mailing address: 312 N. Spring St., Suite 1748, Los Angeles 90012, web - <http://boxer.senate.gov>

**U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein** – 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-3841, FAX (202) 228-3954; District Office for state and local issues: One Post St., Suite 2450, San Francisco 94104, (415) 393-0707, web - [Http://feinstein.senate.public.gov](http://feinstein.senate.public.gov)

**Rep Mike Thompson** – 1st District, 231 Cannon Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-3311, FAX (202) 225-4335: Coast representative, Heidi Dickerson, 430 N. Franklin St., P.O. Box 2208, "Fort Bragg, CA 95437 962-0933, FAX 962-0934, web - [Http://mikethompson.house.gov/](http://mikethompson.house.gov/)

**Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger** – State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, (916) 445-2841, FAX (916) 558-3160 web - <http://gov.ca.gov>

**State Sen. Patricia Wiggins** – Senate District 2, Capitol Building, Room 4081, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4002, FAX (916) 323-6958; Field Rep Kathy Kelly, Ukiah office 200 S. School St., P.O. Box 785, Ukiah, CA 95482, 468-8914, FAX 468-8931 web - <http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com>

**Assemblyman Wesley Cheesbro** – Assembly District 1, State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-001, (916) 319- 2001, FAX (916) 319-2101; Ukiah Field Rep Ruth Valenzuela, 311 N. State St., Ukiah, CA 95482, 463-5770, web - <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a01/>

**Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:** 1st District, **Carre Brown**, 2nd District, **John McCowen**; 3rd District, **John Pinches**; 4th District, **Kendall Smith**; 5th District, **David Colfax**. County Administration Center, 501 Low Gap Rd., Rm 1090, Ukiah 95482, 463-4221, FAX 463-4245, Web: <http://co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/>

**Fort Bragg City Council:** Contact at: City Hall, 416 N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437, 961-2823, FAX 961-2823, FAX 961-2802 [citycouncil@fortbragg.com](mailto:citycouncil@fortbragg.com)

**Mayor Doug Hammerstrom** - [dhammerstrom@fortbragg.com](mailto:dhammerstrom@fortbragg.com),

**Vice Mayor Dave Turner** - [dturner@fortbragg.com](mailto:dturner@fortbragg.com),

**Meg Courtney** - [mcourtney@fortbragg.com](mailto:mcourtney@fortbragg.com)

**Dan Gjerde** - [dgjerde@fortbragg.com](mailto:dgjerde@fortbragg.com)

**Jere Malo** - [jmelo@fortbragg.com](mailto:jmelo@fortbragg.com)

# OPC Needs you!

STOP OCEAN INDUSTRIALIZATION



Go Environmentally Safe, Clean Energy NOW

Ocean Protection Coalition

The Ocean Protection Coalition is a non profit group originally formed to prevent offshore oil drilling off the Mendocino coast.

Now our coastline is threatened by the Minerals Management Service's five-year plan with offshore lease sales.

We are also facing two new threats. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission(FERC) is granting wave power preliminary pilot projects off the Mendocino, Eureka and Ventura County coastlines.

The United States Navy plans to conduct a five-year training exercise in what it calls the Northwest Training Range Complex. This will threaten ocean waters from the Canadian border to the Humboldt/Mendocino county line and beyond. The Navy wants to conduct expanded sea and air warfare training and weapons development activities on more than 120,000 nautical square miles off the Pacific Northwest coastline. The Navy's weapons training and development activities include bombing, the placement of hundreds of sonar buoys, live firing of guns, missiles, torpedoes and the release of a number of toxic chemicals and substances into the ocean. These include white phosphorus, toluene, depleted uranium and unexploded ordnance containing chromium and chromium compounds and many more.

The Navy acknowledges that half a million marine mammals, mostly whales and dolphins could be harmed by the many explosions and especially the sonar. The Gray Whales will have to navigate through this horror 10 times during their migrations to Mexico and back during the Navy's five-year war exercises.

OPC is fighting to stop the militarization and industrialization of our oceans. We need your support and help now! We need you to circulate petitions against the destruction of the oceans. We need whatever financial help you can give us. We need your written letters to flood the halls of Congress and the White House. We need you at our demonstrations and need you to attend meetings - both ours and regulatory agency ones on this issue.

This is our first monthly newsletter. We will use it to give citizens updates on threats to the ocean and our coastline. Please sign up to subscribe for hard copies of the OPC News and pass them around. You can also contact us at: [indigoa@mcn.org](mailto:indigoa@mcn.org) to get on our list serv and receive the OPC News electronically. If you do, please send it to at least three people on any cc list you might have. If each person sends a copy to at least 3 people, more than a billion people could get a copy after only 19 multiples of three. Our mailing address is: OPC, P.O. Box 1006, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

**Let's bring ocean stewardship back to our communities now!!!!**