

Assembly  
California Legislature

JOHN LAIRD  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT



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MONTEREY, CA 93940  
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May 26, 2005

California Ocean Protection Council  
Attn: Sam Schuchat  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Members:

I am writing to urge the Ocean Protection Council to agendaize the California Fisheries Revolving Loan Program for discussion and potential approval for funding, as authorized under the California Ocean Protection Act. Specifically, I support funding in the amount of \$150,000 to create a business plan, map out a proposed operating structure, and identify modes of capitalization for a robust Revolving Loan Program.

The California Ocean Protection Act created a \$10 million Ocean Protection Trust Fund (OPTF) and authorizes various activities that it can support. Some activities, such as research, monitoring, and coastal habitat acquisition will require grants, as they do not generate revenue.

However, fisheries reform presents a unique opportunity to leverage the OPTF by allocating a portion to create a self-regenerating Fisheries Revolving Loan Program. Fishers, industry groups, or others could apply to receive funds from the loan program to develop and implement measures likely to result in improved financial and conservation performance. Fishers remaining in the given fishery would be required to pay back the loan over a multi-year period, and would commit to measures that would ensure management reforms to meet both economic and ecological sustainability criteria.

We consider the Fisheries Revolving Loan Program a "win-win" for fisheries management.

- California taxpayers would benefit because the fund would be sustainable, allowing investments in fishery after fishery after replenishment from successful projects
- The fishing industry would become more viable financially and able to pay a greater share of management costs

- The fish population and habitats would benefit, because the loans from this fund would leverage necessary reforms in fishery management to ensure long-term sustainability of fishing practices and harvest levels.
- Fishery managers would have increased flexibility and potentially more funds for research and monitoring (due to cost-sharing with industry), and would have the leverage provided by the loan program to meet management objectives that have eluded them to date due to budget shortfalls.

I like this innovative approach because it could provide critical financing for long-lasting fisheries reform resulting in better conservation and financial performance, independent of the vagaries of legislative appropriations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this proposal.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD

Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> District

## Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



# City of Morro Bay

HARBOR DEPARTMENT  
1275 Embarcadero  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
Ph. 805-772-6254  
Fax: 805-772-6258

August 9, 2005

Mike Chrisman  
Resources Secretary  
Chair of the Ocean Protection Council  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1311  
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING THE FISHERIES REVOLVING LOAN FUND AND  
FOR A GRANT TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE AND SHORE BANK ENTERPRISES  
TO DEVELOP THE FUND

We are writing to express the City of Morro Bay's enthusiastic endorsement of establishment of the Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund authorized by the California Ocean Protection Act and for a grant to Environmental Defense and Shore Bank Enterprises to develop the Fund.

Central California harbors still support commercial fishing fleets at this time that sustainably harvest fresh seafood products for California and the world's consumers in a highly regulated environment. Our mostly small community harbors are the Ocean's door for visitors and California residents alike, providing the access infrastructure for all to enjoy and conserve the coast and ocean. We cherish our relatively pristine environment and will continue to improve environmental protections and management practices in these vital harbors.

Unfortunately the outlook for the remaining commercial fishing activity is not so bright. While fish stocks appear to be stronger than any time in recent memory, increasing operating costs and uncertainties/instability in the regulatory world have collapsed many of our markets and reduced fishing business to a shadow of what they were. Uncertainty is the bane of any business, and there is desperate need to reestablish stability and create new markets for the benefit of coastal communities and the California consumer who now must buy almost all their seafood products from under-regulated international sources.

Our fishermen harvest pearls and are forced to sell their seafood products for the price of the shell. We must transition to new value added products, innovative market approaches and adaptive business plans or our commercial fishing heritage will be lost. There is a crisis going on right now that we feel the average Californian should be made aware of, and it is not in California's relatively healthy ocean environment, but in the potential loss of these traditional uses and fresh seafood supplies. If we let fishing businesses die or become any more economically unviable they will be supplanted by visitor serving uses, our harbor infrastructures will be lessened and these unique parts of California life will be history.

### Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

M. Chrisman  
August 9, 2005  
Page 2

Over the past year we have started to work with groups like Environmental Defense and Shore Bank Enterprises and found mutual interests in many areas. If we can provide for more profitable and stable fisheries while conserving fish stocks and habitats, we can all see a benefit, but this is tough work, as there is a gap to leap from the past to the future. We support a planning grant to Environmental Defense, which with Shore Bank Enterprises Pacific, will analyze community interests, expectations and opportunities for collaboration, develop administrative and governance structure of the Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund (FRLF), create a business plan for the FRLF and capitalize the FRLF, building on seed capital provided by the state of California. It would be our hope that such a grant will build the bridge to get us to a future retaining our fishing heritage and public access in coastal harbors while protecting our other invaluable coastal resources.



Rick Algert  
Harbor Director

/sl

cc: City Manager  
Mayor and City Council  
Public Services Director  
California Coastal Conservancy, Douglas Bosco  
Environmental Defense, Rod Fujita  
Fishing Heritage Group

**Exhibit 3: Letters of Support**

Copies sent to: BB  
Date: 8-8-05

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**Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's  
Organization Inc.**

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P.O. BOX 450, MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA 93443  
(805) 772-4893 • FAX (805) 772-4893 • fish@fix.net

Mike Chrisman, Resources Secretary, Chair of the Ocean Protection Council  
Email (preferred mode for sending in comments): ccrsgcomments@resources.ca.gov  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-5656  
(916) 653-8102 fax

Dear Mr. Chrisman:

We are writing to express our support for the establishment of the Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund authorized by the California Ocean Protection Act, and for a grant to Environmental Defense and Shorebank Enterprise Pacific to develop the Fund.

As harbor masters and fishermen, we treasure the rich heritage of California's fisheries as well as the revenues that support our coastal communities. The fishing heritage of central California's harbors is iconic, inextricably woven into the state's history and culture. Moreover, this heritage is alive today -- commercial fishing and working harbors provide significant benefits to society, including fresh seafood, tax revenue, tourist attractions, and economic benefits that ripple through coastal communities and the nation. Some communities have been almost entirely dependent on fishing for generations. But California's fishing heritage is at risk.

Starting in the early 1990's, fishing opportunities for west coast groundfish -- e.g., halibut, black cod (sablefish) rockfish (snapper), and flatfish -- have become increasingly constrained as a result of reductions in total allowable catch. Efforts to keep the fishery open year-round resulted in smaller and smaller trip limits, making it difficult for fishermen to make a living, and for ports to maintain revenues. The establishment of very large areas closed to rockfishing resulted in further economic distress. As a result, the working harbors of the central California coast have become fragile -- their health linked to increasingly stringent and ever-changing fishing regulations, declining or highly variable fish landings, and reduced revenues. These factors in turn tend to discourage new investment and new business initiatives that are related to fisheries.

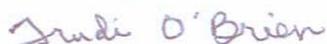
### Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

California has excellent laws and policies like the Marine Life Management Act that incorporate ecosystem management principles, but implementation has been constrained by lack of funding and institutional capacity. We therefore support the establishment of a Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund, as authorized by the California Ocean Protection Act. The FRLF would invest in fisheries that commit to improvements in management measures, fishing capacity, gear changes, research, value-added processing and marketing, or other changes that can be expected to improve financial and conservation performance.

The result will be more profitable fisheries that are doing more to conserve fish stocks and their habitats. Loans from the FRLF would be repaid, allowing for investment in other fisheries and creating a sustainable source of financing.

We also support a planning grant to Environmental Defense, which, with Shorebank Enterprise Pacific, will: analyze stakeholder interests, expectations, and opportunities for collaboration; develop the administrative and governance structure of the FRLF; create a business plan for the FRLF; and capitalize the FRLF, building on seed capital provided by the state.

Sincerely,

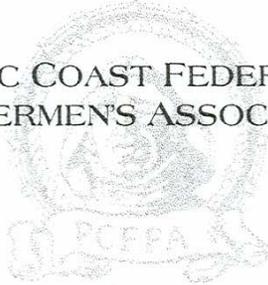


Trudi O'Brien  
Secretary of Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization

### Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

Chuck Wise  
President  
David Bitts  
Vice-President  
Larry Miyamura  
Secretary  
Marlyse Battistella  
Treasurer  
*In Memoriam:*  
Nathaniel S. Bingham  
Harold C. Christensen

## PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS



W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Glen H. Spain  
Northwest Regional Director  
Mitch Farro  
Fishery Enhancement Director  
Vivian Bolin  
Watershed Conservation Director  
Duncan MacLean  
Salmon Advisor

Please Respond to:  
 California Office  
P.O. Box 29370  
San Francisco, CA 94129-0370  
Tel: (415) 561-5080  
Fax: (415) 561-5464

<http://www.pcffa.org>

Northwest Office  
P.O. Box 11170  
Eugene, OR 97440-3370  
Tel: (541) 689-2000  
Fax: (541) 689-2500

25 August 2005

Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary  
California Resources Secretary  
Chair of the Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary <sup>Mike</sup> Chrisman:

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), representing working men and women in the west coast commercial fishing fleet, supports the establishment of a Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund authorized by the California Ocean Protection Act, and for a grant to Environmental Defense and Shorebank Enterprise Pacific to develop the Fund. PCFFA, in fact, supported the concept of a revolving loan fund for the fisheries in the California Ocean Protection Act legislation.

