



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

725 Front Street
Suite 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



831.854.4630 Telephone
831.425.5604 Facsimile
www.oceanconservancy.org

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", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

George H. Leonard, PHD
Chief Scientist

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 for the Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and Convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

We are writing to express The Nature Conservancy's strong commitment to independent scientific guidance for marine resources management in the state of California. Foundational to this commitment, we strongly support the staff recommendation for \$445,000 in funding to support the California Ocean Science Trust's continued role as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council and convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT). We believe that it is essential to have an independent body like OST be the "honest-brokers" and translators of the best-available science and be formally integrated into California's ocean management approach.

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is empowered to make informed, science-based decisions and fulfill its mandate to effectively and transparently assist in the management of California's marine resources through expertise provided by the Ocean Science Trust (OST). The importance of OST's unique ability to convene scientific experts, lead interdisciplinary and interagency teams, and communicate science-based results to OPC decision-makers cannot be understated. Since 2008, the OST Executive Director, supported by dedicated staff and the broader scientific community, has advised the OPC to effectively utilize best-available science. Significant investment has already been made in establishing this architecture of science support, creating a durable partnership, and building the expertise and capacity needed to provide a direct channel between science and policy in California's ocean resource management landscape. Moving forward, this partnership will be increasingly valuable in facilitating science-based decisions.

In addition to directly advising the OPC, OST fills the crucial role of convener of the OPC-SAT, an interdisciplinary team of 26 experts in the social and natural sciences and community-based knowledge. Through OST's commitment and cultivation, the OPC-SAT has been elevated as the outlet for the entire scientific community and public to discuss how the scientific community can best engage with the state of California.

Because of its unique, well-recognized position, OST, in collaboration with the OPC-SAT, hosts interagency and interdisciplinary working groups on pressing, timely issues facing California's marine ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal communities. Recent, tangible examples of science-based products resulting from OST's guidance and management of these working groups include:

- *West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel*. Widely recognized across the United States for its unique role in directly influencing policy, this team of scientists produced synthesized, updated, and implementable recommendations regarding managing marine resources under increasingly acidic and hypoxic ocean conditions.
- *Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms and California Fisheries*. In immediate response to the 2015-2016 catastrophic closure of the \$170 million dollar United States West Coast Dungeness crab

fishery, OST led a timely working group that filled the urgent need to compile knowledge and information from fishing, scientific, and management communities.

- *Peer Review Guidance.* To facilitate the process of independent scientific and technical review and allow the state of California to proceed with transparent decision-making, OST produced a guiding document for rigorous review of marine resource management initiatives.

Through The Nature Conservancy's close collaboration with OST, we have seen first-hand that OST holds an incredibly unique position that cannot be replicated by any other body, due to years of committed relationship-building between scientific, management, and fishing communities. Because of this important position, OST is strategically poised to engage and mobilize scientists, citizens, NGOs, and other partners on behalf of the OPC's most pressing priorities. Additionally, regarding durability, OST is constantly pursuing opportunities for additional non-state funding, as well as actively leveraging state investments. This pursuit of funding opportunities reaffirms OST's commitment to supporting the science foundations of OPC's mission, as well as its dedication to operate with transparency and accountability.

Finally, it is important to note that it is absolutely impossible to accomplish the goals outlined in the OPC Strategic Plan for 2012-2017 without independent scientific guidance provided by OST. The OPC's five strategic engagement areas (science-based decision-making, climate change, sustainable fisheries and marine ecosystems, coastal and ocean impacts from land-based sources, and existing and emerging ocean issues) demand updated, best-available information. No other body besides OST has the unique ability to convene leading marine scientists and influential managers, work together collaboratively, and ultimately communicate results in a timely and useful manner to facilitate positive, impactful decisions by leaders at the OPC.

The Nature Conservancy commends the OPC for its continued support of Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and convener of the OPC-SAT. The unique, innovative relationship between the Ocean Protection Council and Ocean Science Trust must be encouraged to continue California's leadership in transparent decision-making informed by best-available science. In a time of changing ocean conditions, the need for interdisciplinary, creative, responsive solutions to urgent marine resource challenges is increasingly apparent. Definitive steps to ensuring resilience in the face of these challenges begins with continuing to strengthen the institutions we have in place and pursuing innovative partnerships across the science-policy landscape, exemplified by the relationship between the Ocean Science Trust and Ocean Protection Council.

