

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force

MEMORANDUM

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John J. Kirlin, *Executive Director*

To: MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
From: John Kirlin, Executive Director
Subject: Request to undertake two additional tasks to support MLPA implementation
Date: March 13, 2006

Two areas of work related to implementation of the MLPA that are not anticipated in the original MOU or current contracts have emerged as important. The first area is additional support for the Central Coast Project as it moves to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and then to the California Fish and Game Commission and eventual implementation. The second is preparation for the next study region.

Examples of additional support for the MLPA Central Coast Project:

1. Organize a group of marine scientists, experts in implementation of complex policies, and decision makers to support adaptive management, monitoring and evaluation for developing a priority list of baseline observations and a draft plan for data collection and organization. This would address likely concerns at the commission level and will assist funders (state and others) already receiving requests to fund studies.

The marine scientists involved should include some members of the Master Plan Science Advisory Team and others who have not been actively involved in the MLPA Initiative. Non-marine scientists with broad expertise in developing monitoring and evaluation systems should also be involved. The model being discussed has panel members appointed by the director of DFG, and reporting to the department, but supported by MLPA Initiative staff (and possibly other contractors). The goal is to complete a useable priority list by late summer 2006.

2. As a preferred alternative is advanced to the commission, it will be possible to develop more detailed plans for funding and developing institutional and human capacity needed for implementing marine protected areas. The MLPA Initiative staff, and possibly additional contractors, could support this effort. Among specific potential tasks are identifying possible partners,

identifying financing sources, and more detailed planning of launching whatever system of marine protected areas is approved.

Examples of activities to support future study region efforts:

3. Collecting, cleaning, and preparing available data sets for use by stakeholders, SAT members and staff. A tremendous effort was required in the Central Coast Project. The staff involved in developing data files for the central coast estimates it would take two months of work by a planner and GIS person to prepare the data sets for statewide use.
4. If the next study region is selected during 2006, begin to prepare for establishing a stakeholder group. This could include identification of the universe of stakeholders, preliminary discussion of local resources, and general processes to set the stage for selection of stakeholders.
5. Based on the results of the lessons learned effort, design the specific processes to be used in the new study region.

ACTION REQUESTED: Authorize the MLPA Initiative executive director to expend up to \$300,000 to pursue the activities identified in this memo.