

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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January 16, 2012

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

VIA EMAIL: [opc.comments@scc.ca.gov](mailto:opc.comments@scc.ca.gov)

Dear Secretary Laird:

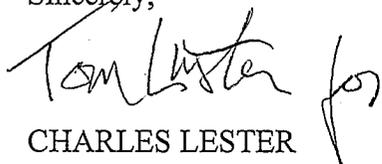
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC's) Revised Draft Strategic Action Plan (the Plan). We are providing these comments in the spirit of continued collaboration in carrying out the complementary missions of the OPC and the Coastal Commission. We appreciate the coordination that has occurred thus far between the OPC and the Commission, and look forward to continuing our work together. These comments build on those we provided on September 12, 2011 in response to the initial draft of the OPC's Plan.

As a general comment, we appreciate that several sections of the Plan acknowledge the need to coordinate with the Coastal Commission and other agencies. In this spirit it may be helpful if the Plan additionally recognized the Coastal Commission's independent role in establishing policies and guidelines and, more important, in carrying out its regulatory authority pursuant to the Coastal Act. For example, the Plan identifies a number of strategies and tools to help California adapt to the effects of climate change on the coast; we recommend that the Plan further acknowledge that many of these approaches may require review and approval by the Coastal Commission and other agencies. In particular, we are looking forward to working with OPC to update Local Coastal Programs to address climate change, as envisioned by the State's Adaptation Plan. We also recommend similar language acknowledging the Commission's potential or actual role under the Coastal Act be included as part of the Plan's chapter on *Existing and Emerging Ocean Uses*.

With respect to the emerging issue of desalination, we appreciate the OPC's attention to the need for the application of best available science, consideration of a desalination as one of multiple potential water supplies in a water "portfolio," and for coordination among the various regulatory agencies. Also, related to our general comment above, we think it is important that the plan acknowledge the very specific and direct role that the Commission plays in the regulation of open water intakes, and in particular, the Commission's emphasis on avoiding such intakes if feasible to avoid entrainment and impingement of marine organisms.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. We will look forward to completion of the OPC's Strategic Plan and to working with the OPC in support of its successful implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Lester for". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

CHARLES LESTER  
Executive Director