



RBOC
Protecting your boating interests.

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July 20, 2010

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Jerry Desmond, Jr.
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Mr. Jim Kellogg, President
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: South Coast's Marine Protected Areas Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear President Kellogg:

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] requests that the Fish and Game Commission convene more than one public scoping meeting in the region, consistent with the previous phases of the Marine Life Protection Act [MLPA], as the Commission continues the preparation process for the South Coast's Marine Protected Areas Draft Environmental Impact Report [DEIR].

RBOC is a nonprofit boater advocacy organization that works to protect and enhance the interests of the state's recreational boaters before the legislative and executive branches of state and local government. RBOC is in its 42nd year as a statewide organization promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways.

The Commission held multiple stakeholder meetings prior to the release of the DEIRs in both the Central Coast and North Central Coast phases, in an effort to obtain input from stakeholders affected by the proposed marine protected areas.

Multiple meetings should also be held for the South Coast region, which is the largest and most complex study region with a highly diverse marine environment and a greater number of affected stakeholders than in any other region. Public outreach through scoping meetings is a necessary consideration, even more so than in previous phases of the MLPA.

RBOC urges the Commission to schedule these essential and necessary public meetings throughout the South Coast region. Holding only one scoping meeting for the entire region would be yet another example of the MLPA process being rushed to implementation without buy-in and input from the very people it will impact.

Sincerely,

Anne Sachs

Anne Sachs,
President

C: Mr. Lester Snow, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Members, California Fish and Game Commission