CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
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VOICE (415) 904- 5200
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WWW.COASTAL.CA.GOV

November 3, 2020

Re: Letter of support for the proposal, "Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California" submitted in response to the Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience solicitation

To the Ocean Protection Council:

I am writing in support of the proposal by Dr. Charles Lester, "Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California."

Along with other state agencies, the Coastal Commission is actively working with local governments up and down the California coast on sea level rise adaptation planning. The Commission has adopted Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance and awarded six rounds of grant funding to local governments to perform adaptation planning and update Local Coastal Programs to address sea level rise. This investment of resources, along with support from other local, state, and federal sources, has created an upsurge in local planning for sea level rise resilience and adaptation, and many draft Local Coastal Programs are approaching the local decision-making process as well as consideration before the Coastal Commission. One of the Coastal Commission's highest priorities, as reflected in its Strategic Plan for 2021-2025, is to advance progress on Local Coastal Program certifications and amendments to address climate change.

This Prop 68 proposal would directly benefit the Coastal Commission and local governments by evaluating the decision-making processes used throughout California's 76 coastal jurisdictions and making recommendations about how the process might be improved. This research would help accelerate the progress on Local Coastal Programs that is sorely needed to safeguard the State's communities and coastal resources into the future. Due to this project's importance, Commission staff plan to participate in an advisory capacity.

As you know, Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state, and both the state and local government interests would benefit from such an evaluation. His proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians. We look forward to collaborating with Dr. Lester on this important project.

Sincerely,

John Ainsworth
Executive Director

Coastal Conservancy

November 12, 2020

Mark Gold
Executive Director
Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPC Proposal: Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California

Dear Mark,

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal by Dr. Charles Lester, **Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California**. This proposal will look at the multiple jurisdictions along our outer coast with specific focus on the decision and planning processes to make recommendations about how the process and programs might be improved

As you know, Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state, and both the state and local government interests would benefit from such an evaluation. His proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians

Sincerely,

Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer

HSU SLRI

Humboldt State University Sea Level Rise Initiative

November 9, 2020

Ocean Protection Council

Re: Support for Prop-68 Grant Application: Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California; PI – Charles Lester

To Whom It May Concern,

The Humboldt State University Sea Level Rise Initiative (HSU SLRI) is pleased to offer this letter of support for the proposal by Dr. Charles Lester, **Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California**.

The HSU SLRI brings together a group of academic, government, Tribal, planning, and environmental NGO professionals in the Humboldt County region with the mission to "provide regional leadership on sea level rise research and outreach by developing a home for interdisciplinary scholarship related to sea level rise; informing local, regional, and national decision making through collaborative frameworks; and providing a centralized program through which regional sea level rise science and planning efforts can be coordinated." Members of the SLRI have expertise in planning, social science research methods, GIS techniques, the geosciences, and more. The HSU SLRI focuses predominantly on SLR issues within the Humboldt Bay region, which is facing the fastest rate of relative sea level rise in the entire state of California.

Members of the SLRI have conducted research related to the physical, social, and political conditions related to SLR in Humboldt Bay for many years. We believe that the approach espoused in Dr. Lester's proposal – to use a statewide approach to evaluate local and state adaptation planning efforts – is an important one that can lead fruitful insights and policy recommendations to improve statewide SLR adaptation planning efforts. The SLRI believes that Dr. Lester and his team will have the appropriate expertise to conduct this research. We are also encouraged to see the emphasis on considering disadvantaged communities in their analysis. Results of this work could have benefits for communities across the state who are grappling with SLR, including those in the Humboldt Bay region.

Thank you for your consideration and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions.

1 Harpst Street • Arcata, California 95521-8299 • 707.826.4147 • fax 707.826.4145 • www.humboldt.edu

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Sincerely,

Laurie Richmond
Co-Chair Humboldt State University Sea Level Rise Initiative
Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management
Humboldt State University
Laurie.richmond@humboldt.edu

Aldaron Laird
Co-Chair Humboldt State University Sea Level Rise Initiative
Senior Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planner
Greenway Partners
laird@greenwaypartners.net

November 11, 2020

Ocean Protection Council
Proposition 68 Grant Program

Dear OPC Staff,

The Central Coast Climate Collaborative (4C) is pleased to offer support for the proposal by Dr. Charles Lester, **Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California**. As you may know, Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state, and both the state and local government interests would benefit from such an evaluation. The proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, and how we can mitigate and address disproportionate climate-related impacts on vulnerable communities, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians.

