

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ADVANCE MANAGEMENT OF CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

I. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 This Agreement outlines the purpose, roles, and partnership terms agreed upon by the Parties, as defined in Section II below, to advance the management of California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network. Parties represent state-, federal-, and local-level entities involved in California MPA management, including member agencies of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team (MSLT), the MPA Collaborative Network Staff, and the MPA Collaborative Network Members (described in Section III below). Representatives of the Parties worked together to develop the contents of the draft Agreement during a workshop in Sacramento on March 27-28th, 2017 and provided input throughout the subsequent Agreement development process.
- 1.2 The California Fish and Game Commission (Fish and Game Commission) recently adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Master Plan, which outlines the State's MPA Management Program and requires active engagement in four key focal areas: Outreach and Education, Enforcement and Compliance, Research and Monitoring, and Policy and Permitting. Since the inception of the statewide MPA Collaborative Network in 2013, its ability to aggregate local expertise to inform and support the management of the MPAs across the state has been critical to the success of the MPA Management Program. The MPA Collaborative Network is made up of 14 individual collaboratives generally associated with California's coastal counties. The Parties recognize that as a partnership between the MPA Collaborative Network and the State has grown, there is a need to more clearly define the shared purpose, roles, and responsibilities of this partnership (Partnership). This Agreement seeks to allow the Partnership to continue and to formally recognize the MPA Collaborative Network's significant contributions to the management of the State's MPA Network. This Agreement seeks to formalize the working relationship that has already been established between the MPA Collaborative Network and the MSLT, and to increase the MPA Collaborative Network's representation on the MSLT to better reflect local knowledge related to MPA management across the state.

II. PARTIES

- 2.1 This section describes the Parties to the Agreement and their roles within the Partnership. The Partnership will strive for an inclusive approach that incorporates input from all Parties as appropriate to inform California MPA management priorities.

- 2.2 The MSLT is an advisory body that promotes active and engaged communication among entities with significant authority, mandates, or interest in California's MPA Network, and advises on the MPA Management Program. The MSLT also coordinates among the Parties to identify shared priorities for the MPA Management Program and coordinate with MPA collaboratives on locally-driven initiatives.

The MSLT consists of an Executive Committee and a Working Group. The Executive Committee, which includes the Secretary for Natural Resources and directors of member agencies and organizations, meets biannually to review progress and set priority work areas. The Working Group includes a representative from each member agency or organization and meets quarterly (with additional calls as needed) to complete tasks and projects identified by the Executive Committee and identify priority work areas for Executive Committee approval.

- 2.2.1 The process for establishing tribal and collaborative representation on the MSLT is ongoing. The Parties intend to include representation from California tribes and tribal communities, and intend to expand representation from local MPA collaboratives. This Agreement may be updated to describe tribal and collaborative participation as agreed by the Parties.
- 2.2.2 The Ocean Protection Council (OPC), consisting of the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, Secretary for Environmental Protection, Chair of the State Lands Commission, two legislative members and two public members, was created by the California Ocean Protection Act of 2004. OPC is tasked with coordinating the activities of ocean-related agencies to improve the effectiveness of State efforts to protect ocean resources and establishing policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific information related to coast and ocean resources.
- 2.2.3 The California Natural Resources Agency (Agency) is a State of California cabinet-level agency which seeks to restore, protect, and manage the state's natural, historical, and cultural resources for current and future generations using creative approaches and solutions based on science, collaboration, and respect for all the communities and interests involved. The Agency oversees the policies and activities of 26 departments, boards, commissions, and conservancies.
- 2.2.4 The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is a state department within the Agency that is the trustee for fish and wildlife resources in the State of California and has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. The Department is also responsible for management of specific lands and waters under their ownership. With respect to MPAs, the Department seeks to accomplish the objectives of the MPA Management Program through management of cooperative implementation of the coastwide MPA Network in a collaborative, cost-effective manner consistent with the policies of the MPA Management Program and the Department's public trust responsibilities.

