

## RESOLUTION NO. 3401-2010

### RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE UNIFIED MARINE PROTECTED AREA ARRAY DEVELOPED BY THE REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP

**WHEREAS**, the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) calls for the reexamination and redesign of California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) system to increase its coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life, habitat, and ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, it is consistent with the MLPA and good public policy to redesign California's MPA system in a manner that gives meaningful consideration to the sustainability of ecological, economic, cultural, and social systems; and

**WHEREAS**, North Coast fisheries are currently sustainable or rebuilding under existing regulations<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, recent scientific research has demonstrated that the California Current Ecosystem is one of the most conservatively managed ecosystems in the world<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Mendocino County, Humboldt County and Del Norte County are classified as vulnerable to changes in fisheries management measures<sup>3</sup> due to factors such as high economic dependence on fishing, high community isolation, limited industry diversification, high unemployment, and high poverty rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the MLPA Initiative North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group unified during Round 3 of the North Coast MLPA Initiative process to develop a consensus-based MPA array ("Unified MPA Array") that meets the goals of the MLPA while minimizing impacts to social, cultural, and economic systems; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that, due to significantly distinct ecological, social, cultural and economic conditions in the North Coast, the Unified MPA Array does not precisely meet all of the guidelines established by the MLPA Initiative Science Advisory Team, yet it represents an MPA network consistent with the spirit of those guidelines and the goals and elements identified in the MLPA legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, the long-term success of MPAs will require acceptance by local communities and, although many community members do not believe any new MPAs are warranted, the Unified MPA Array represents a compromise that is acceptable to North Coast residents, including recreational fishermen, commercial fishermen and conservation advocates; and

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<sup>1</sup> National Marine Fisheries Service. 2009. Our living oceans: report on the status of U.S. living marine resources, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. U.S. Dep. Commerce, NOAA Technical Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-80.

<sup>2</sup> Worm et al. 2009. Rebuilding Global Fisheries. Science 325: 578-585.

<sup>3</sup> Pacific Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service. 2006. Proposed acceptable biological catch and optimum yield specifications and management measures for the 2007-2008 Pacific coast groundfish fishery, and Amendment 16-4: rebuilding plans for seven depleted Pacific coast groundfish species; final environmental impact statement including regulatory impact review and initial regulatory flexibility analysis. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, Oregon, 2006.

**WHEREAS**, California Tribes and Tribal Communities are traditional and active stewards of marine ecosystems, and their continued gathering and use of marine resources is an ongoing and essential part of their culture and survival;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby strongly urge the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force and the California Fish and Game Commission to support and adopt the Unified MPA Array developed by the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group during Round 3 of the North Coast MLPA Initiative process.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if the Blue Ribbon Task Force makes the decision to redesign the Unified MPA Array contrary to the recommendation of the North Coast Regional Stakeholders Group, then the Fort Bragg City Council strongly recommends that the redesign be conducted in collaboration with the North Coast Regional Stakeholders Group. The North Coast Regional Stakeholders have worked for months to design a single cohesive array that addresses the unique ecological, social, cultural and economic conditions of the North Coast within the framework of the statewide MLPA Initiative Guidelines and MLPA legislation. Because the alteration of any single element of the Unified MPA Array has the potential to undermine its cohesiveness, collaboration with the Regional Stakeholders Group and local communities regarding any change to the Unified MPA Array is essential to retaining both its integrity and the support of local communities, both of which are factors that are vital to the long term success of the MPA system.

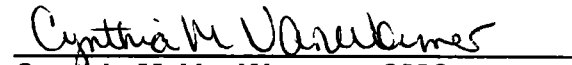
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any approved MPA array design will need to allow traditional, non-commercial, gathering, subsistence, harvesting, ceremonial and stewardship activities by California Tribes and Tribal Communities.

**The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember Melo, seconded by Councilmember Turner, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2010, by the following vote:**

- AYES:** Councilmembers Turner, Courtney, Gjerde, Melo, and Mayor Hammerstrom.
- NOES:** None.
- ABSENT:** None.
- ABSTAIN:** None.

  
**DOUG HAMMERSTROM,**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
**Cynthia M. VanWormer, CMC**  
City Clerk