



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Dr. Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



July 18, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) strongly supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) on Item 4a for continued monitoring and evaluation of California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program, the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

The Department is the primary agency responsible for managing California's MPAs, an integral partner in the MPA Management Program and member of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team. California's MPAs comprise the largest network of MPAs in North America and one of the largest in the world. The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) requires monitoring to evaluate progress toward meeting its goals and using the results of monitoring to help inform adaptive management reviews and decisions. Therefore, one of the critical focal areas of MPA management in California is monitoring and research.

MPA Monitoring Program Phase 2 implementation funded by this project builds off the Phase 1 baseline monitoring. Phase 1 established the ecological and socioeconomic conditions at or near the time of MPA implementation statewide. This project allows the continued tracking of changes over time, which will allow us to evaluate the performance of the MPA Network at meeting the goals of the MLPA. This project will also help inform our understanding of climate change impacts and support sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been, and will continue to be, critical to the success of the MPA Management Program, which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
July 18, 2018
Page 2

Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Becky Ota, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, at (650) 631-6789 or by email at Becky.Ota@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Shuman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Marine Regional Manager

ec: Becky Ota, Program Manager
Marine Region
Becky.Ota@Wildlife.ca.gov



California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
<http://www.wildlife.ca.gov>
Law Enforcement Division
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Sacramento, California 94244-2090
(916) 653-4094

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



July 17, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) supports funding by the Ocean Protection Council for Item A continued monitoring and evaluation of California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) network. This project will ensure the State has the required information to evaluate the performance of the MPA network in meeting the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act. The information gathered through this project will also inform other critical state mandates like sustainable fisheries and climate change impacts.

CDFW Law Enforcement Division strongly supports Item 4b, Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program: Improving Enforcement and Compliance Associated with California's MPA Network. Education and enforcement are critical components to establishing and maintaining compliance with MPA rules and regulations. Improved education to users about MPA regulations can serve as once-through cooling impact mitigation because it increases compliance with MPA regulations, which in turn maximizes the expected ecological benefits from these areas. Recurring poaching of marine life in MPAs can decrease diversity, populations, and reproductive output which can affect an ecosystem's ability to recover from negative impacts. Investment of once-through cooling interim mitigation fees in the State's MPA Management Program will contribute to improved effectiveness of the MPA network and help to maximize the potential ecological benefits of the interim mitigation program.

CDFW supports the funding to be used in this way as the proposed projects are aligned with the goals of the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling. These projects will continue the momentum of California's significant investment in the State's network of 124 MPAs, which have been established to safeguard the long-term health of California's marine life.

Sincerely,

David Bess
Deputy Director

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
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FAX (415) 904-5400



July 13, 2018

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

Re: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The California Coastal Commission staff strongly supports funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of California's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

In coordination with our state and federal resource agency partners, the Coastal Commission shares responsibility for managing and protecting California's MPA resources and regulating activities that occur within them. Coastal Commission staff are members of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team and have been active in developing the MPA Management Program including the research and monitoring focal area.

While Phase 1 established the ecological and socioeconomic conditions at or near the time of MPA implementation statewide, Phase 2 is needed to track changes over time, which will allow the Leadership Team to evaluate the performance of the MPA Network in meeting the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Monitoring results of Phase 2 will also inform other key mandates such as understanding climate change impacts and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program, held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Ainsworth'.

John Ainsworth
Executive Director



July 10, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The undersigned organizations are in strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of the California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management, and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

The undersigned organizations have played a role in the development, implementation and monitoring of MPAs in California through community science including the MPA Watch Program, advancing uptake of traditional ecological knowledge, policy advocacy, and other outreach and education efforts, including through the MPA Collaborative Network. Provisions of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) require monitoring and research to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs and to inform management reviews.

MPA Monitoring Program Phase 2 implementation funded by this project builds on the Phase 1 baseline monitoring. Phase 1 established the ecological and socioeconomic conditions at or near the time of MPA implementation statewide. This project will allow the continued tracking of changes over time, which will allow the State of California to evaluate how the statewide MPA Network is meeting and advancing the goals of the MLPA. This project will also inform other key mandates such as understanding climate change impacts and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program, which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

Respectfully,

Shelley Luce
President & Chief Executive Officer
Heal the Bay

Matt O'Malley
Executive Director
San Diego Coastkeeper

Kristen Hislop
Marine Conservation Program Director
Environmental Defense Center

Morgan Patton
Executive Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Rikki Eriksen, Ph.D.
Director, California MPAs Program
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Michele Luna
Executive Director
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Kira Redmond
Executive Director
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Zachary Plopper
Conservation Director
WILDCOAST

