

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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# Th15b

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## STAFF REPORT: REGULAR PERMIT

**Application No.:** 9-15-0731

**Applicant:** California Ocean Protection Council

**Location:** 64 sites within Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties.

**Project Description:** Installation of 64 interpretive and regulatory signs at coastal access points near state designated marine protected areas.

**Staff Recommendation:** Approval.

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### SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

To complete a signage project, the first phase of which was authorized by the Commission in Coastal Development Permit No. 9-15-0208, the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) proposes to install 64 small (four to six square foot) metal signs at coastal access points located near state designated marine protected areas within the five coastal counties south of Point Conception. Specifically, five signs would be placed in Santa Barbara County, two signs in Ventura County, 24 signs in Los Angeles County, eight signs in Orange County, and 25 signs in San Diego County. Roughly half of these signs would be installed on existing posts, kiosks, boards, or walls that support similar regulatory and informational signage. The remaining 33 would require installation of new four inch by four inch wooden posts. All proposed installation locations would be within existing developed and previously disturbed areas in parking lots, at trailheads, boat ramps, piers, marinas, access ramps, stairways, visitor facilities and sign clusters near designated State Marine Conservation Areas and State Marine Reserves (MPAs). The OPC

proposes installation of the signs as a component of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's MPA outreach, education, and enforcement program and would enhance public understanding of MPA locations, regulations, and resources.

The staff recommends the Commission find that the project is consistent with the scenic, environmentally sensitive habitat, and cultural resource protection policies of the Coastal Act, and, therefore recommends that the Commission **APPROVE** coastal development permit application 9-15-0731.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION .....	4
II. STANDARD CONDITIONS.....	4
III. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.....	5
A. Background and Project Description .....	5
B. Other Regulatory Authorizations .....	6
C. Scenic and Visual Resources.....	7
D. Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas .....	8
E. Cultural and Archeological Resources .....	9
F. California Environmental Quality Act.....	9

## EXHIBITS

[Exhibit 1 – Sign Locations](#)

[Exhibit 2 – Sign Examples](#)

## I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION

### Motion:

*I move that the Commission approve Coastal Development Permit 9-15-0731 subject to conditions set forth in the staff recommendation specified below.*

Staff recommends a **YES** vote on the foregoing motion. Passage of this motion will result in approval of the permit as conditioned and adoption of the following resolution and findings. The motion passes only by affirmative vote of a majority of Commissioners present.

### Resolution:

*The Commission hereby approves the Coastal Development Permit for the proposed project and adopts the findings set forth below on grounds that the development as conditioned will be in conformity with the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. Approval of the permit complies with the California Environmental Quality Act because either 1) feasible mitigation measures and/or alternatives have been incorporated to substantially lessen any significant adverse effects of the development on the environment, or 2) there are no further feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that would substantially lessen any significant adverse impacts of the development on the environment.*

## II. STANDARD CONDITIONS

1. **Notice of Receipt and Acknowledgment.** The permit is not valid and development shall not commence until a copy of the permit, signed by the applicant or authorized agent, acknowledging receipt of the permit and acceptance of the terms and conditions, is returned to the Commission office.
2. **Expiration.** If development has not commenced, the permit will expire two years from the date on which the Commission voted on the application. Development shall be pursued in a diligent manner and completed in a reasonable period of time. Application for extension of the permit must be made prior to the expiration date.
3. **Interpretation.** Any questions of intent of interpretation of any condition will be resolved by the Executive Director or the Commission.
4. **Assignment.** The permit may be assigned to any qualified person, provided assignee files with the Commission an affidavit accepting all terms and conditions of the permit.
5. **Terms and Conditions Run with the Land.** These terms and conditions shall be perpetual, and it is the intention of the Commission and applicant to bind all future owners and possessors of the subject property to the terms and conditions.

