

February 1, 2016

Commissioner Steve Kinsey, Chair  
California Coastal Commissioners  
Via email: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov

**RE: Support for California Coastal Program and Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester by Former California Coastal Commissioners**

Dear Chair Kinsey and Commissioners,

Forty years ago, Governor Jerry Brown's visionary leadership saved the California coast from uncontrolled development when he signed the California Coastal Act of 1976 (the Coastal Act) into law. The Coastal Act has been an amazing success – it has enabled maximum public access to, and recreation along, our magnificent coastline for all Californians, awed visitors from around the globe, preserved sensitive habitats and natural resources and served as a source of inspiration and reverence.

As former Coastal Commissioners, we understand very well the complexities of balancing the Coastal Act's priority needs of public access and resource preservation with the ever-present development needs in a growing state. We took our responsibility as Commissioners seriously, considering each and every project before us on its merits and are proud to have been part of this world-renowned forty-year success.

We know that an essential component to the Coastal Act's success has been the independence of the Coastal Commission staff and its executive director to provide to Commissioners for their consideration objective, technical and scientific-based analyses and factual findings for each proposed coastal development. This independence has served the people of California, and our \$40-plus billion coastal economy well for decades.

Since Dr. Charles Lester was unanimously selected to lead the Coastal Program in September 2011 he has worked diligently to uphold the Coastal Act and to serve the interests of all Californians. Our state is facing a period of unprecedented change and challenge, with a rapidly growing population and the impacts of climate change increasing threats to our coast. Dr. Lester's professional leadership provides a critical steady hand at the helm during these particularly challenging times.

Firing the Coastal Commission's Executive Director would significantly undermine California's Coastal Program. It would also undermine Governor Jerry Brown's great legacy to leave intact the coastline's exquisite aesthetic, recreational, spiritual, biological and economic benefits. Please, support Dr. Lester's continued tenure as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission and the independence of this agency that has served all Californians so well for the past forty years.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your dedication to the coast.

Respectfully yours,

Pedro Nava

Melvin L. Nutter

Judy Rosener

Ruth Galanter

Gary Patton

Lennie Roberts

Steve Blank

Shirley Dettloff

Christina Desser

John Hisserich

Zad Leavy

Mike Reilly

Linda Moulton-Patterson

Dwight Worden

Bruce Reznik

Jeff Duclos

David Allgood

Patricia McCoy

John Woolley

Assembly Member Khatco  
Achadjian

Congressman Alan Lowenthal

Phyllis Faber

Arlen Gregorio

Jim Wickett

Frederick Lyon

Patrick Kruer

Sara Wan

April Vargas

Beth Wyman

Maggie Hardy

Deborah Ruddock

Stephen C. Padilla

Esther Sanchez

Cc: Honorable Governor Jerry Brown  
John Laird, Secretary, California Resources Agency  
Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin De Leon  
Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins  
Speaker-elect of the Assembly Anthony Rendon  
Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission