



Mark Gold  
Executive Director  
Ocean Protection Council

miSmin tuuhis (Hello) Mr. Gold,

We are writing to express our support for the Tribal Marine Stewards Network (TMSN) project funding application, submitted by the California Indian Environmental Alliance to the Ocean Protection Council.

The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is a continuous and historic Indian Tribe, recognized by the State of California, with over 600 BIA-registered members who trace their ancestry to Indigenous peoples taken to the Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista missions, along the central coast of California. Amah Mutsun Land Trust is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to serve as a vehicle for Amah Mutsun led research, resource protection, and stewardship. Through the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, the Amah Mutsun are regaining our role as environmental stewards of our ancestral territory.

The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band plans to actively participate in the TMSN Project via the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, and will incorporate the program into our coastal monitoring and management plans. We are excited to collaborate on this project that will establish a Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot composed of Tribes working in collaboration with the State of California towards common goals. As a project partner, we will work with all partner Tribes, the State of California and other partners, who acknowledge Tribal inherent rights and knowledge to protect, and/or restore marine resources for the cultural, spiritual, and physical health of all people and future generations.

This is an important project that should be funded due to its scientific merit, conceptual innovation, and extensive collaboration as it establishes an opportunity for partner tribes to continue to be or become involved with MPA monitoring within their ancestral territories. This work supports improved management of shared resources for all beings through a proposed model for sustainable partnerships, equitable Tribal/State collaborations, and enhanced information gathering and interpretation. We commit our program staff to this project, which would complement our current efforts to establish our own marine stewardship program through other funding sources.

Amah Mutsun Land Trust is dedicated to ensuring a healthy and balanced environment that sustains Indigenous lifeways and the earth. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this proposed work and to briefly explain how this collaboration can benefit all involved.

tumsan-ak kannis, (Thank you),

Valentin Lopez, Chairman  
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

EkOngKar Singh Khalsa, Executive Director  
Amah Mutsun Land Trust



## Kashia Band of Pomo Indians Of the Stewarts Point Rancheria

Kashia Round House  
Founded in 1916

May 13, 2020

Mark Gold  
Executive Director  
Ocean Protection Council

### **Re: Kashia Band of Pomo Indians Letter of Commitment for Tribal Marine Stewards Network**

Hello Mr. Gold,

On behalf of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria, a federally recognized Indian Tribe, located within the redwood forest belt of Northern California, we wish to provide a written letter of support for the Tribal Marine Stewards Network (TMSN) Project funding application. Kashia plans to actively participate in the TMSN Project and progress towards building our own coastal monitoring and management plans. We are excited to collaborate on this project that will establish a Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot composed of Tribes working in collaboration with the State of California towards common goals.

As a project partner, we will work with all partner Tribes, the State of California and other partners, who acknowledge Tribal inherent rights and knowledge to protect, and/or restore marine resources for the cultural, spiritual, and physical health of all people and future generations. This work supports improved management of shared resources for all beings through a proposed model for sustainable partnerships, equitable Tribal/State collaborations, and enhanced information gathering and interpretation.

This is an important project that should be funded due to its scientific merit, conceptual innovation, and extensive collaboration as it establishes an opportunity for partner tribes to continue to be or become involved with MPA monitoring within their ancestral territories. It will provide support and capacity building for Kashia to maintain and monitor marine resources along more than a mile long stretch of coastline within the Kashia Coastal Reserve. This work supports improved management of shared resources for all beings through a proposed model for sustainable partnerships, equitable Tribal/State collaborations, and enhanced information gathering and interpretation. We commit our Kashia Department of Environmental Planning staff to this project, which would complement our current efforts to establish our own stewardship program through other funding sources.

Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria is dedicated to ensuring a healthy and balanced environment that sustains Kashia life ways and the earth.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this proposed work and to briefly explain how this collaboration can benefit all involved.

Yahwee (Thank you),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dino Franklin", with a stylized, flowing script.

