

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street, 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 22, 2022

SUBJECT: Support for Consideration and Approval of Disbursement of Funds to Support Marine Protected Area Management Program Priorities - Outreach, Education, Enforcement and Compliance (Item 7a)

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

WILDCOAST supports the approval of the disbursement of funds to support marine protected area management program priorities including the outreach, education, enforcement and compliance projects presented by California Sea Grant, California State Parks, and Resources Legacy Fund.

California's 545,280-acre MPA network is the world's largest, scientifically based and integrated network of MPAs. In the ten years since their establishment, these MPAs, and the efforts to protect them, have attracted global attention as an effective marine conservation tool. Initial reports, anecdotal evidence, and recently published peer-reviewed papers show that ecosystem health and fisheries are recovering in some areas protected as MPAs.

Community partnerships are critical to the success of California's MPA network. For example, the MPA Compliance Working Group improves communication and collaboration among enforcement and allied agencies including planned and coordinated data-driven collaborative outreach and the promotion of strong conservation policy. The statewide MPA Watch network produces a robust MPA human-use dataset, gathered by community scientists, that helps guide adaptive MPA management and enhances the ability of stakeholders to engage in stewardship activities.

The outreach, education, enforcement, and compliance projects under consideration will increase capacity for the adaptive management of the network, collect valuable data on the effectiveness of the network, and help connect people to their coastal spaces.

Thank you for your consideration of approving funds for these important projects.

Sincerely,



Angela Kemsley  
Conservation Director, WILDCOAST



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND  
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

September 29, 2022

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 for Item #6, 7, and 9: OPC Equity Plan and Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, Marine Protected Area Management Program Priorities, and MPA Connectivity Modeling**

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Members of the Ocean Protection Council:

Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) offers our support for the approval and disbursement of funds in items 6, 7, and 9: The Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) Equity Plan and Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Program Priorities, and MPA Connectivity Modeling.

Equity is central to effectively and durably advancing ocean protection for the benefit of all. Item 5, the OPC Equity Plan and Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, formalizes OPC's commitment to inclusive and equitable marine management as described in OPC's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. Approval of item 5 will provide a roadmap for integrating equity and community-led priorities into decision making moving forward. RLF and many of our partners submitted comments to inform the plan's final draft, and look forward to continued engagement with OPC on its implementation.

Item 7 furthers California's MPA Management Program by supporting efforts that will enhance compliance and enforcement, education and outreach, and long-term science and monitoring. The suite of grants underscores that partnerships will continue to make the MPA network a collaborative success, through support to California State Parks, California Sea Grant for four long-term MPA monitoring projects, California Collaborative Fisheries Research Project, and for RLF's proposed grant focused on community informed and led compliance activities in partnership with the MPA Collaborative Network, MPA Watch, California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and others.

Item 9 will augment ongoing MPA connectivity modeling efforts to allow for expanded network-scale analysis of California's MPAs. This will provide important information to inform management of the 124 MPAs as interconnected protected places. As the state looks to the MPA Decadal Management Review and beyond, the investments in items 7 and 9 will provide important data and public engagement in support of an effectively management MPA network.

September 29, 2022

Page 2 of 2

We appreciate OPC's commitment to equity and partnership-based management of the MPA network and California's ocean and coastal resources.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Kaitilin Gaffney  
Director of Ocean, Coast, and Fisheries



☎ 510 847 3167  
✉ [info@coastal-quest.org](mailto:info@coastal-quest.org)  
🌐 [www.coastal-quest.org](http://www.coastal-quest.org)  
📍 2625 Alcatraz Ave. #609  
Berkeley, California 94705

OCTOBER 3, 2022

**Wade Crawfoot**

Secretary for Natural Resources, Council Chair

715 P Street, 20th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Wade Crawfoot:

Coastal Quest is writing in support of the Ocean Protection Council staff's funding recommendations that will further MPA compliance, equitable governance and management, monitoring and research, and MPA outreach and education for California's oceans and coasts. These actions are critical both for the health of our ecosystems and communities, but also our State's contributions to national 30x30 targets.

