

Jacob Sedgley

From: Ella Merkle <ella@californiamsf.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 1:17 PM
To: Jacob Sedgley
Cc: Katelyn Sprofera
Subject: LCP Authorization for MPA Signage in Sonoma County

EXTERNAL

Dear XXX,

In collaboration with the State of California's Ocean Protection Council, we have been working to inform Californians about the statewide network of marine protected areas along our coastline. To meet this goal, we are developing informative marine protected areas signage for priority locations including harbors, marinas, coastal access points, and interpretive centers. Similar efforts have been carried out in recent years and additional State sponsored funds have been dedicated to supporting the development of regulatory and interpretive signage at remaining priority gap locations. The proposed project includes sites within the Coastal Commission's retained jurisdiction and local government LCP jurisdictions and therefore requires coastal development permits from the California Coastal Commission and the local permitting authority of Sonoma County LCP.

Section 30601.3 of the California Coastal Act allows for consolidation of coastal development permitting requirements with the Coastal Commission under these circumstances, if the applicant, local government and Coastal Commission agree to such consolidation. We have agreement from Coastal Commission staff, Cassidy Tuefel, to pursue this approach already and have previously successfully obtained Consolidated Coastal Development Permits for similar projects during 2015 and 2017 (CDP Nos. 9-15-0208 and 9-15-0731). We are now looking for additional authorization to add more signs at new locations during this next phase of MPA signage.

We are writing to you to simplify and expedite the permitting process for signs within your local jurisdictional authority. This can be achieved by allowing the State of California's Coastal Commission to handle the permitting through a consolidated permit for all state marine protected areas signs. We would like to obtain written approval from your local jurisdictional authority to include the proposed signs in the consolidated Coastal Commission permit. To expedite this matter, we request that your office completes and sends the following letter which is located below **[in email or written format]**, back to us. The letter below outlines the signs proposed and agreed upon by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Ocean Protection Council for your area.

Please do not hesitate to call, should you have questions regarding this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Ella Merkle

Dear Mr. Teufel,

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the Ocean Protection Council has informed the **Sonoma County coastal zone** that they are seeking to install 140 marine protected area (MPA) signs, including 18 signs at the following locations within **Sonoma County LPC jurisdiction**.

- 1.
- 2.
3. *Mixed sign at the beach access off of Bodega Dunes Cp on an existing post (38.3428664, -123.06772) (121).*
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. *Mixed sign at the beach access at the end of West Side Rd on an existing post (38.30328, -123.06485) (122).*
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
13. *Regulatory sign at the south side of the parking lot off of West Side Rd on an existing post (38.30323, -123.06458) (123).*
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
18. *Regulatory sign south of the parking lot off of the West Side Rd overlooking the cliffs on an existing post (38.3026484, -123.06407) (124).*
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
23. *Mixed sign at the end of the Salt Point Trail on an existing post (38.5658215, -123.33214) (125).*
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
28. *Regulatory sign on the south side of Gerstle Cove SMR on an existing post (38.5658644, -123.32901) (126).*
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
33. *Mixed sign at the parking lot at State Park Rd on an existing post (38.44123, -123.126) (127).*
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
38. *Regulatory sign off of Highway 1 at Sonoma Coast State Park on a provided post (38.5988023, -123.35001) (187).*
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
43. *Mixed sign at the southwest corner*

44. of the parking lot on Sonoma Coast State Park Rd on an existing post (38.4458024, -123.1263) (190).

45.

46.

47.

48. *Mixed sign at the trail head walking*

49. towards Russian River SMRMA on an existing post (38.4465956, -123.12596) (192).

50.

51.

52.

53. *Regulatory sign at the trail head*

54. off of Highway 1 on a provided post (38.5918496, -123.34246) (181).

55.

56.

57.

58. *Regulatory sign off of Highway 1*

59. on a provided post (38.5878718, -123.34091) (182).

60.

61.

62.

63. *Regulatory sign off of Highway 1*

64. on a provided post (38.5840423, -123.33758) (183).

65.

66.

67.

68. *Regulatory sign off of Highway 1*

69. on a provided post (38.5798483, -123.33395) (184).

70.

71.

72.

73. *Mixed sign on the Salt Point Trail*

74. on a provided post (38.5675384, -123.33322) (185).

75.

76.

77.

78. *Regulatory sign at the trail head*

79. at the pull off of Coast Hwy/Shoreline Hwy on an existing post (38.5988023, -123.35001) (128).

80.

81.

82.

83. *Regulatory sign at South Salmon Creek Beach*

84. on an existing post (38.335, -123.06775) (197).

85.

86.

87.

88. *Regulatory sign at Highway 101 pull*

89. out on an existing post (38.6102774, -123.3635652) (201).

The proposed project requires coastal development permits from the Coastal Commission and from Sonoma County LCP, among other local governments. Section 30601.3 of the California Coastal Act allows for consolidation of coastal development permitting requirements with the Coastal Commission under these circumstances, if the applicant, local government and Coastal Commission agree to such consolidation. In order to simplify and expedite the permitting process for these signs, the Sonoma County LCP hereby requests and agrees that the Coastal Commission consolidate the coastal development permit process for this project and serve as the permitting agency for the coastal development permit required to implement the proposed project in Sonoma County LCP.

Regards,

[Appropriate official from the local jurisdiction]

--
Ella Merkle
Marine Conservation Program Coordinator
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
609 433 2232

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