The Fish and Game Commission recently adopted the MLPA Master Plan, which outlines the State's MPA Management Program, and requires active engagement in four key focal areas: Outreach and Education, Enforcement and Compliance, Research and Monitoring, and Policy and Permitting. The Department is a managing agency under the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA).

- 2.2.5 The Fish and Game Commission is an independent, constitutionally-established state agency housed within the Agency whose mission is to ensure the long-term sustainability of California's fish and wildlife resources. The Fish and Game Commission is responsible for establishing state hunting and fishing regulations and, among other things, oversees the establishment of wildlife areas, ecological reserves, and the designation of MPAs under the MLPA. The Fish and Game Commission is a designating entity under the MMAIA.
- 2.2.6 The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) is a state department within the Agency whose mission is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. As a trustee agency, State Parks is responsible for managing approximately one quarter of California's coastline, including dune ecosystems, beaches, coastal wetlands, estuaries, and nearshore marine areas. State Parks is a managing agency under the MMAIA.
- 2.2.7 The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) is a state agency within the California Environmental Protection Agency whose mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resources allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations. The Water Board oversees nine California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards). The mission of the Regional Boards is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans that will protect the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology, and hydrology.
- 2.2.8 The California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission) is an independent, quasi-judicial state agency housed within the Agency. The Coastal Commission's mission is to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations. The Coastal Commission, in partnership with coastal cities and counties, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone. Development activities, which are broadly defined by the Coastal Act to include (among others) construction of buildings, divisions of land, and activities that change the intensity of use of land or public access to coastal waters, generally require a coastal permit from either the Coastal Commission or the local government.

- 2.2.9 The California State Lands Commission is an independent, quasi-legislative state agency housed within the Agency that has exclusive control, jurisdiction, and administration authority over all ungranted tide and submerged lands and the reversionary and residual interest of the State as to public trust lands legislatively granted to local governments. The Commission serves the people of California by providing stewardship of the lands, waterways, and resources entrusted to its care through economic development, protection, preservation, and restoration. Its members include the Lieutenant Governor, the State Controller, and the Governor appointed State Director of Finance.
- 2.2.10 The California Ocean Science Trust (OST) is a non-profit organization established by the California legislature to support, advance, and coordinate science integration to California ocean policies and management. OST works to broaden participation in science and include diverse sources of knowledge to inspire involvement in and understanding of California's MPA Network.
- 2.2.11 The Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) is an independent non-profit organization that supports and performs essential services to promote land, freshwater, and marine conservation. Consistent with its mission, RLF has developed and administered many strategic charitable programs, including one which is designed to achieve significant advances in coastal and marine conservation in California. RLF seeks to assist the Parties to achieve the implementation objectives of the MPA Management Program by providing funding, as available, and other assistance.
- 2.2.12 The United States National Park Service (Park Service) is a federal agency within the United States Department of the Interior whose mission is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resources conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. There are several coastal California parks that conserve, restore, and manage diverse coastal and ocean resources. The National Park System of the United States now comprises 417 areas covering more than 84 million acres in 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands.
- 2.2.13 The United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a federal science agency whose mission is to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet the nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. The agency works to achieve five strategic goals: (1) protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management; (2) understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond; (3) serve society's needs for

weather and water information; (4) support the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation; and (5) provide critical support for NOAA's mission. Six line offices execute the programs required to achieve these goals: the National Weather Service; the National Marine Fisheries Service; the National Ocean Service; the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service; the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; and the Office of Program Planning and Integration. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries manages 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. Three of the four national marine sanctuaries off the California Coast have jurisdictions that overlap with state waters and the network of California MPAs.

