

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force

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To: MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
From: Ken Wiseman, MLPA Initiative Executive Director
Re: Feedback from the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
Date: November 28, 2007

Thank you to those able to attend last week's MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) meeting. The stakeholder panel discussion with the BRTF on the various drafts was well received and continues to show the progress made with hard work, mutual respect, a collaborative spirit and keeping ones sense of humor. Each member of the BRTF has remarked at how impressed they are with the work of your stakeholder group.

To summarize the thoughts of the BRTF members in one sentence I offer the following. "The BRTF would like to see no more than five proposals that meet both the science guidelines in the master plan and the California Department of Fish and Game feasibility guidelines, accounting for socioeconomic information when available and remembering that we are focused on marine ecosystems and not on property ownership."

Convergence of your drafts into no more than five proposals ("three would be nice") is a paramount goal. The amount of overlap on the drafts seemed a natural starting point to converge.

The BRTF is committed to a high level of protection and adhering to the law. Marine reserves are the backbone of the MLPA, which means high and very high protection levels. The BRTF members recognize use of the moderate-high rating is of interest and may be helpful in making policy choices.

Enforcement continues to be important to the BRTF both now and for the future. Meeting California Department of Fish and Game feasibility guidelines and the limited use of closures will help enforcement.

Happy Convergence!!