

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE (415) 904-5200
FAX (415) 904-5400
TDD (415) 597-5885



W 8 thru 10

ADDENDUM

January 29, 2016

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

RE: Comments received as of 01/29/2016

A. Media Coverage and News Editorials and/or Op-Ed

B. Comments Received

A. NEWS ARTICLES

1. http://www.hastingstribune.com/staff-turmoil-shakes-powerful-california-coastal-agency/article_f7e2ee88-bf6f-5567-9e91-1b8b0c1a1bb6.html
2. <http://calcoastnews.com/2016/01/california-coastal-commission-director-under-fire/>
3. <http://capitolweekly.net/move-coastal-commission-director-lester-job/>
4. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jan/20/staff-turmoil-shakes-powerful-california-coastal-a/>
5. http://www.contracostatimes.com/breaking-news/ci_29410096/coup-sought-at-california-coastal-commission
6. http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/blogs/news_blog/coastal-commission-chief-on-the-hot-seat/article_8c84b9d0-bfae-11e5-a8ec-abee58d1626f.html
7. <http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/6211e11049f54ed8b0d4b5053100eea9/CA--Coastal-Commission-Shakeup>
8. <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/staff-turmoil-shakes-powerful-california-coastal-agency-36409431>
9. http://www.mercurynews.com/san-mateo-county-times/ci_29410095/coup-sought-at-california-coastal-commission
10. <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-essential-california-20160121-story.html>
11. <http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-coastal-commission-20160121-story.html>
12. <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-0124-lopez-coastal-commission-20160124-column.html>
13. <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-le-0124-sunday-charles-lester-coastal-commission-20160124-story.html>
14. <https://democratichumboldtfirst.wordpress.com/2016/01/25/coastal-commissioner-lesters-public-hearing-210/>
15. http://www.times-standard.com/general-news/20160120/staff-turmoil-shakes-powerful-california-coastal-agency?source=most_viewed&template=printart
16. <http://www.triplicate.com/News/Local-News/Staff-turmoil-shakes-Coastal-Commission>
17. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/staff-turmoil-shakes-powerful-california-coastal-agency/2016/01/20/185cb6d4-bfcc-11e5-98c8-7fab78677d51_story.htm
18. <http://www.ksby.com/story/31061859/top-environmentalists-oppose-shakeup-at-coastal-commission>
19. <http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/01/26/57055/top-environmentalists-oppose-shakeup-at-coastal-co/>
20. <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2016/01/26/top-environmentalists-oppose-shakeup-at-california-coastal-commission/>
21. <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-0127-lopez-coastal-part2-20160127-column.html>
22. http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_29434508/top-environmentalists-oppose-shakeup-at-coastal-commission
23. <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-le-0127-wednesday-coastal-commission-20160127-story.html>
24. http://www.malibutimes.com/news/article_ae839162-c541-11e5-ab1b-231ee69009a1.html
25. <http://www.independent.com/news/2016/jan/28/seismic-shift-coastal-commission/>
26. <http://www.newtimeslo.com/commentary/13355/balancing-act/>
27. <http://www.ptreyeslight.com/article/coastal-commission-moves-fire-executive-director>
28. <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Coastal-Commission-May-Oust-Executive-Director-366004861.html>
29. <http://www.sfgate.com/science/article/Battle-looming-for-control-of-California-Coastal-6773021.php>

30. <http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/01/22/turmoil-at-coastal-commission-worries-environmentalists>
31. <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/business/article55626855.html>
32. <http://www.oregister.com/articles/lester-700677-commission-coastal.html>
33. <http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/wnews/2016-01-21/staff-turmoil-shakes-powerful-california-coastal-commission/1776425157105.html>
34. <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Coastal-Commission-May-Oust-Executive-Director-366004861.html>
35. <http://www.times-standard.com/article/NJ/20160120/NEWS/160129983>
36. <http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2016/01/25/46046/how-a-coastal-commission-shakeup-could-change-the/>
37. <http://www.kcrw.com/news-culture/shows/press-play-with-madeleine-brand/state-of-the-state-coastal-commission-coup-oscarssowhite>
38. <http://yubanet.com/california/Op-Ed-Brigid-McCormack-The-California-Coastal-Commission-s-integrity-is-at-stake.php#.VqmaLselxfA>
39. <http://obrag.org/?p=103104>
40. <http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/the-la-beat/10400-california-coastline-sold-to-the-highest-bidder#sthash.19Vzgvz9.dpuf>
41. <http://capitolweekly.net/coastal-commission-lester-dispute/>
42. <http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/the-la-beat/10406-joy-picus-la-s-longest-serving-councilmember-not-about-potholes-it-s-about-vision#sthash.4donK1YC.dpuf>
43. <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-0131-lopez-coastal-commish-20160131-column.html>
44. <http://www.sfchronicle.com/science/article/Activists-at-odds-with-Gov-Jerry-Brown-over-6797094.php>

NEWS EDITORIALS AND/OR OP-ED

1. http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci_29429871/mercury-news-editorial-california-gov-brown-should-stop
2. <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-blank-coastal-commission-uproar-20160126-story.html>
3. http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_29430926/oakland-tribune-editorial-gov-jerry-brown-needs-jump
4. <http://www.montereyherald.com/general-news/20160125/mercury-news-editorial-california-gov-brown-should-stop-coastal-commission-coup>
5. <http://yubanet.com/california/Op-Ed-Brigid-McCormack-The-California-Coastal-Commission-s-integrity-is-at-stake.php#.qmaLselxfA>
6. <http://www.kcet.org/news/define/revisit/commentary/coastal-commission-commentary.html>
7. <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article57107848.html>
8. <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/editorials/article57316938.html#storylink=cpy>
9. <http://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/Editorial-6793725.php>
10. <http://www.marinij.com/opinion/20160128/marin-voice-coastal-chief-should-not-fall-victim-to-political-ouster>

B. COMMENTS RECEIVED

From:
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:53 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support California Coastal Program Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Coastal Commission

I am writing to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – to voice pride in California's long history of global leadership in coastal protection and strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester.

Under Dr. Lester's leadership, the Coastal Commission has successfully applied its new administrative penalty authority to remedy violations of public access, completed a state-of-the-art guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change, and made tremendous strides in updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities/counties across California. The Commission has increased public transparency by creating a modern database that provides the public easier access to information on projects, improved interagency collaboration, and significantly reduced processing times for permits and appeals.

Threats to our coast and ocean have never been more pressing. A changing climate is bringing rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and greater vulnerability to all of our coastal resources. Firing the Coastal Commission's Executive Director would undermine our state's effectiveness on coastal protection at a time when the need for such protection is at an all-time high.

I urge you to support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve these goals.

Very respectfully,

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

From:
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:34 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Governor@Governor.ca.gov
Subject: please protect our coast!

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey and Assembly Speaker and Senate President pro Tem:

Our coast belongs to all Californians and the Coastal Commission's independent, professional staff has been central to our ability to protect public access, open space and to ensure compliance with the Coastal Act, arguably the most important coastal protection law in the nation. Over the last several years under the direction of Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester, the Commission's staff has been extraordinarily effective; staff has accepted considerable new responsibilities in dealing with climate change and public access, there is an unprecedented level of transparency to the public and more than 90% of all development projects presented have been approved. In spite of this, I was alarmed to hear that the Commission is considering the termination of Dr. Lester, without reason.

This attack on the professional staff is an attack on the Coastal Act and our coastal access and open space. Dr. Lester and his staff represent the public interest and it is vital that they have the ability to act independently and without fear of political reprisal for their efforts to uphold state law.

I urge you to stand up for the independence of staff. Please ensure a fully transparent and open process and retain Dr. Lester who has performed his duties with admirable result since taking over this position in 2011.

With best regards,

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:12 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

Dear CA Coastal Commission,

Dear Governor Brown:

I support the California Coastal Act. I want to make sure the coast is accessible and that environmental values are preserved.

Therefore, I am disappointed to learn that your appointees to the Coastal Commission are working to drive out the Commission's executive director, Charles Lester.

Mr. Lester and his staff have appropriately enforced the Coastal Act and have been effective in ensuring that climate change impacts are considered as coastal development plans are updated.

I urge you to support Mr. Lester and let your appointees to the Commission know of that support.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Honorable Commissioners,

Please keep Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. Don't let politics interfere with the position of the E.D., who is supposed to remain neutral.

Mr. Lester has demonstrated himself to be an effective Executive Director. Guided by the Coastal Act, he successfully balances the interests of environmentalists with those of development and, most importantly, upholds the Coastal Act.

Most sincerely,

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0010
(916) 319-2010
FAX (916) 319-2110

Assembly California Legislature



MARC LEVINE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TENTH DISTRICT

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Levine@assembly.ca.gov

WEBSITE
www.assembly.ca.gov/Levine

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM AND INTERNET MEDIA

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: CRAFT BREWING AND DISTILLING
BIOTECHNOLOGY
CAMPUS CLIMATE
COASTAL PROTECTION
IMPROVING BAY AREA TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEMS
WINE

January 27, 2016

Steve Kinsey
Chair, California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street #2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Kinsey:

This letter is to ask that as the California Coastal Commission contemplates Charles Lester's tenure as your Executive Director, that the Commissioners consider Mr. Lester's track record as he manages your staff, and that the Commission also look at the Commissioners' own record and recent decisions.

Media accounts have reported that the Commissioners are primarily concerned that Mr. Lester has demonstrated a lack of leadership. Please keep in mind that Mr. Lester acts only under the authority and direction of the Commissioners. The leaders of the Commission are the Chair and other Commissioners. The policies and direction of the Commission are determined by the Commissioners, not by Commission staff.

The Commission's mission is one committed to "*Protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination.*"

With that mission in mind, Charles Lester has helped the Commission accomplish the following:

- Worked with the Legislature to create the Commission's new Administrative Penalty authority. This authority is being utilized to protect public access to the beach, and multiple long-standing cases have been resolved without fines or penalties levied.
- Helped secure a \$3 million budget augmentation to support Local Coastal Program (LCP) and Climate Change Adaptation Planning.
- Improved and expanded the LCP Grant Program to assist local governments.
- Prepared a Comprehensive Sea Level Rise Guidance document.
- Prepared the Commission's first detailed Strategic Plan.
- Implemented a new data management system. This new system provides planning and permitting information to the public and has increased the transparency of Commission actions.



Steve Kinsey
January 27, 2016
Page 2

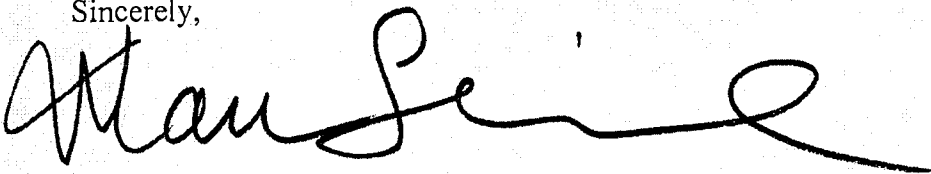
- Pursued streamlining regulations for LCPs. This streamlining has reduced the backlog and processing time for permit appeals.

Conversely, lawmakers and the media have been critical of the following recent votes of the Commission which are arguably contrary to the Commission's mission:

- Approved U2 guitarist The Edge's proposal to build five homes on an undeveloped ridge over Malibu. The project had been described as "one of the three worst projects . . . in terms of environmental devastation."
- Approved a massive sand-replenishment project to protect multimillion dollar homes on Malibu's Broad Beach. This was done without protecting public access should the constructed dunes ever succumb to coastal erosion.
- Approved the Monterey Bay Shores, a massive hotel and condominium resort in Sand City on 40 acres of sand dunes south of Fort Ord Dunes State Park. This was done with no documentation or plans to protect habitat, scenic views, and public access.

If the Commissioners are truly concerned about the policies and leadership at the Commission, I urge the Commissioners to consider their own actions first before hastily pointing fingers at Commission staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Levine", with a stylized, flowing script.

MARC LEVINE

Cc: Commissioners

708 Gravenstein Hwy., N
#168
Sebastopol, CA 95472

January 22, 2016

Chair and Members
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, #2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Executive Director Charles Lester

Dear Chair Kinsey and Members:

I write to protest the proposal to remove Executive Director Charles Lester from his position.

As a State Senator, I worked closely with the California Coastal Commission for many years. I worked both with the previous Executive Director and with Mr. Lester, both before he was appointed ED and as ED of the Coastal Commission. Mr. Lester has always upheld the highest standards of integrity and has always acted in the best interests of the public.

As Executive Director of the state agency charged with protection of California's coastline, it is impossible to please all interests. But the California Coastal Act is clear that the Coastal Commission must enforce the law to protect California's coast. It is not in the public's interest to remove Mr. Lester from this position.

Please drop this misguided proposal and work with Mr. Lester and the public to continue protecting California's coast for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Noreen Evans".

Noreen Evans

Former State Senator

MEMBERS
JEFF STONE
VICE CHAIR
BENJAMIN ALLEN
ROBERT M. HERTZBERG
BEN HUESO
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
BILL MONNING
ANDY VIDAOK
LOIS WOLK



California Legislature
Senate Committee
on
Natural Resources and Water
FRAN PAVLEY
CHAIR

BILL CRAVEN
CHIEF CONSULTANT
DENNIS O'CONNOR
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT
KATHARINE MOORE
CONSULTANT
PATTY HANSON
COMMITTEE ASSISTANT

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 5046
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4116
FAX (916) 323-2232

January 27, 2016

Mr. Steve Kinsey, Supervisor and Chair
California Coastal Commission
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903-4193

RE: February 10th hearing on Charles Lester's employment

Dear Commissioners,

As a former member of the Coastal Commission who survived the replacement hearing of Peter Douglas, I wanted to share with you my thoughts on your upcoming vote to replace Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. Your decision is not just about Mr. Lester, nor his management style. Your decision may have far broader implications and unintended consequences that will negatively impact the hard fought protections of insuring an independent coastal commission and staff.

I know firsthand of the intense pressure from well-funded special interests on commissioners and staff with applications pending before the commission. I am concerned that a change of directors, at this time, may undercut the staff's ability to make independent recommendations consistent with the Coastal Act. It's our responsibility to insure the protection and public access of California's 1100 mile coastline.

I trust that you will carefully consider the long term impacts of your vote on this important matter.

Best regards,

Senator Fran Pavley
Senate District 27

cc:
Coastal Commission Executive Director and Staff

MEMBERS

JEFF STONE
VICE CHAIR
BENJAMIN ALLEN
ROBERT M. HERTZBERG
BEN HUESO
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
BILL MONNING
ANDY VIDAK
LOIS WOLK



California Legislature
Senate Committee
on
Natural Resources and Water
FRAN PAVLEY
CHAIR

BILL CRAVEN
CHIEF CONSULTANT
DENNIS O'CONNOR
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT
KATHARINE MOORE
CONSULTANT
PATTY HANSON
COMMITTEE ASSISTANT

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 5046
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4116
FAX (916) 323-2232

January 27, 2016

Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director
California Coastal Commission
45 Freemont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: February 10th hearing on Charles Lester's employment

Dear Commissioners,

As a former member of the Coastal Commission who survived the replacement hearing of Peter Douglas, I wanted to share with you my thoughts on your upcoming vote to replace Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. Your decision is not just about Mr. Lester, nor his management style. Your decision may have far broader implications and unintended consequences that will negatively impact the hard fought protections of insuring an independent coastal commission and staff.

I know firsthand of the intense pressure from well-funded special interests on commissioners and staff with applications pending before the commission. I am concerned that a change of directors, at this time, may undercut the staff's ability to make independent recommendations consistent with the Coastal Act. It's our responsibility to insure the protection and public access of California's 1100 mile coastline.

I trust that you will carefully consider the long term impacts of your vote on this important matter.

Best regards,

Senator Fran Pavley
Senate District 27

cc:
Coastal Commission Executive Director and Staff

*copy of letter
sent to all
commissioners*

From: Amy Trainer <calcoastaladvocates@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 9:17 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Stefanie Sekich-Quinn; Susan Jordan; Lester, Charles@Coastal
Subject: Statewide NGO Letter in Support of Dr. Lester
Attachments: FINAL NGO Letter CCC ED Jan 26 2016.pdf

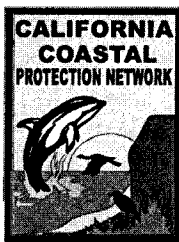
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Please see attached letter from dozens of California organizations.

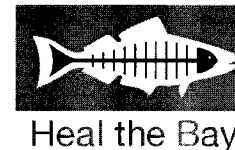
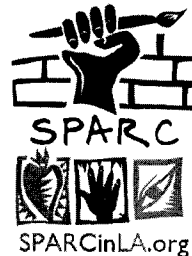
Thank you,
Amy

--

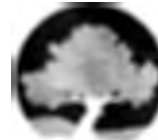
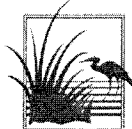
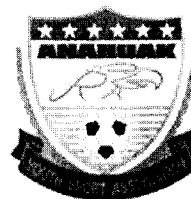
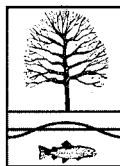
Amy Trainer
(415) 306-6052



The City Project



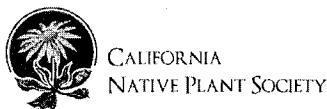
Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council



Village Laguna



Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust



Mr. Steve Kinsey
Chair, California Coastal Commission
Via email: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov

RE: Support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Chair Kinsey,

We write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a world-renowned environmental law enacted under Governor Jerry Brown's leadership in 1976 - to voice our pride in California's long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. Our organizations represent millions of Californians from all over the state, from inland and urban residents to rural coastal dwellers. We are deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to oust Dr. Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Under Dr. Lester's leadership since September 2011, the Coastal Commission has successfully applied the new administrative penalty authority in 2014 to remedy violations of public access, completed a state-of-the-art guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change, and made tremendous strides in updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities/counties across California thanks to new funding from the Legislature. The Commission has increased public transparency by creating a modern database that provides the public easier online access to information on projects, improved interagency collaboration, and significantly reduced processing times for permits and appeals.

Threats to our coast and ocean have never been more pressing. A changing climate is bringing rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and greater vulnerability to all of our coastal resources. Firing the Coastal Commission's Executive Director would undermine our state's effectiveness on coastal protection at a time when the need for such protection is at an all-time high. There is no public record that Dr. Lester's performance as Executive Director is anything but exemplary.

The Commission's 2015 sea level policy recognizes that coastal planning decisions must respond to environmental justice concerns and include low-income persons and communities in planning efforts. It was a condition of California joining the Union that beaches remain public. Yet much of the California coast was off limits to people of color for much of the twentieth century through discriminatory housing and mortgage restrictions. Commission staff are working with diverse allies to preserve and broaden public access.

Thank you for your support of the Coastal Commission's leadership to address climate change. We urge your continued support for the fundamental tenets of the California Coastal Act – protection of coastal access and coastal resources for all Californians – now and in the future. And we urge you to support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve these goals. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions. You may directly contact Susan Jordan at sjordan@coastaladvocates.com and Stefanie Sekich-Quinn at Ssekich@surfrider.org.

Very respectfully,

Stefanie Sekich-Quinn
Surfrider Foundation

Robert Garcia
The City Project

Susan Jordan
CA Coastal Protection Network

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
Azul

Mark Magaña
Green Latinos

Maite Arce
Hispanic Access Foundation

Ruben D. Arvizu
Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society

Amy Trainer
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Debra Padilla
Social and Public Art Resource Center

Dan Jacobsen
Environment California

Matt O'Malley
San Diego CoastKeeper

Lennie Roberts
Committee for Green Foothills

Dan Silver
Endangered Habitats League

Jay Ziegler
The Nature Conservancy

Jean Watt
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Jack Eidt,
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Miriam Gordon
Clean Water Action | Clean Water Fund

Sara Aminzadeh
California CoastKeeper Alliance.

Garry Brown
Orange County CoastKeeper

Don McEnhill
Russian Riverkeeper

Pam Heatherington
Environmental Center of San Diego

Peter Fugazzotto
Salmon Protection And Watershed Network

Linda Sheehan

Xavier Morales, Ph.D
Latinos Coalition for a Healthy CA

Jeffrey Williams
Black Surfers Collective

Kathryn Philips
Sierra Club California

Sarah Abramson Sikich
Heal the Bay

Teresa Baker
African American Nat'l Parks Event

Annie Notthoff
Natural Resources Defense Council

Marco Gonzalez
Coastal Environmental Rights Fnd.

Jennifer Kalt
Humboldt Baykeeper

Miyoko Sakashita
Center for Biological Diversity

Dorothy Kraus
Quality of Life Residents Coalition

Jerry Collamer
Wild Heritage Planners

Jessica Aldridge
Burbank Green Alliance

Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife

Megan Brousseau,
Inland WaterKeeper

Sejal Choksi-Chugh
San Francisco Baykeeper

Johanna Felder
Village Laguna

Todd Steiner
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Ron Sundergill
National Parks Conservation Assc.

Mike Lynes

Earth Law Center

John C. Philo
Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice

Pete Shoemaker
Pacifans for Highway 1 Alternatives

Rick Frickmann
Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council

Larry Glass
NorthCoast Environmental Center

D. Rick Van Schoik
North American Research Partnership

Suzanne Forster
Banning Ranch Conservancy

Marko Popovich
Still Protecting Our Newport

Nancy Negrete
Anahuak Youth Sport Association

Terry L. Cooper, Ph.D.
The Maria B. Crutcher Professor
USC Price School of Public Policy

Caryn Mandelbaum
Environment Now

Wesley Reutimann
day one

Scott Greacen
Friends of the Eel River

Jeremy Madsen
Greenbelt Alliance

Cc: Governor Jerry Brown
California Resources Secretary John Laird
Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon
Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker-elect Anthony Rendon
Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission

Audubon California

Owen Bailey
Environmental Defense Center

Robert Vogel
Friends of College Cove

Jeff Kuyper
Los Padres ForestWatch

Lisa Hoyos
Climate Parents

Marc Brenman
Social Justice Consultants

Jim Mosher
Stop Polluting Our Newport

Zachary Plopper
WILDCOAST

Mark Williams
Concerned Citizens of South LA

Audrey Peterman
Diverse Environmental Leadership

Elizabeth Lambe
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust

Greg Suba
California Native Plant Society

Pam Heatherington
ECO San Diego

Melanie Winter
The River Project

From: Greg Helms <ghelms@oceanconservancy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 11:53 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: George Leonard
Subject: Commisison Item #8 Feb 10 Comment -- Executive Director Dismissal
Attachments: final OC Ltr to Gov Brown Supporting LesterFINAL_ghl.docx

Good morning: Please accept the attached comment letter into the record for Item #8 for February 10th Coastal Commission Agenda item.

Thank you very much.



Greg Helms
Manager, Fish Conservation Program
1528 Castillo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
O: 805.963.4332
Mobile: 805.886-8645
ghelms@oceanconservancy.org
[Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

725 Front Street
Suite 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Ocean Conservancy

831.854.4630 Telephone
831.425.5604 Facsimile
www.oceanconservancy.org

January 25, 2016

Chair Steve Kinsey
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street #2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Via email StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov

RE: SUPPORT for Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission

Dear Honorable Governor Brown:

Ocean Conservancy¹ is proud of California's long history of global leadership on coastal and ocean protection – leadership that largely flows from implementing the vision of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Coastal Act or Act). However, this 40 year record of conservation and planning is threatened by recent efforts to terminate Coastal Commission Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. There is no public record that Dr. Lester's performance as Executive Directors is anything but exemplary. The Coastal Commission's staff and its Executive Director must remain independent of political interference if they are to continue to effectively uphold the requirements of the Act and protect our State's coastal resources.

Threats to our coast and ocean have never been more pressing. A changing climate is bringing rising sea levels, increasing ocean acidification, and greater vulnerability to all of our coastal resources. The means to address and mitigate the effects of climate change are emerging in part as a result of a diversity of California agencies, universities and other initiatives including the California Coastal Commission. The Coastal Commission plays a central role among these efforts, including its Sea Level Rise guidance document, which is providing vital guidance to local governments to plan and adapt to sea level rise. The Commission's plans to make permanent 25 positions focused on planning and responding to sea level rise is a testament to the importance of addressing climate change's impact on California's future.

Removing the Coastal Commission's highly effective and highly qualified Executive Director at this time would undermine our state's effectiveness on coastal protection. Under Dr. Lester's effective leadership, the Commission serves as a focal point and leader for a constellation of

¹ Ocean Conservancy is a non-profit organization that educates and empowers citizens to take action on behalf of the ocean. From the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico to the halls of Congress, Ocean Conservancy brings people together to find solutions for our water planet. Informed by science, our work guides policy and engages people in protecting the ocean and its wildlife for future generations.

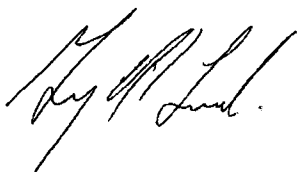
local agencies, programs and resources for protection of our State's world-class coast and the globally significant economic activity it supports. Our priority is for continuity and stability in leadership in organizational effectiveness to maintain this important investment – originally enacted under your leadership decades ago – to meet the crucial coastal protection challenges of today and tomorrow.

Thank you for your decades of environmental leadership, your bold steps to address climate change, and your continued support of the fundamental tenants of the California Coastal Act.

We urge you to support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve these goals.

Very respectfully,

Greg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George H. Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being the most prominent.

