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TRINITY
COASTKEEPER



Santa Barbara
CHANNELKEEPER



Island Forest
WATERKEEPER



ORANGE COUNTY
COASTKEEPER

July 23, 2018

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via electronic mail to: COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

RE: Item 6: Consideration of Authorization to Disburse Proposition 1 Funds

Dear Secretary Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

On behalf of the California Waterkeepers, California Coastkeeper Alliance submits this letter in strong support of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) authorizing disbursement of Proposition 1 funding dedicated to multi-benefit projects. Through the strategic investment of Proposition 1 and other state bond funds, the OPC can make our marine life, communities, and ocean economy more resilient, despite a changing ocean. Projects from across the state can build on our investments in marine protected areas, or 'ocean hope spots,' to create multiple benefits such as improving water quality and protecting endangered species.

Given limited resources, we applaud the OPC's efficient use of Proposition 1 investments. Even with a large amount of funding becoming available, California's ocean health needs far exceed available resources. Projects that achieve multiple benefits, such as endangered species protection, habitat restoration, climate change resiliency, land acquisition and preservation of open space, flood management, and water quality protection should be prioritized for Proposition 1 funding to achieve the best possible outcomes for water quality, ecosystems, and all Californians.

We strongly appreciate the OPC's attention to multi-benefits projects. The development of high quality, multi-benefit projects is challenging and time-consuming due to the number of stakeholders necessary for a successful integrated planning process. Furthermore, designing projects to advance measurable criteria, particularly ecological and social criteria linked to benefits for sensitive species or disadvantaged communities respectively, requires a greater investment in the planning process.

Thank you again to OPC staff for their hard work to identify these important projects and their continual responsiveness to the input of our organization. We look forward to working with OPC to continue facilitating inter-agency coordination and joint funding to achieve multi-benefit projects that have documented successes from previous public funding efforts, and reflect OPC priorities.

Sincerely,

Sean Bothwell
Policy Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance