

# Guidelines for Providing Public Comment to the Marine Life Protection Act North Coast Project

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative is designed as a transparent, science-based, stakeholder-driven process. As such, public comment is important to the success of the marine protected area (MPA) planning process. There are different methods available for public comment, both verbally and in writing.

## Verbal Comments at Meetings

All meetings of the MLPA Initiative process will offer a minimum of one opportunity for public comment. Guidelines for general public comment at meetings include:

- The time for public comment will be noticed in the agenda for each meeting. **For the upcoming MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting, public comment will be taken at the following dates and times:**
  - **Monday, February 8 from approximately 12:45-2:00 p.m.**
  - **Tuesday, February 9 from approximately 12:30-1:45 p.m.**
- Comment cards are requested to be submitted 15 minutes before the start of a public comment period. No new comment cards will be accepted once the comment period has begun. Speakers must be present and turn in their own cards (this also applies to all individual speakers who wish to cede their time to other speakers).
- Comment cards will be counted and, at the discretion of staff or the chair, the time allocated to each speaker will be based on the total available time and number of individuals wishing to speak.
- Speakers with a shared message or from the same organization are encouraged to combine speaking points. Speakers with ceded time will be placed at the front of the queue.
- Elected officials and Tribal Council Members will also be placed at the front of the queue.
- Media presentations, such as slides and videos, are permitted by prior arrangement (contact Kelly at 707-832-4088 or [kelly@strategicearth.com](mailto:kelly@strategicearth.com)) and may be limited depending on time availability.
- An atmosphere of respect and consideration among the public is essential for a productive comment period. Verbal threats, hostile comments, clapping, jeering and the like will not be tolerated.

## Written Comments

Written comments are accepted on an ongoing basis via email, fax or mail. All written comments are collated on a regular basis and distributed to the blue ribbon task force, and staff, as well as the science advisory team if the comments are science related. Comments to the MLPA Initiative can be submitted:

**Email**  
[MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov)

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

**FAX**  
916.653.8102

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