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Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
c/o California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attention: NCRSG Nominations

***Subject: North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) nominations***

The enclosed package contains a nomination and a number of endorsements supporting my appointment to the NCRSG. In addition to the enclosed nomination from the College of the Redwoods, I would also like to self-nominate myself in order to clarify my relationship to the somewhat diverse stakeholder groups supporting my appointment, and to disclose personal attributes I believe will well serve the NCRSG.

This package also contains information regarding two members of my NCRSG "team" who will act as alternates in my absence and as advisors. These two men, Dr. John Keane and Mr. Allen Sansano bring considerable professional and personal expertise to this process. Their knowledge and professionalism will not only assist me, but again will well serve the entire NCRSG.

The City of Fort Bragg is a coastal town with a long fishing history, both from the commercial and sportfishing standpoints. Although local fisheries commerce has diminished in recent years, the City is logically concerned about processes that may affect them. Reflecting this concern, the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg has selected me for their designated liaison in this process.

The support from the City is, in part, a response to my profession as a fisheries biologist working with coho salmon and steelhead in this region. In my professional duties, which are further illustrated in my responses to the six points of ***Criteria for Selection***, I manage a salmonid monitoring and restoration program that has many links to marine resources. This program is also part of a cooperative effort between the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the timber management firm that employs me. In the North Coast timber region, this is rather unique and highlights my interests in working collaboratively.

My recreational pursuits of kayak fishing, surfing, and sport abalone diving, which I've participated in for over 25 years in this region, will also well serve the NCRSG. Three

kayak fishing organizations representing over 2500 members and the Mendocino Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation support my appointment.

In response to the question posed regarding past involvement to the MLPA process: Although I have vigorously followed the implementation of the Initiative in other study regions, particularly the NCC, I am a fresh face to North Coast Study Region Initiative process. While that be limiting regarding my knowledge base, it may be beneficial to appoint someone that has not been biased by exposure to previous iterations of the process.

In summary, the organizations that support my appointment are listed below:

- City of Fort Bragg
- College of the Redwoods, Mendocino Coast
- North Coast Kayak Anglers
- North West Kayak Anglers
- Kayak Fishing Association of California
- Mendocino Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation
- Golden State Land Conservancy
- Noyo Watershed Alliance

I intend to communicate regularly with all these entities through the processes listed in the response to *Criteria for Selection* queries.

The implementation of the MLPA poses serious questions and potential economic pitfalls for North Coast residents. I believe that individuals, from time to time, are presented with a crossroad decision: whether or not to use their unique skills developed over a lifetime to benefit the community. I have decided that this is my time. I have unique local knowledge of the marine ecology and deep seated desire to serve my community. The intention of the MLPA and the associated MPAs is to maximize marine ecological values within and adjacent to the preserves, while minimizing economic consequences. I am now in a position where I can help the Initiative process succeed in these goals from the perspective of a community member.

Thank you for your consideration,

David W. Wright

## **Response to Criteria for Selection Queries**

### **Provide first-hand knowledge:**

In my personal pursuits, I have been a surfer, kayak fisher, kayaker and guide, sport fisher, and sport SCUBA and abalone diver in the North Coast Study Region for over 25 years. I have also been a resident of the City of Fort Bragg for nearly 20 years. In my professional life, I am a fisheries biologist managing a monitoring and restoration project for coho salmon and steelhead in North Coast streams and rivers for a timber management organization, which specializes in what has been termed “Conservation Forestry.”

Although I deal with terrestrial and riverine based limiting factors for salmonids, there is a tremendous interface between both local marine and terrestrial factors to consider. Consequently, in my daily duties I am always aware of marine issues in our region.

Before working for my present employer, I worked for California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on salmonid and *rock fish complex* fishery monitoring. During that interim, I began volunteering as an abalone creel surveyor, and I presently continue with that activity.

### **Balanced perspective of the entire North Coast Study Region:**

My employment responsibilities require me to interact with many folks of all perspectives throughout the North Coast, from CDFG and National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) staff on the agency side, to conservation groups and other timber interests from the NGO perspective. Although I deal with aquatic resource issues specifically in the area defined by Usal Creek on the North to Noyo River on the south, all these local concerns are shared regionally, and consequently I have made many contacts throughout our entire aquatic and marine resource region.

As an active member and vice-chair of the Mendocino Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, I have had many occasions to work with members of the Humboldt Chapter on the wave energy issue. In particular, I had the opportunity to work with Jen Savage, the Chairperson of the Humboldt Chapter, and now the nominee for RSG from Ocean Conservancy.

As a surfer and kayak fisher for over 25 years on the North Coast, I have had the opportunity to visit the entire region at one point or another.

### **Ability to convey the interest of one or more stakeholder groups:**

My abilities to work with diverse interest groups is primarily demonstrated by my list of endorsers, all of whom support me, in part, because of my ability to work with different

groups while still maintaining their fundamental interests. These groups include, The City of Fort Bragg, three kayak fishing organizations, The College of the Redwoods, The Mendocino Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, The Noyo Watershed Alliance, and The Golden State Conservancy.

**Ability to work collaboratively:**

I believe my ability to organize and work with folks from a full range of perspectives is best demonstrated by my efforts to organize a group around the MLPAI “external array” process. Through the shared efforts of myself and the City Council and staff of the City of Fort Bragg, we have compiled what is clearly the most diverse group of all the external array submitters. We have elected call ourselves the *Mendocino Ocean Community Alliance* (MOCA). Comprised within this group, which I have been selected as spokesperson, ranges perspectives from the NRDC, to commercial fishers, urchin divers, surfers, sportfishers and party boat operators, and finally to seaweed harvesters. This group meets biweekly in Town Hall meetings and is facilitated by Dr. Jeanine Pfeiffer. The group’s goal is to submit a community based array that considers all perspectives. The group has also elected to host a series of scientists to speak about various aspects of marine resources as they relate to the MLPA. They will continue to meet biweekly throughout the North Coast Study initiative process.

**Ability to effectively communicate to stakeholders:**

My employer has graciously allowed me to utilize their up-to-date IT services for all communication needs in this process. Additionally, I am well oriented with all Microsoft Office applications and have proficiency in Arc-GIS ArcMap 9.3. The kayak fishing organizations endorsing me are all web based. Consequently, communication with the membership is comparatively easy. I will be in regular communication with the city manager for the City. Our local Chapter of Surfrider meets once a month, and I am in regular email communication with the watershed and conservation organizations endorsing me.

**Commitment to completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group:**

My extensive efforts with the City to organize a diverse working external array group, my work with the local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, and the coordination efforts of kayak fishing groups all demonstrate my commitment to completing this task in the most efficient and effective manner possible.