



Item 4b: Exhibit B
Proposed Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council
regarding the Marine Protected Area Monitoring Action Plan
Fiscal Year 18/19 – 20/21
October 25, 2018

WHEREAS, California has identified an effectively managed statewide Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network as a key management tool for supporting the natural diversity and abundance of marine life and supporting the resilience of ecosystems against impacts such as climate change; and

WHEREAS California’s MPA Network was designed, designated and implemented using a science-based and stakeholder driven process focused on protecting representative and unique marine habitats statewide, including replicating that protection in each region; and

WHEREAS the “Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas”¹ designates a ten-year cycle of formal management reviews informed by monitoring results, to begin in 2022, which evaluates the performance of the MPA Network, which is made up of 124 individual MPAs; and

WHEREAS the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) requires “monitoring, research, and evaluation at selected sites to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs and ensure that the [MPA] system meets the goals.”²; and

WHEREAS, the MPA Monitoring Program during Phase 1 baseline has successfully collected baseline information to establish the conditions at the time of implementation of the MPA Network, allowing for the tracking of conditions over time; and

WHEREAS, the full implementation of Phase 2 long-term of the MPA Monitoring Program requires a prioritization of sites, measures and species to allow for ongoing monitoring to evaluate the performance of the MPA Network; and

WHEREAS, the MPA Statewide Leadership Team, the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team, academic, tribal, government, non-governmental and citizen/community scientists have formed an active collaboration to support the design and implementation of the MPA Monitoring Program; and

¹ <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan>

² FGC §2853(c)(3), §2852(a), and §2856(a)(2)(H)

WHEREAS, the MPA Monitoring Action Plan (Action Plan) is a culmination of over a decade of work of the partners in the MPA Monitoring Program to design a scientifically robust and logistically feasible plan for long-term MPA Network evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan establishes a roadmap for the MPA Monitoring Program including clear priorities for sites, measures and species including priority 1, 2 and 3 tiers to allow partners to have a clear understanding of what will be the most beneficial to the state to inform adaptive management, including the formal management reviews; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan facilitates the leveraging of existing monitoring efforts by providing partners with a clear process and description of mechanisms that will be deployed to fund the MPA Monitoring Program moving forward; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan emphasizes a monitoring design directly linked to the management needs for the MPA Network, in the context of changing ocean conditions, which will led to science-informed adaptive management as required by the MLPA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby:

RESOLVES to adopt “The MPA Monitoring Action Plan,” which establishes a roadmap for the MPA Monitoring Program that ensures data collection will be the most beneficial to the state to inform adaptive management, including the formal management reviews;

FURTHER RESOLVES that through the implementation of the Action Plan, California’s resource agencies and supporting partners are committed to effective coordination guided by mutual benefit, trust, transparency and accountability to support the effective management of the MPA network; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that OPC staff will continue to facilitate the update of the Action Plan with core partners, as needed.