



eac

Environmental Action Committee "Protecting West Marin since 1971"



June 17, 2020

VIA Electronic Transmission to: COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

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

Re: Support for Communications Strategy for 2022 Adaptive Management Review, Item 6b

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The undersigned organizations submit this letter of support for the Communications Strategy for 2022 Adaptive Management Review (Item 6b), which the Ocean Protection Council will consider at its June 19, 2020 meeting.

Our organizations have played a central role in the development and implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) over many years. We are committed to the ongoing success of California's network of marine protected area (MPAs), which now serves as a model for MPA networks around the world.

California's globally recognized MPA network has relied upon both strong science and public engagement to support its design and implementation. Ensuring continued public engagement will be important to the continued success of the network as the State prepares to conduct the first decadal review of the California MPA network. This decadal review will include key findings and recommendations that will shape the adaptive management of the network, with an emphasis on "ecological, socioeconomic, and governance aspects of the network."¹ We agree with the OPC Staff Recommendation that it will be

¹ California Department of Fish and Wildlife, "2016 Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas," wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan (accessed June 16, 2020).

critically important that stakeholders, including a diversity of ocean stakeholders, legislators and decision-makers, are aware of California's MPA management efforts to date.² We also believe that a comprehensive communications strategy will help to encourage ongoing public investment in and stewardship of the network, which has been an important component in its success to date. Finally, as noted by OPC staff, this action is consistent with OPC's Strategic Plan objectives related to MPAs.

By approving funds for this Communications Strategy, the Ocean Protection Council will continue its leadership on MPLA implementation and signal its support for a comprehensive, effective decadal review of California's landmark MPA network.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Murdock
Director, Pacific Ocean Initiative
Natural Resources Defense Council

Andrea Leon-Grossman
Deputy Director
Azul

Alan Arvin
Executive Director
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Morgan Patton
Executive Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)

Kristen Hislop
Marine Conservation Program Director
Environmental Defense Center

Emily Parker
Coastal and Marine Scientist
Heal the Bay

Jennifer Savage
California Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

² Ocean Protection Council, "Communications Strategy for 2022 Adaptive Management Review," www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20200619/Item6b_MPAcommunications_FINAL.pdf (accessed June 16, 2020).