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October 7, 2014

Mr. Michael Sutton, President
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244

RE: Municipal Pier Fishing Regulations

Dear President Sutton:

The California Sportfishing League (CSL) is a nonprofit coalition of salt- and freshwater anglers, and small businesses devoted to protecting sportfishing in California, a recreational activity that contributes \$4.9 billion annually to California's economy and over \$60 million toward the annual budget of the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

CSL and its members actively opposed the City of Manhattan Beach's illegal pier fishing ban and its new illegal fishing regulations. As of today, nearly 1,100 Californians have objected to these illegal regulations by signing our petition to *Protect Pier Fishing*.

Since the Fish and Game Commission's August hearing, the City of Manhattan Beach has enacted onerous and illegal regulations that only apply to those who fish from its pier. The City has limited method of take, banned specific types of equipment, and has even gone as far as to destroy and remove State-owned sinks and equipment from the pier, making it extremely difficult for pier anglers to not only clean their catch but to even wash their hands.

Now, we have learned the neighboring City of Hermosa Beach is looking to enact similar regulations. We can only conclude that their end goal, similar to Manhattan Beach, is to drive anglers from their community, hoping that these onerous regulations will limit access to recreational fishing.

CSL agrees with the Commission that only the Commission has the regulatory authority to adopt fishing regulations and method of take in state waters, including from fishing piers. We respectfully request that the Commission use this authority to override the city's illegal pier fishing regulations. The Commission should also immediately replace sinks and other equipment and compel the City of Manhattan Beach to reimburse the State for any and all of its associated costs, particularly given that the equipment was destroyed at the order of the City. We would further request that the Commission contact the City of Hermosa Beach regarding its plans to enact restrictions similar to those now in place in Manhattan Beach

The Commission also should take appropriate action to prevent other municipalities throughout California from enacting similar rules and ordinances. Preventative action will greatly reduce the amount of time and effort the Commission will have to expend to enforce state laws. It is very important that the Commission exercise its authority before anglers face a hodge-podge of rules that are impossible to understand or enforce, especially for those who speak English as a second or third language.

We ask that the Commission put a quick halt to the adoption of such helter-skelter rules, which have no basis in the science of fisheries management. Instead, these municipal regulations are nothing but attempts of social engineering, with the "haves" in certain California cities trying to keep the "have-nots" out of their communities.

If you have any questions regarding the California Sportfishing League's position, please do not hesitate to contact our legislative and regulatory advocate, George Osborn, at 916.446.7752. Thank you.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Dickerson".

David Dickerson
President