



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

TRIBE UNCOVERS ALLEGED THEFT

More than \$800,000 stolen under the guise of owl and other surveys • See Story on Page 2



Two arrested in alleged embezzlement

Three individuals, including a Yurok tribal member and former Yurok Tribe Forestry Program manager, are facing charges of allegedly embezzling more than \$800,000 from the Tribe in an elaborate scheme spanning more than three years.

Ron LeValley, 65, the founder and owner of Mad River Biologists, a biological consulting firm the Tribe has worked with, his associate, Sean McAllister, 45, and Yurok tribal member and former Forestry Director Roland Raymond, 49, are charged with burglary, embezzlement and conspiracy to commit a crime in Del Norte Superior Court.

On February 23, Yurok Tribe Public Safety, Eureka Police Department and Del Norte and Humboldt County law enforcement agencies executed search and arrest warrants for the three individuals. Sean McAlister was arrested at MRB's Eureka headquarters and Ron LeValley drove from Mendocino County to turn himself in to authorities in Del Norte County late that night. As of the date of publication, Raymond is still a fugitive. Law enforcement authorities have not yet been able to locate Raymond and there is a \$1 million warrant out for his arrest. Anyone with information of his whereabouts should contact the Yurok Tribe's Department of Public Safety at (707) 482-8185.

The charges are the product of a five-month joint investigation carried out by the Yurok Public Safety and the Del Norte District Attorney's Office.

"I would like to commend the tribal employees who brought this to light and the law enforcement officers who have conducted this investigation," said the Yurok Tribe's Chairman Thomas O'Rourke Sr. "The Tribal Council is disappointed and outraged about the alleged crimes and we are taking measures to protect the Tribe in the future. Our priority now is that these men and any other individuals involved in the allegations of stealing from the Tribe are brought to justice and that the court processes proceed in a fair and just manner. The Yurok Tribe is grateful for the hard work and effort by those involved in the investigations."

The majority of the money, around \$870,000, was intended to be

used for Endangered Species Act and other surveys on tribal land. The source of the money was Bureau of Indian Affairs funding provided to the Tribe for Forestry related activities.

Raymond, who worked for the Forestry Department from 1994 to 2011, held a position of trust and had authority to approve invoices for contract services. Raymond allegedly approved false invoices for surveys and other work that never took place.

Allegedly, Raymond submitted false invoices that he approved on a weekly basis accompanied with a request to hand deliver the checks to Mad River Biologists between February 2008 and December 2010, according to affidavits in support of the search and arrest warrants.

It is alleged that 75 checks were then deposited at North Valley Bank and cash was subsequently withdrawn on 31 occasions by deposit slips signed by McAllister. Following 26 of the deposits, checks were written from the Mad River Biologists account to cash, Sean McAllister or MRB Research Inc. Eighteen transactions included an electronic transfer from the Mad River account to LeValley's personal account and then LeValley allegedly wrote checks to Raymond totaling \$123,352, according the court documents.

Investigators also found that some of LeValley's checks were allegedly deposited into Raymond's personal bank accounts, although the exact amount is not yet available, according to the warrants.

Raymond, named "Director of the Year" in 2009, was also the head of the California Indian Forest and Fire Management Council where he is also suspected of allegedly stealing funds. According to court



Roland Raymond

Booking photo from an October 2011 arrest.

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On The Cover

Mad River Biologists Owner Ron LeValley, associate Sean McAlister and former Yurok Forestry Program Manager Roland Raymond are suspected to have allegedly embezzled more than \$800,00 from the Yurok Tribe.

documents, investigators believe Raymond allegedly forged CIFFMC checks totaling \$35,475.

According to the affidavits, Raymond also allegedly purchased new vehicle tires, a fuel pump and filter for his personal vehicles. It is also believed that Raymond allegedly used tribal credit cards to purchase fuel and other items for his own personal use and that of his family and friends, according to the warrants.

During the three years Raymond spent an average of \$1,000 a month on gas for a tribal vehicle. However, according to tribal documents, his fuel consumption did not match up with his vehicle logs. The places, times and dates in the logs are also believed to be false. Raymond also allegedly purchased a "Deluxe By Pass Shower Door" using his tribal credit card. On the purchase request he wrote, "had to pick up a replacement for our failed fire fighter b.room stall," according to court documents. The shower door is made for a bath tub and there are no baths at any Yurok facility.

There is also evidence that Wonder Bros Auto Body and Raymond allegedly submitted falsified paperwork for jobs that never took place. For example, on February 24, 2011 Wonder Bros allegedly submitted an invoice for \$3,750 for work done on the Tribe's Big Tex 2-' Trailer. "It was extremely evident to me that this trailer had not received any new or used parts for years," the investigator for the Del Norte County District Attorney wrote in the affidavit.

The Yurok Tribe first became aware that some level of impropriety had occurred when it appeared that Raymond had allegedly purchased seven Apple iPads, which Forestry has no use for, using tribal funds. This concern led to a review of Forestry's financial records. The examiner discovered what appeared to be falsified purchase requests and invoices from Raymond and Mad River Biologists. Shortly thereafter, tribal staff asked the Yurok Tribe's Department of Public Safety and the Del Norte County District Attorney's Office to look over Roland's credit card activity and Forestry's and Mad River Biologists invoices because of the a concern that a crime may have been committed.

The Tribe's Public Safety Department, the Del Norte County District Attorney's Office and the Eureka Police Department executed search warrants at Raymond's Eureka residence, at the Mad River Biologists headquarters and at Wonder Bros Auto Body on February 23. Law enforcement officers took computers and other items that could possibly be part of the investigation and pending prosecution. The same day the warrants were served the Yurok Tribal Council sent out a two-page, single-spaced letter to the Tribal Membership in effort to update the tribal membership with as much information as possible about the case without harming the investigation and probable trial.

McAllister, whose bail was originally set at \$1 million dollars, was recently released from Del Norte County Jail after Judge Philip Schaefer reduced his bail to \$50,000. The Del Norte County District Attorney's Office argued in favor of the decreasing the bail amount because McAllister has been cooperating with investigators. LeValley, who



Roland Raymond was a former Director of the Yurok Tribe's Forestry Program.

recently served as the co-chair of the California Marine Life Protection Act's Science Advisory Team, also was afforded a reduced bail — \$150,000.

Del Norte County District Attorney Jon Alexander argued to keep LeValley's bail at \$1 million by reason of the fact that LeValley is well-known internationally. If LeValley bails out, Schaefer ordered that he must forfeit his passport. LeValley's attorney, Bill Bragg, submitted 65 letters, written in the few days between his client's arraignment and bail hearing, in support of LeValley's release without bail.

The reduction in bail for McAllister and LeValley is not an indication of guilt or innocence, but more appropriately reflects the situation that surrounds their arrests as well as their willingness to cooperate with investigators. The bail amount also reflects what is typically set for this type of offense.

A number of Humboldt County-based biologists have spoken out on behalf both LeValley and McAlister in the media and on blogs, stating that both men are of impeccable character and have even questioned the validity of the case. Many have also publicly said that Raymond was a knowledgeable and ethical forester with good standing in the community.

"I have no doubt that when this finishes up, they will be found to not have done anything wrong," U.S. Forest Service Research Scientist C.J. Ralph said in a Eureka Times-Standard article published shortly after the arrests.

Because the funds allegedly pilfered from the Tribe originated from the BIA, the case may be transferred to federal court, according to the Del Norte County District Attorney. It should be decided where this case will end up by the end of the month.

Many Yurok Tribal Members have been asking how these alleged crimes may have happened.

The investigation is ongoing. However, it is known that all three men have long, stable histories in their fields, which is why the Tribe hired/contracted them in the first place. Part of Raymond's role as the Forestry Program Manager was to oversee these types of studies and he communicated to the Tribe that everything was going along as planned.

Raymond also had the authority to purchase items for Forestry with his tribal credit card.

Raymond personally vouched for the invoices as well. Mad River Biologists paid taxes on all of the checks written by the Tribe, according to court documents. As the investigation continues more information will be made available to the Tribal Membership.

The Tribe will incorporate the following plan to protect tribal resources in the future.

