



January ¹⁹18, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Laird:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) welcomes this opportunity to offer comments on the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) revised draft Strategic Plan. We are encouraged that many of our initial comments have been considered and incorporated in this revision. We also appreciate the transparent process that has been used to seek input from outside the OPC as it develops and finalizes the Plan. OPC is a key partner of the Department, and we already have a strong track record of working together on important issues related to California's marine resources. It is essential that the Department and OPC continue to align our priorities and work together on common goals and objectives, especially in an economic climate of limited resources that provides little room for inefficiencies.

We are encouraged that there are many elements in the Plan where the potential exists for OPC to bolster the Department's capability to meet our statutory obligations, and improve the health and management of California's marine environment by supporting activities that we consider high priority. Considering OPC's primary role as a support agency, it is crucial from the Department's perspective that OPC's activities are focused, strategic, and leveraged to help the Department to meet our core obligations. We see one of the OPC's most valuable assets as being its ability to coordinate and communicate across all State Agencies with marine responsibilities.

We look forward to working with OPC to implement the Plan and to continue to ensure that the details and specifics of the activities undertaken by OPC and the Department are in close alignment. In addition to these core comments, Mr. John T. Barnes of my staff will contact Dr. Amber Mace next week with specific comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Charlton H. Bonham
Director

John Laird
Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
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cc: California Ocean Protection Council
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