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July 18, 2008

The Honorable Susan Golding
Chair
Blue Ribbon Task Force
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Donald Koch
Director
California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Golding and Mr. Koch:

With this letter I respectfully nominate the following individuals for the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG). Each will bring a unique perspective of California's marine resources to the table, but all are similar in that each individual is an expert in his own field – yet accomplished at thoughtfully understanding and articulating the interests of multiple other stakeholder groups. All have the proven ability to communicate with diverse audiences, and all are fully committed to participating in the SCRSG. I have indicated additional supporters of these nominations where appropriate.

Our colleagues at San Diego State University endorse these nominations as indicated in their nomination letter.

Mr. Al Ducheny

Chula Vista, California 91910

Mr. Al Ducheny is an outstanding citizen of California who dedicates his time and effort to preserving marine areas and enhancing marine habitats. He has served as State Senator Denise Ducheny's unpaid coastal policies advisor for more than five years and has been particularly active in assessing the impacts of watersheds on coastal waters and habitats. He is well acquainted with existing offshore monitoring systems and has been an advocate for operations and management support for the regional coastal ocean observing associations. Mr. Ducheny has successfully lobbied for species-specific research and enumeration (sea urchin populations) and is well-versed on aspects of habitat management and the relationship between habitats and tectonic structure.

Mr. Ducheny communicates on a frequent and regular basis with environmental as well as commercial stakeholders from throughout the Southern California area, and has an expert's perspective of the legislative process relating to coastal management issues. He has worked closely with managers of the State Coastal Conservancy to institute a sea urchin monitoring project in the San Diego kelp beds. He also made recommendations to Senator Ducheny with respect to the Tijuana River Estuary Sediment Fate and Transport Project, specifically with respect to reporting and analysis of the effects of increased fine grain sediments on coastal habitats and integrating sediment transport with offshore monitoring processes.

Mr. Ducheny has served as a gubernatorial appointee to the California Athletic Commission and the Commission of the Californias. While currently serving as the staff director for the California delegation to the Legislative Forum of the Californias, he has contributed to the sponsorship of a tri-statal shark population study with funding from the Tinker Foundation. Partner institutions are Scripps Institution of Oceanography (California), CICESE (Baja California), and the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (Baja California Sur). Mr. Ducheny is owner of the Southern Group, a communications and advocacy firm in San Diego.

As coastal policy advisor to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Mr. Ducheny has reviewed and made recommendations on issues from virtually every stakeholder group in the greater Southern California area. Examples include Coastkeeper, the Port of San Diego, the Port (of San Diego) Tenants Association, Surfrider, Heal the Bay, the Port Environmental Committee, the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System, and the State Coastal Conservancy.

Mr. Ducheny has regularly participated in meetings of the Ocean Protection Council, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission. He is interested in a balanced approach to stakeholder interests – both environmental and economic – and in pursuing discussions regarding flexibility in future MPA geographies, as well as remote monitoring and assessment techniques. He has demonstrated his commitment and dedication to protecting marine life, habitats, ecosystems and natural heritage and is committed to improving recreational, educational and study opportunities through marine ecosystems.

Mr. Ducheny, fluent in Spanish, will communicate with virtually every stakeholder organization in Southern California, as he has for more than two decades. The Southern Group and the offices of State Senator Denise Ducheny are more than able to reach broad ranges of stakeholders, policy makers, and elected officials. Mr. Ducheny is a communications expert with specific and demonstrated interest and expertise in coastal research, monitoring, data integration, project-based learning, and legislative policy. He will bring extensive experience, skills, knowledge and expertise to the group, which will benefit the south coast region as it aims to carry out the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act. He is emphatically willing to commit time as required for full participation to the SCRSG.

Additional supporters of Mr. Ducheny's nomination include State Senator Christine Kehoe, Assemblymember Mary Salas, San Diego City Attorney Michael Aguirre, Imperial Beach Councilmember Pat McCoy, and San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox.

Paul Edward (Ed) Parnell, PhD
Project Scientist

La Jolla, California 92093-0227

Dr. Ed Parnell is a Project Scientist in Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Integrative Oceanography Division. Dr. Parnell's research interests include coastal ecosystem dynamics and anthropogenic disturbance of coastal ecosystems. He was born in San Diego and has lived here his entire life, except for his graduate work in Hawaii, and he has been an active fisherman since his earliest memories with his father. Through his first-hand experience diving, fishing, and researching local marine

environments, he has become extremely knowledgeable of the marine resources of the Southern California Bight and all of the Channel Islands

The driving force behind Dr. Parnell's career is to find a balance between the interests of maintaining representative coastal habitats for the future and maximizing the sustainable exploitation of coastal resources. He is absolutely committed to this, and to committing the time to fully complete all aspects of the charge of the SCRSG.

