

Elk Valley Rancheria, California



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November 30, 2009

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

Re: Nomination of Reweti Wiki to Northcoast Regional Stakeholder Group

Dear Nominations Committee:

Elk Valley Rancheria, California ("Tribe") is a federally recognized Tribe in Del Norte County. The Tribe wishes to nominate Mr. Reweti Wiki, Tribal Administrator, to the Northcoast Regional Stakeholder Group. The Tribe believes that Mr. Wiki will bring a balanced and broad perspective to the group and will be a valuable addition to the overall process.

Knowledge of Marine Protection Frameworks

Mr. Wiki has considerable knowledge of marine protection mechanisms, and specifically those concerning protection of customary use rights. As a judge's clerk in New Zealand, Mr. Wiki provided policy advice on New Zealand's framework for customary and commercial fishing by Tribes including extensive analysis of (since enacted) legislation regulating Tribal ownership and use rights of New Zealand's foreshore and seabed. Mr. Wiki also has practical working experience with two specific types of Marine Reserves in New Zealand that are established and regulated by Tribal authorities.

We believe that Mr. Wiki will add considerable insight into how the Initiative should interact with and approach Tribal challenges. We also believe Mr. Wiki will bring valuable first-hand knowledge of policy frameworks developed specifically to deal with the challenge of reconciling protection of marine environments with protection of customary rights.

Knowledge of Natural Resources Planning

As Tribal Administrator for Elk Valley Rancheria, and former Deputy Executive Director of the Yurok Tribe, Mr. Wiki has considerable Natural Resources planning insight. In his current role as Tribal Administrator, Mr. Wiki maintains a working relationship with Departments of the California Natural Resources Agency and the Agencies of the Department of the Interior. Mr. Wiki has led collaboration efforts on Klamath watershed and fisheries restoration efforts and is familiar with policy issues surrounding the mouth of the Klamath and Smith Rivers. Mr. Wiki is also working with Redwood National and State Park on a Mill Creek restoration program through the Tribe.

Industry Knowledge and Local Involvement

As a Director of the Northcoast Small Business Development Center, Border Coast Regional Airport Authority Commissioner and former Executive Director of the Crescent City & Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce Mr. Wiki is aware of the challenges facing local Industry in Del Norte County and the wider Northcoast region and has worked with various commissions and agencies to proactively address them. In particular, he has worked with Tribal commercial fishermen on gaining better access to commercial markets and worked with Pacific Northwest Tribal consortiums on developing a regional brand for tribal fishermen.

Community Facilitation

Whether through his work with Tribes or his work as a community facilitator for various projects in Del Norte County, Mr. Wiki has a demonstrated ability to not only bring diverse and often opposing stakeholders together, but to help those stakeholders achieve common understanding on contentious issues. For instance, Mr. Wiki led the Action Del Norte initiative – a community planning process that brought divergent community views together to build a shared understanding and development strategy for Del Norte County. This initiative successfully positioned the community to receive a long term funding commitment from a large Foundation. Mr. Wiki's ability to cross multiple social and cultural boundaries allowed a single community voice to emerge and better positioned the community for future collaboration.

Industry Associations and Communication Partners

- Del Norte MLPA workgroup (Del Norte County commercial fishers / crabbers; Tribes; Recreational Fishers);
- Northcoast Intertribal Coalition (Coalition of Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino County Tribes);
- Northcoast Small Business Development Center (small business owners in Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties);
- Elk Valley Rancheria Tribal Council and members;
- Native American Rights Fund (legal and policy advisors);
- Del Norte County Board of Supervisors;
- City of Crescent City Council;
- Board of Directors, Crescent City Chamber of Commerce;

- Tri-Agency Economic Development Authority; and
- Board Coast Regional Airport Authority.

Communication Strategy

Mr. Wiki has formed a policy committee for internal discussion within the Tribe and to disseminate information to Tribal members and Council. Mr. Wiki will continue to provide input through the Del Norte MLPA workgroup and expects to form a workgroup of Del Norte County stakeholder group members to hold public information and consultation meetings. Mr. Wiki will also continue to work with the Northcoast Intertribal Coalition on developing a tribal position.

Contact Details

Reweti Wiki

C/O Elk Valley Rancheria

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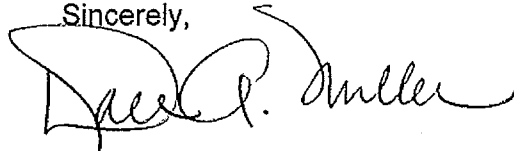
(707) 951-0177 (cell)

(707) 667-5999 (home)

Email: rwiki@elk-valley.com (work) / reweti.wiki@gmail.com (personal)

It should be noted that the Elk Valley Tribal Council has approved Mr. Wiki's participation on the work group and has mandated that he will prioritize this work as important to the Tribe and the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale A. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long tail extending to the right.

Dale A. Miller
Chairman