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Media Release
For Immediate Release
October 20, 2010

**North Coast Agencies Endorse Resolution in Support of the
North Coast Unified Marine Protected Area Array Proposal**

Contact: Adam Wagschal; Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative Representative for the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District; MLPA Initiative Regional Stakeholder Group Member; (707) 496-2088.

On October 20, 2010 the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District forwarded a resolution signed by seventeen local government agencies – a historical first for the region - to the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. The resolution urges the MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force and California Fish and Game Commission to adopt the Unified Marine Protected Area (MPA) Array proposal developed by North Coast stakeholders and communities, without any alteration. The resolution further urges that North Coast stakeholders and communities must be consulted if any changes are to be made to the Unified MPA Array. Finally, the resolution asserts that MPAs should not impact traditional, non-commercial ceremonial and subsistence uses by California Tribes and Tribal Communities.

The MLPA Initiative will create MPAs, aimed at protecting marine ecosystems, that ban all or most types of subsistence harvest, recreational fishing, commercial fishing and traditional gathering activities. Following the submission of preliminary array proposals by eight community groups in February 2010, thirty-three appointed North Coast stakeholders have been redesigning MPAs for the North Coast. The stakeholders represent diverse interests including recreational and commercial fishermen, tribes and tribal communities, conservation advocacy groups, mariculture operators, divers, and nature enthusiasts. Through numerous MLPA Initiative and community meetings, the stakeholders developed the Unified

MPA Array which represents a compromise that meets the goals of the MLPA and is broadly supported by North Coast communities.

The MLPA Initiative regional stakeholders and North Coast communities are strongly urging the MLPA Initiative not to modify the Unified MPA Array, but to listen to the desires of the North Coast and embrace the unified position that has been reached among diverse interests. The North Coast is the only region in this multi-year, state-wide process where stakeholders agreed to one unified MPA array proposal. Local governments that have endorsed the resolution in support of the Unified MPA Array are listed below.

On October 25 and 26 at the River Lodge in Fortuna, CA, the Blue Ribbon Task Force will identify an MPA Array to recommend to the CA Fish and Game Commission. Public Comment will begin on Monday, October 25th at approximately 3:00 pm.

List of Government Agencies that Endorsed the Resolution

1. County of Mendocino
2. County of Humboldt
3. County of Del Norte
4. City of Monterey
5. City of Point Arena
6. City of Fort Bragg
7. City of Lakeport
8. City of Willits
9. City of Ukiah
10. City of Fortuna
11. City of Eureka
12. City of Arcata
13. City of Trinidad
14. City of Crescent City
15. Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District
16. Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
17. Crescent City Harbor District

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