

Item 5
Proposed Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council regarding the MPA Statewide Leadership Team and Work Plan FY 15/16 -17/18
September 22, 2015

WHEREAS, California has implemented an effectively managed statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs) as a key management tool for supporting the natural diversity and abundance of marine life and increasing the resilience of ecosystems against impacts, including changing ocean conditions associated with climate change; and

WHEREAS, California's network of MPAs spans over 1100 miles of coastline and crosses multiple jurisdictions of state and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, California is transitioning from the planning and implementation to the management phase for the network of MPAs designated under the Marine Life Protection Act through a science-based stakeholder driven process; and

WHEREAS, the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) as the policy lead for MPAs brought together leadership from state agencies and other partners to develop a collaborative approach to managing MPAs called the "The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan" (Partnership Plan); and

WHEREAS, the Partnership Plan was formally endorsed by both the OPC and the Fish and Game Commission (FGC); and

WHEREAS, the Secretary for Natural Resources has designated the MPA Statewide Leadership Team, comprised of OPC, FGC, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ocean Science Trust and other partners, who have significant statewide authority affecting MPAs to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to MPA network management; and

WHEREAS, the MPA Statewide Leadership Team serves as a standing body to ensure active and effective coordination and communication related to MPA management and will receive notification from all team members when their agency is proposing regulatory or other action that may affect the MPA network; and

WHEREAS, the MPA Statewide Leadership Team has created a work plan that reflects shared priorities among the members in four focal areas that are required for successful MPA network management which include: outreach and education; enforcement and compliance; research and monitoring; and policy and permitting; and

WHEREAS, the "MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18" emphasizes a continued partnership-based approach to MPA management, that includes leveraging resources, continued strong communication and collaboration with tribal and non-governmental partners and active engagement in all of the four focal areas; and

WHEREAS, the MPA Statewide Leadership Team is actively engaged with tribal and non-governmental partners throughout the state including the MPA Collaborative Network to ensure local priorities are reflected in the work plan and their activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby:

RESOLVES to endorse the “MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18” (Work Plan) which identifies strategic priorities, key actions and outcomes for effective MPA network management; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that through the implementation of the Work Plan, California’s natural resource agencies and supporting partners are committed to effective communication and coordination guided by mutual benefit, trust, transparency and accountability to support the effective management of the MPA network; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that OPC staff will continue to lead the MPA Statewide Leadership Team including completing periodic updates of the Work Plan to ensure it reflects emerging issues, learning from previous actions and is resulting in the continued successful management of the MPA network.

DRAFT