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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 Supplemental OPC Resolution Endorsing HR 21

Dear Chairman Chrisman and Ocean Protection Council Members:

In addition to a vote by the Ocean Protection Council in favor of the Coastal States Organization (CSO) "Call for Action", Ocean Conservancy and NRDC urge the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), to consider a second related action. Specifically, we urge the OPC to pass a resolution in support of HR 21, authored by California Congressman Sam, Farr.

Hr 21, is the Ocean Conservation, Education and National Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. It was drafted to directly address and implement the major recommendations of the two national commissions on ocean policy. HR 21 is compatible and complementary to the priorities identified CSO's Call for Action.

This legislation is already endorsed by the Coastal States Organization and 23 members of the California Congressional Delegation as well as leaders of California's major fishing and conservation organizations. We have attached Fact Sheets and letters of support for this major legislation. This bill is expected come up for a vote in the full House Natural Resources Committee before the OPC's next meeting in August.

We hope the OPC will consider a simple resolution at Thursday's meeting in support of HR 21. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

*Warner Chabot'*

Warner Chabot  
Ocean Conservancy

*Ann Notthoff*

Ann Notthoff  
Natural Resources Defense Council

DATE: May 14, 2008  
TO: California Ocean Protection Council  
FROM: Ann Notthoff, NRDC, [anotthoff@nrdc.org](mailto:anotthoff@nrdc.org) (925) 998-2410  
Warner Chabot, Ocean Conservancy [wchabot@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:wchabot@oceanconservancy.org) (510)  
375-2141  
RE: California Support for HR 21 (Farr) – Oceans 21

We request the Council's consideration of this request to support Congressman Farr's bill, HR 21, the Ocean Conservation, Education, National Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (Oceans 21) which will coordinate and improve ocean management at the federal level, much as the California Ocean Protection Act, the statute which established the Ocean Protection Council, has done here in California. You may recall that Leon Panetta and Admiral Watkins, the chairs of the bipartisan national Pew Oceans Commission and National Commission on Ocean Policy, respectively, addressed the OPC over a year ago, asking for your help in promoting improved ocean governance at the federal level. Now is the time to act on that request.

HR 21 just passed out of the House Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee on April 23. Representative Farr hopes to bring it to the full committee before the August recess. This is why we are raising this matter with the OPC at this hearing, because your next scheduled hearing is not until August, too late to weigh in before full committee action. There are compelling reasons for California to support Oceans 21:

- California is a leader in ocean and coastal protection, often setting the pace for the rest of the nation;
- HR 21 enjoys broad support, including support from the Coastal States Organization (CSO), of which California is a leading member (letter attached);
- California members of Congress are in key positions of authority regarding Oceans 21 and hearing from the State on this matter is critical to informing their action. The author of HR 21 (Sam Farr, D – Carmel) is a longtime California ocean champion (letter requesting support attached) and he is joined by 23\* other members of the California delegation as sponsors of the bill. The House Natural Resources Committee which will be voting on HR 21 has 7 California members on it (Napolitano, Costa, Miller, Capps, Baca, Solis, Gallegly) – all of whom will value hearing from the California Ocean Protection Council.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or clarification. Warner will be at the OPC hearing on the 15<sup>th</sup> as will David Beckman of NRDC to address the Council on this issue.

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\*Baca, Berman, Capps, Davis, Eshoo, Filner, Honda, Lee, Lofgren, Matsui, McNerny, Miller, Napolitano, Roybal-Allard, Sanchez, Sanchez, Sherman, Solis, Stark, Tauscher, Thompson, Waxman, Woolsey.