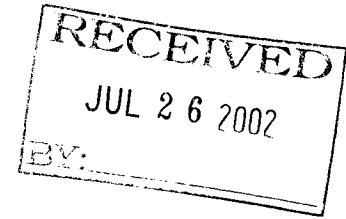


City of Morro Bay

Morro Bay, CA 93442 • 805-772-6200



July 23, 2002

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Stephanie Harlan, Chair – Sanctuary Advisory Council
1941 42nd Avenue
Capitola CA 95010

RE: MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
CONSIDERATION OF REPRIORITIZATION OF EXPANSION TO THE
SAN LUIS OBISPO COAST

It is my understanding that at your June Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting you heard a presentation urging reprioritization of expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) based on assertion that expansion is overwhelmingly supported in San Luis Obispo. The City of Morro Bay opposes expansion of the MBNMS at this time. As Mayor of the City of Morro Bay I wanted to take a moment to speak to you about the City's January 29, 2002 comments (see attached) on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary management plan review and our position on expansion of the MBNMS.

The City of Morro Bay has always supported the conservation of our coast and the goals of the National Marine Sanctuary program. We have passed a local ordinance banning offshore oil support from our harbor and absolutely oppose offshore oil development.

The MBNMS is the biggest Sanctuary in the program. There are already questions as to whether a Sanctuary so huge (5,300 square miles) can be effectively managed. We have a legitimate concern with how vibrantly our voices will be heard in such a large sanctuary centered in Monterey. The MBNMS has Sanctuary Advisory Council that needs to have more than just an advisory role and needs to be appointed from the affected communities, not just by the program director. Fishermen/ocean users need to be assured that they will not be zoned out of access and that there will be a balance in the Sanctuary between protection and public access. The Sanctuary program needs to emphasize education and projects to enhance coastline protection. The Sanctuary program needs to develop a more clear and cooperative regulatory program that doesn't add needless cost to projects such as dredging and Cal Trans maintenance of Highway 1.

Similar comments as above have been sent to the MBNMS from the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, Congressman Sam Farr, the City of Monterey, Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Monterey Bay Association of Government Agencies, the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains amongst others.

I support the creation of a separate Central Coast Sanctuary structured to resolve these concerns by working in harmony with our culturally and economically important marine dependent community, local governments, and recreational users of the coastline. As a separate Sanctuary, we will have more influence on decisions affecting our part of the coast.

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HARBOR DEPARTMENT
1275 Embarcadero

POLICE DEPARTMENT
580 Morro Bay Boulevard

RECREATION AND PARKS
1001 Kennedy Way

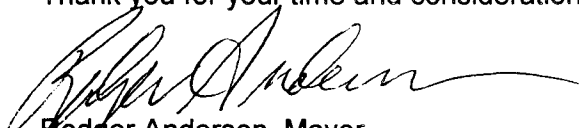
Many on the San Luis Obispo coast are very concerned about our ability to integrate into a Sanctuary centered in Monterey and to have our local issues fairly heard and considered. Often we know that these concerns, generally urging the MBNMS to improve working relationships with local agencies/ representatives and to proceed cautiously with regulatory actions are dismissed as "special interest" fear of change. We feel that the breadth of groups with similar concerns indicates substantive problems that are still not being addressed. These are legitimate issues, that to my mind the SAC might also consider holding a special workshop on prior to further discussion of expansion of the MBNMS.

There is overwhelming support for the goals of the Sanctuary however, for many impartial entities and individuals who have become familiar with the specific impacts of the MBNMS, there is at best a guarded concern also for the management issues and local control problems that we feel are not resolved.

Those who desire immediate sanctuary expansion portray support in San Luis Obispo County for expansion as overwhelming. We all know that protecting the ocean is a popular issue and that people's first reaction is always to support that concept. We have taken much time to review the issues, discussed this at numerous public hearings in detail, and have concluded that expansion at this time is premature, at best. I urge you not to reconsider prioritization of expansion.

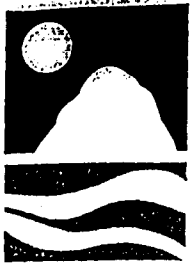
Many scoping meetings were held in this area to elicit comments on the management plan update in winter of 2001-2002. Working under the published timelines for comment, the County of San Luis Obispo heard a staff recommendation to request the MBNMS study expansion in January 2002. The County declined to support that recommendation based on testimony at the meeting. The City of Morro Bay, also working within your requested time frames, submitted extensive comments. Now a special workshop has been scheduled when all of the working harbor community is out to sea or at their most busy time of year. August is a great time to mobilize students/educational community but a bad time to hold a meeting if you want to have the comments of the working men and women and businesses in our community. We know that the supporters of immediate Sanctuary expansion will organize an array of petitions and emotional testimony at your August 1 meeting to attempt to sway your prioritization on expansion of the Sanctuary. Please keep in mind the validity of your published management plan update process and the breadth of extensive existing comments requesting resolution of detailed concerns prior to expansion that you have received as you hold your workshop on August 1, 2002.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Rodger Anderson, Mayor
City of Morro Bay

cc: Congresswoman Lois Capps
Morro Bay City Council
MBNMS SAC Members
MBNMS Superintendent



City of Morro Bay

Morro Bay, CA 93442 • 805-772-6200

January 29, 2002

Bill Douros, Superintendent
Stephanie Harlan, Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: COMMENTS ON THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

The City of Morro Bay held a Public Hearing (Review of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Update) at their January 28, 2002 City Council meeting. The meeting was widely attended and a considerable amount of public comment was received regarding the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Plan update/review process.

The City Council agreed to support the points made by the City of Monterey regarding management of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; and they support the idea of a Maine Sanctuary for the Central Coast if local control of the Sanctuary can be maintained.

Attached is a series of recommendations relating to the overall Sanctuary Programs Review of its Management Plan that were adapted from those formulated by the City of Monterey. The recommendations adopted by the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, address many of these same issues.

The City of Morro Bay, since the mid-1980s, has been and continues to be supportive of the primary goals of the Sanctuary Program, banning oil and gas development, maintaining water quality and providing a venue for education and research within the Sanctuary.

In addition to the attached recommendations, some of the key issues the Morro Bay City Council wishes to stress are:

- 1. Sanctuary Boundary Expansion/Local Control:** The Central Coast is a unique community both environmentally and socially. The City of Morro Bay does not support expansion of the MBNMS any further to the south. The City of Morro Bay feels that if a Marine Sanctuary is deemed appropriate for the Central Coast area, there should be a separate sanctuary created. The main concern regarding MBNMS boundary expansion is the difficulty of addressing local issues and concerns within the framework of such a large sanctuary. There are still many issues yet to be resolved with the current Sanctuary Program management, in terms of local input, to support an expansion of the site.

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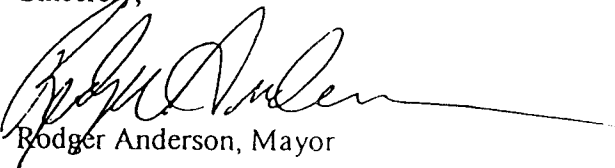
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2. **Harbors and Dredging:** Morro Bay was recently designated as a Harbor of Safe Refuge. As the only safe harbor between Monterey and Santa Barbara in large south swell storm conditions, maintaining the dredging of the entrance and navigational channels in the Morro Bay harbor is critical. This is an issue of major concern regarding the safety of the boating public, both commercial and recreational, and as a base for the Coast Guard Station Morro Bay.
3. **Fishing:** The Sanctuary Program was initially supported by the fishing industry, because the main goals would enhance the marine environment and maintain a healthy ocean. The fishing industry is already regulated and the City of Morro Bay feels strongly that an additional layer of regulation on such a heavily regulated industry will do little to protect the resource, but will create more confusion, overlapping jurisdiction and potential inconsistencies in regulations.

To reiterate; the City of Morro Bay supports the National Marine Sanctuary Program but has concerns relating to local control/overlapping jurisdiction, harbors and dredging and fishing. In addition, the City of Morro Bay does not support expansion to the south of the MBNMS. A Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast should be a separately designated Sanctuary to allow for adequate local input and to address environmental and socioeconomic issues specific to the Central Coast communities.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Rodger Anderson, Mayor

Enc.

cc: The Honorable Sam Farr
The Honorable Lois Capps
The Honorable Jack O'Connell
The Honorable Abel Maldonado
Dan Basta, Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program
Donald L. Evans, Secretary of Commerce
Port San Luis Harbor District
Monterey Harbor
Moss Landing Harbor
Santa Barbara Harbor
Morro Bay City Council
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors