



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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10 November, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I am writing to express the California Department of Fish and Game's (Department's) support of the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC's) efforts to fund ocean monitoring, particularly the monitoring of marine protected areas (MPAs). The Department has reviewed the proposal to provide funds towards baseline MPA monitoring in the remaining Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) coastal study regions and feels this funding will certainly benefit the Department's efforts to monitor MPAs.

Providing funds to the Regents of the University of California, California Sea Grant Program (Sea Grant) will guarantee a minimum level of monitoring in each remaining region. Sea Grant has a proven track record of distributing funds to support research for Department management needs. We are confident that we will be able to work closely with Sea Grant and the Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Enterprise to select the best baseline monitoring projects. Having this guarantee of a good baseline, will ensure that the Department's long-term monitoring process will be founded on sound scientific information.

The Department looks forward to continued collaboration with OPC, the Monitoring Enterprise, Sea Grant and others in this process. If you or your staff have questions or require specific information on the Department's MPA monitoring plans, please contact Mr. John Ugoretz, Marine Resource Assessment Program Manager at 1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9, Santa Barbara, California, 93109 or by phone at (805) 893-5822, or by email at jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sonke Mastrup,
Deputy Director

Cc: John Ugoretz, Monterey

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

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November 19, 2008

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
State of California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Marine Protected Area Baseline Data Collection;
Agenda Item #10**

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I am writing to support your staff recommendation to allocate up to \$12,000,000 for future Marine Protected Area Baseline Data Collection.

Ocean Conservancy has been engaged in the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process since its inception and our organization is deeply committed to the successful implementation of the MLPA statewide. Collection of adequate baseline monitoring is a critical step in the long-term effective management of California's newly adopted network of MPAs.

Last May, Ocean Conservancy wrote to the Ocean Protection Council expressing our support for allocation of Year 2 baseline monitoring funding for the adopted Central Coast MPAs. We strongly support dedication of sufficient OPC funds to cover baseline monitoring efforts in all of the regions of the MLPA. It is our understanding that dedicating these funds for future baseline monitoring will facilitate leveraging of the OPC funding with additional outside sources of funding.

We strongly urge your support of this critical project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaitilin Gaffney". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kaitilin Gaffney
Pacific Ecosystem Protection Program Director