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# California Indian Water Commission, Inc.

April 6, 2012

2012 APR -6 PM 4:37

MLS

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Dept. Fish & Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, Ca. 94244-2090

Re: Support for Traditional Tribal Uses in Proposed California Marine Protected Areas

Dear Director Mastrup,

The California Indian Water Commission strongly supports the proposed regulation to allow federally recognized Tribes to continue traditional non-commercial fishing, gathering and harvesting within the state marine conservation areas, (SMCA).

Federally recognized Tribes hold unique legal and political status with sovereign rights as independent governments. The Tribes of the north coast region have participated with the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, Blue Ribbon Task Force, Dept. Fish & Game and the Fish & Game Commission in providing verbal testimony and factual documentation in the traditional Tribal uses and practices that are directly derived from marine and coastal landscapes that provide subsistence, cultural and spiritual resources. Tribes of the north coast have great respect of marine and coastal ecosystems, having developed preservation and conservation methods to ensure its integrity and wellness.

AK-1

North coast Tribes have applied traditional stewardship knowledge for millennia and continued non-commercial fishing, gathering and harvesting in marine areas boast healthy diverse ecosystems.

The proposed regulation is a carefully articulated statement acknowledging the broad base support for the continued Tribal non-commercial uses in SMCA's without the new take limitations by other users.

The California Indian Water Commission wishes to thank all the participants in the culmination of diverse backgrounds, schools of thought to arrive at a singular regulatory language agreement. It is unprecedented that Tribes and agencies join to foster the preservation and protection of traditional ways of life and the marine life. We are especially appreciative of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council for its transparent advocacy on behalf of Tribal rights and continued dedication to conservation measures to ensure wellness for our environment. CIWC would also like to thank the Fish & Game Commission for its consideration in support and adoption of the proposed Traditional Tribal Uses in the Proposed Marine Protected Areas.

Respectfully submitted



Atta P. Stevenson  
President-California Indian Water Commission

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## Comment Letter AK – Stevenson, Atta

### Response to Comment AK -1

Comment noted. The DEIR including a description of the proposed regulations was circulated to solicit public comments regarding the sufficiency of the related environmental analysis. Comments expressing a policy preference are noted and will be considered by the Commission as they contemplate final action.

No changes to the DEIR are necessary.

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Dept. Fish & Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, Calif. 94244-2090

**Re: Support for Traditional Tribal Uses in the Proposed California Marine Protected Areas**

Dear Director Mastrup,

I was appointed as Tribal representative by Governor Grey Davis in 1999 to be seated on the MLPA Initiative, NCRSG. It was during that period I realized our lives as a traditional fishing and gathering People was in jeopardy. Not only would our sustenance be questioned but our dependence on the bounty of the Ocean but our way of life in general was virtually unknown to many of the communities in which we currently reside. It was most evident to the science community of our intrinsic relationship we have shared for millennia with the wildlife of the ocean.

My Tribe, the Cahto have migrated and built temporary shelter on the shores of north Ten Mile Beach to the north of Usal and Sinkyone territory to forage, fish and prepare marine foods as our culture dictates. We continue to be a seasonal People who are dependent on fish and subsistence from the marine and coastal environments. As a traditional person and a North Coast Stakeholder Group member, it was very difficult to find balance in my traditional practices and the science used for determination of limitations and uses. As a member of the NCRSG, our job hindered on the unknowing of Tribal sovereign rights. Setting that complex issue aside, it was apparent that the sole purpose of marine protection was evident and carried the day. Without the continued Tribal input we provided to the NCRSG, Blue Ribbon Task Force, Dept. Fish & Game and the Fish & Game Commission, we could not have arrived at this juncture today.

We, Tribal People have not ceded nor surrendered our inherent rights in supporting the Proposed Traditional Tribal Uses in State Marine Conservation Areas. We have utilized and provided ancient Tribal traditional knowledge that enhances and conserves those resources we depend on for subsistence, cultural and spiritual strength. It is our duty and responsibility as Tribal People to protect nature as it cannot do so for itself.

Based on my years as a NCRSG member and my lifelong member of a traditional fishing and gathering family and Tribe, I ask that Fish & Game Commission to consider supporting Tribal traditional non-commercial uses unencumbered by new take limitation that apply to other users in the State Marine Protected Areas. We as indigenous stewards of our lands, waterways and especially the marine resources can provide on-going partnerships in the preservation for the integrity of marine protected areas as proposed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Atta P. Stevenson  
North Coast Regional Stakeholder

AL-1

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## Comment Letter AL – Stevenson, Atta

### Response to Comment AL -1

This comment, submitted during the CEQA public review period, contains statements not related to the environmental review conducted and published in the DEIR, but which instead are related to proposed MPA regulations and/or regulatory sub-options under consideration by the Commission. Any comment that addresses issues other than environmental issues or analysis contained in the DEIR will be forwarded to the Commission for consideration through its APA rulemaking process and noted as such within this FEIR. This also includes comments related to how the Commission should weigh and decide on the facts presented in the DEIR, or statements or comments that are speculative or make unsupported assertions are forwarded to the Commission for consideration during their rulemaking deliberation. Comments regarding the proposed regulations under APA will be received and considered by the Commission through its decision hearing scheduled for June 6, 2012. See [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov) for details.

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# California Indian Water Commission, Inc.

April 9, 2012

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Dept. Fish & Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, Ca. 94244-2090

Re: Support for Traditional Tribal Uses in Proposed California Marine Protected Areas

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Respectfully submitted

Atta P. Stevenson  
President-California Indian Water Commission

Duplicate of Comment AK

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## Comment Letter AM – Stevenson, Atta

This letter was submitted to the Commission by Atta Stevenson, President of the California Indian Water Commission. It is a duplicate of another submittal by Ms. Stevenson. The original submittal is included as Comment Letter AK.

See responses to comments in Comment Letter AK.