# Appendix C

## Public Meeting Presentation

# Marine Life Protection Act

## North Coast Study Region

## Draft Environmental Impact Report

## Public Meetings

March 20, 2012 - Fort Bragg

March 21, 2012 - Crescent City

Fish and Game Commission Hearing

April 11, 2012 – Eureka

Horizon WATER and ENVIRONMENT

# Welcome and Opening Remarks

# Meeting Agenda

1. Meeting Purpose and Ground Rules
2. Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Overview
3. North Coast Study Region Overview
4. Highlights of the DEIR & How to Comment during Public Review Period
5. Receive Public Comments

# Meeting Purpose

Provide the public and agencies an opportunity to provide comments regarding the sufficiency of the Draft EIR in identifying and analyzing:

- ✓ the possible impacts on the environment
- ✓ the ways in which the significant effects of the program might be avoided or mitigated

The DEIR public review period provides 45 days to receive public input.

# Meeting Ground Rules

- Please silence all cell phones and pagers.
- One person speaks at a time; please do not interrupt a speaker.
- Make clear and succinct comments in order for us to effectively capture the comment in notes.
- Be respectful of each other and of differing points of view.

# Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Overview


Fort Bragg Harbor, CA

# MLPA Overview

- Signed into State law 1999
- Requires improving design & management of MPAs
- Focuses on protection of marine ecosystems & habitats

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Fort Bragg Harbor, CA

**Requires:**

- Use of “best readily available science”
- Input from stakeholders, other interested parties
- Fish & Game Commission adopt program

# MLPA Goals

**The MLPA sets specific goals for redesigning California's MPA system:**

- Increase coherence & effectiveness
- Protect marine life & habitats
- Protect marine ecosystems & marine natural heritage
- Improve recreational, educational, & study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems
- Design & manage as network

# MLPA Initiative Regional Planning

- **Central Coast** – *Implemented* (September 2007)
- **North Central Coast** – *Implemented* (May 2010)
- **South Coast** – *Implemented* (January 2012)
- **North Coast – *In Commission & CEQA process***
- **San Francisco Bay**
  - *Options for process under consideration*

# North Coast Study Region Overview

Westport-Union Landing State Beach, CA

# North Coast MLPA Initiative Process

- **Three rounds of MPA design & evaluation (Jun 2009-Feb 2011)**

- **Input and guidance during each round from:**

  - Tribes & Tribal Communities
  - Members of the Public
  - Department of Fish and Game and State Parks
  - MLPA Initiative contract staff
  - Regional Initiative Planning Groups
    - Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG)
    - Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF)
    - Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT)

# North Coast MPA Proposals

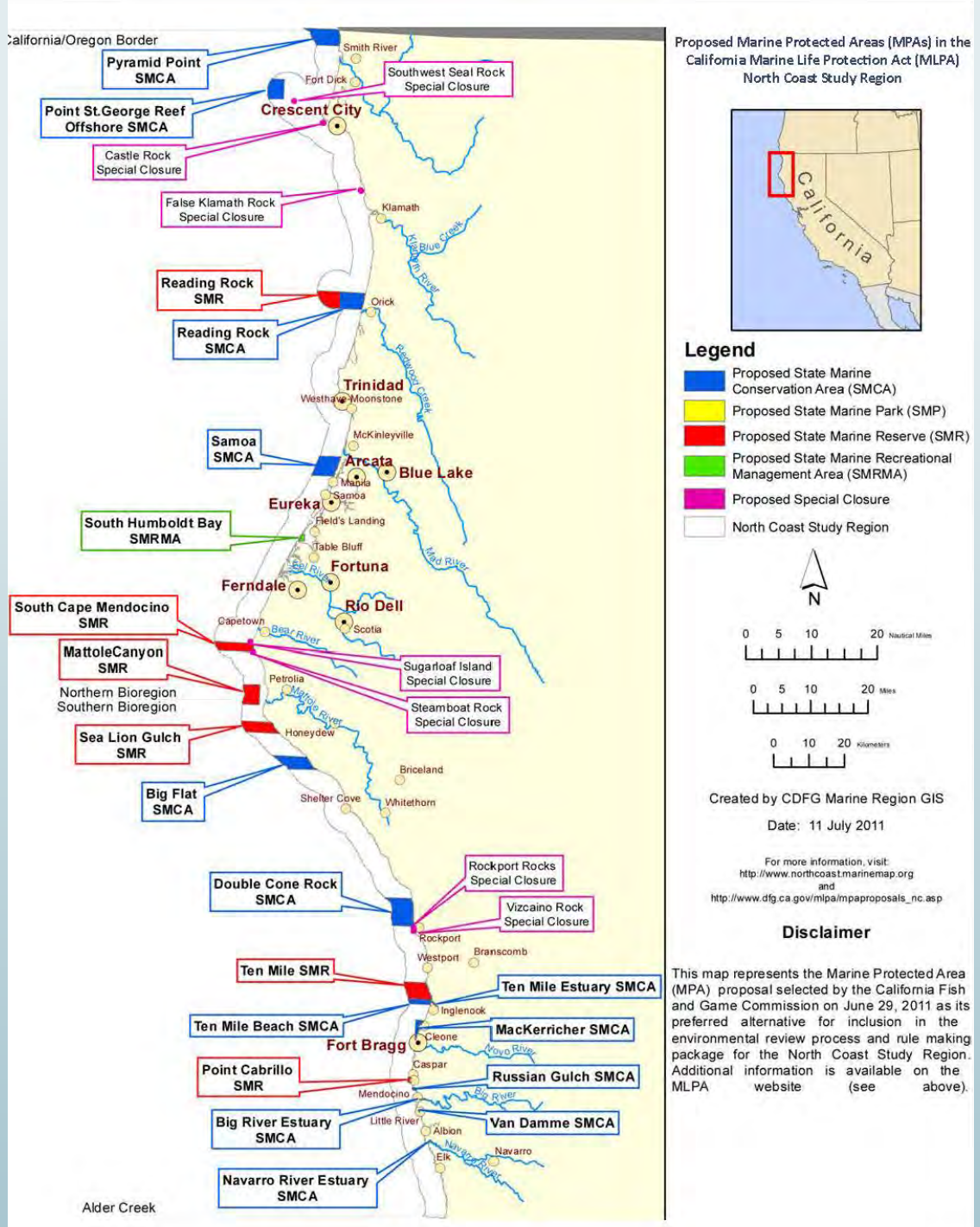
- **Result: Two alternatives to F&G Commission**

  - RSG North Coast MPA Proposal **(RNCP)**
  - BRTF Enhanced Compliance Alternative (**ECA**)
    (Analyzed as CEQA alternative)

# North Coast MPA Proposals

- **In June 2011, F&G Commission selected a preferred proposal for regulatory and CEQA review:**
  - **RNCP** (Proposed Project/Preferred Proposal)
    - ✓ Select additions (from agency & public input)
    - ✓ Provides tribal take in SMCAs
  - **ECA** (Analyzed as CEQA Alternative)

