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Fish and Game Commission



Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
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June 9, 2014

John Laird, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird:

As you know, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopted marine protected areas (MPAs) in each region of the State's coastal waters between 2007 and 2013, consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act. This resulted in a statewide network of MPAs with global significance and unprecedented local participation. The Commission strongly supports continued investment in comprehensive implementation of the MPA network to advance its intended goals. With this in mind, I am writing to reinforce my support for the draft California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan (Partnership Plan).

The Commission recognizes that active public involvement and partnerships are vital to advancing MPAs in California, starting with their initial design, based on scientific guidance and stakeholder proposals, to adopting and implementing the MPA network, including baseline monitoring, public outreach and education, and citizen science and compliance monitoring.

In recognition of the important contribution that partnerships have and will continue to play in effective and sustained MPA implementation, the Commission stands with its agency MPA leadership partners in support of the collaborative approach to MPA implementation. This is expressed in the draft Partnership Plan, currently in a public and tribal review and comment period, and the subject of your workshop on June 10.

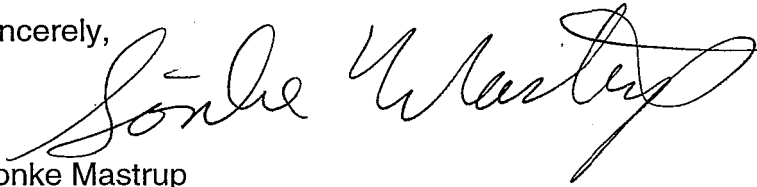
While scheduling conflicts prevent me from participating in the Ocean Protection Council's workshop today, as Executive Director of the Commission, I want to extend our support for the plan, and for the unprecedented engagement of partners in helping fulfill the intent of the Marine Life Protection Act for the State of California.

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources

June 9, 2014

Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonke Mastrup". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonke" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Mastrup".

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director

cc: Members, California Ocean Protection Council
Catherine Kuhlman, Deputy Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, California
Natural Resources Agency, and Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council
Charlton Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Major General Anthony L. Jackson, Director, California Department of Parks and
Recreation
Skyli McAfee, Executive Director, California Ocean Science Trust
Members, California Fish and Game Commission