



June 4, 2014

The Honorable John Laird, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Long-term Monitoring of Central Coast MPA network

Dear Chairman Laird:

I am writing in support of authorization of funding for continued scientific monitoring of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Central Coast region.

The effectiveness of California's MPAs can only be assessed if a well thought out ecological monitoring plan is in place. In addition, in order to understand whether observed changes to ecosystem features are due to protected status and changes in human use, it is also important to know how the physical environment is changing and what the effects of that may be. For adaptive management to be successful, knowledge of both the biological resources and the ocean environment are necessary. While MPAs may take up only a relatively small amount of ocean real estate, the lessons learned about the interplay between the marine environment and the ecosystem will be applicable to a broader area and can serve other purposes such as validation for coupled physical-ecosystem models.

CeNCOOS is happy to have played a role in the development, implementation and monitoring of MPAs in central and northern California, and we look forward to continued collaboration on the long-term monitoring of the Central Coast MPAs. After all, the CeNCOOS mission is to inform decisions about the ocean in our region, and contributing to smart adaptive management of MPAs certainly falls within that.

The establishment of the MPA network in California, starting with the Central Coast, was a significant achievement. Now is the time to build on that achievement by authorizing funding to enable the monitoring that will allow the assessment and management of those MPAs to their full potential.

Sincerely,

Leslie Rosenfeld, Ph.D.
CeNCOOS Program Director



June 2, 2014

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Catherine.Kuhlman@resources.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Kuhlman:

**SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM MONITORING OF CENTRAL COAST MARINE
PROTECTED AREA NETWORK**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) supports the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for continued monitoring of the central coast marine protected areas (MPAs).

The Department is responsible for managing California's MPAs, and provisions of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) require monitoring and research to facilitate adaptive management of MPAs. The central coast region was the first of four California coastal regions to launch and complete an MPA baseline monitoring program, due in large part to the coordinated efforts and collaboration of the Department, OPC, Ocean Science Trust (OST) MPA Monitoring Enterprise, and California Sea Grant.

Funding for continued monitoring of central coast MPAs will build off the baseline monitoring program that characterized habitats, biological communities, and socioeconomics of the central coast region as well as initial changes since the new and revised MPAs were implemented in 2007. OST, in partnership with the Department, has recently prepared an updated Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan for potential approval by the Fish and Game Commission. OPC funding for implementation of the monitoring plan will enable the Department to adaptively manage the MPA network as mandated by the MLPA.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Marine Region Manager, at (805) 568-1246.

Sincerely,

Charlton H. Bonham
Director



Delivered by electronic mail to: copepublic@resources.ca.gov.

June 5th, 2014

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for disbursement of \$3 million for Central Coast MPA monitoring

Dear Chair Laird and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of the undersigned organizations. We are writing today to offer our enthusiastic support for the disbursement of \$3 million for the long-term monitoring of the Central Coast marine protected area (MPA) network, which you will be considering at your June 10th, 2014 meeting in Sacramento.

As you know, monitoring is a crucial component of effective implementation of any MPA network. A thoughtful and strategic monitoring plan must be fully funded in order to detect the ecological and socioeconomic changes that may result from MPA implementation and to inform future management decisions. These concepts are directly reflected in the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) draft findings, on page 2 of the staff recommendation for this agenda item (#5), which we also urge you to support.

We would like to recognize the excellent work by the Ocean Science Trust, MPA Monitoring Enterprise and Department of Fish and Wildlife in creating the Draft Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan and applaud its efforts to produce a cost-effective—yet thorough—blueprint for measuring MPA effectiveness. Some of us have submitted separate comments on that document.

As our most longstanding MPA network designed and implemented under the Marine Life Protection Act process, the Central Coast MPAs and their findings are a harbinger of what's to come in the rest of the state. For this reason, ongoing monitoring is essential.

We therefore support disbursement of the full \$3 million for the purpose of executing the activities described in the Draft Central Coast Monitoring Plan, as well as the proposed findings detailed the OPC's staff report.

