

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force

MEMORANDUM

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To: Members, MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
From: John Kirlin, Executive Director
Subject: Work plan for evaluating and delivering to the Department of Fish and Game alternative packages of MPAs - December 2005 through March 2006
Date: November 29, 2005

MLPA Initiative staff recommends that that the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) adopt the following general work plan to clarify the procedure for evaluating and delivering to the California Department of Fish and Game alternative packages of marine protected areas (MPAs) between now and March 2006.

Adoption of this work plan will allow for approximately 100 days for further refinement of alternative central coast MPA proposals, further input from the Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), comments from stakeholders and the general public, and review by task force members. All this will be done prior to the anticipated March 14-15, 2006 date for final task force action.

November - December 2005

- SAT provides evaluation of candidate MPA packages and BRTF provides guidance to the Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (CCRSG) and external proponents of candidate MPA packages.
- CCRSG meets December 6-7, 2005 and provides stakeholder evaluations of different MPA packages, including both internally- and externally-generated packages. By December 15, package proponents will provide any adjustments developed during the meeting and objectives for each MPA in their package. This completes the work of the CCRSG as a formal body.
- Following completion of any modifications that are agreed upon at the CCRSG meeting, packages will be posted to the MLPA Initiative website and public comment invited.
- MLPA Initiative staff begins the analysis of packages against requirements of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and guidance in the MLPA Master Plan Framework.

- Although the CCRSG officially ends its works in December 2005, members and alternates will have access to copies of reports, evaluations, summaries and comments on the various proposals as they proceed to the BRTF, as well as opportunities to participate in that process.

January - February 2006

- SAT meets January 20, 2006 to provide additional scientific review and evaluation of MPA packages
- MLPA Initiative staff completes analyses of packages against requirements of the MLPA and guidance in the Master Plan Framework, incorporating evaluations of the SAT, and provides them in a standard format for BRTF consideration in January, along with a summary of public comments
- BRTF meets January 31-February 1, 2006 to receive reports, hear public comments, and provide a preliminary evaluation of MPA packages. A panel of interested parties is invited to respond to questions from the BRTF.
- BRTF guidance is posted to the MLPA Initiative website and public comment invited.
- As directed by the BRTF, MLPA Initiative staff may further refine the packages for BRTF consideration in March.

March 2006

- SAT meets March 2, 2006 to provide additional scientific review and evaluation of MPA packages.
- MLPA Initiative staff incorporates SAT evaluation and any other changes that are being recommended, along with a summary of public comments, into a presentation to the BRTF.
- BRTF meets March 14-15 to provide a final evaluation of MPA packages and forward its recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game. Public comment is invited at the meeting.
- BRTF decisions are posted to the MLPA Initiative website and public comment invited.

April 2006 and thereafter

- The Department of Fish and Game will receive, consider and then forward a recommended plan for action in the central coast to the Fish and Game Commission.
- The Fish and Game Commission will receive the report and, in compliance with CEQA and state law, plans public hearings prior to any action on the recommendations. Estimated date for final consideration by the commission is late 2006.

