California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  Sacramento, CA  95814  916.654.1885

September 3, 2010

Thomas O'Rourke, Chairman
Yurok Tribe
190 Klamath Boulevard
P.O. Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548

Dear Chairman O'Rourke,

Thank you for your letter requesting evidence of Institutional Review Board Compliance for the outreach effort to gather input from tribes and tribal communities on Round 2 draft marine protected area (MPA) proposals. As you are aware, the draft MPA proposals were developed by the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

The proposed outreach protocol and associated data sheet were reviewed by the Office of Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The protocol and data sheet were given exemption from human subjects requirements; documentation of the review and the exemption are enclosed. Further, Dr. Satie Airamé and the graduate students who are engaged in the outreach effort completed the University of California, Santa Barbara human subjects exam to ensure that they are knowledgeable about human subjects research. Dr. Airamé completed the human subjects exam in 2005 and has engaged in several outreach projects since then; the graduate students completed the human subjects exam in May and July 2010.

To clarify the intent of the outreach effort, the California Department of Fish and Game and MLPA Initiative staff have invited north coast tribes and tribal communities to meet and discuss the MLPA Initiative and Round 2 draft MPA proposals. During these meetings, we discussed: (1) proposed MPAs that overlap areas of traditional use and/or importance to the tribes and tribal communities and (2) any uses proposed for the MPAs by the tribes and tribal communities with the intention to avoid or minimize potential impacts of MPAs on traditional tribal uses of marine resources to the extent possible and where feasible.

To protect confidentiality, input from tribes and tribal communities has been aggregated; preliminary input was distributed to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group at its July 29-30, 2010 meeting in Fort Bragg. Documents that summarize input from tribes and tribal communities may be downloaded from the MLPA website meetings page (www.resources.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_n.asp) under North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group, meeting agenda and materials for July 29-30, 2010, briefing documents E2-E5.
If desired, additional input from tribes and tribal communities may be shared with MLPA Initiative staff until October 25, 2010 and will be aggregated with input already received and forwarded to the relevant groups engaged in planning and evaluation of proposed MPAs for the north coast study region.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the MLPA Initiative and its marine protected area planning process. If you would like to set up another meeting or conference call with the MLPA Initiative and California Department of Fish and Game staff to discuss the MPA proposals for the north coast study region, please contact Dr. Satie Airame (805-893-3387 or airame@msi.ucsb.edu), science and planning advisor to the MLPA Initiative.

Sincerely,

Ken Wiseman
Executive Director
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Enclosure: UC Santa Barbara human subjects exemption