



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 3/17/09
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Legislative Program Committee
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 568.3412
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT PLANNING PROCESS

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution supporting implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act Planning Process.

Summary Text:

In 1999, the State Legislature adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in an effort to improve and protect the State's marine life, habitat and ecosystems. Adopting the attached resolution will affirm that the Board of Supervisors supports the MLPA planning process outlined by the State and currently underway for the South Coast Region, which encompasses the area from Point Conception to the Mexico border.

Background:

Implementation of the MLPA encompasses the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA). MPA's are distinct areas seaward of the mean high-tide line that have been designated by law, administrative action or voter initiative to protect or conserve marine life habitat.

The MLPA calls for the design of MPA's through a collaborative public process. To accomplish this, a Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) is formed of people who are knowledgeable in the uses and/or resources of the study region. Members may include, but not be limited to, commercial and/or recreational fishermen, educators and conservationists. Once MPA alternatives are proposed they undergo scientific and policy review and final proposals are ultimately approved or denied by the California Fish and Game Commission, which is the final decision making body in the MLPA process.

Currently, this process is underway for the South Coast Region. The Central Coast Study Region planning process, which includes northern Santa Barbara County, was completed in April 2007 when the California Fish and Game Commission adopted 29 central coast marine managed areas. Formal implementation began in September 2007.

The current timetable for completion of the South Coast Study Region stakeholder recommendations is November 2009. Scientific and policy review will follow with final adoption expected in late 2010.

The Legislative Program Committee, which consists of Supervisors Carbajal and Wolf, the Auditor-Controller, County Counsel and the County Executive Officer, considered this item during its February 18, 2009 meeting. The Committee unanimously recommended a position of "support" in bringing that the resolution forward to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Performance Measure:

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: There is no fiscal impact associated with adopting the resolution.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

County Executive Office submit a copy of the resolution to the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (c/o of the California Resource Agency).

Attachments:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT (MLPA) PLANNING PROCESS

Authored by:

cc: