



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND  
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February 14, 2022

VIA Electronic Transmission

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 Item #5: 2022 Marine Protected Area Small Grants Program

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) supports approval of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program under consideration at your February 23, 2022 meeting. This will provide an additional round of funding to Coastal Quest to support projects across California that advance MPA stewardship, education, compliance, and leadership, and aligns with the goals of the Ocean Protection Council's Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (OTC Program).

RLF has partnered closely with the State of California, philanthropic foundations, and organizations statewide for more than fifteen years to support establishment and effective management of the state's first in nation MPA network. We appreciate the continued need for public investments in programs like the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program, which create valuable opportunities for public engagement and community-driven leadership in ocean and MPA conservation.

The past portfolio of Small Grant Program projects managed by Coastal Quest has engaged tens of thousands of students, community members, recreational fishers, and others throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in impactful ways. We encourage approval of this round of funding to support MPA projects implemented by NGOs, disadvantaged communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders to build MPA stewardship and compliance.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kaitilin Gaffney  
Director of Ocean, Coast, and Fisheries