August 15, 2018

California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird,

We would like to commend the State of California for their leadership in adopting the Hope for the Coast Vision ("Vision") and making concrete commitments to ensure California conserves and enhances the statewide extent of our precious coastal habitats. The purpose of this letter is to express our own commitment to helping California achieve this bold Vision.

The Central Coast Climate Collaborative is a membership organization fostering a network of local and regional community leaders throughout six Central Coast counties (Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura) to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Collaborative involves representatives from local and regional government, business and agriculture, academia, and diverse community groups to share information and best practices, leverage efforts and resources and identify critical issues and needs. Potential impacts to our communities, natural resources and infrastructure from sea level rise and coastal storms is a major concern and top priority across our region.

The results of the recent study, *Conserving California Coastal Habitats: A Legacy and a Future with Sea Level Rise* ("Coastal Assessment") conducted by the California State Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, provides us with stark news – over 55% of state's coastal habitats are highly vulnerable to sea level rise, with nearly a quarter of all outer coast habitat vulnerability in California in Central Coast counties. The Coastal Assessment also asserts, however, that California can maintain as much or more coastal habitat with five feet of sea level rise as it has today if we all work collectively and invest in the adaptation and resilience of our coastal habitats.

As such, the Central Coast Climate Collaborative hereby resolves to adopt the Hope for the Coast Vision for the protection of coastal habitats: *In science-guided, collective action, we will maintain and enhance California's coastal habitats in the face of sea level rise, other climate change-induced challenges, and development, ensuring a protected coast for future generations to enjoy, replete with as much or more habitat and wildlife, as well as social, economic, and recreational benefits, as we have today.*

To further this Vision, we further resolve to:

1. Use the Coastal Assessment and Vision to help prioritize opportunities to advance coastal resource protection and adaptation within the region.
2. Work with our local and regional partners to ensure coastal habitat resilience is considered in adaptation of our communities, resources and infrastructure.
3. Provide learning and education opportunities in our local communities about the important benefits of coastal habitats, their vulnerability to sea level rise and other stressors, and the strategies for conservation.
4. Provide regional leadership and a forum coordinate with cities and partners to advance adaptation planning throughout the region and encourage partners to also adopt the coastal vision and identify ways to achieve it.

Thank you for your important leadership and we look forward to working with the State of California to achieve this vision.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tiffany Wise-West
City of Santa Cruz
4C Steering Committee

Rachel Couch
California Coastal Conservancy
4C Steering Committee

Dr. Juliano Calil
Middlebury Institute of International Studies
4C Steering Committee

Sigrid Wright
Community Environmental Council
4C Steering Committee

Lexie Bell
Morro Bay National Estuary Program
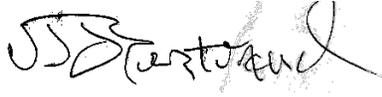*4C Steering Committee*

Chris Read
City of San Luis Obispo
4C Steering Committee

Anna Olson
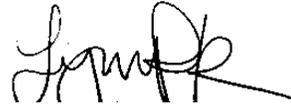**Cachuma Resource Conservation District**
4C Steering Committee

Ross Clark
Central Coast Wetlands Group
4C Steering Committee

Jacques Bertrand
City of Capitola
4C Steering Committee

Lacey Raak
California State University Monterey Bay
4C Steering Committee