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**Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Releases Critical Ocean Policy Report**  
*Recommendations aim to protect the ecosystem and economy of Newport Beach and coastal communities*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative has released its much-anticipated report, “One Coast, One Future: Securing the Health of West Coast Ecosystems and Economies.” The report, requested by Newport Beach City Council Member Nancy Gardner and 18 other elected officials from California, Oregon and Washington State, offers guidance to local, state and federal leaders on utilizing integrated decision making to improve the health of coastal ecosystems and the economies that depend on them.

“Protecting our oceans and coasts starts at the local level,” said Leon E. Panetta, co-chair of the Joint Initiative and former White House Chief of Staff. “We are pleased to see so much interest in finding solutions to the critical problems facing our oceans and coasts. The Joint Initiative has provided the input that will lead to meaningful ocean policy reform at the state and local level.”

“This report supports the many actions the City of Newport Beach has taken to protect our coastal waters and is an important step toward more collaboration for regional solutions,” said Gardner.

“One Coast, One Future” identifies specific and immediate ways in which West Coast leaders can collaborate to implement a coordinated, productive approach to managing the coast. It also outlines ways for state legislatures and the federal government to support local efforts.

The report urges leaders to adapt and prepare for climate change impacts through an ecosystem-based approach that recognizes the interconnections among marine life, climate, local economies and the quality of human life. It acknowledges that many West Coast communities currently face alternative energy proposals and provides suggestions for working

with other communities, government agencies and developers to implement effective solutions to these pressing energy challenges.

The report's recommendations include:

- Identify a coordination area and engage stakeholders in setting goals.
- Understand and monitor ecosystem health.
- Establish coordinating mechanisms to bring together all interested parties.
- Make the land-sea connection.
- Collect and integrate locally-relevant information to better inform decision-making.
- Support integrated, ecosystem-based approaches, particularly at the local level.
- Consider marine spatial planning.
- Plan for climate change impacts at all levels of government.
- Maintain or enhance funding for core coastal and ocean programs.
- Send a clear message to Congress and the administration to fund and implement ocean protection measures.
- Creatively consolidate or reallocate existing resources to take full advantage of funding sources.
- Establish public-private partnerships for funding and in-kind resources.

The City of Newport Beach is already implementing many of the recommendations in the Joint Initiative's report. Gardner explained, "Our work on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and our participation on the Newport Bay Executive Committee, the advisory committee for Marine Protected Areas, and other groups has greatly increased the scope of regional efforts to improve the health of Newport Bay and our coastal waters."

"Communities along the coast have an incredibly important impact on regional and national economies by contributing to the tourism, boating and fishing industries, as well as the food supply," said Admiral James D. Watkins (U.S. Navy, Ret.), co-chair of the Joint Initiative. "The elected officials who requested this report have shown tremendous initiative in exploring innovative ways to secure and preserve their environment, coasts, ocean and communities. We commend Nancy Gardner for her leadership and the next step will be for the state legislature and Congress to support and prioritize these critical efforts."

For more information on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and to download the full version of “One Coast, One Future,” please visit [www.jointoceancommission.org](http://www.jointoceancommission.org).

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*The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission to catalyze ocean policy reform. The Joint Initiative is guided by a ten-member task force, five from each commission, and led by Admiral James D. Watkins (U.S. Navy, Ret.) and the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, chairs of the U.S. Commission and Pew Commission, respectively. The primary goal of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform.*

*The City of Newport Beach is located in the coastal center of Orange County and has an estimated permanent population of 84,554. During the summer months, the population grows to more than 100,000 with 20,000 to 100,000 tourists daily. Newport Beach is known for its fine residential areas, modern shopping facilities, strong business community and quality school system. It surrounds Newport Bay where more than 9,000 boats of all types are docked within the 21-square-mile harbor area. The bay area and the city’s eight miles of ocean beach offer outstanding fishing, swimming, surfing, and aquatic activities.*