

South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group  
Application

Eric Friedman

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1. Personal Statement:

I am applying to be a member of the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group because my personal life and professional career have been directly connected to and influenced by the coastal habitat of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

For the past six years I have worked for the First District Supervisor's office of Santa Barbara County. Duties I have performed as a staff member include involvement with the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, assisting in the creation and development of the South Coast Watershed Task Force for Southern Santa Barbara County, participating in local watershed planning groups in the First District and working collaboratively to improve and meet the goals established by the County's Project Clean Water Program. Each of these efforts includes a diverse group of stakeholders with a broad perspective on how to address the challenges facing our watersheds and ecosystems.

In my personal life I grew up in Santa Barbara County and have been a lifelong recreational user of the ocean. I surf regularly in areas throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and have traveled as far South as San Diego to enjoy the surf. I also race outrigger canoes from San Diego to Santa Barbara, the area that SCGRSG covers. My time spent engaging in these activities has enabled me to experience first hand some of the areas outside of my home in Santa Barbara that will be reviewed by the stakeholder group as well as some of the challenges other areas face. In addition to surfing and paddling, I have recently taken up fishing as activity I enjoy with my family.

If selected to serve on the stakeholder group, I will rely on the skills and experience I have learned through my career and personal life to make informed and well thought out decisions regarding recommendations for the Marine Life Protection Act South Coast Region. As part of my duties I will communicate to other stakeholder groups through updates at monthly meetings and email list serves as well as personal contact. Monthly meetings include the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project County Task Force and local watershed planning groups such the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition. I will also communicate with First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal, whom I work under and the County's Project Clean Water Task Force. Furthermore, I will exchange ideas with other constituencies and be open to listening and considering divergent view points. To fulfill these duties, I am committed to the time it will take to be a productive member and work to gain consensus, when possible, on the Task Force recommendations.