Dino Franklin  
Tribal Chairperson

cc: File



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# RESIGHINI RANCHERIA

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P.O. Box 529 • Klamath, CA 95548  
Tel (707) 482-2431 • Fax (707) 482-3425

May 13, 2020

Mark Gold  
Executive Director  
California Ocean Protection Council

Dear Mr. Gold:

Subject: Letter of Commitment to Participate in the Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Project

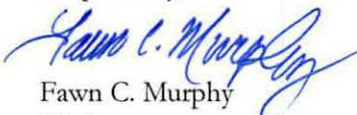
The Resighini Rancheria is a federally recognized Tribe, located on the Klamath River and Pacific Coast of northern California. As Indigenous Peoples to this land, we are particularly interested in continuing the natural and cultural resources management within our ancestral lands and waters that has been ongoing since time immemorial. This includes the management and monitoring of the marine environment for which we rely for subsistence, ceremonial, cultural and other customary uses.

We are excited to have the opportunity to participate in the pilot of a Tribal Marine Stewards Network here in California. This type of program will provide us an opportunity to build marine resources management capacity and proactively engage with the State and our Tribal partners in coastal monitoring and management; working in collaboration towards common goals.

As a project partner, we commit to working with the State of California, Partner Tribes, and other nongovernmental organizations to conduct work that supports improved management of share resources for all, through a proposed model for sustainable partnerships, equitable Tribal/State collaboration, and enhanced information gathering and interpretation. This is an important project that should be funded due to its scientific merit, conceptual innovation, extensive collaboration, and enhanced opportunities it provides for the Tribe to be more actively involved in managing the lands and waters within our ancestral territory.

In summary, this letter demonstrates our commitment to participate in the Tribal Marine Stewards Network and the Tribe's enthusiastic support for this effort. Please contact Megan Van Pelt, Executive Director at [megan.vanpelt@resighinirancheria.com](mailto:megan.vanpelt@resighinirancheria.com) for any further questions or information about this letter.

Respectfully,



Fawn C. Murphy  
Chairperson





# *Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation*

140 Rowdy Creek Rd, Smith River, CA 95567-9525

Ph: (707) 487-9255

Fax: (707) 487-0930

Leann McCallum  
Chairperson

Mark Gold  
Executive Director  
Ocean Protection Council

Dv-laa-ha~ (Hello) Mr. Gold,

Jeri Lynn Thompson  
Vice Chairperson

On behalf of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, a federally recognized Indian Tribe, located in the Pacific Northwest, with aboriginal lands and territory in Northern California and Southern Oregon, and organized pursuant to the duly adopted Constitution of the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, we wish to provide a written letter of support for the Tribal Marine Stewards Network (TMSN) Project funding application. The Nation plans to actively participate in the TMSN Project and progress toward incorporating the program into our coastal monitoring and management plans. We are excited to collaborate on this project that will establish a Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot composed of Tribes working in collaboration with the State of California towards common goals.

Debbie Boardman  
Council Secretary

Jaytuk Steinruck  
Treasurer

As a project partner, we will work with all partner Tribes, the State of California and other partners, who acknowledge Tribal inherent rights and knowledge to protect, and/or restore marine resources for the cultural, spiritual, and physical health of all people and future generations. This work supports improved management of shared resources for all beings through a proposed model for sustainable partnerships, equitable Tribal/State collaborations, and enhanced information gathering and interpretation. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation has been at the forefront of this type of monitoring since 2014 and the opportunity to expand it into a statewide effort is the logical next step.

Cari Nelson  
Council Member

Dr. Joseph Giovannetti  
Council Member

This is an important project that should be funded due to its scientific merit, conceptual innovation, and extensive collaboration as it establishes an opportunity for partner tribes to continue to be or become involved with MPA monitoring within their ancestral territories. This work supports improved management of shared resources for all beings through a proposed model for sustainable partnerships, equitable Tribal/State collaborations, and enhanced information gathering and interpretation. We commit our Marine Program staff to this project, which would complement our current efforts to establish our own stewardship program through other funding sources.

Scott Sullivan  
Council Member

*Waa-saa-ghitlh-'a~ Wee-ni Naa-ch'aa-ghitlh-ni*

*Our Heritage Is Why We Are Strong*

Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is dedicated to ensuring a healthy and balanced environment that sustains Dee-ni' lifeways and the earth. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this proposed work and to briefly explain how this collaboration can benefit all involved.