Sincerely,



Michael Bell
Director, California Oceans Program
The Nature Conservancy



Dr. Mary Gleason
Lead Scientist, California Oceans Program
The Nature Conservancy



December 4, 2016

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

Re: Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and Convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

Dear Chairman Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council,

I write to offer strong support of the staff recommendation to disburse up to \$445,000 in funding to California Ocean Science Trust (OST) to support the California Ocean Science Trust's continued role as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council and convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT). This letter of support also reflects my experience as an individual scientist working with OST on scientific working groups, workshops and other projects to help address OPC management priorities and important state issues.

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has designated the Ocean Science Trust Executive Director as its Science Advisor since 2008. As part of that role, the Ocean Science Trust also serves as convener of the OPC-SAT, an interdisciplinary team of 26 experts in social and natural science, and traditional ecological knowledge. This structure demonstrates a strong commitment to independent scientific advice and guidance. Ocean Science Trust has utilized this important position to engage and mobilize the scientific community, citizens, NGOs, and other partners on behalf of the OPC's most pressing priorities.

The OST plays several key roles. First, they serve to engage professionals from the sphere of science and policymaking, while also mediating the interactions. They help scientists understand the needs of managers and policymakers. They also help policymakers and managers frame their needs in terms of questions scientists can answer. This is typically an iterative process as OST has different lines of accountability to each group. OST functions to support the two groups or professionals working

together on the same issue or problem, while they maintain their independence. Second, they provide essential project management and logistical support to a group of scientists who are volunteering their services to support management and policy needs. Everything from scheduling meetings, conference calls and webinars, to taking accurate and comprehensive notes, to compiling and drafting documents, to effectively communicating synthesized outcomes and results. Our volunteer work as scientists on these projects would not be possible without this level of staff support. Third, OST convenes the OPC Science Advisory Team (SAT) annual workshop, a forum for the OPC SAT to engage as a group, learn about upcoming state needs from OST and OPC staff and others, and provide horizon-scanning feedback on potentially emerging issues to the OPC. These meetings, convened and organized by OST, allow the OPC SAT to work together more effectively.

The State Legislature called upon the OPC in 2007 to create “a science advisory team of distinguished scientists” to help it meet the purposes of the California Ocean Protection Act (AB 1056, 2007). Ten years later the relationship between the OPC, OST and the OPC SAT is realizing its potential.

The Ocean Science Trust working with the OPC-SAT has advanced sound science to improve many ocean and coastal resource decisions, including:

- The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel Report;
- Rapid response to identifying and clarifying the scientific considerations of more frequent and severe harmful algal blooms;
- OPC-SAT Working groups on priority ocean science and management issues;
- Conducting scientific peer review of fishery management plans and other state-funded products.

In addition, through these annual OPC-SAT meetings, Ocean Science Trust has built up the OPC-SAT as California’s conduit to the broader scientific community, and created a venue for engaged public discussion on how the scientific community can better inform the State.

The Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies applauds the OPC for its continued support of Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and manager of the OPC-SAT. Thanks in part to this innovative structure California is a recognized leader in science-informed decision-making. As the impacts of climate change to continue to worsen, the need for creative and responsive science-based solutions grows more

urgent. This begins with continuing to strengthen the institutions we have in place, and pursuing innovative partnerships across the science policy landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Karina Nielsen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karina Nielsen, PhD
Director, Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies
Professor of Biology



December 5, 2016

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

Via Electronic Submission: COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

Re: Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and Convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

We are writing to offer the Center for Ocean Solutions' (COS) strong support of funding for California Ocean Science Trust's (OST) continued role as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT).

As you know, the OPC has designated the OST Executive Director as its Science Advisor since 2008, and as part of that role, OST also serves as convener of the OPC-SAT. Thanks in part to this innovative structure California is a recognized leader in science-informed decision-making, demonstrating a strong commitment to independent scientific advice and guidance for the state on some of the highest priority issues facing our oceans and coasts. We have seen OST utilize this important and unique position to engage and mobilize the scientific community, citizens, NGOs, and other partners on behalf of the OPC's most pressing priorities.

COS staff have had the pleasure of working closely with OST on many of California's coastal priorities, from fisheries management to ocean acidification, and appreciate the scientific expertise and facilitation efforts that have characterized OST's first 10 years. In particular, we have witnessed OST take the lead on addressing ocean acidification and hypoxia in California's waters by presenting robust science, facilitating groups of key experts, and engaging relevant state managers in solutions-oriented discussions. We have also seen OST staff spearhead innovative programs to improve the management of California's living marine resources. COS strongly believes that OST's commitment to coordinating ocean resource science and management efforts in the state has benefited all Californians.

COS applauds the OPC for its continued support of OST as Science Advisor and manager of the OPC-SAT. As humans continue to interact with, affect, and rely on changing coastal and ocean resources, the need for creative and responsive science-based solutions to emerging challenges grows more urgent. This work begins with continuing to strengthen the institutions we have in place, and pursuing innovative partnerships across the science policy landscape.