The mission of 4C is to foster a diverse network of local and regional community leaders throughout six Central Coast counties to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Collaborative involves representatives from local and regional government, business and agriculture, academia, and diverse community groups to share information and best practices, leverage efforts and resources and identify critical issues and needs. The Collaborative engages all communities throughout the region to help ensure a resilient and low-carbon Central Coast prepared for the impacts of climate change. As such we are excited to partner with Dr. Lester on their proposed project to evaluate adaptation planning across coastal areas of the state. We plan to participate in the project to offer input from the collaborative's perspective on the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to improve adaptation planning and implementation.

4C is a member of the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA), the statewide collaborative of collaboratives and, as such offers resources and linkages to climate adaptation planning forums and their differing functions and approaches across the state. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 845-8853. Our sincerest thanks!

Sincerely,

Rachel Couch
Chair, Central Coast Climate Collaborative

B.E.A.C.O.N.
Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment
A California Joint Powers Agency

Member Agencies

Fred Shaw
City of Carpinteria

Kyle Richards
City of Goleta

Carmen Ramirez
City of Oxnard

Steven Gama
City of Port Hueneme

Christy Weir, Vice-Chair
City of San Buenaventura

Eric Friedman
City of Santa Barbara

Gregg Hart, Chair
Das Williams
County of Santa Barbara

Steve Bennett
John Zaragoza
County of Ventura

Executive Director
Marc Beyeler

Santa Barbara Address:
105 East Anapamu, Suite 201
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Ventura Address:
501 Poli St.
P.O. Box 99
Ventura, CA 93001

Email:
Office@Beacon.ca.gov

Website:
http://www.beacon.ca.gov

November 7, 2020

Dr. Charles Lester
Director
Ocean & Coastal Policy Center
3304 Marine Science Institute
UC Santa Barbara

RE: OPC Proposition 68 Grant Proposal

Hi Charles:

Please accept this letter of support for your Coastal Resilience grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council, **Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California**. I am writing as the Executive Director of BEACON, the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment, in support of this proposal.

BEACON is actively pursuing regional climate adaptation in the Santa Barbara-Ventura area and these efforts would benefit from additional research on adaptation planning, so we can better understand how to address both opportunities and barriers to successful adaptation actions.

As I understand it , your proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians.

Best of luck in securing the grant funding to pursue this important research.

Sincerely,

Marc Beyeler
Director
BEACON

SANDAG

401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231
(619) 699-1900
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Metropolitan Transit System
North County Transit District
United States Department of Defense
Port of San Diego
San Diego County Water Authority
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
Mexico

November 10, 2020

Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear OPC:

Subject: Support for the University of California (UC) Santa Barbara application to the Ocean Protection Council's Proposition 68 Grant Solicitation

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) supports UC Santa Barbara's application to the Ocean Protection Council's Proposition 68 Grant Solicitation for their project *Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California* (project) to be managed by Dr. Charles Lester.

Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state. This type of evaluation would be beneficial to those working at the local, regional, and state level to advance sea level rise adaptation planning. The project will produce recommendations that address OPC objectives to identify specific mitigation and adaptation strategies for coastal communities threatened by severe sea-level rise through the development of templates and minimum standards for adaptation plans such as methods for incorporating adaptation pathways into local plans.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the San Diego region, SANDAG is uniquely poised to work with its local coastal jurisdictions to advance sea level rise adaptation planning. SANDAG could benefit from this project by extrapolating recommendations for incorporating adaptation pathways into local plans into its long-range planning documents, including San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan. In addition, by better understanding the challenges and successes of the sea level rise planning process at the local level, SANDAG can learn how to better serve its local coastal jurisdictions to advance sea level rise planning in the San Diego region.

We look forward to supporting the UC Santa Barbara on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

HASAN IKHRATA
Executive Director

HIK/SPI

City of Imperial Beach, California

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

825 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91932 Tel: (619) 423-8303 Fax: (619) 628-1395

November 1, 2020

Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for the OPC Proposition 68 Grant proposal by Dr. Charles Lester on Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal by Dr. Charles Lester, Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California. As you know, Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state, and both the state and local government interests would benefit from such an evaluation. His proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians.

