



## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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Item 6

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** California Ocean Protection Council  
**FROM:** Morgan Ivens-Duran, Sea Grant Fellow  
**DATE:** September 22, 2015  
**RE:** Update on MPA Statewide Signage Project

#### MPA Statewide Signage Project

At the February 26, 2014 OPC meeting, the Council approved a \$350,000 grant to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation (now the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation) to improve the current inventory of marine protected area signage along the California coast. The funds had been transferred to the OPC via an interagency agreement from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Key tasks included (a) inventory existing sign locations and identify locations for new regulatory and interpretive signs; (b) develop and produce new regulatory and interpretive signs; and (c) acquire necessary permits and install signs. An update on each of these tasks follows:

- a. The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation submitted a statewide inventory of current MPA signage to OPC staff and project partners. From that inventory and in consultation with partners statewide, 95 regulatory and 96 interpretive signs were selected for installation during this project.
- b. Working in close collaboration with OPC and Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation has designed and fabricated 189 signs. These signs adhere to standardized templates (see Exhibit 1) developed and approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and include tribal content at some locations. Other state agency partners (e.g. State Parks), the Marine Protected Area Collaboratives and other local organizations and experts were involved in customizing content for each interpretive panel.
- c. Working with the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation and 30 jurisdictions with certified Local Coastal Programs, OPC staff submitted two applications for Coastal Development Permits to the California Coastal Commission. The first application (9-15-0208) included 115 signs in Del Norte through San Luis Obispo counties and was approved by the Commission on May 14, 2015. The second application (9-15-0731) included 64 signs in Santa Barbara through San Diego counties, and was approved by the Commission on August 13, 2015. Separate permitting approvals have been received for 6 signs within Bay Conservation and Development Commission jurisdiction, 1 sign at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and 3 signs within the San Diego Unified Port District. 64% of the permitted signs were installed (70% in Northern California, 52% in Southern California) as of September 8<sup>th</sup>, and installation is expected to be completed by late September. Permitting for 2 signs at the Port of Los Angeles is ongoing.

During the implementation period of the statewide MPA network, effective public outreach and education was consistently identified as a key element underpinning the long-term success and durability of the MPA network. Given the length of coastline involved and the high number of potential coastal access points, the installation of interpretive and regulatory signs is an integral component of on-going efforts related to MPA outreach and education. The intended outcome of this project is to inform coastal visitors and residents about MPA regulations in order to decrease violations and foster stewardship of these special places.

The effort to create, develop and install these signs has relied heavily on the partnership-based approach described in the [Partnership Plan](#). By working directly with local city managers and planners throughout the state, the signage project has increased the understanding of many stakeholders that were previously unaware of the MPA network. In addition, this project has continued to broaden the engagement of different stakeholder groups with MPA management activities, which aligns with the priorities described in the current [OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan](#). Under the “Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems” section, Issue 8 calls for initiatives which help the state extract maximal benefits from the statewide network of MPAs. Issue 8 also acknowledges the importance of working with a broad suite of partners, including fellow public agencies and other stakeholders across the ocean community, to engage them in MPA adaptive management activities. The project is on track to be completed by October 2015.

#### EXHIBIT 1

##### Signage Templates

Four signage templates have been developed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, with input from OPC staff. Two types of interpretive signs have been developed – (a) general interpretive panels that are designed to educate non-consumptive coastal users and visitors and (b) harbor panels that highlight nearby MPA boundaries for boaters. Two types of regulatory signs have also been developed – (c) no fishing/collecting signs which convey take restrictions using universal symbols and (d) “You Are Here” signs that show the viewer their location relative to nearby MPA boundaries). An example of each template follows.

Exhibit 1 a. General Interpretive Panel

# Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

**Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**  
Some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed.

**Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve (SMR)**  
No take, damage, injury, or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resource is allowed.

## Marine Protected Areas Safeguard Our Ocean's Bounty

A statewide network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) safeguards California's rich coastal resources. The beautiful beaches of Corona del Mar are part of the Crystal Cove SMCA. At the rocky boundary between the sea and shore, you'll find dozens of species, from seaweed to shore crabs and octopi to ochre stars, that call this tough environment home.

Arch Rock and rocky intertidal habitat at Little Corona Beach part of Crystal Cove SMCA and the California Coastal National Monument.

Double-crested cormorants dive for fish just offshore.

**California leads the nation and the world with its network of MPAs.**

These MPAs—

- Have varying levels of protection
- Conserve marine habitats and diversity
- Allow marine life to thrive
- Make great places for education, research, and fun

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine/MPA](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine/MPA)  
Report violations: (888) 334-CalTIP, (888) 334-2258

Acorn barnacles may look like lifeless rocks when exposed, but when the tide comes in, they unfurl fan-like feet to filter particles of food from the water.

The two-spotted octopus is a crafty predator attracted to the tidepools by the seafood buffet.

California's giant kelp forests are such important habitats that many MPAs were created to protect them.

Creatures in tidepools, such as ochre stars and anemones, adapt to ever-changing conditions. Step carefully to avoid crushing plants and animals.

MPAs - Good for the Ocean; Good for You!

MPA Mobile Website

Exhibit 1 b. Harbor Interpretive Panel

# Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

Maps not to be used for navigation.

California's marine protected areas (MPAs) conserve, restore, and improve the health of our ocean, similar to national parks and forests on land. The California MPA network includes MPAs and other protected areas. Each area is unique in its purpose and allowed uses.

Protected areas around Shoreline Marina are:

- **Long Point and Point Dume State Marine Reserves (SMR)**  
No take, damage, injury, or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resource is allowed.
- **Casino Point, Blue Cavern Onshore, and Point Vicente No-Take State Marine Conservation Areas (No-Take SMCA)**  
Prohibits the take of living, geological, and cultural marine resources.
- **Lover's Cove, Blue Cavern Offshore, Arrow Point to Lion Head Point, Cat Harbor, Farnsworth Offshore, Point Dume, and Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA)**  
Some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed.

**MPAs – Good for the Ocean; Good for You!**  
**Know the Rules Before You Head Out.**

For Ocean Fishing Laws and Regulations go to: [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/regulations](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/regulations)

**Harbor Office:**  
(562) 570-4950

**Report Violations:**  
(888) 334-CalTIP, (888) 334-2258

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to: [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA)

MPA Mobile Website

Exhibit 1 c. No Fishing/Collecting Sign



Exhibit 1 d. "You Are Here" Sign.