- 2.3 MPA Collaborative Network Staff acts as a conduit between the MPA collaboratives and the MSLT to help identify shared priorities and opportunities for the Parties to provide support to one another. The MPA Collaborative Network Staff directly supports the MPA Collaborative Network Members and is also a member of the MSLT. Due to this unique bridging role, the MPA Collaborative Network Staff is highlighted separately from the MSLT and the MPA Collaborative Network Members throughout this document.
 - 2.3.1 In addition to liaising between the MPA Collaborative Network Members and the MSLT, the MPA Collaborative Network Staff facilitates sharing of best practices and lessons learned among MPA Collaborative Network Members. By spearheading the development of communications mechanisms and scheduling calls and meetings among the Parties, the MPA Collaborative Network Staff leads communication efforts among collaboratives as well as between collaboratives and the MSLT. The MPA Collaborative Network Staff consists of the Network Director and may grow to include additional staff.
- 2.4 The MPA Collaborative Network is composed of 14 member MPA collaboratives that provide a localized, comprehensive approach to ocean resource management by bringing together local experts and authorities in the areas of outreach and education, enforcement and compliance, and research and monitoring. MPA Collaborative Network Members represent community stakeholders involved in MPA management in California's coastal counties. The role of the MPA collaboratives is to coordinate with local partners and share local priorities, reactions, and concerns to inform MPA management. In addition, the MPA collaboratives work with the Parties to enhance management of MPAs through locally and/or regionally organized projects. Each of the MPA collaboratives and their mission statements are listed below, in order from north to south.
 - 2.4.1 Del Norte: Engaging diverse communities in support of MPAs and the resources they provide from Pelican Beach to Shelter Cove.
 - 2.4.2 Humboldt: Engaging diverse communities in support of MPAs and the resources they provide from Pelican Beach to Shelter Cove.

- 2.4.3 Mendocino: The mission of the Mendocino MPA Collaborative is to enhance effectiveness and increase awareness of Mendocino County's marine protected areas.
- 2.4.4 Sonoma: To connect and empower community stewards to promote the long-term sustainability of Sonoma Coast marine ecosystems.
- 2.4.5 Golden Gate: The Golden Gate MPA Collaborative is dedicated to community engagement to safeguard the ocean and coastal ecosystems of San Francisco and Marin Counties.
- 2.4.6 San Mateo: Enhance awareness and promote stewardship of MPAs as special, protected places and sources of ecological, recreational and commercial value through the coordinated activities of community partners.
- 2.4.7 Santa Cruz: Embedding awareness of marine protected areas into existing programs to increase community engagement in stewardship.
- 2.4.8 Monterey: Our mission is to use a collaborative approach to increase MPA literacy to facilitate respect and stewardship of our coastal marine environment.
- 2.4.9 San Luis Obispo: To inspire individuals to become ocean stewards by cultivating an understanding and appreciation of the value and purpose of our local MPA's through research, education and enforcement.
- 2.4.10 Santa Barbara Channel: Fostering diverse community engagement to assist in the management of Santa Barbara Channel MPAs.
- 2.4.11 Los Angeles: The Los Angeles MPA Collaborative channels broad and diverse perspectives to build ocean resilience and promote the cultural, recreational, and ecological value of Los Angeles County's marine protected areas.
- 2.4.12 Orange County: The mission of OCMPAC is to collaborate at a regional level to assist and inform the public and partner agencies in order to support the effective management of Orange County marine protected areas.
- 2.4.13 Catalina: To act as grassroots stewards of Catalina's marine protected areas through engagement of local stakeholders and island visitors.
- 2.4.14 San Diego: The San Diego MPA Collaborative is a federal, state, county, municipal, tribal, and community alliance that facilitates local communication and coordination to support the management of marine protected areas through; 1. Outreach and Education, 2. Enforcement and Compliance, and 3. Research and Monitoring.

