



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Graduate and Research Affairs  
Vice President for Research  
Dean of Graduate Affairs  
San Diego State University  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego CA 92182-8220  
Tel: 619-594-2978  
Fax: 619-594-3561

July 18, 2008

The Honorable Susan Golding  
Chair  
Blue Ribbon Task Force  
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
c/o California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Donald Koch  
Director  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Golding and Mr. Koch:

On behalf of San Diego State University, I nominate the following individuals for selection to the South Coast Regional Stakeholders Group (SCRSG). While each has unique subject-matter expertise, they are uniform in their desire to participate in the MPA process, their extensive local knowledge, and their proven ability to work with diverse groups to build consensus and effect action.

In addition, I wish to endorse the nominations by Scripps Institute of Oceanography of: Mr. Al Ducheny, Dr. Ed Parnell, Dr. William Fox, and Mr. Dave Rudie. Upon review of their qualifications, I concur with Dr. Haymet's recommendation that they be given full consideration for selection to the SCRSG.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Scott  
Vice President for Research and  
Graduate Dean

**Mr. Michael Nelson**  
Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy

San Diego, CA 92101

On behalf of San Diego State University, I would like to nominate Mr. Michael Nelson to the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG). Mr. Nelson is the Executive Director of the San Diego River Conservancy, an independent, government agency established to restore and protect a 52-mile riparian corridor and develop a stream valley park along San Diego River; a corridor that connects a national forest, two state parks, five habitat conservation areas, more than 20 local and municipal parks and public open spaces, as well as, four national historic land marks and 29 state landmarks.

While at first glance, the participation of a river resource manager in a coastal management process may not seem appropriate, we feel strongly that taking into account the linkages between coastal watersheds and their influence on marine habitats is an element that must be considered when planning for the health of our coastal communities.

Over the past two decades, many research programs have addressed coastal watersheds in discrete segments, dissociating marine processes from those that occur upstream. However, recently a holistic "Source-to-Sink" approach has been embraced by the National Science Foundation (see: <http://www.nsf-margins.org/S2S/S2S.html> for more background). We endorse this approach and therefore strongly recommend that Mr. Nelson is given full consideration as a Stakeholder for the South Coast Region.

Mr. Nelson brings over 25 years of resource management experience to the table, in positions as high as Assistant Secretary for Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. In his past and current position, Mr. Nelson has proven himself an expert at building consensus and working cooperatively with a variety of stakeholders, from land-owners to recreation groups to local and national politicians.

In his current position, Mr. Nelson is intimately engaged with the restoration of a local coastal resource, the San Diego River. His board includes the Mayor of San Diego, two City Council members, a San Diego County Supervisor, California's Director of Finance and Secretary of Resources, Director, California Parks and Recreation, Executive Director of Wildlife Conservation Board, a San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Member, a California Senate and Assembly appointee as well as, three community and conservation leaders.

Mr. Nelson's past experience and present activities clearly demonstrate his dedication to the responsible management of natural resources, as well as his access to a broad-base of stakeholders within the South Coast Region.

In California where watersheds are often small and steep, the impacts of watershed activities can be severe on the coastal marine environment. We are tremendously grateful to Mr. Nelson for enthusiastically agreeing to be nominated and participate fully in the SCRSG because we feel his participation will bring a breadth and sophistication to the MPA process that could easily be overlooked. We encourage the SCRSG to recognize the vital part coastal watersheds play in marine health and offer Mr. Nelson full consideration.

Mr. Nelson's nomination is also endorsed by Scripps Institute of Oceanography.