



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**February 11, 2016**

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**Assemblymember O'Donnell Condemns the California  
Coastal Commission's Decision to Terminate Its Executive Director**

**(LONG BEACH)** – Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach) issued the following statement today in response to the California Coastal Commission's 7-5 vote to dismiss its Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester.

"I am deeply disappointed by the Coastal Commission's decision to fire Dr. Charles Lester. His termination represents a tremendous loss for California's majestic coastline. Open access to our state's beautiful beaches and wetlands depends upon proper enforcement of the Coastal Act. As an Assemblymember representing a coastal district, I want to thank all the individuals who engaged and stood with Dr. Lester and our environment."

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*Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell represents the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District which includes Long Beach, Signal Hill, San Pedro and Catalina Island.*