- The Yurok Tribe will hire a Controller and Auditor-General who will be responsible for examining the accounts and underlying records and transactions of fiscal and governmental programs in order to ensure that 1) accounts properly reflect the transactions and 2) the transactions recorded in the account are regular, have been applied for the purposes intended and in accordance with the rules and regulations governing them.
- The Yurok Tribe will hire an Accounting Fraud Examiner who will be responsible for investigating any irregularities or other suspicious actions that do not follow established procurement or other procedures.
- The Tribe will obtain an independent review of its fiscal and associated procedures.
- The Tribe has instituted interim procurement procedures to provide additional safeguards.
- The Yurok Tribal Council will institute any other procedure or safeguards necessary.
- Tribal fiscal processes start when a tribal department initiates a purchase or other transaction. A review of tribal processes will include all stages of fiscal activities. Those stages start with departments and end with check signers.

The Yurok Tribal Council is committed to a strong and fair prosecution for everyone involved and takes theft very seriously. The Council will keep the Tribal Membership updated with as many details on the case as possible without compromising the integrity of the prosecution. *

Yurok team returns from Colombia

While Colombia is more than 3,600 miles from the Yurok Reservation, a contingent of Yurok Tribal Members found a myriad in common with the indigenous people there.

"Their values and their culture are really similar to ours," said James Gensaw, who is a credentialed Yurok language teacher for the Tribe's Education Department. "They have a deep connection to their river, their forest and the area as whole just like we do with our river and the forests."

Gensaw and Robert R. Kinney, an Education Department Guidance Counselor

a community needs to live a more complete balanced life: food, medicine, shelter and a deeper spiritual understanding.

"The rainforest provides them with everything they need to live a good healthy life," Gensaw said. "It is exactly the same here."

Just like in the temperate rainforest, modern scientists in tropical locales have come to the conclusion that native knowledge not only has a place, but is a primary part of maintaining flourishing ecosystems that serve people and wildlife,

"THEY ARE WORLD RENEWAL PEOPLE"

James Gensaw ~ Yurok Lanauge Teacher

and committed Yurok language learner, recently spent ten days in the Amazon rainforest. The objective of the trip was to further develop a cutting-edge educational curriculum the Tribe is working on with several partners and explores different cultures' relationships to temperate and tropical rainforests.

"We have always been an essential component of the rainforest and that is nonexistent in all of today's k-12 textbooks," Gensaw said. "We will be doing a great service in teaching young people the knowledge and expertise in forest management that our ancestors have perfected since time immemorial."

Tropical rainforests, just like those in Yurok ancestral territory, provide everything

which will also be incorporated in the curriculum.

The Yurok Tribe's Education Department collaborated with the California Science Center and Colombia's Maloka, a science and technology center and Colombia's Huitoto and Tikuna tribes to create the curriculum. The teaching materials, once finalized, will use a mixed-media approach to examine how Amazonian tribes and tribes of the Pacific Northwest interact with their respective rain-drenched homelands.

During the visit, the educators spent time at different science centers, learned how the various tribes used plants for healing and got a glimpse of their religious ceremonies, which also shared a common thread with Yurok traditional rituals.

"They showed me spiritual items that are used to balance the world and help renew the world," Gensaw said. "Like Yurok people, they are world renewal people."

Last December, to kick off the project, the contingent of Colombian nationals, indigenous teachers and representatives from the California Science Center and Maloka met in Klamath to learn about the Yurok connection to the coastal rainforest. The aboriginal people from Colombia conversely found that their history and experiences were very similar to that of the Yurok people's path to the present. Both live closely with the natural and spiritual world and both have had to endure violent challenges to their very existence.

The devastation, such as the destruction of 97 percent of the redwood rainforest and denigration of the tropical rainforest for rubber and oil, has a more pernicious impact on indigenous people who depend on it for religious ceremonies, sustenance and cultural survival. Additionally, the curriculum will analyze how European efforts to force assimilation on the northern and southern hemisphere-based tribes and how post colonial actions that have compromised the ecosystems affect each of the communities. It will also highlight the solutions each has come up with to protect cultural integrity and reclaim stolen lands.

The project, funded by the U.S. Department of State's American Association of Museums, will be complete in June of 2012 and will be implemented in a minimum of 240 schools.

The final product will also be able to be used by other tribes. There are thousands of tribes in North and South America that have faced identical threats to their culture and environment, which was made abundantly clear to Gensaw during his educational excursion.

