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**HUMBOLDT BAY  
HARBOR, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

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P.O. Box 1030  
Eureka, California 95502-1030



December 18, 2009

Mike Chrisman, Secretary  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted Via Fax

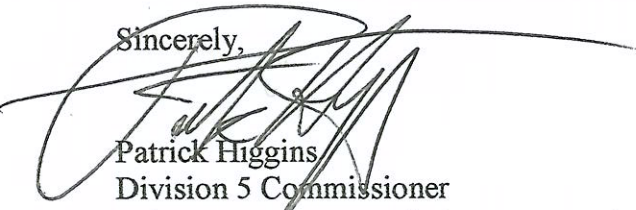
Re: Request to extend the deadline for submittal of North Coast external MPA array proposals to March 15, 2010.

Dear Mr. Chrisman,

On behalf of the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, as well governments, harbor districts and tribes of the North Coast region, we would like to request a time extension for production of an external Marine Protected Area array from February 1 to March 15. Representatives from throughout the region and from across the political spectrum are pulling together to try and devise a conservation strategy that achieves the objectives of the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and helps us thrive economically into the future. There are citizens in all four regional ports working in a coordinated fashion as the Tri-county Work Group.

We need the additional time because the bottom topography data used to conduct a scientifically valid external MPA array will not be available until January 15 at the earliest. A second major factor is that many of our fishermen are at the height of crab season and an extension would allow their greater participation. Many members of our community are working through the Holiday season to meet the February 1 deadline. We would appreciate your immediate consideration of this issue and, hopefully, a prompt notice of favorable resolution.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick Higgins  
Division 5 Commissioner  
North Coast Local Interest MPA Workgroup

CC: Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro, Senator Patricia Wiggins