California has many productive fisheries in state waters, but, many have the potential for much better financial and environmental performance. The fisheries have often been hampered by lack of funding and institutional capacity, but wise investments in governance, enforcement, and marketing could help bolster our fisheries even further. I therefore support the establishment of a Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund.

The FRLF would invest in fisheries that commit to improvements such management measures, gear changes, research, value-added processing, marketing, or other changes. The goal of the loan is to provide much needed capital to improve fisheries' financial and conservation performance. The loans would be repaid through assessments on the resulting more profitable fisheries, at a rate and timeline appropriate for each loan recipient, thereby allowing invest in other fisheries. The result will be more profitable fisheries that are doing more to conserve fish stocks and their habitats.

We also support a planning grant to Environmental Defense, which, with Shorebank Enterprise Pacific, will analyze stakeholder interests, expectations, and opportunities for collaboration; develop the administrative and governance structure of the FRLF; create a business plan for the FRLF; and develop a plan for leveraging the FRLF, building on seed capital provided by the state.

Sincerely,

W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.  
Executive Director

STEWARDS OF THE FISHERIES

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



me/BB

MONTEREY BAY  
AQUARIUM

Copies sent to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 8-10-05

August 10, 2005

Mike Chrisman, Chairman  
California Ocean Protection Council  
California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Support for Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund from the California Ocean Protection Trust Fund

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

Thank you for coming to Monterey today and participating in the roundtable at the aquarium organized by Senator Maldonado's office. It seems clear that the California Ocean Protection Council will play an increasingly important role in enhancing the protection of our ocean resources by making grants from the Ocean Protection Trust Fund. Efforts aimed at improving the health of the state's fisheries would substantially benefit from such support. It will be especially important to find innovative ways to improve the management and viability of our fisheries, while simultaneously fostering healthier ocean ecosystems and coastal communities.

The California Ocean Protection Act calls on the Council to improve the effectiveness of state ocean policies. One such policy, which is set forth in the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA), lays out steps to improve the status of California's fisheries by incorporating essential ecosystem-based management principles. However, implementation of the MLMA has been constrained by a lack of funding and institutional capacity. The decades-long continuous decline in the health of our fisheries suggests that we need to make improving the effectiveness of California's fishery management system a higher priority.

The establishment of a revolving loan fund with support from the Ocean Protection Trust Fund will improve the effectiveness of fishery management in the state by investing in fisheries that commit to measures expected to improve their financial and conservation performance. Loans from the program would be repaid, allowing for investment in other fisheries and creating a sustainable source of financing. Over time, more profitable fisheries would share the costs of management, research, and enforcement with the state, thereby freeing up state funds. A revolving loan program could also be coordinated with other initiatives that promote seafood from sustainable fisheries, such as investments in sustainable seafood labeling, marketing, and distribution.

California's fisheries represent a valuable cultural heritage and terrific source of seafood. By supporting innovative measures such as the revolving loan fund, the Ocean Protection Council will help reverse the current decline in fishery resources, ocean ecosystems, and coastal communities. I commend you for your efforts thus far and look forward to your continued leadership in protecting California's ocean and coastline.

Sincerely,

Michael Sutton  
Vice President and Director  
Center for the Future of the Oceans

### Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



California Coastal and Marine Program  
111 West Topa Topa Street  
Ojai, CA 93023

tel [805] 646.8820  
fax [805] 646.8833  
nature.org

August 10, 2005

Mike Chrisman, Resources Secretary, Chair of the Ocean Protection Council  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-5656  
(916) 653-8102 fax

Douglas Bosco, Chair, California Coastal Commission  
California Coastal Commission  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland California, 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman and Chairman Bosco,

I wanted to write and express my enthusiastic support for the establishment of a Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund [FRLF] that would help California dramatically improve the management of its fisheries and help move the near-shore, crab, groundfish and squid fisheries towards sustainability. The Nature Conservancy has met and talked with dozens of fisherman and women over the past 28 months and we continue to here that most of California's fisheries are over capitalized with too many boats chasing too few fish. There needs to be a concerted public/private effort to reduce fishing capacity, replenish fish stocks, protect habitat and allow the remaining fleets to economically prosper. It appears that the best way to approach this comprehensive effort is a FRLF, either as a stand alone initiative, or coupled with outright buyback programs.

