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# CALIFORNIA

## MARINE AFFAIRS AND NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

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September 12, 2011

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources  
 Chair, California Ocean Protection Council  
 California Natural Resources Agency  
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JAMES M. HAUSSENER  
*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

Dear Chair Laird:

On behalf of California's ports and harbors, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2012-2017 Draft Strategic Action Plan for the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). It doesn't seem that five years has gone by since the drafting of the First Plan.

The California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (C-MANC) represents the objectives of California's ports, harbors and marinas. It was formed to coordinate, through voluntary participation of public and private agencies and organizations, the maximum efficient planning and development of California's navigable channels, harbors, waterways and coastal resources.

We encourage the OPC to expand its communications strategy to the "greater" community rather than just to "other agencies and partners." As the Plan specifically mentions the 2010 White Paper, we suggest more be done to develop a sustained communication strategy with all rather than limited to "partners" or those who will write support letters to be included in Council Agendas.

As the OPC shifts to an increased emphasis on seeking, acquiring, and leveraging new funds you need to increase the transparency in the entire process of soliciting those funds, the drafting of any memoranda and on going communications between OPC decision-makers and those providing funds.

Concerning Sea Level Rise, we did not note a discussion on the need for continued large scale modeling to understand the variability in sea level rise between the Eastern and Western Pacific Ocean. Additionally, decision-makers need to have flexibility in their process based on local impacts or the life expectancy of a project. A decision to install a replacement 30-year life span public bathroom should not have to go through the same process as a 200-year life span sewer system.

In 2006 we were a signatory to a letter to your predecessor concerning the concept of transitioning to sustainability in California fisheries. Additionally, at that time, we were pleased to see the Council's actions to protect and sustain the recreational and commercial fishing infrastructure of California's coastal communities. We continue to be very concerned about the future of our coastal communities and request that increasing the dollar value of fish landed be considered a metric. While we are appreciative of the continued collaboration with the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission, it appears to be a glaring oversight to not include the Pacific Fishery Management Council within Issue # 4.

We appreciate your commitment to deliver timely and meaningful information to inform adaptive Marine Protection Area management. We are concerned that you appear to be limiting, under Action 5.1.2, to only those that are MLPA *implementation* partners and not the general public.

We support the need to integrate water policy as this is a crucial area for those who are at the interface between land and water. In some cases an entire watershed flows past our member's facilities bringing with it a variety of contaminants our members must properly dispose of.

We are very supportive of continuing to include sediment management into the Strategic Plan. We hope that it will be a priority action during the next five years as regional sediment management is crucial in allowing our coastal communities to thrive while helping to protect crucial infrastructure and habitat from storm surges.

Our members are in full agreement and thank the OPC staff for recognizing the value of working waterfront infrastructure. This infrastructure needs to be maintained to allow for job growth, access to the water, and, among others, the exportation of agricultural products. Our members look forward to working with OPC staff to meet the Goal of Issue 8.

With regards to Marine Renewable Energy, we request the OPC communicate regularly with the smaller coastal communities about the activities of the California Marine Renewable Energy Working Group Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in a timely manner so that they may be involved in all activities that may impact them.

We have enjoyed working with both the Ocean Protection Council and Coastal Conservancy staff over the past seven years and look forward to a continued healthy relationship benefiting the citizens of California.

Sincerely,



James M. Haussener  
Executive Director