



**November 25, 2009**

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

*Via Email:* [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov)

**Re: Support for Chumash and Tribal Co-Management<sup>1</sup> of South Coast MPAs & South Coast Proposal 3**

Dear Fish and Game Commissioners:

The Wishtoyo Foundation (“Wishtoyo”) and its 750 plus members consisting of Chumash Native Americans, Tribal Peoples, and Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara County residents, would like to thank and commend all of the members of the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (“SCRSG”), Science Advisory Team (“SAT”), MLPA I-team staff, Blue Ribbon Task Force (“BRTF”), California Department of Fish and Game (“DFG”), and California Fish and Game Commission (“FGC”) who have worked so hard to make this process a success and to establish a network of ecologically protective Marine Protected Areas (“MPAs”) that achieve the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act (“MLPA”) Initiative, including the protection and preservation of Native American cultures.

Wishtoyo is a non profit organization whose mission is to preserve and protect the culture and history of Chumash and indigenous peoples, and the natural resources all cultures depend upon. As part of its efforts to help ensure that a network of ecologically protective MPAs are established, and to help preserve and revitalize Chumash and other Native American cultures, throughout the South Coast MPA planning and design process Wishtoyo has introduced and has been advocating for the establishment of Chumash and tribal co-managed MPAs in geographic regions where MPA co-management by tribal government and non government entities will achieve tremendous

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<sup>1</sup> Its important to note and clarify that as proposed, Chumash and tribal MPA co-management will not grant Chumash and tribal government or non government entities MPA policy making, rule making, enforcement authority, or police authority, and does not propose to take away any of the DFG’s MPA management authority. Additionally, as proposed by Wishtoyo, Chumash and tribal co-management of MPA(s) will achieve tremendous marine conservation and cultural co-benefits, as the added services contributed by Chumash and tribal entities will assist the California Government with all facets of MPA implementation and are necessary to achieve the cultural preservation objectives of the MLPA.

ecological and cultural co-benefits due to the added services the tribal entities are offering to provide.

As such, Wishtoyo has provided leadership for tribal and Chumash Co-Management of MPAs for tribal groups, the SCRSG stakeholders, and the BRTF, and has worked with California Department of Fish and Game (“DFG”), MLPA Initiative Staff, and California State Parks to shape the Chumash and Tribal co-management proposals. As a result, SCRSG Proposal 1 recommends that the DFG explore establishing MOUs with tribal government and non government entities for the co-management of numerous MPAs for education or outreach, marine stewardship, and cultural preservation. Similarly, SCRSG Proposal 3 recommends that the DFG consider a MOU with State Parks and Native American communities to create an educational and stewardship partnership MPA aimed at enhancing cultural, educational, and historical opportunities present at this site, in the Lachusa SMCA near Point Dume, and in other proposed MPAs.

It is the hope of many Chumash People and the Wishtoyo Foundation that FGC recognizes the tremendous cultural and environmental benefits of Chumash and Tribal Co-Management in the MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo, and in all the other regions where tribal government and non-government entities are willing to commit the resources necessary for MPA co-management. Additionally, the Wishtoyo Foundation respectfully urges the FGC to adopt SCRSG Proposal 3’s network of MPAs with their accompanying levels of protection, because it best meets the Science Advisory Team (SAT) guidelines, and is the only proposal before the FGC that provides adequate protection of our marine ecosystems, biodiversity hotspots, and high quality habitats.

**As such, Wishtoyo thus respectfully urges the FGC to Adopt Proposal 3 with:**

- 1.) **Instructions, or at the very least recommendations, for the DFG to establish Chumash Co-Management of MPAs via MOUs** with tribal government and non-government entities<sup>2</sup> for education and outreach, marine stewardship, and or cultural preservation and revitalization in Proposal 3’s Point Dume SMR and Lachusa SMCA, and in any other MPAs the FGC adopts from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo.

With this request, Wishtoyo would like to detail how Chumash Co-Management of MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo will lead to enhanced MPA implementation, result in better protection of marine ecosystems, and will help achieve the cultural preservation objectives of the MLPA.

**The 3 Beneficial Components of Chumash Co-Management in MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo are:**

- 1.) Enhanced and effective public Education and Outreach in coordination with the California State Parks and the DFG to protect MPA(s) and marine ecosystems

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<sup>2</sup> Wishtoyo proposes that these tribal government and non government entities must be willing to commit the resources necessary to effectively implement the education and outreach, marine stewardship, cultural preservation and revitalization components, and or any other components of MPA tribal co-management.

2.) Provision of Dedicated MPA Stewardship

3.) Chumash Cultural Preservation

### **Enhanced Public Education and Outreach**

In regards to the public education and outreach component of Chumash Co-Management in MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo, Wishtoyo, Chumash Government Entities, and other Chumash non government entities and communities, would coordinate environmental programs and curriculums with the DFG and California State Parks to deliver a sound scientific education to its visitors about the importance of MPA(s) and marine preservation and conservation.

