



SHERWOOD VALLEY RANCHERIA

June 27, 2011

Jim Kellogg, President
California Fish and Game Commission
PO Box 944209
Sacramento CA 94244-2090

Re: Tribal Use Options for MPAs in North Coast Study Region

Dear Mr. Kellogg:

Sherwood Valley Rancheria strongly supports the Tribal Use Option 1 concept for Tribal use of North Coast MPAs. We believe this will provide the highest level of protection for Tribal traditional, non-commercial use of marine resources, and because it also provides protection for the ocean environment. We urge the Fish and Game Commission to adopt the Tribal Use Option 1 concept as the preferred alternative for the purpose of the CEQA review and subsequent development of regulations that will authorize a special category of Tribal use.

Option 1 will allow for continued Tribal gathering in the proposed MPAs and it appropriately distinguishes between Tribal uses and public recreational uses. We believe Option 1 provides the highest level of protection for the proposed MPAs. Of the three possible options the State has developed, Option 1 most closely follows the recommendations of the Tribes, the Regional Stakeholder Group, the Blue Ribbon Task Force, and the many other participants in the MLPA Initiative process in regard to ensuring the continuation of Tribal uses, as well as the long term conservation and recovery of critical marine species and habitats.

We hereby request the Commission to apply the Tribal Use Option 1 concept throughout the MPA network, so that it is applicable not only to all State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs), but also to all State Marine Recreational Management Areas (SMRMAs) because SMRMAs are located in cultural use areas for Tribes of the North Coast.

Thank you to the Commission for your work to ensure protection for the ocean and the Tribes' traditional cultural use of ocean resources.

Sincerely,

Michael Fitzgerral
Tribal Chairman

Cc: Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency
Chairwoman Priscilla Hunter, Inter Tribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

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