



Board of Directors

November 26, 2019

Bridger Mitchell, Ph.D.
President

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Ken Drexler, Esq.
Vice-President

Via electronic delivery to: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Terence Carroll
Treasurer

Re: Comments on FGC Agenda Item 33
Hog Island Oyster Company

Cynthia Lloyd, PhD
Secretary

Dear Commissioners,

Sarah Killingsworth, Esq.

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) is based in Point Reyes Station and has been working to protect the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin since 1971. Since our inception, we have been committed to the health of West Marin's estuaries, bays, and watersheds including our strong focus on Tomales Bay.

Jerry Meral, Ph.D.

Claire Seda

David Weinsoff, Esq.

David Wimpfheimer

We submit these brief comments for inclusion in the binder, as the binder materials will not be made available until after the comment deadline. We continue to point out that it is procedurally problematic that the comment deadline (for inclusion in the binder) is in advance of the public's opportunity to review the substantive binder materials.

Staff

Morgan Patton
Executive Director

That being said, we submit brief generally supportive comments, which we may supplement, regarding Agenda Item 33, Hog Island Oyster Company.

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.
Conservation Director

Jessica Reynolds Taylor
Development Director

Regarding Agenda Item 33, your consideration of approving lease amendments applied for by Hog Island Oyster Company for State

Patricia Wimpfheimer
Bookkeeper

November 26, 2019
EAC Comments re. Agenda Item 33

Water Bottom Lease Nos. M-430-10, M-430-11, M-430-12, and M-430-15 for purposes of aquaculture in Tomales Bay, we remind the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) that we have been advocating to the Commission for aquaculture best management practices since 2015.

Many of the goals supported by a best management practices rulemaking have been accomplished through the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) coastal development permit (CDP) amendments, in which the CCC is including enforceable permit conditions around marine debris and other environmental considerations. We continue to support the CCC's efforts and your Commission's consistency with these efforts. While many improvements have been made on Tomales Bay related to the loss of aquaculture marine debris, the Bay continues to depend on all of the state agencies' close attention to any and all industrial practices on the Bay. While we are supportive of lease amendments which make the leases consistent with the actual practices and the applicable CDPs, we also point out that it would be better if this was not an after the fact process, which may inherently discourage compliance.

We thank Hog Island Oyster Company for their willingness to come into compliance and work with local stakeholders, as well as the state agencies. In sum, we appreciate your consideration of our comments; and without a chance to review the binder, we are in general support of Agenda Item 33.

Respectfully,



Morgan Patton
Executive Director



Ashley Eagle-Gibbs
Conservation Director

cc: Susan Ashcraft, California Fish and Game Commission
Elizabeth Pope, California Fish and Game Commission
Terry Sawyer, Hog Island Oyster Company
John Finger, Hog Island Oyster Company