Coastal Quest is a 501c3 non-profit working collaboratively with partners to build resilient coastal communities. We believe that healthy coasts support diverse and rich habitats that provide great economic and cultural value, including shoreline protection, recreation, and abundant natural resources. We have been collaborating with the Ocean Protection Council since 2016 to implement its Outreach and Education Small Grants Program through the Once-Through Cooling Mitigation Fund. Round 3 of this program launches this Fall, and continues to exemplify OPC's important contribution to ensuring MPA compliance through outreach and education for our State's kids and families, commercial and recreational fisheries, environmental justice communities, and other diverse stakeholders. Last November, we also convened over 2500 partners to discuss potential local, regional and national approaches to achieving 30x30 targets.

To this end, Coastal Quest highly supports funding recommendations for the following action items:

- Item 7a: Outreach, Education, Enforcement and Compliance will advance MPA outreach, education, enforcement, and compliance activities through OPC's Once-Through Cooling (OTC) Interim Mitigation Program. This \$4.2 million funding allocation would build on previous OPC investments to State Parks and RLF to expand MPA messaging, interpretive programming, enforcement trainings, and other compliance activities that further advance priorities of the state's MPA Management Program and the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan.
- Item 7b: Continued MPA Long-Term Monitoring will provide an additional \$4.5 million for continued long-term monitoring of California's marine protected areas (MPA) in four key habitat areas (rocky intertidal, kelp forest, mid-depth rocky reef, sandy beach/surf zone) and the MPA collaborative fishing program, California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program. MPA monitoring has directly informed the first-ever decadal management review of the Network, currently in development by CDFW, scheduled for public release in January 2023.

- Item 9: MPA Connectivity Modeling Expansion (Consent Item) will provide funds to expand connectivity modeling work to provide resource managers with an improved understanding of network-wide performance and help to ensure a successful management review of the MPA network in 2022 and beyond.

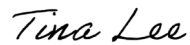
As an organization that works closely with civil society and community partners, we've observed a demonstrated need for more funding and support for OPC's MPA programming, and would like to express our support for the recommendations will be put forward by the staff at the OPC meeting on Thursday, Oct. 6th, 2022. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Warm regards,



**Tegan Hoffmann**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Tina Lee**

DIRECTOR

Thursday, September 29, 2022


Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street, 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

The UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science strongly supports the proposed investments in Marine Protected Area (MPA) management program priorities under consideration at the Council's October 6th meeting. In particular, we applaud the continued emphasis on community and citizen science (CCS) as a key component of MPA monitoring.

The rationale for CCS as part of MPA management is rooted in the collaborative, democratic ethos of the MPA program, and in its potential to build bridges across all management priorities. Done right, CCS can simultaneously meet data needs, foster stewardship and engagement, and deepen knowledge across diverse communities.

Initial findings from our research on the role of CCS in California's MPAs, recently submitted as a [report to the MPA Decadal Management Review](#)<sup>1</sup> bear this out. Committed volunteers and partner organizations have contributed an enormous amount of time, energy, and resources to MPA monitoring. Here's a snapshot of what we learned about state-funded CCS programs over the last ten years.

 **84,000**  
Participants **476,000**  
Volunteer  
hours **528**  
Monitoring  
sites **100**  
Partner organizations,  
agencies, institutions  
and groups

Importantly, CCS activities involved volunteer contributions across all four management “pillars” of the MPA program: research and monitoring; education and outreach; enforcement and compliance; and policy and permitting. This shows the tremendous value of community partnerships for the MPA program, and for California's oceans.

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<sup>1</sup> Meyer, Ryan, Angela Korabik, Todd Harwell, Nicholas Petersen, and Heidi Ballard. 2022. “Examining the Role of Community and Citizen Science in Marine Protected Area Implementation.” UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science.  
[https://education.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/ccs\\_in\\_mpas\\_report\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](https://education.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/ccs_in_mpas_report_with_appendices.pdf)

I also want to highlight the value of the partnership networks and statewide capacity that the state is building through its investment in statewide monitoring with CCS as a key component. These networks, such as the statewide MPA Watch program that documents human activities along the coast, expand what's possible for ocean science and stewardship in California. MPA Watch has gathered a unique and valuable trove of data that can speak to a variety of management questions related to human dimensions of MPAs, such as compliance levels; and trends in recreation and other uses<sup>2</sup>. They are now in a position to leverage that robust network, and build in new methods that can address priority human dimensions questions for communities and managers.

