

Exhibit 2: Letters of Support



April 11, 2006

Mr. Mike Chrisman  
Secretary of Resources  
Resources Agency  
1416 9th St. Rm 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Funding for Ocean Protection Council Executive Officer Position

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of The Ocean Conservancy's 30,000 California members, I'm writing to encourage the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), to fund the position of an Executive Officer to coordinate and direct the efforts of the OPC. The Ocean Protection Act is a landmark law that is setting a model for the nation on how a state Ocean Protection Council can address the many challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century ocean management.

An Executive Officer for the OPC will supplement and help focus the excellent work currently being performed by staff to the Commission. Funding for this position will ensure that the OPC provides the vision and policy direction necessary to restore and manage California's ocean heritage.

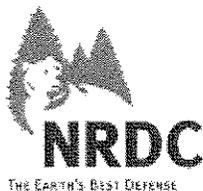
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

*Warner Chabot*

Warner Chabot  
Vice President for Regional Operations

c.c. Brian Baird  
Sam Schuchat



April 14, 2006

BY FAX (916-653-8102) AND MAIL

Secretary Michael Chrisman  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Executive Policy Officer for Ocean Protection Council**

Dear Secretary Chrisman and members of the OPC:

The Natural Resources Defense Council supports allocating funds for a high-level Executive Policy Officer to ensure that California, through its Ocean Protection Council, fulfills the mission charted by the California Ocean Protection Act and carries out other innovative laws like the Marine Life Management Act and the Marine Life Protection Act.

As you know, the state has taken the message of the two national blue ribbon ocean commissions to heart, and has become a leader in passing laws that can better protect ocean life and habitat and special ocean places. But turning these laws into real gains in the water is a big challenge. It requires an ongoing commitment to implementation, efforts to connect that work with water quality programs, raising additional funds and deploying them in an optimal way. We believe that a high-level staff person dedicated to carrying out COPA is essential if the state is to achieve the goals it has set.

We therefore urge you to allocate, at your April 20 meeting, sufficient funds to support a high level executive policy officer for the Ocean Protection Council.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Garrison', is written over a horizontal line.

Karen Garrison

Cc: OPC members



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MONTEREY BAY  
AQUARIUM

April 19, 2006

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

**Re: Support for the California Ocean Protection Council Executive Policy Officer position**

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

The landmark California Ocean Protection Act (COPA) sets out a bold mandate for the Ocean Protection Council to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ocean governance within our state. Appropriately, council members represent the highest-level officials responsible for state actions that directly impact ocean and coastal health. The council requires the support of dedicated staff to help it fulfill its important and far-reaching mission.

I'm writing to encourage the council to allocate sufficient funds to create and sustain the Executive Policy Officer position. The incumbent will carry out several vital tasks in support of the broad range of council initiatives as prescribed in COPA, which include improving coordination and collaboration between state agencies, improving the collection and sharing of science and information, recommending legislative changes to improve ocean and coastal management, and communicating state needs and recommendations at the federal level.

The ambitious goals laid out in COPA require that the Executive Policy Officer be a highly sophisticated and strategic thinker. The incumbent will not only be in charge of planning and implementing council policies and programs, he or she will also work closely with state agency personnel and with the council's science advisory panel to make the council's emerging vision for the future of ocean and coastal management a reality. We urge you to provide full support for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sutton", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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