"Going there and seeing these people that are so far away from us, but they have the same values and state of mind... It amazed me," Gensaw concluded. An overview of the project will be showcased at the California Conference on American Indian Education on March 17, 2012. This year's conference is being hosted by Humboldt State University. See conference at <http://humboldt.edu/ccaie/>

*Look in the next issue of Yurok Today for first-hand report and pictures from Robert R. Kinney. **



James Gensaw stands with a shaman of the Tikuna Tribe at the village of Araro. Gensaw gifted him a hat for a warm welcome to Tikuna territory.



Robert R. Kinney (center) retruns from deep in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest.



YUROK TRIP TO COLOMBIA



The Yurok Tribe's Education Department is teaming up with Native Colombian Tribes, the California Science Center and Maloka, a science center in Colombia, to develop a leading-edge educational curriculum. The educational material will explore native peoples' relationship with the rainforest, whether it be the temperate rainforest in Yurok Country or the tropical forests of the Amazon.

Delegates from the Tribe's Education Department recently visited the South American homeland of the Huitoto and the Tikuna Tribes. *



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1. A monkey tries to steal Yurok Tribal Member James Gensaw's hat.
2. The sun sets over the Amazonian rainforest.
3. Members of the delegation check out a Yurok house.
4. James Gensaw launches a rocket as part of a science inquiry process training.
5. The Rainforest Leadership Academy group at the California Science Center.
6. Robert R. Kinney stands with Omar Alfonso Bonilla Lopez, a teacher from the Tikuna Tribe and his wife, Jessica Lopez.



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6

High-speed internet coming soon

Tribe teams up with renown tech firm to provide first-time access to the World Wide Web

The information super highway will soon be running through the Yurok Reservation.

The Yurok Tribe is nearly finished with a project to provide, for the first time, access to affordable, high-speed internet for residents and businesses on the Reservation and the surrounding area.

"This is a game changer for the community," said Paul Romero, the Yurok Tribe's Information Services Director. "Access to the internet will open up a whole new world of possibilities."

The new fast and dependable internet offers everything that conventional broadband does such as: online college courses, telemedicine and online commerce for residents and businesses.

The Tribe is offering two different internet services for residents and commercial users. The 800kbps version is good

for one user at a time and is proficient for taking online classes, video conferencing watching movies (Standard Definition Quality), streaming and downloading music, live chat (Standard Definition Quality) and online gaming. The 2mbps

service accomplishes everything listed above but the videos and live chat can be in High Definition Quality and is better suited for multiple users.

Previously, there were no high-speed internet services available to residents other than unreliable and cost-prohibitive satellite internet because providers could not profit after setting up expensive infrastructure. The Yurok Tribal Council searched extensively to make the World Wide Web available to the public, which led to Carlson Wireless.

The Yurok Tribe teamed up with the innovative Arcata tech firm because it had a top quality solution that didn't require landscape-changing equipment and was economical for the user. Carlson uses white-space broadband technology, which

"ACCESS TO THE INTERNET WILL OPEN UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES."

PAUL ROMERO~ Info. Services Director



One of the few towers needed for the project goes up on Requa Hill.

has proved to be a perfect fit for the Yurok Reservation and surrounding area.

This cutting-edge form of broadband uses vacant television channels to transfer data. The very low frequency is able to pass through trees and over mountaintops, and unlike other

wireless systems, it does not depend on line-of-sight or multiple monstrous towers.

The wireless internet service also does not require as much expensive infrastructure for the provider and most users either. All it takes to operate is a fist-sized box with a small antenna that sits next to the computer. Some users may require an externally mounted antenna for reliable operation.

While the exact launch date for the service is not yet available, the most current information can be obtained by contacting **Jim Norton in the main Tribal Office at 707-482-1350, extension 1398.** *

Yurok web service rates, charges & fees

Appendix B

Note: Service classification at sole judgement of District staff. Criteria in Table B-5 below.

Table B-1

Service Connection Charge/Account Setup Fee

Residential Standard: \$49 or as determined by Staff estimate

Includes: account setup, pick up of standard home units, remote verification of service.

Residential Non-Standard: Determined by Staff estimate

Includes any situation requiring a site visit by District Personnel, installation of special antennas, or other accomodation to facilitate the proper function of the service.

Commercial Standard: \$49 or as determined by Staff estimate

Includes: account setup, shipment of standard commercial units, remote verification of service.