George H. Leonard, PhD
Chief Scientist

From: Stop Polluting Our Newport <Info@SPON-NewportBeach.org>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 7:58 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Charles Lester Termination Proceedings
Attachments: CoastalComm_Lester_160125.pdf

Dear Chair Kinsey, Vice-Chair Bochco and Commissioners:

Attached for your review and consideration is SPON's letter voicing our strong support for Dr. Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

By firing Dr. Lester without cause, the Coastal Commission undermines their own mission and creates an unmistakable message to California that money and influence trump the public good.

SPON respectfully requests that Dr. Lester be maintained as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Sincerely,

Marko Popovich

President



PO Box 102 | Balboa Island, CA 92662 | 949.864.6616

www.SPON-NewportBeach.org | Info@SPON-NewportBeach.org

Facebook SPON-Newport Beach | Twitter @SPONNewport

STOP POLLUTING OUR NEWPORT (SPON) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public education organization working to protect and preserve the residential and environmental qualities of Newport Beach.



P O B o x 1 0 2 | B a l b o a I s l a n d , C A 9 2 6 6 2 | 9 4 9 . 8 6 4 . 6 6 1 6

January 25, 2016

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Marko Popovich

To: Coastal Commission

Subject: Dr. Charles Lester Termination Proceedings

VICE PRESIDENT

Elaine Linhoff

Dear Chair Kinsey, Vice-Chair Bochco, and Commissioners:

TREASURER

Dennis Baker

Stop Polluting Our Newport (SPON) was founded in 1974 and is dedicated to preserving the existing charm and beauty of Newport Beach. Protection and preservation of the City's residential character and unique coastline splendor is SPON's mission to ensure that Newport Beach remains an unparalleled place to live, visit and work.

SECRETARY

Allan Beek

We are writing to voice our strong support for Dr. Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy Alston
Don Harvey
Dorothy Kraus
Donald Krotee
Andrea Lingle
Bobby Lovell
Jeanne Price
Melinda Seely
Jack Skinner
Nancy Skinner
Jean Watt
Portia Weiss
Terry Welsh

The California Coastal Commission has done a remarkable job in protecting the California coast for the public while balancing the needs and desires of those who wish to develop along the coast including here in our town. Without these checks and balances, our coastline could easily be slowly walled off from the public behind high-rise buildings and gated stairs. Instead, the public has maintained their access to enjoy our spectacular coastline.

This balancing act does not receive accolades from everyone. Indeed, many developers chafe at the restrictions placed on their projects from the Coastal Commission. It is these moneyed interests who are behind the push to terminate Dr. Charles Lester, presumably to replace him with an Executive Director more malleable and protective of their interests.



A 501(c)(3) non-profit public education organization working to protect and preserve the residential and environmental qualities of Newport Beach.

www.SPON-NewportBeach.org | Info@SPON-NewportBeach.org
FB SPON-Newport Beach | Twitter @SPONNewport



P O B o x 1 0 2 | B a l b o a I s l a n d , C A 9 2 6 6 2 | 9 4 9 . 8 6 4 . 6 6 1 6

January 25, 2016

Coastal Commission
Page 2

California beaches belong to the public and it is incumbent on the Coastal Commission to maintain a fair and balanced approach to both the development and the protection of our coast. As the Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Commission, it is inherently obvious that an undeserved termination initiated by Commissioners sympathetic to developers will serve as a poignant warning to the next Executive Director where his or her priorities should lie.

By firing Dr. Lester without cause, the Coastal Commission undermines their own mission and creates an unmistakable message to California that money and influence trump the public good. SPON respectfully requests that Dr. Lester be maintained as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Sincerely,

Marko Popovich
President



A 501(c)(3) non-profit public education organization working to protect and preserve the residential and environmental qualities of Newport Beach.

www.SPON-NewportBeach.org | Info@SPON-NewportBeach.org
FB SPON-Newport Beach | Twitter @SPONNewport

Elizabeth Bettenhausen, Ph.D.
345 Plymouth Street
Cambria, CA 93428
elizabethbettenhausen@gmail.com

22 January 2016

Members of the California Coastal Commission

RE: 10 Feb. 2016, Item 8: Consideration of Dismissal of the Executive Director

Dear Commissioners:

On Wednesdays I volunteer with 2nd graders in two classes to help them with reading, math, and writing. I also bring a half hour of science exploration to seven classes of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students at the Cambria Grammar School. We are now studying ocean acidification in 3rd grade experiments, elephant seals in 2nd grade, and echinoderms in 1st grade.



What do you think might have caused the scars on this Alpha male Elephant Seal at Arroyo Laguna? Some children thought a boat propeller made the wounds, while others thought a shark tried to eat it. Again and again the students mention the possibility that human actions damage ocean life. They don't want so much carbon dioxide mixing with ocean water. "Bad acid makes the crabs shells sick." The children wrote to President Obama about the sea stars disappearing and asked him to stop ocean pollution.

You well know the fragility of the coast of California. Like Alpha males rolling over newborn elephant seals on the sand, our life styles put great weight on the air, water, and land and their residents. The 2nd graders will take a field trip to the Piedras Blancas elephant seal rookery on January 28th and visit the NOAA Discovery Center on the way back. They are writing and drawing books about elephant seals. They want to know how they can help endangered species recover like the elephant seals did. A girl in 3rd grade told me on the school bus one afternoon, "We could all walk to school. That would keep the air clean." She lives in a motel 8 miles from school.

In all your deliberations, please keep in mind the encyclical Pope Francis issued last year, *Laudato Si'*, "On Care for Our Common Home." As you consider the tensions between economic development and ecosystems in California, attend to his warning: "If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs" (11). In your deliberations, keep in mind the Paris Agreement. We must reduce our abuse. In your deliberations, keep in mind the children and how you care for them and their home, our common home.

Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester's commitment to sustaining and invigorating our common home has earned our highest respect. May you all help the future of California and our role in Earth's well-being by affirming his appointment and empowering his leadership.

With gratitude to you for your public service, I am

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Bettenhausen



Mr. Steve Kinsey, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

January 27, 2016

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 94814

RE: Removal of California Coastal Commission
Executive Director Charles Lester

Dear Chairman Kinsey and Governor Brown:

On behalf of the International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute, we would like to state our strong opposition to removing Executive Director Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

We believe Director Lester has worked well with the Commission, staff and the public to implement the environmental and public access provisions of the California Coastal Act in a fair and competent manner. We see no reason to remove him.

As you know, SeaWorld has been active in opposing actions of the Commission to ban forced breeding of their captive orcas and ban removals of orcas (such as splitting baby orcas from their mothers) from the San Diego facility. SeaWorld is actively suing the Commission over this provision.

We are deeply concerned that removing Director Lester will undermine the efforts of the Commission and the state of California to protect the coast, protect marine life including whales and dolphins, and may lead to reversal of the decision that SeaWorld so vehemently opposes.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

David Phillips
Executive Director

Sincerely,

Mark J. Palmer
Associate Director

International Marine Mammal Project
Earth Island Institute
David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way, Suite 460
Berkeley, CA 94704-1302 USA
Tel: 510-859-9100
Fax: 510-859-9093



Environment Now®

California Coastal Commission
By email
StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov.

January 27, 2016

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey,

Our coast belongs to all Californians. The Coastal Commission enforces the Coastal Act, arguably the most important coastal protection law in the nation. The Coastal Commission's independent, professional staff has been central to our ability to protect public access, open space and to ensure compliance with the Coastal Act.

Over the last several years, under the direction of Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester, the Commission's staff has been extraordinarily effective; staff has embraced challenging new responsibilities to deal with climate change and public access, there is an unprecedented level of transparency to the public and more than 90% of all development projects presented have been approved. I was alarmed and dismayed to hear that in spite of this, the Commission is considering the termination of Dr. Lester, without reason.

This attack on the professional staff is an attack on fair governance, the Coastal Act and California's coastal access and open space. Dr. Lester and his staff represent the public interest and it is vital that they have the ability to act independently and without fear of political reprisal for their efforts to uphold state law.

I urge you to stand up for the independence of staff. Please ensure a fully transparent and open process and retain Dr. Lester who has performed his duties with admirable result since assuming the Executive Director position in 2011.

Sincerely,

Shelley Luce, D.Env.
Executive Director

From: Stefanie Sekich-Quinn <ssekich@surfrider.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 5:59 PM
To: Mary Luevano; Mary; Effie Turnbull; Wendy Mitchell; erik@erikhowell.com; mmclure@co.del-norte.ca.us; Roberto Uranga; Steve Kinsey; Mark Vargas; Gregcoastal@sdcounty.ca.gov; Carole Groom; Dayna Bochco
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Updated Support Letter For Dr. Lester
Attachments: NGO Ltr Supporting LesterFINAL_Logos.compressed.pdf

Dear Commissioners,

Attached please find a letter from a diverse coalition of 76 organization supporting Dr. Lester's continued employment at the Commission.

On January 25 we sent this letter to the StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov. Since submitting that letter, we received a dozen more sign ons, and we wanted to send you the updated letter directly.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

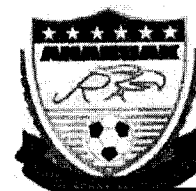
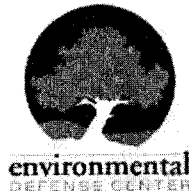
Best regards,
Stefanie

Stefanie Sekich-Quinn | Coastal Preservation Manager | [Surfrider Foundation](http://SurfriderFoundation.org)

619-807-0551 | Ssekich@surfrider.org



The City Project



January 26, 2016

Mr. Steve Kinsey
Chair, California Coastal Commission
Via email: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov

RE: Support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Chair Kinsey,

We write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a world-renowned environmental law enacted under Governor Jerry Brown's leadership in 1976 - to voice our pride in California's long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. Our organizations represent millions of Californians from all over the state, from inland and urban residents to rural coastal dwellers. We are deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to oust Dr. Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Under Dr. Lester's leadership since September 2011, the Coastal Commission has successfully applied the new administrative penalty authority in 2014 to remedy violations of public access, completed a state-of-the-art guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change, and made tremendous strides in updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities/counties across California thanks to new funding from the Legislature. The Commission has increased public transparency by creating a modern database that provides the public easier online access to information on projects, improved interagency collaboration, and significantly reduced processing times for permits and appeals.

Threats to our coast and ocean have never been more pressing. A changing climate is bringing rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and greater vulnerability to all of our coastal resources. Firing the Coastal Commission's Executive Director would undermine our state's effectiveness on coastal protection at a time when the need for such protection is at an all-time high. There is no public record that Dr. Lester's performance as Executive Director is anything but exemplary.

The Commission's 2015 sea level policy recognizes that coastal planning decisions must respond to environmental justice concerns and include low-income persons and communities in planning efforts. It was a condition of California joining the Union that beaches remain public. Yet much of the California coast was off limits to people of color for much of the twentieth century through discriminatory housing and mortgage restrictions. Commission staff are working with diverse allies to preserve and broaden public access.

Thank you for your support of the Coastal Commission's leadership to address climate change. We urge your continued support for the fundamental tenets of the California Coastal Act – protection of coastal access and coastal resources for all Californians – now and in the future. And we urge you to support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve these goals. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions. You may directly contact Susan Jordan at sjordan@coastaladvocates.com and Stefanie Sekich-Quinn at Ssekich@surfrider.org.

Very respectfully,

Stefanie Sekich-Quinn
Surfrider Foundation

Robert Garcia
The City Project

Susan Jordan
CA Coastal Protection Network

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
Azul

Linda Sheehan
Earth Law Center

John C. Philo
Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice

Pete Shoemaker
Pacificans for Highway 1 Alternatives

Rick Frickmann
Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council

Larry Glass
NorthCoast Environmental Center

D. Rick Van Schoik
North American Research Partnership

Suzanne Forster
Banning Ranch Conservancy

Marko Popovich
Still Protecting Our Newport

Nancy Negrete
Anahuak Youth Sport Association

Terry L. Cooper, Ph.D.
The Maria B. Crutcher Professor
USC Price School of Public Policy

Caryn Mandelbaum
Environment Now

Wesley Reutimann
day one

Scott Greacen
Friends of the Eel River

Jeremy Madsen
Greenbelt Alliance

Geoff Shester
Oceana

Dan York
The Wildlands Conservancy

Katie Johnson
Amigos de los Rios

Peter Loeb
Pacificans for a Scenic Coast

Mike Lynes
Audubon California

Owen Bailey
Environmental Defense Center

Robert Vogel
Friends of College Cove

Jeff Kuyper
Los Padres ForestWatch

Lisa Hoyos
Climate Parents

Marc Brenman
Social Justice Consultants

Jim Mosher
Stop Polluting Our Newport

Zachary Plopper
WILDCOAST

Mark Williams
Concerned Citizens of South LA

Audrey Peterman
Diverse Environmental Leadership

Elizabeth Lambe
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust

Greg Suba
California Native Plant Society

Pam Heatherington
ECO San Diego

Melanie Winter
The River Project

Mari Kloeppel
FANS of Elkhorn Slough

Jason A. Weiner
Wishtoyo Foundation

Jason Weiner
Ventura Coastkeeper

Kira Redmond
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Mark Magaña
Green Latinos

Maite Arce
Hispanic Access Foundation

Ruben D. Arvizu
Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society

Amy Trainer
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Debra Padilla
Social and Public Art Resource Center

Dan Jacobsen
Environment California

Matt O'Malley
San Diego CoastKeeper

Lennie Roberts
Committee for Green Foothills

Dan Silver
Endangered Habitats League

Jay Ziegler
The Nature Conservancy

Jean Watt
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Jack Eidt,
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Miriam Gordon
Clean Water Action | Clean Water Fund

Sara Aminzadeh
California CoastKeeper Alliance.

Garry Brown
Orange County CoastKeeper

Don McEnhill
Russian Riverkeeper

Pam Heatherington
Environmental Center of San Diego

Peter Fugazzotto
Salmon Protection And Watershed Network

Xavier Morales, Ph.D
Latinos Coalition for a Healthy CA

Jeffrey Williams
Black Surfers Collective

Kathryn Philips
Sierra Club California

Sarah Abramson Sikich
Heal the Bay

Teresa Baker
African American Nat'l Parks Event

Annie Notthoff
Natural Resources Defense Council

Marco Gonzalez
Coastal Environmental Rights Fnd.

Jennifer Kalt
Humboldt Baykeeper

Miyoko Sakashita
Center for Biological Diversity

Dorothy Kraus
Quality of Life Residents Coalition

Jerry Collamer
Wild Heritage Planners

Jessica Aldridge
Burbank Green Alliance

Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife

Megan Brousseau,
Inland WaterKeeper

Sejal Choksi-Chugh
San Francisco Baykeeper

Johanna Felder
Village Laguna

Todd Steiner
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Ron Sundergill
National Parks Conservation Assc.

Cc: Governor Jerry Brown
California Resources Secretary John Laird
Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon
Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker-elect Anthony Rendon
Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission



February 10, 2016

Steve Kinsey, Chair
California Coastal Commission
1121 L Street #503,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for CA Coastal Commission Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Chairman Kinsey,

As we celebrate 40 years of coastal protection in California, I write, on behalf of Waterkeeper Alliance, to express our deep concern over what appears to be an unjustified attempt to terminate California Coastal Commission Director Dr. Charles Lester. Waterkeeper Alliance is the umbrella group for 277 citizen organizations that patrol and protect local waterways in 34 countries. In California, twelve Waterkeeper organizations, organized as the California Coastkeeper Alliance, patrol and safeguard the California Coast from San Diego to the Oregon border. Waterkeepers in California work with their communities daily to protect the coastal commons from unwise development, and to ensure that every Californian has opportunity to use and enjoy the coast as a fundamental right.

This work is only possible if the California Coastal Commission remains transparent and accountable. We are deeply troubled by the campaign to oust Dr. Lester, a maneuver that threatens to subvert the independence and integrity of the California Coastal Commission. Dr. Lester has been an effective and vocal champion for public welfare, beginning with sustainable management of the coastal commons. The campaign against Dr. Lester has been doggedly pursued by the same special interests who, for years have sought to take control of the Commission, and derail it from its central mission of safeguarding the public's trust assets; the shoreline and marine ecosystems.

Deposing Dr. Lester will muzzle his eloquent voice and put the Coastal Commission squarely in the hands of coastal developers. It will send the signal that those with the courage to stand up to well connected corporate tycoons will be crushed by government power. It will subvert

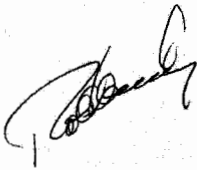
CLEAN WATER ● STRONG COMMUNITIES

17 Battery Place, Suite 1329, New York, NY 10004 Tel. 212.747.0622 Fax 212.747.0611 www.waterkeeper.org

the intent of the California Coastal Act. That landmark statute formally recognizes that the coast belongs to every California and may not be privatized by rich and powerful developers or corporations. The Coastal Act helped make California an international template for coastal protection and public rights of access to coastal resources. Defending the Coastal Commission and Coastal Act is an essential safeguard of democracy, justice, and civil rights. Concerned Californians and coastal communities around the world are watching what we do.

We ask you to protect California's noble legacy of coastal protection. We urge you to support Executive Director Charles Lester and his team in their continued efforts to preserve our coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Kennedy Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
President

CLEAN WATER • STRONG COMMUNITIES

17 Battery Place, Suite 1329, New York, NY 10004 Tel. 212.747.0622 Fax 212.747.0611 www.waterkeeper.org

From: Elisabeth Bechmann <elisabeth.bechmann@kstp.at>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:30 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Bechmann
Neugebäudeplatz
St. Poelten, 03100
AT

From: Holly Sletteland <hslettel@calpoly.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 10:44 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please retain Dr. Lester as Executive Director!

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to let you know that I was very dismayed to read in the paper about the letter from Chairman Steve Kinsey informing Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester that the commissioners planned to discuss his termination in closed session at their upcoming February meeting. I'm glad that Dr. Lester opted to exercise his right to a public hearing, as I can't imagine the Commissioner's grievances will hold up under public scrutiny in the light of day.

By all accounts of people I know who have worked for him or with him, Dr. Lester has been a very successful leader of the organization. He has some major accomplishments under his belt, including managing the development of a guidance document for adapting to sea level rise associated with climate change, winning new authority for the agency to issue fines for violations of coastal law and securing a \$3 million dollar budget increase for the agency this year. More importantly in my view, he has been firm in upholding the Coastal Act by supporting staff recommendations to deny or modify some ill-conceived development projects. He undoubtedly ruffled a few feathers in the process and one can't help but speculate that this might have some bearing on the move to terminate him.

Dr. Lester should not be faulted for doing his job. It seems to me he has squarely met the mandate of the Coastal Commission as stated on your web page:

"The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination."

This mandate should guide the actions of each of you commissioners as well. I trust you will keep this in mind when you decide whether Dr. Lester will retain his position at the helm of the agency in February. I plan to be there, as do many others, who feel our interests of protecting the coast are being well served by the current leadership and do not support a change.

Very Sincerely,

Holly Sletteland
4849 See Ranch Lane
Templeton, CA 93465

Holly Sletteland
Projects Manager
Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

From: Susan Kopicki <sckopicki@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 9:57 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Attn Steve Kinsey: I Support Executive Director Lester

Mr. Kinsey and Commissioners

When the people of CA established the Coastal Commission, their intent was protection, not development of our coast. They expected the Commission to act on their behalf and protect public access, sensitive habitats, marine habitats and scenic view sheds. They understood the interests that would over time continue to push for development, but they trusted that their representatives on the Commission would follow their intent. **Dr. Lester has demonstrated his commitment to the people's expectations and should be maintained in his position. By attempting to oust him, the Commissioners are blatantly betraying the people of CA and the goals of the California Coastal Commission as established.**

I am glad Dr. Lester is demanding a public hearing - he is giving the public a chance to respond to the attacks. His accomplishments are testimony to his commitment to the original intent of the people of CA. But apparently, his commitment doesn't make him as friendly to development interests as the Commissioners would like. This attempt is a power grab by developers and I object to the Commissioners' move to oust him so that they can do the bidding of the developers in contradiction to the will of the people!

Susan Kopicki
511 El Modena
Newport Beach CA 92663

From: Helen Herbek <hherbek@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 10:06 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal; cgroom@smcgov.org
Subject: Ouster of Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

cc: Governor Edmund G. Brown, Senator Kevin De Leon, Speaker Toni G. Atkins

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am deeply disturbed to hear of your abrupt plan to oust your Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. When Peter Douglas passed in 2012 I was filled with a sense of foreboding and dread that the amazing natural resources Peter so successfully fought to preserved for all of California's citizens would be washed away by the tide of private money entering our state.

I am a native daughter of the Central Coast, privileged to grow up so close to the awe inspiring beauty that is Montana de Oro, Morro Bay, and San Simeon, blissfully ignorant that California is unique in the world for this beauty. And why now should we give it away?

We live in a world today where our most precious monuments of nature and history can be destroyed by the zealous, the ignorant, and the rich, and no one stands to defend them. No one but you.

Whatever pressure has come to bear, whatever shortsighted calculation makes this move seem sound, it is no different that the repeated and fleeting assaults Peter Douglas quelled to protect these incredible natural resources over the long span of 25 years.

There are many kinds of riches in this world; money, political influence, celebrity, family, friends, the awe inspiring beauty of the natural world. All of them are fleeting, no matter how we comfort ourselves in the moment. However, the importance we as individuals and as a community place on them, the lengths we go to for them, defines us forever.

Which community values will you stand to protect and defend now? How will you be defined by this moment in California history?

I urge you to stand with Dr. Charles Lester, Douglas' chosen replacement, in staunchly defending our natural coastal resources for all of California's citizens.

Sincerely,
Helen Herbek

South San Francisco, CA

January 23rd, 2016

Laura Smith
21321 Fleet Ln
Huntington Beach, CA 92646
714-968-3154

January 22, 2016

The Honorable Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Subject: Charles Lester, Executive Director, CA Coastal Commission

I understand that four members of the California Coastal Commission whom you appointed are attempting to fire Executive Director Charles Lester. This is an underhanded attack on the Coastal Act and on the effectiveness of the California Coastal Commission.

Do not allow this to weaken the Coastal Program and undermine California's role as an environmental leader and your own efforts to address climate change. You want to be remembered as one who led California to "build for the future, not steal from it; to live within our means and to keep California ever golden;" these words are taken from your own 2015 inaugural speech, something to be remembered. I urge you to contact your appointees on the Coastal Commission and express your displeasure with a maneuver that will severely damage that vital agency's ability to do its job to maintain coastal access and protect the California coastline.

As the California Coastal Act celebrates its 40th year as the most effective coastal protection legislation on the globe, this action is despicable.

This is not about Charles Lester. This is about protecting public access and California's coast in accordance with the Coastal Act. Take action and protect CA and its citizens today.

From: Joel Schulman <jnschulman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 7:48 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Keep Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester

We, and all the friends and neighbors I have talked with, are outraged by this attack on Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester. It is a blatant attempt to exploit the remainder of our protected coastland for the benefit of a few politically connected business interests. This is a frontal attack on the independence of the Commission and the Coast. Lester is the symbol, not the real issue. The threatened termination of a strong environmental leader is an outrageous move. The Coastal Commission needs to be stronger in protecting our coast from "development" not less vigilant. The desires of a few wealthy individuals or the greed of those who wish to exploit the California coast must be stopped.

This behind-the-scenes attack on Executive Director Lester is an attack on the Coastal Act itself. It is a power grab in an attempt to undermine the Coastal Program, gain control over an independent staff, and make the Commission more developer-friendly without any public accountability or transparency. Director Lester has gained major accomplishments for the protection of the CA coast. It would be a shame to fire this man who has done so much to preserve the California Coast, which is widely known for its natural unspoiled beauty. His detractors claim he is incompetent, yet I believe they want him to disappear because he IS so competent and fair-minded. Development that is done with no concern for local impacts has had an irreversible effect on so much of California's coast and it's hard to imagine why anyone would want to see that continue and even expand. But that sounds like exactly what the people that want to terminate Dr. Charles Lester want.

Joel & Kian Schulman
1832 Lookout Road
Malibu, CA 90265

From: Gretchen Vurbeff <gvurbeff@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:32 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Measure A - Attention Chair Steve Kinsey

Dear Chair Steve Kinsey,

As a citizen of North County and of Carlsbad, as well as a local neighbor who lives off of Cannon Road just east of the Measure A designated site, I would like to ask you to take a moment to seriously consider the impact of Measure A on my family, our community, and on North County.

We love our seaside community and we love the access we have to the lagoon and the ocean. It is a 2.5 mile run for me to the beach, which I often enjoy, looking at the beautiful views to the west of the lagoon and ocean as I am heading west, as well as the amazing Palomar Mountain range as I head east on Cannon. It is my understanding that this roadway is one of the last scenic highway opportunities in California which has the potential to be destroyed by the development proposed by Caruso in Measure A. Not only do we care about the views, but we love the lagoon. It was a main attraction to us when we purchased our home 15 years ago in Kelly Ranch. We use the lagoon for kyacking and paddleboarding. It is a very special place and brought a lot of joy to our family. There are sensitive habitats and marine resources in and around this lagoon which need to be protected and preserved for the generations to come. Caruso does not care about any of this. This is what so saddens the hearts of many of us living in Carlsbad. Please help us protect this precious lagoon and the surrounding areas.

My husband is an environmental planner for the City of Encinitas. He has read the initiative front to back and keeps me very informed of what is more easily understood by those who in the field. It is amazing to me how many loop holes Caruso has been able to maneuver through with our City Council and Mayor. However, the facts remain - Caruso is buying off our city officials.

