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November 24, 2009

Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suit 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

We are writing to nominate Jennifer Savage as a member of the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) for the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Ms. Savage and her organization, Ocean Conservancy, have a shared and ongoing commitment to the restoration and protection of marine resources and to achieving these goals through collaboration, local knowledge and a foundation of sound science.

As members of the Central Coast and North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Groups, we are well aware of the skills and characteristics necessary to effective participation in the MLPA stakeholder group process. We are confident that Ms. Savage is an excellent candidate and would contribute significantly to the North Coast RSG. Ms. Savage's background, experience, and commitment to working collaboratively with and on behalf of a variety of stakeholders to find science-based solutions to restore and support wild and healthy California coastal areas make her particularly well qualified for this position. In addition, as a full-time employee of Ocean Conservancy, Ms. Savage will have the time and resources necessary to commit to the MLPA RSG process and the extensive constituency outreach activities that are necessary for this process to be successful in the long-term. Indeed, both of us are prepared to advise and actively assist Ms. Savage in this role as necessary.

We address each of the "Criteria for Selection" listed in the October 30, 2009 Request for Nominations below:

- (1) Ms. Savage is knowledgeable about both northern California's marine resources and a broad range of regional marine protection efforts including water quality, fisheries, and habitat protection. Much of her childhood unfolded along the

shores of Southern California, where her parents belonged to a scuba club that held lessons in her family's backyard pool during the week and dove at Point Dume on weekends. While living in Long Beach, she saw firsthand the damage done when ocean health is not prioritized.

As an adult, she treasures living on the Samoa peninsula between Humboldt Bay and the Pacific. She's studied the sea and dune life around her home, both in formal college courses and her own research through Friends of the Dunes educational programs. Additionally, her three children took many workshops through Humboldt State University's Natural History Museum, expanding the whole family's knowledge of the area. As a surfer, Ms. Savage has become even more familiar with the creatures and plants living off the North Coast. She's shared the water with seals, sea lions, whales, fish of all sorts, and, on one terrifying occasion, a great white shark. She's rescued cormorants and murrelets bruised by North Coast winter storms, and written news stories about eelgrass, spartina and salmonid projects in Humboldt Bay. When not surfing solo, she's surfing with her family and an expanse of friends up-and-down the North Coast.

This personal experience and her professional experience as the Chair of the Humboldt Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation have contributed greatly to her knowledge of the marine resources of the North Coast.

- (2) Ms. Savage was raised in Southern California and has spent the last 20 years raising a family in Humboldt County, so has a statewide perspective on California's coastal resources. Her volunteer work with Surfrider Foundation and continued employment with Lost Coast Communications help her see the broader regional perspective of the North Coast. And as the North Coast Program Coordinator for Ocean Conservancy, Ms. Savage is responsible for organizational activities throughout Northern California and specifically in Humboldt County. When taken in the cumulative, these experiences allow her to build on her local and regional perspective and make her well-equipped to balance a broad regional perspective with a more detailed personal knowledge of her local coastline.
- (3) and (4) Ocean Conservancy is fundamentally committed to the long-term protection of California's coastal and ocean resources and strongly believes that meaningful input from all ocean users is important to developing lasting solutions to management challenges. As a staff member of Ocean Conservancy, Ms. Savage is both committed to this organizational ethic and is experienced in practical application of these goals.

Ms. Savage has already spent significant time reaching out to non-traditional allies such as commercial and recreational fishermen. She has also spent the last six months familiarizing herself with tribal issues, as well as getting to know representatives from a variety of local tribes, including the Yurok and Trinidad Rancheria. This work across interests has established and grown new and existing relationships with members of the North Coast community. Her even

temperament and pleasant demeanor make her well-suited for this work, which has already paid off in the form of trust and respect for and from other potential RSG members. Ms. Savage has spent considerable time working with stakeholders and local elected officials on developing a plan for an external unified proposal from the tribal, fishing and conservation communities from Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Ms. Savage is committed to finding solutions that work for everyone in the community through this external process, as well as continuing in this community spirit as proposals are given to the RSG.