Katherine O'Dea
Executive Director
Save Our Shores

Larry Glass
Executive Director
Northcoast Environmental Center

Sara Aminzadeh
Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

David McGuire
Co- Chair
Golden Gate MPA Collaborative

Seth Atkinson
Staff Attorney
Oceans Program, NRDC

Michael Quill
Marine Programs Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Phyllis Grifman
Associate Director
Sea Grant Program
University of Southern California

Jan Freiwald, PhD
Executive Director
Reef Check Foundation

Jennifer Savage
Surfrider Foundation
California Policy Manager

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Peter Raimondi
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June 22, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) at the University of California, Santa Cruz is one of the core institutions in California charged with assessing the state of the State's marine environment and its resources. Based on this responsibility, IMS enthusiastically supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and comprehensive evaluation of the California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the continuation of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

IMS scientists have been integrated in this program since the inception of the MLPA and subsequent development of the monitoring approach. This has continued during the recent implementation of new approaches to investigate the enhanced functions provided by the network attributes the MPA program. It is clear that Phase 2 implementation funded by this project builds off the Phase 1 baseline monitoring and that this new phase allows the continued tracking of changes overtime which will allow us to evaluate the performance of the MPA Network at meeting the goals of the MLPA. Importantly, in the new phase the program will be assessed as a protected network rather than a collection of sites with protection. This project will also inform other key mandates such as understanding climate change impacts and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Raimondi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pete" and last name "Raimondi" clearly legible.

Peter Raimondi

Professor and Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences, UCSC

831-471-9856

raimondi@ucsc.edu



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

July 9, 2018

VIA Electronic Transmission

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

Re: Support for Marine Protected Area Monitoring Program

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) strongly supports authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of California's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network.

We expect the MPA Monitoring Program will provide information that helps support a wide range of important ocean management issues including MPA performance, improved understanding of climate change impacts, and sustainable fisheries management. The MPA Monitoring Program will also help prepare the state for the upcoming ten-year management review required by the Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas, scheduled to take place in 2022.

We look forward to reviewing the MPA Monitoring Action Plan when it becomes publicly available and encourage the state to ensure that the Plan includes robust research, community, and tribal science components, and that all data collected under the program is shared with the public.

RLF has worked in partnership with the State of California and philanthropies since 2004 to support not only the establishment of the statewide MPA network, but also to ensure robust implementation of this network, by supporting monitoring and stewardship of the MPAs through a variety of grants and programs. Your approval of the continuation of the MPA Monitoring Program is an important step to ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kaitilin Gaffney
Director, Ocean, Coast, and Fisheries Program



Dr. Jennifer Caselle
MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE
PHONE: (805) 893-5144

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9610
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July 16, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

I am pleased to voice my strong support for the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and comprehensive evaluation of the California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the continuation of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

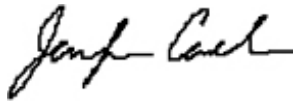
I am a marine ecologist at UC Santa Barbara and I have been personally involved California's MPA program since its inception, including but not limited to ecosystem monitoring in the Phase I baseline programs. It is essential that monitoring being developed as part of Phase II be implemented. Phase II monitoring will ensure that MPAs are being monitored as a network and will allow assessment of changes over time. Continued monitoring is necessary for the state to assess progress towards meeting the goals of the MLPA. Further, continued monitoring of the network of MPAs will provide the state with critical information on the effects of climate change and will inform fisheries management.

Phase II monitoring will enable California to remain a leader globally in MPA science. As we move beyond the assessments from the baseline programs, we can now ask more nuanced questions about MPA networks such as whether well-designed and networked areas provide more benefits than the sum of individual effects. Additionally, we are just now beginning to understand the indirect effects of rebuilding species within MPAs; that is, how do these effects trickle down to whole ecosystem resilience? For example, my work has recently demonstrated that some MPAs have exhibited resilience in the face of invasive species. These indirect effects

and MPA's role in ecosystem resilience take some time to manifest so continued monitoring is critical.

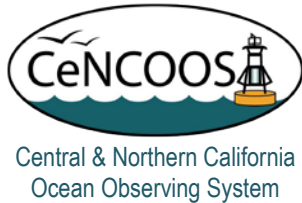
OPC support has been essential to the success of the MPA Management Program, which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Caselle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Caselle".