Sincerely,



Ashley Erickson, JD
Assistant Director for Law & Policy
Center for Ocean Solutions



Larry B. Crowder, PhD
Science Director
Center for Ocean Solutions



December 5, 2016

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Disbursement of \$445,000 to California Ocean Science Trust for Science Services

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council:

On behalf of Environment California, Heal the Bay, Surfrider, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and WiLDCOAST, we are writing to express our support for the disbursement of \$445,000 from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to California Ocean Science Trust (OST) for ongoing science services, including science communications and administration of the OPC Science Advisory Council (OPC-SAT).

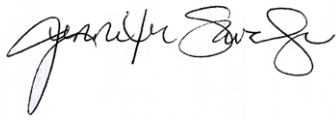
As organizations dedicated to protecting California's coast and ocean, we have worked closely with OPC and OST to ensure that the best available science is used to inform policy and resource management decisions in the state. The need for up-to-date scientific information remains critical as we strive to understand the drivers of changing oceans conditions and the appropriate policy and management responses to protect marine life and coastal livelihoods.

With facilitation by OST, the OPC-SAT will continue to play an essential role in identifying data gaps and providing scientific research needed to address the range of issues facing California's ocean. OST's role in developing communication materials that highlight research, monitoring, and the joint programmatic efforts of OPC, OST and the OPC-SAT, will educate decision makers and the general public, generating social and financial support for ongoing science and conservation. This grant will help strengthen the partnership between OPC, OST and the OPC-SAT and advance the collective goal of ensuring a healthy, resilient and sustainable coast and ocean now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Jenn Eckerle
Ocean Policy Consultant
Environment California

Rita Kampalath
Science and Policy Director
Heal the Bay



Jennifer Savage
California Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation



Zachary Plopper
Conservation Director
WILDCOAST



Elizabeth Murdock
Director, Pacific Ocean Initiative
Natural Resources Defense Council

December 2, 201

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

Re: Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and Convener of the OPC Science Advisory Team

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

The San Francisco Estuary Institute strongly supports the staff recommendation for \$445,000 to fund the California Ocean Science Trust's continued role as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council and convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT).

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has designated the Ocean Science Trust Executive Director as its Science Advisor since 2008. As part of that role, the Ocean Science Trust also serves as convener of the OPC-SAT, an interdisciplinary team of 26 experts in social and natural science, and traditional ecological knowledge. This structure demonstrates a strong commitment to independent scientific advice and guidance. Ocean Science Trust has utilized this important position to engage and mobilize the scientific community, citizens, NGOs, and other partners on behalf of the OPC's most pressing priorities.

Ocean Science Trust working with the OPC-SAT have advanced sound science to improve a wide range of ocean and coastal resource decisions, including:

- The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel;
- Rapid response to identifying and clarifying the scientific considerations of more frequent and severe harmful algal blooms;
- SAT Working groups on priority ocean science and management issues;
- Conducting scientific peer review of fishery management plans and other state-funded products.

In addition, through annual OPC-SAT meetings, Ocean Science Trust has built up the OPC-SAT as California's conduit to the broader scientific community, and venue for engaged public discussion on how the scientific community can better inform the State.

It is important to note that Ocean Science Trust has leveraged state investments for these functions and remains committed to seeking additional non-state funding to expand and extend OPC's investment in these projects.

We applaud the OPC for its continued support of Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and manager of the OPC-SAT. Thanks in part to this innovative structure, California is a recognized leader in science-informed decision-making. As the impacts of climate change to continue to worsen, the need for creative and responsive science-based solutions grows more urgent. This begins with continuing to strengthen the institutions we have in place, and pursuing innovative partnerships across the science policy landscape.

Sincerely,

Warner Chabot

Warner Chabot
Executive Director



December 5, 2016

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

Re: Recommended Action: Authorization to disburse up to \$445,000 to the California Ocean Science Trust to provide science services and science communication services to the Ocean Protection Council

Dear Chairman Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council,

As the Executive Committee of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT), we are writing on behalf of the OPC-SAT to offer our support for the staff recommendation to disburse up to \$445,000 in funding to California Ocean Science Trust to provide science services and science communication services to the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). This disbursement will enable Ocean Science Trust to continue its role in administering and facilitating the OPC-SAT, working with the OPC-SAT in providing scientific advice and reporting, and producing and distributing OPC-SAT and Ocean Science Trust products that address OPC management priorities and important state issues.

