

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Blue Ribbon Task Force (2008-2009) Draft Policy for an
Open and Transparent Process
September 2, 2008 Draft

The California Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF) agree that the MLPA Initiative process will be transparent. More specifically, the parties agree that:

- The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), and MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) will meet in publicly-noticed and open meetings whenever a majority of the members is scheduled to be present; and
- The BRTF, SAT and SCRSG meetings will include opportunities for stakeholder and public input.

Public comment will not be required at work sessions and work team or work group meetings. Additionally, final work products developed by the BRTF, SAT, and SCRSG, and the funding description provided by RLFF, will be made available to the public.

In recognition of this commitment, the BRTF will make all of the following available to the public:

- Agendas for BRTF and SAT meetings, and for stakeholder meetings, workshops and work sessions; it is the intent that these items and related briefing materials will, to the extent possible, be provided in advance of the meetings, to allow public and stakeholder review, evaluation and comment.
- Video and audio recordings of BRTF meetings, or written meeting summaries.
- Materials provided by the executive director and other task force staff to BRTF members related to items on the meeting agendas.
- Final documents or policies adopted by the BRTF.
- Final drafts of any alternative proposals for marine protected areas proposed by the SCRSG or recommended by the BRTF.
- The funding description provided by RLFF to the BRTF.
- Final contracts for all experts and professionals retained by RLFF on behalf of the BRTF.
- Final contracts between RLFF and the department for state personnel supported by the funding for the MLPA Initiative.
- Final reports and documents prepared by experts and professionals under contract for the use of the BRTF.

This list is a summary of the type and range of documents the BRTF intends to make public with as much advance notice as possible to facilitate effective public participation. Beyond the items listed here, the public and private partners will abide by all applicable laws governing the public or private nature of their documents. The BRTF will re-evaluate and amend this policy as necessary to help ensure an open and transparent process.