

November 30, 2009
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regarding: Application for Nomination to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Dear BRTF chair and DFG Director,

Please accept my enthusiastic application for a seat in the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Kenneth M. Burton
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brdnrd@sbcglobal.net

STATEMENT ON MEETING CRITERIA

1. I have lived in coastal communities of the North Coast Region for the past five years. As a local wildlife biologist, teacher, writer, and tour guide, I spend a lot of time on the coast observing and teaching about the marine environment and sharing my passion for this area. I've done at-sea census work on marine birds and mammals (outside the North Coast).
2. Although I spend most of my time within an hour's drive of Arcata, I have traveled the entire length of the North Coast extensively. The Redwood Region Audubon Society, of which I am President, covers all of Humboldt and Del Norte counties, and we interact with Mendocino Coast Audubon Society as well. The past several years I was a trip leader for the Aleutian Goose Festival in Crescent City and I have led several Audubon field trips in Del Norte County. I have been an associate faculty member of the College of the Redwoods. Thus I am familiar with the coastal and marine environments throughout the region.
3. I am excited about the opportunity to increase protection for the North Coast marine environment while accommodating the needs of the fishing community. I will respectfully express this viewpoint. I would be representing first and foremost the interests of the Audubon Society, a nonprofit conservation organization focused on protecting birds and their habitats, and connecting the public with natural areas. However, I do not have any preconceived position or plan with regard to the MLPA Initiative.
4. I respect and appreciate that extractive marine industries such as fishing and crabbing are a mainstay of our local economy and culture. I advocate sustainable use of local

resources as much as possible, recognizing that importing products invariably increases their environmental costs. However, I also know that non-extractive resource use is equally important to the community, that humans are not the only creatures depending on marine resources, and that the resources themselves have intrinsic value. Thus, I accept that there is a need for compromise in this process and that collaboration and cooperation will be essential at every stage. I have an easy-going and approachable personality and am committed to non-confrontation at difficult moments.

5. I depend heavily on e-mail as a communication tool and am familiar with the establishment, maintenance, and use of electronic mailing lists (I am a member of many and moderator of several). I am looking forward to using these networks to raise local awareness and understanding about the MLPA process.

6. I am dedicated to successful and comprehensive implementation of the MLPA in our region and would not be applying for this position if I were not committed to seeing it through. I am looking forward to this opportunity to participate in all aspects of the process.

CURRENT AND PAST AFFILIATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ACTIVE IN MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Here are a few examples from my resume. Please note my experience includes field research, teaching and interpretation.

President of Redwood Region Audubon Society (800 members)
Associate Faculty, College of the Redwoods (2009)
Educator, Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation (2006-2009)
Docent & Board Member, Friends of Arcata Marsh (2007-present)
Wildlife Biologist – Mad River Biologists, Arcata (2007)
Field Biologist- Oregon Wildlife Institute (2008)
Ornithologist/Mammologist – Palmer Long Term Ecosystem Research Cruise, Antarctica (1996)

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PAST INVOLVEMENT IN MLPA OR SIMILAR COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC PROCESSES

I have no past involvement in the MLPA other than attending some recent public meetings and field trips. I was a member of a community advisory group for a proposed local alternative energy development project that had a wave-power component (since abandoned), and enjoyed working collaboratively with diverse interests.

WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT TIME

I am willing to commit whatever time is required for participation in the RSG.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH NOMINEE WILL COMMUNICATE

I would be representing the Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS), a nonprofit organization with approximately 800 members. I can communicate with the entire chapter through our newsletter, Web site, and e-list and at general meetings. I will be coordinating with Audubon California's Seabird Conservation Coordinator, who can reach a broader audience.

SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH MECHANISMS TO BE UTILIZED

I will communicate with my constituents by email, through our e-list (rras@yahoogroups.com), in our monthly newsletter (*The Sandpiper*), on our Web site (rras.org), and at chapter general and Board meetings (both held monthly).

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE RELEVANT TO PROJECT

Marine Ornithology – census work on Tomales Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, Alaska, and Antarctica.

Teaching - College of the Redwoods; Friends of the Dunes (Arcata)

Wildlife Biology

Regards,

Ken Burton