



February 21, 2014

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council

Via Electronic Mail copcpublic@resources.ca.gov

Re: Support for disbursement of funds for marine protected area signs

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Our organizations write to offer our enthusiastic support for the disbursement of funds for marine protected area (MPA) signs, Item #6 on the February 26 OPC agenda. With the recent completion of the California statewide network of MPAs, on-site signs are needed at major access points near MPAs—including shore boundaries and boat launch sites—as part of the state’s broad collaborative education and outreach effort for this outstanding asset.

The development and installation of MPA signs is truly a cooperative effort. The participation of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is essential to ensure regulatory accuracy and consistency. Local groups can provide educational content and help identify the best locations for signs; their engagement is crucial to ensure the signs play an effective role in local stewardship efforts. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation (MBSF) has developed templates in close coordination with DFW, and produced and installed dozens of high quality signs for the North Central and Central Coast regions. They are an appropriate entity to lead and manage this project.

A statewide MPA signage project is necessary and timely, and our organizations stand ready to assist MBSF and DFW in that enterprise.

Sincerely,

Zachary Plopper
WildCoast

Samantha Murray
Ocean Conservancy

Sara Aminzadeh
CoastKeeper Alliance

Stefanie Sekich
Surfrider Foundation

Anna Weinstein
Audubon California

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