The City of Imperial Beach recognizes the value of a project that identifies the state of adaptation planning and decision making for the 76 local coastal jurisdictions in California. The thorough assessment by Dr. Lester and his team on the strengths, weakness, and opportunities to improve adaptation is an important project that is necessary to accelerate the implementation of climate adaptation projects along the coast.

We look forward to the opportunity for the City to work with Dr. Lester on his proposal should the project get funded.

Sincerely,

Serge Dedina
Mayor

CITY OF DEL MAR

November 5, 2020

California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for Charles Lester's Proposed Adaptation Planning Study

To Grant Selection Committee:

I am writing to express the City of Del Mar's support for Dr. Charles Lester's application to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding consideration of his proposed **Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California** through the Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program. Dr. Charles's proposed study to "find adaptation solutions on our coast that can work for all Californians" is consistent with the goals of the City of Del Mar to protect the beach, coastal access, critical infrastructure and viability for the future through a rational, sustainable approach.

The City of Del Mar is a strong advocate for increased coastal adaptation resources and is appreciative of the grant assistance being provided by OPC in support of a variety of strategies for resilience and response to sea level rise and climate change. After multiple years of science-based studies, in October 2018, the Del Mar City Council adopted policies, regulations, and long-range plans with a variety of strategies to address projected sea level rise, flooding, and coastal bluff erosion. This included identification of beach nourishment as the City's highest priority, near-term adaptation strategy to address projected local flooding and erosion, which is why the City has also expressed support for SANDAG's application for funding of a regional beach nourishment study in the San Diego region.

We look forward to working with Dr. Lester on his proposed study that will further explore creative opportunities to address climate resilience and consider how the existing regulatory framework for adaptation planning decisions and processes may be improved. It is imperative that decision makers at all levels recognize that beaches are dynamic and context matters. Local jurisdictions must be afforded flexibility to choose how best to adapt over time to meet federal and state standards, maintain coastal public access, and responsibly protect the viability and sustainability of our coast and coastal communities.

Should you have any questions or require any further information, please contact Amanda Lee, Principal Planner at alee@delmar.ca.us or (858) 755-9313 ext.1167.

Sincerely,

Ellie Haviland
Mayor

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE | 809 CENTER STREET | SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

November 4, 2020

Justine Kimball
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of support for Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California proposal

Dear Ms. Kimball,

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal submitted by Dr. Charles Lester, **Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California**. As you know, Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state, and both the state and local government interests would benefit from such an evaluation. His proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Wise-West

Dr. Tiffany Wise-West, PE,
Sustainability & Climate Action Manager

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Carolyn Bloede
Director

County Government Center
455 County Center, 4th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
www.green.smcgov.org

November 3, 2020

Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

To OPC Review Panel:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal by Dr. Charles Lester, **Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California**. As you know, Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state, and both the state and local government interests would benefit from such an evaluation. His proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians. The County of San Mateo will be able to apply this research to our work developing coastal adaptation solutions and working with disadvantaged communities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at cbloede@smcgov.org.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bloede
Director, Office of Sustainability

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

DATE: **12 November 2020**

SUBJECT: **Letter of Support – Azul**
Project: Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California

To the OPC:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal by Dr. Charles Lester, ***Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California****. As you know, Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state, and both the state and local government interests would benefit from such an evaluation. His proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians.*

Sincerely,

Celia CJ Solis
Director of Operations
AZUL

cc: Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, *Founder / Executive Director,* Azul

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

November 11, 2020,

RE: Support Letter for Dr. Charles Lester's proposal

Dear Mark Gold and Honorable Ocean Protection Council Members:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal by Dr. Charles Lester, Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California. As you know, Dr. Lester is well-qualified to research and reflect upon how coastal adaptation planning is working in our state, and both the state and local government interests would benefit from such an evaluation.

His proposal also focuses on enhancing the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in the process, which is an important consideration if we are to find adaptation solutions on our coast that work for all Californians.

A new mapping effort conducted by the First Street Foundation shows that in the future, the U.S. will experience drastically more flooding than previously calculated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The new mapping effort also uncovered that 70% more buildings in the U.S. are vulnerable to flood risk than previously thought, *with most of the flooding impacting low-income neighborhoods.*

Better understanding and engaging underrepresented communities is an imperative step to helping all Californians adapt to the climate crisis and we believe Dr. Lester's effort will be greatly beneficial.

Thank you in advance for considering this letter.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Sekich-Quinn

Stefanie Sekich-Quinn
Coastal Preservation Manager
Surfrider Foundation