Dr. Jennifer Caselle

Research Biologist and PISCO Principal Investigator
Marine Science Institute, University of CA Santa Barbara



Dr. Henry Ruhl
CeNCOOS Director
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
7700 Sandholdt Rd
Moss Landing, CA 95039

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M: 831-346-2088

July 19, 2018

Cyndi Dawson
Marine Protected Areas Policy Adviser
Ocean Protection Council

Dear Cyndi,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the work of Phase 2 for the CA MPA Monitoring Program. A key goal of CeNCOOS, along with other state, national and international bodies, is to provide information to inform on MPA conditions and help evaluate their efficacy. This is outlined in our 2014-2019 Strategic Plan and will be augmented in our next Strategic Plan through 2024. California has been a pioneer of the MPA concept and has been an international example in how networks of MPAs can be established taking into account many interests and benefit sharing concepts. Internationally many States, Federal efforts and other countries have followed suit and work to achieve an international target of 10% coverage, about 7.26% of which has been achieved, totaling 26,302,971 km².

MPAs are an important policy tool for tensioning natural habitat and resource sustainability against unsustainable habitat destruction and resource harvesting. In the long term, perhaps the most critical information needed to ensure that vision is being achieved is the ability to continue is monitoring and other evidence to underpin evaluations of efficacy. Key variables in this include biology, ecosystems and habitat data. Indeed biology and ecosystems variables quantify MPA efficacy metrics most directly including, living habitat, biomass standing stocks and biodiversity. Without work outlined in Phase 2, there is a major risk that the CA MPA network concept could be drawn into question if there is not data to support claims of safeguarding marine biodiversity, protecting habitats and underpinning ecosystem services. These themes extend to socio-economically important themes like food security for CA and those depending on its seafood products. Because CA is a leader in this area, the risk extends internationally.

CeNCOOS looks forward to continuing our work to contribute to understanding CA MPAs and the atmospheric and oceanic conditions within which they sit, and addressing the challenges set out by the OPC and its Phase 2 plans.

Best wishes,

Henry Ruhl

CeNCOOS Director



**GREATER
FARALLONES
ASSOCIATION**

July 3, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Greater Farallones Association (GFA) strongly supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

GFA has been a supporter and participant in the MLPA process since its inception. GFA has been a primary source of data to the community through the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. GFA has been a participant in the monitoring process. Establishment and maintenance of long term data sets is essential to adaptive management of our marine resources. Provisions of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) require monitoring and research to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs and inform management reviews.

MPA Monitoring Program Phase 2 implementation funded by this project builds off the Phase 1 baseline monitoring. Phase 1 established the ecological and socioeconomic conditions at or near the time of MPA implementation statewide. This project allows the continued tracking of changes over time which will allow us to evaluate the performance of the MPA Network at meeting the goals of the MLPA. This project will also inform other key mandates such as understanding climate change impacts and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact:


Bob Wilson, Executive Director
415-561-6625



Heal the Bay

1444 9th Street
Santa Monica, CA
90401
(310) 451-1500

June 25, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The Heal the Bay (HTB) strongly supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of the California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management, and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

HTB has played a role in the development, implementation and monitoring of MPAs in southern California through the MPA Watch Program. Provisions of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) require monitoring and research to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs and to inform management reviews.

MPA Monitoring Program Phase 2 implementation funded by this project builds off the Phase 1 baseline monitoring. Phase 1 established the ecological and socioeconomic conditions at or near the time of MPA implementation statewide. This project allows the continued tracking of changes overtime, which will allow us to evaluate the performance of the MPA Network at meeting the goals of the MLPA. This project will also inform other key mandates such as understanding climate change impacts and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mary Luna, Coastal and Marine Scientist, at (310) 451-1500.

Sincerely,

Shelley Luce
HTB President & Chief Executive Officer



Save Our Shores
345 Lake Avenue, Suite A
Santa Cruz, CA 95062-4600
(831) 462-5660

June 21, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Save Our Shores (SOS) strongly supports authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of the California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

Save Our Shores is directly engaged in conducting education and outreach about our state's MPAs and is an actively engaged member of the Santa Cruz MPA Collaborative. We have contributed to the development of multiple MPA resources and most recently hosted a speaker series session on the environmental and economic benefits of MPAs. While we are not directly engaged in monitoring MPAs, we understand that provisions of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) require monitoring and research to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs and believe this is a critical process.

