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November 22, 2010

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

RE: Support for Item 8 (b) – funding for California Fish and Game Commission Marine Policy and Technical Services

Dear Secretary Snow:

I am writing to express Ocean Conservancy's support for Ocean Protection Council (OPC) funding to the California Fish and Game Commission to support Marine Policy and Technical Services. It is our understanding that the OPC Council will consider this request at its November 29, 2010 meeting in Sacramento.

Ocean Conservancy works closely with the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) on a variety of ocean management issues and accordingly we are familiar with the Commission's Marine Policy Advisor position. Based on our experience, the Marine Policy Advisor provides important in-depth ocean and marine expertise to the Commission through the Marine Resources Committee (MRC). We believe this position significantly enhances the effectiveness of both the MRC and the Commission itself.

Specifically, the MRC provides an important venue for ocean stakeholders and the public to interact with each other and the Committee members on a wide range of ocean management issues. The MRC allows presentation of scientific information and discussion of complex issues at a level of detail that is necessary to sound decisionmaking but cannot practically be accommodated at full Commission meetings. We believe this venue significantly improves Commission decisionmaking on ocean issues and that the Marine Policy Advisor position is critical to this success and deserves your support.

Thank you for your support for this important position.

Sincerely,

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

Kaitilin Gaffney
Pacific Program Director