



February 2, 2007

California Ocean Protection Council

Mike Chrisman, Chair and Members

California Resources Agency

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Re: February 8, 2007 Marine Debris Resolution

Dear Chair Chrisman and members of the Council:

Plastic trash in our ocean and on our beaches is devastating to ocean wildlife, unhealthy for families that use California's beaches and undermines our coastal tourism economy. As statewide representatives of nonprofit organizations, with over a million members collectively, we support your leadership and the actions identified in your Ocean Protection Council (OPC) February 2007 Marine Debris Resolution. Although this resolution is a significant step in the right direction, we urge your Council to take stronger, yet practical actions to set specific and measurable goals, and a timeline to reduce marine debris. Specifically, we ask the OPC to amend your Resolution for action to:

- Set marine debris reduction goals and a timeline for achievement of these goals. Specifically, the Resolution should call for setting target reductions in the amount of plastic fast-food packaging and single-use plastic food packaging, as these are major components of marine debris. The Resolution should also set target reductions in the amount of derelict fishing gear present off the California coast.
- Call for a phased ban of expanded polystyrene (e.g. Styrofoam), a toxic type of plastic, and a major component of marine debris. The Cities of Santa Monica, Ventura, Malibu, Berkeley, San Clemente, and others have already implemented some type of expanded polystyrene ban.
- Call for regulations to control the release of pre-production plastic resin pellets into the natural environment during their production and distribution.
- Call for a reduction of toxic additives (including phthalates, Bisphenol A, and styrene) found in disposable plastic items that are commonly found in marine debris, including single-use plastic food packaging, fast-food packaging, and pre-production plastic resin pellets.

We urge the OPC to continue to provide strong policy leadership and improve coordination among state agencies to make California the national leader on reducing marine debris. The ultimate success of an inter-agency commitment to reduce marine debris depends upon



your Council setting clear, measurable goals for reduction of trash on our beaches and in our oceans.

Our beaches and ocean are a public trust and a legacy, belonging to all Californians. The Ocean Protection Council can provide national leadership to restore the health of this legacy.

Signed,

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