State of California – The Resources Agency ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

http://www.dfg.ca.gov

Marine Region

20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100

Monterey, CA 93940

HELP CALIFORNIA CONSERVE ENERGY

January 18, 2007

Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Director, Reef Check California Program
Reef Check Foundation
P.O. Box 1057
17575 Pacific Coast Highway
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-1057

Re: Reef Check California's volunteer monitoring of marine resources

Dear Dr. Shuman:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) is pleased to be working with the Reef Check California Program on your volunteer monitoring program. The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) specifically recognizes the role of monitoring projects to help design new MPA networks as well as assist with the adaptive management of existing MPAs. In addition, the MLPA Master Plan Framework notes the importance of volunteer monitoring programs to help supplement data needs and provide educational and outreach opportunities.

Reef Check's California Program provides the basis to establish a long-term standardized monitoring program in southern California consistent with Department protocols. The Department has worked closely with Reef Check through the development of their California program on the central coast to ensure the data collected can be used to help guide the MLPA process and adaptive management of MPAs. In addition to providing useful scientific data in a cost effective manner, Reef Check California provides unique educational and recreational opportunities for members of the public who would otherwise not have opportunities to become directly involved in MPA monitoring.

I look forward to seeing the project's results and applying them to Department management of marine resources.

Sincerely,

John Ugoretz
Nearshore Ecosystem Coordinator

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5108
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4023
FAX (916) 324-4823

DISTRICT OFFICES
10951 WEST PICO BLVD., SUITE 202
LOS ANGELES, CA 90064
TEL (310) 441-9084
FAX (310) 441-0724

300 WEST THIRD ST., 4TH FLOOR
OXNARD, CA 93030
TEL (805) 486-3776
FAX (805) 486-4279

# California State Senate

SENATOR
SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT
CHAIR
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION, EFFICIENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY
HEALTH
JUDICIARY
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIR, BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW, SUBCOMMITTEE 2 ON RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENERGY
HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEES ON AGING & LONG TERM CARE STEM CELL RESEARCH OVERSIGHT
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON DELTA RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEES:
CHAIR, HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA
CHAIR, SCHOOL SAFETY
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES & MENTAL HEALTH
PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATION
JOINT COMMITTEE:
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS

NKL

January 16, 2007

Honorable Mike Chrisman, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Reef Check California Project

Dear Secretary Chrisman,

I am writing to lend my strong support to Reef Check Foundation's request for funding for their California Project, a project designed to expand their existing community-based monitoring program into a statewide network. Reef Check's monitoring program currently provides critical data on sub-tidal resources on California's central coast; expansion will greatly aid us in implementing the Marine Life Protection and Marine Life Management Acts in the rest of the state.

The Reef Check California Program helps to fulfill the mandate of the California Ocean Protection Act by directly addressing two of the primary objectives listed in the Ocean Protection Council's Five-Year Strategic Plan: Research and Monitoring, and Education. Reef Check's data will be used to improve our understanding of ocean and coastal ecosystems and will also provide critical baselines against which to evaluate management measures. The educational and outreach components of the program will promote ocean and coastal awareness and stewardship by directly involving ocean-users in both data collection and data assessment.

If the MLPA is to be successfully implemented, a number of challenges unique to southern California need to be overcome. Reef Check California will help meet these challenges through their rigorous approach to monitoring and through their ability to engage diverse ocean-users in support of science-based ocean management programs.

I strongly support this program. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila J. Kuehl

SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
Senator, 23rd District

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

CAPITOL OFFICE:
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
PH: (916) 651-4039
FAX: (916) 327-2188

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2445 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 200
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
PH: (619) 645-3133
FAX: (619) 645-3144

# California State Senate

SENATOR
CHRISTINE KEHOE
THIRTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES:
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHAIR
- BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
- ENERGY, UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS
- NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER
- TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

JOINT COMMITTEES:
- HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, CHAIR
- ARTS

SELECT COMMITTEES:
- DEFENSE AND AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH

MEMBER:
- CALIFORNIA CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ENDOWMENT
- CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CAUCUS
- SEA GRANT ADVISORY PANEL

January 11, 2007

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Reef Check California Project

Dear Chairman Chrisman:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Reef Check California Project.

The request for funding by the Reef Check Foundation will facilitate the expansion of its community monitoring program into a statewide network. Already providing critically needed data on sub tidal resources on California's central coast, expansion of the program into a statewide network will help pave the way for the effective implementation of the Marine Life Protection (MLPA) and Marine Life Management Acts on a statewide level.

The Reef Check California Program is fulfilling the mandate of the California Ocean Protection Act by directly addressing two of the primary objectives listed in the Ocean Protection Council Five-Year Strategic Plan--Research/Monitoring and Education. The data collected by the Reef Check California Program will improve understanding of ocean and coastal ecosystems and provide critical baselines to evaluate management measures. The educational and outreach components of the program will promote ocean and coastal awareness and stewardship by directly involving ocean users in both data collection and data assessment.

A variety of unique challenges needs to be overcome for the successful implementation of the MLPA in southern California. Reef Check California will help overcome these challenges through its rigorous approach to monitoring and engagement of diverse ocean users to support science-based ocean management programs.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Kehoe

CHRISTINE KEHOE
Senator, 39th District

CK:lsb

Cc: Deborah Hirst, Project Manager

E7c

*Advocates for Wild, Healthy Oceans*

The Ocean Conservancy

Santa Barbara Field Office
714 Bond Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805.687-2322 ph
805.687-5635 f
www.oceanconservancy.org

January 11, 2007

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

Re: Support for Reef Check California Project

Dear Chairman Chrisman,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Reef Check California Project.

Funding for the Reef Check Foundation will facilitate the expansion of their community monitoring program into a statewide network. Already providing critically needed data on subtidal resources on California's central coast, expansion of the program into a statewide network will provide critical data needed for effective implementation of the Marine Life Protection and Marine Life Management Acts on a statewide level.

The Reef Check California Program is fulfilling the mandate of the California Ocean Protection Act by directly addressing two of the primary objectives listed in the OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan; Research/Monitoring and Education. The data collected by the Reef Check California Program will improve understanding of ocean and coastal ecosystems and provide critical baselines to evaluate management measures. The educational and outreach components of the program will promote ocean and coastal awareness and stewardship by directly involving ocean users in both data collection and data assessment.

A variety of unique challenges need to be overcome for the successful implementation of the MLPA in southern California. Reef Check California will help overcome these challenges through their rigorous approach to monitoring and engagement of diverse ocean users to support science-based ocean management programs.

I personally attended the 2006 southern California ReefCheck training, and can attest to the rigor and professionalism of this program. I believe it will provide an outstanding contribution to the important goals of California in effective management of ocean resources.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory Helms
Program Manager, Channel Islands

Cc: Deborah Hirst, Project Manager

NRDC
THE EARTH'S BEST DEFENSE

January 18, 2007

Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Deborah Hirst, Project Manager

Re: Support for Reef Check California Project

Dear Chairman Chrisman,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Reef Check California Project.

The requested funding by the Reef Check Foundation will facilitate expansion of their community monitoring program into a statewide network. Already providing critically needed data on subtidal resources on California's central coast, the program will provide more extensive benefits if expanded into a statewide network. That expansion will help lay the foundation for effective implementation of the Marine Life Protection and Marine Life Management Acts on a statewide level.

The Reef Check California Program is fulfilling the mandate of the California Ocean Protection Act by directly addressing two of the primary objectives listed in the OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan; Research/Monitoring and Education. Data collected by the Reef Check California Program will improve understanding of ocean and coastal ecosystems and provide baseline information needed to evaluate management measures. The educational and outreach components of the program will promote ocean and coastal awareness and stewardship by directly involving ocean users in both data collection and data assessment.

A variety of challenges need to be overcome for successful implementation of the MLPA in southern California. Reef Check California will help address these challenges through its rigorous approach to monitoring, development of a database that has buy-in from varied interests, and engagement of diverse ocean users to support science-based ocean management programs.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Garrison
Co-Director, NRDC Oceans Program

Cc: Deborah Hirst, Project Manager

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JAN 22 2007
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

CALIFORNIA ABALONE ASSOCIATION, INC.
NO. 6 HARBOR WAY, BOX 155
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93109

January 4, 2007

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

Re: Support for Reef Check California Project

Dear Chairman Chrisman,

The California Abalone Association (CAA) is writing to express its strong support for the Reef Check California Project. Association members recently worked with Reef Check volunteers in a red abalone data collection project at San Miguel Island. Their knowledge of California fishery issues, their concern for the ocean environment, and their commitment to processes that will further responsible resource management are only a few of the reasons the CAA is willing to support their request for funding.

Their request for funding will facilitate the expansion of their community-monitoring program into a statewide network. Since Reef Check already provides critically needed data on subtidal resources on California's central coast, expansion of the program into a statewide network will help pave the way for the effective implementation of the Marine Life Protection and Marine Life Management Acts on a statewide level.

The Reef Check California Program is fulfilling the mandate of the California Ocean Protection Act by directly addressing two of the primary objectives listed in the OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan; Research/Monitoring and Education. The data collected by the Reef Check California Program will improve understanding of ocean and coastal ecosystems and provide critical baselines to evaluate management measures. The educational and outreach components of the program will promote ocean and coastal awareness and stewardship by directly involving ocean users in both data collection and data assessment.

A variety of unique challenges need to be overcome for the successful implementation of the MLPA in Southern California. Reef Check California will help overcome these challenges through their rigorous approach to monitoring and engagement of diverse ocean users to support science-based ocean management programs.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Voss, President
California Abalone Association
(805) 964-6496 or 698-8353

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JAN 08 2007
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OAKLAND, CALIF.

c: Deborah Hirst, Project Manager

RESOURCES LAW GROUP, LLP

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916.442.4880 916.442.4193 (FAX) www.resourceslawgroup.com

January 16, 2007

**VIA MAIL**

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

Re: **Support for Reef Check California Project**

Dear Chairman Chrisman:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Reef Check California Project.

The request for funding by the Reef Check Foundation will facilitate the expansion of their community monitoring program into a statewide network. Already providing critically needed data on subtidal resources on California's central coast, expansion of the program into a statewide network will help pave the way for effective implementation of the Marine Life Protection Action and the Marine Life Management Act.

The Reef Check California Program is fulfilling the mandate of the California Ocean Protection Act by directly addressing two of the primary objectives listed in the OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan: Research/Monitoring and Education. The data collected by the Reef Check California Program will improve understanding of ocean and coastal ecosystems and provide critical baseline information for evaluating management measures. The educational and outreach components of the program will promote ocean and coastal awareness and stewardship by directly involving ocean users in both data collection and data assessment.

A variety of unique challenges must be overcome for the successful implementation of the MLPA and the MLMA. Reef Check California will help overcome these challenges through their rigorous approach to monitoring and through engagement of diverse ocean users to support science-based ocean management.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike L. Weber
Program Officer,
California Coastal Marine Initiative

cc: Deborah Hirst, Project Manager

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