### **III. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS**

#### **A. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The State of California recently completed a redesign and improvement of its statewide system of marine protected areas (MPAs), as mandated by the Marine Life Protection Act. The redesigned system is managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and includes a network of 124 MPAs covering approximately 16 percent of state waters along California's approximately 1,100 miles of coastline from the Oregon border to Mexico. The MPA network was designed to achieve specific goals, including to increase coherence and effectiveness in protecting the state's marine life, habitats, ecosystems, and natural heritage; and to improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems subject to minimal human disturbance. The ability of the MPAs to meet these goals depends in large part on public understanding of, and compliance with, the regulations put into place to achieve them.

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) believes that public outreach and education is the most effective method to promote awareness and compliance with MPA regulations. The proposed project was therefore developed by OPC and DFW staff (with the assistance and close collaboration of local non-governmental partners) to promote MPA education and outreach through the creation and dissemination of interpretive and regulatory signage. OPC and DFW believe that installing signs with information about MPAs at major coastal access or departure points near MPAs, including boat launch sites, parking areas, visitor centers, and trailheads located near MPA shore boundaries, will increase public MPA awareness and compliance with MPA regulations. The proposed project is being funded by DFW, which transferred funds to the OPC through an interagency agreement; OPC then granted funds to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation to cover project implementation.

Since the establishment of California's MPA network, a series of standardized sign templates has been developed by outreach organizations and provided to DFW staff for review and approval. These templates include "regulatory signs" that provide basic regulatory information - such as MPA boundaries and take regulations - as well as "interpretive signs" that provide site-specific facts and images of the wildlife, habitats, and areas protected by the MPAs.

Prior to current efforts, about 139 regulatory signs and 42 interpretive signs were installed<sup>1</sup> over the course of several years from north central California through Southern California. However, these signs do not provide comprehensive coverage across the statewide MPA network, and numerous MPAs along the coast do not have permanent regulatory or interpretive signs. OPC therefore developed two projects to install and maintain the additional signs that it believes are immediately needed to improve the sign coverage throughout the state and enhance public awareness of, and compliance with, the newly established MPAs. The first of these projects involved the installation of 115 signs in northern and central California and was authorized by the Commission in May of 2015 through Coastal Development Permit number 9-15-0208. The

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<sup>1</sup> Based on information received from OPC staff, these signs were installed in a piecemeal fashion (mainly in groups of two and threes) over the past ten years as funding and opportunity allowed. Coastal development permitting was handled at the local level because installation locations were within areas with certified LCPs.

current project would extend the signage effort through Santa Barbara County and the rest of southern California.

In the current project, OPC is proposing to install 64 individual signs – 44 interpretive signs and 20 regulatory signs – at locations across the five coastal counties south of Point Conception. Table 1 below provides summary information about the number of proposed signs in each county and specific installation locations are provided in [Exhibit 1](#). Signs would be installed in areas of existing development such as at coastal access parking lots, in marinas and at boat ramps, at coastal access trailheads, and at areas with visitor support facilities such as restrooms, information kiosks, and visitor centers. Several signs would also be installed along trails or coastal access paths, located with existing signage or information kiosks at rest points or vistas. The interpretive signs would be made of composite flame and graffiti resistant materials, measure 30 inches by 18 inches, and provide information to the public about MPA resources, objectives, location, and regulations. Regulatory signs would also be made of composite materials, would measure 12 inches by 18 inches and would be of two main types – those that inform the public about regulations and take restrictions and those that provide the reader with information about their location relative to the MPA boundaries. Representative examples of both regulatory and interpretive signs are provided in [Exhibit 2](#).

