



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.

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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



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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.

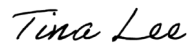
As an organization that works closely with civil society and community partners, we've observed a demonstrated need for more funding and support for OPC's MPA programming, and would like to express our support for the recommendations will be put forward by the staff at the OPC meeting on Thursday, Oct.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

Warm regards,



Tegan Hoffmann

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tina Lee

DIRECTOR