N C T C A

Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association

Honorable Jim Kellogg, President
Members of the Commission
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear President Kellogg and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (NCTCA) and the Inter-Tribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, we are pleased to submit to the California Fish and Game Commission ("Commission") a proposed motion to include traditional tribal gathering in the preferred alternative prepared for the Initial Statement of Reasons and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance concerning Marine Protected Areas in the North Coast Study Region (please see attached).

We understand that, at its June 29, 2011 meeting, the Commission will receive alternatives/options on the development of the Initial Statement of Reasons and may identify a proposed project for the CEQA document. As part of this process, we understand that the Commission will consider options on how to address traditional tribal gathering. The Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association and the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council respectfully urge the Commission to carefully consider and adopt the attached proposed motion.

This proposed motion is based on our meetings and discussions with John Laird, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, and relevant staff from the Resources Agency, the Commission, the Department of Fish and Game ("Department"), and the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative. With the resolution of legal issues by the Natural Resources Agency, the Commission has the opportunity to recognize and protect traditional tribal gathering, as was recommended by the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. We are confident that our proposed motion would enable Commission and Department staff to prepare a preferred alternative that would allow traditional tribal gathering to continue unimpeded in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the MLPA.

We appreciate the Commission's consideration of traditional tribal gathering and our proposed motion, and we reserve any and all rights of the tribes within our ancestral territory, and this proposal in no way cedes, or is to be interpreted as ceding any such rights. Representatives from several the member tribes of the Chairmen's Association and representatives from the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council will attend the Commission's meeting on June 29, 2011 and we look forward to the opportunity to present comments in support of this proposed motion and to address any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the NCTCA:

Thomas O'Rourke, Chairman
Yurok Tribe

Garth Sundberg, Chairman
Trinidad Rancheria

Elk Valley Rancheria | Blue Lake Rancheria | Hoopa Valley Tribe | Karuk Tribe | Smith River Rancheria | Trinidad Rancheria | Wiyot Tribe | Yurok Tribe