

MEETING DATE: 8/24/2009

AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of a Resolution Supporting the
Implementation of the Marine Life Protection
Act

ATTACHMENTS

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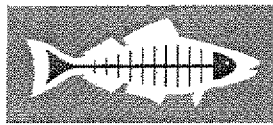
1 WHEREAS, scientific studies locally and around the world show that
2 freeing key habitats of fishing pressure results in increased abundance, diversity and
3 size of target species in adjacent areas and is the most effective way to support long-
4 term harvesting of fish for present and future users; and

5 WHEREAS, these scientific studies also show that a wider variety of
6 bigger, more abundant fish are better at seeding future populations which, in the event
7 of natural or man-made environmental disasters or accidental mismanagement of
8 fisheries due to lack of knowledge of the resource, will expedite recovery of fish stocks
9 and other related resources and ensure the ecological integrity of the Santa Monica
10 Bay's ecosystems;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Culver City, DOES
12 HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

13 The City Council of the City of Culver City, California supports the
14 implementation of the MLPA in Santa Monica Bay, inasmuch as it includes the following
15 elements:

- 16 1. Marine protected areas that protect and conserve marine life and
17 habitat, allowing for the recovery of depleted fish, invertebrate, and plant populations;
- 18 2. Stakeholder process that uses the best readily available science as
19 well as the advice and assistance of scientists, resource managers, experts,
20 stakeholders and members of the public;
- 21 3. A network of MPAs that meet the scientific guidelines established
22 by the MLPA Science Advisory Team;
- 23 4. Marine reserves that protect high quality rocky habitats in Santa
24 Monica Bay such as Point Dume and the Palos Verdes Peninsula and generate spill-
25 over of fish into surrounding habitat;
- 26 5. Marine cultural preserves at places such as Nicholas Canyon that
27 will protect the Chumash cultural heritage;



Heal the Bay



City Council of Culver City
9770 Culver Blvd,
Culver City, CA. 90232

August 12, 2009

RE: A Culver City Council Resolution in Support of the California Marine Life Protection Act Process

Dear City Council Members:

Heal the Bay and Santa Monica Baykeeper representing over 15,000 members, invite you to join us in supporting the California Marine Life Protection Act and the public's participation in this historic process.

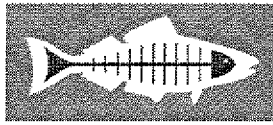
To protect California's coastline and marine waters, California adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999. The MLPA is the first state law in the nation requiring the formation of a network of science-based marine protected areas (MPAs).

Similar to the movement over 100 years ago when the United States took steps to protect our most exceptional places on land by establishing national parks, such as Yellowstone and Yosemite, today California is doing the same for our oceans through the fulfillment of the MLPA and the creation of MPAs.

MPAs benefit the marine ecosystem, as well as the people who live in or visit our state's coastal areas and those who depend on the state's coastal waters for work. California's beaches and coastal waters draw millions of visitors to the ocean each year, and California's coastal economy, largely driven by tourism, is valued at \$43 billion. These visitors, both locals and tourists, enjoy swimming, kayaking, scuba diving, fishing, wildlife viewing and many other activities that will benefit from MPAs.

The State is taking a regional approach to implement MPAs along the coast and has already **established 53 MPAs in the central and north central coast, leaving close to 90% of the coast in these regions open to fishing.** Now, the MLPA process is being implemented in southern California (from Point Conception to the U.S./Mexico border). During the past several months, a diverse group of local stakeholders—including fishermen, divers, conservationists, and business owners—has been working together to design a south coast MPA network. They have identified areas of ecological importance, and are now refining proposals that will be reviewed by science and policy experts.

The ultimate goal is to map out a system of MPAs that will protect sensitive marine life and critical habitat, while ensuring south coast residents can continue to use and enjoy the ocean. The final network will leave the vast majority of the ocean open to various forms of fishing, and the entire coastline open for non-consumptive activities like diving, swimming, boating and surfing. There has been some misinformation spread on this topic, **so we would like to emphasize the point that the MLPA does not limit public access in any way.**



Heal the Bay



The stakeholders will enter their third and final round of negotiations in August and September 2009 to develop three maps that will be scientifically evaluated. In late October, the Blue Ribbon Task Force – a team of policy experts - will select a preferred alternative to forward to the Fish and Game Commission for a final vote.

Locally, in terms of Santa Monica Bay, all draft maps (including those being drafted by fishing interests) have proposed MPAs on the Palos Verdes peninsula and in Malibu. The differences in the maps are mostly in the specific locations of these MPAs. We all support strategically placed MPAs on the Palos Verdes peninsula and in Malibu to safeguard critical habitats necessary to protect and restore these ecosystem, while still minimizing the economic impact to fisheries.

This timely resolution is an effective way to show the current participants in the MLPA process that the City of Culver City supports the MLPA process, recognizes the particular value of marine reserves, and urges community members to participate. Culver City has the reputation of being a city that cares deeply about the environment and the ocean, and this resolution is the perfect way to send that message clearly to the stakeholders and policymakers determining the placement of MPAs along the southern California Coast, particularly in Santa Monica Bay.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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