The Conservancy has been involved in trying to reduce the fishing effort of the central coast trawl fleet, which is managed by the PFMC and NOAA; and we are attempting to utilize philanthropic, private sector dollars to reduce trawling effort while simultaneously protecting the seafloor habitat. In a partnership with ED, NOAA Fisheries, the PFMC and trawlers, we have secured protection of 3.8 million acres of seafloor habitat between Pt. Sur and Pt. Conception. We have already purchased one federal trawl permit and have reached price agreement on 5 additional trawl permits and vessels. Of the 22 federal trawl permit holders operating in the central coast region, 17 have submitted their catch history for valuation purposes and have ask TNC for offers to purchase. I inform you about this project only to show that dramatic results can be obtained when you have the fisherman working cooperatively with NGOs and ocean agencies towards a common goal. I feel certain we can replicate that effort in state waters as well.

### Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

Combining a FRLF with private funds and investments could be efficiently coordinated to rationalize our fisheries and make California a leader in producing eco-friendly seafood - which will give the consumer the product they desire as well as add value to the fisherman's annual harvest.

TNC would be pleased to work with ED and Shorebank, should they receive the planning grant they are proposing, if we can be of assistance with financial valuations, marine surveys or other transactional aspects of a FRLF.

Sincerely,



Chuck Cook

Director, Coastal and Marine Program

The Nature Conservancy - California

## Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



Matthew Elliott  
Conservation Director  
Sea Change Management, LLC  
423 Washington St. 4<sup>th</sup> Fl  
San Francisco, CA 94111

August 9, 2004

**Mike Chrisman, Chair, Ocean Protection Council**

Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Douglas Bosco, Chair, California Coastal Commission**

California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Chrisman and Chairman Bosco,

I respectfully write this letter in support of the establishment of a Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund (FRLF), as authorized by the California Ocean Protection Act. My name is Matthew Elliott, and I am the Conservation Director of Sea Change Management, LLC. Sea Change operates a \$20 million investment fund focused on promoting sustainable seafood in North America. Our fund is a double bottom-line fund, financed in part by the Packard Foundation, with an equal focus placed on financial returns and marine conservation benefits.

As you well know, California's fisheries represent a valuable economic and cultural resource. Marine life off of our coasts is both bountiful and diverse. However, over the past century, growth in our ability to efficiently extract fish from the sea has far outpaced the ability of marine life to sustain itself. Management has repeatedly had to restrict harvest levels and close certain areas and seasons to fishing effort. As a result of these necessary effort restrictions, the profitability of many fisheries has been marginalized: in most fisheries a race for fish has ensued. The problem is generally the basic design of the system: a tragedy of the oceanic commons. Our experience with different kinds of fishery management systems around the world (e.g. Iceland, New Zealand, Alaska, British Columbia) has shown that the financial and conservation performance of fisheries can typically be substantially improved. We feel that the FRLF represents one important pathway to do so.

With respect to California, the state already has excellent laws and policies in place, such as the Marine Life Management Act, which incorporate ecosystem management principles. These laws and policies are essential, but their implementation appears to be constrained by lack of funding and institutional capacity. One important piece in remedying this would be to create a designated and revolving fund that would invest in improvements in management measures, fishing capacity, research, or other changes that can be expected to improve financial and conservation performance. This type of capital can provide seed money to

### Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

create long-term fishery and conservation benefits of the type witnessed by the Alaskan halibut or BC groundfish industries.

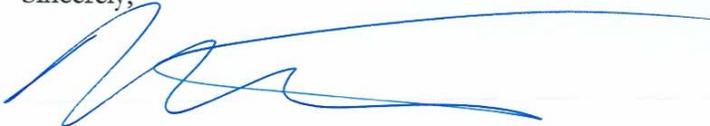
Such investments in improved management systems could also be fruitfully coordinated with ongoing efforts to label, market, and sell environmentally preferable seafood, thereby obtaining price premiums and exploiting new markets for Californian fisheries. A number of businesses that we have been in close contact with are beginning to focus their branding and marketing efforts on environmentally preferable seafood. The market for organic and environmentally preferable food in the United States has been expanding at double-digit growth rates over the past decade. At Sea Change we are working to promote companies that sell and distribute such fish, but our efforts ultimately depend on adequate supplies supported by rational fishery management. Our hope is that the FRLF will help to create more profitable fisheries doing more to conserve fish stocks and their habitats. As designed, loans from the FRLF would be repaid, allowing for investment in other fisheries and creating a sustainable source of financing. Over time, more profitable fisheries would share the costs of management, research, and enforcement with the state, thereby freeing up state funds.

