

Resolution in Support of the Retention of Dr. Charles Lester

WHEREAS, the 1976 California Coastal Preservation Act states that “The California coastal zone is a distinct and valuable natural resource of vital and enduring interest to all the people and exist as a delicately balanced ecosystem,” that “the permanent protection of the state’s natural and scenic resources is a paramount concern to present and future residents of the state and nation,” and sets as a goal to “Protect, maintain, and where feasible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the coastal zone environment and its natural and artificial resources” ; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 40-year history of the Coastal Act, every public opinion poll conducted has shown overwhelming support for the Coastal Commission’s role in upholding the Coastal Act, and during Dr. Charles Lester’s tenure as Executive Director of the Commission since September 2011 his leadership has led to great accomplishments, including a Sea Level Rise planning document, the largest budget augmentation in 15 years, greater public transparency and accessibility, and new commitment to preserve and enhance public access for all coastal visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Commission has initiated the process of terminating Dr. Lester, but there is a widespread concern that this effort is politically driven and would result in significant impairment and harm to the mission of protecting California’s majestic coastline and guaranteeing coastal public access for all;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party adamantly opposes all attempts to terminate Dr. Lester from his post as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, and strongly supports his continuing tenure as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be sent to Governor Jerry Brown; Senate President Pro-Tempore Kevin de Leon; Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins; Assembly Speaker-Elect Anthony Rendon; Steve Kinsey, Chair, California Coastal Commission, and strongly supports his continuing tenure as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission; and

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Submitted by: Beach Cities Democrats, Westchester-Playa Democratic Club ,West LA Democratic Club

Adopted by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, February 9, 2015