



## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>  
Marine Region  
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100  
Monterey, California 93940



July 11, 2006

### **Re: Notice of preparation of environmental document regarding marine protected areas in the central California region pursuant to the Marine Life Protection Act.**

To Interested Parties:

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) will be the lead agency reviewing and potentially adopting proposed regulations for marine protected areas (MPAs) in State waters within the central California coast region. Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Department of Fish and Game (Department) will prepare a CEQA equivalent draft environmental document regarding the proposed project.

The proposed project being reviewed in this document is the central California coast component of a statewide network of MPAs as required by the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA, Stats. 1999 Ch. 1015). For the purpose of this project, the central California coast region is defined as State waters between Pigeon Point (San Mateo County) and Point Conception (Santa Barbara County).

The project objectives are to help protect, maintain, restore, enhance, and manage living marine resources by developing this portion of the MLPA required network of MPAs. Take of finfish, marine plants and/or invertebrates would be prohibited or restricted in several areas by regulations established by the Commission and implemented by the Department. Alternatives to the proposed project will be evaluated in the document, with corresponding analysis provided for each identified alternative. Additional information on the proposed project and development process is available at [www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa).

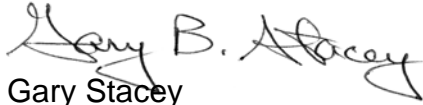
The Department has taken steps to identify and evaluate any potential negative environmental effects associated with the proposed project. However, in order to assist the Department in identifying the range of potential actions, alternatives, mitigation measures and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in the document, the Department is requesting your views as to the scope and content of the environmental information which you feel is germane to the subject Plan.

**Your response relative to the scope of the environmental document must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice in order for your comments to be considered.**

Public comment provided on the proposed project to date through extensive public processes will be addressed in the document. The Department will also hold two public scoping workshops on the development of the draft environmental document.

Please send responses to this Notice of Preparation to "MLPA CEQA Scoping Comments" c/o Mr. John Ugoretz, Nearshore Ecosystem Coordinator, at the address provided above. Your comments should include your name, address, and daytime telephone number so a representative of the Department can contact you if clarifications regarding your comments are required. Please include the heading "MLPA CEQA Scoping Comments" in your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary B. Stacey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Gary Stacey  
Regional Manager  
Marine Region