The evolving role of CCS in California's MPAs is a unique – and globally significant – story, and we are excited to be a part of it. I am confident that the investments under consideration today will continue the State's leadership, and have positive impacts for the MPA program as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R-M-M', followed by a horizontal line.

Ryan M. Meyer  
Executive Director  
Center for Community and Citizen Science  
UC Davis School of Education

### About the Center for Community and Citizen Science

The UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science (CCS) was launched in 2016 to build on the University's growing reputation for excellent research on public participation in science. Based at the School of Education, the Center serves as a home for ideas, research, and training to help scientists, communities, and citizens collaborate on science to address environmental problems as a part of civic life.

To advance its mission, the Center develops trainings, curriculum, pilot projects, and innovative collaborations with scientists, schools, museums, government agencies, nonprofits, and others. In addition to research and practice, the Center plays an important role in both intellectual and practical discourse on citizen and community science at UC Davis and beyond. <https://education.ucdavis.edu/ccs>

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<sup>2</sup> View results from our preliminary analysis of MPA Watch data, submitted to the Decadal Management Review, here: [https://education.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/ccs\\_mpa\\_watch\\_analysis\\_final\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](https://education.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/ccs_mpa_watch_analysis_final_with_appendices.pdf)



October 4, 2022

California Ocean Protection Council  
715 P St., 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Ocean Protection Council October 6, 2022 Meeting Items 7a and 7b - SUPPORT**

*Submitted electronically via [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)*

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and Honorable Council Members:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, all members of California's marine protected area (MPA) non-governmental organization community with decades of combined experience working on MPAs, we are writing to communicate our strong support of funding for MPA Outreach, Education, and Compliance and Continued MPA Long-Term Monitoring. We fully support the council's disbursement of up to \$4,226,262 from Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program funds to various grantees for outreach and education for MPAs and the council's disbursement of up to \$4,544,596 to support MPA long-term monitoring for adaptive management of the MPA Network.

Given the strong representation of California's MPAs adjacent to California State Parks, supporting them to expand education and outreach to visitors of State Parks will be key in building support and compliance with California's MPA Network. This funding would build on previous OPC investments to State Parks and the Resources Legacy Fund to expand MPA messaging, interpretive programming, enforcement trainings, and other compliance activities that further advance priorities of the state's MPA Management Program and the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan. Increased awareness, compliance and enforcement will maximize ecological benefits expected from MPAs, thereby helping offset the impacts to marine life caused by OTC technology used by coastal power plants.

Our various organizations have all participated in MPA outreach, education, and monitoring efforts funded by this Council and we know first-hand how invaluable these investments are for the health and efficacy of our MPA Network. For over a decade, a dozen organizations have spear-headed the statewide MPA Watch program, which to date has trained thousands of volunteers and led to the collection of nearly 40,000 human activity surveys in and around MPAs from San Diego to Del Norte and everywhere in between. This program not only provides



essential and unmatched data on human activity in MPAs, but also provides education opportunities and trains community members as stewards of our coasts and oceans. This stewardship and connectivity to our coasts and oceans is imperative for the long-term success of the MPA network and this funding disbursement would support dozens of programs like MPA Watch for the coming years.

Lastly, long-term monitoring projects are critical to understanding the success of the MPA Network. As global leaders in MPA implementation, funding the monitoring of our MPA network supports continued leadership in marine resource management and protection on an international stage. Long-term monitoring programs also have and will continue to inform management decisions here in California and ensure that the MPAs are providing ecosystem benefits, restoring habitats, and meeting conservation and resiliency goals. Key habitat monitoring projects and the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) provide essential data needed for regular management reviews. CCFRP in particular not only collects data, but provides unique opportunities for anglers to collect data inside MPAs and become stewards of these protected waters. We strongly support the disbursement of funding for continued MPA long-term monitoring.

Our MPAs are only as good as our management strategies. Funding to support MPA program priorities, including outreach, education, enforcement, compliance, and monitoring is one of the most important financial investments our state can make in ensuring protection of our coastal and marine resources. We strongly support the disbursement of funding for these program priorities and applaud the OPC for prioritizing California's MPA Network.

Sincerely,



Angela Kemsley  
Conservation Director, WILDCOAST



Laura Walsh  
California Policy Manager,  
Surfrider Foundation



Anupa Asokan  
Senior Oceans Advocate  
Natural Resources Defense Council



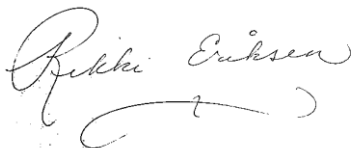
Michael Quill, Ph.D.  
Marine Programs Director  
Los Angeles Waterkeeper



Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.  
Legal and Policy Director  
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin



Emily Parker  
Coastal and Marine Scientist  
Heal the Bay



Rikki Eriksen, PhD  
Director Marine Programs  
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation



Chelsea H. Tu  
Executive Director  
Monterey Waterkeeper

Kristen Hislop  
Senior Director, Marine Program  
Environmental Defense Center



Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street, 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
October 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Support for Consideration and Approval of Disbursement of Funds to Support Marine Protected Area Management Program Priorities - Outreach, Education, Enforcement and Compliance (Item 7a)

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

The MPA Collaborative Network (CN) supports the approval of the disbursement of funds to support marine protected area management program priorities including the outreach, education, enforcement and compliance projects presented by California State Parks and Resources Legacy Fund (RLF).

A successful MPA network relies on compliance with the regulations established to enhance their ecological functions and conservation goals. Among these efforts, community partnerships are critical to the success of California's MPA network. The robust outreach, education, enforcement, and compliance projects under consideration will increase capacity for the adaptive management of the network, collect valuable data on the effectiveness of the network, and help connect people to their coastal spaces.

As an example, the MPA Collaborative Network, a subgrantee of Resource Legacy Fund, is a statewide network of 14 county based MPA collaboratives with over 1,400 members representing over 450 distinct organizations and agencies. By bringing together a wide range of ocean experts and enthusiasts, the MPA Collaborative Network help strengthen cross-interest relationships and improve local initiatives to advance MPA management and encourage ocean stewardship. With continued support from the Ocean Protection Council, the CN can expand and strengthen efforts to advance MPA management by administering enforcement and compliance trainings, increasing understanding of enforcement statistics, and administering community-based diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) events.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Calla Allison, Executive Director, MPA Collaborative Network, at [calla@mpacollaborative.org](mailto:calla@mpacollaborative.org).

Thank you for your consideration of authorizing funds for these important projects.

*Calla Allison*

Calla Allison,  
Executive Director, MPA Collaborative Network



**CMSF** CALIFORNIA  
MARINE  
SANCTUARY  
FOUNDATION

October 4, 2022

California Ocean Protection Council  
715 P St., 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Ocean Protection Council October 6, 2022 Meeting Items 7a and 7b - SUPPORT**

*Submitted electronically via [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)*

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and Honorable Council Members:

On behalf of California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, we offer our strong and enthusiastic support for funding towards MPA Outreach, Education, and Compliance and Continued MPA Long-Term Monitoring. The Council's disbursement of up to \$4,226,262 from Once-Through Cooling Mitigation dollars to key partners for MPA outreach and education and the council's disbursement of up to \$4,544,596 to support long-term monitoring for adaptive management of the MPA Network is crucial to success. Together this funding further advances the priorities of the state's MPA Management Program and the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan and recognises the monumental efforts of so many individuals and organizations across our State.

Over 50% of all California MPAs lie adjacent to State Parks, making them crucial for public education and outreach. This funding builds on previous OPC investments that expand MPA messaging, interpretive programming, and enforcement and compliance activities. Throughout CMSF's long history of MPA implementation, California State Parks has been an integral partner. Since inception of the MPA Network, we have relied on State Parks as outlets for increasing awareness and building support for marine protection. We know first-hand how valuable this investment will be in achieving the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act. CMSF worked with State Parks early on to create web pages for every MPA in the Network, develop slide decks and trainings for State Parks interpreters, and produce print and digital educational materials that remain in use today. Given the threats that our coastal parks face, bolstering awareness and stewardship is key to preparing us for future climate impacts, and building resilience from stressors caused by OTC technology.



**CMSF** CALIFORNIA  
MARINE  
SANCTUARY  
FOUNDATION

Together, CMSF and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries successfully piloted the use of an electronic Fisheries Information Network System (eFINS). This innovative technology improves tracking and understanding of compliance with California's MPAs. We built an app for use by marine wardens and offices to easily collect and share important information from enforcement encounters while patrolling offshore areas. Understanding violations to California's MPAs regulations helps reduce recurring poaching which decreases diversity, reproductive output and spillover of marine organisms. OPC funding will help Resources Legacy Fund to expand the use of the eFINS app throughout the state to improve tracking and understanding of activities and threats in California's MPAs.

Lastly, determining the success of our MPA Network is only feasible through long-term monitoring, which is costly and challenging. Funding for MPA monitoring demonstrates our commitment and leadership in marine resource management and protection nationally and internationally. Outputs from monitoring will help inform adaptive management as climate impacts rise. Only through long term monitoring can we ensure that MPAs are providing ecosystem benefits, restoring habitats, and meeting conservation and resiliency goals. For example, findings from intertidal and kelp forest monitoring are helping to inform decisions about restoration, resilience, and sea level rise adaptation. The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) offers a unique opportunity for recreational anglers to work side by side with scientists collecting data. Studies show that these participants often become strong stewards of protected waters.

In summary, funding to support MPA program priorities, including outreach, education, enforcement, compliance, and monitoring is one of the most important financial investments our state can make to protect our coastal and marine resources. We strongly support the disbursement of funding for these program priorities and applaud the OPC for prioritizing California's MPA Network.

Sincerely,

*Rikki Eriksen*

Rikki Eriksen, Ph.D.  
Director Marine Programs  
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation



Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street, 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

October 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Support for Consideration and Approval of Disbursement of Funds to Support Marine Protected Area Management Program Priorities - Outreach, Education, Enforcement and Compliance (Item 7a)

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and members of the Ocean Protection Council,

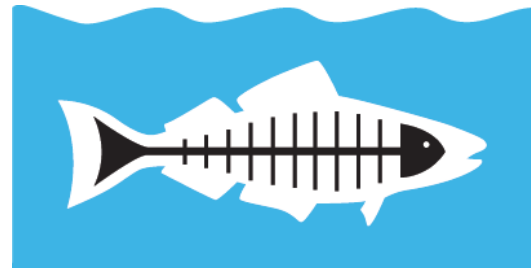
The MPA Watch network supports the approval of the disbursement of funds to support marine protected area management program priorities including the outreach, education, enforcement and compliance projects presented by California Sea Grant, California State Parks, and Resources Legacy Fund.

A successful MPA network relies on compliance with the regulations established to enhance their ecological functions and conservation goals. Among these efforts, community partnerships are critical to the success of California's MPA network. The robust outreach, education, enforcement, and compliance projects under consideration will increase capacity for the adaptive management of the network, collect valuable data on the effectiveness of the network, and help connect people to their coastal spaces.

As an example, MPA Watch is a statewide network of programs that support healthy oceans through community science by collecting human use data in and around marine protected areas (MPAs) and contributing that data to the adaptive management of California's MPAs. MPA Watch, and similar community projects, are valuable educational tools that inform volunteers about the topic on which they are participating and reinforce understanding of the subject through hands-on interaction. In addition to making science and conservation accessible to the public, these projects provide valuable data to enforcement officials and increase capacity for enforcement and compliance within MPAs.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lisa Gilfillan, California Conservation Manager and MPA Watch Coordinator, WILDCOAST, at [lisa@wildcoast.org](mailto:lisa@wildcoast.org).

Thank you for your consideration of authorizing funds for these important projects.



Heal the Bay



GREATER  
FARALLONES  
ASSOCIATION