Shu' shaa nin-la (Thank you),



Leann McCallum  
Tribal Chairperson

***Waa-saa-ghitlh-'a~ Wee-ni Naa-ch'aa-ghitlh-ni***

***Our Heritage Is Why We Are Strong***

# Ecotrust

May 18, 2020

Mr. Mark Gold  
Executive Director  
Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Gold,

Ecotrust is thrilled to both support and participate in the formation of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network (TMSN). We strongly endorse this application and recommend fully funding this work. For nearly 30 years, Ecotrust has worked quietly as a convener and partner alongside American Indian tribes in the Pacific Northwest and northern California, Alaska Native villages, and First Nations communities in British Columbia to support their sovereignty, protect their homelands, and build resilient, self-determined communities. The range of our work is as diverse as the cultures and communities themselves. It includes land conservation and repatriation, habitat restoration, climate-smart forest management, workforce development, marine spatial planning, scholarships, and fellowships to advance Native youth leadership, and other key areas.

As a project partner, we will collaborate with the Tribes, the State of California, and the other partners to protect and restore marine resources for the cultural, spiritual, and physical health of all people and future generations. This work supports improved management of shared resources for all beings through a model that prioritizes sustainable partnerships, equitable Tribal/State collaborations, and enhanced information gathering and interpretation. Ecotrust's Knowledge Systems program will actively participate in the TMSN by enabling our partners to incorporate ITK/TEK into coastal monitoring and management plans. We are excited to collaborate on this project and ready to utilize all our capacities to provide analyses, tools, maps, and other data visualizations to help our partners make informed decisions as needed.

It is our hope that this important project will be fully funded due to its scientific merit, conceptual innovation, and extensive collaboration as it establishes an opportunity for partner Tribes to continue to be involved with MPA monitoring within their ancestral territories. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at (503) 227-6225 ext. 749 or email [jbarnicle@ecotrust.org](mailto:jbarnicle@ecotrust.org). We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Barnicle  
Executive Director  
cc: Jon Bonkoski, Director, Knowledge Systems, Ecotrust  
Lisa J. Watt, Director, Indigenous Affairs, Ecotrust

June 15, 2020

VIA Electronic Transmission to: [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)

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 Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program (Item 6a) and Communications Strategy for 2022 Adaptive Management Review (Item 6b)**

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation submits this letter in support of two items under consideration by the Ocean Protection Council at your June 19, 2020 meeting. We encourage the Council's approval of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program and the Communications Strategy for the 2022 Adaptive Management Review of the network of marine protected areas.

- **Item 6a:** Tribal communities have a long history of ocean and coastal stewardship in California and have been critical in communicating the value and importance of our shared ocean resources. Tribal knowledge, research, and educational programming have been integral in protecting and sustainably managing ocean and coastal resources including California's marine protected area (MPA) network. We have been working with numerous tribal communities across the state, who eagerly share their knowledge and support implementation of the MPA network.
- **Item 6b:** Studies on MPA effectiveness (Maxwell et al. 2014) reveal that targeted outreach and education contributes to improved compliance with MPA regulations and MPA effectiveness. Consistent, effective communication is critically important to engaging the support and awareness of the successes and lessons learned from the 10 years since implementation of the MPA network. We applaud the OPC staff for recommending the development of a strategic communications strategy in preparation for the MPA network review.

By approving these important projects, the Ocean Protection Council will demonstrate the state's commitment to partnering on Tribal-led stewardship and monitoring projects. The tribal project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Council's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Objective 2.2.1: "Develop and fund implementation of a tribal MPA monitoring program based on priorities shared between the state and California's Tribes." OPC will furthermore demonstrate the commitment made by State agencies at the onset of MPA implementation, which promised a transparent process for communicating key successes and challenges. The communications strategy is consistent with the Ocean



Protection Council's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Objectives 2.2.1, 2.2.2 (Enhance Engagement with Under-served Communities), 3.3 (Support Sustainable Marine Fisheries), and 3.6 (Accelerate Collaborative Accountability).

We appreciate the Ocean Protection Council's consideration of these projects and strongly support approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Arvin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Arvin  
Executive Director  
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

725 Front Street  
Suite 201  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



831.854.4630 Telephone  
831.425.5604 Facsimile  
[www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org)

Wednesday 17, 2020

California Ocean Protection Council

Delivered electronically to [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)

### **Re: General Comments on Ocean Protection Council's Agenda Items**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on several agenda items for the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) public meeting Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Ocean Conservancy appreciates OPC'S continued commitment to addressing its goals within the [2020-2025 Strategic Plan](#) especially during these tumultuous times. Though our comments are brief we wanted to have the opportunity to engage as Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as Juneteenth, which commemorates the ending of slavery, and therefore some of our colleagues will not be able to attend the meeting.

