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April 10, 2007

James L. Connaughton, Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place NW Washington,
D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Connaughton:

On September 18, 2006, the states of California, Oregon, and Washington launched a regional collaboration to address critical ocean and coastal protection and management issues along the West Coast. The *West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health* (copy enclosed) establishes priority areas for this historic partnership, including:

- Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches.
- Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats.
- Promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management of our ocean and coastal resources.
- Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development.
- Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among our citizens.
- Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring.
- Fostering sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities.

We are pleased that the U.S. Ocean Action Plan provides a clear directive for the federal government to support "regional collaborations on oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes policy in partnership with leadership of states, localities, and tribes." A variety of different models for interacting with the federal government exist, such as the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) for management issues, and the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology for science issues. As you may know, members of our staff had successful preliminary meetings with your staff and several federal agencies on January 30 and again on March 19. We appreciate Gerhard Kuska's active participation in these discussions, and we're pleased that he has engaged SIMOR to assist us with our regional planning effort.

We are committed to pursuing the most effective and efficient processes to address our priority areas, which, as you can imagine, will not be a simple task. We have directed our staffs to work with representatives of business, environmental, governmental, educational, and

academic communities to develop a specific set of recommendations and initiatives by the fall of 2007. One method we will use to obtain this information involves hosting public workshops in the three states. The first workshop will take place in California on April 17 at the California Ocean Protection Council meeting. At a minimum, two other workshops will follow in Oregon and Washington, one of which will take place in Portland at the Coastal Zone '07 conference on July 25. Our challenge is to determine how to effectively and efficiently engage the many agencies within federal government to work in partnership with us on this regional ocean effort. Mr. Chairman, we appreciate that you share that goal.

Key points for future discussions include:

- **Exploring Ways to Increase Coordination, Integration, and Support of Federal Programs.** We want to continue to work with CEQ and the three points of contact you have provided for us. We believe this interaction will help the federal government achieve the goals of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. It also will enable our respective states to move forward on our regional ocean governance initiative and the specific actions that we are developing for the fall of 2007.
- **West Coast Ocean Meetings.** Scheduling regular conversations between key officials within your administration and representatives of the West Coast Governors' Agreement is an important step in developing a successful regional effort. The first meeting occurred in March 2007 during the Joint Ocean Commission's regional governance conference and the second will take place during California's public workshop in April. We hope to focus future meetings on developing the state/federal partnerships necessary to address the seven priority issues in our agreement. Key to that process will be the establishment of an effective and efficient process for federal coordination on these efforts.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing commitment to our nation's ocean and coastal management needs. We look forward to working closely with you and your staff on our West Coast regional effort.

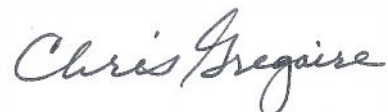
Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California



Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon



Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington

Enclosure