I would like to commend Dr. Lester for his courage to demand a public hearing allowing the public to weigh in on this awful attempt to fire him. He is to be commended for his long list of accomplishments over the past 4.5 years as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission which are not limited to:

- 1) The Commission recently received new administrative authority from the California Legislature that allows the Commission staff to administer penalties against individuals who violate the Coastal Act's coastal access provisions, with a \$11,500 fine per violation per day.
- 2) The Commission completed an important Sea Level Rise guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change.
- 3) The Commission just received a \$3 million budget increase to make permanent 25 positions to focus on sea level rise planning – the largest augmentation to the Commission's budget in 15 years.
- 4) The Commission has made tremendous strides in the past few years updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities and counties across California.
- 5) Dr. Lester and his staff have increased public transparency by creating a new state-of-the-art database that enables the public to more easily access information on projects

We, the people of Carlsbad, are asking you, the Commission to stop the power grab for developers and let's get busy helping to protect our coastline and preserve the beauty which remains here in Carlsbad. We do not want LA or Orange County. Vote NO on Measure A! Please take a stand with us.

From: Laura & Bob <rvdixons@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 1:32 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Director Dr Charles Lester possible termination

I am writing to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a visionary law enacted illustrating our pride in California's long history of global leadership in coastal protection and my strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am one of hundreds of thousands of Californians from all over the state, from urban residents to rural coastal dwellers. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester.

Under Dr. Lester's leadership, the Coastal Commission has successfully applied its new administrative penalty authority to remedy violations of public access, completed a state-of-the-art guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change, and made tremendous strides in updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities/counties across California. The Commission has increased public transparency by creating a modern database that provides the public easier access to information on projects, improved inter-agency collaboration, and significantly reduced processing times for permits and appeals.

Threats to our coast and ocean have never been more pressing. A changing climate is bringing rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and greater vulnerability to all of our coastal resources. Firing the Coastal Commission's Executive Director would undermine our state's effectiveness on coastal protection at a time when the need for such protection is at an all-time high.

Thank you for your environmental leadership, and urge your continued support for the fundamental tenants of the California Coastal Act – protection of coastal access and coastal resources for all Californians – now and in the future. And we urge you to support Executive Director Charles Lester and your entire team in their continued efforts to achieve these goals.

Very respectfully,

Laura Smith
21321 Fleet Ln.,
Huntington Beach, CA 92646
714-968-3154

In God We Trust

From: Charlotte Chapman <charlotte.a.chapman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 11:08 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Schwartz, Noaki@Coastal
Subject: Charles Lester

Good morning,

I am writing to find out the details of Charles Lester's termination. What are the specific details of his management style that is the reason for his termination? As the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission, the decisions he makes must honor the California Coastal Act. From researching his working history, the decisions he has made have upheld these values and laws.

Looking over the history of the voting commissioners, it seems like the decisions they have made recently have supported big business / development and has not kept the Coastal Act in mind in these decisions. For example, the commissioners in 2014 approved the building of a 40 acre hotel on eroding sand dunes in Monterey, which are critical habitats for coastal wildlife, including local and migratory birds, such as sanderlings.

Please share my support of Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Cheers,
Charlotte Chapman

From: Catherine Hyde <catherineryanhyde@me.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 10:06 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Charles Lester

To whom it may concern at the Coastal Commission:

I am writing in support of Director Lester.

It is with great disappointment that I read of the effort underway to unseat him from the Coastal Commission. It has not escaped anyone's attention (no matter what they may say) that developers and others with a financial interest in the coast are in constant battle for control of the commission. But the job of the commission is to protect the coast, not to give it away to a moneyed few. Not only is the area environmentally sensitive, there is the subject of economic justice. This is another battle that needs constant defending.

I worry that Lester will be dismissed and a much more pro-development director given his seat. Please don't allow this to happen. If it does happen, please know that the citizens of the California coast are watching, and not as easily fooled as some like to think.

Thank you for considering my views.

Catherine Ryan Hyde

Author of 30 published and forthcoming books.
Visit [my website](#) or [my Amazon author page](#).

From:
Subject:

StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Los Angeles Times Article Today About Possible Dismissal of Steve Lester

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Goode [mailto:michaelg@trumpetworkspress.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 1:45 PM
To: Schwartz, Noaki@Coastal
Subject: Los Angeles Times Article Today About Possible Dismissal of Steve Lester

Thursday, January 21, 2016

Hi Noaki,

Read the article in the LA Times today about Steve Kinsey and the Coastal Commission wanting to fire Executive Director Charles Lester.

If Steve and the Commission fire Charles Lester, they might as well call themselves a real estate agency for the Coast of California. Aren't the Commissioners ashamed of themselves? Please keep Charles Lester on as Executive Director and listen to him.

Firing Charles Lester makes Steve Kinsey and the Commissioners look like a bunch of greedy, pro-development business people who could care less about protecting the coastal environment of California and makes the Commission look like a joke.

Please pass this along to Commissioner Kinsey and the rest of the Commissioners. I have hundreds of people down here in Southern California who feel the same way as I do. What a corrupt disgrace the Coastal Commission has become.

Michael Goode
310-823-5176

From: esp3800@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 3:48 PM
To: skinsey@marincounty.org; Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Cc: Reed, Jessica@Coastal; Gregcoastal@sdcounty.ca.gov; cgroom@smcgov.org; newstips@latimes.com; mmclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us; hschmeltzer@coastal.ca.gov; mluevanocoastal@gmail.com; Dayna.bochco@bochcomedia.com; Cox, Greg; cgroom@co.sanmateo.ca.us; sarahcoastalcom@yahoo.com; Henry, Teresa@Coastal; Coastal Meetingnotice; district7@longbeach.gov; ehowell@pismobeach.org; Pederson, Chris@Coastal
Subject: CRD3 -- Dr. Lester in the news... and the doghouse for certain developers.

Sir:

Dr. Lester deserves a fair hearing or hearings and nobody can come to sing his praises or blast his behavior in Morro Bay alone... ?

Can they?

<http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-coastal-commission-20160121-story.html>

Though there are numerous considerations and Morro Bay is a nice sleepy lil town, it would make sense to hold additional hearings; or take testimony from a socal and a nocal venue via Skype to a large monitor that can be filmed by a camera in Morro Bay. Clever, right?! Maybe set a precedent. Apparently, MB is 45 miles north of Santa Maria, so yikes.

Where does the commission stay for exparte canoodling up there in case I have to show up? Can members of the coast-loving public get the CCC rate? Or better to stick with the AAA rate?

Kinsey, I'm pretty sure yer smart young tech team will instantly agree that you could provide such linkage for next to nothing from Burton Chace Park in MdR and someplace comparable in SF -- Why not?

Yer public is clamoring for this... (and I know we can send letters - and will - but it's not the same). A lot of folks seem to want to defend the guy. Hard for me to say as my knowledge is limited... and I can only hold accountable the COMMISSIONERS who voted on information that --without hesitation-- was defective and they knew it... The commission owes the public a much more thorough 'splanation about Boat Central.

But I digress... This is about Dr. Lester!

Eric Preven
CRD3
818-762-7719
818-645-2616 mobile

Sheila Kuehl is the Third district supervisor down here. Do you know her?

**Thomas Bliss
4235 Kester Av
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403**

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street #2000
San Francisco, CA 94105
Via telecopier (415) 904-5400

Re: Executive Director

Big mistake to fire your Executive Director and favor development interests. The California Coastal acts is a landmark legislation that has provided Californians with dramatically improved access to the coast and slowed the Miami-ization of our beautiful coast. I know because I've lived in Southern California for 60+ years.

Why develop the coast now? What's the hurry? We have centuries to do so; why do you want to ruin it? Why now? Some short term gain?

Big mistake.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bliss

From: Karen Proffitt <rumreggae@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 8:21 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: director

We are in support of the current director, and don't want to see him ousted from his position. Keep your meetings open and accessible to the public, please! Karen Proffitt.

Karen Proffitt
Rum Reggae
805 649 4820
www.rumreggae.net

From: Terry Welsh <terrymwelsh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 9:54 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Keep Dr. Lester
Attachments: I am writing in support of keeping Charles Lester as Executive Directordocx

1/24/16

I am writing in support of keeping Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission (CCC).

I am writing as a coastal activist and one with great experience with the Coastal Commission during the last 9 years. I have attended innumerable Coastal Commission hearings (and have spoken at many) and have met with every current commissioner and many previous commissioners. I have also spoken with many Commission staff during these years. I should add that none of the commissioners or staff has discussed even one word with me of the current situation concerning Dr. Lester.

The main point I want to make is that many of the proposed development projects along the coast, especially the larger ones, involve many exceedingly complex issues. The issues take a lot of time to analyze in an objective manner. This is especially true of impacts to Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) and wetlands, but also of Native American sites, water quality, infrastructure, air quality, coastal access and other issues.

1. That these issues are analyzed in an independent and objective manner by the Commission staff is extremely important because, as I am absolutely convinced and have observed over the years, the developers' paid consultants are biased, to varying degrees, towards the developers' project(s).
2. Despite the intelligence and dedication of our commissioners, these issues are simply too complex to be sorted out by the commissioners in the short time they have before each hearing, as the commissioners are also busy with their own careers and/or responsibilities as elected officials across the State. Again, I speak from the experience of a long-time coastal activist who has spent hundreds of hours reading thousands of pages of documents concerning just one proposed project. The information can be overwhelming and the CCC staff and their reports are essential to analyzing this data if the commissions are not to rely solely on the word of the developer (or environmentalist).
3. In short, the Coastal Act is best carried out with a full-time independent staff who submit well-researched and objective reports to the commissioners, upon which the commissioners can make their decisions.

To this end, it is my opinion that Dr. Charles Lester has done an exemplary job. He oversees a dedicated and professional staff that is overworked but still delivers, each month, a collection of excellent staff reports on every item on the agenda. It is a staff that will not sway to developers' money and political influence, nor will it sway to the impassioned pleas of the environmental community. Rather, it is a staff that is driven by one mandate...The Coastal Act.

To conclude, while political expediency and money and environmentalists' passion may rule the day at the local level, they are stopped at the door of the Coastal Commission by Dr. Charles Lester. We have Dr. Lester to

unlikely to find anyone who can do the job better.

Thank you,

Terry Welsh, M.D.
Costa Mesa, California

From: Danielle Derrick <daniellederrick@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:22 AM
To: Ccc@daynabochco.com; mmccclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us; wendy@katzmitchell.com; erik@erikhowell.com; Cox, Greg; cgroom@smcgov.org; effietlaw@yahoo.com; mkshallenberger@gmail.com; roberto.uranga@longbeach.gov; SKinsey@co.marin.ca.us; mluevano@gmail.com; Mark@mark-vargas.com; Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Subject: CCC Director Lester

Commissioners,

Please keep Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Don't let politics interfere with the position of the Executive Director.

Lester is an effective Executive Director who, guided by the Coastal Act, successfully balances the interests of both environmentalists and development; and he upholds the Coastal Act.

Sincerely,

Danielle Derrick

28378 Rey de Copas Lane
Malibu CA 90265

To: Members of the Coastal Commission
From : The Malibu Coalition for Slow Growth
Re: Charles Lester
Hearing Date 2-10-16

The Malibu Coalition for Slow Growth would like to voice our thoughts on the potential dismissal of Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Although we don't always agree with the Staff recommendations and Commission decisions, we think Charles Lester has been an effective Executive Director and want him to continue in his position.

What we like about Charles is his thoughtful and quiet but effective style. He makes his decisions based on projects that he believes conform to the Coastal Act.

The publically expressed concern of the Commissioners desiring his dismissal are not fair statements. With the cutbacks in staff and staff hours it is impossible for staff to move more quickly and still do an effective job. Charles himself has hundreds of projects to look at and juggle each month while still answering Commissioners questions on the various projects before them monthly. He also cannot be expected to meet every single demand of each of 12 commissioners.

While the stated reasons are related to his "performance", it appears from what we have read that the underlying reasons relate to matters pertaining to control of the Commission and whether or not it is independent of the Governor and following the Coastal Act to protect the coast.

The public in supporting the Coastal Act wanted the Coast protected both now and into the future. The Coast is threatened every day by those that want to exploit it for personal gain. Charles is doing a good job at balancing the interests of those who want to develop and exploit with those that want to preserve.

We are urging you to vote to retain Charles Lester and allow the Commission to move forward on a more positive note to do the job it was empowered to do- protect the coast and access to it for future generations.

From: John Simpson <johnnytrikke@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:57 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr Lester and the California Coastal Commission

To Whom This May Concern:

I write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a visionary law enacted under your leadership as Governor in 1976 – to voice my pride in California’s long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester. Please support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve the goals of the Coastal Act.

Thank you for your service and support for a clean, healthy California coast!

Sincerely,
John Hurndall Simpson
Carpinteria, CA

From: Angelika Kempter <geliarine@gmx.de>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 12:58 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Angelika Kempter
Auwiesenstrasse 1
Reutlingen, ot 72770
DE

From: Sheila D <policaudillon@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 12:49 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Sheila D
1701 5th St SW
Small Town, MN 56201
US

From: Stella Gambardella <stella.gambardella@yahoo.it>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:46 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Stella Gambardella
Via Maestro Gaetano Capocci 24
Roma, ot 00199
IT

From: Brian Trautwein <bearnewt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:06 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Governor@Governor.ca.gov
Subject: Retain Executive Director Charles Lester

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey,

I've lived in California 46 years and I treasure our coastline. Our coast belongs to all Californians and the Coastal Commission's independent, professional staff has been central to our ability to protect public access, open space and to ensure compliance with the Coastal Act, arguably the most important coastal protection law in the nation.

Over the last several years under the direction of Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester, the CCC has reached out to local government holding hearings and workshops and greatly increasing collaboration between towns, counties and the CCC staff.

In addition, as I've seen through my attendance at CCC meetings and through working with local government, the Commission's staff has been extraordinarily effective under Dr. Lester; staff has accepted considerable new responsibilities in dealing with climate change and public access, there is an unprecedented level of transparency to the public and more than 90% of all development projects presented have been approved.

In spite of this, I was alarmed to hear that the Commission is considering the termination of Dr. Lester, without reason.

This attack on the professional staff is an attack on the Coastal Act and our coastal access and open space. Dr. Lester and his staff represent the public interest and it is vital that they have the ability to act independently and without fear of political reprisal for their efforts to uphold state law.

I urge you to stand up for the independence of staff. Please ensure a fully transparent and open process and retain Dr. Lester who has performed his duties with admirable result since taking over this position in 2011.

Sincerely, and With Kind Regards,
Brian Trautwein
158 Verona Ave.
Goleta, CA 93117

cc:
Governor Brown
Speaker Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore Kevin De Leon

From: Lee Heller <lee@leeheller.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:25 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal; governor@governor.ca.gov
Subject: Defending the integrity of the Coastal Commission

Dear Chair Kinsey,

The Coastal Commission is the agency most responsible for enforcing California's Coastal Act, which protects our precious coastal zone from over- and mis-development and ensures public access. The Commission's independent, professional staff has been central to its effectiveness. Over the last several years under the direction of Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester, the Commission's staff has been extraordinarily effective: staff has accepted considerable new responsibilities in dealing with climate change and public access, there is an unprecedented level of transparency to the public, and more than 90% of all development projects presented have been approved.

And yet, I understand that the Commission is considering the termination of Dr. Lester.

This attack on the professional staff is an attack on the Coastal Act and our coastal access and protection. It is critical that CCC staff have the ability to act independently and without fear of political reprisal for their efforts to uphold state law.

I urge you to stand up for the independence of staff. Please ensure a fully transparent and open process, so that Dr. Lester, who has proven a worthy successor of Peter Douglas, may continue to serve the people of California.

Sincerely,

Lee E. Heller, Ph.D., J.D.
PO Box 1592
Summerland CA 93067
805-451-5787

Sent from my iPad

From: j angell <jangell@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:44 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

j angell
ponderosa rd
rescue, CA 95672
US

From: Zelman, Walter A. <wzelman@exchange.calstatela.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:34 PM
To: Ccc@daynabochco.com; mmccclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us; wendy@katzmitchell.com; erik@erikhowell.com; Cox, Greg; cgroom@smcgov.org; effietlaw@yahoo.com; mkshallenberger@gmail.com; roberto.uranga@longbeach.gov; SKinsey@co.marin.ca.us; mluevano@gmail.com; Mark@mark-vargas.com; Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Subject: Firing of Exec director

I strongly oppose the firing of the CC executive director. The grounds given appear specious, obviously hiding the larger motive of opening up the coast to more development.

I think we should forego the few dollars in property taxes that Ca might reap from allowing more development on the coast and save what is now a priceless asset for all Californians and the millions who come to visit. If you open up this floodgate, it will be open for decades to come and possibly forever.

Walter Zelman



WALTER A. ZELMAN
Professor and Department Chair
California State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive | Los Angeles, CA 90032
T 323.343.4635 | wzelman@calstatela.edu
www.calstatela.edu



"ENGAGEMENT, SERVICE, AND THE PUBLIC GOOD"

From: Michael Goode [<mailto:michaelg@trumpetworkspress.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 1:45 PM
To: Schwartz, Noaki@Coastal
Subject: Los Angeles Times Article Today About Possible Dismissal of Steve Lester

Thursday, January 21, 2016

Hi Noaki,

Read the article in the LA Times today about Steve Kinsey and the Coastal Commission wanting to fire Executive Director Charles Lester.

If Steve and the Commission fire Charles Lester, they might as well call themselves a real estate agency for the Coast of California. Aren't the Commissioners ashamed of themselves? Please keep Charles Lester on as Executive Director and listen to him.

Firing Charles Lester makes Steve Kinsey and the Commissioners look like a bunch of greedy, pro-development business people who could care less about protecting the coastal environment of California and makes the Commission look like a joke.

Please pass this along to Commissioner Kinsey and the rest of the Commissioners. I have hundreds of people down here in Southern California who feel the same way as I do. What a corrupt disgrace the Coastal Commission has become.

Michael Goode
310-823-5176

From: LauraMorneo <wordpress@jukelabs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 2:04 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support Coastal Act and Executive Director Lester

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a visionary law enacted under your leadership as Governor in 1976 – to voice my pride in California’s long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester. Please support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve the goals of the Coastal Act.

Thank you for your service and support for a clean, healthy California coast!

Sincerely,

From: wordpress@jukelabs.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 2:04 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support for Coastal Act and Executive Director Lester

I write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a visionary law enacted under your leadership as Governor in 1976 – to voice my pride in California's long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester. Please support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve the goals of the Coastal Act.

Thank you for your service and support for a clean, healthy California coast!

Sincerely,

I am writing in support of keeping Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission (CCC).

I am writing as a coastal activist and one with great experience with the Coastal Commission during the last 9 years. I have attended innumerable Coastal Commission hearings (and have spoken at many) and have met with every current commissioner and many previous commissioners. I have also spoken with many Commission staff during these years. I should add that none of the commissioners or staff has discussed even one word with me of the current situation concerning Dr. Lester.

The main point I want to make is that many of the proposed development projects along the coast, especially the larger ones, involve many exceedingly complex issues. The issues take a lot of time to analyze in an objective manner. This is especially true of impacts to Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) and wetlands, but also of Native American sites, water quality, infrastructure, air quality, coastal access and other issues.

1. That these issues are analyzed in an independent and objective manner by the Commission staff is extremely important because, as I am absolutely convinced and have observed over the years, the developers' paid consultants are biased, to varying degrees, towards the developers' project(s).
2. Despite the intelligence and dedication of our commissioners, these issues are simply too complex to be sorted out by the commissioners in the short time they have before each hearing, as the commissioners are also busy with their own careers and/or responsibilities as elected officials across the State. Again, I speak from the experience of a long-time coastal activist who has spent hundreds of hours reading thousands of pages of documents concerning just one proposed project. The information can be overwhelming and the CCC staff and their reports are essential to analyzing this data if the commissions are not to rely solely on the word of the developer (or environmentalist).
3. In short, the Coastal Act is best carried out with a full-time independent staff who submit well-researched and objective reports to the commissioners, upon which the commissioners can make their decisions.

To this end, it is my opinion that Dr. Charles Lester has done an exemplary job. He oversees a dedicated and professional staff that is overworked but still delivers, each month, a collection of excellent staff reports on every item on the agenda. It is a staff that will not sway to developers' money and political influence, nor will it sway to the impassioned pleas of the environmental community. Rather, it is a staff that is driven by one mandate...The Coastal Act.

To conclude, while political expediency and money and environmentalists' passion may rule the day at the local level, they are stopped at the door of the Coastal Commission by Dr. Charles Lester. We have Dr. Lester to thank for an independent, objective and thoroughly professional Coastal Commission staff and we will be unlikely to find anyone who can do the job better.

From: carol mortensen <carolmortensen0@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 11:14 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director Action

We strongly urge the Board Members of the California Coastal Commission to retain Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the Commission. Any other action will be tantamount to caving in to developers who would spoil one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world not to mention their desire to limit public access to certain areas of the coast.

Richard & Carol Mortensen
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

From: Constance Hughes <conniebhughes@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 4:42 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Comments re Dr. Charles Lester

Having lived near the CA coast for 60 years, I am MOST concerned about the direction and special interests the Coastal commission is appearing to favor. We have only ONE coastline and we must preserve it for our ever-burgeoning population to enjoy and future generations to cherish. Once it's "sold", we cannot get it back.

The California coastal Commission has a moral and ethical duty to be stewards of this precious resource. From what I understand, Dr. Lester is diligent and serving us well. Therefore, I am resolutely AGAINST removal or replacement of your current director. He appears to be an advocate, while the other commissioners' motives seem a bit suspect. Where is the dedication to preserve the last remains of the coasts pristine environment? I'm pretty appalled at all four of Governor Brown's appointees!

I implore you to NOT sell out to special developer interests. Stand firm! Honor your commitment.

Thomas & Constance Hughes
24492 Jutewood Place
Lake Forest, CA 92630
949-768-8560

From: Carol Harris <crhmail@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 2:34 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Attention Chair Steve Kinsey

January 24, 2016

Dear Mr. Kinsey,

I commend the entire staff at the Coastal Commission for their dedication and public service. I wish to add my voice in support of Dr. Charles Lester for his courage to demand a public hearing to allow the public to weigh in on a shameful attempt to fire him.

The Commission has been effective at protecting our coast. We need to step up now, to stop a baseless power grab for developers and have you return to the busy work of protecting our beautiful coast. The work of the Coastal Commission is to protect public access, sensitive habitats, marine resources, and scenic view sheds. Their mission is not to promote the interests of powerful and wealthy individuals and developers.

The Coastal Commission is the only agency standing between the environment and the pollution of the oceans and rivers that comes from over-development. I implore you to further protect our beautiful California coast by keeping Dr. Lester on the Commission.

Sincerely,

Carol Harris
Native Californian
Sent from my iPad

From: Don Harvey <harveydonw@juno.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 1:58 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Ouster of Dr. Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission

Don Harvey, Ph. D.
2039 Port Weybridge Place
Newport Beach, CA 92660

To: California Coastal Commission
Via e-mail

Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Ouster of Dr. Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission

Dear Chair Kinsey, Vice-Chair Bochco, and Commissioners:

My wife and I live in Newport Beach; we oppose the proposal to oust Dr. Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Under his leadership, the public has maintained access to our coastline, a fact that might not remain true in his absence.

The California coast belongs to the public. To maintain recognition of that, we ask that Dr. Lester be maintained as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Sincerely,

Don Harvey

From: joe and barb crowley <jcrowley_1@charter.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 12:30 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: support for Dr. Lester

Dear Mr. Kinsey and Commissioners,

We write to support protection of the coast as has been administered during the tenure of Dr. Lester.

We live in Cambria and am active with the residents who support the Vacation Rental Ordinance of San Luis Obispo County. A few years ago (2013), your Commission approved the amendments to the Ordinance. These changes have been very productive to help maintain the balance between tourists and residents in our goal (as you stated) to appreciate and occupy together this lovely area of the coast.

Dr. Lester was the director at this time and I believe his prudent compromise on this issue exhibited a good balance for all parties. To pass the Ordinance, originally in 2003, and the amendments in 2013 demonstrated his good decision making and you, the CA Coastal Commission's, willingness to view all sides and decide on a compromise to affect all California's right to access to our coastal treasures.

We commend Dr. Lester's courage to demand a public hearing. We will attend the hearing and listen to the arguments that are being raised.

The coast has been given to all of us to appreciate and to protect for preservation of its delicate balance which sometimes runs counter-protective to coastal development such as more building and more water projects to support this development. You have been appointed our representatives and as stewards to ensure good management. No political bias is needed when we weigh the tremendous responsibility to protect and savor the beauty of our land and sea so that future generations can also receive this gift of nature that we are presently enjoying.

Please, please place any political considerations aside and let good stewardship of our nature be the only criteria for your decision. Let Dr. Lester help you keep these habitats protected and at the same time be mindful of California's right to appreciate this coast. To this point, you have performed admirably in your goals. Continue the pledge you made to protect our coast unbiased and let Dr. Lester help you administer the pledge.

