

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Request for Nominations to the
South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group**

Michael A. McCoy, DVM

Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Criteria for Selection

1. Able to bring first-hand knowledge and perspective to bear on the marine resources of the MLPA South Coast Study Region,

I have been on the Management Authority at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research (TRNERR) for the past 26 years. We are one of 26 reserves in the United States with the mission to manage, protect, do research on site and bioregionally (San Quintin, Mexico to Point Conception, California) educate through a coastal training program and a volunteer outreach program.

I am a founding member and current president of the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, a 501©3 non profit and a cooperative association in partnership with California State Parks and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We coordinate with the Reserve manager at TRNERR who is a non voting member on our board of directors. We restore salt marsh habitat. We help with operations at the Reserve by coordinating with federal and state agencies by promoting the goals of preservation and education in coastal wetlands.

Early in my career I was employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a biologist in the Marine Mammal Division. I worked in the North Pacific studying migration patterns, feeding habits, reproductive habits and diseases of the Northern Fur Seal on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. We also were involved with Sea Otter transplants from the Aleutian Islands to Saint George Islands in the Pribilofs.

2. Able to balance a south coast regional perspective with localized knowledge

I have worked with other managers and organizations on the South Coast and in Mexico. Our interest is application of research data and management

approaches both locally and bioregionally. I have worked on projects on San Clemente Island for the US Navy as a veterinarian. I treated and cared for seals and sea lions while working at the San Diego Zoo.

3. Willing to express fundamental interests (as opposed to fixed positions) and to clearly convey the interests of one or more stakeholder groups,

The Management Authority is made up of international, federal, state, county agencies, jurisdictions, nonprofits and research institutions. All members have different missions which have to be recognized. We are able to coordinate our tasks on a consensus basis. There are fifteen representatives in all.

4. Capable of working collaboratively, seeking to integrate the interests of the full range of constituencies,

I played a significant role in establishing the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge, the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, designation of the Tijuana Estuary as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and the establishment of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife refuge. I was appointed to and serve as a member of the San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Commission and County Parks Committee.

To accomplish these goals it was necessary to set up networks and working groups involving environmental organizations (both local, state and national), elected officials at all levels of government, agency people at the state and federal level, research institutions and the general public.

5. Able to access and use an effective communication network to reach stakeholders not attending the public meetings,

The same skills used for #4 above hold true for #5. It requires extensive outreach to all interested parties involved in the MLPA process ensuring all voices are heard equitably.

6. Committed to completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group.

My answer for this would be the same answer in #4. To accomplish the tasks mentioned in #4 has taken nearly 40 years hence it has been a lifetime of commitment.

7. Description of the organizations and individuals with which the nominee will communicate.

The list would include the major environmental organizations including the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, Coastkeeper, the Environmental Health Coalition and the Nature Conservancy top name a few. I know the key people in these organizations having worked closely with them over the years.

I work currently with research institutions and researchers Dr. Jeff Crooks at the TRNERR. Dr. Joy Zedler at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Donald Hunsacker at Hubbs Sea World, the San Diego State University Field Station Program, and contacts at Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

Following is a list of peer groups in conservation and planning. Government staff in Mexico at local, state and federal agencies and universities. International Boundary and Water Commission, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Navy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Coastal Commission, California Coastal Conservancy, County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation the City of San Diego and the City of Imperial Beach.

Elected officials and their offices: Senator Christine Kehoe Senator Denise Ducheny, Assemblywoman Mary Salas, Assemblywoman Lori Saldana, Congresswoman Susan Davis, Congressman Bob Filner, Congressman Brian Bilbray, former Mayor of Imperial Beach plus staff for Senator Diane Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer.

County elected officials: Supervisor Greg Cox. I represent Supervisor Cox on the County Parks Committee and the Otay Valley River Park Committee. Supervisor Pam Slater Price.

Local elected officials –Mayor and Council, City of Imperial Beach. I represent the City on the Management Authority at the Reserve.

8. Outreach mechanisms include phone communication, meetings as appropriate, e-mail and direct mail. There is a well developed contact web in San Diego County. Because of my position at the Reserve I have good working relations and contacts at many levels of government as outlined above.

9. Expertise. I feel knowledgeable about Southern California Salt Marsh Ecosystems and their interface with oceanographic systems. I have had hands on experience with marine mammals in my capacity as a wildlife veterinarian.

In closing I would suggest that the use of mass transit should be encouraged where possible to get to meetings and that the transit location should be in proximity to workshops, lodging and meals to minimize the need for transportation.

Sincerely

Michael A. McCoy, DVM