

CITY OF MONTEREY

COUNCIL MEETING: Aug. 29, 2001

To: City Manager
From: Public Facilities Director
Date: August 23, 2001
Subject: Sanctuary Management Plan Review Process

AGENDA ITEM: 1

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council provide policy direction to staff on the items the City should develop further positions on regarding the Sanctuary Management Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The City Council may want to take a position on various issues as they relate to the Sanctuary Management Plan Review.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this time, other than staff time.

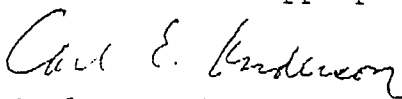
ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The City Council may elect not to take a position on issues related to the Sanctuary Management Plan.

DISCUSSION

Federal law mandates that the Sanctuary Management Plan be reviewed every five years. Attached please find a list of issues that are likely to be raised and considered during the Management Plan Review for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Some of these issues are relevant to existing language found in the current Management Plan. Other issues are relevant to things which different special interest groups within the community are likely to raise to the Sanctuary, requesting revisions to the plan.

Since a revised Management Plan will be the marching orders that direct and empower the Sanctuary staff as it relates to our community, this is obviously an issue of considerable importance to the City of Monterey. The scoping meetings for the Plan Review begin in mid November. The Monterey scoping meeting will be held on November 29th. These issues are being brought forth to the City Council in a study session context as a way of simply giving the staff an idea of what items we should spend time on. At this time the Council is not being asked to take a position on any particular item or to specify recommended solutions, although eventually the Council may want to adopt formal positions. Bill Douros, Superintendent of the MBNMS, will be invited to attend the study session and offer his clarification and input on any points he or the Council deems appropriate.


Carl E. Anderson

attachment

POTENTIAL ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE MBNMS MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

ISSUE

DEFINITION

Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC)

SAC organized under NOAA and subject to Federal Law. NOAA appoints SAC members and can control the makeup of the SAC, all correspondence and agendas.

Fishing

Current Management Plan mostly states that the Sanctuary will not regulate fisheries; however other language calls for "habitat protection" and appears contradictory.

Human Impacts

Current Management Plan calls for Sanctuary resources to be "conserved" and "protected", but also allows for "multiple uses" as long as they are consistent with the above. Under existing language, any conflict between human use and protection is resolved in favor of protection.

Kelp Harvesting

It is likely that some individuals and organizations will advocate that the revised Management Plan disallow all kelp harvesting along Cannery Row.

Fireworks

The current Management Plan is silent regarding fireworks; however, other Federal rules that address protected animals are being cited to ban new private fireworks shows. It is possible that this ban will be extended by either the Sanctuary or U.S. Fish & Wildlife, to include all fireworks shows.

POTENTIAL ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE MBNMS MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

ISSUE

DEFINITION

Sanctuary/City Boundary

Does it make sense for a highly protected area to adjoin a highly urbanized area? This situation makes municipal activities such as harbor management, firework shows, maintenance dredging, seawall and breakwater maintenance, desalinization facilities etc. much more complicated and difficult to accomplish.

Large Vessel (cruise line) Visits

Although there has never been a problem here, cruise lines have been cited elsewhere for pollution. Environmental organizations may campaign for no cruise line visits, and perhaps no large ship visits generally, which could affect Navy ship visits.

Dredging

Existing language characterizes all dredging as bad, and does not speak to the needs of Sanctuary-area Harbors.

Program Accomplishments

The positive accomplishments of the program should be lauded! The Water Quality Protection Program; Education; Research; Offshore Ship Traffic; no oil or gas development, etc.

Respect Original Consensus-building that Created the Sanctuary

With a variety of special interest groups advocating for changes to the Management Plan, there is a concern that agreements struck with many local groups (i.e. "agriculture", "fishing", the Harbors, etc.) may be overturned, causing a loss of support for the Sanctuary Program.