

**Urging California Ocean Protection Council to Pass a Resolution OPPOSING the Removal of Ocean Monitoring Buoys by the National Science Foundation.**

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From aeboken

Date Mon 6/15/2026 12:29 PM

To CNRA COPC Public <COPCPublic@resources.ca.gov>;

TO: Ocean Protection Council

cc: Richard Charter,  
Ocean Foundation

FR: Eileen Boken,  
State and Federal Legislative Liaison

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods\*

\*For identification purposes only.

RE: Urging California Ocean Protection Council to Pass a Resolution OPPOSING the Removal of Ocean Monitoring Buoys by the National Science Foundation.

Below is the link to an article about the National Science Foundation beginning to dismantle a network of ocean monitoring buoys and current efforts by federal legislators to halt this.

I'm urging the California Ocean Protection Council to also oppose this.

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/-trump-ocean-monitoring-network\\_n\\_6a3034b7e4b07f7766e9eb18](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/-trump-ocean-monitoring-network_n_6a3034b7e4b07f7766e9eb18)



June 15, 2026

California Ocean Protection Council  
715 P St., 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Submitted electronically to [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)*

**Re: Item 10. We need OPC's Leadership in advancing Equity and Environmental Justice in adaptive management of California's Marine Protected Area Network**

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and Councilmembers,

As coastal justice advocates, community leaders, ocean stewards, and science and policy experts, we call on California's Natural Resources Agency and the Ocean Protection Council to provide leadership and oversight in advancing the state's equity and environmental justice commitments, particularly the equitable access goals of Executive Order N-82-20 and SB 337.<sup>1</sup>

**What's happening**

Since 2020, several undersigned organizations have been diligently participating in the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department's)

<sup>1</sup> [Executive Order N-82-20](#); [Bill Text: CA SB337](#)

Decadal Management Review process for California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network on behalf of our communities and other undersigned partners in the ocean justice community. We have worked in good faith with Commission and Department staff to help create a safer, more inclusive environment to participate in public processes and help advance biodiversity conservation and equitable access goals, ultimately benefiting *all* Californians.

As it stands, the current proposals to strengthen California's MPA Network would add a mere two percent towards the 30 percent target. Despite this relatively minimal opportunity, coastal justice advocates have worked to ensure that the Department's petition evaluation framework offered key parameters that would have been a pathway to consider the needs of many marginalized communities. Instead, these questions went wholly unanswered with insufficient rationale offered as to why.<sup>2</sup> The resulting evaluation upholds the status quo and continues to marginalize those most vulnerable and most burdened by decision-making.

It has become clear that the Commission and Department lack the political will and cultural competency to operationalize equity and environmental justice principles into their processes. In the last few months, hate speech towards Tribal communities has gone unchecked at Commission-led meetings<sup>3</sup>, advocates who apologized for abhorrent behavior were told it wasn't their place to condemn hateful speech against communities that are not their own, equity and environmental justice principles have been co-opted from the dais<sup>4</sup> and certain community groups have been told their input is not relevant to the proceedings.

## **Our communities deserve more**

### *Demographics and power*

A recent Commission stakeholder survey<sup>5</sup> highlighted their current governance structure does not foster equitable inclusion and participation. The survey revealed stakeholder demographics of the FGC as 86 percent male, 70 percent white, and 82 percent aged 45 or older. This is a stark contrast to California's broader demographics.<sup>6</sup> The oversampling of this demographic is evidenced throughout many, if not all, bodies and fora that inform the Commission's decision-making, including for the original MPA designation process. The uncomfortable truth is that a subset of the fishing community holds power in this governance system, and others often feel unsafe, unwelcome and sometimes face harassment<sup>7</sup> and even threats in the public sphere for holding diverse perspectives. While there have been sporadic public statements by Commissioners condemning such behavior, it is due time for earnest commitments and action towards procedural equity across Department and Commission bodies and processes.

