



February 13, 2014

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth St., Suite 131
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: copcpublic@resources.ca.gov

Re: NRDC support for authorization to disburse MPA signage funds

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council,

On behalf of our more than one million members and activists, we are writing to support Action Item 6 on the February Ocean Protection Council agenda. Disbursing up to \$350,000 to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation (MBSF) for marine protected area signage is an important, well-informed step in the implementation of California's path-breaking network of MPAs.

Public outreach and education—including signs at coastal access points—are critical to the day-to-day success of California's statewide network of MPAs. To respect the state's new MPAs, visitors need to know what's allowed and where the boundaries are. Signs at land-access and boat-launch sites are a simple and time-tested way to keep the public informed. In addition, interpretive signs help connect people to the local wildlife and inspire them with the story of what California has worked so hard to protect.

MBSF has played a crucial leadership role in developing templates for brochures, recreational fishing guides, and interpretive and regulatory signs in close collaboration with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Its track record is impressive. MBSF has guided the design and installation of 26 interpretive panels and over 100 regulatory signs—with dynamic, interactive content via QR codes—throughout the Central and North Central coasts. This grant would help finish that job and extend it statewide.

Non-profit groups up and down the state, working in partnership with the MBSF, have already donated substantial resources to the siting, planning and design of signs for their local areas. They are ready to move forward to complete the job as soon as these funds are dispersed.

NRDC will be heartened to see OPC and DFW move forward with this cost-effective approach to addressing the need for marine protected area signs. We strongly support this important endeavor, and endorse MBSF as the appropriate entity to manage the project.

Sincerely,

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

Karen Garrison
West Coast Director
NRDC Oceans Program



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A38

February 13, 2014

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
copcpublic@resources.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Laird,

Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) strongly supports the collaborative project proposal submitted by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation (MBSF) for a "Statewide Signage Grant" from the Ocean Protection Council. We have been working with MBSF staff for the past two years to identify signage needs in our region (North Central Coast), and this grant will allow MBSF and their partners to fulfill those plans.

The state network of MPAs is an important component of the National Park Service's mission to protect ecosystems for future generations and we welcome the opportunity to partner with the state and other entities to encourage education, monitoring, and enjoyment of the new MPAs.

The Science and Interpretive staff at PRNS will provide input, logistical and technical support in this collaborative project. Please feel free to contact me at (415) 464-5101 or cicely_muldoon@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Acting for:
Cicely A. Muldoon
Superintendent

cc: Rikki Dunsmore
Danielle Brown

rikki@mbnmsf.org
danielle@mbnmsf.org