Commercial Non-Standard: Determined by Staff estimate

Includes: any situation requiring a site visit by District Personnel, installation of special antennas, or other accomodation to facilitate the proper function of the service.

Commercial High Usage/Reseller Determined by Staff estimate

Includes: any situation requiring a site visit by District Personnel, installation of special antennas, high bandwidth equipment, or other accomodation to facilitate the proper function of the service.

Table B-2

Residential Rates - Single Family

Residential Rate- up to 800 Kbps \$40 per month *

Residential Rate- up to 2Mbps \$80 per month *

Upload speeds are: 285 Kbps for Residential accounts.

* All rates plus \$4 per month radio unit rental.

Table B-3

Commercial Rates- Standard

Commercial Rate- up to 800 Kbps \$55 per month*

Commercial Rate- up to 2.5Mbps \$110 per month*

Upload speeds are: 285 Kbps for Commercial Standard accounts.

* All rates plus \$4 per month radio unit rental.

Table B-4

Commercial Rates- High Usage/Reseller

Custom Rates, Equipment, and Service Agreements available. Contact the Broadband Manager for details.

Table B-5

Temporary Use Accounts

~ Temporary Use Account: Temporary use accounts may be established at the discretion of Staff for periods of up to 60 calendar days. Said accounts must include the then-current deposit amount for equipment, installation, and rates, paid in advance.

Table B-6

Service Classification Criteria

Residential: Any dwelling used for single family residential only. Specifically excludes multi-family sharing arrangements, formal or informal.

Commercial Standard: Any single commercial building used for a single commercial entity.

Includes Retail, Service Companies, Restaurants, Tourist Attractions.

Specifically excludes hotel/motel, campground, trailer or mobile home parks, free wireless "hotspots", and bandwidth resellers/sharing of any kind.

Commercial High Usage/Reseller: Includes all locations and situations where Internet Access is sold, re-sold, or provided to others. Includes any instances of "guaranteed bandwidth (when/where available)" and/or service levels above Commercial Rates- Standard, as above.

Table B-7

Equipment Charges, Miscellaneous Fees

Equipment Replacement: Subscriber will be charged for lost or damaged equipment supplied for their use in conjunction with this service at \$400.00 per unit. Equipment will be assumed lost after 30 days of disconnect status.

Re-Connection: Subscribers will be charged re-connection fees under the following conditions:

~ Non-payment: Once a subscriber has been shut down for non-payment of account charges and fees, a \$20.00 re-connect fee shall be collected in addition to all past due and current amounts before service will be re-established.

Miscellaneous Fees: The following fees shall apply:

~ Equipment tampering or modification: \$500.00 minimum charge plus subjection of subscriber and responsible party to civil and/or criminal penalties, as applicable.

~ Unauthorized use or access to the service: \$200.00 minimum charge plus subjection of subscriber and responsible party to civil and/or criminal penalties, as applicable.

Tribe holds 4th annual “Healthy Communities” Basketball Tournament

The Yurok Tribe is holding its 4th Annual Healthy Communities, Northcoast Hoop it Up Tournament on March 24 and 25.

“The purpose of this tournament is to give youth a chance to do something they love, and promote healthy choices and fight against alcohol and drug use,” said Genevieve Markussen, the event’s organizer and Yurok Youth Coordinator.

“We also have a variety of great prizes for the champions, but each team who enters will receive team jerseys promoting positive choices and saying no to drugs and alcohol use.”

There will be seven divisions in the tourney, which is going

down at Del Norte High School.. There will be separate divisions for boys and girls in each 5th-6th grade, 7th-8th grade and 9-12th grade divisions. There will also be 3-4th grade division

The deadline for entry is March 18th, 2012. The Tournament is funded by the Yurok Youth Program and Yurok Head Start and DN Title VII. This event is Free and open to the public.

For more information call Genevieve Markussen at (707) 482-1350. *

Q and A with Sopiah Lay, a Planner with the Yurok Tribe's Planning and Community Development Department and Employee of the Month.



1. What is your title? Planner III
2. How long have you been working for the Tribe? Since August of 2001. When I first started, the Tribe's main office was still in Eureka.
3. Why did you decide to work for the Tribe? I really liked the idea of working for my own tribe.
4. What does your job entail? I manage tribal projects and the scattered site program.