We were in support of the Phase 1 baseline monitoring, which established the ecological and socioeconomic conditions at or near the time of MPA implementation statewide. We are now writing to express support for Phase 2 MPA monitoring to build off the Phase 1 efforts and allow for the continued tracking of changes overtime as well as performance against the MLPA's established goals. We believe this project will also inform other key mandates such as understanding climate change impacts and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Katherine O'Dea,
Executive Director
831 462 5660

katherine@saveourshores.org
www.saveourshores.org



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
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16 July 2017

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to convey my enthusiastic support for California's MPA Monitoring (Phase 2) Program. Let me explain why I believe the support of this program is absolutely critical, and not just to the State of California. Having spent six years as the Co-chair of the Science Advisory Team in the planning process of the MLPA, I am fully aware of the unprecedented level of science and stakeholder engagement that produced the state-wide network of marine protected areas (MPAs). To date, the MLPA network is the largest ecologically networked system of MPAs in the world. Because of the size and science incorporated into the network, it has become a global model for MPA networks. As such, and based on my experience with the MLPA planning process, I have advised on efforts hoping to emulate the MLPA MPA network in many parts of the world, including the Arctic, Europe, Mexico and Canada. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and its collaborators are currently designing a network of MPAs in British Columbia building closely on the lead established by California.

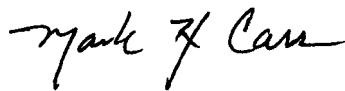
Now that California is recognized as the international lead on the science, design process, and implementation of MPA networks, the world looks to California to create a comparable model for the evaluation of its performance to inform adaptive management of the network. Since 2007, I have been continuously involved with the California Ocean Science Trust, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Ocean Protection Council in the design and implementation of both the Baseline Characterization studies and the Long-Term Monitoring Plan. There is no question that, based on previous investments for the development of the monitoring plan and program, California is moving toward international recognition on network monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management. This is one very important, though not entirely appreciated, reason why continued support is so critical.

Closer to home, the monitoring and evaluation of the network's performance is critical for at least four very salient reasons: (i) CDFW is required by the MLPA to evaluate the success of this profound policy aimed at protecting and sustaining California's marine biodiversity and ecosystems that support

countless ecosystem services and the largest ocean economy in the United States (\$42.9 billion in 2000); (ii) Other stakeholders (commercial and recreational fishers, conservation organizations, First Nations, and the general public) expect and deserve an evaluation of its performance, to ensure that the network will be an appropriate means of meeting the conservation goals it was designed to achieve; (iii) Following, policy makers, especially yourselves, who have also invested heavily in creating this monitoring and evaluation program, recognize the importance of and deserve the opportunity to assess the success of this hallmark ocean conservation policy, and (iv) because of the many management and policy applications of this monitoring program that extend beyond the evaluation of the network. These include (a) informing fisheries management as it has already done for California's recreational abalone fishery, (b) identifying ecological consequences to both anthropogenic impacts and natural perturbations as it has done already for harmful algal blooms, sea star wasting disease, the warm water "Blob" event and El Ninos, (c) identifying and tracking invasive species and their ecological and socio-economic consequences, and (d) establishment of a long-term, state-wide coupled ecological – environmental monitoring program to evaluate the ecological and fisheries responses to climate change. Thus, this investment is not restricted to the evaluation of the MLPA network, but an investment to inform fisheries management, environmental impact assessments and management, and the state's ability to mitigate and adapt to a changing global climate.

I hope I have conveyed what I believe are compelling reasons for California to invest in Phase 2 of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Monitoring Program. If you have any questions regarding the points I have raised or others I have not for the sake of brevity, please feel free to contact me. Thank you again.

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 distinguishable.

Mark H. Carr, Professor



July 15, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Los Angeles Waterkeeper LAW) strongly supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

LAW is a founding member of the CA MPA Watch Network's research, monitoring, outreach and education effort since 2012. LAW supports the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) which requires monitoring and research to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs and inform management reviews.

MPA Monitoring Program Phase 2 implementation funded by this project builds off the Phase 1 baseline monitoring. Phase 1 established the ecological and socioeconomic conditions at or near the time of MPA implementation statewide. This project allows the continued tracking of changes overtime which will allow us to evaluate the performance of the MPA Network at meeting the goals of the MLPA. This project will also inform other key mandates such as understanding climate change impacts and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine MPAs. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me –

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Quill".

