



November 26, 2009

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
c/o California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attention: Melissa Miller-Henson  
Email: [MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov)

RE: Nomination of Pete Nichols, Executive Director Humboldt Baykeeper, for North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

Having reviewed the criteria and consulted with participants in the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI) from the Central, North Central, and South Coast Regions (including some RSG members), I am confident that I will be an asset to the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. My experience, education, and dedication to the community has prepared me well to serve the diverse interests and resources encompassed by the MLPAI.

As the full-time Executive Director of Humboldt Baykeeper, I will have the time and resources necessary to commit to the MLPA RSG and strongly advocate for this process to be successful in the long-term.

Below I will address each of the "Criteria for Selection" listed in the October 30, 2009 Request for Nominations:

(1 and 2) As a biologist, fisherman, and coastal advocate I bring a broad perspective to the management and an understanding of the many uses of our coastal resources. The experiences and understanding that my background affords enables me to effectively communicate, respect, and comprehend the many viewpoints which will be represented on the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group and other committees within the greater MLPAI. Prior to coming to Humboldt Baykeeper, I acted as Project Manager for the California Wildlands Project. The goal of the project was to identify high value terrestrial habitat throughout the State through habitat modeling and develop strategies to protect these valuable places. My background in conservation biology and advocacy should greatly benefit the MLPAI process on the north coast.

(3 and 4) I sit on a number of boards and committees which are engaged in the consideration of public policy and resource management. The membership of these committees and boards encompass representatives with differing interests and goals. Patience and careful consideration of alternative views is central to the success of the workings of these bodies.

I have worked on conservation issues on the north coast for over 15 years and would be an excellent member of the MLPA Initiative's North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. I have been the Executive Director of Humboldt Baykeeper for the past 5 years and have worked to protect our coastal resources not only in the Humboldt Bay region, but I have been a strong advocate for the entire north coast.

I am currently the Pacific Region representative on the Board of Directors of the International Waterkeeper Alliance, an Alliance of 200 Waterkeepers on 6 continents all working to protect our right to clean water and healthy ecosystems. I have been a member of the Board of the California Coastkeeper Alliance, an Alliance of 12 Waterkeepers in California, for 5 years, and am the current President of the Board of the Northcoast Environmental Center, representing 8 regional environmental groups on many issues facing the north coast. I also serve on the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water Districts Water Rights Committee, and on the Humboldt Wave Energy Task Force.

(4) I have worked for sometime with a diverse group of stakeholders on many regional conservation issues and feel I have the ability to work collaboratively and positively to achieve the desired outcome for the MLPAI. I strongly believe that working within a group with the structure of the RSG that it is critical that all perspectives are considered and respected and one must have an understanding of the diverse nature of the voices within the group.

(5) Both Humboldt Baykeeper and the Northcoast Environmental Center have means to disseminate information regarding the work of the RSG. Both organizations have web-based listserves to communicate with their membership and supporters, as well as hard-copy newsletters to inform their supporters of environmentally-related events occurring in the region. In addition, I host radio shows on two local radio stations that are focused on issues related to the coast and to the local environment. Over the past 2 years, I have featured the MLPA process as the topic of both of these radio shows.

(6) As a member of the RSG, I will be committed to working to find the best reserve design for the north coast that prioritizes the optimal benefits for the marine environment, while considering the all-important socio-economic needs of the region. I would be honored to serve on the RSG and hope that you take my experience, knowledge, and concern for my community into account when selecting members to the RSG for the north coast region.

For the coast---

Pete Nichols, Executive Director  
Humboldt Baykeeper