To implement MPA Chumash Co-Management education and outreach efforts, Wishtoyo would offer the use of its Chumash Discovery Village at Nicholas Canyon County Beach near and overlooking Point Dume and Leo Carrillo, where Wishtoyo hosts thousands of school children, visitors, and community members per year for environmental education programs. Wishtoyo's programs educate these visitors about the importance of protecting and preserving our marine resources through sharing Chumash maritime culture, songs, art, dances, ceremonies, history, and traditions that exemplify the importance of, and our dependence on, an ecologically healthy marine environment. The addition of a scientific message developed in coordination with the DFG and California State Parks to Wishtoyo's marine education program will provide an outstanding MPA and marine conservation educational platform that will reach thousands upon thousands of members of the general public and school children.

### **Provision of Dedicated MPA Stewardship**

In regards to the "Dedicated MPA Stewardship" component of Co-Management, capable and willing Chumash government and non government entities, including Wishtoyo would:

- a. Serve as "eyes on the water" (from tomols/Chumash canoes launched from the Chumash Discovery Village, modern motor vessels, and villages) to report MPA violations to the appropriate police authorities in the MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo. This would not include enforcement authority or police power.
- b. Engage in marine / MPA pollution watch and prevention programs in the MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo.
- c. Organize Beach/Coastal Trash pickup events in and around MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo.

- d. Conduct marine ecosystem studies/research in and/or around MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo.
- e. Conduct and engage in marine restoration projects in and/or around MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo.

### **Preservation and Revitalization of Chumash Culture**

The preservation and revitalization of Chumash culture will be achieved via co-management by:

- a. Recognizing Chumash people's ancestral tradition of contributing to the protection of our marine resources.
- b. Recognizing traditional methods of Chumash take as permissible that fit within the specific MPA take regulations and levels of protection, which will help serve as an impetus to revitalize traditional Chumash fishing practices such as building and fishing from tomols (Chumash canoes), making abalone hooks from cactus and shells, and making fishing lines and poles from materials gathered from local watersheds.
- c. Allowing the use of ocean resources for Chumash ceremonial purposes and traditional uses that fit within the specific MPA take regulations and levels of protection, and that are permissible under DFG fishing regulations.

### **Wishtoyo also respectfully urges the FGC to adopt Proposal 3 with:**

- 1.) Instructions, or at the very least recommendations, for the DFG to establish tribal co-management of MPAs via MOUs with tribal government and non-government entities<sup>3</sup> for education and outreach, marine stewardship, and or cultural preservation and revitalization in Proposal 3's Naples SMR, Bolsa Chica SMR, Newport Coast SMCA, Batiquitos Lagoon SMR, Cabrillo SMR, Matlahuayl SMR, San Diego-Scripps Coastal SMCA, and Mishopsno SMCA, or in the alternative in the MPAs that are geographically proximate to these MPAs that the FGC adopts.
- 2.) Instructions, or at the very least recommendations, for the DFG to establish tribal co-management via MOUs with tribal government and non-government entities<sup>4</sup> for education and outreach, marine stewardship, and or cultural preservation and revitalization in Proposal 1's Gaviota SMP.

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<sup>3</sup> Wishtoyo proposes that these tribal government and non government entities must be willing to commit the resources necessary to effectively implement the education and outreach, marine stewardship, cultural preservation and revitalization components, and or any other components of MPA tribal co-management.

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 3 above.

3.) The following Native American Names for these MPAs where the FGC Instructs the DFG to adopt tribal co-management:

- a.) Mikiw for Proposal 3's Naples SMR (Chumash)
- b.) Lisiqshi for Proposal 3's Pt. Dume SMR (Chumash)
- c.) Sumo for Proposals 3's Lachusa SMCA (Chumash)
- d.) Povuu'nga Komiik for Proposal 3's Bolsa Chica SMR (Tongva)
- e.) Umuqpat for Proposal 3's Newport Coast SMCA (Acjachemem/Juaneño)
- f.) Batiquitos Lagoon for Proposal 3's SMR (Luiseño)
- g.) Kashtayit for Proposal 1's Gaviota SMP (Chumash)

**Additionally, Wishtoyo respectfully urges the FGC to specify in its instructions or recommendations for tribal co-management, that the MOUs for tribal co-management can include, but are not limited to, co-management for:**

- 1.) Assistance with the provision of MPA marine conservation education and outreach in coordination with the DFG and California State Parks
- 2.) Assistance with Marine Stewardship, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Serving as “eyes on the water” to report MPA violations to the appropriate police authorities
  - b. Marine pollution prevention project programs
  - c. Trash clean up events
  - d. Marine studies
  - e. Marine restoration projects in or around MPAs
- 3.) Tribal Cultural Preservation and Revitalization

It is the hope of the Chumash People and the Wishtoyo Foundation that FGC recognizes the tremendous cultural and environmental benefits of Chumash and Tribal Co-Management in the MPAs from Point Dume to Leo Carrillo, and in all the other regions where tribal government and non-government entities are willing to commit the necessary resources for tribal MPA co-management implementation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We would really appreciate the opportunity to discuss the co-benefits and logistics of Chumash Co-

management with you further, perhaps at the Chumash Discovery Village where you and your colleagues, as well as the general public, are always more than welcome.

Suku (Respectfully),



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