



Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

June 29, 2010

Re: Notice of preparation of draft environmental impact report (DEIR) regarding marine protected areas in the California south coast study region (SCSR) pursuant to the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)

To: Interested Parties

The California Fish and Game (Commission) will be the lead agency reviewing and potentially adopting proposed regulations for marine protected areas (MPAs) in State waters within the southern California coast region. Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Department of Fish and Game (Department) will prepare a CEQA draft environmental impact report regarding the proposed project.

The proposed project being reviewed in this document is the southern California coast component of a statewide network of MPAs as required by the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA, Stats. 1999 Ch. 1015). For the purpose of this project, the southern California coast region is defined as State waters between Point Conception (Santa Barbara County) and the California border with Mexico (San Diego County). Information on the extensive planning activities undertaken by the Department and the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative can be found on the Department's web site (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>).

At this time the Commission is reviewing a preferred redesign of the existing MPA system (the Integrated Preferred Alternative design or the IPA) for the southern California coast region as well as three alternative designs and a no project alternative. The project objectives are to help protect, maintain, restore, enhances, and manage living marine resources by developing this portion of the MLPA required network of MPAs. Information on the proposals being reviewed by the Commission can be found on the Department's web site (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/southcoastipa.asp>). As part of the Commission's required review, the Commission requested that the Department prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to identify and evaluate potential adverse environmental impacts of the IPA or alternatives under consideration. The DEIR will review possible impacts to: Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology, Oceanography, Water Quality, Marine Use and Marine Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Research and Education, Transportation and Traffic, Utilities/Service Systems, Mandatory Findings of Significance.

NOP re MLPA South Coast Study letter
Page 2 of 2
June 29, 2010

Attachment A describes the proposed project and alternatives being considered, presents probable environmental effects that will be studied and presents maps of the proposed project and alternatives.

This DEIR is being prepared pursuant the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and as such the Department is requesting Responsible Agency's, Trustee Agency's and the public's views as to the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be conducted on this project.

Your response relative to the scope of the environmental document must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days from the date of this notice in order for your comments to be considered. Public comments provided on the proposed project to date through the MLPA process will be addressed in the DEIR.

For further information please contact Mr. Thomas Napoli, Staff Environmental Scientist, Marine Region, 4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C, Los Alamitos, CA, 90720, telephone 562-342-7164, email tnapoli@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marija Vojkovich".

Marija Vojkovich
Regional Manager
Marine Region