Firstly, Ocean Conservancy would like to lend its support for the disbursement of funds for agenda items 4b and 5 – 10. Items 4 and 5 will provide important scientific baseline information on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) through modelling and inventory on coastal wetlands, beaches, and watersheds. As a science-based organization, Ocean Conservancy strongly supports developing this kind of information that can provide a basis for effective decision-making.. Items 7 and 8 focus on protecting marine biodiversity, in particular of whales, turtles and kelp. Item 9 aims better to understand microplastics and to tackle the problem of microplastics before they enter the marine environment. Addressing ocean plastics is all the more important right now, when the coronavirus pandemic is leading some to argue for increased use of plastics without understanding the broader effects on the environment; it is important to consider the most recent science on these issues.

As our CEO, Janis Searles Jones noted in a letter to Governor Newsom, the state, in an abundance of caution, decided temporarily to suspend California's state ban on single-use plastic bags via Executive Order N-54-20. As we learn more about the risk of viral spread, we believe the state should not extend the 60-day rollback of the ban on single-use plastic bags and instead should provide greater clarity and robust guidance

725 Front Street  
Suite 201  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



831.854.4630 Telephone  
831.425.5604 Facsimile  
[www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org)

to California's grocery stores and retail outlets based on recently released Cal-OSHA guidelines on how to safely use reusable grocery bags, in order best to protect both human health and the marine environment.

Secondly, while we support all the above action items and recognize that this agenda does not include all OPC's strategic priorities, we look forward to OPC's progress around the priorities connected to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. As the current resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement and the fight for racial justice has highlighted, there are deep-rooted, systemic injustices towards the BIPOC<sup>1</sup> community not only within the law enforcement sector, but also within the environmental and conservation sector.

With this in mind we would to specifically highlight agenda **#6a, Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program**, which makes a targeted effort to include tribal communities from development to monitoring of the project and provides opportunities to increase capacity within the tribal community in the areas of monitoring via workshops, allowing for future agency. Furthermore, the program aims to integrate indigenous traditional knowledge (ITK) while setting provisions for sensitive information to be protected. This is a positive step in the right direction.

We look forward to similar principles being integrated in your future programmatic work externally and internally. We are especially looking forward to seeing the progress of goal 2 of the strategic plan to **Advance Equity Across Ocean and Coastal Policies and Actions**.

Our CEO Janis Searles Jones in a recent [blog post](#) states that "A just and equitable future requires far more from us, and we commit to learning and doing more. Does an ocean conservation organization have a role to play in dismantling racist systems? I know we do. Will the ocean be better off in a more just and equitable world? I know it will". We know that the Ocean Protection Council shares this belief and we look forward to working with you to fulfill your commitments to equity and justice.

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<sup>1</sup> BIPOC: Black, Indigenous and People of Color

725 Front Street  
Suite 201  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



831.854.4630 Telephone  
831.425.5604 Facsimile  
[www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org)

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Ocean Conservancy reiterates its pledge to continue partnership with OPC in support of you and your staff in reaching OPC's goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kalina Browne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kalina Browne  
RAY Conservation Fellow  
Ocean Conservancy





State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Marine Region  
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



June 15, 2020

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: Department of Fish and Wildlife Support for Project Funding**

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has worked closely with Ocean Protection Council (OPC) staff and supports authorization of funding for the following projects:

- Marine Protected Areas (MPA) monitoring and outreach
- Projects to reduce the risk of whale and sea turtle entanglement in fishing gear
- Statewide Kelp Recovery Research Program

The Department is the primary agency responsible for managing California's marine protected areas (MPAs), is an integral partner in the MPA Management Program, and a member of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team. California's MPAs comprise the largest network of MPAs in North America and one of the largest in the world. The communications strategy would help provide clear communication to the public, stakeholders, and decision makers about what to expect during California's first MPA network decadal management review. Set to occur in 2022, the decadal management review will encompass all areas of MPA network management including but not limited to, ecological, socioeconomic, and enforcement data. The proposed communications strategy will help unify messaging, establish expectations, and raise awareness of what this review will entail. The project will also help fill a critical need to meaningfully engage with the public leading up to the formal review.