# Proposed Project



# Next Steps in Rulemaking Process

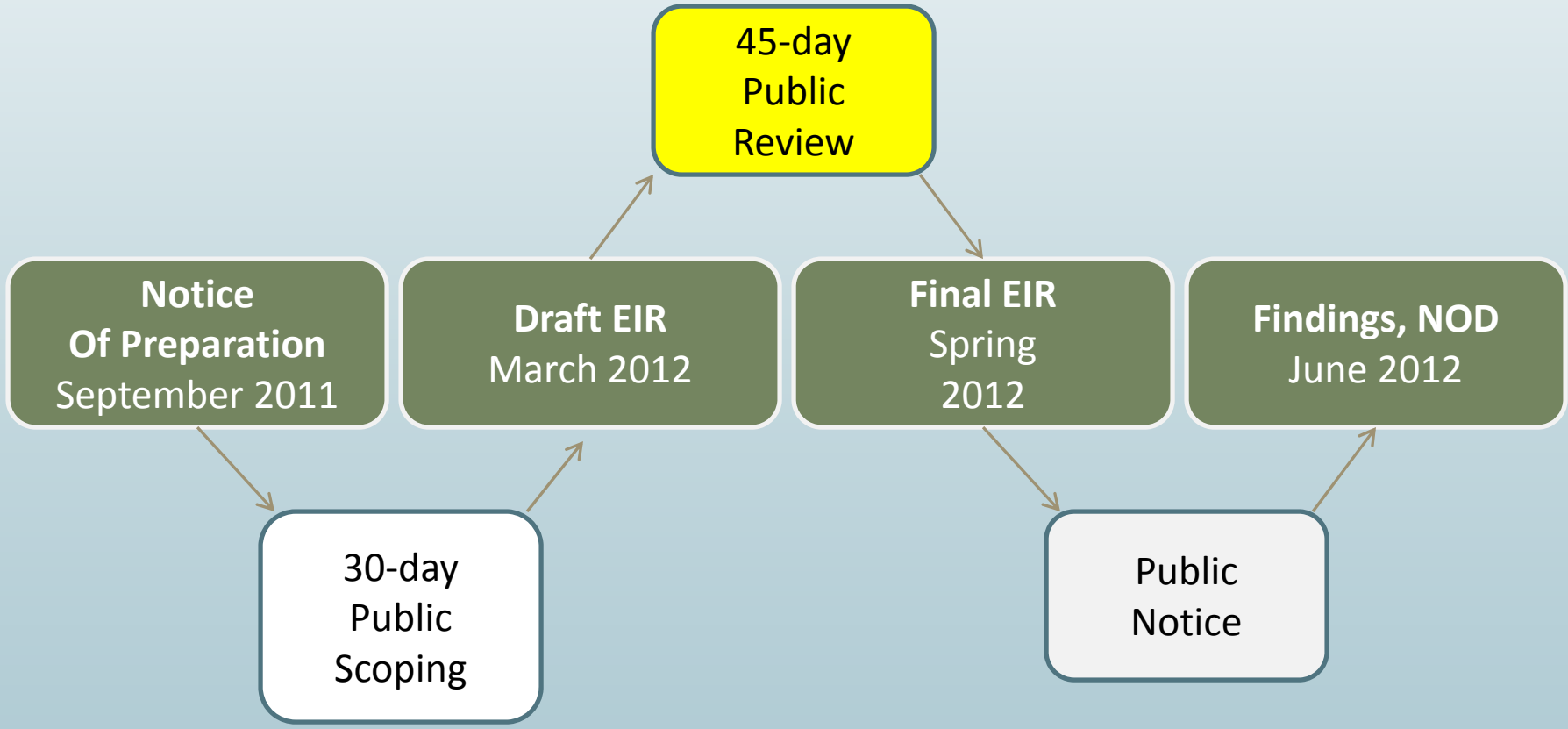
- March 23: Draft Rulemaking will be published; Public comment period starts
- April 11: F&G Commission Discussion Hearing *
- June 6: F&G Commission Decision Hearing

* Public comments will be received on both the Proposed Regulations and the CEQA document.

# Highlights of DEIR & How to Comment during Public Review Period


Crescent City Harbor, CA

# CEQA Process and Schedule



# Structure of Draft EIR

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1 - Introduction
- Chapter 2 – Project Description: *Proposed MPAs*
- Chapters 3-6 – Impact Discussions
- Chapter 7 – Other Statutory Considerations
- Chapter 8 – Alternatives Analysis
- Appendices

# Draft EIR Findings

Environmental impact topics evaluated included:

- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Global Climate Change
- Land Uses and Utilities
- Public Services/Law Enforcement
- Recreation
- Research and Education
- Vessel Traffic
- Water Quality

All environmental impacts were found to be
*less than significant*

# Alternatives to Proposed Project Considered in DEIR

## No Project Alternative

- continuation of existing MPAs
- would avoid any potential impacts of Proposed Project
- would not result in benefits of Proposed Project

## Enhanced Compliance Alternative

- same general geographies for MPAs as Proposed Project
- different approach to incorporation of tribal uses
- increases in the LOP in several offshore areas
- overall, would result in similar impacts as Proposed Project

# Contents of Final EIR

- Copies of all comments received, including a transcript of the public meetings
- Specific responses to each comment
- Changes to DEIR based on the comments and responses

# Effective Commenting

- Public input is valued and important
- Keep comments substantive and focused on the CEQA analysis
- Comments may be given orally today (use speaker cards), in writing on comment forms, or in writing at any time during the public review period (to April 16)
- Comments received will be responded to in the Final EIR

# How to Comment After Today

- Comments due:

**5:00 pm on Monday, April 16, 2012**

- Send written comments to:

**California Department of Fish and Game**

**c/o Horizon Water and Environment**

**PO Box 2727**

**Oakland, CA 94602**

**Email: MLPAcomments@HorizonWater.com**

**Subject Line: MLPA North Coast CEQA Comments**

- Include name, address, contact number, and email address for future correspondence related to this CEQA process

# More Information on Proposed Project

www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa

We will now take your comments on the Draft EIR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