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August 7, 2014

The Honorable Amy Thomas Howorth and City Council
City of Manhattan Beach
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA

**SENT VIA FACSIMILE
301.802.5051**

Dear Mayor Howorth,

On behalf of nearly 1,000 local anglers who signed our online *Protect Pier Fishing* petition, we are very concerned with the City's unprecedented decision to ban pier fishing, and potentially enact illegal and onerous municipal regulations that would effectively place a de facto ban on fishing from the Manhattan Beach pier.

First and foremost, enacting these illegal regulations would open the City to litigation from a number of parties, including the State. As noted in the California Coastal Commission's 7.31.14 letter, and to be noted in an upcoming California Fish and Game Commission letter, the City's current pier fishing ban and newly proposed regulations are illegal. The City of Manhattan Beach, or any other city in California, does not have the legal authority to regulate fishing gear or the method of take. The power to regulate fishing and decide upon acceptable fishing gear lies solely with the California Fish and Game Commission.

Regardless of the fact that the City's actions stem from a rare and isolated incident, we understand the City's desire to protect its citizenry. However, these illegal, overly costly and onerous regulations will disproportionately impact minority and low-income Californians who rely on pier fishing for a source of affordable outdoor recreation and nutritious food.

Furthermore, there are extreme inconsistencies and contradictions with the City's unmeasured response that demonstrate to anglers and other third parties that the City acted from emotion and politics rather than sound public policy. Instead of regulating activity far more dangerous than pier fishing, the City has targeted a common form of safe recreation utilized by a number of Californians, including your constituents.

For example, the City faces a far greater threat of accidental drownings than an isolated shark attack, yet the City has never proposed banning swimming or enacting regulations that would require all swimmers to pass a swimming proficiency test before entering the ocean. Other ocean-based recreational activities, such as surfing, may be dangerous. However, the City has yet to propose regulations forcing surfers to use soft

foam boards rather than those constructed with fiberglass.

We support sustainable, responsible fishing practices, especially those that ensure public safety, and hope the City of Manhattan Beach reaches the conclusion that a ban, or any illegal regulation of pier fishing, is unwarranted. If not, we can take comfort knowing that the California Fish and Game Commission has unanimously reaffirmed that municipalities such as Manhattan Beach do not have the authority to ban fishing from public piers, a safe recreational activity enjoyed by anglers as diverse as our state.

Again, we urge the City of Manhattan Beach to reopen their pier to recreational fishing immediately, and to oppose all illegal pier fishing regulations.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marko Mlikotin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marko Mlikotin
Executive Director

CC: State Senator Ted Lieu
Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi
NAACP-Los Angeles
California American Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
California Legislative Black Caucus
California Latino Legislative Caucus
California Fish and Game Commission