Dr. Parnell is regarded by his colleagues as one of the best marine naturalists in the state and has published the most extensive set of scientific papers on coastal San Diego rocky habitats and marine reserve design and ecology in Southern California. His 2007 paper on the spatial patterns of lobster fishing in San Diego County over a season demonstrates a true sensitivity to the skill of the fishermen and the ecology of the lobsters. His 2005 Marine Ecology Progress Series paper - one of several he has published on the design and effectiveness of local marine reserves - offers a careful evaluation of a local reserve and concludes that for most species, it is too small to be effective. This paper is one of the few quantitative efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of a small reserve. In 2006, Dr. Parnell published a paper in the prestigious Ecological Applications on marine reserve design that is one of the few papers to carefully delineate the species that need protection, quantify the critical habitats of each, quantify both physical and biological diversity, and then use this information to define an optimal heritage reserve. This work focused on the La Jolla kelp forest, but since then Dr. Parnell has continued this research in all of the county's rocky habitats. His web-based paper on Catalina Island marine reserves has received over fifteen thousand hits. In addition, Dr. Parnell has extensively studied the commercially and recreationally exploited fish and shellfish in the region, focusing particular attention on the deep-water species in canyons and offshore banks. He was the primary researcher and operator of the extensive Tegner/Dayton abalone and urchin research program at Scripps, with a study area that included all the Channel Islands and most mainland rocky habitats from the US/Mexico border to Santa Barbara.

It is not only Dr. Parnell's scientific expertise that motivates this nomination. While he is a respected resource and authority for other scientists and educators at Scripps and throughout the region, Dr. Parnell is committed to understanding the interests of a broad range of community members and stakeholders of the coastal ocean, including conservation, recreation, and fishing interest groups, and working with these groups toward common goals.

Several years ago Dr. Parnell hosted a series of meetings with local divers and interest groups to develop a public monitoring program. Through these meetings he led special identification classes and trained lay divers to collect good data. Dr. Parnell remains in contact with many of these people. He has talked with over twenty sports fisher and dive organizations and has been proactive in his efforts to communicate the importance of reserves. He has attended local and statewide meetings on these topics and has spent a great deal of time developing realistic monitoring programs. Finally, considering that water quality is an important part of meaningful marine reserves, he has spent years working to evaluate the environmental impacts of the San Diego sewer outfall and various storm water drain systems. Dr. Parnell is the regional authority on these issues.

Dr. Parnell is a capable and effective communicator in person and via telephone and electronic media, and he regularly interacts with fishing groups, including urchin divers and sport anglers; recreational ocean users, such as the diving community; state, local and federal government agencies, including the State Water Resources Control Board, the City of San Diego, and the National Park Service; environmental groups, such as San Diego Coastkeeper and the San Diego Oceans Foundation; and the general public through lectures and outreach efforts with the Birch Aquarium at Scripps and Aquatic Adventures. Dr. Parnell's published work shows his strong ability to understand the various, and sometimes diverging, interests of different groups in Southern California.

Dr. Parnell's knowledge of the science and natural history Southern California waters – combined with his desire and ability to communicate effectively and productively with the entire range of ocean users – gives him a rare and valuable perspective that will be critical to the success of the South Coast Study Region stakeholder process.

Additional supporters of Dr. Parnell's nomination include the San Diego Oceans Foundation; San Diego Coastkeeper; the San Diego Anglers; Dave Rudie, owner of Catalina Offshore Products; John Moore, founder and owner of Divebums.com, the dominant diving information service for San Diego; and Benjamin Pister, Ph.D., Marine Ecologist at the National Park Service's Cabrillo National Monument.

Dr. William Walter Fox, Jr.
Managing Director and Vice President for Fisheries

San Diego, California 92166

Dr. Bill Fox's interest in fisheries management was sparked by his uncle, Arthur B. Jarrell, a seafood wholesaler and founder of Jarrell and Read, who urged him to work to conserve fisheries resources in order to ensure a stable supply for the future. Enrolling in the University of Miami, Fox earned his Bachelor of Science degree in zoology and, in 1970, his Masters of Science in marine science. Two years later, he received his doctorate in fisheries science from the University of Washington. Since then, Dr. Fox's research has focused on the theory and application of quantitative methodology to variability in natural populations, particularly as related to exploitation.

Dr. Fox would bring a variety of valuable capabilities to the SCRSG. He has a wealth of fisheries expertise combined with a family background in the practicalities and challenges of the seafood industry. He has provided decades of service with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is well-versed in the serious challenges posed by overfishing and environmental degradation. At present, Dr. Fox serves as the World Wildlife Fund's Vice President of Fisheries.

Most recently during his NOAA career - which began in 1972 – Dr. Fox was the Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) located adjacent to Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA. At the SWFSC, Dr. Fox directed three federal fishery research laboratories – in Santa Cruz, Pacific Grove, and the Headquarters in La Jolla, with research ranging from the Arctic to Antarctica – and worked closely with academic colleagues at Scripps. From 1975 to 1978, Dr. Fox served as chief of NOAA's Oceanic Fisheries Resources Division. For the next four years, he was director of NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami, where he administered seven Federal fishery research laboratories before joining the University of Miami faculty. Between 1990 and 1993, Dr. Fox worked as Assistant Administrator for Fisheries for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). He then directed the NMFS's Office of Marine Protected Resources, and through this position, he lead the national marine mammal and endangered species programs. Dr. Fox has also served as the Director of the Office of Science & Technology for NMFS. Here, he directed the national science and research programs as Chief Scientist for eight years.

