



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

January 26, 2015

Agenda Item W.8

Chair Steve Kinsey and
Members of the California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Support for California Coastal Program and Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester

Dear Chair Kinsey and Commissioners,

On behalf of Committee for Green Foothills (CGF), a regional conservation organization in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, I write in strong support of the California Coastal Program, and the leadership of the Commission's Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester.

Over the past 40 years, the people of California have overwhelmingly supported protecting our irreplaceable coastline and ensuring access for all. Under Dr. Lester's leadership, the Coastal Commission has made great strides in addressing a backlog of violations, completing a long-awaited guidance document for local governments to plan for sea level rise, and partnering with local governments to update many Local Coastal Plans, thanks to new administrative penalty authority and increased budget.

An essential component of the Coastal Act's success has been the independence and professionalism of the Commission's staff. The integrity of the Commission and its ability to carry out its mission depend upon this independence.

CGF has therefore been deeply concerned by reports that some Commissioners are attempting to fire Dr. Lester. Moreover, this action would have been carried out entirely in secret had not Dr. Lester requested a public hearing.

There is no justification whatsoever to terminate Dr. Lester. Please listen to the public and support Dr. Lester's continued tenure as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission and the independence of this Commission, which was created by the people, for the benefit of the people and our irreplaceable natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your dedication to the coast.

Sincerely,

Lennie Roberts, Legislative Advocate