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**HUMBOLDT BAY  
HARBOR, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

(707) 443-0801  
P.O. Box 1030  
Eureka, California 95502-1030



November 25, 2009

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
C/O California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attn: NCRSG Nominations

Re: North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Nomination for Adam Wagschal.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (Harbor District) to nominate Adam Wagschal (Harbor District Conservation Director) to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG). I believe that Adam's knowledge, expertise, and connections with the local community would be greatly beneficial to the RSG.

**Contact Information for Nominee**

Adam Wagschal M.S.  
Director of Conservation  
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District  
PO Box 1030  
Eureka, CA 95502  
adam@portofhumboldtby.org  
Phone: 707-496-2088  
Fax: 707-443-0800

**Criteria 1: First Hand Knowledge and Perspective Regarding Marine Resources**

Adam studied marine science at Humboldt State University where he earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Marine Fisheries. Furthermore, Adam currently staff's the Humboldt Bay Management Plan Advisory Committee, which provides guidance to the Harbor District regarding implementation of conservation, recreation and harbor policies in Humboldt Bay. Additionally, Adam serves on the core team of the Humboldt Bay Ecosystem Program (Humboldt Bay Initiative) and Humboldt Bay Habitat Goals Project.

Adam has been involved in diverse research projects within the North Coast Study Region including:

- Juvenile salmonid studies in the Smith River Estuary.

- Eelgrass monitoring in Humboldt Bay.
- Sub-tidal biological sampling at the Mendocino Headlands.
- Off-shore woody debris distribution studies.
- Off-shore bottom trawl sampling.

Additionally, Adam is a principle investigator on a study which will begin this spring that evaluates the relationship between fishing effort and fish populations associated with rocky habitats throughout the North Coast.

### **Criteria 2: Ability to Balance a North Coast Regional Perspective with Localized Knowledge**

The Harbor District has formally recognized the need for regional coordination with regards to the MLPA. Specifically, the Harbor District has requested that coastal government agencies and tribes throughout the region sign a memorandum of agreement which would improve coordination regarding coastal issues including the MLPA, wave energy and sediment management. I know Adam to be knowledgeable and appreciative of the ocean throughout the North Coast and that he approaches the MLPA Initiative process with a regional perspective.

### **Criteria 3 and 4: Willingness to Express Fundamental Interests and to Clearly Convey the Interests of Multiple Stakeholder Groups and Capability to Work Collaboratively**

Working for the County of San Diego between 2005 and 2008, Adam worked on a project with many similarities to the MLPA Initiative. Specifically, he worked on development of the North and East County Multiple Species Conservation Plans. These were stakeholder informed planning processes with the objective of identifying appropriate areas for ecological preserves and land development. Additionally, Adam's Master of Science thesis work focused directly on collaborative decision making with regards to conservation and land use priorities.

Currently, Adam works with diverse stakeholders regarding complex policy issues related to conservation, recreation, harbor development, and now the MLPA. As a RSG member, Adam would work to ensure that the interests of broad stakeholders are considered. Adam is already coordinating with stakeholders from throughout the region including: aquaculture businesses, tribes, commercial and recreational fishers, and conservationists. Adam has the professional experience, and personal beliefs, which will allow him to consider the interests of multiple stakeholder groups.

### **Criteria 5: Able to Access and Use an Effective Communication Network to Reach Stakeholders Not Attending the Public Meetings**

Adam maintains direct communication with a diverse and large number of interested people throughout the region. He also has effective lines of communication established through his involvement with the Humboldt Bay Management Plan Advisory Committee, North Coast Local Interest Marine Protected Area Workgroup, Humboldt Bay Ecosystem Program, and the PG&E WaveConnect Humboldt Working Group. As appropriate, Adam can use the Harbor District's website to further facilitate communication. Adam is a good communicator verbally and through his writing.

### **Criteria 6: Commitment to completing all Aspects of the Charge of the RSG**

The Harbor District considers Adam's participation with the MLPA Initiative process a high priority. I am certain that he will be fully committed to completing all aspects of the charge.

In addition to the information described above, Adam is experienced with web-based software, particularly software designed to facilitate decision making. He obtained a Masters of Science degree from San Diego State University in Geography with a focus on geographic information science and has completed coursework related to web-based mapping software.

Please see the following list of people who have voiced support for Adam's participation on the RSG and can speak to his background and commitment to the process:

- Tim Klassen, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers Vice President, (707) 442-5678
- Aaron Newman, Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association President, (707) 496-5158
- Jacque Hostler, Trinidad Rancheria Director of Transportation and Land Use, (707) 677-0211
- Shaunna McCovey, Yurok Tribe Deputy Executive Director, (707) 482-1350 ext. 310
- Stephen Kullman, Wiyot Tribe Environmental Director, (707) 733-5055
- Greg Dale, Coast Seafoods Southwest Operations Manager, (707) 442-2947
- Todd Van Herpe, Humboldt Bay Oyster Company Owner, (707) 499-2388
- Jennifer Savage, Ocean Conservancy North Coast Program Coordinator, (707) 477-8283
- Pete Nichols, Humboldt Baykeeper Executive Director, (707) 268-0664
- John Woolley, Field Representative for Assemblyman Wes Chesbro, (707) 445-7014

I am confident that Adam's knowledge, expertise and connections with the local community would be a valuable resource to the RSG. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



David Hull  
Chief Executive Officer