III. RECITALS

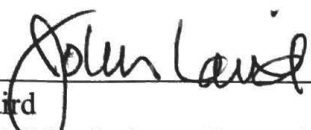
- 3.1 The Parties recognize the importance and high priority of cooperative actions at local, regional, and statewide scales to manage the MPA Network created pursuant to the MLPA. Completed in 2012 following a science-based and stakeholder-driven planning process, the MPA Network now includes 124 MPAs and 15 special closures that encompass 16% of state waters and protect marine and coastal ecosystems between the borders of Oregon and Mexico. California recently adopted the MLPA Master Plan, which outlines the State's MPA Management Program, and requires active engagement in four key focal areas: Outreach and Education, Enforcement and Compliance, Research and Monitoring, and Policy and Permitting. This Agreement formalizes the relationship among Parties and solidifies the Parties' roles in advancing the MPA Management Program. The Parties will cooperatively undertake efforts to inform, support, and implement actions as part of the MPA Management Program. This Agreement provides a structure for aligning priorities to advance management of the MPA Network and lays the groundwork for seeking support and funding for those shared priorities.
- 3.2 The Partnership formalized through this Agreement will foster collaboration and create a platform for incorporating input from all Parties to advance the MPA Management Program. This Agreement confirms the role of MPA collaboratives, which provide valuable financial and human resource contributions to MPA management by providing local input to inform and help guide discussions among the Parties. This Agreement also reinforces the partnership among MSLT members and provides a platform for collaboration among the MSLT, MPA Collaborative Network Staff, and MPA collaboratives.
- 3.3 In keeping with the collaborative statewide approach to MPA management, the Parties are committed to a core value of diversity underlying all aspects of the partnership. The Parties seek inclusive participation in the MPA Management Program and the MPA Collaborative Network, involving all willing and able federal, tribal, state, and local governments as well as universities, coastal businesses, conservation organizations, fishing interests, fishery organizations, and other interested parties. The partnership honors and respects tribal government involvement, the right to government-to-government communications, and the ability of tribes to request formal consultations with agencies outside the MPA Collaborative Network framework.

IV. GENERAL TERMS

- 4.1 The Parties seek to manage California's MPA Network in accordance with the MLPA by integrating diverse local and statewide perspectives and expertise.

- 4.2 Goals are attainable, measurable conditions that the Parties will strive to achieve in the coming five years. The following shared goals apply to all the Parties collectively.
 - 4.2.1 Communication: Maintain and strengthen consistent communication, coordination, and information-sharing among Parties.
 - 4.2.2 Direction and Priorities: Collaboratively identify and coordinate on shared priorities for the partnership to advance management of the MPA Network.
 - 4.2.3 Funding and Staffing: Seek resources from the Parties and other diverse sources to support shared priorities.
- 4.3 The partnership will utilize the MSLT as the framework for facilitating collaboration among the Parties, including by using the existing MSLT meeting schedule to convene representatives from the Parties. Given that many Parties are current members of the MSLT, the partnership will augment the MSLT to build in representation of other Parties. In particular, the Parties are committed to adequate representation of the MPA collaboratives and tribes and tribal governments on the MSLT. The structure of the partnership and representation will evolve depending on the needs of the Parties and the resources available to the partnership.
- 4.4 The Parties recognize the value of evaluating collective achievements and shortcomings and implementing adaptive management to improve partnership functioning. Therefore, the Parties are committed to self-improvement, evaluation, and adaptive management of the partnership.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



John Laird
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

8/29/17

Date

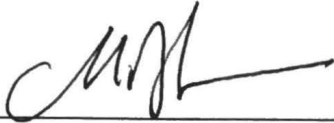
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Deborah Halberstadt
Executive Director
California Ocean Protection Council

7/5/17
Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Charlton H. Bonham
Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

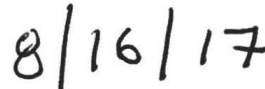
July 24, 2017

Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Eric Sklar
President
California Fish and Game Commission



Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Lisa Ann L. Mangat
Director
California Department of Parks and Recreation



Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Michael Lauffer
Acting Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board

June 22, 2017
Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



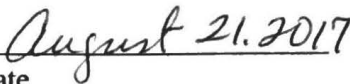
John Ainsworth
Executive Director
California Coastal Commission

7/7/2017
Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission



Date

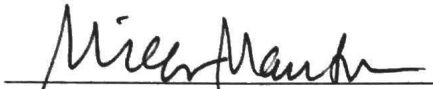
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



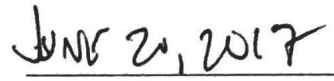
Nancy Sutley
Board Chair
California Ocean Science Trust

6/22/17
Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Michael Mantell
President
Resources Legacy Fund



Date

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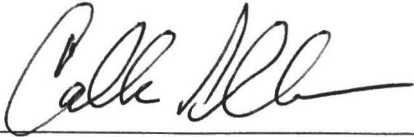
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

for 

Laura Joss
Regional Director, Pacific West Region
United States National Park Service

Date July 28, 2017

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Calla Allison
Director
MPA Collaborative Network

6/23/17

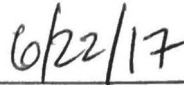
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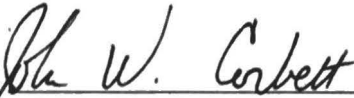
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Rosa Laucci
Co-Chair
Del Norte MPA Collaborative



Date

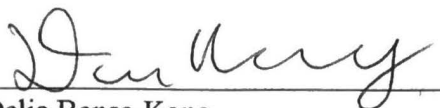


John Corbett
Co-Chair
Del Norte MPA Collaborative




Date

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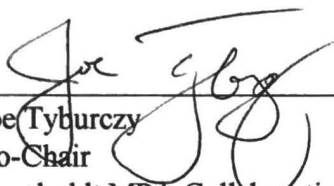
Delia Bense-Kang
Co-Chair
Humboldt MPA Collaborative

6-23-17
Date



Beth Chaton
Co-Chair
Humboldt MPA Collaborative

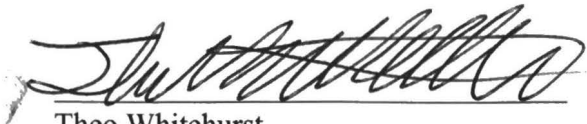
6-27-17
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Joe Tyburczy
Co-Chair
Humboldt MPA Collaborative

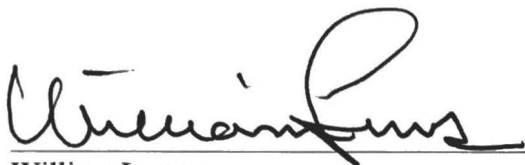
6/23/2017
Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Theo Whitehurst
Co-Chair
Mendocino MPA Collaborative

6/20/17
Date



William Lemos
Co-Chair
Mendocino MPA Collaborative


6/12/17
Date




Anna Neumann
Co-Chair
Mendocino MPA Collaborative

6/12/17
Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.


Suzanne Olyarnik
Co-Chair
Sonoma MPA Collaborative

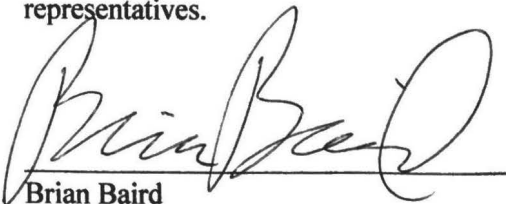
6/22/17
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Michele Luna
Co-Chair
Sonoma MPA Collaborative

6/22/17
Date

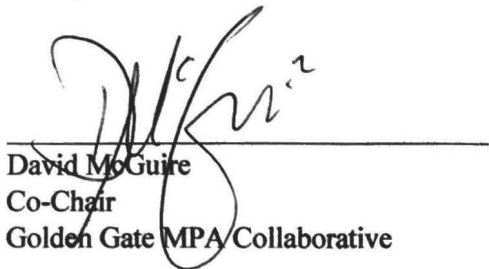
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Brian Baird
Co-Chair
Golden Gate MPA Collaborative

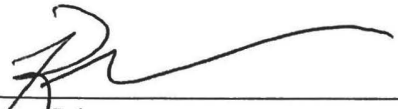
8/11/17
Date



David McGuire
Co-Chair
Golden Gate MPA Collaborative

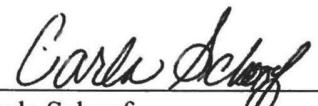
6/30/17
Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Rebecca Johnson
Co-Chair
San Mateo MPA Collaborative