5. What is the most satisfying part of your job? Being a part of projects that can really have a positive impact on tribal communities.
6. How does your position serve the tribal membership? By implementing programs and projects that improve community resources on the Yurok Reservation.
7. What do you do outside of work? I love watching movies, cooking, being with friends and family.
8. What are your plans for the future? I would love to continue to work for the tribe as long as possible. I want the Tribe to succeed in its objectives; and I want to be able to contribute to its success in any way I can.

HELP WANTED

Volunteers wanted to for the Big Brother, Big Sister program. You can make a difference in the life of a child.

The time you spend with a tribal youth can make a difference in the way they view the world. It is difficult for the children to live in both worlds and your guidance; time and energy can assist in teaching life skills as well as cultural guidance.

If you are interested and can spare one day a week to spend time with a tribal youth within your community please contact:

Patti Lewis
Social Services
482-1350

You are needed
Save our Cultural Values and Traditions
Become a Foster Parent

Native American Children become lost in the foster care system and are forced to live with families who do not share our Cultural Values or Traditions.
You as a tribal member and family member can make a difference in the life of a Native American child.

Please contact the Social Services Department to find out how you can make a difference. 707.482-1350

Klamath River Clean Up

Save the date April 28, 2012

Yurok Tribe Social Services

Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Program

Violence against women is NOT a traditional Yurok value.

Does your partner:

Embarrass you with put downs or name calling?

Look at you or act in ways that scare or intimidate you?

Control what you do, who you see or talk to or where you go, or act extremely jealous?

Stop you from seeing your friends or family?

Take your money or Social Security check, make you ask for money or refuse to give you money?

Tell you that you're a bad parent or threaten to take away or hurt your children?

Prevent you from working or attending school?

Act like the abuse is no big deal, is your fault or even denies doing it?

Destroy your property, threaten to kill your pets?

Shove you, slap you, choke you, or hit you?

Threaten to commit suicide?

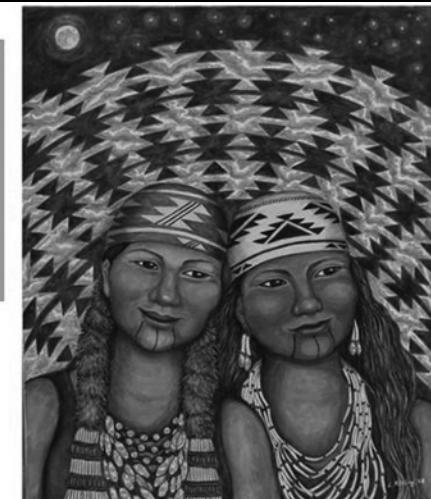
Pressure you into sexual activity?

Stop you from practicing your spirituality or use religion as a threat?

If you answered 'yes' to even one of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.

You are NOT alone.

There are people who understand
and can help you.



What can the Yurok Tribe

DV/Sexual Assault program do to help?

Be a support person

Find emergency shelter

Provide food

Provide emergency clothing/ supplies

Transportation to a safe place

Provide relocation assistance

And restraining order assistance

How to make a safety plan:

*Call a shelter or hotline for help making your safety plan

Yurok Tribe Crisis Worker: 707-954-8938

HDVS crisis line: 707-443-6042

Harrington House: 707-465-3013

National DV hotline: 1(800) 799-SAFE (7233)

*Tell someone you trust about the abuse

*Pack a bag with

- ◆ Clothes
- ◆ Important papers
- ◆ An extra set of keys
- ◆ Some cash

Store items at a friend's or neighbor's house.

Call 911 if you are in danger.



Yurok Tribe

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www.yuroktribe.org

2012 Yurok Tribe

Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548

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Voice your concerns!

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) analyzing the plan for the North Coast Study Region is out for public review. See the full document at the Yurok main office or http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/impact_nc.asp

- *Eureka: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 Fish and Game Commission meeting at the Red Lion Hotel (1929 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501).*

Send written comments to MLPA North Coast CEQA Comments, California Department of Fish and Game c/o Horizon Water and Environment, P.O. Box 2727, Oakland, CA 94602 or email to MLPAcomments@HorisonWater.com. Deadline: 5pm on April 16, 2012