Regards,

Barbara and Joe Crowley

January 24, 2016

Dear Governor Brown,

As a long-time resident and land owner on the Central Coast, I write to protest a movement which seems to be directed towards ousting Coastal Commission Director, Dr. Lester. I know from my children and grandchildren who are located in Pismo Beach and Santa Margarita that Dr. Lester and his staff have done an excellent job in increasing public transparency, updating local coastal plans, sea level rise planning, and in protecting public access, sensitive habitats and marine resources of our vulnerable coastline. I urge the Commission to turn its attention away from hungry developers and direct it towards the precious and environmentally fragile coast.

Sincerely,

Landon Young zopiloteyoung@gmail.com

From: karen <cayucoskaren@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 10:44 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Attention: Steve Kinsey

Re: Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Mr. Kinsey,

I am writing in support of Dr. Charles Lester. I find it shameful that a faction of the California Coastal Commission has launched an all out attack by trying to fire Executive Director of the Commission, Dr. Charles Lester. I thoroughly commend Dr. Lester for exercising his right to demand a public hearing.

I, as are my coastal neighbors, very pleased with the tireless dedication and public service of the entire staff at the Coastal Commission. We are so pleased with the tremendous effort involved in preserving the Hearst property in San Simeon. I, my family, my friends and neighbors in Cayucos are in the water every week, on the beaches, hiking the splendid trails, enjoying the scenic beauty and rejuvenating ourselves with our pristine coastline.

I implore you to reconsider in your efforts to continue to protect our marine resources, sensitive habitats, public access, and scenic view sheds, rather than succumb to development.

Thank you so very much for your kind consideration of this matter.

Karen Craig
888 Saint Mary Ave.
Cayucos, CA 93430
(805)235-4332

From: Dee Osborne <seadmo@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 9:59 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support LESTER

Please support Director Lester!!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: LeeGshack@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 6:16 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Retain Charles Lester

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Dr. Lester has worked diligently and efficiently to protect the environment and keep a balance of good economics on California's coast. The demands by developers for more rapid destruction of natural habitats should not lead to the dismissal of a capable administrator.

Lee Greenawalt, 3141 N. Parson Ave. Merced, CA 95340



This email has been sent from a virus-free computer protected by Avast.
www.avast.com

From: Debbie Highfill <debbiehighfill@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 6:15 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Attention: Steve Kinsey

Dear Mr. Kinsey, I am writing in support of Dr. Lester, who has had the courage to ask for input from the people that he represents on the coastal commission.

I have lived near the coast for the last 60 years of my life, I am in the ocean weekly and very dedicated to protecting the natural beauty of our California coastline.

I recognize that all the commissioners work very hard and I ask that a priority be put on the natural conservation. As we all know, once the coastline is developed commercially it is never regained. The natural beauty is priceless and future generations deserve to enjoy it as much as we have.

Thank you for your attention.

I will be attending the February 10th meeting in MorroBay.

Sincerely,
Debbie Highfill
retired teacher

From: Pearltrans@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 4:07 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Keep Dr. Charles Lester

Dr. Charles Lester has done a good job as Executive Director of the CA Coastal Commission. Keep him in that position. It is understandable that the Commission would have a division between development proponents and conservationists. The Commission must set limits on developers, to preserve the beauty and wildlife that are such an advantage to our state, and a tourist attraction.

Thank you.

Pearl Munak

3770 N. River Rd.

Paso Robles, CA 93446

From: rosemary wilvert <rwilvert@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 4:06 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Attn: Chair Steve Kinsey

Dear Chair Kinsey and California Coastal Commission,

As longtime residents of coastal California, we treasure its public access and scenic views. We commend the Coastal Commission and Dr. Lester for their efforts to protect these sensitive habitats and marine resources that are integral to our state's appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Developers, seeking their own profit, must never be allowed to take away or diminish the commons, what belongs to all of us. Instead of firing Dr. Lester, a courageous advocate for conservation, the Commission needs to get back to its job of protecting the coast. We will be attending the hearing on February in Morro Bay.

Sincerely,

Rosemary and Cal Wilvert
San Luis Obispo, CA
805-544-8365

From: Laura Morgan <thesquig@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 3:58 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Keep Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission

The residents of Sonoma County went through a traumatic experience in the 1960s, when we were forced into taking action as a group of private citizens to stop Pacific Gas and Electric from covertly constructing a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head. Dr Bill Kortum was instrumental in that successful struggle and in the passing of Proposition 20, which created the California Coastal Commission.

As members of the Commission, you should be well aware of the history leading to your existence and your implicit promise to the citizens of California to uphold the principles and actions necessary to continue the Coastal Commission's inceptive mission.

Any laxity in protection of our coast can only be construed as influenced by the ambition and greed of those who stand to profit from development and privatization of our common inheritance.

Charles Lester is a solid proponent of the original mission and purpose of the California Coastal Commission. Inappropriate pro-agriculture, pro-development bias and the swaying of less wary Commission members threatens everything we have worked so long and hard to preserve for future generations.

My colleagues, family, friends and I urge you to retain Mr. Lester in his current position for the greater good of our state and its unique aesthetic coastal resources.

Sincerely,

Laura Morgan, MD
West Sonoma County Health Services
510-926-0351

Sent from my iPad

From: Mary <webb.mary599@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 3:38 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Oppose Removal of Exec. Director Lester

February 10, 2016
Agenda Item 8-10

Good afternoon Commissioners,

Due to terrible global climate impacts caused by ongoing inaction to curtail climate change, we are already experiencing huge costs associated with flood, fire, drought and destruction of habitat for people and wildlife. We must act now to stop the destruction and the economic freefall, if it isn't too late already. Californians deserve the strongest Coastal and Environmental Protections possible for our beautiful CA Coast, which means we need the strongest CA Coastal Commissioners and Staff right now, not the weakest, most ineffective and least objective. The CA Coastal Commission is the only agency that exists in CA to help offset the overarching influence of the billionaire class of greedy, ignorant and careless developers who use their inflated salaries and expense accounts to buy ever more power.

According to all news sources, the Governor's appointees to the CA Coastal Commission are attempting to oust Executive Director Charles Lester. If true this is shameful and shocking. Dr. Lester has been one of the most reasonable Directors on this Commission, far less aggressive than former Exec. Director Peter Douglas. In fact many complain that the staff spends much of their time and energy (at our expense) working with rogue developers in efforts to rework their projects into compliance. This time could be spent in the communities and at county planning offices educating to reinforce the Coastal Act which could stop those projects from moving forward to the Coastal Commission in the first place.

Cambrians were made aware that it was the Governor's Natural Resources Agency appointee, Janelle Beland, that was responsible for preventing the CA Coastal Commission from doing their job by trying to bring the Cambria Community Services District disastrous brackish water desal project into compliance with the Coastal Act in the fall of 2014. That unpermitted water project, which the CSD had been trying to build for 20 years, was rushed thru under a **faked emergency scenario** without proper permits, promptly becoming the target of a Stanford Lawsuit. Caving into the pressures of deep pocketed developers lobbying for seawater desalination with no mitigation, no permits, and no oversight is disappointing and dangerous. Locating multimillion dollar public works projects and chemical storage in the middle of food prone riparian areas containing endangered species and State Parks Campgrounds is just one example of how foolish it is to ignore the Coastal Act and rush ahead with no limitations and no stakeholder process.

We cannot sacrifice everything that is precious about the CA Coast and sell it to the highest bidder. These lands and ocean belong to all of us and bring billions of dollars into the CA economy from visitors all over the world. The unholy alliance of State Agencies with billionaires and lobbying groups like CalDesal that charge \$5000 memberships, water purveyors looking to privatize our resources, developers, industry hacks, middle eastern desal interests, energy companies, oil and gas companies and their greedy California land and sea grabs have gone too far.

We ask that all CA Coastal Commissioners throw their full support behind Executive Director Charles Lester, and that you give him all the resources he needs to defend our coast to the fullest.

From: Dorin <dorins1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 2:55 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support of Dr. Lester

Attention Chair Steve Kinsey:

I support Dr. Lester remaining as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission and strongly oppose the heavy handed attempt to remove him.

The California Coast is a unique natural resource and national treasure and it's important to protect public access, sensitive habitats and marine resources, and scenic view sheds.

Dr. Lester has shown strong leadership and courage in enforcement of the California Coastal Act and this attempt to remove him is shameful and underhanded by special interests who have only a profit motive and desire to trash the Coastal Act for their own selfish purposes.

The staff at the Commission has worked hard to keep the Act as it was intended--to protect our fragile coast and resources from irresponsible entities that would destroy it for profit.

We need Dr. Lester to keep his leadership on the Commission to maintain the fight to protect our coast and not let special interests destroy the protections we all worked hard to gain over many years.

Keep Dr. Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Patricia J Dorin
2510 Banbury Road
Cambria, CA 93428

From: victoriaslastresort@gmail.com on behalf of Victoria <info@victoriaslastresort.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 2:23 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: ATTN: STEVE KINSEY

~

Dear Mr Kinsey,

As a California native and lifetime resident, I understand the complexities of preserving the resources that line our coast. As the valuable asset for both public use and nature habitat, it is our responsibility to speak for all who cannot speak for themselves.

The coast is revered by all Californians and our most inland cities often visit the nearest coastline. We pay premium prices to live here and part of that comes a responsibility to steward the land we reside on for generations to come.

Dr. Lester should NOT be fired and I support his courage and I thank the staff of the Coastal Commission for their tireless efforts and public service. Having served on a local Destination Tourism Board, I fully understand the efforts put forth by all of the people who fight the good fight.

Developers have money as their motivation. We have altruistic motives and big, loud voices. Cambria took back the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve from developers who wanted a gated community and a gold course. This tiny little village made it a forever open space. When Governor Brown asked the state to conserve water, we did it best. Now, you are coming to Morro Bay, our neighbor...we look forward to talking with you in person about what matters to us. You'll recognize us, we'll be wearing BLUE.

#seaofblue

Thank you!

Victoria

victoria's Last Resort...Bed and Brunch

Private Chef ~ Personal Retreat
3003 Ardath Drive Cambria, California 93428
805-927-2275

Website: www.VictoriasLastResort.com

Facebook: [www.fb.com/VictoriasLastResort](https://www.facebook.com/VictoriasLastResort)

Twitter: [@CambriaVictoria](https://twitter.com/CambriaVictoria)

Pinterest: [@CambriaVictoria](https://www.pinterest.com/CambriaVictoria)

From: Flossie Horgan <horganf@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 1:54 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Charles Lester

January 23, 2016

Dear Chair Kinsey,

The move to replace the current Executive Director, Charles Lester is a political maneuver. Hopefully, the commissioners will not be politically influenced by this attempt.

Mr. Lester has demonstrated clear objective leadership of the Staff. For many years the commission staff has worked under impossible conditions. Budget cutbacks have attempted to weaken the robust staff reports. Now, the move to fire current Executive Director is another move to further reduce the role of the Commission's Executive Director and staff in executing their duties.

Please reject the effort to remove the Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Flossie Horgan

Co-founder Bolsa Chica Land Trust

--
Flossie

From: Lee Perkins <futures03@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 1:26 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Public Hearing for Dr. Lester

Executive

It is my understanding Dr. Lester has been asked to step down not with standing that he has stood against pro-development forces. California has a marvelous coast and every inch of it must be protected against development. It is owned by the taxpayers and residents of California.

Also the oil train issue, Phillips 66 proposal, will inventually come before the Coastal Commission. It is critical that we have leadership like Dr. Lester to recognize the safety issues to the land, water, beaches and all the people that live along the tracks embedded in this project.

I am registering support for Dr. Lester. He is doing a good job, keep him on!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lee Perkins
Atascadero CA
805466-2448

From: Dorin <dorins1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 12:54 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support of Dr. Charles Lester

Attention Chair Steve Kinsey:

I support Dr. Lester remaining as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission and strongly oppose the heavy handed attempt to remove him.

The California Coast is a unique natural resource and national treasure and it's important to protect public access, sensitive habitats and marine resources, and scenic view sheds. My work in capturing the unique beauty of a portion of this heritage can be viewed at: melvindorin.com and it shows my love for this treasure and concern that we protect our environment from the development that has caused much of the loss of this wonderful environment.

Dr. Lester has shown strong leadership and courage in enforcement of the California Coastal Act and this attempt to remove him is shameful and underhanded by special interests who have only a profit motive and desire to trash the Coastal Act for their own selfish purposes.

The staff at the Commission has worked hard to keep the Act as it was intended--to protect our fragile coast and resources from irresponsible entities that would destroy it for profit.

We need Dr. Lester to keep his leadership on the Commission to maintain the fight to protect our coast and not let special interests destroy the protections we all worked hard to gain over many years.

Keep Dr. Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Melvin Dorin
2510 Banbury Road
Cambria, CA 93428

From: Christine Heinrichs <christine.heinrichs@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 12:44 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Charles Lester Public Hearing

23 January 2016

California Coastal Commission
Attention Chair Steve Kinsey
StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov

To the Coastal Commission:

I live on California's Central Coast and am committed to do all I can to protect its beauty. Charles Lester has done an excellent job of leading the Coastal Commission in its mission of protecting the coastline. Allow him to continue in his position as executive director and continue the Commission's work.

I've been an elephant seal docent since 2007 and write the elephant seal column for the local weekly, The Cambrian. We are so fortunate to have this protected coastline where the seals can feel safe,
http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/community/cambrian/cambrian-opinion/article51162255.html#emlnl=Cambrian_Newsletter.

I tell visitors to the Piedras Blancas rookery that California holds this unique landscape in trust for the world. Indeed, visitors come from all over the globe to appreciate this area. Dr. Lester should continue in his role at the Coastal Commission to fulfil that promise.

The Coastal Commission's entire staff works tirelessly to save the coastline from being destroyed by development. Once construction has started, the pristine quality is lost.

Dr. Lester is to be commended for requesting a public hearing on his dismissal. I support him and ask the Commission to continue him in office.

Thank you.

Christine Heinrichs
1800 Downing Ave.
Cambria, CA 93428

From: Terry Delapp <terrydelapp@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 12:43 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Lester

This blatant pro-growth move by members of the commission is against the very reason the Coastal Commission was founded. Those members seeking development of the California coast should resign and become pro-growth lobbyists which would be an honest solution to an otherwise dishonest and corrupt coup on their part.

--

-Terry

www.TerryDeLapp.com - Click to Visit



This email has been sent from a virus-free computer protected by Avast.
www.avast.com

From: Linda Seeley <lindaseeley@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 12:33 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Coastal Commission Chair

I have lived on the Central Coast for 33 years, and I have appreciated the Coastal Commission's efforts to protect public access to all beaches, unlike those on the East Coast, where the wealthy control access to the most beautiful coastline. California's marine resources and sensitive habitats have benefitted from your Commission's care and protection.

Now I have learned that Dr. Lester's position as Chair of the Coastal Commission is being threatened by those who would prefer to see more development on our coastline, by the billionaires who stand to gain monetarily by implementing this change. I commend Dr. Lester for his courage to demand a public hearing and allowing the public to weigh in on this unethical attempt to fire him. Dr. Lester has done a fine job in his tenure as Chair. Peter Douglas would be proud of him.

Under Dr. Lester's leadership, the Commission received new administrative authority that allows the Commission staff to administer penalties against individuals who violate the Coastal Act's coastal access provisions.

The Commission completed an important Sea Level Rise guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change.

The Commission just received a \$3 million budget increase to make permanent 25 positions to focus on sea level rise planning – the largest augmentation to the Commission's budget in 15 years.

The Commission has made tremendous strides in the past few years updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities and counties across California.

Dr. Lester and his staff have increased public transparency by creating a new state-of-the-art database that enables the public to more easily access information on projects.

This power grab is abhorrent to those of us who love and respect our precious coastline, and the Commission should spend its time on things of much more significance - like coastal protection - rather than ousting one of the finest Chairmen it has ever had.

Linda Seeley
Los Osos, CA 93402

From: Marni Magda <marnimagda@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 12:27 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Coastal commission director

The Coastal Commission must not fire its director. He at least attempts to get a balanced message to the commission. The people of California deserve protection from development of our precious last open lands in California. Big money is winning all the battles lately and it is a terrible loss for the people of California. We must save our ocean and our bays and the wildlife within them from the onslaught of further development. I saw all of the Coastal Commission in action when you let SCE have a 20 year permit to make San Onofre a nuclear Waste dump. You couldn't use radiation as a denial but you didn't use any of the ways you might have prevented this unsafe use of our coast. Too many of the Commission are hard line anti environment . I couldn't even get members to talk to me . They had talked to SCE and that was it. Finished. We need a director who represents the people not special interests.

Marni Magda
949 494 1373
460 Oak Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Marnimagda@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jeanne Fobes <jeanefobes@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 11:39 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

This is to express my support for and gratitude to California for passing the Coastal Act and for setting up the California Coastal Commission forty years ago to enforce this act and thus to protect our coastline from the predatory invasion of developers.

Do you realize what a source of pride and of joy our beautiful protected coast is to millions of Californians? Have you shared your love of our free access to the untrammelled beauty with friends from such states as Florida, who cannot believe that we in California have been successful at keeping the wealthy and powerful from taking all this away from us? What a remarkable achievement!! This marks California as a wondrous place to live or to visit, as nothing else could.

The present Director, Dr. Charles Lester, has been and continues to be an eminent exemplar of the leader that we need to continue to chair this Commission. It is inconceivable that the coterie of pro-developers could gain the power--despite their money--to unseat this excellent director!

This is a serious attack on our beloved coast.

Please support Dr. Lester!

Sincerely,
Jeanne Fobes
Newport Beach

From: Lynn Lorenz <lynnierlo@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 10:00 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Lester

I have written a letter to the LA Times, Governor Brown and am now appealing to you to intervene and refuse to carry through with plans to fire Dr . Lester . It not only makes a political mockery of the institution which has protected our beautiful coastline, it is an unjust way for commissioners who feel like Dr Lester is standing in their way, to dispose of a man who represents what is good and respectable about the Commission.

Lynn Lorenz, Newport Beach, Cal

lynnierlo@aol.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: PARS11@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 9:18 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Leave Lester Alone!

This is a ploy that will backfire on all of you. Its just too obvious what is happening.

Merle Moshiri
19412 Pompano Lane.
Huntington Beach,CA 92648

From: rob lo <rlopuck@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 4:20 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: I support the current Executive Director Charles Lester

It is shameful that a protector of our public trust is being attacked by political appointee's, who's interest run counter to the will of the people. The California coast is for all of the people not just a selfish rich guitar players, and bands of "investors". The commission is lead by a strong environmentalist and need to remain as a counterbalance to the overeager political appointee's who's goal is contrary to the coastal commissions mandate.

Robert S Lopuck

From: sharon borrege <tiggeroo02@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 12:09 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html>

Where are the reasons for the proposed dismissal of the Executive Director of the CCC so that members of the public may review before the hearing?

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/roster.html>

Why are the following bios inactive (hovering over name fails to produce text box)?

EFFIE TURNBULL-SANDERS
COMMISSIONER

MARY LUÉVANO
COMMISSIONER

MARTHA MCCLURE
SUPERVISOR

ERIK HOWELL
COUNCILMEMBER

ROBERTO URANGA
COUNCILMEMBER

JOHN LAIRD
OR **JANELLE BELAND**
SECRETARY OR DESIGNEE
NON-VOTING

BETTY YEE
OR **JENNIFER LUCCHESI /**
ANNE BAKER
CHAIR OR DESIGNEE
NON-VOTING

From: dennis.baker@diandden.net on behalf of Dennis Baker
<Dennis.Baker@OCRiverPark.org>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 10:03 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Charles Lester Termination Proceedings

Chair Kinsey and Commissioners,

I oppose the removal of Dr. Lester from the staff. I've had dealings with the commission over the years and have always found staff and the current and previous directors to be extremely helpful. The real problem is the Commission is starved for funds. You have a very dedicated staff and director which is underpaid, overworked and underappreciated, and they have been for as long as I can remember. Obviously this would present management challenges as it would in any organization.

It's time for the state to properly fund the Coastal Commission instead of starving it.

Dennis Baker

Board Director
Orange Coast River Park, Inc.
PO Box 12932
Newport Beach, CA 92658-5079
Mobil - 949.274.3226
<http://ocriverpark.org>

    @OCRiverPark

From: Kathy Teufel <kathyteufel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 9:56 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director

Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to object to the dismissal of Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester in a closed session meeting. There are no grounds for his removal, he has worked tirelessly over the past several years to improve the agency's efficiency and consistency. I believe that if Charles Lester goes so goes the agency's independence, effectiveness, and ability to maintain it's mandate to protect our beautiful coast.

I also request that the discussion and vote about the director's dismissal be held in an open session with public comment and transparency and then rejected!

I am 69 years old and I have lived all my life in coastal California from Manhattan Beach to Malibu to San Luis Obispo where I have seen the amazing benefits from the Coastal Act. Please support the citizens of California by allowing the Coastal Commission and Dr. Lester to continue to do their jobs.

Kathy Teufel

From: rob lo <rlopuck@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 8:50 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Non transparency to reach coastal commisioners, in regards to action against Executive Director Charles Lester

First off, coastal commission official should have a direct number to be reached so that the public can speak with them, or at least leave a message. not a generic phone (415 904 5200) number where everything seems to lead in circles.

More importantly,

I support the current Executive Director Charles Lester

It is shameful that a protector of our pubic trust is being attacked by political appointee's, and those who's interest run counter to the will of the people. The California coast is for all of the people not just selfish rich guitar players, and bands of "investors".

The commission is lead by a strong environmentalist and need to remain as a counterbalance to the overeager political appointee's, and those with goals contrary the public good, and to the coastal commission's mandate.

Robert S Lopuck

2607 San Marcos dr

Pasadena ca 91107

From: Koken, Debby [HMA] <dkoken@hmausa.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 8:47 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Do not fire Charles Lester!

To the California Coastal Commission

Attention Chair Steve Kinsey:

The California Coastal Commission is n attempting to fire Executive Director Charles Lester despite a long list of accomplishments during his short tenure as Executive Director of the Commission.

This is an attempt to weaken the ability of the Coastal Commission to preserve California's coastal resources for the benefit of the people of California and future generations.

In words taken from Governor Brown's 2015 inaugural speech, let us "build for the future, not steal from it; to live within our means and to keep California ever golden." If you remove the impartial and effective Executive Director of the Coastal Commission it will severely damage your ability to maintain coastal access and protect the California coastline.

This is not about Charles Lester. This is about protecting public access and California's coast in accordance with the Coastal Act. Do the job you were appointed to do!

Deborah Koken
1778 Kenwood Place
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

The information in this email and any attachments are for the sole use of the intended recipient and may contain privileged and confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, copying or distribution of this message or attachment is strictly prohibited. We have taken precautions to minimize the risk of transmitting software viruses, but we advise you to carry out your own virus checks on any attachment to this message. We cannot accept liability for any loss or damage caused by software viruses. If you believe that you have received this email in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the email and all of its attachments.

From: Bill McCarty <billmccarty2012@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 10:21 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please retain Dr. Charles Lester
Attachments: Retain Dr Charles Lester - 01-25-16.pdf

Dear California Coastal Commissioners:

I'm writing today to most adamantly request that you retain Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission. Dr. Lester has been a tireless advocate of the California Coastal Act and has demonstrated his objectivity in administering his duties time and time again.

I understand the frustration some commissioners may feel about the time it takes to analyze coastal projects. However, most of projects in the coastal zone are exceedingly complex and include impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) and wetlands, Native American sites, water quality, infrastructure, air quality, coastal access and myriad other issues.

The scope of these issues can generate applications that run into the thousands of pages, and can be far too complex and lengthy for busy commissioners to evaluate on their own in the short time prior to hearings. Nor can commissioner get the objective information they need from summaries prepared by applicants or opponents of proposed projects, since those for or against projects, and their paid consultants, have an inherent bias toward their own desired outcomes.

Continued analysis by an independent and objective CCC staff, answerable only to the tenets of the California Coastal Act, is the only way to ensure that commissioners receive the information they need to make informed and legally-defensible decisions.

We have Dr. Lester to thank for that independent, objective and thoroughly professional staff, and you are unlikely to find anyone more qualified to carry on that crucial role.

Sincerely

Bill McCarty

Bill McCarty
2012 N. Capella Court
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
January 25, 2016

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, #2000
Francisco, CA 94105

Dear California Coastal Commissioners:

I'm writing today to most adamantly request that you retain Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Dr. Lester has been a tireless advocate of the California Coastal Act and has demonstrated his objectivity in administering his duties time and time again.

I understand the frustration some commissioners may feel about the time it takes to analyze coastal projects. However, most of projects in the coastal zone are exceedingly complex and include impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) and wetlands, Native American sites, water quality, infrastructure, air quality, coastal access and myriad other issues.

The scope of these issues can generate applications that run into the thousands of pages, and can be far too complex and lengthy for busy commissioners to evaluate on their own in the short time prior to hearings. Nor can commissioner get the objective information they need from summaries prepared by applicants or opponents of proposed projects, since those for or against projects, and their paid consultants, have an inherent bias toward their own desired outcomes.

Continued analysis by an independent and objective CCC staff, answerable only to the tenets of the California Coastal Act, is the only way to ensure that commissioners receive the information they need to make informed and legally-defensible decisions.

We have Dr. Lester to thank for that independent, objective and thoroughly professional staff, and you are unlikely to find anyone more qualified to carry on that crucial role.

Sincerely

Bill McCarty

From: Holly Sletteland <hslettel@calpoly.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 10:44 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please retain Dr. Lester as Executive Director!

