



May 6, 2009

SCRSO Members; MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Members; Scientific Advisory Team;
California Department of Fish and Game
MLPA Initiative
1416 9th Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Sequit Co-Managed Chumash SMCA Proposal – One Component of a Larger Ecologically Protective MPA Network that Includes a No Take State Marine Reserve (SMR) off of Point Dume

Dear SCRSO Members, MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Members, the Scientific Advisory Team, and the California Department of Fish and Game:

On May 5, 2009, the Wishtoyo Foundation distributed its most recent proposal for a Chumash Co-managed SMCA (Sequit MPA) with a moderate high level of protection. This stand alone MPA proposal is intended to set forth and introduce parameters for a co-beneficial partnership between the Chumash people, all MLPA stakeholders, and the California DFG, that best protects and preserves the ecological integrity of our coastal waters and the culture of the Chumash people. It is not intended to speak for Wishtoyo's and Ventura Coastkeeper's big picture position in regards to the ecologically protective network of MPA's that it is advocating for. In contributing to the establishment of MPA's in the MLPA Initiative, Wishtoyo's and its Ventura Coastkeeper program's first priority is to support a network of marine protected areas that protects the most ecologically critical marine habitats.

Without protecting the ecological integrity of our marine ecosystems, the culture and well being of the Chumash people, and of all people in this local and global community to which we all belong, will continue to be severely threatened and will suffer greatly.

Wishtoyo maintains, as previously conveyed to all SCRSO stakeholders in all mediums, that the proposed Sequit Chumash co-managed State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) is not intended to replace a State Marine Reserve (SMR) spanning the ecologically significant, critical, and diverse marine habitat found in off of and around Point Dume. Rather, Wishtoyo's Sequit Chumash Co-Managed SMCA proposal is intended to

complement a SMR off of and around Point Dume, that at least spans from Latigo to Point Dume.

Establishing a SMR that protects the critical and unique marine habitat at least spanning from Latigo to Point Dume is an utmost priority to Wishtoyo. For 10,000 years, the Chumash people relied on and cherished the unique and rich marine habitat off of and immediately around Point Dume. Today, the importance of protecting the critical and unique marine habitat off of and immediately around Point Dume is of even more importance to the Chumash people, as Southern California's interconnected and interdependent marine ecosystems that are so central to Chumash people's culture are severely threatened and impaired.

Wishtoyo and its Ventura Coastkeeper program believe that our land, waterbodies, and oceans are interconnected, co-dependent communities to which we as individuals, are one of many living entities that belong. As such, it is our responsibility to protect the land, water, and oceans we exist upon for the common good and to sustain our well being, co-existence, and harmony with the world and the many diverse surrounding communities that we depend on.

Thank you again for your time and effort to achieve the goals of the MLPA to its fullest and to help the Chumash people continue to maintain and revitalize their culture. As MPA development continues in the MLPA Initiative we look forward to continuing our work with all stakeholders to ensure that a Chumash co-managed MPA is established amongst a network of MPA's that best protects the ecological integrity of our critical marine habitats.

Please contact us to collaborate further, or with any questions or comments.

Warmest Regards,



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