

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Charter of the MLPA Statewide Interests Group, 2007-2008
March 31, 2007

Official Name: This group officially is designated as the MLPA Statewide Interests Group (SIG) to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Background: The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) was tasked by the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a master plan, with recommended alternative networks of marine protected areas within the state's coastal waters, for proposed adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. Designing and implementing marine protected areas is challenging from a public policy perspective. Therefore, the secretary for resources determined it beneficial to convene an MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to enhance the state's ability to carry out the mandate under the Marine Life Protection Act.

Creation of a BRTF was initially stipulated in a 2004 memorandum of understanding (MOU) to which the California Resources Agency, DFG, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation were parties. The MOU created a public-private partnership, known as the MLPA Initiative, to help the state implement the MLPA. One element of the initiative was a pilot project along the central coast (Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County). The MOU expired in December 2006 and a second MOU was signed for the purpose of continuing the public-private partnership, including a second phase task force, in the north central coast (Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County).

To assist the task force in communicating with stakeholders and the public on a statewide basis regarding implementation of the MLPA and recommendations of the BRTF, the MLPA Statewide Interests Group was created under the first phase MOU and will be created again under the second phase MOU.

Membership: The SIG will consist of 10 to 15 individuals with the willingness and capacity to communicate with as broad a constituency as possible. The individuals selected will achieve a diversity of perspectives, constituencies and geography. Members are appointed by the MLPA Initiative executive director in consultation with the chair of the BRTF, secretary of the California Resources Agency, and director of DFG.

Term: Each member of the SIG shall serve through December 2008, or until relieved of duties, at the pleasure of the chair of the BRTF.

Charge: The charge to the SIG shall be to consult with the chair and staff to the BRTF and provide a forum for enhanced communication between the task force and stakeholders regarding:

- the MLPA Initiative and statewide policy issues,
- outreach to constituent groups regarding opportunities for involvement in the MLPA Initiative,
- panel speakers for task force meetings, and
- other issues as identified.

The SIG will not negotiate or decide issues outside the public sessions of the BRTF and the BRTF will not expect any members to make commitments on behalf of their constituencies.

Attendance: The members of the SIG are expected to participate in all regular meetings of the group, which shall generally be scheduled by teleconference before or after BRTF meetings between March 2007 and December 2008. The chair of the BRTF, or her/his designee, shall participate in all regular meetings of the SIG.

Remuneration: Members of the SIG will, upon request, be reimbursed for any travel expenditures related to the MLPA Initiative, but not for time. All meetings are expected to be conducted via conference call through a toll-free number, so participation costs to SIG members are not anticipated.