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to let you know that I was very dismayed to read in the paper about the letter from Chairman Steve Kinsey informing Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester that the commissioners planned to discuss his termination in closed session at their upcoming February meeting. I'm glad that Dr. Lester opted to exercise his right to a public hearing, as I can't imagine the Commissioner's grievances will hold up under public scrutiny in the light of day.

By all accounts of people I know who have worked for him or with him, Dr. Lester has been a very successful leader of the organization. He has some major accomplishments under his belt, including managing the development of a guidance document for adapting to sea level rise associated with climate change, winning new authority for the agency to issue fines for violations of coastal law and securing a \$3 million dollar budget increase for the agency this year. More importantly in my view, he has been firm in upholding the Coastal Act by supporting staff recommendations to deny or modify some ill-conceived development projects. He undoubtedly ruffled a few feathers in the process and one can't help but speculate that this might have some bearing on the move to terminate him.

Dr. Lester should not be faulted for doing his job. It seems to me he has squarely met the mandate of the Coastal Commission as stated on your web page:

"The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination."

This mandate should guide the actions of each of you commissioners as well. I trust you will keep this in mind when you decide whether Dr. Lester will retain his position at the helm of the agency in February. I plan to be there, as do many others, who feel our interests of protecting the coast are being well served by the current leadership and do not support a change.

Very Sincerely,

Holly Sletteland
4849 See Ranch Lane
Templeton, CA 93465

Holly Sletteland
Projects Manager
Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

From: Cathy Boyd <cathyboyd666@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:15 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please retain Dr. Charles Lester
Attachments: Retain Dr Charles Lester - 01-25-16 CB.pdf

Dear California Coastal Commissioners:

I'm writing today to most adamantly request that you retain Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission. Dr. Lester has been a tireless advocate of the California Coastal Act and has demonstrated his objectivity in administering his duties time and time again.

I understand the frustration some commissioners may feel about the time it takes to analyze coastal projects. However, most of projects in the coastal zone are exceedingly complex and include impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) and wetlands, Native American sites, water quality, infrastructure, air quality, coastal access and myriad other issues.

The scope of these issues can generate applications that run into the thousands of pages, and can be far too complex and lengthy for busy commissioners to evaluate on their own in the short time prior to hearings. Nor can commissioner get the objective information they need from summaries prepared by applicants or opponents of proposed projects, since those for or against projects, and their paid consultants, have an inherent bias toward their own desired outcomes.

Continued analysis by an independent and objective CCC staff, answerable only to the tenets of the California Coastal Act, is the only way to ensure that commissioners receive the information they need to make informed and legally-defensible decisions.

We have Dr. Lester to thank for that independent, objective and thoroughly professional staff, and you are unlikely to find anyone more qualified to carry on that crucial role.

Sincerely

Cathy Boyd

Cathy Boyd
2012 N. Capella Court
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
January 25, 2016

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, #2000
Francisco, CA 94105

Dear California Coastal Commissioners:

I'm writing today to most adamantly request that you retain Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Dr. Lester has been a tireless advocate of the California Coastal Act and has demonstrated his objectivity in administering his duties time and time again.

I understand the frustration some commissioners may feel about the time it takes to analyze coastal projects. However, most of projects in the coastal zone are exceedingly complex and include impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) and wetlands, Native American sites, water quality, infrastructure, air quality, coastal access and myriad other issues.

The scope of these issues can generate applications that run into the thousands of pages, and can be far too complex and lengthy for busy commissioners to evaluate on their own in the short time prior to hearings. Nor can commissioner get the objective information they need from summaries prepared by applicants or opponents of proposed projects, since those for or against projects, and their paid consultants, have an inherent bias toward their own desired outcomes.

Continued analysis by an independent and objective CCC staff, answerable only to the tenets of the California Coastal Act, is the only way to ensure that commissioners receive the information they need to make informed and legally-defensible decisions.

We have Dr. Lester to thank for that independent, objective and thoroughly professional staff, and you are unlikely to find anyone more qualified to carry on that crucial role.

Sincerely

Cathy Boyd

From: Tzur, Maxine <maxine.tzur@hoag.org>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 2:11 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Steve Kinsy

You need to STOP the development of Banning Ranch.

It will be the same as Porter Ranch.

Leave it to the animals- the people will end up sick, like Porter Ranch.

- Share your love of the coast, and why it's important to protect public access, sensitive habitats and marine resources, and scenic view sheds
- Commend Dr. Lester for his courage to demand a public hearing allowing the public to weigh in on this awful attempt to fire him
- Commend Dr. Lester for his incredible list of accomplishments during his 4 1/2 year tenure as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission, including
 - 1) The Commission recently received new administrative authority from the California Legislature that allows the Commission staff to administer penalties against individuals who violate the Coastal Act's coastal access provisions, with a \$11,500 fine per violation per day.
 - 2) The Commission completed an important Sea Level Rise guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change.
 - 3) The Commission just received a \$3 million budget increase to make permanent 25 positions to focus on sea level rise planning – the largest augmentation to the Commission's budget in 15 years.
 - 4) The Commission has made tremendous strides in the past few years updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities and counties across California.
 - 5) Dr. Lester and his staff have increased public transparency by creating a new state-of-the-art database that enables the public to more easily access information on projects.
- Tell the Commission to stop this baseless power grab for developers and get busy improving its environmental voting record and protecting our coast

Maxine Tzur

Sr. Admin. Asst.

Hoag Hospital Pastoral Care and CPE

307 Placentia, #103

Newport Beach, CA 92663

949-764-8358 ph

949-764-8320 fax

maxine.tzur@hoag.org

Please note that the information contained in this message and any files transmitted with it are privileged and confidential and are protected from disclosure under the law, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited and may subject you to criminal or civil penalties. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender by replying to the message and delete the material from any computer. Thank you, Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian and its Affiliates

From: N. Fee <nhf009@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 2:17 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Coastal Act and Executive Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission and Governor Brown, I write requesting urgently that you support the fundamental tenants of the California Coastal Act and Executive Director Charles Lester, whose has a proven track record of diligent stewardship of the Coastal Act. Please protect and maintain his effective leadership.

Sincerely,
Nancy Fee
San Francisco, California

From: Penny Elia <greenp1@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 3:21 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Charles Lester and upholding the Coastal Act
Attachments: Dr. Lester email.pdf

Dear Chair Kinsey:

During my very recent public comments on January 14, 2016 in San Diego, I had no idea that an attack on Executive Director Lester and the Coastal Act was well underway. I am shocked and disappointed to say the least.

When I spoke to the Commission on the 14th I recalled an extremely bad incident that we all witnessed on January 8, 2015 when pro-development lobbyists and developer's attorneys were allowed to take control of an agenda item and literally script one of the Governor's appointees on exactly how to make a motion for approval of a destructive project and a complete dismissal of staff's recommendations. This has happened far too often over the past few years and certainly has been a harbinger for the coup that is now being organized by the pro-development Commissioners that have absolutely dismal environmental voting records that they are apparently quite proud of since "developer-friendly" is the rule of the day.

When I asked all of you on the 14th to use the Coastal Act as it should be used to protect and preserve our finite natural resources, I now understand the sneers I received from the dais by several of these same Commissioners that are attempting this coup. This isn't just about firing Dr. Lester, this is all about undermining the integrity of the Coastal Act and everything the Coastal Commission was created to protect and preserve.

I told you I would work on not being long-winded in 2016, so will close by saying that I find it rather ironic that this attempt to terminate Dr. Lester comes at a time of strong Commission accomplishment. No cause has been given for this drastic action and the fact that it was all launched secretly is inexcusable on all levels.

February 10th is just around the corner and I look to you to help lead us out of this turmoil, Chair Kinsey.

Penny Elia
Save Hobo Aliso Task Force
Sierra Club

Dear Chair Kinsey:

During my very recent public comments on January 14, 2016 in San Diego, I had no idea that an attack on Executive Director Lester and the Coastal Act was well underway. I am shocked and disappointed to say the least.

When I spoke to the Commission on the 14th I recalled an extremely bad incident that we all witnessed on January 8, 2015 when pro-development lobbyists and developer's attorneys were allowed to take control of an agenda item and literally script one of the Governor's appointees on exactly how to make a motion for approval of a destructive project and a complete dismissal of staff's recommendations. This has happened far too often over the past few years and certainly has been a harbinger for the coup that is now being organized by the pro-development Commissioners that have absolutely dismal environmental voting records that they are apparently quite proud of since "developer-friendly" is the rule of the day.

When I asked all of you on the 14th to use the Coastal Act as it should be used to protect and preserve our finite natural resources, I now understand the sneers I received from the dais by several of these same Commissioners that are attempting this coup. This isn't just about firing Dr. Lester, this is all about undermining the integrity of the Coastal Act and everything the Coastal Commission was created to protect and preserve.

I told you I would work on not being long-winded in 2016, so will close by saying that I find it rather ironic that this attempt to terminate Dr. Lester comes at a time of strong Commission accomplishment. No cause has been given for this drastic action and the fact that it was all launched secretly is inexcusable on all levels.

February 10th is just around the corner and I look to you to help lead us out of this turmoil, Chair Kinsey.

Penny Elia
Save Hobo Aliso Task Force
Sierra Club

From: Connie Gannon <connie@greenspacecambria.org>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 3:32 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Review of Charles Lester's employment as Executive Director

To the California Coastal Commissioners:

As a fifth-generation coastal Californian and director of a small community land trust on California's Central Coast, I would like to thank the Coastal Commission for its history of protection and careful rulings regarding this uniquely beautiful and environmentally critical area. I am writing today to ask that the Coastal Commission continue its fine record by supporting the work of Executive Director Charles Lester.

When Dr Lester was hired, the entire Commission recognized "the unique experience, unwavering integrity and clear vision" that he brought to the position of executive director (CCC Press Release, 9/8/2011). He has done a fine job integrating the requirements of the Coastal Act and the needs of communities to help ensure that recreational, residential, commercial and educational projects will serve both people and the coastal ecosystems we depend upon.

I must question the motivations behind the Commission's recent move to ask Dr Lester to resign or face a public hearing on his employment. Dr. Lester is a public servant, and the public has not been informed of any wrongdoing on his part that would prompt such a personnel action. In consequence, many have come to the conclusion that pressure from the anti-protection and pro-development corporate sector has led to the Commission's action. It appears to be a politically motivated decision, driven by a desire to appease those who would damage and even destroy the environmental and long-term economic value of our coast for the sake of short-term profit.

Those of us who work hard to protect the natural ecosystems that help to protect key areas from climate change, and to sustain our communities' health and well-being protest this dangerous misstep by the Commission. We ask that you retain Dr. Lester as your executive director and allow him to continue working effectively for the well-being of the California coast and all its residents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Constance Higdon Gannon, Ph.D.

Executive Director
Greenspace - The Cambria Land Trust

To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival.
-- Wendell Berry

From: Paul Hostetter <music@lutherie.net>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 4:54 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please stand up for the Coastal Act

To whomever -

I shouldn't have to tell you this, but the entire point of the Coastal Commission is to prevent overdevelopment. Now development interests are trying to run off their opposition.

This is unacceptable.

There is no justification whatsoever to terminate Dr. Lester. The integrity of the Commission and its mission are at stake; the independence and professionalism of the staff are essential to its integrity.

Do whatever it takes to repudiate and neutralize this effort to get rid of Charles Lester. The state depends on a functioning Coastal Commission.

Yours,

ph

oooooooooooooooooooo

Paul Hostetter
Bonny Doon, CA

From: Lucia Moser <lucia.moser@acterra.org>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 4:43 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Charles Lester.

Please stand up for the Coastal Act and support the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Charles Lester.

Thank you,
Lucia Moser

--

Lucia Moser

Development Manager

Acterra: Action For A Healthy Planet

3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4303
(650) 962-9876 ext 346

Acterra brings people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet. We are a 501(c)3.
Support our environmental work by visiting www.acterra.org.

From: Pat Blevins <seaglass103@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 4:00 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please stand up for the Coastal Act

I am writing to protest the attempted ouster of Director Lester. This appears to be an attempt by the 4 commissioners appointed by Governor Brown to force out Mr. Lester, in order to give preferential treatment to the requests of developers, while ignoring the mandate of the Coastal Commission to protect the California Coast for all the people of California to enjoy.

Patricia Blevins
San Jose

From: Laurel Hctor Jones <laurelhctorjones@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 5:38 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Keep the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission in place

Don't hand our coastline over to developers.

From: Anne De Carli <anne.decarli@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 7:53 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Copy of my letter to Governor Brown

Dear Governor Brown,

I support retaining Dr. Lester and oppose the effort by some commissioners to get rid of him.

The Committee for Green Foothills' position on this matter is my position also. Our coastline is important to me and an asset to all Californians.

Sincerely yours,

Anne DeCarli

485 Woodside Road
Apartment 4216
Redwood City, CA 94061

650 361 1773

From: Emily Renzel <marshmama2@att.net>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 7:56 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please retain Dr.Charles Lester as Executive Director

Dear Members of the Coastal Commission: I am dismayed at your blatant attempts to undermine Coastal Protection in California by attempting to fire Dr. Charles Lester, the Executive Director. Our Coast is a priceless treasure belonging to all the people of California and I hope you will follow the Coastal Protection Act and make sure that our Coast continues to be a significant asset to the State. Please support Dr. Lester. Sincerely, Emily M. Renzel, 1056 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

From: Pauline Seales <paulineseales120@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 8:36 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr Lester

Please reinstate Dr Lester. At this time with rising sea levels and stronger storms we need a strong independent Coastal Commission more than ever.

Pauline Seales

From: lorenzo@foothill.net
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 10:40 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: comment

As one who has lived on or near the coast in Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Half Moon Bay I have always considered a strong costal commission one of the most important aspects in saving what is left of our coast.

I am appalled to hear of a move to replace the current executive director by a group that seems more tied to special interests and development interests. As a lifelong citizen of this state I want to go strongly on record in support of Dr Lester. I am looking to you to do the same.

Thank You,

Lawrence Brann-Smith
Palo Alto and Auburn, Calif

From: Lois Robin <robin@baymoon.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:13 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Importance of retaining Charles Lester

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

As someone who has paid attention to coastal issues for many years, living near the Monterey Bay, I strongly urge you to retain Charles Lester as Director. In my view he has been doing a perfectly competent, outstanding job of adhering to the full values of the Coastal Act.

Sincerely,

Lois Robin

4701 Nova Dr.

Santa Cruz, CA

831 464-3939

www.LoisRobin.com

From: Jon Silver <jon3silver@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:46 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please stand up for the Coastal Act: Retain Dr. Charles Lester Executive Director

Re: Support for California Coastal Commission Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Commissioners,

I strongly urge you to support the retention of Dr. Charles Lester as the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director. There is no justification whatsoever to terminate Dr. Lester. The integrity of the Commission and its mission are at stake; the independence and professionalism of its staff are essential.

Over the past 40 years, the people of California have overwhelmingly supported protecting our irreplaceable coastline and providing access for all.

I am deeply concerned by reports that a number of more development minded commissioners are part of an attempted a coup to weaken the Commission. I fervently hope that you will stand against this.

Respectfully,

Jon C. Silver
Former Mayor, Town of Portola Valley
Former Chair, Planning Commission, County of San Mateo
355 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028

From: Virginia Smedberg <virgviolin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 1:19 AM
To: Governor@Governor.ca.gov; StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Coastal Commission Exec. Dir. situation

Hello - I am writing because I have heard that a behind-the-scenes effort by developer-friendly Coastal Commissioners to fire Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester, has just come to light. The four commissioners appointed by the Governor appear to be the chief instigators.

This effort is an attack on the integrity and independence of the Coastal Commission. The coast belongs to all the people. As a native Californian I ask you to defend the Coastal Act and the Coastal Commission's independent staff on this, the 40th anniversary of the Coastal Act. As Peter Douglas, the former Executive Director of the Coastal Commission said, "The Coast is never saved, it is always being saved." Developers are not interested in the views (opinions as well as wonderful ocean vistas) of us ordinary citizens; the job of the Commission is to represent US individuals.

Rather than quietly resign, Dr. Lester has asked for a public hearing, which is his right. The hearing will be February 10 at the Coastal Commission's meeting in Morro Bay. I ask that you listen to the public.

Sincerely,
Virginia Smedberg
441 Washington Ave
Palo Alto CA 94301

From: Carolyn Straub <carolyn.rosyfinch.straub@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:00 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Governor@Governor.ca.gov
Subject: Re: Dr. Charles Lester Hearing; the Commission's Mission:

"Protecting & Enhancing California's Coast

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination."

- Mission Statement - <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/whoweare.html>

We are supporting the position taken by the Palo Alto Committee for Green Foothills that you retain Dr. Charles Lester and do not give in to the wishes of four developer-friendly members whose goal is to build the coast, altering the mission of the California Coastal Commission.. Our coast is spectacular as it is.

Please keep this mission in mind as you try to unseat Dr. Charles Lester on Feb. 10. California residents in favor of the coast and its scenic environs especially in northern California, may not appreciate this if they knew.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Straub
Steve McHenry
Members

Committee for Green Foothills
Peninsula Conservation Center
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto CA 94303

From: David Dunsmoor <david.dunsmoor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:58 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: CA Coastal Commission

I moved to CA from Florida about eight years ago. I was amazed at how CA has preserved its coast and protected it so that the public has access and the environment has been paid attention to. Florida has not done so well in these areas, and I commend CA for its efforts to preserve the coast for the people, wildlife and plants - especially sensitive habitat for endangered species. I am also impressed with leadership in CA and its commitment to transparency and honest government.

So you can imagine that I was surprised to hear that developer friendly commissioners on the CA Coast Commission are attempting to replace Dr. Lester, a true professional committed to the original mission of the Coastal Commission, with a director who would likely change the balance from the public interest to the developers' interests.

I urge you to keep Dr. Lester in his position and act in support of the Commission's original mission.

David Dunsmoor
Newport Beach CA

From: Jim Mosher <jimmosher@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:32 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please retain Dr. Lester

To: California Coastal Commission

Not being privy to your closed session discussions, I was startled to see the press accounts announcing the Commission is considering terminating the employment of Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director.

In my experience of Coastal Commission hearings, Dr. Lester has consistently offered quiet, calm, well-reasoned and objective guidance. It seemed to me he was very thoughtfully navigating the fine line between the protection of private property rights and the protection of coastal resources in a way I would assume the Commission would want their Director to act.

Last July I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Lester speak at a public symposium hosted by the University of California, Irvine, on making coastal communities climate change resilient. Dr. Lester again struck me as a passionate but balanced advocate for the California coast.

I believe Dr. Lester is the kind of public servant California needs more of, not less.

I strongly support Dr. Lester's retention as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Furthermore, if hearings are to be held on Dr. Lester's employment, and it is Dr. Lester's wish to do so, then **I also strongly urge that all aspects of the hearings be conducted in public.**

Yours sincerely,

Jim Mosher
2210 Private Road
Newport Beach, CA. 92660

From: Amanda Mascia <amandamascia77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 11:34 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: I SUPPORT DR. LESTER

Attention Chair Steve Kinsey

I am writing to express my support for Dr. Lester.

As a nature lover and adventurer along California's coast, I am extremely grateful for the hard work Dr. Lester has undertaken to PROTECT our coast from rampant development. There are currently 16 projects in my immediate area for consideration and approval under the coastal commission. OUR COAST IS UNDER ATTACK FROM DEVELOPERS.

Any attempts to oust Dr. Lester as Director will be perceived by the public as attempts to threaten our coasts, themselves.

Uphold the standards of the California Coastal Commission, quit bowing down to developers' interests, PROTECT Dr. Lester, his ethics and his vision.

WE STAND BEHIND DR. LESTER.

-Amanda Mascia, Volunteer with Citizens for North County

Oceanside, California 92056

From: Thomas Cowley <thomascowley8@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 11:15 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Lester

Hello,

Are there examples of how Doctor Lester's job performance is detrimental to public interest?

Thomas Cowley
Thomascowley@kw.com

--

All the best,
Thomas Cowley
Cell 408-500-1413
Office 408-694-9805
thomascowley@kw.com

From: Ahna Dominski <AhnaHoliday@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:23 PM
To: Governor@Governor.ca.gov
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Coastal Act--Save OUR Coast!

Dear Governor Jerry Brown,

Please save & protect our Coastal Act! With so much development going on, especially in California, we need our coast to be protected. This area is a very fragile area. So many living things depend on this area to thrive. OUR coast, not Your Coast or My Coast, needs to be preserved for ALL people---not just the wealthy who want to develop this sacred land. Please Governor Brown----SAVE our COAST and replace commissioners who only see the value of the coast through their greed. This land needs to be protected for future generations of California and kept as pristine as possible. One cannot put a monetary figure on our beautiful coast. It is an asset more valuable and visited by people from all over the world-----more visitors than the Golden Gate Bridge!

Ahna Dominski
Rockaway Beach
Pacifica, CA

From: Ahna Dominski <ahna@westedgemetals.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:45 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Ahna Dominski
Subject: Fwd: Coastal Act--Save OUR Coast!

> Dear Coastal Commissioners:

>

> Please save & protect our Coastal Act! With so much development going on, especially in California, we need our coast to be protected. This area is a very fragile area. So many living things depend on this area to thrive. OUR coast, not Your Coast or My Coast, needs to be preserved for ALL people---not just the wealthy who want to develop this sacred land. Please, SAVE our COAST!! Commissioners who only see the value of the coast through their greed need to be replaced with Commissioners who respect this land and the people they serve. This land needs to be protected for future generations of California and kept as pristine as possible. One cannot put a monetary figure on our beautiful coast. It is an asset more valuable and visited by people from all over the world-----more visitors than the Golden Gate Bridge!

>

> Ahna Dominski
> Rockaway Beach
> Pacifica, CA
>

From: Tanya Brooking <tanyabrooking@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:38 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: ATTN: California Coastal Commission Chair Steve Kinsey

Dear Mr. Kinsey,

I cannot stress enough the love I have for our coast, nor how critical it is to protect public access, sensitive habitats and marine resources, and scenic view sheds.

I commend Dr. Lester for his courage to demand a public hearing allowing the public to weigh in on this awful attempt to fire him. Dr. Lester is well known for his accomplishments in protecting our coastline, during his 4 1/2 year tenure as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission,

It is abundantly clear that there is a power grab in this state by developers and corporations. They operate with little to no impunity for horrific disasters they perpetrate against our ecosystems, people, and air quality (i.e. Gaviota oil spill, the current Porter Ranch gas fire burning for four months now, etc.). This is not hyperbole. We need MORE Dr. Lesters protecting our great state, not *less*!

Please, protect our coast, give Dr. Lester a public hearing and keep him in his position as Executive Director of the CCC. Do not bend to the lobbyists! This is OUR state, not theirs!

--

Sincerely,
Tanya Hutchison Brooking
Carlsbad, CA



Please consider our impact on the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Vari MacNeil <v@vmacneil.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:29 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Protect our coasts

I strongly support Dr. Lester's continued leadership of the CCC.

He follows the Coastal Act, which acknowledges that the coast is for ALL Californians, not just the few.

The coast is also for our native and migratory wildlife. So much has already been developed that little open space remains must be vigourously protected. When is enough enough? When exhausted birds just die because the little postage stamp sized piece of open space they depended on is gone? Our coasts are a key part of a global ecological system that cannot withstand any more destruction.

The staff and Dr. Lester have done an exemplary job. He has followed the law. He has enforced the Coastal Act. For that he should be rewarded, not dismissed.

People remember, and future generations will remember, those who protected the remaining open spaces on our coast. Those visionaries will be honored, even revered. No one will honor those who facilitated yet another condo complex. The likelihood is that if they are remembered at all, it will be with disdain and contempt. Which do you want to be?

VARI MACNEIL

From: Joan Scott <jscottpr@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:28 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please stand up for the Coastal Act

Dear Sirs,

California's world-renowned coastal protection program is under attack. A behind-the-scenes effort by developer-friendly Coastal Commissioners to fire Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester, has just come to light. Rather than quietly resign, Dr. Lester has asked for a public hearing, which is his right.

This attempted coup is an attack on the integrity and independence of the Coastal Commission. The coast belongs to all the people. All Californians need to speak up for the coast, and defend the Coastal Act and the Coastal Commission's independent staff on this, the 40th anniversary of the Coastal Act. As Peter Douglas, the former Executive Director of the Coastal Commission said, "The Coast is never saved, it is always being saved."

Sincerely,

Joan Scott
PORTOLA VALLEY

From: Richard S. <argalite@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:55 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director

I just want to say that, having grown up in California, I appreciate the openness of the coastline, and do not want developers building anything more along the coast. Now with Climate Change, adding Rock revetment is an act of folly, as it is just going to get worse. Hindering coastal development is what is needed, and the Executive Director has been doing a great job. The the "Appointees" to be wanting his ouster, is just sick. The Governor should rein them in.

Richard Smith
Sacramento

From: Mattias Cape <mattias.cape@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:56 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Letter of support for Charles Lester

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today to express my support for Charles Lester ahead of the upcoming Coastal Commission hearing in Morro Bay. Since taking the position in 2011 he has upheld the spirit of the commission by faithfully and fairly balancing the protection of our California coastline with the many demands for coastal development. Having such a voice as executive director of the CCC ensures a broader and longer-term perspective regarding the future of our coastline.

