

Robert J. Wilson
Tiburon, CA

April 4, 2007

Melissa Miller-Henson
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

I would be willing to serve as a member of the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. I could best represent local conservation groups on the panel. I have experience and am knowledgeable about the north central coast and the issues that affect it. I have been a volunteer for The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC) for over 25 years. TMMC rescues and rehabilitates injured and stranded marine mammals from Point Arena to San Luis Obispo. Over the years I have participated in rescuing stranded marine mammals on every beach from Monterey to Gualala. I am aware of the environmental and human influences on marine mammal health. I am a Director Emeritus of TMMC. I currently serve (in an unpaid staff position) as Policy Liaison where my job is to coordinate with other environmental groups (both locally and nationally) on issues affecting marine mammals and coordinate advice and testimony by TMMC.

I am also actively involved as a volunteer in programs of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. I was a SEALS volunteer that involved studying and protecting harbor seals in Tomales Bay. I am a Beachwatch volunteer that involves surveying a section of beach within GFNMS every four weeks where I record living and

dead animals and look for oil residue or other beach disturbance. I serve on the Seabird Protection Group of the GFNMS. I participate in the annual survey of harbor seals in the spring and am primarily responsible for surveying all haul out and rookery areas in San Mateo County.

I am Board Chair of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association. I serve in a Conservation seat on the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. I also am the liaison between the GFNMS SAC and MBNMS SAC. I recently represented the GFNMS SAC in an EPA workshop in Washington, D.C. on strategies of federal managers of marine areas in dealing with global warming.

Thus, I am aware of the north central coast resources firsthand and aware of challenges to the ecosystems from a local to a global standpoint. My activities for TMMC and GFNMS take me to some spot on the coast, doing some environmental work just about every week. However, in addition I also recreate in the area as a birdwatcher, whale watcher, and scuba diver. As a hands-on volunteer who uses and enjoys the oceans in varied ways, I would bring stewardship and partnership values, not a particular agenda, to the process.

In my position as Policy Liaison for TMMC I meet regularly with most local north central coast environmental groups. In all probability during this process a coalition of conservation oriented groups will form and have meetings and email list serves. As a representative of the conservation community I will be coordinating with those groups on all aspects of the proceedings.

I was actively involved in the prior process (actually the last three processes). During the central coast process I participated with other environmental groups, I

reviewed proposals and testified at hearings. During that process I was one of the participants that frequently raised issues involving marine mammal and seabirds reminding other participants that it was about ecosystems not just about fish.

I am willing to spend the time involved in this process. I retired from my job as an attorney so that I could volunteer for environmental groups. It is now almost a full time volunteer job. However, my prior experience would be beneficial to the process. I have participated in mediation and ADR. I participated in numerous collective bargaining negotiations. Thus, I know how to listen, consider the views of others, and express my position and compromise.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely;

Robert J. Wilson