



**GREATER  
FARALLONES  
ASSOCIATION**

June 15, 2026

Jenn Eckerle  
Executive Director  
California Ocean Protection Council  
*Sent via email: [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)*

RE: Comments on agenda items 2, 4a, and 5b

Dear Jenn Eckerle,

The Greater Farallones Association (GFA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on agenda items **2, 4a, and 5b** of the **June Ocean Protection Council meeting**. As the nonprofit partner to NOAA's Greater Farallones (GFNMS), Cordell Bank, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries from Mendocino County to Santa Cruz County (the MLPA North-central Marine Region), GFA advances coordinated science, restoration, policy, management, and community engagement to support a healthy and resilient California coast and ocean. Through collaborative partnerships, GFA facilitates innovative and cost-effective initiatives that strengthen coastal resilience and restore critical ecosystems. We offer the following comments in support of collaboration and shared stewardship.

**Item 2 - Kelp Restoration and Management Plan update**

GFA appreciates the Executive Director's update on the statewide Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP). We encourage OPC and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to ensure the final KRMP reflects Tribal stewardship priorities, lessons from high-loss regions such as Sonoma County, practical permitting and monitoring needs, and sustained funding pathways. Partnerships like Kashia-GFA can help ground the KRMP in real restoration practices while contributing data and lessons learned toward the State's kelp recovery goals.

**Item 4a – Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program: Track 1 Planning Projects**

GFA supports OPC's investment in the Sonoma County Pacific Coast Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan. This effort advances priorities identified in NOAA's 2019 Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Coastal Resilience Sediment Plan, a California Natural Resources Agency-supported regional planning effort that identified 39 priority coastal resilience opportunities across the north-central California coast, including 15 in Sonoma County.

Through ongoing partnerships with Sonoma County and regional stakeholders, GFA is helping develop information that can support implementation of the plan, including coastal dune modeling, shoreline change analyses, visitor-use data, and sediment management strategies. This work will help inform where nature-based adaptation approaches are most feasible, identify opportunities for beneficial reuse of sediment, and support prioritization of future resilience investments along the Sonoma County coast. We appreciate OPC's continued leadership in supporting local governments as they prepare for sea level rise and build long-term coastal resilience.

**Item 5b - Support for Advancing 30x30 in Coastal Waters and the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians project**

GFA strongly supports approval of Item 5b, including the proposed award of up to \$1,004,500 to the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians for Advancing 30x30: Indigenous leadership in kelp forest restoration. We are honored to partner with Kashia on this Tribal-led proposal, which centers Kashia leadership and Tribal Science while bringing western marine science, monitoring, and restoration support to a place-based recovery effort.

The project responds to the catastrophic decline of northern California bull kelp forests and the cascading impacts to abalone, rockfish, invertebrates, fisheries, coastal communities, and Kashia cultural lifeways. It will support kelp outplanting, targeted purple urchin removal, Tribal diver training, ecological monitoring, and co-stewardship development for kelp and intertidal ecosystems at Mé·ti·ni (Fort Ross Cove), Tule qh'a le yo (Shell Beach), and other Kashia traditional use areas.

This project advances shared state and regional priorities for kelp recovery and 30x30 implementation: conserving biodiversity; building climate resilience; supporting Tribal and coastal workforce benefits; strengthening partnerships among Tribes, agencies, scientists, fishers, sanctuaries, and community members; and sharing monitoring results to inform adaptive management. We respectfully urge the Council to approve Item 5b and continue investing in tribally-led stewardship projects that restore vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems.

Thank you for OPC's continued leadership and for considering these comments. GFA is ready to continue working with Kashia, NOAA sanctuaries, CDFW, State Parks, OPC, and other partners to restore, maintain, and strengthen California's coastal ecosystems.

Sincerely,

*Maria Brown*

Maria Brown  
Board Vice President  
Greater Farallones Association