Michael Quill
Marine Programs Director
120 Broadway Suite 105
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 394-6162 x113



July 3, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The Marine Protected Area Watch Network (MPA Watch), including the undersigned organizations, strongly supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of California Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

MPA Watch is a network of programs that support healthy oceans through community science by collecting human use data in and around our protected areas. We work closely with scientists and communities to collect scientifically rigorous data on anthropogenic use of our coastal and marine resources. Data are meant to inform the management, enforcement, and science of California's marine protected areas, and allow us to track how the public uses coastal areas. By involving local communities in this MPA monitoring, MPA Watch programs inspire and empower stewardship, and educate the public about California's ocean ecosystems. Provisions of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) require monitoring and research to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs and inform management reviews.

MPA Monitoring Program Phase 2 implementation funded by this project builds off the Phase 1 baseline monitoring. Phase 1 established the ecological and socioeconomic conditions at or near the time of MPA implementation statewide. This project allows the continued tracking of changes overtime which will allow us to evaluate the performance of the MPA Network at meeting the goals of the MLPA. This project will also inform other key mandates such as understanding climate change impacts and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA.

Sincerely,

Angela Kemsley
MPA Watch Program Coordinator
angela@wildcoast.org
619-423-8665 x210



**REEF CHECK FOUNDATION
EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES
TO IMPROVE REEF HEALTH**

July 16, 2018

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

RE: Support for MPA Monitoring Program (Item 4)

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The Reef Check Foundation strongly supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring and evaluation of California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network. By approving the launch of Phase 2 of the MPA Monitoring Program the OPC will ensure continued effective adaptive management of California's MPAs, and that the state is well prepared for the upcoming ten-year management review in 2022.

Reef Check California (RCCA) has been involved in monitoring the rocky reef and kelp forest ecosystem in MPAs since its inception. We have been conducting citizen science SCUBA surveys during all four baseline programs as MPAs were established in the respective regions, and are now part of the ongoing statewide long-term MPA monitoring. Annually, we train over 250 volunteer SCUBA divers and involve them in surveying over 100 rocky reef sites to monitor California's MPAs.

Provisions of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) require monitoring and research to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs and inform management reviews. California's MPA network is a prime example of an innovative and sustainable management strategy but it can only be successful in the long-term if it is managed with sound scientific data. RCCA is committed to contribute to MPA monitoring and to bring the collective force of its trained stakeholders to bear on this long-term task. This project will also inform other key state mandates, including understanding the impacts of climate change and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

OPC support has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program, which is held up as a global model for well-managed marine protected areas. Your approval of the continuation of the successful MPA Monitoring Program will ensure California has the knowledge and understanding necessary to achieve the goals of the MLPA. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 831-345-8167 any time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jan Freiwald
Executive Director

Reef Check Foundation

Los Angeles Office:
13723 Fiji Way, Suite B-2
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 USA
Phone: (310) 305-1081

Santa Cruz Office:
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rcinfo@reefcheck.org / www.ReefCheck.org
Reef Check is a California registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



July 20th, 2018

Dear Ocean Protection Council,

The MPA Collaborative Network strongly supports the staff recommended action for Item 4a, Marine Protected Area (MPA) Monitoring Program: Phase 2 Implementation to Inform 2022 MPA Network Management Review.

The MPA Collaborative Network has been working diligently since its inception in 2012 to engage local communities in the stewardship of California's 124 marine protected areas. Currently the MPA Collaborative Network consists of fourteen locally operating collaboratives covering all 15 of California's coastal counties. Over 650 members participate, representing 385 organizations including local agency staff, fishing representatives, tribal members, non-profit employees, enforcement officers, ocean business owners, community volunteers, educators, and marine scientists.

With close to 20 percent of collaborative membership coming from the scientific and academic communities, this project is integral to maintaining the interest and involvement of local ocean experts and is a crucial step in evaluating the performance of the MPA Network. On a broad level, tracking changes in marine protected areas over time will show if marine life is increasing in the geographic regions of California's power plant facilities and will allow for critical examination of the effect of MPAs on habitat resiliency in a time of changing ocean conditions. On a local level, this project has the ability to engage and fund the research of marine scientists and ocean experts who understand and work with the diverse communities depending on the long-term success of the MPA network.

Please accept this letter of support for Item 4a and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Calla Allison".

Calla Allison
Director, MPA Collaborative Network
calla.allison@resources.ca.gov
(858) 735-5945
www.mpacollaborative.org