

**Cat Kuhlman**, *OPC Executive Director/Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy, California Natural Resources Agency*

As Deputy Secretary for Ocean Policy in California, Cat Kuhlman provides the vision to lead agencies toward the shared goal of healthy ocean ecosystems and a sustainable future. Her work spans the West Coast where she builds productive collaborations with neighboring states to find common priorities and approaches that serve across political borders. As executive director of the Ocean Protection Council, Cat advances science-informed policy through inter-agency collaborations and the application of strategic funding. Before her appointment to these posts by Governor Brown in 2012, Cat led the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board where her work at preserving critical headwaters earned her national recognition and multiple awards. Prior to her service on the North Coast, Cat served the U.S. EPA in diverse capacities, addressing complex water resource management issues across jurisdictions and national borders. Known as a staunch advocate for resource stewardship and a problem solver who seeks equitable solutions, Cat continues to be sought after for her expertise at working on the intersection of the Clean Water Act and marine resource management. When she's not working Cat and her husband are avid travelers, exploring waterways and coasts throughout the world.

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