



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

December 1, 2016

The Honorable John Laird, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Ocean Science Trust as Convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Resources Legacy Fund for the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) staff recommendation for \$445,000 in funding to support California Ocean Science Trust's (OST) continued role providing science services to the Ocean Protection Council and as convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT).

Resources Legacy Fund has worked closely with the Ocean Science Trust on a variety of projects over the past several years and we see considerable value in OST's role as convener of the OPC-SAT, an interdisciplinary team of 26 experts in social and natural science, and traditional ecological knowledge. We encourage the OPC to continue to partner closely with OST and the OPC-SAT over the course of this grant to ensure that the state of California is able to bring the best available science to bear on the many challenging ocean science and policy issues it faces.

Specifically, we urge a continued focus on the recommendations contained in the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel and on science needs and potential management responses to the growing frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms. We view these two projects as particularly timely and policy relevant and appreciate the lead role of OST and the OPC-SAT in advancing the science dialog on these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kaitilin Gaffney
Program Director

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Santa Cruz, CA 95060



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December 2, 2016

The Honorable John Laird, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council, California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT: Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council:

I am writing to offer Ocean Conservancy's strong support for the continued role of the California Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council and convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT), including the staff recommendation for \$445,000 in funding to support this important work.

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has designated the Ocean Science Trust Executive Director as its Science Advisor and convener of the OPC-SAT since 2008; this unique partnership has resulted in groundbreaking work that has been important for the state's coastal ocean and for the communities that depend on a healthy and vibrant ocean. This nearly decade-long relationship demonstrates the state's strong commitment to independent scientific advice where the Ocean Science Trust has played a key role in engaging and mobilizing the scientific community, citizens, NGOs, and other partners on behalf of OPC's most pressing priorities.

This close collaboration has successfully advanced sound science on both management-relevant topics (e.g. reviewing fishery management plans) as well as on emerging issues (e.g. ocean acidification, hypoxia, and climate change) that have implications for the long-term health of our coastal ocean. This dual role has been especially effective in the past and will be even more important in an increasingly uncertain environmental future.

Ocean Conservancy is strongly supportive of OPC's continued support of Ocean Science Trust as the Science Advisor and manager of the OPC-SAT. In an era where environmental leadership at the federal level is increasingly unlikely, California continues to be a recognized leader in science-informed decision-making; OPC and OST's collaborative approach to ocean management is a model for other states and nations to emulate.

We look forward to continuing to work with OPC and OST as the impacts of climate change continue to worsen and the demand for creative and responsive science-based solutions grows.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George H. Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

George H. Leonard, PHD
Chief Scientist