

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: February 20, 2007



TO: Gary P. Keefe, City Administrator

FROM: Stacy L. Lawson, Senior Environmental Coordinator
s_lawson@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: The State of California Fish and Game Commission proposal to establish a State Marine Reserve in the waters off Vandenberg Air Force Base.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council review the attached letter of comment and direct staff to submit the letter to the State of California Department of Fish and Game, after making any desired amendments.

BACKGROUND:

In an effort to limit over-fishing of the near-shore waters of the Central Coast of California, the California Department of Fish and Game proposes to designate fourteen (14) new marine protected areas and expand or divide eight (8) existing marine protected areas along the California Coast from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Rocky Point in Santa Barbara County.

The proposed regulations were developed in conjunction with the Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group that included commercial and recreational boat fishermen. These proposed marine protected areas will, if enacted, restrict commercial and recreational fishing, including surf fishing within 204 square miles of state waters along the Central California coast.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed Vandenberg State Marine Reserve would begin just south of Purisima Point and extend southward to a point just south of Rocky Point. The Marine Reserve is proposed to begin at mean high tide and will allow NO TAKE of any marine species within the waters off Vandenberg Air Force Base. This requirement is intended to benefit species including rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, kelp greenling, surfperch, halibut, crab, squid, shearwaters, pelicans and southern sea otter. The regulation is also designed to provide for complete protection of diverse shallow hard and soft habitats and kelp beds.

The proposed Marine Reserve will however, eliminate the ability for the public to surf-fish from Surf Beach and areas of VAFB accessible through registration on weekends and holidays.

In response to this concern, staff has prepared a letter of comment to the California Fish and Game Commission expressing the desire of the community to have these traditional surf-fishing areas remain open to the public.

Stacy L. Lawson, Senior Environmental Coordinator

Attachment:

1. [Letter of Comment](#)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Arleen T. Pelster, AICP, Community Development Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Gary P. Keefe, City Administrator