In addition to Dr. Fox's accomplished career at NOAA, his significant public service appointments include Commissioner and Chair of Florida Marine Fish Commission, US Commissioner to the Marine Mammal Commission (appointed by President Reagan), US Delegation to International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), US Delegate and Scientific Leader to InterAmerican Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and US Delegation Leader for the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Fishers in the North Pacific (ISC).

Dr. Fox is the author of more than fifty professional publications, reports and book reviews, and serves on a number of major scientific and public service committees. He is a member of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, the American Fisheries Society, the American Geophysical Union, and Sigma Xi, the research society.

Dr. Fox understands that the increasing demand on our fish stocks for recreational use and seafood is a serious concern, and he believes that commercial and recreational fisherman, along with scientists, regulators and policy makers, must share in the task of conserving these resources so they can be replenished

and maintained at healthy levels. Dr. Fox's decades of experience in government, academia and NGO service uniquely qualify him to tackle the challenges the SCRSG will face through the MLPA process. Through these positions, he has developed a broad communication network and proven his ability to balance a regional perspective with localized interests and effectively collaborate with a variety of interests – a task that will be critical for the SCRSG's success in executing the charge of the MLPA.

Dr. Fox's career path represents a scholar who has devoted his life to approaching the challenge of resource use and conservation with objective science and an understanding of broad stakeholder interests. He is enthusiastically willing to commit the full time needed for active participation in all aspects of the SCRSG.

Additional supporters of Dr. Fox's nomination include Norm Bartoo, Acting Director of NOAA NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center; Rod McInnis, Regional Administrator, NOAA NMFS SW Region; Diane Pleschner-Steele, California Wetfish Producers Association; Ken Franke, President of Outer Limits Sportfishing and Board Member of the Sportfishing Association of California; and Jim Joseph, previous Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

Mr. Dave Rudie

San Diego, California 92117

Mr. Dave Rudie, owner of Catalina Offshore Products, has extensive knowledge of near shore marine habitats in the Southern California Bight through his experience SCUBA diving throughout Southern California since 1972. During this time he has spent thousands of hours underwater, first as a sport diver in the 1970's, then as a commercial sea urchin diver in the 80's and 90's, and more recently as an underwater photographer. He has dived from Santa Rosa Island to the Mexico border, with the majority of his dive experience in the southern area, including San Diego, Orange County, and Catalina Island.

Mr. Rudie founded Catalina Offshore Products thirty years ago. His company employs eighty-five individuals and purchases sea urchins and lobster from more than forty fishermen. Mr. Rudie is an entrepreneur and businessman who understands and respects the natural resources from which he profits. He has consistently worked to preserve marine life and enhance educational opportunities in the region.

He served as a member of the Department of Fish and Game Director's Sea Urchin Advisory committee (DSUAC) from 1986 until its termination in 2000. He has served on the Sea Urchin Processors' Association and the California Sea Urchin Commission from its origin in 2004 to the present. Here, he has participated in studies on urchin larvae that have enhanced the knowledge of this field. Mr. Rudie has experience in consensus-building among various interests, particularly involving management of the sea urchin fishery in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game. The DSUAC, on which Mr. Rudie served for fourteen years, was able to craft effective regulations that have made the urchin dive-fishery sustainable.

Mr. Rudie has known and worked with a number of scientists at Scripps Institution of Oceanography for over two decades, including Dr. Paul Dayton and Dr. Dave Checkley. He is currently assisting three graduate students with data and sample collection for their research in the ecology, genetics, and economics of regional urchin and abalone fisheries. In addition, he has given guest lectures in Scripps graduate courses, providing first-hand knowledge of biological oceanography to students.

If appointed to the SCRSG, Mr. Rudie will communicate not only with sea urchin fishermen and processors through the California Sea Urchin Commission, but also with near-shore fishermen, the recreational diving community, the scientific community, and other interested parties throughout the region. Mr. Rudie is fully committed to participating in the MLPA Initiative process in Southern California with the goal of achieving a science-based and equitable outcome for all involved.

Additional supporters of Mr. Rudie's nomination include the California Sea Urchin Commission and

the California Fisheries Coalition.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography would also like to endorse the SCRSG nominations of San Diego State University. These individuals are:

Michael Nelson
Executive Director
San Diego River Conservancy

San Diego, California 92101

Dr. Vinod Sasidharan
Associate Professor and Program Coordinator
Recreation and Tourism Management Program
School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts
San Diego State University
San Diego, California 92182-4531

Thank you for your consideration of these nominations. I believe each would provide a notable and positive contribution to the South Coast Study Region MLPA process. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Tony Haymet
SIO Director