The tribal marine stewards network pilot program will engage California Tribes in MPA and monitoring and management. Information gained from this pilot project will help identify shared priorities between Tribes and the state and enhance the capacity of California coastal Tribes to inform the adaptive management of California's MPA network.

Since 2015, the Department has been closely coordinating with OPC and the National Marine Fisheries Service on a multi-faceted effort to reduce marine life entanglement risk, including convening a broad cross-section of stakeholders through the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group).

The proposed projects address priority informational needs and address data gaps identified by the Department during development of the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) and draft Conservation Plan. Enhancing available data and quality will help the Department and Working Group to assess marine life entanglement risk and determine the appropriate management response during periods of elevated entanglement risk.

The Department also supports authorization of funding by to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to coordinate testing of fishing gear innovations which may reduce the frequency and severity of marine life entanglements. This project will address key questions regarding reliability of multiple gear types and their compatibility with current fishing practices. Expanded testing will provide the Department and fishery participants with information needed to evaluate broad-scale authorization and use of gear innovations within state-managed trap fisheries such as Dungeness crab.

Kelp forests are critically important ecosystems in coastal California. Recent severe declines in kelp have caused the ecosystem to collapse resulting in impacts to recreational and commercial fisheries and non-consumptive uses. The Statewide Kelp and Recovery Research Program (Program) is a partnership among California Sea Grant, OPC, and the Department. This Program is designed to fill essential knowledge gaps in our understanding of kelp ecosystem processes, including improved scientific understanding of the drivers of kelp decline and evaluation of the efficacy of different restoration approaches. Improved understanding of these issues will enable the Department and partners to develop appropriate restoration strategies and a long-term management plan for kelp ecosystems throughout the state.

OPC support has been, and will continue to be, critical to the success of the above projects. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 805-568-1246 or by email at [Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Craig Shuman, D. Env.  
Marine Regional Manager

ec: Becky Ota, Program Manager  
Marine Region  
[Becky.Ota@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Becky.Ota@Wildlife.ca.gov)

Kirsten Ramey, Program Manager  
Marine Region  
[Kirsten.Ramey@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kirsten.Ramey@Wildlife.ca.gov)

Sonke Mastrup, Program Manager  
Marine Region  
[Sonke.Mastrup@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Sonke.Mastrup@Wildlife.ca.gov)



SAN FRANCISCO  
STATE UNIVERSITY

ESTUARY & OCEAN SCIENCE CENTER  
ROMBERG TIBURON CAMPUS

3150 Paradise Drive  
Tiburon, CA 94920

Tel: 415/338-3700  
Fax: 415/435-7120

June 17, 2020

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 Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program (Item 6a)

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

I write in support of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program (Item 6a) under consideration at your June 19, 2020 meeting. California's Tribes and Tribal communities have long-standing ties to the coastal zone and marine life. They have been subjected to the harms of various forms of racism including blocking access to their ancestral lands and waters and ignoring Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK). California has thankfully started to turn the tide on these historic and long-standing racial injustices. Investing in this project is another step in the right direction. Through my professional involvement as a active member of the Science Advisory Team to the North and North Central California Marine Life Protection Act planning processes and related engagements with Tribes and Tribal Communities, and as a Principal Investigator on a marine protected area baseline monitoring project collaboration with the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, I have had the opportunity to learn the value of IEK and collaborative research. Without environmental justice, we will fail to protect coastal and marine habitats and resources, or address climate change. This project will continue the important work of developing a framework for collaborative research, education, and management of our coastal zone for future generations and starts to heal past injustices.

I appreciate the Ocean Protection Council's consideration of this project and strongly support approval.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Karina J. Nielsen'.

Karina J. Nielsen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director Estuary & Ocean Science Center  
Professor of Biology





RESOURCES LEGACY FUND  
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

June 17, 2020

**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: Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot program  
June 19, 2020 Meeting Agenda Item 6a**

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Please accept this letter of support from Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) for the Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot program under consideration by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) at your meeting on June 19, 2020.