In closing, we also support the proposed planning grant to Environmental Defense, which, with Shorebank Enterprise Pacific, will lay the necessary groundwork for such a fund. Required first steps would likely include analyzing stakeholder interests, expectations, and opportunities for collaboration; developing the administrative and governance structure of the FRLF; creating a business plan for the FRLF; and fully capitalizing the FRLF, by building on seed capital provided by the state.

This is an opportunity for California to be among the foremost actors in fishery reform. A successful model is capable of reaping substantial environmental and economic returns not just in the U.S. but globally.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Matthew Elliott  
415.421.4213 x20  
[matthew@seachangefund.com](mailto:matthew@seachangefund.com)

cc: Kate Bonzon (ED), Jason Winship (Sea Change)

RECEIVED

AUG 10 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BRIAN KREOWSKI** *President*  
**JIM BLECHA** *Vice President*  
**JACK SCARBROUGH** *Secretary*  
**CAROLYN MOFFATT** *Commissioner*  
**JOHN KOEPF** *Commissioner*



**P.O. BOX 249 · AVILA BEACH**  
**CALIFORNIA 93424**  
**(805) 595-5400 · Fax 595-5404**  
**www.portsanluis.com**

**JAY K. ELDER** *Harbor Manager*  
**THOMAS D. GREEN** *Legal Counsel*  
**PHILLIP J. SEXTON,** *Treasurer*

September 15, 2005

Mike Chrisman, Resources Secretary, Chair of the Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chrisman:

I am writing to express my support for the establishment of the Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund authorized by the California Ocean Protection Act, and for a grant to Environmental Defense and Shorebank Enterprise Pacific to develop the Fund.

As a supporter of ocean conservation and sustainable fisheries, we at Port San Luis Harbor District believe that California has enough laws and policies that incorporate ecosystem management principles. However, implementation of these existing laws has been hampered by lack of funding. It is our experience that California fisheries have the potential for much better financial and environmental performance given wise investments in governance, enforcement, and marketing. I therefore support the establishment of a Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund.

The Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund would provide funding for the fisher industries and harbors that commit to improvements in management measures, fishing capacity, gear changes, research, value-added processing and marketing, or other changes that can be expected to improve financial and conservation performance. The loans would be repaid through assessments on the more profitable fisheries, allowing the fund to revolve and invest in other fisheries. The result will be more profitable fisheries and harbors that are doing more to conserve fish stocks and their habitats.

We also strongly support a planning grant to Environmental Defense, in-conjunction with Shorebank Enterprise Pacific, which will: analyze stakeholder interests, expectations, and opportunities for collaboration; develop the administrative and governance structure of the FRLF; create a business plan for the FRLF; and develop a plan for leveraging the FRLF, building on seed capital provided by the state.

Sincerely

Jay Elder, Harbor Manager  
Port San Luis Harbor District

c: Harbor Commission



Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair  
Cruz Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor, Chair of the State Lands Commission  
Alan Lloyd, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Sheila Kuehl, State Senator, Ex officio Member  
Pedro Nava, State Assemblymember, Ex officio Member

September 15, 2005

Dear Chair Christman:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the items under the Project Section in the September 23, 2005 agenda.

**A. Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant joint-partnership for Ocean and Coastal Research**

I would like to lend my support to the Ocean Protection Council and Sea Grant joint-partnership for ocean and coastal research. Many excellent reasons for supporting the partnership are mentioned in the letter of support from Dr. Ingram. Thus, I would like to like to second her points. I would also add that the rate at which information is growing makes such a partnership an excellent benefit to the state, which has the near impossible job of carrying out a number of regulatory functions and simultaneously gathering and interpreting new information as it becomes available. This type of partnership should aid the state in acquiring the information it has identified as needed, as well as aiding the state by examining subject areas that will arise in the next five years.

**B. Sustainable Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund planning project**

I lend my strongest support to this aspect of the agenda. As an elected official on a local water district, I have seen the Water Recycling Fund (previously referred to as SWRCB revolving fund) support many excellent projects. The low interest rate and the fact that the funds are repaid, allows the program to continue producing results through funds being available for future projects from which all Californians can benefit.

**C. California and World Oceans Conference '06**

I also believe that such a conference would help the visibility of the program and also extend the knowledge of the State.

## **D. Consideration of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program**

No comment.

Sincerely,

Betty H. Olson, PhD.  
Professor  
Dept. Environmental Health Science and Policy  
Dept. Community and Environmental Medicine  
University of California, Irvine