With this in mind, the ongoing proceeding to oust Charles Lester from his position appear as a blatant and arbitrary attempt to make the commission more developer-friendly by dismissing one of its most influential members. Special interests, such as developers or land owners, wield significant influence via political connections and for all intents and purposes limitless monetary and legal resource, which they can pour into lobbying efforts for coastal development. Broadly speaking, these interests will favor short term gains for the few over long-term outlooks for the state's many residents. This poses an issue when the Commission is tasked with representing California residents equally and fairly, and protecting the coastline from egregious development. Charles Lester has insured that few, powerful individuals do not dictate the future of the CA coastline, a common and finite good that once developed cannot be returned to its natural, pristine state. His potential dismissal is in my eyes unwarranted.

Beyond a simple prime location for development, the California coastline is home to unique terrestrial and marine ecosystems, serves as a source of joy for millions of beachgoers visiting from all over the world, and stands as an iconic image of the state in general. Potential development projects along the coast should take into account how these different facets will be affected, and what the long-term outlook might be. I am confident that Charles Lester lends a fair-minded voice to these concerns on the CCC, and that he should remain in his current position for years to come.

Best regards,

Mattias Cape

From: Vanessa Vasquez <vanessa.mckenna.vasquez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 1:04 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Keep Dr. Lester--It's our coast!

Dear Coastal Commission,

I am a proud Californian and I love our beautiful coastline. Please do not cow-tow to developers and business interests who do not respect public access and the Coastal Act. The beautiful Californian coast is unique in this world. Let Dr. Lester get back to work and do what you are supposed to--protect this incomparable resource for all Californians...not just the wealthy.

--

Vanessa Vasquez
Plumas County, California

I am myself and what is around me; and if I do not save it, it shall not save me -- Jose Ortega y Gasset

From: Vicki Kojola <vkojola@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 1:10 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please stand up for the Coastal Act

Please keep Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.
The coast belongs to all people!

Victoria and Paul Kojola
140 Escanyo Way
Portola Valley, CA
94028

From: Bev Lipman <bevlipman@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 2:57 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please stand up for the Coastal Act

We support Director Charles Lester, who was hand-picked to carry on the legacy of Peter Douglas, the creator of the California Coaster Commission. He is doing a wonderful job of honoring the commission's mission of balancing the protection of the state's coastal resources with allowing development projects that were respectful of the environment.

Peter and Beverly Lipman
Portola Valley CA

From: Carolyn Ziegler-Davenport <zbonmot@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 2:31 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Possible replacement of director

I am a native Californian (Pasadena) and have been swimming in California's ocean waters for nearly 75 years. In fact, my family on both sides has resided in California since 1920. We know our state history and resources. I am strongly in favor of strict protection of our coastline and very much against lining our shores with development.

Please, do not replace a very good man who is very protective of our waters and shoreline.

In addition to this message, I will be contacting Governor Brown and encouraging him to replace any pro-development members of the Commission. Helping developers is not the job of the Commission. I plan to attend the meeting in Morrow Bay and will address the issue if there is an opportunity to speak.

Sincerely,
Carolyn M. Ziegler
16812 Sandalwood Drive
Pine Mountain Club, CA 93222
661-242-2025

From: Judith Kahle <44starlight@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 2:42 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Continued leadership of Dr. Lester

To the California Coastal Commission:

I am writing to oppose the removal of Dr. Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

This is merely an effort by wealthy developers to remove obstacles in order to develop and destroy the beaches that belong to the people and the wildlife of California. Dr. Lester has done a fantastic job of balancing the needs of wildlife (who do not have expensive lawyers to protect their migratory pathways, their habitat, their ability to survive and reproduce) with the needs of the citizens of California, the millions of tourists who come here every year to enjoy our beautiful coast, small businesses who rely upon tourism, and the developers who already own enough of our land.

This land should continue to remain in the public domain. Do not remove Dr. Lester from his position. He has done a fantastic job. You do not have the right to give away our land and land rights to private developers at the expense of the people of California, and our wildlife - who would be at risk without his continued leadership. We do not want our coast to look like Miami, or Las Vegas. The coast needs to keep what is left of its wildness and its ability to support all stakeholders, including and especially for our wildlife.

Judith Kahle
343 Wyoming St.
Fairfield CA 94533

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 3:59 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

Dear CA Coastal Commission,

Dear Governor Brown:

I support the California Coastal Act. I want to make sure the coast is accessible and that environmental values are preserved.

Therefore, I am disappointed to learn that your appointees to the Coastal Commission are working to drive out the Commission's executive director, Charles Lester.

Mr. Lester and his staff have appropriately enforced the Coastal Act and have been effective in ensuring that climate change impacts are considered as coastal development plans are updated.

I urge you to support Mr. Lester and let your appointees to the Commission know of that support.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Dawna Knapp
7251 Lillivale Court
Citrus Heights, CA 95621-
dawna.knapp@sierraclub.org
4153202213

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 3:53 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

Dear CA Coastal Commission,

Dear Governor Brown:

I support the California Coastal Act. I want to make sure the coast is accessible and that environmental values are preserved.

Therefore, I am disappointed to learn that your appointees to the Coastal Commission are working to drive out the Commission's executive director, Charles Lester.

Mr. Lester and his staff have appropriately enforced the Coastal Act and have been effective in ensuring that climate change impacts are considered as coastal development plans are updated.

I urge you to support Mr. Lester and let your appointees to the Commission know of that support.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Lauren White
85 2nd St Fl 2
San Francisco, CA 94105-
lauren.white@sierraclub.org
(925) 708-1487

From: O BRIEN YOUNG <obyoun@sbcbglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 4:47 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Attn. Chair Steve Kinsey

Dear Sir:

The Coastal Commission's long and proud history of protecting California's coast is once again being threatened by developers. Dr. Charles Lester's accomplishments and leadership have been exemplary. I am proud to support him.

Ms. O'Brien Young, 1354 Kearny Street, San Francisco, CA 94133

From: BobMisc at Cox <bobsmisc@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2003 1:32 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr Lester

Dear Sir:

I moved to Newport Beach in 1971, so the coast of CA is very special to me. I've always been proud of our state for preserving and protecting public access and sensitive habitat. I was disappointed to hear that commissioners are considering firing Dr. Lester, who has been a strong and effective leader in upholding the public's intentions in creating the Coastal Commission.

I was especially disappointed to learn that replacing him could mean a change in direction - toward more extensive development, less public access and destruction of sensitive habitats. Please don't abandon the intent of the people of CA. I urge you to keep Dr. Lester in his position and act in support of the Commission's original mission.

Robert Kopicki
Corona Del Mar, Ca 92625

From: Joel Schulman <jnschulman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 5:02 PM
To: Ccc@daynabochco.com; wendy@katzmitchell.com; cgroom@smcgov.org;
mkshallenberger@gmail.com; roberto.uranga@longbeach.gov; mluevano@gmail.com;
Mark@mark-vargas.com; Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Subject: Fwd: Keep Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester

We, and all the friends and neighbors I have talked with, are outraged by this attack on Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester. It is a blatant attempt to exploit the remainder of our protected coastland for the benefit of a few politically connected business interests. This is a frontal attack on the independence of the Commission and the Coast. Lester is the symbol, not the real issue. The threatened termination of a strong environmental leader is an outrageous move. The Coastal Commission needs to be stronger in protecting our coast from "development" not less vigilant. The desires of a few wealthy individuals or the greed of those who wish to exploit the California coast must be stopped.

This behind-the-scenes attack on Executive Director Lester is an attack on the Coastal Act itself. It is a power grab in an attempt to undermine the Coastal Program, gain control over an independent staff, and make the Commission more developer-friendly without any public accountability or transparency. Director Lester has gained major accomplishments for the protection of the CA coast. It would be a shame to fire this man who has done so much to preserve the California Coast, which is widely known for its natural unspoiled beauty. His detractors claim he is incompetent, yet I believe they want him to disappear because he IS so competent and fair-minded. Development that is done with no concern for local impacts has had an irreversible effect on so much of California's coast and it's hard to imagine why anyone would want to see that continue and even expand. But that sounds like exactly what the people that want to terminate Dr. Charles Lester want.

Joel & Kian Schulman
1832 Lookout Road
Malibu, CA 90265

From: Valerie Love <vlove@biologicaldiversity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 5:23 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support for Dr. Lester

Protecting California's coast is essential for ensuring a bright future for our state.

Dr. Lester has done an excellent job in his role, and I feel strongly that there should be a public hearing allowing the public to weigh in on this shameful attempt to fire him.

Thank you to the entire Coastal Commission for their tireless dedication and public service under difficult conditions.

Please stop this power grab for developers and get back to protecting our beautiful coast!

Respectfully,

-Valerie Love

Valerie Love
Clean Energy Campaigner
Center for Biological Diversity
vlove@biologicaldiversity.org
cell: 510-274-9713

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 5:37 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

Dear CA Coastal Commission,

Dear Governor Brown:

I support the California Coastal Act. I want to make sure the coast is accessible and that environmental values are preserved.

Therefore, I am disappointed to learn that your appointees to the Coastal Commission are working to drive out the Commission's executive director, Charles Lester.

Mr. Lester and his staff have appropriately enforced the Coastal Act and have been effective in ensuring that climate change impacts are considered as coastal development plans are updated.

I urge you to support Mr. Lester and let your appointees to the Commission know of that support.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

jeff ligouri
456 s 21st st.
san jose, CA 95116-
jeffl6019@yahoo.com
(408) 644-6537

From: linda gibbs <lindamgibbs@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 6:44 PM
To: Ccc@daynabochco.com; mmccloreccc@co.del-norte.ca.us; wendy@katzmitchell.com; erik@erikhowell.com; Cox, Greg; cgroom@smcgov.org; effietlaw@yahoo.com; mkshallenberger@gmail.com; roberto.uranga@longbeach.gov; SKinsey@co.marin.ca.us; mluevano@gmail.com; Mark@mark-vargas.com; Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director Charles Lester

Honorable Commissioners,

Please keep Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. Don't let politics interfere with the position of the Executive Director who is supposed to remain neutral. He is an effective Executive Director. Guided by the Coastal Act he successfully balances the interests of Environmentalists and development and upholds the Coastal Act.

Linda Gibbs
6744 Dume Drive
Malibu, CA 90265

o
O
o
o
O
o
>!<. o
>*}}}}>€

linda gibbs

"Earth Care, People Care, Fair Share"

From: Steven Martin <arcata.steve@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 6:36 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal; CNRA Office of the Secretary
Subject: Coastal Commission, Charles Lester

Do not sell our coastline to developers! Stay independent and stand up to developers and their lobbyists. Do not force Charles Lester to resign and do not fire him.

Thank you.

Dr. Steven Martin
Arcata, CA

From: Heather Shields <Heather.Shields@patagonia.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 8:41 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Governor@Governor.ca.gov
Subject: On Dr. Lester

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey,

Our coast belongs to all Californians and the Coastal Commission's independent, professional staff has been central to our ability to protect public access, open space and to ensure compliance with the Coastal Act, arguably the most important coastal protection law in the nation. Over the last several years under the direction of Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester, the Commission's staff has been extraordinarily effective; staff has accepted considerable new responsibilities in dealing with climate change and public access, there is an unprecedented level of transparency to the public and more than 90% of all development projects presented have been approved. In spite of this, I was alarmed to hear that the Commission is considering the termination of Dr. Lester, without reason.

This attack on the professional staff is an attack on the Coastal Act and our coastal access and open space. Dr. Lester and his staff represent the public interest and it is vital that they have the ability to act independently and without fear of political reprisal for their efforts to uphold state law.

I urge you to stand up for the independence of staff. Please ensure a fully transparent and open process and retain Dr. Lester who has performed his duties with admirable result since taking over this position in 2011.

With best regards,

Heather Shields
3980 Telegraph Rd., #13
Ventura, CA 93003

Heather Shields

Testing and Standards Engineer, Technical Knits
Patagonia, Inc.
259 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA 93001 USA
Phone: (805) 667-4867

Please consider the Environment before printing this email.

***CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE—This email and any files/attachments transmitted with it may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, DO NOT read, copy, print, or disseminate this communication. Non-intended recipients are hereby placed on notice that any unauthorized disclosure, duplication, distribution, or taking of any action in reliance on the contents of these materials is expressly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete this information in its entirety (including all attachments) and immediately notify the sender via a separate e-mail that you have received this communication in error. ***

From: Karl Hutterer <khutterer@SBNATURE2.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 8:45 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: letter of concern

Mr. Steve Kinsey
Chair, California Coastal Commission

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey,

An environmentally healthy, protected, and publicly accessible coast is one of our state's most precious resources. I am alarmed by the possibility that the Coastal Commission's Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester, may be forced to leave his position for opaque, and possible politically motivated, reasons.

Since his appointment, Dr. Lester and his staff have done excellent work in representing the citizens' shared interest in the coast. It is vital that they be able to pursue their task professionally, independently, and without fear of political interference or reprisal.

I urge you to stand up for Dr. Lester and his staff and ensure that their professionalism and independence be protected. Doing so will benefit the public good rather than any specific agenda or interest. Please ensure that the process of reviewing Dr. Lester's tenure be done in a fully transparent and open manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karl L. Hutterer
790 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805-453-8162

From: Suzanne Dunning <suzannedunning@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:56 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Coastal Act

Dear Coastal Commission- I am writing to urge you to please stop obstructing Dr. Lester and to please, please, please defend our California coastline- it is one of the greatest resources we have. We will all suffer if we let financial interests rob us of our right to have plentiful access to the ocean.

Please make the right choice.

best,

Suzanne Dunning

707 798 0158
2148 Western Ave.
Arcata, CA 95521

--

From: Kristen Kolada Caplan <kkolada@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:39 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Upcoming Coastal Commission hearing

To the California Coastal Commission,

Please protect the independence of the California Coastal Commission and do not let developers influence the leadership of the Coastal Commission. Our coastline is an invaluable asset for the millions of residents and visitors who enjoy its miles of access, open space, and relatively limited development. I have traveled all over the world and seen first hand how special the CA coastline is, in terms of limited development and public access. In the words of an eloquent Op-Ed by Steve Blank in the LA Times, "Do we want to look at miles of beaches behind locked gates and wall-to-wall condos and ask, "Did he sell out 40 million Californians for a few rich developers?" Or, do we want to share with our grandchildren the same open vistas and glorious beaches that we have enjoyed and say, "Jerry Brown left all of us a coastline like no other in the world"?" (1/26/16).

Thank you for your time,
Kristen Caplan
Glendale, CA

From: Jeff Segall <jeff_segall@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:58 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Fw: Retain Dr. Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

Dear members of the California Coastal Commission,

The California Coast is a world treasure, and the people of California wisely acted to protect that incredible resource 40 years ago with the Coastal Act. A strong, independent and vigilant Coastal Commission has been the strongest force for protecting the coast from those who would monetize and privatize our coast. The move to replace Dr. Lester certainly looks like an attempt to bring the commission to heel to the interests of the powerful and against the interests of the millions who support the Coastal Act and the protection of the coast.

I ask that you support Dr. Lester as Coastal Commission Executive Director.

Thank you!

Jeff Segall
655 California St.
Mountain View, CA 94041

From: Gary Bailey <tigergary@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:26 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please stand up for the Coastal Act

Dear Commissioners:

Please do not fire Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester, who is doing a good job. The Coastal Commission should protect the coast for all Californians, not just for developers.

Thank you,

Gary Bailey

941 W. Cardinal

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

From: Robert Modellmog <robertmodellmog@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:24 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Our coast doesn't need an 'Executive Developer'

January 26, 2016

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

It was with great disappointment that I heard that several of your members are trying to undermine the Commission's great work of protecting the California coast. California boasts a beautiful coastline that is a jewel of America, and an envy of the world. However, these Commissioners are attempting to replace the Executive Director with an 'Executive Developer.' As a resident of Newport Beach, I am also personally harmed by these Commissioners' efforts to pave over some of Southern California's last preserved coastal bluffs with over 1,000 homes at Banning Ranch.

Now is the time for visionary leadership to address sea level rise and loss of public spaces on the coast, not the time to destroy the coast. Even if the Paris climate agreements are met, sea levels will still rise by several feet, which will result in seawalls and destruction of beaches for California's residents. In one hundred years, when there are less beaches and more people, we will need every coastal bluff and open area we can get. Now is the time to prepare for sea level rise and preserve coastal open space while we can. The Coastal Act and the California Constitution command that the coast be preserved for future generations of Californians, and we must not let our grandchildren down. We need a visionary Executive Director- not an 'Executive Developer.'

Sincerely,

Robert Modellmog
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2017
University of California, Irvine School of Law

Robert Modellmog
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2017
University of California, Irvine School of Law

From: CanDoJack <candojack@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 8:21 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal

Hands off Lester

I agree with the following:

Want to do something but cannot attend the meeting? WE NEED YOUR HELP! Spread this event and send an email letter today to the California Coastal Commission, Attention Chair Steve Kinsey, at this address:

StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov

- Share your love of the coast, and why it's important to protect public access, sensitive habitats and marine resources, and scenic view sheds
- Commend Dr. Lester for his courage to demand a public hearing allowing the public to weigh in on this shameful attempt to fire him
- Commend the entire staff at the Coastal Commission for their tireless dedication and public service under difficult conditions
- Tell the Commission to stop this baseless power grab for developers and get busy protecting our coast instead

BEST if you can attend the hearing and lend your support and wear BLUE so they know that our #SeaofBlue is a sea of support for our oceans and coastal habitats!

jack

--

"It ain't so much the things we don't know that get us into trouble. It's the things we DO know that just ain't so." -- Artemus Ward

From: Marshall <marshall@prvideo.tv>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:06 PM
To: Ccc@daynabochco.com; mmccclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us; wendy@katzmitchell.com; erik@erikhowell.com; Cox, Greg; cgroom@smcgov.org; effietlaw@yahoo.com; mkshallenberger@gmail.com; roberto.uranga@longbeach.gov; SKinsey@co.marin.ca.us; mluevano@gmail.com; Mark@mark-vargas.com; Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Subject: Keep Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

Importance: High

Dear Commissioners,

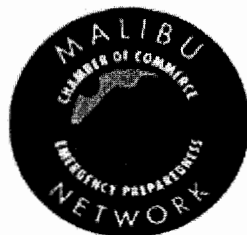
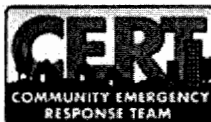
Please keep Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. My family lives in Malibu and we support his defense of the fragile coastal zone. Don't let politics interfere with the position of the Executive Director who is supposed to remain neutral. He is an effective Executive Director. Guided by the Coastal Act he successfully balances the interests of Environmentalists and development and upholds the Coastal Act.

Respectfully yours,

Marshall Thompson 310-403-2507
Bilingual writer.producer.director.photographer



30745 Pacific Coast Hwy, # 243, Malibu, CA 90265



This email has been sent from a virus-free computer protected by Avast.
www.avast.com

From: Dr. Georgia Goldfarb, M.D. <georgia.goldfarb@healthequality.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:14 PM
To: Ccc@daynabochco.com; mmcclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us; wendy@katzmitchell.com;
erik@erikhowell.com; Cox, Greg; cgroom@smcgov.org; effietlaw@yahoo.com;
mkshallenberger@gmail.com; roberto.uranga@longbeach.gov; SKinsey@co.marin.ca.us;
mluevano@gmail.com; 'Mark@mark-vargas.com.'; Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Subject: Charles Lester, Executive Director

Commissioners,

As a taxpayer, citizen and environmentalist, I am asking that, instead of considering firing Mr. Lester, you commend him. If you are nought but a pawn in the developer game, you have the wrong job. You could work for the Roundtable. We need ever stronger environmental protection, not less. Ensuring that there is less or no development is a critical part of the Commission's purpose.

Regards,

Georgia Goldfarb, MD
Diplomate in Sleep Medicine
and Pediatric Pulmonology

From: Beverly Sansone <hmeybsan@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:59 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support for Charles Lester

I urge you to support Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission. Appropriate enforcement of the California Coastal Act is necessary to protect our invaluable coast for all to enjoy. This is what Mr. Lester has been doing. Please let him continue to do his job.

Hildy Meyers
Huntington Beach, CA

From: Dennis Thompson <dennis@thompsonnaylor.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:57 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal; 'Governor'
Cc: 'Owen Bailey - Environmental Defense Center'
Subject: Retain Coastal Commission Executive Director

Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey and Governor Brown-

I object to the attempt to remove Dr. Lester as Coastal Commission E.D. He and his staff have done an excellent job protecting our coast, and he should be allowed to continue his work in the interest of all Californians.

Dennis Thompson, AIA, LEED AP
Thompson Naylor Architects
900 Philinda Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(805) 966-9807 ext. 1
[website](#) [facebook](#) [houzz](#)

From: Dan Emmett <demmett@douglasemmett.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:50 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Governor@Governor.ca.gov
Subject: Executive Director

I do not know the details of objections to Dr. Lester but the effectiveness of the staff of the Commission over the years has been the principal driver in enforcing the Act, preventing the California coast from becoming the highly developed mess that we see around the world, and keeping California special.

I am both in the real estate business in coastal California and a long time advocate of protecting coastal resources. I think the balance that has been in place in recent years has generally been excellent and will be appreciated by our children and grandchildren.

As a resident of a coastal community and one who daily enjoys our coastal resources, I implore you not to bend to pressures of interest groups intent on more intense development of coastal areas. Let us maintain California's environmental leadership and protection of natural resources along the coast.

Thank you.

Dan A. Emmett
156 Rincon Point Rd
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Important Notice: This message is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed. The information provided is confidential. Accordingly, any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of this information by, or disclosure of it to, anyone other than the intended recipient could have significant adverse effects and is prohibited. This message does not constitute an offer to purchase or sell any securities or other interests.

From: Robert Buelteman <info@buelteman.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Governor Jerry Brown
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Honor the Coastal Act

The coast of our beloved California belongs to all of us. Please support our existing Executive Director Charles Lester who respects the Coastal Act as it was intended: to preserve the land for future generations.

Pillar Point Harbor©Robert Buelteman:



From: Citizen With a Voice <citizenwithavoice@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:42 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Retain current Executive Director of CA Coastal Commission

This is a vote to retain current Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester.

We, born and raised Californians, want to protect the coastline from greedy developers and greedier lobbyists that just want to line their pockets.

This action regarding potentially removing the ED raises all sorts of yellow flags.

To what degree, if any, have any of the commissioners become on the "take" just to push new unnecessary developments on the coast?

DO NOT allow lobbyists and developers to influence any changes to the Commission.

FIGHT to protect the coast from unwanted development.

Thank you.

Mike Stevens
Los Angeles

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:31 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

Dear CA Coastal Commission,

Dear Governor Brown:

We are disappointed to learn that your appointees to the Coastal Commission are working to drive out the Commission's executive director, Charles Lester.

Mr. Lester and his staff have appropriately enforced the Coastal Act and have been effective in ensuring that climate change impacts are considered as coastal development plans are updated.

Please support Mr. Lester and let your appointees to the Commission know of that support. Otherwise replace them: see Steve Blank LA Times Op-Ed 1/27.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mike and Barbara Sentovich
11642 Wallingsford Rd
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-
mbsent@msn.com
(562) 430-8209

From: Stuart Kasdin <skasdin1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:20 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Governor@Governor.ca.gov
Subject: California Coastal Commission

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey,

I am dismayed at the current situation with the coastal commission. My understanding is that the director has supported staff and the commissioners want to encourage additional development of the coast. There is no cause for terminating the directorship of Dr. Lester, except that the commissioners want a freer hand in pursuing different policies; ones Dr Lester has inhibited.

You know that the coast once developed, doesn't grow back? It is irrevocable. If development proceeds uninterrupted, then bit by bit, acre by acre the unspoiled coast will be gone. Of course developers want to make money and build on the coast.

There are a lot of rock stars who would want to destroy coastal views and habitats for their personal enjoyment. It must be the latest California version of trashing hotel rooms. But the commissioners don't have to encourage it.

We have already destroyed a lot. Our state symbol is the California Grizzly Bear. They're extinct. Orange County has no oranges any more. Just subdivisions.

Let's not do that to our coast. Don't let the commissioners boot out the director so that they can go ahead, override staff recommendations, and pursue additional developers. Don't treat our coast like we live in a 3rd world country with business interests making the choices for wealthy people and ignoring everyone else.

This coup de etat by developers is a disgrace. Don't let it end with the business interests taking over.

Sincerely,

Stuart Kasdin

From: eric biemuller <ebiemuller@mail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:03 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

eric biemuller
PO Box 475
NJ, NJ 08515
US

From: TotallyHappy Stewart <totallyhappy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:18 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director Charles Lester

Dear sirs:

As a longtime supporter of the Coastal Commission, I am writing to urge you to support the retention of Lester as Director of the Coastal Commission.

We in California have a lot to protect in our environment, and we need the independence of the Coastal Commission to safeguard that environment. Charles Lester had done an excellent job of maintaining the integrity of the Commission.

I hope that California can count on your support in retaining Lester as Executive Director.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robin Stewart

From: Tom Comar <razzledazzle2005@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:27 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: FW: Public Hearing for Dr. Lester

From: Tom Comar
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: Public Hearing for Dr. Lester

Executive

It is my understanding Dr. Lester has been asked to step down even though he has consistently supported the interest of the residents of Ca. and against pro-development forces. California has a marvelous coast and every inch of it must be protected against unwanted and special interests' development. It is owned by the people of California.

Also the oil-by-rail issue, proposed by Phillips 66 and the threat to the coastal areas, as well as cities, schools etc. will eventually come before the Coastal Commission. It is critical that we have leadership like Dr. Lester to recognize the safety issues to the land, water, beaches and all the people that live along the tracks embedded in this project.

I am registering support for Dr. Lester. He is doing a good job, keep him on!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Tom Comar
5525 Cascabel road
Atascadero, Ca. 93422
805-610-0367

From: Daniel Yee <daniel.p.yee@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:43 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: In Support of Charles Lester

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Charles Lester to retain his position as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

As a PhD Student at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, I believe that the preservation and freedom of access to California beaches and coastline are rights of the public. Furthermore, I believe Mr. Lester has been a responsible shepherd of the Commission's mandate to protect the beaches for the public and that calls to remove him from power are unwarranted, and should be dismissed.

Sincerely,
Daniel Yee

--

Daniel P. Yee
Ph.D. Student, Marine Biology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
M.Sc. Biology, University of California, San Diego

Phone: 626-715-6794
Office: Hubbs Hall 3400
<https://scripps.ucsd.edu/labs/mtresquerres/daniel-yee/>

From: Loren Walden <lorenwalden@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Governor@Governor.ca.gov; StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please back the Coastal Act and Support the California Coastal Commission's Director Charles Lester

Dear Governor Brown and Coastal Commissioners,

My wife and I ask that you support Charles Lester and the integrity of our outstanding coastal protection program. The coast belongs to the people of our great state and to the visitors who come to our state to enjoy our special resources on the coast.

Thank you for your consideration and support of our valuable and irreplaceable natural beauty.

Sincerely,

Loren Walden
1 Coalmine View
Portola Valley, CA 94028

From: Katie Davis <kdavis2468@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:22 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Strongly object to the efforts to oust Executive Director Charles Lester

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to express support for Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester.

This is a transparent attack on the integrity of the Coastal Act that has protected our valuable coastline for decades. It is unconscionable that the Commission would threaten and undermine staff in this way. The firing of Lester would have a chilling effect and staff's ability to do its job in standing up to violations and threats to our coastline.

Now in a time of rising seas, stronger storms and other environmental threats, we need independent and science-guided coastal protections more than ever.

Any action to remove Lester will be a sad day for California, and I hope that you do not go down this road.

Sincerely,
Katie Davis

528 Woodleaf Lane, Goleta, CA 93117
805-451-4574

From: Nora Hall <noramhall@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:25 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director Dismissal

To Whom It May Concern -

As a native San Franciscan, I grew up next to the beach alongside my seven (yes, seven) siblings. We never had a lot of money, but my mother made it a point to get to the beach a few times a week for fun, play, and exercise.

I attended college in Southern California where I studied environmental science, and the neighboring coastal and wetland regions. This spurred my interest in marine biology, allowing me to further fall in love and curiosity with our coast. Regardless of the amount of student loans I incurred, it was for the belief that I was following my passion and doing some good that I continued my studies. If all of my work, effort, and love amounts to our current state, I am absolutely ashamed and heartbroken.

I believe the executive director is doing a good job of protecting public access and protecting the coast. The recent news of the executive director's dismissal displeases me greatly and is an embarrassment to our California Coastal Commission. I will do everything in power to spread the word that this is happening and that we should not accept this.

Sincerely,
A very concerned ocean lover,

Nora Hall

From: Anna Christensen <achris259@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:31 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: celina.luna@longbeach.gov
Subject: The Battle of Morro Bay

In the not so civil war between those of us who believe in sharing a living planet and money hungry developers, Mr. Lester has chosen to stand his ground at Morro Bay. The California Coastal Commissioners who are pressuring Mr. Lester to abandon his defense of our coastline, must now face public outcry. Who are these individuals that now hold the very life of our beaches and wetlands in their grasp? That they are politically well connected, there is no doubt - no ordinary tree or seal hugger gets appointed or elected to such a powerful position. That they have rubbed shoulders with big business and their duty to protect and preserve has become compromised, is also painfully clear. So one must ask, why do we need commissioners who seek to remove an executive director who does his job too well? We do not. It is these commissioners themselves who must resign or be removed, they are not fit to represent the people of California. Anna Christensen achris259@yahoo.com

From: **Linda Lucks**

Date: 21 January 2016 at 20:36

Subject: State of the State, Coastal Commission coup, #OscarsSoWhite - Press Play with Madeleine Brand on KCRW

To: Mary Luevano <mluevanocoastal@gmail.com>

Cc: , Fran Diamond

Mary: please listen to this very short piece about the consequences of firing Charles Lester. Please do Not vot to dismantle the Coatal protections of the last 40 years!

<http://www.kcrw.com/news-culture/shows/press-play-with-madeleine-brand/state-of-the-state-coastal-commission-coup-oscarssowhite#.VqGw-XJP-ng.mailto>

Linda Lucks

[310-505-4220](tel:310-505-4220)

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse the typos

From: Dan Nathan <dan.nathan@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 4:30 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Lester

I am a strong supporter of preserving the coast for all, and I also support the staff of the entire CCC. Moreover, I strongly support Dr. Lester and his efforts at the CCC. The power grab and baseless attempt to dismiss him should be criminal!

Dan Nathan
Malibu, CA

From: Dorin <dorins1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 10:47 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support of Commissioner Lester

I strongly support Commissioner Lester's directorship of the California Coastal Commission and commend his leadership in the enforcement of The Coastal Act.

I strongly condemn the efforts on the part of those Commissioners seeking to replace him. They are irresponsible and negligent in their duty to uphold the law.

Respectfully,

Melvin Dorin
2510 Banbury Road
Cambria, CA 93428

dorins1234@gmail.com
408-734-2307

From: Dorin <dorins1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 10:07 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Status of Commissioner Lester

I strongly support Commissioner Lester's directorship of the California Coastal Commision and commend his leadership in the enforcement of The Act.

I condemn the efforts on the part of those Commissioner's seeking to replace him. They are irresponsible and negligent in their duty to uphold the law.

From: nancy tracy <osistah@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 6:17 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: California Coastal Commission

Hi there,

I would like to state my support for the current director and his efforts to maintain a tight reign on development of our coast.

Thank you,

Nancy Tracy

From: Don Krotee <dkrotee@krotee.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 5:48 PM
To: Don Harvey
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Re: Opposition to the Proposed Ouster of Dr. Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission

This letter and the other letter are examples of what's needed – thank you very much. I have written a couple and had planned to send them Monday I will copy to the group.

Don

> On Jan 24, 2016, at 1:58 PM, Don Harvey <harveydonw@juno.com> wrote:

>

> Don Harvey, Ph. D.

> 2039 Port Weybridge Place

> Newport Beach, CA 92660

>

> To: California Coastal Commission

> Via e-mail

>

> Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Ouster of Dr. Charles Lester as

> the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission

>

> Dear Chair Kinsey, Vice-Chair Bochco, and Commissioners:

>

> My wife and I live in Newport Beach; we oppose the proposal to oust Dr. Charles Lester as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

>

> Under his leadership, the public has maintained access to our coastline, a fact that might not remain true in his absence.

>

> The California coast belongs to the public. To maintain recognition of that, we ask that Dr. Lester be maintained as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

>

> Sincerely,

>

>

> Don Harvey

>

>

>

>

Ally Bank, Member FDIC

> Consistently competitive rates, 24/7 customer care, Member FDIC

> <http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3131/56a548f77e83748f73db4st04duc>

From: Jack Eidt <jackeidt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 11:41 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Stop the Power Grab at the Coastal Commission

Attention: Chair Steve Kinsey

I have lived along the California Coast for over thirty years, educated on the shores of UCSB, where I studied environment and urban planning. As Director of Wild Heritage Planners, an organization dedicated to solving environmental problems through smart growth and regenerative design, I have come to understand the value of the California Coastal Commission as integral to protecting the values of coastal access for all and protection of unique and endangered environmental habitats in one of the most urbanized areas in the world.

As a lead advocate to stop a toll road extension that would have cut through a wildlife preserve, state park, and along the beach in North San Diego County, I experienced first-hand the importance of a Commission that understands how to place the greater good of society before the profit motive of special interests. Because of a strong and powerful stance, a toll road literally to nowhere was rejected...again and again. As an urban planner and journalist, I have seen time and again the need for a decision-making body that puts the integrity of the Coastal Act, and the scientific analysis required in understanding sensitive marine habitats, before the political and moneyed interests that bent on destroying or co-opting them for private profit.

Dr. Charles Lester clearly understands the nature of this attempt at a power grab, and should be commended for facing it head-on. The communities that I live and work in also stand behind his incredible list of accomplishments during his 4 1/2 year tenure as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. These include:

- 1) The Commission recently received new administrative authority from the California Legislature that allows the Commission staff to administer penalties against individuals who violate the Coastal Act's coastal access provisions, with a \$11,500 fine per violation per day.
- 2) The Commission completed an important Sea Level Rise guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change.
- 3) The Commission just received a \$3 million budget increase to make permanent 25 positions to focus on sea level rise planning – the largest augmentation to the Commission's budget in 15 years.
- 4) The Commission has made tremendous strides in the past few years updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities and counties across California.
- 5) Dr. Lester and his staff have increased public transparency by creating a new state-of-the-art database that enables the public to more easily access information on projects.

It is an absolute surprise that Commissioners appointed by the very Governor who presided over the formation of this respected decision-making body could get themselves involved running errands for powerful corporate interests looking to push through projects with serious environmental issues, like Banning Ranch, Huntington Beach Desalination, and maybe even the revival of the SR 241 Toll Road Extension. Recent anti-Coastal-Act decisions by this body make this not just a conspiracy theory.

The Coastal Commission staff must remain independent. We support Dr. Lester, and call on the Commission to get back to work protecting our coast and let the developers deal with the process as the Coastal Act dictates.

Sincerely,

Jack Eidt
Director - Wild Heritage Planners
Publisher - WilderUtopia.com - Coexisting into the Great Unknown
Facebook and Twitter - @WilderUtopia
Office 323 362 6737

From: Cooper, Terry <tlcooper@price.usc.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 7:48 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Cooper, Terry
Subject: I support Dr. Lester

I want you to know that I strongly support Dr. Charles Lester and his team. I urge you to do likewise and maintain his employment status.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Cooper, Ph.D .
The Maria B. Crutcher Professor in
Citizenship and Democratic Values
USC Price School of Public Policy
RGL 302
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0626

Sent from my iPhone

From: Constance Hughes [mailto:conniebHughes@me.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 10:25 PM

To: Schwartz, Noaki@Coastal

Cc: Constance Hughes

Subject: Comments re Dr. Charles Lester

I live in Southern CA, and I cannot drive to Morro Bay to submit my comments on February 10-12; my husband is undergoing chemotherapy and I cannot be gone for an entire day.

However, having lived near the CA coast for 60 years, I am MOST concerned about the direction and special interests the Coastal commission is appearing to favor. We have only ONE coastline and we must preserve it for our ever-burgeoning population to enjoy and future generations to cherish. Once it's "sold", we cannot get it back.

The California coastal Commission has a moral and ethical duty to be stewards of this precious resource. From what I understand, Dr. Lester is diligent and serving us well. The other commissioners are suspect...

I am absolutely AGAINST removal or replacement of your current director.

If you truly want public input, you must allow the millions of us a fair way to submit our views. If you only honor those of who can afford the time and transportation, you are essentially ensuring that this gentleman will not have an honest hearing.

Sent from my iPad

From: Rachel Kovesdi [<mailto:rachel@kovesdiconsulting.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 12:13 AM
To: Carl, Dan@Coastal
Subject: My Support -

Good Evening Dan -

I hope you're doing well, though I fear otherwise. This afternoon, I heard about the schism on the Commission, and am just beginning to understand the stress you must have been under lately.

All past and present projects and appeals aside, I simply want to reach out and tell you that I have always valued the dedication, professionalism and passion that you and Charles bring to the Commission. I remember with such fondness the collaborative process with the Stolo Winery, in Cambria – how agricultural, historic, and biological resources were protected and enhanced, while allowing what I understand to be the first coastal winery (a wonderful visitor-serving use) in San Luis Obispo County since the passage of the Coastal Act. I also remember Charles' compassionate yet disciplined response to the Big Sur fire in 2008 – he and I spoke at length on the Hearst Ranch regarding how to best help residents rebuild their decimated homes, while providing better protection for both human and other habitats in the region.

Coincidentally, Greg Frye called me this evening to tell me that he has independently organized a site visit at his Morro Bay site with Commissioner Howell this weekend. (I believe that's happening Saturday.) I plan to attend, and to convey to Commissioner Howell how valuable Charles' counsel and direction have been since I arrived in California, eighteen years ago. I have never experienced anything other than forthright, constructive dialogue with either you or Charles. Coastal staff has, in my experience, been consistently helpful in assisting applicants and jurisdictions to successfully implement LCP's and Coastal Act policies.

I understand that the February meeting agenda may be in flux, but wanted you to know that I intend to be there regardless, to voice my support for staff and the Executive Director. I look forward to seeing you and hope for a positive resolution. No need to reply, but feel free to share this message if it has any value. Very best regards,
RKK

Rachel Kovesdi
Kovesdi Consulting
3940-7 Broad Street, #139
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 471-2948
Rachel@KovesdiConsulting.com

From: Bartłomiej Tomczak <wom.bat@wp.pl>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 3:54 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Bartłomiej Tomczak
Targowa 37
Lodz, ot 90451
PL

From: Susan Elliott <taitai@astound.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 5:38 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Susan Elliott
4485 Deerberry Court
Concord, CO 94521
US

From: Tena Scruggs <tenas7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 3:18 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: I Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Tena Scruggs
PO Box 3131
Escondido, CA 92033
US

From: judy coleman <jacoleman@peacemail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 3:01 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

judy coleman
7634 hamilton st.
omaha, NE 58114
US

From: Ruth Cain <salsharfel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 2:47 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Ruth Cain
2747 Via Capri
FL, FL 33764
US

From: cat col <caterina.colubriale@det.nsw.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 5:48 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

cat col
sydney
sydney, ot 2221
AU

From: wordpress@jukelabs.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 2:25 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support for Coastal Act and Executive Director Lester

I write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a visionary law enacted under your leadership as Governor in 1976 – to voice my pride in California’s long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester. Please support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve the goals of the Coastal Act.

Thank you for your service and support for a clean, healthy California coast!

Sincerely,

From: wordpress@jukelabs.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 2:14 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support for Coastal Act and Executive Director Lester

I write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a visionary law enacted under your leadership as Governor in 1976 – to voice my pride in California's long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester. Please support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve the goals of the Coastal Act.

Thank you for your service and support for a clean, healthy California coast!

Sincerely,

From: LauraMoreno <wordpress@jukelabs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 2:14 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support Coastal Act and Executive Director Lester

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – a visionary law enacted under your leadership as Governor in 1976 – to voice my pride in California’s long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester. Please support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve the goals of the Coastal Act.

Thank you for your service and support for a clean, healthy California coast!

Sincerely,

From: lstanding@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 2:53 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Charles Lester

Hello,

I am writing to express my support of Dr. Charles Lester. As a 50 year resident of Northern California I have personally witnessed the amazing job that the Coastal Commission has done. This must continue in spite of the money that could be made by developers if the coast was to be built on. Please protect our precious coastline and let Dr. Lester do his job. Developers need to be stopped on the coast!

Lois Standing
Penngrove, CA

From: Chris Cravens-Dang <evolvingsoulutions@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 4:38 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Keep Charles Lester

In the interest of preserving our planet, please support Charles Lester in keeping his role/position.

Namaste'
Chris Cravens-Dang
760-585-5641
Escondido CA 92027

From: Amy Wolfberg <amyd1968@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 6:07 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

Amy Wolfberg
1817 N. Fuller Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046
US

From: Jane Fehrenbacher <janeldy11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 5:52 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Charles Lester

Dear Mr. John Laird and Commissioners,

PLEASE do NOT allow the wonderful work of the Coastal Commission be hijacked by developers and lobbyists.

Mr. Lester and others have kept Highway 1 free from them for the purpose of continuing the right of 40 million

Californians and countless people from around the world to enjoy the pristine coastline and beaches.

PLEASE, LOOK INTO YOUR SOULS . This is a moral issue. Are you be willing to sell out for a few rich developers?

I pray that cooler heads prevail.

Sincerely yours,

Jane Fehrenbacher
3662 Eileen Way
Santa Barbara, CA93105

From: jauer212@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 2:27 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: 2/10 hearing in status of Executive Director

To the Commissioners:

We strongly support the continued leadership of Executive Director Charles Lester on the CCC to keep our beloved coasts protected far into the future.

Jane Auerbach & Robert Eberlein

10272 Dunleer Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90064

From: goechargers@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:50 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: RETENTION of Charles Lester

I support the retention of Charles Lester as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission and I urge you to vote to support him.

I also urge you to support the SeaWorld decision banning breeding of captive orcas. These sentient beings have suffered long enough. People are now aware, more than ever the scope of not only their intelligence, but more importantly their emotional well being. This is not about Charles Lester; this is about control of the coast. It is the development community that is seeking to destroy the independence of the Commission and turn the coast over to energy and development interests.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Baker; Hemet CA

Sent from my HTC One max on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network

From: Deb Preston <deepresto@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:34 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: In support of E.D. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission;

I am writing as a concerned citizen to ask you to please support retaining Charles Lester as CCC's Executive Director. As a resident of Sonoma County, which has a beautiful, wild coastline, I am well aware of the desires of wealthy winery owners to develop our precious resource. And it is the same with development proposals all the way down the coastline, for example A THOUSAND new homes planned at Newport Banning Ranch on the largest undeveloped parcel left in Orange County.

In thanks for his conservation-minded stance, Director Lester finds himself at odds with those who represent development interests, including it seems, Governor Brown. How sad that this governor signed the Coastal Act into law in his first term, and now his appointees are attempting to weaken it.

Charles Lester is the best choice for mitigating development. Our cherished, irreplaceable shoreline should be kept wild and public, with equal access for all citizens, not just the ones who can pay the most.

Sincerely,
Deborah Preston
Sebastopol, CA

From: AniMae Chi <wolfgangbear1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:21 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

AniMae Chi
405 North arnaz St
CA, CA 93023
US

From: jmpang@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:40 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Charles Lester

Dear Commissioners,

Your job is to protect California's greatest asset--our coastline. It belongs to all of us, human, flora and fauna alike. It is a source of beauty and economic activity, not there for the enrichment of a few. Trying to fire Mr. Lester because he's not doing the bidding of developers is criminal. Shame on you. Your only mission is to protect the water, beaches and coast. Mr. Lester is doing that. Leave him alone.

Judy Pang
Palos Verdes Estates, CA

From: Barbara Kennedy <bkenn202@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 4:36 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Retain Executive Director Lester

To Whom it May Concern:

The attempt to fire Executive Director Lester is an effort by pro-development interests to undermine the effectiveness of the state's Coastal Program and the independence of the Commission staff. Executive Director Lester refused an effort to force him to resign quietly and, as the law allows, has called for a full public hearing on his proposed termination. Please vote to retain Executive Director Lester. Thank you.

Barbara Kennedy, P.O. Box 29, 202 Lum Street, Weott, CA 95571.

From: jenkalt@gmail.com on behalf of Jennifer Kalt <jkalt@humboldtbykeeper.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 4:26 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Fwd: Protect the Coast

fyi, I sent this email to Martha McClure today.

Jennifer Kalt, Director
Humboldt Baykeeper
1385 Eighth Street, Suite 228, Arcata, CA 95521
(707)499-3678
www.humboldtbykeeper.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer Kalt** <jkalt@humboldtbykeeper.org>
Date: Thu, Jan 28, 2016 at 10:24 AM
Subject: Protect the Coast
To: mmcclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us

Dear Commissioner McClure,

I am writing today to urge you to support Dr. Charles Lester by voting to retain him as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Dr. Lester has made great strides in improving relationships with cities and counties updating their Local Coastal Plans, including Arcata, Eureka, Humboldt County, and Trinidad, all of which are terribly outdated, causing confusion and lack of transparency for developers and coastal advocates alike.

Dr. Lester's leadership on the Commission's Sea Level Rise Guidance Policy is particularly important in Humboldt - without it, the Commission's policy would have evolved project-by-project on the backs of developers, similar to how the tsunami policy in the Humboldt Bay Area LCP was developed by Danco for the Town of Samoa project.

Please take a stance for protecting the coast by voting to retain Dr. Lester.

Jennifer Kalt, Director

January 25, 2016

To: The California Coastal Commission

From: Nancy R. Anderson, PO Box 1417, Cambria California

Re: Item # 8 **Consideration of Dismissal of the Executive Director** on the Agenda for the February 10, 2016 meeting of California Coastal Commission in Morro Bay.

As California citizen since 1958, a Cambria property owner in since 1987 and full time Cambria resident since 2010, I am writing to encourage members of the Commission to carefully consider the potential outcomes before casting a vote to dismiss Executive Director, Charles Lester. Based on my observations to date it appears that Dr. Charles Lester has fulfilled his role and has an outstanding record for protecting the California Coast. It is my understanding that this is or should be the primary role of the Commission. I plan to attend the February meeting but in the event I do not have an opportunity to speak I wish to register my concern regarding these possible dismissal proceedings.

During these difficult times we are faced with ever increasing assaults on the environment and more rapidly advancing changes in our climate than previously predicted. In the Summer and Fall of 2015 I watched those changes occurring before my eyes here in Cambria when greater numbers of deep ocean animals entered close to shore, record numbers of shore birds fed at the water's edge and coastal ocean temperatures rose well above normal for the seasons. Furthermore the United States pledged with other nations in the Paris Agreement to reduce our negative impacts on the climate and our precious environment. Given Dr. Lester's commitment to protect Coastal California I find it difficult to comprehend why the Commission is considering his dismissal. I trust the Commission will reconsider and instead support and encourage him to continue his work as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission.

Respectfully,

Nancy R. Anderson, PhD

From: Ken Lindke <klindke@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 3:42 PM
To: mmcclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Wrongful termination of Charles Lester

Dear Commissioner McClure,

Do not allow big money interests to take over the California Coast. Support Executive Director Charles Lester by voting to retain him as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. Thank you.

Ken Lindke
Concerned Citizen

From: ali <ali@mattole.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 3:37 PM
To: mmcclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: ED Lester of Coastal Commission

Dear Commissioner McClure,

Do not allow big money interests to take over the California Coast.

Support Executive Director Charles Lester by voting to retain him as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. The people of our great state deserve no less.

Thank you for supporting our precious coastline by supporting ED Lester!

Ali Freedlund
1304 Sunset Ave.
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 822-4477

From: jskinnermd@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 3:33 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Charles Lester -- please do not fire him!

Dear Commissioners,

My husband and I were among those who voted for the creation of the Coastal Commission in 1972. With our votes came the hope that there would be an agency we could count on to preserve California's coast forever while allowing access to the shore for everyone, not just those of us lucky enough to live by the beach.

We are grateful for all the good work the Coastal Commission has done over the years and appreciate having Executive Directors who are willing to stand firm in preserving our beautiful coast.

We strongly urge you to keep Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director. He has been doing an excellent job of carrying out the mandate of the people of California with regard to our coast while being fair to everyone. Isn't that what you want of your Executive Director? That is certainly what the people of California want!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Skinner
1724 Highland Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660

From: Dan & Elizabeth Songster <songster@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 3:10 PM
To: district7@longbeach.gov; StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Retain Coastal Commission Executive Director

The Hon. Roberto Uranga
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802
district7@longbeach.gov, StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov

Dear Commissioner Uranga:

I have lived here since 1965 and surfed most of those years. I also enjoy the coastal areas for sailing and fishing. Also, my Children and Grandchildren also have a active relationship with the coast that I am so happy to see. The role of the Coastal Commission includes protecting those areas so they continue to be accessible, and intact for my great grandchildren to use as well some day. As a resident of the South Coast region, I ask you to protect the integrity and independence of Coastal Commission by retaining Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director. Dr. Lester has been exemplary in his accomplishments and in his objective and fair application of the Coastal Act. The secret attempt to oust Dr. Lester absent public input was an affront to all Californians. Please uphold the Coastal Act and keep Dr. Lester on the job.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Songster

23522 Cavanaugh Road

Lake Forest, CA 92630, Charles Lester

cc:

Commission Staff <StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov>

From: Magliocco, Sabina <sabina.magliocco@csun.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 2:40 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Cc: Governor@Governor.ca.gov
Subject: Independence of Coastal Commission Staff Essential

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey:

Our coast belongs to all Californians and the Coastal Commission's independent, professional staff has been central to our ability to protect public access, open space and to ensure compliance with the Coastal Act, arguably the most important coastal protection law in the nation. Over the last several years, under the direction of Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester, the Commission's staff has been extraordinarily effective; staff has accepted considerable new responsibilities in dealing with climate change and public access, there is an unprecedented level of transparency to the public and more than 90% of all development projects presented have been approved. In spite of this, I was alarmed to hear that the Commission is considering the termination of Dr. Lester, without reason.

This attack on the professional staff is an attack on the Coastal Act and our coastal access and open space. Dr. Lester and his staff represent the public interest and it is vital that they have the ability to act independently and without fear of political reprisal for their efforts to uphold state law.

I urge you to stand up for the independence of staff. Please ensure a fully transparent and open process and retain Dr. Lester who has performed his duties with admirable result since taking over this position in 2011.

