

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 11:30 AM

April 10, 2007

Melissa Miller-Henson
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
mlpacomments@resources.ca.gov

Re: Nomination for North-Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (MLPA)

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

I am writing to submit my name for consideration to the North-Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. I have been fishing and diving for nearly all of my fifty years; most of them on the North Central Coast. Salmon and crab are my passion, but I have a deep appreciation for the entire marine ecosystem – and the critical link that our land-use policies have on aquatic environments.

While not a leader in any of the constituency organizations that are actively and appropriately involved in the MPA debate, I believe strongly that the process and outcome of this effort should be successful and fair. I have a good understanding and positive relations with the key constituency groups involved in this process, including the sport-fishing, commercial fishing, and environmental community. I also understand and respect the importance of scientific research and methodology

The past two decades of my life have been devoted to helping America's working families achieve more justice through the labor movement. As Director of an 18,000-member union, I have had to negotiate respectfully with adversaries and reach compromises on a wide variety of challenging issues. I understand the importance of being a good listener, and I recognize the value of finding common ground in difficult disputes.

If selected, I will commit to a variety of outreach efforts including public speaking, meeting with concerned groups and individuals, and utilizing my e-mail lists to promote two-way communication. I am especially interested in promoting a better understanding between the two major interest groups involved in this issue; those who fish and those who advocate for the environment. I hope to make a modest contribution in this area and will work hard to do so.

I have attended several of the preliminary MPA discussions, and look forward to playing a positive role by working with a diverse group of stakeholders in this important process.

Sincerely,

Craig Merrilees
Sausalito, CA