June 21, 2017
Date



Carla Schoof
Co-Chair
San Mateo MPA Collaborative

June 20, 2017
Date

June 23, 2017

RECEIVED By
Office of the Secretary
JUN 28 2017
Natural Resources Agency California

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Rikki Eriksen
Co-Chair
Santa Cruz MPA Collaborative

6.24.17

Date

RECEIVED By
Office of the Secretary

JUL 03 2017

Natural Resources Agency California

June 23, 2017

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

Patricia L. Clark-Gray
Patricia Clark-Gray
Co-Chair
Monterey MPA Collaborative

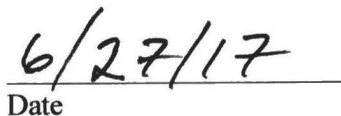
7-17-17
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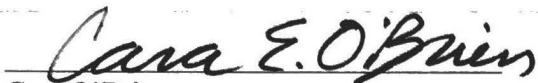
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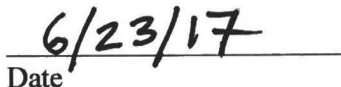
Gordon Hensley
Co-Chair
San Luis Obispo MPA Collaborative



Date

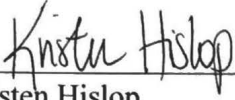


Cara O'Brien
Co-Chair
San Luis Obispo MPA Collaborative

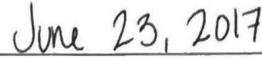


Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Kristen Hislop
Co-Chair
Santa Barbara Channel MPA Collaborative



Date

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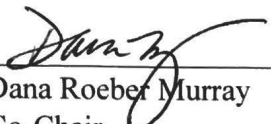
Lauren Czarniecki-Oudin
Lauren Czarniecki-Oudin
Co-Chair
Catalina Island MPA Collaborative

6/16/2017
Date

Hillary Holt
Hillary Holt
Co-Chair
Catalina Island MPA Collaborative

6/16/2017
Date


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Dana Roeber Murray
Co-Chair
Los Angeles MPA Collaborative

6/22/17

Date



Phyllis Grifman
Co-Chair
Los Angeles MPA Collaborative

6/22/2017

Date

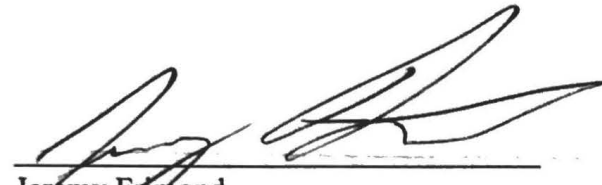
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Carla Navarro Woods
Co-Chair
Orange County MPA Collaborative

7/10/17

Date




Jeremy Brimond
Co-Chair
Orange County MPA Collaborative

7/10/17

Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.



Zach Propper
Co-Chair
San Diego MPA Collaborative

7/5/2017

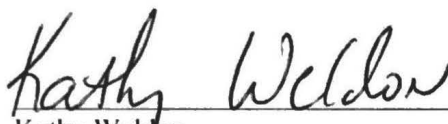
Date



Isabelle Kay
Co-Chair
San Diego MPA Collaborative

7/28/17

Date



Kathy Weldon
Co-Chair
San Diego MPA Collaborative

7/11/17

Date



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries | West Coast Region
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

January 19, 2018

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
1416 Ninth Street #1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Marine Protected Area Collaborative Network

I am writing in support of the principles outlined in the Marine Protected Area Collaborative Network Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU supports our shared goals of strengthening the relationship among the state, the Collaborative Network and the national marine sanctuaries offshore California, and advances the priorities laid out by [MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan](#).

The West Coast Regional Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has not yet been able to secure clearance to sign the MOU from our headquarters. We will continue to pursue that approval through our internal processes. My staff were involved as the state was creating the Collaborative Network and we participate in many of them, including as co-chairs of several of the separate collaboratives. As we work to obtain final clearance, we will continue to work in cooperation with state staff and the collaboratives to ensure the success of the state network of MPAs.

Sincerely,

William J. Douros
West Coast Regional Director

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National Marine Sanctuary
115 E. Railroad Avenue
Suite 301
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Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 159
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