Sincerely,

Sabina Magliocco
Professor
Department of Anthropology
California State University - Northridge
sabina.magliocco@csun.edu

From: inksmithprinting@gmail.com on behalf of Marcia Yeates
<marcia@inksmithprinting.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 1:31 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director

I am deeply concerned by reports that the most pro-development Coastal Commissioners are attempting a coup to weaken the Coastal Commission's strong mandate to protect the coast. Development pressures today are greater than ever, and will undoubtedly increase as our state continues to grow. There is no justification whatsoever to terminate Dr. Lester. The integrity of the Commission and its mission are at stake; the independence and professionalism of the staff are essential to its integrity. Commission Chair Mary Shallenberger stated in 2011 when the Commission unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Lester to the Executive Director position, "The entire Commission recognized and appreciates the unique experience, unwavering integrity, and clear vision Dr. Lester brings to this position."

I agree and support the continued leadership of Dr. Lester, as the Executive Director of the CA Coastal Commission.

Please support the continuation of Dr. Lester as Executive Director.

Marcia Yeates

Inksmith Printing
Your Partner in Printing
2423-G Old Middlefield Way
Mountain View, CA 94043
650-318-8033 650-318-8036 Fax
marcia@inksmithprinting.com

From: Donna Carr, MD <DonnaCarrMD@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 1:11 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support California Coastal Program Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Coastal Commission

I am writing to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – to voice pride in California’s long history of global leadership in coastal protection and strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester.

Under Dr. Lester’s leadership, the Coastal Commission has successfully applied its new administrative penalty authority to remedy violations of public access, completed a state-of-the-art guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change, and made tremendous strides in updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities/counties across California. The Commission has increased public transparency by creating a modern database that provides the public easier access to information on projects, improved interagency collaboration, and significantly reduced processing times for permits and appeals.

Threats to our coast and ocean have never been more pressing. A changing climate is bringing rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and greater vulnerability to all of our coastal resources. Firing the Coastal Commission’s Executive Director would undermine our state’s effectiveness on coastal protection at a time when the need for such protection is at an all-time high.

I urge you to support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve these goals.

Very respectfully,

Donna Carr, MD
1201 Sidonia Street
Encinitas, CA 92024

From: Howard Storey <hcstorey10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 1:11 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Lester

I am a resident of the South Coast region and I ask you to please allow Dr. Laster to continue in his current position.
Thank you.

Howard storey

Sent from my iPhone

From: E. Michael Weber <emichaelweber@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 12:22 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: <no subject>

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey,

Our coast belongs to all citizens of the United States and those of Californian. The Coastal Commission's independent, professional staff has been central to its ability to protect public access, open space and to ensure compliance with the Coastal Act, arguably the most important coastal protection law in the nation. Over the last several years under the direction of Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester, the Commission's staff has been extraordinarily effective. The staff has accepted considerable new responsibilities in dealing with climate change and public access. There is an unprecedented level of transparency to the public and more than 90% of all development projects presented have been approved.

Thus I am alarmed to hear that the Commission is considering the termination of Dr. Lester, without reason.

THIS KIND OF ACTION SENDS A MESSAGE TO ALL STATE EMPLOYEES THAT THERE JOB IS AT RISK IF THEY DO NOT GIVE IN TO POLITICAL PRESSURE. IT IS DEMORALIZING FOR ALL EMPLOYEES AND EXTREMELY DESTRUCTIVE TO THE WELL BEING OF THE STATE ON ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. THE COASTAL COMMISSION'S JOB IS TO ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE THE STATUTES. DR. LESTER'S PERFORMANCE, JUDGED ON THAT BASIS, IS EXEMPLARY.

This attack on the professional staff is an attack on the Coastal Act and our coastal access and open space. Dr. Lester and his staff represent the public interest and it is vital that they have the ability to act independently and without fear of political reprisal for their efforts to uphold state law.

I urge you to stand up for the independence of staff. Please ensure a fully transparent and open process and retain Dr. Lester who has performed his duties with admirable result since taking over this position in 2011.

Sincerely,

E. Michael Weber

From: Emma Jarvis <emma@jarvisartworks.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 12:22 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dolphin and Whale Trade, Dolphins, SeaWorld

PLEASE support the retention of Charles Lester as Executive Director and vote to support him.

From all the reports of those concerned with environmental issues, scientists and animal welfare advocates, driving the huge and justified opposition of SeaWorld's expansion and its continued plans to restrict, abuse and exploit the lives of captive cetaceans for nothing but profit. I do not want my children growing up in a world where it's ok to treat god's great creatures in this way. We live in the 21st century, a modern, forward thinking world where we educate the next generation on how to do things better than we did.

I urge you to support the SeaWorld decision banning breeding of captive orcas. There is no need for captive Orcas / cetaceans when they can be marvelled at in their own natural surroundings, the wild! If you are in any doubt watch Blackfish, it will open your eyes and allow you to do the right, moral thing in this ugly, corrupt, greedy world.

From: Carl Fullbright <carlempydark@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 11:58 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal

I grew up in Southern California and enjoyed relatively free access to the beaches and surf that were available at the time which was in the 60's. I remember well when the breakwater at Dana Point was constructed, ruining one of the best surfing spots ever in order to develop an area where very few could afford to live. I would hate to see the destiny of our California Coast left in the hands of those who would develop it for profit and personal gain.

Carl Fullbright, M.D.

From: Paul Denver <jajida1@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 11:32 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: dr.Termination

I heartily support the termination of Dr Lester as his policies are skewed in favor of environmentalists and is not balanced in terms of property protection of homeowners living near coastal bluffs.

Sincerely,
Paul Denver D.D.S

From: Charlotte Pirch <dpirch@socal.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 11:28 AM
To: district7@longbeach.gov; StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Coastal Commission Executive Director

Dear Commissioner Uranga:

As a resident of the South Coast region, I ask you to protect the integrity and independence of Coastal Commission by retaining Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director. Dr. Lester has been exemplary in his accomplishments and in his objective and fair application of the Coastal Act. The secret attempt to oust Dr. Lester absent public input is an affront to all Californians. Please uphold the Coastal Act and keep Dr. Lester on the job.

Those of us who are residents of Orange County's coastal cities know that without objective leadership of the commission we would not have the lovely beaches that are a jewel in the crown of beaches in California. A sneak attack on the commission's executive director is not good for California's economy. Our coast brings many tourists to California to surf, sail and swim. The economies of many beach cities will suffer irreparable damage if the leadership allows unregulated development on our beaches. The city of Pacifica is already experiencing loss of their coastal development.

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte Pirch
9826 Lewis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

From: Marcia Schmitz <marcia_schmitz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 11:04 AM
To: district7@longbeach.gov
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Retaining Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director

The Hon. Roberto Uranga
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Commissioner Uranga:

As a resident of the South Coast region, I ask you to protect the integrity and independence of Coastal Commission by retaining Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director. Dr. Lester has been exemplary in his accomplishments and in his objective and fair application of the Coastal Act. The secret attempt to oust Dr. Lester absent public input was an affront to all Californians. Please uphold the Coastal Act and keep Dr. Lester on the job.

It is exceedingly important to the future of California and the country that we have staff at the Coastal Commission that have high ethical standards and a strong science-based reasoning behind decisions. The "Golden State" and the character of the U.S. continues to be eroded by greed and self-interest of high-wealth individuals and developers. The coast of California should be accessible to all, and protected for future generations. In the coming years, climate change will put even more pressure on coastal resources; if U.S. and LA County taxpayers are forced to bear the costs of maintaining coastal infrastructure and paying for fire protection, then we should ALL benefit from enhanced access and recreational opportunities, not just improvements that protect billion dollar homes.

Campaigns like this one to ouster staff positions in key natural resource agencies only prove the need for stronger protections against powerful interest groups that don't have long-term public interests in mind.

Sincerely yours,
Marcia Schmitz

1619 Avalon St.
LA CA 90026

cc:
Commission Staff <StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov>

From: Jackie Fox <jackiesfox@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 11:03 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Dr. Charles Lester

Dear *Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey*,

I write to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act to voice my pride in California's long history of global leadership in coastal protection and our strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester. Please support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve the goals of the Coastal Act.

Thank you for your service and support for a clean, healthy California coast!

Sincerely,
Jackie Fox

Manhattan Beach

Sent from my iPhone

From: L Barlow <barlow.co@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 10:40 AM
To: district7@longbeach.gov
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal; wetlandact@EARTHLINK.NET
Subject: Consideration of Dismissal of the Executive Director

The Hon. Roberto Uranga
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Commissioner Uranga:

As a resident of the South Coast region, I ask you to protect the integrity and independence of Coastal Commission by retaining Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director. Dr. Lester has been exemplary in his accomplishments and in his objective and fair application of the Coastal Act. The secret attempt to oust Dr. Lester absent public input was an affront to all Californians, and media coverage of this maneuver has been extensive. There is a precedent for this kind of political targeting before, in 1996.

Peter Douglas survived a 1996 ouster bid over his opposition to a 900-unit development on environmentally sensitive land in Bolsa Chica; Charles Lester is now faced with this situation playing out again. It's another example of political appointees doing Brown's dirty work in order to allow coastal development. And thus Brown refuses to intervene in stopping a massive private 151-acre development on a ridge of the Santa Monica Mountains by The Edge, aka David Evans. The specific environmental preservation responsibility of the Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 (Proposition 20) and later made permanent by the Legislature through adoption of the California Coastal Act of 1976. This attempt to undermine its charge from the voters is plainly politically motivated, backed by private development money, and must be stopped.

Please uphold the Coastal Act and keep Dr. Lester on the job.

Sincerely yours,

Laurie Barlow, AIA
1107 Fair Oaks Avenue #14
South Pasadena, Ca 91030

<http://www.barlowcoweb.com/>
<http://greenswardcivitas.blogspot.com/>
<https://twitter.com/barlowco>

From: James Riley <jsriley50@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 10:32 AM
To: Cox, Greg; info@olgadiaz.com; StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Re: Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

The Hon. Greg Cox
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego CA 92101

Dear Commissioner Cox and Alternate Diaz:

As a resident and owner of a home in each of San Diego and Orange Counties, I ask you to protect the integrity and independence of Coastal Commission by retaining Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director. Dr. Lester has been exemplary in his accomplishments and in his objective and fair application of the Coastal Act. The secret attempt to oust Dr. Lester absent public input was an affront to all Californians. Please uphold the Coastal Act and keep Dr. Lester on the job.

Sincerely yours,

James S. Riley
2021 Sheridan Ave, Encinitas

cc:
The Hon. Olga Diaz, San Diego Coast Alternate <info@olgadiaz.com>
Commission Staff <StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov>

From: Judy Villablanca <judygrobv@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Ccc@daynabochco.com; mmccclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us; wendy@katzmitchell.com; erik@erikhowell.com; Cox, Greg; cgroom@smcgov.org; effietlaw@yahoo.com; mkshallenberger@gmail.com; roberto.uranga@longbeach.gov; SKinsey@co.marin.ca.us; mluevano@gmail.com; Mark@mark-vargas.com; Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Subject: Director of the Coastal Commission

Honorable Commissioners,

I am writing to support Charles Lester remaining as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. He is an effective Executive Director. Guided by the Coastal Act he successfully balances the interests of Environmentalists and development and upholds the Coastal Act. Our priceless coastline needs strong defenders, and Dr. Lester is able to provide unbiased leadership for this purpose. This is why the Coastal Commission was created. Dr. Lester should remain as Executive Director.

Thank you for protecting our California coast.

Judith G. Villablanca, MD
27567 Winding Way
Malibu, CA 90265

From: Charlotte Frieze <cmfrieze@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:43 PM
To: Staben, Jeff@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director Lester

Honorable Commissioner,

Please keep Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

He is an effective Executive Director.

Guided by the Coastal Act, Charles Lester upholds the Coastal Act while successfully balancing the interests of both environmentalists and development.

Don't let politics interfere with the position of Executive Director that is supposed to remain neutral.

Signed,

Charlotte Frieze Jones

**30745 Pacific Coast Highway #279
Malibu, CA 90265**

From: James Riley <jsriley50@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:35 AM
To: Greg.Cox@sdcount.ca.gov; info@olgadiaz.com; StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Executive Director of the Coastal Commission

The Hon. Greg Cox
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego CA 92101

Dear Commissioner Cox and Alternate Diaz:

As a resident and owner of a home in each of San Diego and Orange Counties, I ask you to protect the integrity and independence of Coastal Commission by retaining Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director. Dr. Lester has been exemplary in his accomplishments and in his objective and fair application of the Coastal Act. The secret attempt to oust Dr. Lester absent public input was an affront to all Californians. Please uphold the Coastal Act and keep Dr. Lester on the job.

Sincerely yours,

James S. Riley
2021 Sheridan Ave, Encinitas

cc:
The Hon. Olga Diaz, San Diego Coast Alternate <info@olgadiaz.com>
Commission Staff <StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov>

From: natasha salgado <viega113@bell.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 5:31 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Please Support Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any effort to terminate the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. I support the Coastal Act and the many accomplishments of your commission under his direction protecting the wild and keeping development in check.

As you know the California Coastal Act is the strongest law of its kind in the world. Created by initiative in 1976, it reflects the need to protect our state's treasured coasts and wildlife, from whales and dolphins to sea otters and sea turtles. And for 40 years the Act has done just that. It has successfully prevented overdevelopment, protected imperiled species and critical habitat, and ensured access for everyone who loves and depends on the ocean.

Ousting your director will disrupt important work and leave the commission in turmoil. Please stand with Executive Director Dr. Lester.

Sincerely,

natasha salgado
5 maynard ave
toronto, MD 21122
CA

From: Kelsey Eberly <kelsey.eberly@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:45 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Comment on Executive Director Lester

Dear Coastal Commission Chair Kinsey,

Our coast is a national treasure and a public trust resource that belongs to all of us, as Californians. The Coastal Commission's independent, professional staff has been central to our ability to protect public access and open space, and to ensure compliance with the Coastal Act, arguably the most important coastal protection law in the nation. The Coastal Act's broad mandate to protect coastal and marine resources has empowered the Commission, under the leadership of Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester, to take bold steps to stop destructive development.

The Commission's staff has been extraordinarily effective under Dr. Lester's direction, accepting considerable new responsibilities in addressing climate change and public access, and taking the courageous step of recognizing and protecting orcas held at SeaWorld as a marine resource under the Coastal Act. This is why I was alarmed to hear that the Commission is considering the termination of Dr. Lester, without reason.

This attack on the professional staff is an attack on the Coastal Act and on our coastal and marine resources. Dr. Lester and his staff represent the public interest; it is vital that they retain the ability to act independently and without fear of political reprisal for their efforts to uphold state law.

I urge you to stand up for the independence of staff. Please ensure a fully transparent and open process, and **retain Dr. Lester**, who has performed his duties with admirable result since taking over this position in 2011.

Best regards,

Kelsey Eberly
Los Angeles, CA

From: jauer212@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 2:27 AM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: 2/10 hearing in status of Executive Director

To the Commissioners:

We strongly support the continued leadership of Executive Director Charles Lester on the CCC to keep our beloved coasts protected far into the future.

Jane Auerbach & Robert Eberlein

10272 Dunleer Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90064

■ Anthony A. Ciani 220 Walnut Street Pacific Grove, California 93950

January 28, 2016

Chairman Steve Kinsey and,
Members of the California Coastal Commission
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, California 94105

Via email: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@coastal.ca.gov and Jeff.Staben@coastal.ca.gov

RE: Coastal Commission Meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 2016, Agenda Items 8 - 10

Dear Chairman Kinsey and Members of the Commission:

Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director of the Coastal Commission was hired to uphold and promote the California Coastal Act of 1976. Following the legacy of former executive directors, Dr. Lester has lead by example to carry out the goals of the citizens of California who voted in 1972 to protect the coastal zone. Dr. Lester is doing the job he was hired for: to provide the management and governance to protect the public's access to, and enjoyment of, California's coastal resources; balanced with ensuring the vitality and economic development of the coastal zone for its residents and visitors.

As an architect whose practice has extended from the San Diego to Marin, I have represented many clients developing in the coastal zone. (I obtained my first CDP in 1974.) As a citizen and native Californian, I also participated in the Commission's efforts to prepare the 1975 Coastal Plan, the preparation of Local Coastal Programs, adjustments to the Coastal Zone Boundary in 1979, and I have fought for and against the Commission in lawsuits to protect coastal, natural and manmade resources, and public access to the coast. This experience has allowed me to witness the Commission from both sides of the fence, private and public interests; and I believe Dr. Lester provides balanced leadership to his staff and to you, to manage and govern the California coastal zone.

As I ponder the Commission's online profile, I see great the great accomplishments you have made, both in regulating development and planning for the future. If you fire Dr. Lester, you will not only be firing him for achieving those goals, but you will also be demoralizing the will of the entire staff. You will be letting a good man go for doing the job he is supposed to do, and letting down his staff, the local agencies and their staff, and the people, all at the same time. Moreover, the credibility of the Coastal Act and Commission will be significantly degraded.

Respectfully,

Anthony A. Ciani

From: KnowWho Services <noreply@knowwho.services>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 7:18 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Save the California Coast

Dear California Costal Commission,

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

California's coast and ocean are personally important to me. I am writing to voice my strong support for the California Coastal Program and for Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I oppose efforts the effort underway to terminate Dr. Lester without cause.

The Coastal Act is the strongest coastal protection law in the world. Created by initiative, it reflects the citizens of California's fundamental connection with the coast. For forty years, the Coastal Act has prevented runaway overdevelopment, protected coastal wildlife and habitat, and, through its coastal access provisions, helped ensure that all Californians can enjoy a day at the beach. The Coastal Act success is apparent: a stunning coastline that provides access for all citizens and visitors not just the few who can afford to own beachfront property. Californians support for this visionary law is as strong as ever.

As Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Lester has achieved many important accomplishments. His agency is leading the charge to tackle the serious and growing threat of sea level rise and has successfully gone after Coastal Act violators who have illegally obstructed public access to the beach. Dr. Lester should be commended for his service and dedication. There is no justification for firing him and to do so would threaten the success of California's Coastal Program.

I urge you to please maintain the integrity of the Coastal Act by supporting Dr. Lester, a steadfast professional who has been diligent in his efforts to help manage and protect our coast for us and for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Pemberton
3727 Lewis Ave
Long Beach, CA 90807-
attentiondavid@gmail.com
(888) 888-8888

From: Erin Rowe <erowemediate@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:47 PM
To: mmclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: preserve the coast

Dear Commissioner McClure,

Do not allow big money interests to take over the California Coast.

Support Executive Director Charles Lester by voting to retain him as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Thank you,

Erin Rowe
Arcata, CA

From: Karpani Devi <blisshiker@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 7:19 PM
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Protect the California Coast from Big Money Interests

Dear Commissioner McClure,

Do not allow big money interests to take over the California Coast.

Support Executive Director Charles Lester by voting to retain him as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Sincerely,
Barbara Burns
PO Box 412
Bayside, CA 95524

From: DK Green <newistaria@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:55 PM
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal; watershed@smithriveralliance.org
Subject: stand up for the coast and support Executive Director Lester/Coastal Commission

Dear Commissioner McClure,

Do not allow big money interests to take over the California Coast.

Support Executive Director Charles Lester by voting to retain him as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Sincerely, Kate Green

From: Carol McFarland <cmfarl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:55 PM
To: mmclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: In support of Commissioner Charles Lester

Commissioner McClure:

Please heed our plea for the retention of Executive Director Charles Lester. There are so many of us here on the North Coast who have worked long hours on our General Plan and who appreciate the goals the Coastal Commission.

We need Mr. Lester's leadership as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

As a representative of the Bloomfield Neighborhood Association, I can say without qualification that those hundreds of us who attended a public meeting to caution against further development on the fragile Arcata Bottom: We stand in support of Mr. Lester.

Carol McFarland
for the Bloomfield Neighborhood Assn.

From: Ellen E Taylor <ellenetaylor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:01 PM
To: mmclureccc@co.del-norte.ca.us
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Coastal Development

Dear Commissioner McClure, Dear Commissioner McClure,

I live on the California Coast, in the coastal zone, at the mouth of the Mattel River.

The coast contains numerous delicate ecosystems as well as playing a vital role in the life cycle of fish species as well as anadromids who are threatened in our little watershed.

Please retain Executive Director Lester and support his defense of our coastal ecologies. Our country needs to maintain awareness of marine environments and their importance and influence over our human destinies. The Coastal Commission has saved our Lost Coast from the scourge of real estate development and Executive Director has maintained a clear vision of our country's long term interests.

Very Truly Yours,

Ellen Taylor P.O.Box 60 Petrolia California 95558

From: francesca ciancutti <cesca@mcn.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 7:58 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: support for the wild

As a native of Californian I ask that you please continue to protect this amazingly beautiful coastline through supporting Executive Director Lester. We say

big money negatively influenced the south coast. As a resident swimmer of Mendocino I find that our economy is 100% dependent on long term wildland protections and free access.

It has always been the goal of the California Coastal Commission to help by regulating and enforcing these important values. The wild needs us to support Executive Director Lester.

Thank you for your time.

Francesca Ciancutti

9351 N. hwy 1

Mendocino, Ca. 95460

From: Gerald Meral <jerrymeral@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:46 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Steve Kinsey, chair
California Coastal Commission

Dear Steve

Firing the Coastal Commission Executive Director for no apparent reason will weaken voter faith in government, and will also weaken coastal protection in general. We urge you not to vote for removal of the Executive Director.

Best personal regards

Jerry and Barbara Meral

From: Eugene Perricelli <ceperr@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:28 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Copy of letter to Martha McClure from a constituent

I am very concerned about some possibly political and development friendly changes taking place on the commission. Please do not make a staff change with the intention of providing less protection to our public trust coastal access and protection.

Claire Perricelli
Eureka
CA

From: Susie Foot <bongoboycd@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:15 PM
To: mmccloreccc@co.del-norte.ca.us
Cc: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support Charles Lester

Dear Commissioner McClure,

Do not allow big money interests to take over the California Coast.

Support Executive Director Charles Lester by voting to retain him as the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

Sincerely,

Jimmy and Susie Foot
Concerned Homeowners and
Business Owners, Bongo Boy Studio
Mckinleyville

From: T Scruggs <tenas7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 5:04 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Very concerned about attempts to remove Dr. Lester

California Coastal Commission:

I am concerned about attempts underway to terminate Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester. What warrants such drastic action?

There are reports that pro-development interests are behind this attack which is very disturbing. Our Calif. Coastal Commission is too important to allow developers to threaten its members.

I am unable to attend your upcoming meeting on this but wanted to share my concerns.

Sincerely,

Tena Scruggs
Escondido, California

From: Angelika Engels <ottilie10@web.de>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 2:25 PM
To: StatusOfExecutiveDirector@Coastal
Subject: Support California Coastal Program Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Coastal Commission

I am writing to you on this 40th anniversary of the California Coastal Act – to voice pride in California’s long history of global leadership in coastal protection and strong support for California Coastal Commission Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. I am deeply concerned over the unjustified and misguided attempt currently underway to terminate Dr. Lester.

Under Dr. Lester’s leadership, the Coastal Commission has successfully applied its new administrative penalty authority to remedy violations of public access, completed a state-of-the-art guidance document to help local governments better plan for and adapt to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change, and made tremendous strides in updating Local Coastal Plans for 24 cities/counties across California. The Commission has increased public transparency by creating a modern database that provides the public easier access to information on projects, improved interagency collaboration, and significantly reduced processing times for permits and appeals.

Threats to our coast and ocean have never been more pressing. A changing climate is bringing rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and greater vulnerability to all of our coastal resources. Firing the Coastal Commission’s Executive Director would undermine our state’s effectiveness on coastal protection at a time when the need for such protection is at an all-time high.

I urge you to support Executive Director Charles Lester and his entire team in their continued efforts to achieve these goals.

Very respectfully,

Angelika Engels
Marbachweg 85
Frankfurt, ot 60435

Dear Members of the Coastal Commission,

Angel Law writes to express its strong support for Dr. Charles Lester as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. We have appeared on countless occasions before the Coastal Commission since the early 90's, advocating for environmentally sensitive coastal habitat and wetlands preservation, ocean water quality and public shoreline access on behalf of our public interest clients, large (e.g., Sierra Club) and smaller (e.g., Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains). While we do not always agree (or fully agree) with staff recommendations, that's not the point. Here's the point:

We much appreciate staff's time-honored tradition of keeping politics out of sound coastal planning and good science. Staff *must* remain independent from the special interests and, for that matter, the various stakeholders appearing before the Commission. That is what has distinguished the Coastal Commission from staff of most local governments, the coastal planning and development decisions of which are driven by parochial interests often in conflict with fundamental purposes of the Coastal Act.

If political machinations now result in terminating Dr. Lester's position and stewardship, public shoreline access for underserved inland or minority communities, and for citizens of low- or moderate income, will suffer tremendously. So will coastal wildlife habitat protection. The message to the entire Commission staff -- already stretched far too thin due to short-sighted fiscal decisions in Sacramento -- will be one of intimidation. This is not a recipe for good governance, California style. The Flint, Michigan water quality crisis is just the latest example of what happens when politics and money collide with environmental protection and most basic public welfare needs.

If anything, Dr. Lester deserves a resounding vote of confidence. The public's trust in the Commission need not suffer more than it has already.

Respectfully,

Frank P. Angel
Angel Law
2601 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 205
Santa Monica, CA 90405-5269
Tel: (310) 314-6433
Fax: (310) 314-6434
angellaw.com

I heartily support the termination of Dr Lester as his policies are skewed in favor of environmentalists and is not balanced in terms of property protection of homeowners living near coastal bluffs.

Sincerely,

Paul Denver D.D.S