

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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To: MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group
From: MLPA Initiative Staff
Subject: Participation in the October 20-22, 2009 meeting of the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
Date: October 16, 2009

Purpose of Memo

This memo provides additional information for MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) members regarding your participation in the next MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) meeting in Long Beach on October 20, 21 and 22.

Purpose of SCRSG Attendance

The next BRTF meeting will be a two and one half day meeting to review the three Round 3 SCRSG MPA proposals, receive evaluations of those proposals, and develop recommendations to forward to the California Fish and Game Commission; input from SCRSG members will be a key component of the BRTF deliberations in developing those recommendations.

SCRSG members have worked diligently over the last year to develop marine protected area (MPA) proposals for the south coast that take into consideration many different interests, concerns, values and forms of guidance. The BRTF members recognize these efforts and are eager to learn more about the choices made in developing the three SCRSG MPA proposals; your active participation next week will allow the BRTF members to better understand the proposals before them.

What to Expect

At the request of BRTF members, the meeting has been structured to maximize discussion about the choices made in each proposal. BRTF members unanimously requested a geography-based, discussion-style opportunity to interact with each of you and indicated that this approach, combined with a focused survey, is more informative than receiving the results of a vote or ranked list of preferences. While we will continue to look to the group co-leads as primary spokespeople in the overarching presentation of the three proposals, each stakeholder in attendance will also have the opportunity to actively participate in the discussion through geography-based discussions, similar to the format at the July 2009 BRTF meeting. Each day will differ in overall format and purpose:

Tuesday, October 20

The primary purpose of the first day is for the BRTF to receive an overview and evaluations of the Round 3 SCRSG MPA proposals. Various evaluations of the proposals will be presented by

representatives from the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation and other MLPA Initiative staff.

At the end of the day, the BRTF will offer work group co-leads an opportunity to provide a brief overview of each MPA proposal. The purpose of these brief presentations is to provide the BRTF with insight as to how work groups arrived at their proposal and generally how they responded to previous BRTF guidance.

On Tuesday evening, the BRTF and SCRSG members will have dinner together at the hotel.

Wednesday, October 21

The morning of the second day is dedicated to a more detailed, geographically-focused discussion of the three SCRSG MPA proposals. For each of six geographies in the study region, staff will provide basic context and considerations for MPA design using three screens (one for each MPA proposal), followed by a panel discussion with SCRSG members on that geography. The geographically-specific discussions will focus on the issues and choices encountered in each area and where proposals do not meet specific guidelines (and the rationale for those choices). The six geographies are:

1. Santa Barbara area
2. Point Dume area
3. Palos Verdes area
4. Laguna coast area
5. San Diego area
6. Offshore islands

To facilitate the panel discussions with the BRTF, staff is asking each SCRSG member to sign up for a specific geography where you have the most knowledge or that is most important to you and those you represent. Staff understands that some geographies are difficult to discuss in isolation and that choices made in other geographies will naturally be part of these discussions. However, to ensure that all SCRSG members have the opportunity to interact with the BRTF and express their views, we ask that you select one, primary geography.

Please call or send an email message by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 19 to Kathie Magnuson (Kathie.Magnuson@resources.ca.gov or 916.653.9486) indicating your geography preference for the panel discussions.

During the panel discussions you will be asked to describe in no more than a couple of minutes which design best meets your interests and why. Putting your thoughts in writing would be helpful so that task force members have your ideas in front of them throughout the discussions over the three days. Please use the attached Word document for preparing your answer to the question; staff will make copies of written comments that are submitted by 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20 for distribution to the task force members. If you are not able to attend the

meeting and would like to submit your comments, please submit them to Kathie Magnuson before 1 p.m. on Tuesday so that they can be included with the compilation provided to the task force.

For lunch, SCRSG members will dine again with BRTF members. Several hours of the afternoon are dedicated to public comment, followed by recognition of SCRSG members before recessing to dinner. After dinner there is another opportunity for public comment.

Thursday, October 23

The primary purpose of the third day is for the BRTF to deliberate upon the information received from the first two days and to develop its recommendations to forward to the California Fish and Game Commission, including a preferred alternative; part of the deliberations may consist of an additional opportunity for SCRSG interactions and input as the BRTF develops its recommendations for the south coast. BRTF members have indicated that stakeholder input during these deliberations is important to them.

Summary

In short, SCRSG participation is requested for the co-lead presentations late on the afternoon of the first day, the geographically-specific panel discussions on the second day, and the BRTF deliberations on the third day. Additional opportunities for interacting with the BRTF include dinner on the first day and lunch on both the second and third days.

Meeting Logistics and RSVP

Please join the BRTF in Long Beach, October 20-22 at:

Hilton Long Beach & Executive Meeting Center
701 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90831

If you have not yet RSVP'd to Delbra, please do so immediately so that appropriate arrangements can be made for meals, seating, etc. (dga_mlpa@sbcglobal.net or 916.424.8897).

Regular reimbursement will be provided for those who make a request. The draft meeting agenda is available on the MLPA website at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_sc.asp and, per a message from Amy Lovic in the MLPA office, briefing binders will either be delivered to you via FedEx on Friday or will be waiting for you at the hotel on Tuesday.