

California Natural Resources Secretary Crowfoot, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Staff Recommendation (Item 4a) to disburse fund to the California Ocean Science Trust to convene a scientific task force to update California's sea-level rise technical guidance

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

Please accept this letter of support for the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) staff recommendation for \$400,000 in funding to the California Ocean Science Trusts (OST) to convene a scientific task force to update California's sea-level rise technical guidance with the best available and most recent science on sea-level rise projections.

Sea level rise threatens the entire California coast and all coastal communities. The impacts of sea level rise will be felt by many, especially communities most vulnerable and those that may not have the resources or technical expertise to prepare for these impacts. There is an urgent need to ensure that state and local governments are planning for sea level rise based on the best available and most current science to avoid or minimize these impacts for all communities.

Resilient Cities Catalyst (RCC), a global non-profit whose mission is to help cities and communities create catalytic change to solve some of their most pressing issues including the impacts from sea level rise, sees the importance of linking together a task force that can support and direct California's technical guidance. As a part of this mission, RCC created the California Resilience Partnership (CRP), a multi-million-dollar public-philanthropic effort. CRP partners across the State see immense potential in OST's work and this project, we look forward to utilizing their outputs.

We believe that OST is well-positioned and well-equipped to lead this interdisciplinary group of scientific experts and bring the relevant players together to chart out the best path forward for California to understand and prepare for future sea level rise. OST's values and commitments of science-based decision-making, building connections between scientists, policymakers, and communities, and centering diversity, equity, and inclusion are precisely what are needed to help California tackle this pressing issue.

We are encouraged by and applaud the OPC staff for committing to tackling this issue head on in a science-based and evidence-informed manner. We urge the Council to support this effort and accelerate progress towards a healthy and resilient ocean future for California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and "C".

Sam Carter
Founding Principal
Resilient Cities Catalyst