

CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair Matt Rodriquez, Secretary for Environmental Protection Gavin Newsom, Lieutenant Governor, State Lands Commission Chair Fran Pavley, State Senator Bill Quirk, State Assemblymember Geraldine Knatz, Public Member Michael Brown, Public Member

MEMORANDUM

Item 6

- TO: California Ocean Protection Council
- FROM: Morgan Ivens-Duran, Sea Grant Fellow
- DATE: September 22, 2015

RE: Update on MPA Statewide Signage Project

MPA Statewide Signage Project

At the February 26, 2014 OPC meeting, the Council approved a \$350,000 grant to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation (now the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation) to improve the current inventory of marine protected area signage along the California coast. The funds had been transferred to the OPC via an interagency agreement from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Key tasks included (a) inventory existing sign locations and identify locations for new regulatory and interpretive signs; (b) develop and produce new regulatory and interpretive signs; and (c) acquire necessary permits and install signs. An update on each of these tasks follows:

- a. The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation submitted a statewide inventory of current MPA signage to OPC staff and project partners. From that inventory and in consultation with partners statewide, 95 regulatory and 96 interpretive signs were selected for installation during this project.
- b. Working in close collaboration with OPC and Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation has designed and fabricated 189 signs. These signs adhere to standardized templates (see Exhibit 1) developed and approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and include tribal content at some locations. Other state agency partners (e.g. State Parks), the Marine Protected Area Collaboratives and other local organizations and experts were involved in customizing content for each interpretive panel.
- c. Working with the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation and 30 jurisdictions with certified Local Coastal Programs, OPC staff submitted two applications for Coastal Development Permits to the California Coastal Commission. The first application (9-15-0208) included 115 signs in Del Norte through San Luis Obispo counties and was approved by the Commission on May 14, 2015. The second application (9-15-0731) included 64 signs in Santa Barbara through San Diego counties, and was approved by the Commission on August 13, 2015. Separate permitting approvals have been received for 6 signs within Bay Conservation and Development Commission jurisdiction, 1 sign at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and 3 signs within the San Diego Unified Port District. 64% of the permitted signs were installed (70% in Northern California, 52% in Southern California) as of September 8th, and installation is expected to be completed by late September. Permitting for 2 signs at the Port of Los Angeles is ongoing.

During the implementation period of the statewide MPA network, effective public outreach and education was consistently identified as a key element underpinning the long-term success and durability of the MPA network. Given the length of coastline involved and the high number of potential coastal access points, the installation of interpretive and regulatory signs is an integral component of on-going efforts related to MPA outreach and education. The intended outcome of this project is to inform coastal visitors and residents about MPA regulations in order to decrease violations and foster stewardship of these special places.

The effort to create, develop and install these signs has relied heavily on the partnership-based approach described in the <u>Partnership Plan</u>. By working directly with local city managers and planners throughout the state, the signage project has increased the understanding of many stakeholders that were previously unaware of the MPA network. In addition, this project has continued to broaden the engagement of different stakeholder groups with MPA management activities, which aligns with the priorities described in the current <u>OPC Five-Year Strategic Plan</u>. Under the "Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems" section, Issue 8 calls for initiatives which help the state extract maximal benefits from the statewide network of MPAs. Issue 8 also acknowledges the importance of working with a broad suite of partners, including fellow public agencies and other stakeholders across the ocean community, to engage them in MPA adaptive management activities. The project is on track to be completed by October 2015.

EXHIBIT 1

Signage Templates

Four signage templates have been developed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, with input from OPC staff. Two types of interpretive signs have been developed – (a) general interpretive panels that are designed to educate non-consumptive coastal users and visitors and (b) harbor panels that highlight nearby MPA boundaries for boaters. Two types of regulatory signs have also been developed – (c) no fishing/collecting signs which convey take restrictions using universal symbols and (d) "You Are Here" signs that show the viewer their location relative to nearby MPA boundaries). An example of each template follows.

Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

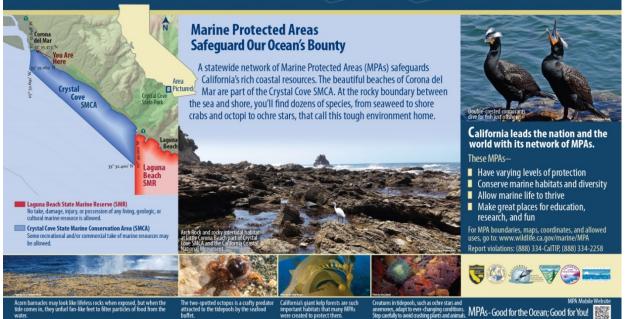


Exhibit 1 b. Harbor Interpretive Panel



California's marine protected areas (MPAs) conserve, restore, and improve the health of our ocean, similar to national parks and forests on land. The California MPA network includes MPAs and other protected areas. Each area is unique in its purpose and allowed uses.

Protected areas around Shoreline Marina are:

- Long Point and Point Dume State Marine Reserves (SMR) (SMR) No take, damage, injury, or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resource is allowed.
- Casino Point, Blue Cavern Onshore, and Point Vicente No-Take State Marine Conservation Areas (No-Take SMCA) Prohibits the take of living, geological, and cultural
- Lover's Cove, Blue Cavern Offshore, Arrow Point to Lion Head Point, Cat Harbor, Farnsworth Onshore, Farnsworth Offshore, Point Dume, and Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA) Some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed.

MPAs – Good for the Ocean; Good for You! Know the Rules Before You Head Out. For Ocean Fishing Laws and Regulations go to: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/regulations



Exhibit 1 d. "You Are Here" Sign.

