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January 30, 2007

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Laura Engeman, Project Manager

RE: Support for California Ocean Science Trust: Building Scientific Capacity and Coordination Project.

Dear Secretary Chrisman;

We are writing to express our support for the designation of the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust (CalOST) as science adviser to the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), and for CalOST's role in coordinating and disseminating information regarding scientific issues facing the Ocean Protection Council and other California state agencies.

These are critical steps towards creating the essential Science Advisory Team and an Ocean Synthesis Center, which we feel would greatly advance the ability of the OPC to successfully implement marine ecosystem-based management.

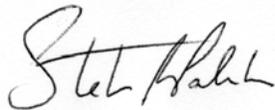
Previously, we had strongly recommended the following actions for the OPC to integrate most cutting-edge marine science into their work: (1) create a Science Advisory Team, and (2) create an Ocean Synthesis Center in which researchers would be guided by the highest priority management questions, integrate and analyze available scientific data and provide answers to the OPC and the public in a way that can be applied to management.

Through CalOST and its Executive Director, now designated as the science advisor to the OPC, this project will take critical steps towards achieving these goals by the creation of a standing committee to serve the purpose of the OPC Science Advisory Team as outlined in the OPC strategic plan; the development of science advisory groups to address critical and emerging scientific issues; improved distribution and coordination of scientific information; and the incorporation of cutting edge scientific information into potential OPC and state agency actions.

We look forward to working with the OPC, the Science Advisor and CalOST to ensure that these steps do make an impact, and that California uses the best available science while setting marine policy. We will be happy to continue discussions and offer our support.

We encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that this project is a high priority for funding at its next public meeting.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Palumbi
Professor of Biological Sciences, Stanford University
Co-PI, Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies for the Coastal Oceans (PISCO)
Executive Council and Senior Scientist, Communications Partnership for Science and the Sea (COMPASS)
Communications Committee co-chair, Stanford Institute for the Environment
Member, MLPA Science Advisory Team



Adina Abeles
California Science-Policy Coordinator, COMPASS
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RE: Support for California Ocean Science Trust: Building Scientific Capacity and Coordination Project.

Dear Mr. Chrisman;

I want to express my strong support for the designation of the Executive Director of the California Ocean Science Trust (CalOST) as science adviser to the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), and for CalOST's role in coordinating and disseminating information regarding scientific issues facing the Ocean Protection Council and other California state agencies. California is leading the nation in ocean research and protection due to the actions of the governor and also you and the Ocean Protection Council. What is before you represents one more important step in an evolving process of governance, research, education and outreach that other states are watching for guidance. We are playing a key role with an opportunity to set examples for other states.

The proposal you will be considering addresses the OPC's goals of ensuring that future actions are based on solid science, and bring the best scientists together to analyze complex coastal management issues. Through CalOST and its Executive Director, now designated as the science advisor to the OPC, this project will accomplish the following:

- the creation of a standing committee to serve the purpose of the OPC Science Advisory Team as outlined in the OPC strategic plan,
- the development of science advisory groups to address critical and emerging scientific issues, improved distribution and coordination of scientific information, and the incorporation of cutting edge scientific information into potential OPC and state agency actions.

These efforts are necessary steps toward OPC's overarching goal of improving scientific understanding of our coastal and ocean ecosystems.

By supporting the project, the Ocean Protection Council is joining with the California Ocean Science Trust to maximize the application of scientific information and of state agency efforts. The project will also provide a valuable link between scientists, the OPC, and state resource managers to address existing and emerging scientific issues related to California's ocean and coastal resources management.

I chair the University of California Marine Council, which represents about 500 marine scientists on eight University of California campuses, and one of our major objectives in coming together seven years ago was to be able to not only work together on coastal ocean issues, research, and outreach, but also to have a mechanism and focal point for our interaction with state agencies. Now that the OPC is up and running, I see even more potential and benefits to a working partnership and want to offer our help in providing access to University of California marine scientists to support the OPC and the need for scientific advisors.

I believe that this is a high priority project and encourage its support and funding by the Ocean Protection Council at its next public meeting.

Sincerely,



Gary B. Griggs
Director-Institute of Marine Sciences
Chair-University of California Marine Council

February 2, 2007

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
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The proposed project addresses the OPC's goals to ensure future actions are based on sound science, and to bring the best scientists together to analyze complex marine and coastal management issues. Once approved, the project will: (a) strengthen the scientific basis for, and credibility of decision-making about California's ocean resources, including ongoing MPA designation processes like the MLPA; (b) improve the timely flow of key information among scientists, stakeholders and policy makers; (c) create the capacity to anticipate, assess and respond to emerging environmental issues before they reach crisis proportions; and (d) strengthen the ability to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of ocean management measures, and to develop appropriate adaptive management responses to evolving trends in ecosystem health.

California continues to lead the nation at the forefront of enlightened ocean management. The Ocean Protection Council and the Ocean Science Trust are crucial components of that leadership role. I strongly support their efforts and this specific proposal.

Sincerely,

(submitted electronically)

Charles M. Wahle, Ph.D.
Director
MPA Science Institute
National MPA Center
Monterey, CA