TABLE 1

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>
Santa Barbara	3 Interpretive; 2 Regulatory
Ventura	2 Interpretive
Los Angeles	23 Interpretive; 1 Regulatory
Orange	5 Interpretive; 3 Regulatory
San Diego	11 Interpretive; 14 Regulatory
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>44 Interpretive; 20 Regulatory</b>

Thirty-one of the proposed signs would be installed on existing structures, posts or fences and co-located with existing informational or regulatory signage. The remaining 33 signs would be installed by hand on new four inch by four inch posts placed approximately 24 inches into the ground and cemented in place. All 33 of these new posts would be placed within existing developed or disturbed areas such as parking lots, boat ramps, and trails. No excavation of undisturbed ground, removal of vegetation, or significant loss of habitat would occur as a result of any sign or post installation activities. Whenever possible, new signs would be clustered with existing signs and would be installed on existing posts or existing structures. OPC has also committed to coordinating with local management agencies prior to final sign installation to ensure that the placement of new signs would not interfere with ongoing or future municipal landscaping or maintenance activities.

**B. OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORIZATIONS**

*Consolidated Permit*

Coastal Act Section 30601.3 provides the Commission with the authority to act upon a consolidated permit for proposed projects that require a coastal development permit from both a local government with a certified local coastal program (LCP) and the Commission. This

authority is triggered if the applicant, local government, and Executive Director (or Commission) consent to consolidate the permit. The standard of review for such permits is the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. The proposed MPA signage project includes locations within the jurisdiction of 16 different certified LCPs – those of Santa Barbara County, City of Santa Barbara, City of Ventura, City of Oxnard, Los Angeles County, City of Malibu, City of Redondo Beach, City of Rancho Palos Verdes, City of Avalon, Orange County, City of Dana Point, City of Oceanside, City of Encinitas, City of Carlsbad, City of San Diego, and City of Imperial Beach. In addition, 11 signs would be located within the Commission’s retained coastal development permit jurisdiction. From February through July of 2015, all of these local governments, with the consent of the applicant and Executive Director, agreed to consolidate permit action under this permit for those aspects of the proposed project within their jurisdictions and those aspects within the Commission’s retained permit jurisdiction, consistent with Coastal Act Section 30601.3.

As described herein, the OPC designed the project such that it will not result in adverse impacts to coastal resources. Typically, such a project would qualify for a de minimis waiver. However, a consolidated permit under Coastal Act Section 30601.3 requires the applicant to obtain a coastal development permit. Since the project cost exceeds \$100,000, it also does not qualify for an administrative permit.

### **C. SCENIC AND VISUAL RESOURCES**

Section 30251 of the Coastal Act states:

*The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alteration of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas such as those designated in the California Coastline Preservation and Recreation Plan prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation and by local government shall be subordinate to the character of its setting.*

The placement of signs at coastal access points in rural areas, parks, open spaces, and other undeveloped coastal areas has the potential to adversely affect the scenic and visual qualities of those areas by blocking coastal views and introducing visual elements that are not compatible with their existing character.

#### **Scenic Areas**

The majority of the 66 proposed signs would be located at parking lots, marinas, boat ramps, visitor centers, and other existing developed areas that include other similar informational and regulatory signage, and would therefore have no potential to result in adverse impacts to scenic or visual resources. However, several signs would be placed at coastal access points in parks, open spaces, or scenic rural areas, including those in northern Santa Barbara County, Malibu, Rancho Palos Verdes, Newport Beach, Orange County, San Diego County, and Imperial Beach. New signs installed at such locations may not be compatible with the character of these areas and

could also create a limited reduction in views to the ocean. To address these potential adverse impacts to visual and scenic resources, OPC has worked in collaboration with local partners, landowners, and land management agencies to design its project to (1) select installation sites outside of coastal viewsheds; (2) replace other existing signs rather than adding new signs so as not to create a net increase in the total amount of signage; (3) use existing structures and signposts whenever feasible; or (4) cluster new signs with existing signs, fences, walls, or other similar visual elements.

### **Conclusion**

Although the installation of new signs in scenic coastal areas has the potential to adversely affect scenic and visual resources, as proposed the project would be carried out in a manner in which the scenic character of these areas would be maintained. The Commission therefore concludes that the proposed project would be consistent with the scenic and visual resources policy (Section 30251) of the Coastal Act.

