

P.O. Box 1383, Laguna Beach, CA 92652 • www.LagunaCanyonConservancy.org

January 23, 2025

Fish and Game Commission, State of California ATTN: Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director and Commissioners Samantha Murray, Erika Zavaleta, Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Eric Sklar and Darius Anderson P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Extension of the MPA along the southern coast of Laguna Beach

Dear Commissioners,

Via Mail and Email: FGC@FGC.CA.GOV

The Board of Directors of the Laguna Canyon Conservancy (LCC) joins with other local environmental groups in support of the Laguna Bluebelt's revision to the Southern Boundary for Petition 2023-24 MPA to a No Take SMCA (State Marine Conservation Area), for citywide enforcement and protection of essential sea life between Palos Verdes and La Jolla MPAs.

At present the southern area of Laguna Beach is designated as within the Dana Point SMCA. This designation has led to confusion regarding place names and Take regulations. The Bluebelt Petition will simplify the No Take regulation for the entire city of Laguna Beach, address inaccurate site names and restore Laguna Beach as the correct jurisdiction for this area.

The Laguna Canyon Conservancy hopes the Commission will accept and implement these revisions as vital to the protection of our ecosystems and sea life, revising and expanding the network of No Take MPAs.

As stewards of our wilderness, along with our colleagues from other environmental organizations, the LCC looks forward to the California Fish and Wildlife Commission protecting our coastal environment and habitat for present and future generations, as you have consistently done.

We thank you in advance for taking this critical step forward.

Laguna Canyon Conservancy is a nonprofit, all-volunteer environmental organization founded in 1988 to Save and Protect Laguna Canyon. LCC members have been involved in expanding the South Coast Wilderness nature reserves of Orange County that now include over 22,000 acres of parks, open space, and marine preserves. For more information, please visit www.lagunaCanyonConservancy.org.

Sincerely,

Gayle Waite

President, Laguna Canyon Conservancy

CC: City Council of Laguna Beach, City Manager Dave Kiff, Assistant CM Jeremy Frimond