



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: Patricia A. Montanio  
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

OCT 29 2014

FROM: Daniel J. Basta,  
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact for the Environmental  
Assessment on the California American Water Slant Test Well  
Project - - DECISION MEMORANDUM

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) proposes to authorize two state agency permits or other approvals that would allow development of a privately-proposed project that includes drilling into the submerged lands of MBNMS and a discharge of pumped, untreated sub-sea groundwater into the waters of MBNMS.

California American Water (Cal Am) has submitted a Request for Authorization to MBNMS (dated June 25, 2013), wherein Cal Am proposes development and operation of a short-term well pumping program within the dunes along the coastline of Marina, Monterey County, California (referred to as "Cal Am's proposed project"). Cal Am's proposed project would include drilling into the submerged lands and discharging into the waters of MBNMS, which are activities prohibited by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' regulations (15 CFR Part 922) unless authorized by MBNMS. Therefore, MBNMS's proposed action is the issuance of two separate authorizations: (1) authorization of a Coastal Development Permit issued by the California Coastal Commission to allow Cal Am's proposed drilling into the submerged lands of MBNMS; and (2) authorization of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or other approval issued by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to allow Cal Am's proposed discharge of water into MBNMS. NOAA prepared an environmental assessment as a basis for this finding of no significant impact for its issuance of two authorizations.

Based on the subject environmental assessment, I have determined that no significant environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. I request your concurrence in this determination by signing below. Please return this memorandum for our files.

- 1. I concur. \_\_\_\_\_ for Patricia Montanio  
Date
- 2. I do not concur. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachments

