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November 30, 2009

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
Attn: NCRSG nominations
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Email: MPLAComments@resources.ca.gov
Via Facsimile #: 916.653.8102

Re: Nomination for North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Dear Selection Committee:

I have been nominated by the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors to sit as a member of the Northcoast Regional Stakeholders Group. I have not served as a stakeholder in any other region.

My contact information is as follows:

DOHN R. HENION
County Counsel, Del Norte County
981 H Street, Suite 220
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At my suggestion, in early 2008 the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors formed an ad hoc committee to study the requirements and effect on Del Norte County of the formation of a Marine Protected Area. Myself, two County Supervisors and a number of others were appointed to the committee. We organized three principal subgroups in our committee: Dr. Richard Young PhD, an economist, as the economics Committee Chair; Supervisor, Martha McClure, as the Social and Environmental Liason Chair; and James B. Waldvogel, as the Marine Biology Chair.

After the leaders of our committee met with Melissa Miller-Henson and Adam Frimodig, it was readily apparent that the only viable method for the Fish and Game Commission to give weight to an external proposal was to seek funding from the Resources Legacy Fund to sponsor Del Norte in hiring a biologist to study the marine maps and interface those with the scientific theory's supporting the MPA. We were successful in obtaining funding and Zack Larson & Associates have been engaged to assist this area with formulating a proposal. We then formed a working group to study the maps, interface with and solicit the views of, and involve those with a direct interest in the Northcoast marine environment. I have been a participant in all of the committee meetings to date.

As the County Counsel I have been instrumental in guiding the county's policies in interfacing with the Blue Ribbon Commission and the Resource's Agency in this process. All of our meetings have been publically noticed and we invite the input of the public in the process. Our goal has been to understand user needs and prospective while becoming technically proficient to the degree that we can design MPAs in our area that incorporates the Northcoast's unique marine environment, sound science and effective management principals as well as the needs and desires of the general public.

Local government is faced with the reality that Del Norte County has the highest poverty rate in the State of California and that as the harbor in Crescent City is the most productive on the Northcoast that it is one of this county's main sources of economic productivity. This county has a poverty rate of 22.3% compared to statewide rate of 12.4%.

Beside being a government law attorney for almost thirty years, I have experience in federal and state rulemaking practices and regularly work with state and federal agencies such as the Fish and Game, California Coastal Commission, Army Corp of Engineers, NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, State Lands Commission, Regional Water Quality Control, CalTrans, CA Air Resources Board, Office of Planning & Research, Boating and Waterways, National and State Park Services, US Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Federal Emergency Management Admin., Environmental Protection Agency, US Coast Guard and the Bureau of Land Management.

In order to deal with these agencies it is necessary to understand that each agency must deal within its own set of rules, regulations and operational directives. To achieve understanding of their systems, I utilize materials such as:

Integrated Public Lands Management: Principles and Applications to National Forests, Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and BLM Lands; Decision Methods for Forest Resource Management; Federal Administrative Procedure Sourcebook; A Guide to Federal Agency Rulemaking; Federal Public Land and Resources Law; California Environmental Law and Land Use Practice; Curtin's California Land Use and Planning Law; Practice Under the California Environmental Quality Act; NEPA and Environmental Planning; and Wetlands, Streams and Other Waters: Regulation – Conservation Mitigation Planning; and Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities.

I obtained my B.A. in biology in 1976 from the University of California at Stanislaus and took plant physiology, zoology, marine biology, electron microscopy, as well as a full year each in general and organic chemistry.

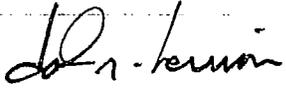
I have been a S.C.U.B.A. diver since 1970 and extensively dove the Northcoast as well as marine parks all over the world (Micronesia, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, Caribbean). I am an underwater photographer and videographer. I spend about one month under water each year while on vacation. I am well versed in fish and invertebrate identification in tropical reef habitats. I carry a magnifying glass with me underwater as I enjoy the corals and invertebrate life as much as I do the large pelagics. I have an ocean going boat. I am a birder. I do not hunt. I have gone fishing but am not a fisherman. I was the president of an aquarium society and have raised fresh and marine fish and invertebrates for many years.

As I am used to public speaking I can communicate with all who are interested in the MPA formation process. I interface well with the news media. I regularly speak to commercial and recreational fisherman, marine mammal preservationists, birders, kayakers, freshwater and marine researchers, boaters and coastal tourism business owners. I was general legal counsel to the Crescent City Harbor District and understand its political, geographic and economic considerations. This has also given me a unique perspective of the tourist industry as well as maritime law.

Del Norte County is willing to have me serve as a Regional Stakeholder thus, the ability to commit the time for full participation is not an issue.

I look forward to discussing my qualifications in greater detail at your oral interviews. Thank you for your consideration of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisor's nomination of my candidacy as a Regional Stakeholder.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Henion".

DOHN R. HENION

DEL NORTE COUNTY COUNSEL

DRH:cb