### **D. ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HABITAT AREAS**

Section 30240 of the Coastal Act states:

*(a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.*

*(b) Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation areas.*

The proposed project was intentionally designed to avoid any significant disruption of habitat values in environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) and to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas. While some of the proposed sign sites, including several of those to be installed in areas along trails, at trailheads, or along coastal access routes in Malibu, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Orange County would be located within or adjacent to areas of native plant and animal communities that may be considered to be environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA), OPC would carry out sign installation at these sites in such a way as to avoid any significant disruption or degradation of ESHA. Specifically, OPC would limit activities in these areas to the placement or replacement of signs on existing posts, fences, and structures or the installation of new posts in parking lots, along developed trails, within the footprint of existing structures such as fences, walls, or signs and kiosks. This would eliminate the need for any excavation of undisturbed ground or vegetation clearance to occur. Further, installation of signs on existing posts or signs would only require access by foot and the use of hand tools, such as drills, and would be completed by workers on foot in less than an hour. No use of loud power tools would be carried out. In addition, no materials stockpiling, equipment re-fueling, or vehicle access to work sites would be needed. All materials would be carried to installation sites by hand, and the limited amount of this material and associated installation tools would allow for existing bare ground along trails to be used for short-term stockpiling. As such, the proposed

installation of these signs would not have the potential to result in disturbance, removal, or loss of ESHA.

### **Conclusion**

As proposed the project would be carried out in a manner which avoids potential adverse impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA). The Commission therefore concludes that the proposed project would be consistent with the terrestrial resources section (Section 30240) of the Coastal Act.

## **E. CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Section 30244 of the Coastal Act states:

*Where development would adversely impact archeological or paleontological resources as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer, reasonable mitigation measures shall be required.*

Thirty-three of the proposed signs would involve the installation of new four inch by four inch wooden posts, an activity that would result in ground disturbance. However, all but five of these new posts would be installed at sites in developed areas that have been previously graded and covered in pavement or concrete. Installation of a new four inch by four inch post within such areas has no potential to adversely affect archeological or paleontological resources. The five proposed signs that would require installation of a post along an access trail would be located adjacent to existing fence, wall, or landscaping structures and within the disturbance footprint that resulted from their initial installation and construction. Therefore, no removal or excavation or previously undisturbed ground would occur as a result of the installation of these signs and no potential adverse impacts to buried cultural or archeological materials would occur. Further, OPC has informed Commission staff that no signs would be installed at or near sites identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Thus, the project as proposed is consistent with section 30244 of the Coastal Act.

## **F. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

Section 13096 of the Commission's administrative regulations requires Commission approval of coastal development permit applications to be supported by a finding showing the application, as modified by any conditions of approval, to be consistent with any applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A) of CEQA prohibits approval of a proposed development if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen any significant impacts that the activity may have on the environment. The project, as proposed, would avoid any significant environmental effects under the Coastal Act, and there are no less environmentally damaging feasible alternatives or mitigation measures. Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with CEQA.

**Exhibit 1 – Sign Locations**

<b>Sign #</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Sign Location</b>	<b>Install Site</b>	<b>Install Mounting</b>	<b>LAT</b>	<b>LONG</b>
121	Santa Barbara	Regulatory	Ocean Park	at access point	Existing post	34.690332	- 120.600571
122	Santa Barbara	Regulatory	Surf Beach	at access point	Existing post	34.682674	- 120.605055
123	Ventura	Interpretive	Channel Islands Harbor	boat ramp	Existing double post	34.172433	- 119.222583
124	Santa Barbara	Interpretive	Within Gaviota State Park	in front of Visitors Center and restroom facilities.	New single post	34.471795	- 120.228115
126	Ventura	Interpretive	Ventura Harbor	boat ramp	Existing single pole	34.250167	- 119.263283
127	Santa Barbara	Interpretive	Santa Barbara Harbor	boat ramp	Existing double post	34.408157	- 119.691923
128	Santa Barbara	Interpretive	Santa Barbara Harbor	boat ramp	Existing double post	34.408007	- 119.692067
129	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Avalon	boat ramp	Existing wall	33.344267	-118.32445
130	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Two Harbors	boat ramp	Existing wall	33.441758	- 118.498135
131	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Cat Harbor	boat ramp	Existing wall	33.434983	- 118.503267
132	Los Angeles	Interpretive	USC Wrigley Institute	on USC campus @ Wrigley Institute	New single post	33.444883	- 118.483583
133	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Redondo Beach/King Harbor	boat ramp	New single post	33.842485	- 118.392167
134	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Marina del Rey Harbor	boat ramp	Existing wall	33.971542	- 118.449506
135	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Marina del Rey Harbor	boat ramp	Existing wall	33.977294	- 118.441208
136	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Long Beach Harbor - Rainbow Harbor Area	sand adjacent to boardwalk and brick path	New single post	33.760861	- 118.196103
137	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Long Beach Harbor - Shoreline Marina-	boat ramp	New single post	33.758161	- 118.183685
138	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Long Beach Alamitos Bay	boat ramp	Existing wall	33.751283	- 118.109709

## 9-15-0731 (California Ocean Protection Council)

141	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Zuma Beach (1 at Snack Bar)	at snack bar	New single post	34.020461	- 118.829081
142	Los Angeles	Interpretive	El Matador State Beach	staircase	Existing post or fence	34.038058	-118.87505
143	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Top of Point Dume	along fence	Existing post or fence	34.003288	- 118.804997
144	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Paradise Cove	parking lot	New single post	34.020083	- 118.787667
145	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Westward Beach	parking lot	New single post	34.002544	- 118.808694
146	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Zuma Lagoon	along trail	New single post	34.01385	- 118.819992
147	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Abalone Cove	along trail	New single post	33.742519	- 118.379199
148	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Abalone Cove	at parking lot edge	New single post	33.741742	- 118.379001
149	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Abalone Cove	along trail	New single post	33.738757	- 118.374859
150	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Pelican Cove Park Parking Lot (formerly one of the Terranea signs)	parking lot	New single post	33.741347	- 118.402623
151	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Vanderlip Park (formerly one of the Terranea signs)	along trail	New single post	33.739986	- 118.391572
152	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Point Vicente Interp Center Trail (directly in front of Center)	along trail	New single post	33.744681	- 118.411952
153	Los Angeles	Interpretive	Pelican Cove Trail	along trail	New single post	33.741985	- 118.404318
154	Los Angeles	Regulatory	Lifeguard HQ at Zuma Beach	at access point	Existing post or fence	34.018367	- 118.826589
155	Orange	Interpretive	Newport Beach Harbor	adjacent to parking lot	New single post	33.600602	- 117.900028
156	Orange	Interpretive	Dana Point Harbor	boat ramp	Existing wall	33.460434	-117.70729
157	Orange	Interpretive	Seal Beach Harbor	boat ramp	Existing wall	33.728642	- 118.076884
158	Orange	Interpretive	Little Corona Beach	on building wall	Existing wall	33.590086	-117.86868
159	Orange	Interpretive	Big Corona Beach	parking lot	New single post	33.59367	- 117.876706

9-15-0731 (California Ocean Protection Council)

