



RESIGHINI RANCHERIA

October 24, 2011

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California Fish and Game Commission
Attn: Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

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SUBJECT: Resighini Rancheria Factual Record of Historic or Current Uses in North Coast Marine Protected Areas

Dear Mr. Mastrup:

On June 29, 2011, the California Fish & Game Commission (Commission) moved, on a 4-1 vote, to adopt Tribal Option 1, as presented in the June 9, 2011 joint report prepared by the California Department of Fish & Game (Department) and the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI) staff. The Commission adopted Tribal Option 1 as the Preferred Alternative within the North Coast Study Region, to allow tribal gathering to continue within proposed State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs) by federally-recognized tribes who, within sixty (60) days, submitted a factual record confirming current or historical use within the proposed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Since there was no outreach, informal or formal, conducted by the State, the Resighini Rancheria only recently became aware of the Commission's request. Regardless of the arbitrary timeframe developed by the Commission, the Resighini Rancheria would like to take this opportunity to provide the following in response to the Commission's request. We trust you will take this submission into account in the similar manner in which you accepted the factual records from other North Coast federally-recognized Tribes during the created 60 day period.

The Resighini Rancheria is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe, eligible to receive services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs (Federal Register Vol. 75, No. 190). Our reservation lands are located along the south bank of the Klamath River and on the west by Highway 101 bridge and backed up against privately owned land within what is now known as the Yurok Reservation in southern Del Norte County. As a sovereign nation, our tribal government consists of a General Council with an elected Tribal Council to operate our governmental and private tribal affairs as well as represent the tribal needs of our small membership (133). The Tribal Council consists of 5 tribal members who are elected annually by staggered two year term of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and councilperson. Our general membership serves on boards, committees, commission and corporations to assist the Tribal Council.

Members of the Resighini Rancheria have always been known to have exercised the same rights as all other Yurok Indian individuals. We encourage and support tribal members to participate in



local cultural activities offered in our traditional areas. We continue to assert our sovereign status and aboriginal marine use rights for all of our citizens; rights that have never been ceded and are non-negotiable. The Tribe continues to assert a full reservation of rights and recognize that the State may desire a mutual reservation of rights in this process.

Marine Protected Areas proposed in the Preferred Alternative and/or Alternative Two that include current or historical uses by citizens of the Resighini Rancheria include Pyramid Point SMCA and the Redding Rock SMCA/SMR complex. The False Klamath Rock and Castle Rock Special Closures are also areas of historic or current use. A myriad of marine species have historically or currently been harvested by citizens of the Resighini Rancheria for subsistence, ceremonial, and/or other customary uses along the coastline of our aboriginal territory. We reserve the right to continue to use these areas and all species contained within for our continued use. This includes, but is not limited to finfish, invertebrates, marine plants, birds, and marine mammals. Resighini Rancheria seeks formal inclusion by the Commission and Department in Tribal Option 1 for these identified areas.

We look forward to being included in the dialog regarding the North Coast MLPA process. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Woh-klaw,

Rick Dowd
Chairman



cc: Charlton H. Bonham, Director, CA Fish and Game Department