Sincerely,

Samantha Murray
Ocean Conservancy

Laura Kasa
Save our Shores

Steve Shimek
Monterey Coastkeeper
The Otter Project

Karen Garrison
Natural Resources Defense Council

Stefanie Sekich
Surfrider Foundation

Commissioners
Michael Sutton, President
Monterey

Jack Baylis, Vice President
Los Angeles

Jim Kellogg, Member
Discovery Bay

Richard Rogers, Member
Santa Barbara

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Fish and Game Commission



Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
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June 9, 2014

John Laird
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird:

As you know, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) is charged in part with ensuring the long-term sustainability of California's living marine resources, including marine protected areas (MPAs) adopted under its authority. We need access to the best possible scientific information to accomplish our mission. With this in mind, I am writing to support California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) authorization of funds for long-term monitoring of MPAs along the central coast of California.

The Commission supports a robust monitoring program for the central coast MPAs, in accordance with monitoring plans approved by the Commission, and consistent with all of its previous actions, its mandate, and expectations for the statewide MPA network. As the first region to enter into the next phase of MPA monitoring, the central coast provides the opportunity to focus investments on long-term monitoring. On August 6, 2014, the Commission will receive an updated central coast monitoring plan for approval, following an in-depth discussion with the Commission's Marine Resources Committee on July 16, 2014. While the plan is still undergoing public and tribal review, we support the timing of this OPC action.

We appreciate the significant investment OPC has made to date in baseline MPA monitoring projects. Baseline data previously funded by the OPC in the central coast formed the foundation for understanding conditions at the time of implementation. Additional funding provided by OPC will help support the next phase of MPA monitoring, the results of which are of interest not only to the Commission, but also to partner agencies and other decision makers.

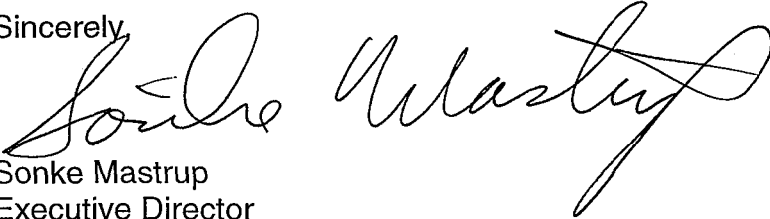
Secretary John Laird

June 9, 2014

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OPC funding, coupled with oversight from the Ocean Science Trust and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, will help improve our management of California's marine resources. As Executive Director of the Commission, I encourage you to approve funding for MPA monitoring along the central California coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonke Mastrup". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director

cc: Members, California Ocean Protection Council
Cat Kuhlman, Executive Director, California Ocean Protection Council, and
Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Matters, California Natural
Resources Agency
Skyli McAfee, Executive Director, California Ocean Science Trust
Members, California Fish and Game Commission



California Water Quality Monitoring Council



Matthew Rodriquez
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

Jonathan Bishop & Paul Helliker, Co-Chairs

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor



John Laird
*Secretary for
Natural Resources*

June 9, 2014

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Water Supply

The Honorable John Laird, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

CENTRAL COAST LONG-TERM MARINE PROTECTED AREA MONITORING

Dear Chairman Laird:

I am writing in support of authorization of funding for the ongoing scientific monitoring of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Central Coast region. California's MPAs are an important ocean resource management tool that enhances the state's ability to protect our unique coastal and marine environments. Monitoring in support of adaptive management is critical not only to evaluate the performance of the MPA network, but also to inform a range of ocean resource management issues, across a variety of agencies and mandates, including water quality. The data collected as part of Central Coast MPA Monitoring will benefit ongoing regional water quality management efforts and further advance the state's collective understanding of how MPAs are impacted by land-based sources of pollution, among other stressors. Water quality data is key to putting observed trends in context, and can illuminate non-MPA drivers of change in MPA analysis. Likewise, Central Coast MPA Monitoring data collected through cost-effective partnerships will be a significant asset for understanding the role of MPAs in a complex system. Several MPAs in the Central Coast are co-located with Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) monitored and maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for water quality, and this co-location provides an important opportunity for co-coordinating data collection, analysis and interpretation.

The California Water Quality Monitoring Council is already engaged with the California Ocean Protection Council and California Ocean Science Trust on identifying how MPA monitoring and water quality data can be effectively managed to inform decision making. We are working on developing a partnerships-based and collaborative approach for the *My Water Quality Ocean Portal* to leverage existing assets and resources. Central Coast MPA monitoring

data will be a valuable source of information to inform decision makers and the public about the health of California's ocean.

Thank you for your continued leadership on ocean issues, including your commitment to incorporating sound science. I strongly support Council authorization for MPA monitoring in the Central Coast. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director
Co-Chair, California Water Quality Monitoring Council
Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board