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February 09, 2016

Steve Kinsey, Chair, California Coastal Commission  
Honorable Commissioners and Alternates  
Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street #2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105

*Sent via Email to [StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov)*

Re: Support the Coast, Climate Justice, and Executive Director Lester

Dear Chairman Kinsey, Honorable Commissioners and Alternates and Executive Director Lester,

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard on our coast, climate, and Coastal Commission.

We are more than environmentalists. The people of the new California support the coast and climate justice. It's our coast and climate too. We are acting up to protect it.

What are the values at stake for all of us? The simple joys of playing on the beach, and in the surf. Human health. Climate justice and sea level rising, which disproportionately harm people of color and low income people. Culture, history, and spiritual values, including Native American sacred sites. Economic values – the coast generates billions of dollars each year in tourism, jobs, and wealth. Equal justice and democracy underlie these other values.

Polls show people of color and low income people care more about conservation than wealthy non-Hispanic white people, and they vote at higher rates for environmental protections and resource bonds. They disproportionately lack beach and park access, and are more impacted by burdens like privatizing beaches and toxic pollution. Our voices too often are ignored or marginalized by the Commission, mainstream environmentalists, foundations, the media, developers, and rich and powerful beachfront property owners.

That's why civil rights, social and environmental justice, health, and education advocates are core members of over 100 organizations representing millions of people who support Dr. Lester. We incorporate the group letter by reference here.

Moving forward, we will hold Commissioners, elected officials – including Governor Jerry Brown, President Pro Tem Kevin de León, and Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins – staff, and our sisters and brothers in the mainstream environmental movement accountable to do even more to diversify the Commission and staff, and the people and values they serve. Save our California coast for all.

*Equal Justice, Democracy, and Livability for All*

Board: Chris Burrows Robert Garcia Penelope Glass Tom Hayden  
Lore Hilburg Robbie LaBelle Lyndon Parker

The City Project is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization and a Project of Community Partners

Very truly yours,



Robert García  
Founding Director and Counsel



Ariel Collins  
Assistant Director



Nancy Negrete  
Program Manager



Erica Flores Baltodano  
National Advisory Council for The City Project

Enclosure(s): Robert García and Erica Flores Baltodano, *Free the Beach! Public Access, Equal Justice, and the California Coast*, 2 Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties 143 (2005), [goo.gl/RVgbJ](http://goo.gl/RVgbJ)