### *Inequities in fishery management*

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<sup>2</sup> [CDFW's 2023 Decadal Management Review MPA Petition Evaluation Companion Document](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Tribal Committee Meeting - April 14, 2026](#) - Timestamps: 1:47:00 ; 2:12:20

<sup>4</sup> [FGC April 21, 2026](#) - Timestamps: 5:46:13; 7:43:59

<sup>5</sup> Staff Summary for February 11-12, 2026, Author: David Haug, David Thesell, and Melissa Miller-Henson

<sup>11A.</sup> Commission Executive Director's Report <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=241317&inline>

<sup>6</sup> [California's Population - Public Policy Institute of California](#)

<sup>7</sup> [A Study Of The Stakeholder Experience In Developing Marine Protected Areas In Southern California](#)

While there are a suite of laws designed to protect marine species and the coastal zone, our system of fishery management is arguably the most comprehensive governance framework for managing our waters. Federal fishery management bodies are consulted and thus hold power in many fora for ocean decision-making with implications for state-level fishery management, as well. The power imbalance of these bodies and FGC processes are not dissimilar. Fishery management is our predominant system of ocean management, and while critical, it is designed with procedural, social and environmental inequities that favor those who already hold power.

Fishery management at state and federal levels represent less than one percent of species in our coastal ocean<sup>8</sup>. This means that over 99 percent of our marine species—many of which hold subsistence, intrinsic, cultural and/or ecological value to many communities—are unmanaged, poorly understood, and potentially at risk. Mechanisms to both understand and conserve the complex and interconnected dynamics of our coastal habitat should be integrated into management.

#### *MPAs are a tool for ocean justice*

MPAs with full or high levels of protection are critical to curb biodiversity loss and promote resilience in the face of climate change. By mitigating the diminished quality of access to the environment and its resources over generations, these areas can simultaneously offer place-based opportunities for natural ecosystem restoration and community connection. Many communities who have been burdened by our system of ocean management are relying on decision-makers to correct for the inequities which stem from the overrepresentation of certain stakeholders. MPAs are a tool in the governance toolbox to help mitigate damage, distribute power and support cultural value systems of those most marginalized from these processes. MPAs also serve to advance our understanding of the ocean, climate change and diverse community impacts moving forward. In the long-term, this can make subsequent opportunities for adaptive management that benefits all Californians and coastal users more meaningful.

#### **OPC's guidance is critical**

In the near-term, we look forward to OPC's evaluation of the petitions to adapt the MPA Network. As the state's primary policy lead for ocean and coastal management, it will be critical for OPC's evaluation to **acknowledge and advance opportunities for environmental justice, enhance equitable coastal access, and incorporate new and best available science**. Particularly in the face of climate change, with a record-setting marine heatwave<sup>9</sup> and pending El Niño,<sup>10</sup> this is a crucial moment to support the resilience of our marine ecosystems and coastal communities before we reach a tipping point from which we may not recover. Looking ahead, we hope OPC can support development of a clear and equitable participatory process for future adaptive management of California's MPA Network.

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<sup>8</sup> California state fisheries managers focus on the approximately 130 fish species harvested in California, which represent less than 1 percent of the thousands of known species in California's coastal waters. [Marine Species Portal](#)

<sup>9</sup> [https://oceanview.pfeg.noaa.gov/images/mhw/fig1/fig1\\_SLP\\_WIND\\_SSTA.png](https://oceanview.pfeg.noaa.gov/images/mhw/fig1/fig1_SLP_WIND_SSTA.png)

<sup>10</sup> [El Nino forms, expected to strengthen, say NOAA forecasters](#)

Respectfully,

Anupa Asokan  
Founder and Executive Director  
Fish On

Adriana Guerrero-Nardone  
Executive Director  
Salted Roots

Tiffany Curry  
Public Policy Associate Manager  
Outdoor Outreach

André Sanchez  
Advisory Board Member  
Latino Outdoors

Sofia Barboza  
Ocean & Coasts Program Manager  
Hispanic Access Foundation

Camila Cáceres  
Water and Ocean Advocate  
GreenLatinos

Tomas Valadez  
California Policy Manager  
Azul

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CC: Meghan Hertel, CDFW Director  
Jaimie Huynh, CDFW Deputy Director for Strategic Engagement, Equity, and Partnerships

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**Written Submission for Ocean Protection Council Meeting June 16, 2026 Agenda Item #10 - Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - **\*\*What if San Francisco Becomes the Next Pacific Palisades?\*\*****

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From aeboken

Date Fri 6/12/2026 1:39 PM

To CNRA COPC Public <COPCPublic@resources.ca.gov>

 2 attachments (239 KB)

AWSS Expansion Resolution(1)(1).pdf; losangeles(1).jpg;

TO: Ocean Protection Council

FR: Eileen Boken,  
State and Federal Legislative Liaison

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods\*

\*For identification purposes only.