The State Legislature called upon the OPC in 2007 to create “a science advisory team of distinguished scientists” to help it meet the purposes of the California Ocean Protection Act (AB 1056, 2007). To fulfill this mandate, the OPC designated the Ocean Science Trust Executive Director as its Science Advisor, and subsequently directed the Science Advisor to convene and serve as co-chair of what ultimately became the OPC-SAT.

The mission of the OPC-SAT is to ensure that the best available science supports OPC funding decisions and policy development. We work as a group of volunteers to fulfill this mission by providing the OPC with the best available scientific advice and guidance and by serving as a conduit to the extensive expertise available in the broader scientific community. Ocean Science Trust provides services that are critical to the successful functioning of the OPC-SAT – services that would not otherwise be possible to provide given the volunteer nature of our body. Ocean Science Trust is not only the OPC-SAT’s support structure – providing much needed staff assistance, coordination, and facilitation – but also serves as the OPC-SAT’s key liaison with the OPC and, in doing so plays an important role in focusing the OPC-SAT

on OPC and state ocean and coastal priorities while ensuring that OPC-SAT products are relevant and informative.

Over the years, we have witnessed the impact and relevance of the OPC-SAT grow substantially. We have brought scientific advice and guidance to a wide array of OPC priority issues, including sea-level rise, ocean acidification and hypoxia, sustainable fisheries management, and also helped launch a dialogue to develop a shared vision of California's ocean and coastal health. Our successes would not have been possible without the active guidance and assistance of Ocean Science Trust.

Ocean Science Trust helps the OPC-SAT frame management and policy issues and identify opportunities for science to drive actions and decision-making. Further, by hosting semi-annual OPC-SAT meetings, Ocean Science Trust has worked to establish the OPC-SAT as California's venue to bring scientists, decision-makers, and other experts together to identify means for the scientific community to provide the information essential for developing sound ocean and coastal resource policies.

Ocean Science Trust also helps the OPC-SAT to understand decision-makers' needs and goals and to identify and develop the most appropriate tools for communicating scientific findings. Whether it is impaneling a team of scientists, forming a working group, conducting scientific peer review, or offering more informal scientific advice and consultation, Ocean Science Trust's collaborative approach to shaping more useful science is essential to keeping OPC-SAT members engaged and supported. Ocean Science Trust also plays a critical function in designing and implementing the processes for OPC-SAT initiatives in ways that balance decision-makers' needs, and protects the scientists and the science from political interference.

The science-to-decision-making structure in place through Ocean Science Trust and OPC-SAT collaboration has served OPC well and demonstrates California's strong commitment to independent scientific advice and guidance. We applaud the OPC for its continued support of Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and convener and facilitator of the OPC-SAT. The need for creative and responsive science-based solutions becomes more urgent as environmental conditions change and human populations grow and their impacts on the environment increase. We strongly support the staff recommendation to provide the funding needed for Ocean Science Trust to carry out its collaborative role with the OPC-SAT. We look forward to continuing to work with OPC and Ocean Science Trust to strengthen the role and utility of the OPC-SAT in linking science with ocean and coastal decision-making across California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francisco" followed by a stylized flourish.

Dr. Francisco Chavez
Co-chair, OPC Science Advisory Team
Senior Scientist, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute



Dr. Steven Murray,
Co-chair, OPC Science Advisory Team
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor of Biology Emeritus, California State University, Fullerton



Dr. Karina Nielsen
Co-chair, OPC Science Advisory Team
Director and Professor of Biology, Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, San Francisco State University

**MARGARET LEINEN**

DIRECTOR, SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR MARINE SCIENCES
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December 5, 2016

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

Re: Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and Convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

I am writing to offer Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego's strong support for the staff recommendation for \$445,000 in funding to support California Ocean Science Trust's continued role as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council and convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT).

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has designated the Ocean Science Trust Executive Director as its Science Advisor since 2008. As part of that role, the Ocean Science Trust also serves as convener of the OPC-SAT, an interdisciplinary team of 26 experts in social and natural science, and traditional ecological knowledge. This structure demonstrates a strong commitment to independent scientific advice and guidance. Ocean Science Trust has utilized this important position to engage and mobilize the scientific community, citizens, NGOs, and other partners on behalf of the OPC's most pressing priorities.

Ocean Science Trust working with the OPC-SAT have advanced sound science to improve myriad ocean and coastal resource decisions, examples include:

- The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel;
- Rapid response to identifying and clarifying the scientific considerations of more frequent and severe harmful algal blooms;
- SAT Working groups on priority ocean science and management issues;
- Conducting scientific peer review of fishery management plans and other state-funded products.

