

## Chapter 10. Public and Agency Involvement

On behalf of the Commission, the Department has conducted a comprehensive public and agency involvement program for the Proposed Project. The Department made substantial efforts to inform interested parties and solicit input on the Proposed Project through two scoping meetings. Information has been posted on the Department's MLPA Initiative website (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa>) to increase public access to information and project materials and to foster communication between the public and the project manager. The Department actively involved various agencies and the public during key milestones in the selection of a Commission-preferred package of MPAs and the two alternative packages analyzed in this EIR.

### 10.1. Notice of Preparation

In July 2006, the Department issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) (Appendix B), informing agencies and the public that an EIR was being prepared and inviting comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The dates and times of public scoping meetings were sent in a separate announcement. The NOP was distributed to an extensive list of recipients throughout the central California coast and to interested parties throughout the state. Approximately 1,208 NOP and scoping-meeting notices were mailed to affected agencies and individuals. Public notices announcing the meeting were also submitted to a number of television stations, including KSBW 8 (NBC), KCOY 12 (CBS), KGO 7 (ABC), and KION 46 (FOX), and several newspapers, including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Monterey Coast Weekly*, *Western Outdoor News*, *Monterey Herald*, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, *San Luis Obispo Tribune*, *San Diego Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Santa Barbara News-Press*, *Silicon Valley Business Journal*, *North County Times*, and *Fish Sniffer*.

### 10.2. Scoping Meetings

The Department held two scoping meetings: one on Thursday, August 10, 2006, in Morro Bay, and one on Friday, August 11, 2006, in Monterey. Approximately 38 people attended the first meeting, and 15 people attended the second meeting. The meetings included a presentation about the purpose of the Proposed Project and the CEQA process. The meeting provided an opportunity for attendees to offer both written and verbal comments. Written comments were received by the Department between July 17, 2006, and August 18, 2006.

A scoping report prepared to document this process, and can be found in Appendix C of this EIR. All comments received during the scoping process have been considered during preparation of this EIR.