



Tracking Number: (\_2023-22MPA\_)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to [FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov). Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or [FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov).

### **SECTION I: Required Information.**

*Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages*

#### **1. Orange County Coastkeeper**

Name of primary contact person: Wendy Berube

Address: 3151 Airway Ave. Suite F-110, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [wendy@coastkeeper.org](mailto:wendy@coastkeeper.org)

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required)** - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205(c), 265, 399, 1590, 1591, 2860, 2861 and 6750, Fish and Game Code; and Sections 36725(a) and 36725(e), Public Resources Code.

#### **3. Overview (Required)** -

- a. In both the Bolsa Chica Basin and Laguna Beach no-take SMCAs, change the purple to red on outreach maps. See rows 150 and 155 on the [MPA Collaborative Network Regulatory Recommendations spreadsheet](#). All items listed in the spreadsheet have been extensively discussed at OCMPAC meetings. The groups reached a consensus at a dedicated regulatory recommendations meeting with broad community representation.
- b. For Crystal Cove and Dana Point SMCAs, add “non-living, geological or cultural” to marine resource tidepool take prohibition for consistency with 632(a)1(C). See rows 153 and 156 on the [MPA Collaborative Network Regulatory Recommendations spreadsheet](#).
- c. For the Crystal Cove and Dana Point SMCAs, change the description of tidepools to “rocky intertidal zone” with a modified definition, “the rocky intertidal zone includes all hard substrate between the highest high tide and lowest low tide.” This definition is provided by Dr. Jayson Smith, professor of intertidal biology at Cal Poly Pomona. See rows 152 and 157 on the [MPA Collaborative Network Regulatory Recommendations spreadsheet](#).



- d. In all Orange County MPAs, with the exception of Upper Newport Bay, add an amendment that “Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department.” Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, which is why it is being excluded from this request: CCR Title 14 Section 632(132)(D): “(D) Maintenance dredging, habitat restoration, research and education programs, maintenance of artificial structures, and operation and maintenance of existing facilities inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or activities pursuant to Section 630, or as otherwise authorized by the department.”

**4. Rationale (Required) -**

- a. A no-take SMCA has the same rules for the public as do the SMRs. It is easier for the public to understand the regulations when there are fewer designations. Right now, there is confusion over what the purple area means on the maps that we use for outreach. It would simplify the rules if all no-take areas were red. It is anticipated that other MPA Collaborative members will be submitting similar petitions across the South Coast region. This change supports Decadal Review Prioritized Recommendation #15.
- b. This clarifies that the tidepool protection also includes rocks and shells. Our enforcement partners have reported many people taking rocks and shells from the MPA. These are important abiotic ecosystem resources and should be explicitly protected.
- c. Tidepools are specific to pools but the intertidal habitats that need protection can be free of pools in some cases. “Area encompassing the rocky pools” is unclear to the public that all rocky intertidal habitat is included here.
- d. It has been widely recognized in OCMPAC meetings as well as in the Decadal Review process that it is extremely difficult to obtain permits to do research, monitoring, and restoration within our MPAs. These practices have been permitted in other coastal MPAs, such as nearby San Elijo Lagoon, where restoration efforts successfully restored the lagoon and coastal dune living shoreline. With climatic uncertainty and sea level rise, it is imperative that we are able to respond quickly to any changes with current and accurate scientific data. In Orange County, all of the rocky intertidal and reef habitats are protected by the MPAs, so there is absolutely no other option for scientific study of this habitat. When we do identify problems and solutions through research, we need to be able to implement those solutions quickly. In many cases, the appropriate response is restoration. To ensure the ecological integrity of the Orange County MPAs, we must permit scientific research, monitoring, and restoration. This knowledge will broaden our understanding of OC MPAs under climatic stress. This change supports Decadal Review Prioritized Recommendations # 11, 17, 25, and 6.

**SECTION II: Optional Information**

**5. Date of Petition: 11/29/2023**

**6. Category of Proposed Change**

- Sport Fishing
- Commercial Fishing
- Hunting



Other, please specify: MPAs, Section 632.

7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*

Amend Title 14 Section(s): [Westlaw regulations](#).

Add New Title 14 Section(s):

Repeal Title 14 Section(s):

8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition.**

Or  Not applicable.

9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation. If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency:

10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:

- a. MPA Collaborative Network Regulatory Recommendations Spreadsheet
- b. Letter of support from Dr. Jayson Smith of Cal Poly Pomona
- c. Letter of support from Nancy Caruso, Executive Director of Get Inspired, Inc.
- d. Letter of support from Michael C Couffer, Lead Biologist at Grey Owl Biological Consulting
- e. Letter of support from Dr. Wendy Marshall Lovell, President and CEO of the Ocean Institute
- f. Letter of support from Jessica Brasher, Director of Husbandry and Facilities for the Ocean Institute
- g. Letter of support from Stacey Chartier-Grable, Founder and Director of OC Habitats
- h. Letter of support from the EI Modena Ecological Research Class
- i. Letter of support from the STEM educators at Warner Middle School
- j. Letter of support from Don Cruse
- k. Letter of support from Marius Stanoiu
- l. Letter of support from Noel Besuzzi
- m. Letter of support from Kyle Jenkins
- n. Letter of support from John Phibbs
- o. Letter of support from Barbara Sarp

11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, Letter of support from other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing. The only fiscal impact would be the cost to reprint any outreach materials with the new red colors on the map.

12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:



**SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only**

Date received: 11/29/2023

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting date for FGC consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition \_\_\_\_\_
- Granted for consideration of regulation change

Tracking Number

County	MPA	Current Regs Summarized	Compliance concerns and/or management problem identified	Regulation Recommendation for Adaptive Management	Consensus?	Justification	Supporting Management Suggestion	Petitioner Lead	Contact Information	Recommendation Category	Designation Change?
Orange	<a href="#">Bolsa Bay SMCA</a>	Rec take of finfish by hook and line from shore in designated areas only	Confusion between Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Basin MPAs	Potentially combine Bolsa Bay with Bolsa Chica Basin MPAs?	No	State Lands requirement to have fishing				Boundary Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR. No consensus
Orange	<a href="#">Bolsa Chica Basin No-Take SMCA</a>	No Take. Allows for maintenance of artificial structures	Water management infrastructure is failing - needs management and repairs. Shoaling and potential closing of inlet - need cost effective alternative to dredging and \$ to implement. Could ultimately change boundaries of MPAs	MPA should cover all waters in ecological reserve. Move northeastern boundary to Graham	Yes	Makes enforcement easier so CDFW can cite for unlawful fishing using 632 instead of no trespassing				Boundary Change	
Orange	<a href="#">Bolsa Chica Basin No-Take SMCA</a>	No Take. Allows for maintenance of artificial structures	Confusion between Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Basin MPA regulations and whether take is allowed. Bridge inconsistency	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Other	
Orange	<a href="#">Upper Newport Bay SMCA</a>	Rec take of finfish by hook and line from shore in designated areas only	Ecological Reserve and MPA overlapping jurisdiction. Fishing from floats by PCH bridge and using gill nets at Jamboree Bridge; kayak fishing	No change	Yes		Harbor and estuary signs needed at Newport Dunes. Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed				
Orange	<a href="#">Crystal Cove SMCA</a>	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat	Harmful tidepooling and undersized lobster. Nighttime poaching. Angle is difficult at southern boundary	Better define tidepool definition to encompass rocky intertidal habitat	Yes	"Area encompassing the rocky pools" is confusing, makes it sounds like it is only the pools, not intertidal zone when dry	Night vision for State Parks officers to address nighttime poaching	State Parks pending review; OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	<a href="#">Crystal Cove SMCA</a>	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat		Add "non-living, geological or cultural" marine resource to tidepool take prohibition for consistency with 632(a)1(C)	Yes	Clarifies tidepool protections to include rocks and shells		State Parks pending review; OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	<a href="#">Laguna Beach SMR</a>	No Take	Poaching in gated/private communities; angle is difficult at northern boundary	No change	Yes		More enforcement needed in private community. Bring back community scientist/anglers (i.e., CCFRP) to OC				

Orange	<a href="#">Laguna Beach No-Take SMCA</a>	No Take. Maintenance allowed	Angle is difficult at southern boundary	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR	Produce map that has layer that shows allowed maintenance/artificial structures and scientific take	OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Other	
Orange	<a href="#">Dana Point SMCA</a>	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat. Tidepools protected	Fishing without a license. Night poaching at 3 Arch. Take of limpets at north end. Shift in fishing pressure. Angle is difficult at southern boundary. Harmful tidepooling	Add "non-living, geological or cultural" marine resource to tidepool take prohibition for consistency with 632(a)(1)(C)	Yes	Clarifies tidepool protections to include rocks and shells		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	<a href="#">Dana Point SMCA</a>	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat. Tidepools protected		Better define tidepool definition to encompass rocky intertidal habitat or utilize a different term.	Yes	Tidepools are specific to pools but intertidal habitats protected can be free of pools in some cases. "Area encompassing the rocky pools" is unclear whether all rocky intertidal habitat is included here.		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

The El Modena Ecological Research Class submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. The El Modena Ecological Research Class are committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission to **add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,



California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

The El Modena Ecological Research Club submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. The El Modena Ecological Research Club are committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission to **add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely, *Yvonne Rebertz, Miguel Angel Aguilar, Heather Velazquez*

California Fish and Game Commission

P.O. Box 944209

Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

On behalf of the Ocean Institute, I, Jessica Brasher, submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. The Ocean Institute is committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

Jessica Brasher  
Director of Husbandry and Facilities  
Ocean Institute

11/27/23

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090



Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

Get Inspired, Inc has been working on restoration projects in Orange County since 2011, educating over 12,000 students and involving 1,000 community volunteers to survey and restore species to our coast. We submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs.

Orange county's rocky reefs are all included in the MPA network, making it very difficult to request permission for monitoring, research, and restoration. These reefs are unique because of the orientation of our coast and high human impacts due to fishing pressure and tidepooling activities. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed and restore species which are missing from these reefs.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration activities, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County, with the exception of Upper Newport Bay, that states "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar wording.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy L. Coruso'.