In addition, through annual OPC-SAT meetings, Ocean Science Trust has built up the OPC-SAT as California's conduit to the broader scientific community, and venue for engaged public discussion on how the scientific community can better inform the State.

It is important to note that Ocean Science Trust has leveraged state investments for these functions and remains committed to seeking additional non-state funding to expand and extend OPC's investment in these projects.

Scripps applauds the OPC for its continued support of Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and manager of the OPC-SAT. Thanks in part to this innovative structure, California is a recognized leader in science-informed decision-making. As the impacts of climate change to continue to worsen, the need for creative and responsive science-based solutions grows more urgent. This begins with continuing to strengthen the institutions we have in place, and pursuing innovative partnerships across the science policy landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Leinen".

Margaret Leinen, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor, Marine Sciences
Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography UCSD

December 5, 2016

The Honorable John Laird, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent via electronic mail to: COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

Re: Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and Convener of the OPC Science Advisory Team

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

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

From land-based sources of pollution to fishing pressure, from sea-level rise to ocean acidification, our ocean and coastal ecosystems face a multitude of threats. Ocean Science Trust, working with the OPC-SAT, has been the gathering point, bringing the myriad of entities and participants in ocean and coastal management and policy together around sound scientific knowledge. Through our work on MPAs and coastal water quality, California Coastkeeper Alliance has worked with the Ocean Science Trust on many occasions and appreciates their objective scientific approach and ability to convene diverse constituencies of stakeholders for the benefit of marine and coastal resources.

Ocean Science Trust has utilized science to bring together the California Natural Resources Agency and CalEPA on shared priorities. Through the OPC-SAT, Ocean Science Trust launched the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel (Panel). With the release of the Panel's groundbreaking "*Major Findings, Recommendations, and Actions*," the Panel provided government and NGO partners with much needed scientific guidance to advance our pursuit of ocean acidification water quality criteria and mitigation research. Ocean Science Trust also continues to work with its partners at the Southern CA Coastal Water Research Project to link water quality and MPA monitoring, bolstered by the MPA restoration and protection work of the Southern California Waterkeepers. This is a critical component to understanding and parsing multiple stressors on ocean and coastal ecosystems, and identifying the management tools we need to enhance resilience in the face of climate change.

As the impacts of climate change become more pronounced, the need for creative and responsive science-based solutions grows more urgent. Thanks in part to the innovative structure of the OPC-SAT, California is a recognized leader in science-informed decision-making. California Coastkeeper Alliance applauds the OPC for its continued support of Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and manager of the OPC-SAT.

Sincerely,



Sara Aminzadeh
Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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4 December 2016

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

Re: Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and Convener of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team

Dear Secretary Laird and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

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

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has designated the Ocean Science Trust Executive Director as its Science Advisor since 2008. As part of that role, Ocean Science Trust also serves as convener of the OPC-SAT, an interdisciplinary team of 26 experts in social and natural science, and traditional ecological knowledge. I have served on the OPC-SAT since 2008 and had the privilege of working closely with OST as a member of the Executive Committee from 2012 to 2016. The Ocean Science Trust, working with the OPC-SAT, has advanced sound science to improve many ocean and coastal resource decisions. Recent examples include:

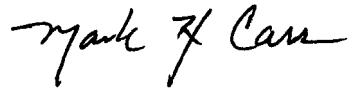
- Launching the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel which provided tractable management recommendations on a global issue;
- Rapid response to statewide harmful algal blooms, providing scientific recommendations to get out in front of this increasingly common phenomenon.
- Development of a new framework to incorporate climate into fisheries management, providing fisheries managers with decision-support despite uncertainty.
- Peer reviews of the technical elements of lobster and abalone fishery management plans, illustrating the value of objective science in building bridges between stakeholders and managers.

This structure demonstrates a strong commitment to independent scientific advice and guidance. Ocean Science Trust has utilized this important position to engage and mobilize the scientific community, citizens, NGOs, and other partners on behalf of the OPC's most pressing priorities. Further, Ocean Science Trust has leveraged state investments for these functions and remains committed to seeking additional non-state funding to expand and extend OPC's investment in these projects.

I and my many colleagues on the OPC-SAT applaud the OPC for its continued support of Ocean Science Trust as Science Advisor and manager of the OPC-SAT. Thanks in part to this innovative set of institutions and entities, California is a recognized leader in science-informed decision-making.

As the impacts of climate change to continue to worsen, the need for creative and responsive science-based solutions grows more urgent. This begins with continuing to strengthen the institutions we have in place, and pursuing innovative partnerships across the science policy landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark H. Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Carr" clearly legible.

Mark H. Carr
Professor