



June 6, 2001

Mayor:
DAN ALBERTI

Councilmembers:
THERESA CANEPA
DON EDGREN
CLYDE ROBERSON
RUTH VREELAND

City Manager:
FRED MEUTNER

The Honorable Sam Farr
California 17th District
1221 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0517

Subject: Sanctuary

Dear Congressman Farr:

This letter is a follow-up to the conversation you had with Councilmembers Vreeland and Edgren during their visit to Washington, D.C.

With the Management Plan Review having begun for the MBNMS, it is time to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the program, and address any concerns that citizens have.

The Monterey City Council is very concerned that the updated Management Plan for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary honors the commitments that were made to various parts of our community during the original Sanctuary authorization process. Those commitments and core values created the foundation of public support that was necessary for the Sanctuary to come into existence. If the early commitments were to be abandoned, it would likely dramatically erode public support and confidence in the Sanctuary and could lead to outright opposition. This, in my opinion, must be well articulated to the Program during the Plan Review.

The Monterey City Council specifically requests that you, in your role as Co-Chair of the California Caucus, call together a hearing in Monterey. The subject of this hearing would be to provide you and other Members of Congress from California who have a stake in the Sanctuary Management Plan, the opportunity to hear directly from the public their concerns, expectations and hopes for the new Sanctuary Management Plan. Such a hearing is also needed because the revised Management Plan will not be subject to Congressional approval – yet many in the community are concerned about non-elected Sanctuary Program Administrators having complete control over the outcome of the Plan Review. This hearing should be held early enough during the Plan Review Process so that the Sanctuary Program Administrators can benefit from your guidance. Without such a hearing the Congress might not be aware of information that could be necessary to offer quality guidance and appropriate funding on the management of this Sanctuary Program.

The City of Monterey would be happy to host such a hearing and provide you staff assistance in its planning and execution.

Sincerely,



Dan Albert
Mayor

c: City Council
City Manager
Public Facilities Director
Stephanie Harlan, Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council, MBNMS, 299 Foam
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Bill Douros, MBNMS Superintendent, 299 Foam St., Monterey
Dan Basta, Director, NMS Program
Margaret Davidson, Acting Administrator, National Ocean Service