



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
99 Pacific Street, bld. 455
Monterey, California 93940

March 2, 2015

Mr. Tom Luster
Energy, Ocean Resources, and
Federal Consistency Division
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Mr. Jacob Martin
Senior Fish & Wildlife Biologist
US Fish & Wildlife Service
via Santa Cruz sub-office
1100 Fiesta Way
Watsonville, CA 95076

SUBJECT: NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary concurrence with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Determination Allowing an Extension of Test Slant Well Construction Activities (pursuant to Authorization of California Coastal Commission Coastal Development Permit A-3MRA-14-0050 and 9-14-1735 to California American Water Company) through March 16, 2015 at the CEMEX site in the City of Marina, County of Monterey.

Dear Mr. Luster and Mr. Martin:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) concurs with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Professional Opinion that by allowing the California American Water Company to complete remaining construction activities currently occurring at the site of the Test Slant Well, through the close of business March 16, 2015 would not likely adversely affect the listed species - Snowy Plover, Monterey Spineflower and Smith's Blue Butterfly.

A multi-agency site visit was conducted on February 27, 2015. This field meeting was helpful in understanding the current construction situation, and it was agreed that because all future activities will be conducted shoreward of the test well head, all parties concur that work may continue through March 16th pursuant to monitoring plans, and as long as no plover eggs are observed within the active area of the well head. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff expect the avoidance measures described in the mitigation plan will be fully implemented with daily general biological monitoring by Zander Associates to continue throughout the remaining construction activities. In addition, a western snowy plover biologist will conduct monitoring related to assess nesting activity.

Given the determination by USFWS, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is granting an extension of the construction period (identified in the Final Environmental Assessment for the California American Water Slant Test Well Project Appendix A) until 5pm Monday, March 16, 2015.



Please direct any correspondence or questions regarding this extension to Ms. Karen Grimmer by phone at 831-647-4253 or via email at karen.grimmer@noaa.gov. Thank you for your coordination with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Michel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PAUL MICHEL
Superintendent