



May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

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

*Sent via electronic mail to: [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)*

**RE: May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 Agenda Item 3c, Consideration of Authorization to Disburse Funds for MPA Outreach, Education, and Compliance Projects – SUPPORT**

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council,

As part of the greater statewide California MPA Collaborative Network, The Los Angeles MPA Collaborative channels broad and diverse perspectives to build ocean resilience and promote the cultural, recreational, and ecological value of Los Angeles County's marine protected areas. On behalf of the 19 member organizations, we would like to express strong support for the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) funding of MPA Outreach, Education and Compliance Projects, including the MPA regulation compliance improvement efforts by the Resources Legacy Fund and the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program by Coastal Quest.

Since 2013, the California MPA Collaborative Network has been working to carry our projects that address local needs regarding marine protected areas. The regional collaboratives are a key part of the Ocean Protection Council's guiding principles for governing California's MPA network, allowing the state to engage in meaningful partnerships at the local level, leverage resources, and ensure transparency. Funding from the Resources Legacy Fund and Coastal Quest are integral to the success of both statewide and regional programs conducted by the regional MPA collaboratives. This funding disbursement will fund enforcement training for allied agencies, compliance workshops, educational programs, and outreach efforts conducted by the MPA Collaborative Network.

Our member organizations are dedicated to the health and success of our statewide marine protected area network and we fully support OPC's investment in MPA outreach, education and compliance projects to improve transparency, understanding and effectiveness of California's marine protected areas.

Sincerely,

Linda Chilton  
LA MPA Collaborative Co-Chair  
Sea Grant Education Programs Manager, USC

Michael Quill  
LA MPA Collaborative Co-Chair  
Marine Programs Director, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Emily Parker  
LA MPA Collaborative Co-Chair  
Coastal and Marine Scientist, Heal the Bay

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RE: Support for Administration of a small grants program to increase MPA outreach and education,  
Coastal Quest (Item 3.c.3)

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Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

The undersigned organizations are in strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of a small grants program to increase marine protected area (MPA) outreach and education. By supporting this small grants program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

The undersigned organizations have effectively collaborated with Coastal Quest and it's implementing partner, Blue Earth Consultants, a Division of ERG, in previous State MPA efforts, including efforts on capacity-building and developing a network charter for the California MPA Collaboratives, revising the Master Plan for MPAs, developing "The California Collaborative Approach: MPA Partnership Plan," and planning for California MPA Network comprehensive implementation). In the most recent MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program that Coastal Quest administered for OPC, Coastal Quest provided invaluable technical assistance to the MPA Collaboratives which helped further the impact and increased effectiveness on the grant project implementation.

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*"Overall, the [MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program] administration was very responsive and helped to keep us grant recipients on track with meeting milestones and deadlines." –Grantee*

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Coastal Quest's proposal for the OTC Program small grants program has many intriguing features that build off the recently completed MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants program such as:

- identifying and securing private matching funds;
- designing and administering a grant-making process, solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- providing technical assistance and capacity building support to non-profit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply and match funds as well as complete successful projects.

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*"[The MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program] was an excellent experience that made the process much easier than most grants." –Grantee*

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The results and lessons learned from this successful program inform how to administer the OTC Small Grants Program, increase local capacity and stewardship, and improve overall MPA management and ecosystem health. The private funds secured through Coastal Quest's fundraising efforts will match State dollars and directly support grant projects and capacity-building of grantees, including disadvantaged communities that the State is not able to support.

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*All MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants grantees who took an evaluation survey and also utilized technical support from Coastal Quest responded with "excellent" regarding overall technical assistance.*

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Coastal Quest’s experience working with the MPA Collaboratives, disadvantaged communities, and other organizations addressing MPA and coastal issues in California gives them a unique and valued perspective that will be instrumental in helping shape coastal and marine conservation in California, now and into the future. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

OPC support has been critical to the success of OPC’s MPA Management Program and can increase effectiveness of the OTC Program. Your approval of this small grants program will help continue effective collaboration that can lead towards realizing efficient implementation of the OTC Program and how it may produce economies of scale, thereby saving time and money.

Sincerely,



Calla Allison  
*Director, MPA Collaborative Network*



Paul Hobi, David McGuire, and  
Morgan Patten  
*Golden Gate MPA Collaborative*



Zach Plopper and Isabelle Kay  
*San Diego MPA Collaborative*



Cara O’Brien, Gordon Hensley, and  
Haylee Bautista  
*San Luis Obispo MPA Collaborative*



Michele Luna and Suzanne Olyarnik  
*Sonoma MPA Collaborative*



Linda Chilton and Katherine Pease  
*Los Angeles MPA Collaborative*