

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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NOV 23 2009

November 20, 2009

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

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

Re: Nominations to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

I am writing to nominate two members of the California Coastal Commission staff to participate in the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative's North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. These staff members are Dr. John Dixon and Mr. Cassidy Teufel.

As the Coastal Commission's lead Ecologist located in Eureka, Dr. Dixon has a wealth of research experience throughout coastal California as well as detailed local knowledge of the north coast region. Dr. Dixon has held his current position with the Coastal Commission since 1997 and has contributed to a wide variety of research and scientific publications on marine species, marine ecology and fisheries over the past several decades. Dr. Dixon completed his doctoral work in ecology at the University of Santa Barbara and has held a number of positions throughout coastal California in academia and as a research biologist.

During his work at the Coastal Commission, Dr. Dixon has often been called upon to contribute his expertise in challenging and controversial decision making processes and assist with negotiations between widely divergent interest groups, including those associated with developing marine resource impact mitigation strategies for California's coastal nuclear generating stations. In addition, Dr. Dixon has collaborated with a variety of state, federal and local agencies on research projects and has been awarded numerous contracts to pursue marine research, including extensive investigations on marine invertebrates and their fisheries in California. He worked cooperatively for over ten years with the California Department of Fish and Game developing sea urchin life-history information to inform fishery management decisions. As part of this endeavor, he conferred often with sea urchin fishermen and often dove off their boats at sites along the Mendocino coast.

Dr. Dixon has been closely following the MLPA process, including initial planning and outreach

efforts along the north coast and looks forward to contributing his education, experience and knowledge to this process. Dr. Dixon's detailed understanding of the Coastal Act as well as his familiarity with local issues and local stakeholders will no doubt be an asset to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

Over the past four years as a Coastal Program Analyst in the Coastal Commission's statewide Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division, Mr. Teufel has enhanced his knowledge of the unique marine resources of coastal California with a more intimate understanding of the north coast region through his work on a variety of coastal and offshore projects in this area. Carrying out environmental impact analyses and Coastal Act consistency evaluations for several Army Corps of Engineers dredging projects, shellfish aquaculture operations and coastal power plant development and decommissioning projects along the north coast has provided him with knowledge of the fisheries and marine habitats unique to this region and familiarized him with the area's geography. Work on these projects has also often required a strong willingness and ability to engage in dialogue and collaborate with a wide variety of diverse stakeholders.

In addition, as a resident of northern California for over a decade and while earning degrees in resource management and marine ecology and holding previous positions as a research assistant at UC Berkeley and the Bodega Marine Lab, Mr. Teufel has had numerous opportunities to work, study, hike, dive and explore coastal and offshore areas between Point Arena and Crescent City.

During his time with the Coastal Commission Mr. Teufel has also participated in several working groups and committees including the California Department of Fish and Game's Aquaculture Development Committee and the North-Central Coast MLPA Regional Stakeholder Group's Marine Mammal Disturbance Working Group, and has been called upon to represent the fundamental interests of the Coastal Commission and convey the policies of the Coastal Act in a collaborative environment in which a reliance on fixed positions would not have been appropriate.

In his work reviewing coastal development permit applications and analyzing the consistency of proposed developments with the policies of the Coastal Act, Mr. Teufel is often required to work collaboratively with a diverse range of state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and focused interest groups to help ensure that their specific concerns and interests are considered along with those of the coastal recreation communities, fishermen, farmers, tourists and California residents considered under the Coastal Act. As a state employee integrated into both the state and Coastal Commission communication networks, Mr. Teufel is also very accessible to the general public and is able to draw on these resources to reach stakeholders that may not be able to attend the public MLPA meetings.

Mr. Teufel appreciates having been able to participate in the MLPA South Coast and North-Central Regional Stakeholder Groups and is looking forward to continuing to contribute his skills and experience to help ensure that the charge of the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group is successfully met. Although based out of the Coastal Commission's headquarters office in San Francisco, Mr. Teufel is committed to being able to fully participate in the North Coast

MPLA process and will be able to take advantage of the regional Coastal Commission office in Eureka to do so.

In conclusion, I feel that both Dr. Dixon and Mr. Teufel would be valuable additions to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group and I appreciate your consideration of the nomination of Dr. Dixon as a primary stakeholder and Mr. Teufel as an alternate.

Sincerely,



Susan Hansch
Chief Deputy Director

cc: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director, California Coastal Commission
John Dixon, Ecologist, California Coastal Commission
Cassidy Teufel, Coastal Program Analyst, California Coastal Commission