Over the past 16 years, RLF has worked closely with the State of California and many other partners to help develop and implement the first science-based, stakeholder designed, marine protected area (MPA) network in the United States. We remain deeply committed to the effective and equitable stewardship and management of California's MPAs.

The language of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) failed to acknowledge the rights of Tribes and Tribal communities related to ocean and coastal governance, stewardship, and management. While the multi-year effort to implement the MLPA has helped lead to several important advances with respect to Tribal recognition and engagement, much more remains to be done. RLF views the Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot program as valuable next step on this path.

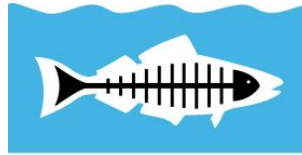
RLF appreciates the many years of effort on the part of both California Tribal leaders as well as staff and leadership of the OPC, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Fish and Game Commission, that have led to development of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network proposal. This pilot program will advance the partnership and co-management concepts articulated in the 2014 *California Collaborative Approach Marine Protected Areas Partnership*, the 2016 *Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*, and the OPC's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan adopted in February of this year.

RLF strongly supports approval of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot program and pledges our assistance to help ensure the success of this project. We look forward to future efforts to bring in additional partners and expand the project statewide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Gaffney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kaitilin Gaffney  
Director, Ocean, Coast, and Fisheries Program



Heal the Bay



June 17, 2020

VIA Electronic Transmission to: [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)

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 Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program, Item 6a**

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we submit this letter in support of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program under consideration by the Ocean Protection Council at your June 19, 2020 meeting.

Tribes and Tribal communities have been stewards of California's natural resources since time immemorial. Our organizations recognize that Tribes are central to our shared priorities related to protecting and sustainably managing ocean and coastal resources including California's marine protected area (MPA) network. Tribal knowledge and leadership can contribute to resilient, collaborative solutions to advance durable stewardship of our coast and ocean.

By approving this important pilot program, the Ocean Protection Council will demonstrate the state's commitment to partnering on Tribal-led stewardship and monitoring projects. This project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Council's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Objective 2.2.1: "Develop and fund implementation of a tribal MPA monitoring program based on priorities shared between the state and California's Tribes."

We appreciate the Ocean Protection Council's consideration of a Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program and strongly support approval of this important project.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Savage  
California Policy Manager  
Surfrider Foundation

Zachary Plopper  
Associate Director  
WILDCOAST

Alan Arvin  
Executive Director  
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Calla Allison  
Director  
MPA Collaborative Network

Kristen Hislop  
Marine Conservation Program Director  
Environmental Defense Center

Morgan Patton  
Executive Director  
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Emily Parker  
Coastal and Marine Scientist  
Heal The Bay

Esperanza Vielma  
Executive Director  
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water





June 16, 2020

VIA Electronic Transmission to: [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)

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 Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program, Item 6a**

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council,

Please include the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative Network (CN) among the supporters of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program under consideration by the Ocean Protection Council at the June 19, 2020 meeting.

The purpose of the MPA CN is to create a cooperative process that encourages participation in decision-making and communication, grounded in the values of respect for differences and the interconnection between humans and nature. We are proud to have diverse representation of MPA stakeholders within the Network and estimate that approximately 14% of our membership consists of Tribal members or Tribal representatives, including but not limited to the four Tribes involved in this pilot, the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation, Resighini Rancheria, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, and the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. We are excited to see the State making efforts to engage with Tribes and provide the resources necessary to support their engagement in MPA management.

The MPA CN looks forward to engaging with the Tribal Marine Stewards Network and offers to support the Stewards as needed. This may include, but is not limited to, utilizing the network and associated resources to conduct outreach, incorporating tribal exemption messaging into enforcement manuals, and integrating tribal input into existing and future MPA education and outreach products.

We encourage you to fund this pilot project and hope that it will lead to a scaled up and sustainable Statewide Tribal Marine Stewards Network that will provide a space for all Tribes in California to contribute to MPA management. As the stewards of the California coast since time immemorial, Tribes and Tribal communities are an invaluable voice in protecting and sustainably managing California's MPA Network, coast, and ocean. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Calla Allison*

Calla Allison  
Director  
[Marine Protected Area Collaborative Network](https://www.mpacollaborative.org)  
[calla@mpacollaborative.org](mailto:calla@mpacollaborative.org)