

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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September 28, 2016

Secretary John Laird
California Ocean Protection Council
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Secretary Laird,

I am writing to express the California Coastal Commission's strong support for the proposal to revise and update the 2008 Implementation Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter. The Ocean Protection Council's 2007 Resolution on Marine Debris served as a landmark at the time of its passage, marking the strongest statement yet made on the importance of tackling the issue of marine debris as broadly as possible. The corresponding Implementation Strategy was equally visionary, providing the first comprehensive road map for addressing marine debris no matter its source or material type. These two documents proved to be incredible resources for non-profit organizations working on these issues as well as for policymakers at all levels of government.

Almost eight years later, much, but certainly not all, of the Implementation Strategy has been put into practice, and there has been significant progress on stemming the flow of debris and litter to the Pacific. But we have also spent the past eight years learning even more about this issue, including the dramatic environmental effects of toxins associated with plastic debris in particular. Now is a perfect time to revisit both the Implementation Strategy to help lay out new directions for the marine debris community to pursue over the next five to ten years.

The Coastal Commission was heavily involved in the development of the original resolution and implementation strategy, and we would be happy to commit ourselves to this process once again. We look forward to working with you on updates to the state's strategy to protect our coast and ocean from marine debris and all of its harmful impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eben Schwartz".

Eben Schwartz
Marine Debris Program Manager
California Coastal Commission



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
Marine Debris Program
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

September 22, 2016

California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Partner Support for the Ocean Protection Council Litter Strategy Update and Expansion

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to express the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP)'s full support of and intent to partner with the State of California on the "*Ocean Protection Council Litter Strategy Update and Expansion*". The MDP has tentatively committed \$20,000 in matching funding to the effort, contingent on our Fiscal Year 2017 budget. This effort will better coordinate and document marine debris activities in California, enabling stakeholders and funding organizations to more collaboratively and effectively address marine debris in California.

In the time since the drafting of the *2008 Implementation Strategy for the CA OPC Resolution to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter*, significant progress has been made in addressing and understanding marine debris, different stakeholders have come to the table, new debris types of concern have emerged, and public perception of the issue has shifted. Thus we envision a new effort to update and expand the 2008 Strategy, and apply lessons learned from these previous initiatives. Notably, the new Strategy will include projects of different scales and scopes, so that stakeholders from State agencies to small NGOs can make meaningful contributions to implementing the plan and addressing marine debris in California. The updated Strategy will be a structured and collaborative framework to coordinate and promote marine debris activities in California. The plan will outline goals and identify gaps and partnership opportunities for future work, and will be a valuable document for both the MDP and OPC.

The NOAA MDP is the Federal lead on addressing marine debris in the U.S., and is authorized by the Marine Debris Act, signed into law in 2006 and amended in 2012. The Act requires the program to "identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris and address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the economy of the United States, marine environment, and navigation safety." Our staff supports marine debris projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP's California Regional Coordinator, Sherry Lippiatt, will work closely with the OPC, CA Coastal Commission, and other partners to facilitate the process of developing an updated Strategy.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wallace
Chief, Marine Debris Division
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration





September 29, 2016

Secretary John Laird
Ocean Protection Council
Transmitted via e-mail

RE: Support for Update to 2007 Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter

Dear Secretary Laird and Ocean Protection Council,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation and our 250,000 supporters, activists and members, we would like to express full support for a comprehensive revision and update to the 2007 Resolution and Implementation Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter. Surfrider Foundation is committed to the protection of coasts and oceans, beach access, *and the reduction of marine litter*, as our top initiatives. Our organization's Rise Above Plastics program, which formally started in 2007, was guided by the OPC's initial report and findings on marine ocean litter. The OPC's Ocean Litter Strategy was a guiding document and reference for future years of advocacy in this realm; however, since the landscape for fighting ocean litter has transitioned in recent years with additional stakeholders (e.g. U.S. Department of State) and additional source of plastic pollution identified (e.g. microfibers from fleece and polyester clothing), there is a great need for additional strategy and guidance on the issue of reduction and prevention of ocean litter, especially plastic pollution.

Many of OPC's 2007 recommendations on ocean litter have been adopted by the state legislature, after strong advocate support, and implemented successfully. However, there is still important work to be done. The statewide plastic bag ban has been victim to the plastic industry's statewide referendum effort that has stalled implementation and called the legislation into question. And, just yesterday, Gov. Brown vetoed cigarette butt legislation that would help abate the number one form of marine litter on our beaches. It is highly valuable for the state agency with expertise and foresight, such as the Ocean Protection Council, to take on the effort of developing strategy to reduce and prevent marine plastic pollution, thereby addressing a top-tier threat to our ocean.

As a leader in the field of ocean litter, Surfrider Foundation would like to be involved to help inform the development of a new resolution and strategy of the OPC on ocean litter. The ocean is more threatened than ever before, and we are committed to working with effective and thoughtful agencies like OPC to help combat these threats and realize true ocean protection.

Sincerely,

Angela T. Howe, Esq.
Legal Director
Surfrider Foundation

[About Surfrider Foundation](#)

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers, the Surfrider Foundation maintains 84 U.S. chapters and over 250,000 supporters, activists and members worldwide. Surfrider's environmental priorities include clean water, coastal preservation, ocean protection, and beach access.