



Californians Against Waste

Conserving Resources. Preventing Pollution. Protecting the Environment.

September 12, 2011

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

RE: Draft Five Year Strategic Action Plan—Support

Dear Secretary Laird,

Californians Against Waste (CAW) appreciates the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) attention to the issue of marine debris pollution. This is a pressing problem that poses a triple threat to California: a threat to our ocean-based economy, a threat to marine wildlife and the environment, and a threat to water quality and public health.

In regards to marine debris issues, the OPC's 2012-2017 draft five year strategic plan makes recommendations to reconvene and expand the membership of the Marine Debris Steering Committee, support the statewide trash policy and industry efforts to reduce plastic packaging, and conduct new analyses on marine debris and the costs of debris cleanup. We are strongly supportive of these recommendations.

We also remain supportive of objectives and priority actions from the Implementation Strategy for the Ocean Protection Council Resolution to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter of 2008, that particularly problematic and nonessential products—polystyrene packaging and single use plastic retail bags—should be 'source reduced' from the market place and that principals of Extended Producer Responsibility should be applied to other disposable plastic products and packaging. Adoption and action on these recommendations represents a key opportunity to prevent pollution and waste, while reducing state and local costs. CAW hopes the OPC would continue to support the recommendations from 2008 in its future plans and actions.

Again, we appreciate the OPC's attention to this critical issue and we urge adoption and implementation of a strategy plan that is commensurate with the scope and magnitude of the marine pollution threat to California's economy, environment and public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Murray".

Mark Murray
Executive Director

cc Members, California Ocean Protection Council