

November 26, 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:

I am writing to nominate myself, Beth Werner, as a member of the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) for the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). I work for Humboldt Baykeeper and 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.

I have confidence that I am an excellent candidate and would contribute significantly to the North Coast RSG. My 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 me particularly well qualified for this position. In addition, as a full-time employee of Humboldt Baykeeper, I 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.

I would like to address each of the "Criteria for Selection" listed in the October 30, 2009 Request for Nominations below:

(1) I am knowledgeable about both northern California's marine resources and a broad range of regional marine protection efforts including water quality, fisheries, and habitat protection. I am an Environmental Engineer and have an extensive research background in the water quality in our local rivers and at the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility & Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. I worked with the Evergreen Pulp Mill in 2007 and witnessed first hand the detrimental influence the waste pipeline had to our coastal environment.

I have lived in the Humboldt County for ten years and have an ongoing relationship with the ocean from my recreational activities including kayaking, birding, fishing, crabbing, surfing and hiking along the coastline. This personal experience and as well as my professional experience have greatly contributed to my knowledge of the marine resources of the North Coast.

(2) I volunteered with Humboldt Baykeeper for 3 years before being hired as the Outreach/ MLPA Coordinator. I have been a leader throughout my life; leading the Society of Women Engineers during my college years and studying Earth Systems Science at Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Center. When taken in the cumulative,

these experiences allow me to build on my local and regional perspective and make me well-equipped to balance a broad regional perspective with a more detailed personal knowledge of my local coastline.

(3) and (4) Humboldt Baykeeper is fundamentally committed to the long-term protection of the Bay, 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. Humboldt Baykeeper is supported by the national Waterkeeper organization which has the ability to support me through this process with guidance from other Waterkeeper organizations along the California coast. As a staff member of Humboldt Baykeeper, I am committed to this organizations ethics and am experienced in practical application of these goals.

(5) I have the ability to expand communication through an email network, website and community forums greatly assisting me in achieving the goals of Humboldt Baykeeper. I strive to continue to deepen the Baykeepers relationship across the region, organizing events with the public to take interested community members out on the Bay to show them the amazing resource we have and to educate the public on the workings of the Bay.

Both I and Humboldt Baykeeper 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, I have already engaged in considerable outreach regarding the North Coast MLPA process by meeting with local fishermen, and scientists. If selected to serve on the RSG, Humboldt Baykeeper and myself would commit to extensive outreach activities to ensure effective representation of a broad range of conservation and public interests.

I attended Humboldt State University and continue to work closely with both educators and students there. I am currently working with the Restoration Ecology class to support three interns that are working to restore the Widow White Creek watershed in Mckinleyville (located north of Eureka). This process incorporates working with the professor, students, local government agencies, consultants and community members to preserve the damaged salmonid bearing watershed. I also intend to give regular presentations on the MLPA to Humboldt State University classes, local high schools and other interested stakeholders. I will work with conservation allies to provide frequent web postings and e-mail updates on the MLPA to interested parties and have developed MLPA fact sheets and other educational materials for tabling. Currently, Humboldt Baykeeper has joined with Ocean Conservancy and Surfrider Foundation to host an "Ocean Movie Night," which combines outreach and education with entertainment.

(6) Humboldt Baykeeper is deeply familiar with the specific charge of the RSG and is committed to working constructively with other stakeholders to help complete this charge. If selected to serve on the RSG, I would have the added benefit of working closely with other California Coastkeepers, who have completed service in the other regions along the California Coast.

I am 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.

I can be reached at:

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