As the current chair of Surfrider Foundation's Humboldt Chapter, Ms. Savage has helped propel the organization from scarcely existing to doubling its membership and increasing its funds tenfold by garnering vast community support. The chapter has already implemented infrastructure improvements; projects in the works include a water quality lab and an overhaul of community amenities at Moonstone Beach. The latter project requires consensus among members of the public, government agencies, private property owners and Surfrider Foundation – another example of Ms. Savage's governing belief that all stakeholders must have some level of support for a plan to ensure its success.

Perhaps most importantly, Ms. Savage has broad experience and proven success in working objectively and is able to quickly glean information of import and communicate the essentials in a useful manner that enables everyone to move forward. Evidence of this is public record, as Ms. Savage spent eight years prior to being hired by Ocean Conservancy as a journalist for the Arcata Eye newspaper. One of her primary roles was reporting as the Eye's "Bay Correspondent," giving her insight into both the political and environmental issues facing Humboldt Bay and Shelter Cove. In an era of particularly tumultuous change at the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, Ms. Savage was able to continually provide comprehensive and accurate information to the Eye's readers, which in turn prompted greater coverage of district issues by regional publications. She continues to contribute to the North Coast Journal as a monthly columnist focusing on art and financial issues.

- (5) Ms. Savage's experience in journalism as a writer for local newspapers and as a radio show host make her well-suited for the kind of communication that is necessary as an RSG member.

Ms. Savage is well regarded and known through her extensive work in North Coast radio. She's risen from a volunteer talk show at KMUD to a music host at KHSU to paid positions with KHUM and KSLG. Because of her reputation and skill, KSLG has arranged to keep Ms. Savage on the airwaves weekend afternoons, despite her full-time employment with Ocean Conservancy. All of these factors contribute greatly to her ability to "get the word out" regarding public issues.

Ms. Savage's ability to expand communication through an email network, website and community forums greatly assisted her in achieving the goals of Surfrider's Humboldt Chapter. She has continued to deepen the chapter's relationships across the region, organizing events with the Mendocino chapter and reaching out to the Crescent City chapter, as well. Kayakers and other ocean enthusiasts attend Surfrider's meetings, access Surfrider's website, and join the Humboldt Chapter email network to stay abreast of the latest in access, water quality and ocean health issues.

Both Ms. Savage and Ocean Conservancy intend to commit significant time and resources to constituency outreach to ensure the highest possible level of public awareness of and participation in the North Coast MLPA process. Over the past months, Ms. Savage has already engaged in considerable outreach regarding the North Coast MLPA process by meeting with local fishermen, scientists, kayakers, agencies and birders in the region. If selected to serve on the RSG, Ms. Savage and Ocean Conservancy would commit to extensive outreach activities to ensure effective representation of a broad range of conservation and public interests.

Ms. Savage attended Humboldt State University and continues to work closely with both educators and students there. Ms. Savage intends to give regular presentations on the MLPA to Humboldt State University classes, as well as local and regional conservation organizations including Surfrider, Explore North Coast and Sierra Club, plus other stakeholders to solicit the input of the broadest possible range of interests. Ocean Conservancy would work with conservation allies to provide frequent web postings and e-mail updates on the MLPA to interested parties and to develop MLPA fact sheets and other educational materials for tabling and outreach events throughout the North Coast region. Currently, Ocean Conservancy has joined with Humboldt Baykeeper and Surfrider Foundation to host an "Ocean Movie Night," which combines outreach and education with entertainment.

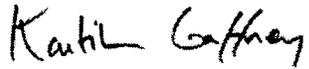
(6) Ocean Conservancy is deeply familiar with the specific charge of the RSG and is committed to working constructively with other stakeholders to help complete this charge. And Ms. Savage is uniquely situated to bring a balanced and thoughtful perspective to the RSG, to convey ideas and concerns in an articulate and constructive way, and to respect the views and values of others.

Ms. Savage can be reached at:

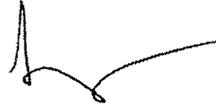
Jennifer Savage, North Coast Program Coordinator
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For these reasons, we are nominating Jennifer Savage to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

Sincerely,



Kaitilin Gaffney
Director, Pacific Ecosystem Protection
Ocean Conservancy
Former Member, Central Coast RSG



Samantha Murray
Manager, Pacific Ecosystems
Ocean Conservancy
Former Member, NCC RSG