

WORKPLAN *on* JAPANESE TSUNAMI DEBRIS



PREAMBLE

THE GOVERNMENTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
CALIFORNIA, OREGON AND WASHINGTON,

Pursuant to the *Memorandum to Establish the Pacific Coast Collaborative* of June 2008 as provided for in Article 6; and the *Action Plan on Ocean Conservation and Coastal Climate Change Adaptation* of February 2010, to which all are signatories;

Whereas the West Coast of North America and Japan are connected through the Kuroshio and California Currents;

Whereas on March 11, 2011 a devastating earthquake and tsunami struck Japan which took more than 16,000 lives, and injured an additional 6,000 people;

Whereas the tsunami also destroyed and damaged infrastructure washing debris into the ocean;

Whereas the Japanese tsunami debris may reach the U.S. and Canadian shores over the next several years;

Desiring to work collaboratively on the issue of Japanese tsunami debris including; information sharing and dissemination; data collection; assessment of debris; emergency response plans; reducing impacts to our natural resources and coastal communities;

Committed to protecting and enhancing healthy and vibrant Pacific Ocean and coastal ecosystems crucial to sustaining our economic and environmental well-being, public health, and ways of life;

Recognizing that addressing common challenges regarding Japanese tsunami debris will require first-rate scientific information and monitoring; effective communication among our governments; and collaboration and communication with our citizens, business leaders, communities, tribes, First Nations, environmental advocates, and academic and scientific communities;

Seeking to minimize overlap and duplication of effort to achieve objectives that are shared;

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

I. Action on Japanese Tsunami Debris

Direct our relevant agencies and officials to explore and engage in collaborations that will allow us to more effectively and efficiently:

- 1) Develop a joint communication strategy.** The four jurisdictions will work together, and in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to ensure information is portrayed clearly and accurately.
- 2) Share safety protocols and training for volunteers who participate in beach cleanups.** The four jurisdictions will share current emergency and safety protocols, and create procedures to ensure the safety of beach cleanup volunteers who may encounter Japanese tsunami debris.
- 3) Work with our respective federal agencies and the Japanese government to establish protocols for the identification and management of any particularly sensitive items that may wash ashore.** Recognizing that this natural disaster was a humanitarian crisis, the four jurisdictions will work together along with other entities to establish protocols for the identification and management of any particularly sensitive items that may wash ashore, to the extent feasible and practical.

II. Results

Implement a joint mechanism to track the implementation of these commitments and report results achieved at the next annual Leaders' Forum of the Pacific Coast Collaborative.

III. Interpretation

This Memorandum is intended to spur finding new, smart ways for our governments, agencies and staff to work together, and with other governments and non-government partners as appropriate, to add value, efficiency and effectiveness to existing and future initiatives, and to reduce overlap and duplication of effort with the objective of reducing, not increasing, resource demands to achieve objectives that are shared.

IV. Limitations

This Memorandum shall have no legal effect, impose no legally binding obligation enforceable in any court of law or other tribunal of any sort, nor create any funding expectation; nor shall our jurisdictions be responsible for the actions of third parties or associates who may participate in activities outlined in this Memorandum.

SIGNED AT VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD ANNUAL LEADERS' FORUM OF THE PACIFIC COAST COLLABORATIVE, THIS 13TH DAY OF MARCH, 2012.

Original signed by

Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia

Original signed by

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California

Original signed by

John A. Kitzhaber
Governor of Oregon

Original signed by

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington