

May 13, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Chrisman,

As co-chairs of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, we would like to express our support for the *Ocean and Coastal Community Call for Action* and ask the California Ocean Protection Council to adopt the resolution at its upcoming meeting on May 15, 2008.

The *Call for Action* promotes the establishment of a national ocean trust fund; supports federal funding for preparation for the impacts of climate change; and calls for the reauthorization of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

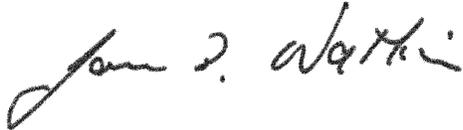
A central recommendation of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, which we respectively chaired, was the creation of a national ocean trust fund. The Joint Initiative believes the fund would provide vital resources for federal and state programs working toward the management and preservation of our oceans and coastal areas.

Preparing for the impacts of climate change is critical for both our environment and our economy, and coastal areas are among the first to feel the impacts from the effects of climate change, including coastal erosion and sea level rise. The *Call to Action's* support of federal and local efforts to prepare for the effects of climate change is an important step toward preserving crucial coastal habitats.

The Joint Initiative supports strengthening national ocean policy by implementing a series of regional governance mechanisms in order to achieve a more coordinated, ecosystem-based management approach for improving ocean and coastal health. The Coastal Zone Management Act is one piece in the larger governance structure, and the Joint Initiative believes it is very important that this Act be reauthorized and reinvigorated.

We applaud the California Ocean Protection Council on its leadership on ocean and coastal issues and will continue to look to leading states like California for guidance on advancing meaningful ocean policy reforms that result in health and sustainable oceans, coasts, and communities.

Sincerely,



James D. Watkins  
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy



The Honorable Leon E. Panetta  
Chair, Pew Oceans Commission

cc: Kristen Fletcher, Executive Director, Coastal States Organization

SAM FARR  
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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May 14, 2008

Chairman Mike Chrisman  
Members of the California Ocean Protection Council  
California Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Re: Agenda Item #2 – OPC Resolution on National Ocean Policy Priorities

Dear Chairman Chrisman and Ocean Protection Council Members:

I appreciate the Ocean Protection Council's consideration of the Coastal States Organization "Call to Action." When you consider this Agenda item, I respectfully request that you consider a separate, supplemental action to put the Ocean Protection Council on record in support of H.R. 21, the Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. This legislation is complementary to the priorities identified by CSO's call to action and has been endorsed by the CSO.

California leads the country in environmental management. Since my time in the state legislature, I have championed the protection of oceans and coastal resources. As a Member of Congress from California, I introduced the Oceans Act of 2000 which established the US Commission on Ocean Policy.

The US Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission established a vision for the future of our oceans and coasts. The Coastal States Organization's "Call to Action" continues that vision. H.R. 21, also known as Oceans-21 was first introduced in 2004 to implement this new vision for ocean management by putting the recommendations of the US Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission into law.

The Coastal States Organization Call to Action asks for a "constitution" for the coast, a national ocean trust fund, and adaptation to climate change. Oceans-21 will create a national policy for the protection, maintenance, and restoration of marine ecosystem health. The bill will also form Regional Ocean Partnerships that can allow cooperation and coordination between coastal states, Federal agencies, and local stakeholders to develop and implement plans for cooperative ocean management. Oceans-21 will create an oceans trust fund to provide the funding for these regional management plans.

It is shocking that with so much at stake, we do not yet have the tools in place to ensure that our ocean ecosystems and resources become and remain healthy and productive. We have a chance to turn this situation around and to keep the oceans productive and balanced for future generations. I urge you to support the national policy to protect and restore our ocean ecosystems and resources in OCEANS-21(H.R. 21).

I would welcome a separate statement or resolution by the Ocean Protection Council in support of HR 21.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Farr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and last name "Farr" clearly distinguishable.

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

116 Montgomery St.  
Suite 810  
San Francisco CA 94105



Ocean Conservancy  
*Start a Sea Change*

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May 13, 2008

Chairman Mike Chrisman  
Members of the California Ocean Protection Council  
California Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Re: Agenda Item #2 – Support for OPC Resolution to endorse the CSO “**Ocean and Coastal Community Call for Action**”

Dear Chairman Chrisman and Ocean Protection Council Members:

The following organizations working on coastal and ocean protection, support adoption by the Ocean Protection Council of the resolution presented by Brian Baird in support of “Call for Action” by the Coastal States Organization (Agenda item #2). This “**Call for Action**” reflects several priorities from two national, blue-ribbon commissions on ocean policy. A national (coast and ocean) trust fund, local and state programs to address climate change and a strong Coastal Zone Management Act will significantly contribute to the health, productivity and sustainability of our ocean resources.

Respectfully,

*Warner Chabot*

Warner Chabot  
Ocean Conservancy

David Lewis  
Save San Francisco Bay

Gary Patton  
Planning and Conservation League

Paul Mason  
Sierra Club

Erika Feller  
The Nature Conservancy

Ed Cassano  
Center for the Future of the Oceans

Steve Shimek  
The Otter Project

Jim Curlan  
Defenders of Wildlife



**California Coastal Coalition**  
**1133 Second Street Suite G**  
**Encinitas, CA 92024**

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**STEVEN ACETI, J.D.**  
*Executive Director*

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May 14, 2008

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

**Re: Agenda Item #2 – Support for adoption of a resolution to endorse the Ocean and Coastal Community Call for Action**

Dear Secretary Chrisman,

On behalf of the board of directors and membership of the California Coastal Coalition (CalCoast), I would like to express our strong support for the Ocean and Coastal Community Call for Action (Call for Action) and urge the California Ocean Protection Council to adopt the resolution at its upcoming meeting on May 15, 2008.

CalCoast is a non-profit advocacy group comprised of 35 coastal cities; five counties; the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the San Diego Association of Area Governments and the Southern California Association of Governments; along with business associations and allied groups committed to restoring California's coast through sand replenishment, increasing the flow of natural sediment, wetlands recovery, improved water quality and the abatement of marine debris.

The Call for Action promotes the establishment of a national ocean trust fund, supports federal funding for preparation for the impacts of climate change and calls for the reauthorization of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

A central recommendation of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission was the creation of a national ocean trust fund. CalCoast believes the creation of such a fund would provide vital resources for federal and state programs working toward the management and preservation of our oceans and coastal areas.

**CalCoast is an advocacy organization comprised of coastal communities and interest groups**

[www.calcoast.org](http://www.calcoast.org)

Preparing for the impacts of climate change is critical to both California's environment and its economy, and coastal areas will be among the first to feel the impacts of climate change, including coastal erosion, degradation of wetlands and sea level rise. The Call for Action's support of federal and local efforts to prepare for the effects of climate change is an important step toward preserving crucial coastal habitats.

CalCoast supports strengthening national ocean policy by implementing a series of regional governance mechanisms in order to achieve a more coordinated, ecosystem-based management approach for improving ocean and coastal health. The Coastal Zone Management Act is one piece in the larger governance structure, and our organization believes it is very important that this Act be reauthorized and reinvigorated.

We applaud the OPC on its leadership on ocean and coastal issues since its inception and we are pleased to offer our full support for the Ocean and Coastal Community Call for Action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SA', written in a cursive style.

Steve Aceti  
California Coastal Coalition

c: OPC Members and Staff



May 14, 2008

Mike Chrisman  
Secretary for Resources  
Chair, CA Ocean Protection Council  
California Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chrisman:

The Aquarium of the Pacific (Aquarium) supports the Coast and Coastal Community Call to Action to protect our nation's ocean and coasts, their natural resources, and economic significance.

There is no doubt that the ocean is in crisis and that there is a greatly increased need for urgency. The Aquarium has recently identified 10 major ocean issues that will be the focus of a new exhibit, *Ocean on the Edge*, opening in June 2008. The research and preparation that has gone into developing this exhibit is ample proof to us that the actions called for at the federal level in this Call for Action are needed— establishment of a permanent national ocean trust fund to provide new funding to support ocean and coastal management; support of the efforts of state and local governments to adapt to the changes already being seen from global climate change and develop the necessary steps to minimize and adapt to future changes; and the reauthorization of a modern, reinvigorated Coastal Zone Management Act that will help to ensure the protection of our coastal heritage, coastal communities, resources, and aesthetics.

Four years ago the reports of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy documented the need for action to protect this nation's coasts and ocean. The Aquarium of the Pacific supports the Coast and Coastal Community Call to Action as a step forward in addressing today's ocean issues.

Sincerely,

Aquarium of the Pacific

Jerry Schubel  
President/CEO

## CALL FOR ACTION: PROTECT THE NATION'S OCEANS & COASTS

The **Aquarium of the Pacific** supports this call for action to protect the invaluable natural resources and the economic significance of our nation's oceans and coasts.

In 2004, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy alerted the nation to systematic failures in the protection and management of the nation's coasts and oceans. What's at stake: the environment, jobs, the economy, and human health and safety. The Pew Oceans Commission put it simply: "America's oceans are in crisis and the stakes could not be higher." Both Commissions recommended bold new visions for protecting coastal and ocean resources and related businesses, but the national response has been inadequate. Projected impacts of climate change, especially accelerated sea level rise, have increased the urgency for action. Increasing development pressures along our coasts continue to raise new concerns about the health of coastal waters and habitats. National leadership to address these issues is essential. It is critical for the new Administration and the 111th Congress to take the following actions.

### ESTABLISH A NATIONAL OCEAN TRUST FUND

*The next Administration and the 111th Congress should establish a permanent Ocean Trust Fund with a dedicated source of revenues, growing from \$1 billion per year to \$4 billion per year, as was recommended by both national ocean commissions, to support the management, protection, and understanding of the natural and economic resources along our nation's coasts, oceans, Great Lakes and islands.*

The Trust Fund will support the focused efforts of coastal states, territories and commonwealths, other appropriate coastal authorities, and federal agencies in addressing critical ocean and coastal science, management, and protection needs of our nation. The fund could be supported by revenues from such sources as unallocated federal revenues from offshore uses including oil and gas or alternative energy activities, and revenues from future carbon tax revenues and other sources. The Ocean Trust Fund should provide funds over and above existing appropriations to meet the increasingly complex and unmet needs of ocean and coastal managers.

### ADAPTING TO COASTAL CLIMATE CHANGE

*The next Administration and the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress should support state and local government efforts to prepare for the impacts of coastal climate change.*

Economic and environmental impacts of climate change are expected to be most severe in coastal and Great Lake areas of the United States due to accelerated sea level rise and lake level changes, increased shoreline erosion, heightened storm frequencies or intensities, and saltwater intrusion into coastal rivers and aquifers, among others. While mitigation of greenhouse gases is critical to minimizing future impacts, state and local resource managers have immediate responsibilities to plan for and adapt to these impacts, and must begin by assessing the severity and nature of impacts on coastal communities, industries, infrastructure and natural resources. However, states have significant mapping, monitoring, and research needs and need to strengthen state and local capacities for adaptation planning. This will require an unprecedented national investment and effort that will not succeed without the full engagement and support of the next Administration and Congress.

### ESTABLISH A NEW "CONSTITUTION" FOR THE COAST

*The next Administration and the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress should establish a new "Constitution" for the nation's coast through the re-crafting and re-authorization of a Coastal Zone Management Act that includes a bold vision for addressing the complex coastal issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

Our nation faces a looming coastal crisis resulting from increasing coastal populations and climate change. These shifts in the coastal zone pose a threat to coastal resources, infrastructure and economies, and the very health of the oceans. The Coastal Zone Management Act has created an innovative national partnership to address these issues but the time has come to take bold steps to craft a new national vision for ocean and coastal protection that will be both effective and efficient. This bold vision will set clear priorities, retain existing authorities, maintain and build onto existing programs, strengthen partnerships and assistance to local governments, and prepare for climate change and coastal hazards by focusing on protection and management.



May 14, 2008

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I write this letter to give my enthusiastic endorsement to the Ocean and Coastal Community Call for Action. I believe the idea of establishing a national ocean trust fund is a sound and rational way to ensure that our nation provides adequate resources to protect our oceans and the broad range of economic and social benefits that they provide for our society as the oceans experience unprecedented changes from climate change. I consider this measure to be an important step in drawing attention to the huge role our oceans play in climate change and our need to understand the complex mechanisms that will be and already are impacting all forms of life, including human, from atmospheric greenhouse gases.

I urge you to encourage the Ocean Protection Council members to vote to endorse this measure and to have California set an example for the rest of the states to press for this action as soon as possible.

Thank you for considering my request. I believe we must urgently address these issues and sorely need the financial resources to do so. This trust fund would be an important beginning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith T. Kildow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Judith Kildow  
Director, The National Ocean Economics Program  
Principal, The Ocean Science Summit  
Senior Scientist, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute