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Fish and Game Commission Marine Resources Committee
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Via Electronic Mail: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re. FGC Agenda Item 24A: Committee Report: Marine Resources Committee

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) has been working to protect the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of coastal Marin County since 1971. Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on Agenda Item 24A related to the March 14 Marine Resources Committee (MRC) recommendations. We reiterate our appreciation for the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and Fish and Game Commission's time and dedication to working on the aquaculture public interest criteria.

We are committed to finalizing the criteria, and we enjoyed participating in the March 14 MRC meeting on this topic. We submit this brief comment letter to reiterate our support for the finalization of the criteria *before* accepting any new leases. As our top priority, we emphasize the need for clear criteria that can serve as a pre-screening tool to ensure that new projects are appropriately sited, aiding in efficiency and cost savings for both the Department and the applicant, while also preserving coastal resources like eelgrass. We have already submitted redline language and comments to the MRC.

At the March MRC, there was some discussion of a new approach to the criteria including reformatting and the release of another draft. Like the previous draft review processes, **EAC, other NGOs, and stakeholders would like the opportunity well in advance of the July MRC meeting to provide comments and feedback on the revised draft language.**

We look forward to reviewing the staff report, revised draft criteria, and next week's meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. We would welcome the opportunity for additional dialogue on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Eagle-Gibbs".

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.
Legal and Policy Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin