

June 15, 2020

VIA Electronic Transmission to: [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)

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

**Re: Support for Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program (Item 6a) and Communications Strategy for 2022 Adaptive Management Review (Item 6b)**

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation submits this letter in support of two items under consideration by the Ocean Protection Council at your June 19, 2020 meeting. We encourage the Council's approval of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program and the Communications Strategy for the 2022 Adaptive Management Review of the network of marine protected areas.

- **Item 6a:** Tribal communities have a long history of ocean and coastal stewardship in California and have been critical in communicating the value and importance of our shared ocean resources. Tribal knowledge, research, and educational programming have been integral in protecting and sustainably managing ocean and coastal resources including California's marine protected area (MPA) network. We have been working with numerous tribal communities across the state, who eagerly share their knowledge and support implementation of the MPA network.
- **Item 6b:** Studies on MPA effectiveness (Maxwell et al. 2014) reveal that targeted outreach and education contributes to improved compliance with MPA regulations and MPA effectiveness. Consistent, effective communication is critically important to engaging the support and awareness of the successes and lessons learned from the 10 years since implementation of the MPA network. We applaud the OPC staff for recommending the development of a strategic communications strategy in preparation for the MPA network review.

By approving these important projects, the Ocean Protection Council will demonstrate the state's commitment to partnering on Tribal-led stewardship and monitoring projects. The tribal project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Council's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Objective 2.2.1: "Develop and fund implementation of a tribal MPA monitoring program based on priorities shared between the state and California's Tribes." OPC will furthermore demonstrate the commitment made by State agencies at the onset of MPA implementation, which promised a transparent process for communicating key successes and challenges. The communications strategy is consistent with the Ocean

Protection Council's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Objectives 2.2.1, 2.2.2 (Enhance Engagement with Under-served Communities), 3.3 (Support Sustainable Marine Fisheries), and 3.6 (Accelerate Collaborative Accountability).

We appreciate the Ocean Protection Council's consideration of these projects and strongly support approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Arvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Alan Arvin  
Executive Director  
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation