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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CCKA APPLAUDES THE ADOPTION OF THE OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

Adoption will enable California to act on key climate change adaptation strategies

February 26, 2020 (Sacramento, CA) – The California Coastkeeper Alliance has endorsed the Ocean Protection Council’s Strategic Plan, which was adopted today and creates a clear runway for action on climate change mitigation strategies. “Actions laid out in the Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan are among California Coastkeeper’s top priorities over the next five years to support our mission of keeping California’s waters swimmable, drinkable, and fishable for all,” said California Coastkeeper Alliance Executive Director Sean Bothwell. “We look forward to working with OPC and sister agencies to help implement these critical activities.”

As laid out in California Coastkeeper Alliance’s [2019 Ocean Climate Resiliency Action Plan](#), sea levels on the state’s coast are projected to rise by more than a foot over the next 40 years, while ocean acidification and hypoxia have enormous impacts on the health and productivity of marine ecosystems. CCKA worked in partnership to develop many of the OPC’s goals and objectives within its new Strategic Plan, including:

- The development of a water quality standard to prevent ocean acidification hot spots.
- A statewide goal to recycle ocean wastewater to prevent harmful algae blooms and ocean acidification hot spots.
- The creation of a Vessel Speed Reduction Program to reduce whale strikes and improve air quality along our coast and in our ports.
- The calculation of a coastal wetlands baseline to know how much wetlands we have now in order to increase wetlands for the future.
- Setting a goal to achieve zero trash present in our waterways to meet the [statewide Trash Policy](#).
- Creation of water quality protections for Marine Protected Areas to make them ‘hope spots’ in the face of climate change.
- The creation of a permanent Beneficial Reuse Program to provide clean sediment for wetland restoration and beach re-nourishment.
- Funding to remove purple urchins from kelp forests to prevent predation.

“The Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan is a valuable roadmap to ensure California takes action in the face of climate change to protect our ocean and coast” said California Coastkeeper Alliance Executive Director Sean Bothwell. “We are grateful for the leadership of the Ocean Protection Council to take on meaningful, on-the-ground actions to make California more resilient to climate change.

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The [Ocean Protection Council](#) is a cabinet-level state policy body that works to ensure healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems by advancing innovative, science-based policy and management, making strategic investments, and catalyzing action through partnerships and collaboration.

ABOUT CALIFORNIA COASTKEEPER ALLIANCE

[California Coastkeeper Alliance](#) is a statewide voice for our waters. With the federal administration working against our environmental laws, CCKA defends and expands California's protective legislation and strengthens the function of our state water board. We represent local Waterkeepers, empower communities towards a #TrashFree2030, and advocate with companies through the Blue Business Council. Together, we fight for swimmable, fishable, and drinkable waters for Californians today – and for future generations. California Coastkeeper Alliance is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.