Executive Director  
Get Inspired, Inc  
[www.getinspiredinc.org](http://www.getinspiredinc.org)  
714-206-5147

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

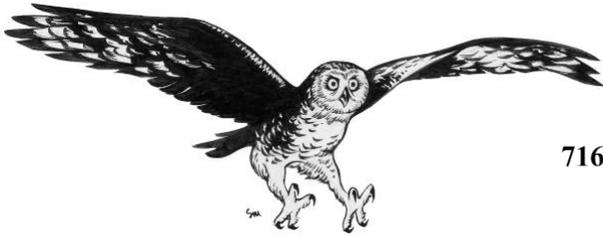
I, Marius Stanoiu, submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. I, Marius Stanoiu, am committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Marius Stanoiu



**Grey Owl Biological Consulting**  
716 Marguerite Avenue, Corona del Mar, California 92625  
(949) 644-7127 [mikecouffer@gmail.com](mailto:mikecouffer@gmail.com)

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

November 27, 2023

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within Orange County's Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

Grey Owl Biological Consulting submits these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition to add an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. My company is committed to coastal protection, supporting the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department." Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Couffer  
Owner and Senior Biologist  
Grey Owl Biological Consulting

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

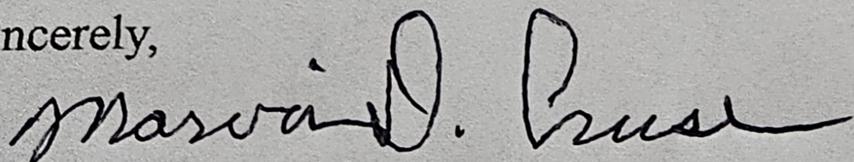
I Marvin D Cruse submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. I Marvin D Cruse are committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,



California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

11/28/23

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

The am submitting these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

Noel Besuzzi

Noel Besuzzi



The mission of OC Habitats™ (OCH) is to provide a public service for the many habitats of Orange County, California through conservation efforts, rehabilitation, restoration, education, outreach, volunteerism, monitoring, and partnering with other entities whose goal is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of natural habitats and the species therein.

---

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

OC Habitats submits these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for [1] [2] Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. OC Habitats is committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department." Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

Stacey Chartier-Grable  
Executive Director and Founder  
[SChartier-Grable@ochabitats.org](mailto:SChartier-Grable@ochabitats.org)



California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

I, Kyle Jenkins, a local citizen and avid ocean enthusiast, submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. I strongly believe in and support coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

Kyle Jenkins



California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

I John Phibbs submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. I John Phibbs are committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Phibbs", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.



**Biological Sciences**  
*College of Science*

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

I am a professor and marine ecologist in the Biological Sciences department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and submit this letter in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. My research history and professional service, particularly with Orange County MPAs, show a long-standing commitment to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges but recognize that fundamental research in MPAs still needs to be allowed and the process be made more streamlined.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas function naturally and how they are being affected by anthropogenic impacts, including climate change. It is therefore imperative that science be given the ability to robustly study these habitats and understand how to best protect them.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration, if necessary, I urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

I enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, I assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jayson Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayson Smith".

Professor  
Department of Biological Science  
jaysonsmith@cpp.edu

3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, CA 91768

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

I'm writing in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. I'm committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Sharp*

Barbara Sharp



California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

The Ocean Institute submits these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. The Ocean Institute is committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Marshall".

Dr. Wendy Leavell  
President/CEO  
Ocean Institute  
[wendy@oceaninstitute.org](mailto:wendy@oceaninstitute.org)  
714.916.3464

California Fish and Game Commission

P.O. Box 944209

Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Support for OC Coastkeeper Petition to allow scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration in Orange County Marine Protected Areas

Dear President Sklar and Commissioner Murray,

The STEM educators at Warner Middle School submit these comments in support of Orange County Coastkeeper's petition regarding adding an amendment for Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allowing for scientific research, monitoring, education, and restoration within the MPAs. The STEM educators at Warner Middle School are committed to coastal protection, the marine protected area (MPA) network, and the advancement of science to understand and address impending climate change challenges.

Orange County beaches have some of the most beautiful coves and rocky tide pools found anywhere in the world. Visitation is high, and therefore the protection offered by the MPAs is vital. However, there is still a lot we do not understand about how these areas are being affected by warming water and rising sea levels, among other climate change uncertainties. It is therefore imperative that we study these habitats and understand how to best protect them. We also need to be able to move quickly to enact solutions should they be needed.

To help scientists access permits to conduct research, establish monitoring protocols, and implement restoration if necessary, we urge the commission **to add an amendment to all MPAs within Orange County with the exception of Upper Newport Bay that states, "Scientific research, monitoring, restoration, and education is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state or local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department."** Upper Newport Bay already has a similar amendment, so it is not necessary to include that MPA.

We enthusiastically support California's MPA Network. In the case of Orange County MPAs, we assert that scientific study, monitoring, and possible restoration are needed to preserve the area's biodiverse marine life in light of changing climatic conditions for future generations.

Sincerely,

Travis Garwick

Renee Balboa

Steve Lambright

Joe Acquarelli