

Comments of Thomas O'Rourke, Chairman of the Yurok Tribe, regarding issues to be considered in the development of the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision

September 2, 2011

An overarching issue that should be addressed in the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision is acknowledgement of the unique Co-Management relationship that Tribes have with the State of California, and identification of a process that will recognize and maximize the benefits of this Co-Management relationship for the resource, the Tribes, the State, and the stakeholders.

Issues that are of specific importance for the Natural Resource Stewardship group include the following:

- 1) Tribal rights – especially in regard to meeting subsistence needs within MLPA areas.
- 2) Implementation of natural resource agreements that have been reached between diverse user groups; such as the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and the Klamath Hydro-electric Agreement.
- 3) Collaboration amongst Co-Managers and partners to conserve, restore, and manage natural resources; especially during times of limited financial resources.
- 4) Collaborative prioritization of restoration needs/actions so that limited resources are most efficiently used.
- 5) Shared visions/goals for natural resource management amongst the Co-Managers.
- 6) Ecosystem, rather than single species (typically ESA driven) management.