



November 24, 2009
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Nomination of Bill Lemos, Mendocino Area, for NCRSG

Dear BRTF Chair Gustafson and DFG Director:

Dr. Lemos's qualifications make him an excellent choice for the North Coast MLPA Regional Stakeholder Group. To summarize, he was born and raised near Mendocino, and brings to the job first-hand knowledge of marine resources and uses as an avid abalone diver, SCUBA diver, surfer, kayaker, natural historian, teacher of marine ecology and former commercial salmon fisherman. Through his diverse activities, community service and 35 years of teaching, he has developed an extensive network of relationships and contacts across many interests, which he would use to convey information about the MLPA and strengthen the connection between the Fort Bragg-Mendocino community and the MLPA process. His commitment to collaboration, listening, and life-long learning helped make him a successful teacher and will serve the MLPA process well, as will his strong technical skills, negotiation experience, and sound judgment. His leadership in restoration projects of the Mendocino Land Trust and as a founding member of Mendocino Abalone Watch (a citizens' watch group working with Fish and Game to prevent abalone poaching) demonstrates his ethic of stewardship and responsible use of natural resources, his dedication to constructive action, and his strong community ties. As a consultant for NRDC on this project, he will combine a statewide perspective with local knowledge. He is committed to finding common ground across interests and crafting a protected area array that addresses local concerns while meeting the goals and guidelines of the MLPA. We address your specific criteria below.

1.) Bill's first-hand knowledge of the marine resources of the North Coast Region comes from being born, raised, and living in the Mendocino area the majority of his life, combined with a deep-seated passion for and interest in the ocean. From the summer of 1972 through the summer of 1983, he fished for salmon out of Albion and Noyo harbors on both charter and commercial trolling vessels. He has been an avid abalone diver and hand picker since he was in high school. Bill is also a surfer, kayaker, and certified SCUBA diver. He has worked with State Parks, Fish and Game, and local land trusts on various salmon restoration projects. He team-taught an Advance Placement environmental science course with a strongly imbedded local marine component for nine years at Mendocino School District's School of Natural Resources. In addition to direct experience with marine resources, he has a Master's degree in community psychology. The MLPA process is about people as much as it is about the ocean. Bill's

community values, community-building experience, and listening and communication skills will help him foster information sharing and collaboration among interested groups. His education and teaching experience have honed his ability to use scientific information for ecological purposes and to help take human needs into account.

2.) Bill's particular combination of skills will allow him to balance localized knowledge with a broader regional perspective. His disciplined study of marine ecology and natural history builds and expands upon what he knows from local experience. He also has contacts that range from Elk to Westport. His background includes being on the original working group for the MLPA process from 2001—03 where issues concerning the entire North Coast were discussed and evaluated. As a consultant for NRDC, he will also bring statewide experience and perspective to the table.

3.) As you can see from the summary, Bill is well-suited to convey the interests of more than one stakeholder group because he actually shares the interests of many stakeholder groups. He is a passionate participant in consumptive commercial activities (abalone diving, fishing), non-consumptive recreation activities (surfing, kayaking) and was a participant in consumptive commercial activities (salmon fishing). He's a marine educator. He is active in habitat restoration and monitoring in Big River and other watersheds, and is a co-founder of the Mendocino Abalone Watch that works to mobilize citizens to help deter abalone poaching. His stewardship values inform many of these activities. The people with whom he routinely consults reflect the breadth of his activities and interests. He believes in a balanced approach as the most sensible way to solve the inherent challenges in creating protected areas that are used by such a variety of people. His goal is to remain flexible, seek to understand and express a range of perspectives, factor in important features of individual needs with the overarching need for conservation, and actively build common ground among varied interests.

4.) As a classroom teacher, collaboration was his primary mode—not only with students, but also with his peers in the field of education. Most of his advanced degree study (PhD in education) concerned the study of how groups can better communicate specific needs for the benefit of both individuals and groups. As a leader of over fifty national and international wilderness experience trips that built individual's skills and fostered teamwork and mutual respect, he has honed his abilities as a group leader and mentor using a collaborative approach to consensus building.

5.) Bill will make time to reach out to stakeholders not attending public meetings. Through in-person meetings, email and letters, his goal would be to develop a network of people he regularly informs about MLPA activities, with updates and summaries geared to help move the process toward completion. Having taught an integrated English and technology course for years, he has extensive background in communication theory and practice as well as the technology skills to quickly become proficient with MarineMap. He has already been attending informal meetings and meetings convened by the City of Fort Bragg, and he is staying in touch with an array of interested citizens.

6.) Bill has the skills, time, equanimity, and regard in the community that will allow him to effectively complete all aspects of the charge of the RSG. He will share his regional knowledge for preparation of the regional profile. He will work with members of the RSG and other interests to develop alternative proposals for MPAs within the North Coast region that meet the requirements of the MLPA, and will conduct outreach to constituent groups. His expertise in restoration projects and developing monitoring programs for them will be a particularly valuable contribution to the design process. He will use his considerable resources to work toward a high degree of cross-interest involvement and support in crafting MPA proposals.

Contact information

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Current and Past Affiliations

Mendocino Fire Protection District (Vice President)
Mendocino Abalone Watch (co-founder and volunteer)
Mendocino Land Trust (board Vice President for four years; currently consulting)
Coastal Land Trust (consultant)
The Conservation Fund (collaborating on conservation easement monitoring)
California Department of Fish and Game (collaboration)
California Department of Parks and Recreation (collaboration)
The Campbell Timber Group, LLC (collaboration)
Natural Resources Defense Council (consultant)
Mendocino Unified School District (employee for 35 years)
School of Natural Resources (co-director for nine years)
College of the Redwoods (instructor)
Sonoma State University (instructor/mentor)
Columbia Pacific University (graduate-level research)
Chemeketa Community College (consultant)
Northwest Center for Sustainable Resources (collaboration)

Past Involvement in Public Processes

Mendocino Fire Protection District board member
Involved in the first round of MLPA meetings, 2001-2003.
Mendocino National Forest Master Plan Working Group, 1997—1999
Citizens for Sensible Solid Waste Planning founding member

Willingness to Commit

As a contractor for NRDC for the MLPA process in the North Coast Region, Bill is willing and able to commit the time for full participation, completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group. He is a team player who has relationships with diverse stakeholders; he will work to connect interested parties who cannot afford the time to serve on the RSG.

Organizations and Individuals – Communication

He plans to communicate regularly with conservation groups, land trusts, fellow educators, and interested community organizations, groups, and individuals.

Communication and Outreach Mechanisms

To communicate with his primary constituency, allied groups and varied interests, Bill will develop email lists to connect to conservation groups locally and throughout the region and use his pre-existing communication networks (meetings, shared activities, email) to communicate with other constituencies.

Areas of Knowledge and Expertise

Communication theory and practice
Structure of English language as a communication tool
Wilderness psychology and group leadership
Local marine and terrestrial natural history
Mendocino Community resources

Sincerely,



Karen Garrison
Co-Director, NRDC Ocean Program

Bill Lemos
Consultant