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
Welcome and Opening Remarks

Crescent City, CA
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
MLPA Overview

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

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 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

Legend
- Proposed State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
- Proposed State Marine Park (SMP)
- Proposed State Marine Reserve (SMR)
- Proposed State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)
- Proposed Special Closure
- North Coast Study Region

Created by CDFG Marine Region GIS
Date: 11 July 2011

Disclaimer
This map represents the Marine Protected Area (MPA) proposal selected by the California Fish and Game Commission on June 29, 2011 as its preferred alternative for inclusion in the environmental review process and rule making package for the North Coast Study Region. Additional information is available on the MLPA website (see above).
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

Notice Of Preparation
September 2011

Draft EIR
March 2012

Final EIR
Spring 2012

Findings, NOD
June 2012

45-day Public Review

30-day Public Scoping

Public Notice
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