RE: Written Submission for Ocean Protection Council Meeting June 16, 2026 Agenda Item #10 - Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - **\*\*What if San Francisco Becomes the Next Pacific Palisades?\*\***

On the Ocean Protection Council webpage dated May 5, 2025 which is titled From Ashes to Action: Wildfire Impacts on California's Coast and Ocean Health, the article states:

"Many of California's **ecosystems are wildfire adapted**. However, the size and scale of Southern California [Pacific Palisades] wildfires are unprecedented. The urban location lends to more toxic runoff with a greater potential to harm coastal and marine ecosystems that could pose significant threats to California's health, economy, and identity."

This begs the question.

What if San Francisco becomes the next Pacific Palisades?

In 2010, then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom transferred the City's independent, high pressure, high volume Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS), which is specifically designed to fight catastrophic fires, from the SF Fire Department to the SF Public Utilities Commission.

The intent of the Memorandum of Understanding was not only to transfer AWSS jurisdiction and assets, but also to expand AWSS to the unprotected areas of the City.

Since then, the SF Public Utilities Commission has abandoned AWSS expansion and is pursuing an unproven strategy which could result in San Francisco's Westside becoming the next Pacific Palisades.

Beachfront homes in Pacific Palisades burned to the ground because the Los Angeles Fire Department didn't have the infrastructure to fight catastrophic fires using ocean water.

Expanding AWSS to San Francisco's Westside would, in fact, use ocean water to fight catastrophic fires.

If San Francisco were to become the next Pacific Palisades, this could have a significant and negative impact on the legacy of both Governor Newsom and his entire administration.

Therefore, I'm urging both Governor Newsom and the Ocean Protection Council to re-affirm Governor Newsom's 2010 commitment to equal fire protection for all in San Francisco by expanding AWSS to the City's unprotected neighborhoods.

Attached is the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods resolution regarding equal fire protection for all, as well as, an image of Pacific Palisades after the 2025 fire.



January 20, 2026

Mayor Daniel Lurie

Paul Yep, Chief for Public Safety

Han Zou, Communication Director

Dean Crispen, Chief of Fire Department

Garreth Miller, Assistant Deputy Chief, ESER Project Manager

Carla Short, Director of Department of Public Works

Scott Anderson, Deputy Director for Project Delivery

Stephen Robinson, Assistant General Manager for Infrastructure

Carmen Chu, City Administrator

Brian Strong, Director for Office of Resilience and Capital Planning

### Resolution to Expand AWSS to All SF Neighborhoods

WHEREAS, The standalone, high pressure, high volume Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS) has a proven track record in San Francisco for over one hundred years.

WHEREAS, AWSS was the gold standard in 2010 when then-Mayor Newsom transferred AWSS from the SF Fire Department to the SF Public Utilities Commission.

WHEREAS, AWSS has stood the test of time and is still the gold standard in 2026.

WHEREAS, All neighborhoods should have the same standalone, high pressure, high volume AWSS coverage as a matter of geographic equity.

WHEREAS, If many neighborhoods are destroyed by another earthquake and ensuing fires, the City's tax base would also be destroyed.

WHEREAS, If the City's tax base was destroyed, this would preclude the payment of City pensions until the City was rebuilt which could take many years.

WHEREAS, If many neighborhoods of the City were destroyed by post-earthquake fires, there would be no need for the current number of City employees with many City jobs being eliminated for many years.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved, in order to avoid these multiple disasters, CSFN is insisting that all SF neighborhoods be protected by the standalone, high pressure, high volume Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS) as it is the only system with a proven track record.

Deborah Murphy  
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