161	Orange	Regulatory	Morning Canyon	bottom of access stariway	Existing post or fence	33.587383	-	117.866207
162	Orange	Regulatory	Cameo Shores	bottom of access stariway	Existing post or fence	33.584065	-	117.862501
163	Orange	Regulatory	Evening Canyon	bottom of access stariway	Existing post or fence	33.583398	-	117.860528
164	San Diego	Interpretive	Mission Bay Yacht Club	boat ramp	New single post	32.759945	-	117.235224
168	San Diego	Interpretive	Oceanside Harbor	boat ramp	New single post	33.205187	-	117.392787
169	San Diego	Interpretive	Moonlight Beach	parking lot	New single post	33.047297	-	117.297654
170	San Diego	Interpretive	Swamis Campground Access/Bull Taco Stairs	parking lot	wall mounted	33.034641	-117.29198	
171	San Diego	Interpretive	At Visitors Center	at visitors/interp center	New single post	33.093151	-	117.300564
172	San Diego	Interpretive	Stairs at southern beach entrance to Scripps Pier	on wall of stairs with access to beach	Existing wall	32.863643	-	117.254531
173	San Diego	Interpretive	La Jolla Shores	on sea wall	New single post (on sea wall)	32.858642	-117.25637	
174	San Diego	Interpretive	La Jolla Shores near Kellog Park area	on sea wall	New single post (on sea wall)	32.855729	-	117.258122
175	San Diego	Interpretive	Within Friends of Famosa Slough land	at visitors/interp center	New single post	32.751915	-	117.229275
176	San Diego	Interpretive	End of Seacoast Drive (Tijuana Sloughs National Wildlife Refuge)	parking lot	New single post	32.566598	-	117.132372
177	San Diego	Interpretive	Monument Mesa/Friendship Park (Border Field State Park)	parking lot	New single post	32.536472	-	117.123644
178	San Diego	Regulatory	at trailhead/along trail	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	33.012957	-	117.274603
179	San Diego	Regulatory	at trailhead/along trail	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	33.013118	-	117.279097

9-15-0731 (California Ocean Protection Council)

180	San Diego	Regulatory	at trailhead/along trail	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	33.016194	-	117.281178
181	San Diego	Regulatory	at trailhead/along trail	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	33.016289	-	117.281219
190	San Diego	Regulatory	Seacoast Drive	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	32.566467	-	117.132436
191	San Diego	Regulatory	Aviara entrance	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	33.093657	-	117.301325
192	San Diego	Regulatory	East parking lot trail	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	33.093927	-	117.279338
193	San Diego	Regulatory	Cholla Point	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	33.094424	-	117.273205
195	San Diego	Regulatory	West Point Loma Blvd	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	32.752715	-	117.229178
196	San Diego	Regulatory	End of Mentone St	at trailhead/along trail	Existing post or fence	32.749358	-117.2295	
197	San Diego	Regulatory	Point Loma Blvd Loop Trail	access point along street	Existing post or fence	32.752315	-	117.228696
198	San Diego	Regulatory	South Trail	access point along street	Existing post or fence	32.748797	-	117.228813
202	San Diego	Regulatory	Cottonwood Creek	at beach	Existing post or fence	33.048358	-117.2983	
203	San Diego	Regulatory	D. Street	at beach access from street	Existing post or fence	33.045686	-	117.297536

Exhibit 2 – Sign Examples



Regulatory Signs (above) Interpretive Sign (below)

## Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

**MPA Regulations**

- Montara State Marine Reserve (SMR)**  
Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
- Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**  
Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational take of pelagic fish\* by trolling. Dungeness crab by trap and squid by hand-held dip net. Commercial take of pelagic fish\* with troll fishing gear or seine. Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net allowed.  
\*As defined by California Department of Fish and Game

### Marine Protected Areas Safeguard Our Ocean's Bounty

A statewide network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) safeguards California's rich coastal resources. Montara State Marine Reserve is known nationally for its tidepools, kelp beds, rocky reefs and pinnacles. Scientists consider this to be one of the most biodiverse marine ecosystems in the state. These tidepools are home to numerous species of seaweed, sea stars, anemones and other tidepool creatures. Offshore kelp beds and rocky reefs harbor hundreds of species of fishes, invertebrates and marine mammals.

Harbor seals

Tidepools

Shorebirds

**California leads the nation and the world with its network of MPAs.**

These MPAs—

- Have varying levels of protection
- Conserve marine habitats and diversity
- Allow marine life to thrive
- Make great places for education, research, and fun

MPAs—Good for the Ocean; Good for You!

To report violations call 1-888-DFG-CALTIP  
Visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/mpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mpa) for detailed maps and regulations