



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

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

November 20, 2001

Monterey City Council
City Hall
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mayor Albert and members of the City Council:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's review of its management plan and regulations. I would also like to thank your staff for providing the Sanctuary with an administrative draft of the staff report so that we could provide any necessary clarification prior to its release. I note that Sanctuary staff provided some comments only on factual issues; we did not comment on the proposed recommendations, as the recommendations are your staff's to make.

One of the factual issues Sanctuary staff commented on is the implication the staff report still makes that the Sanctuary Advisory Council does not set its own agenda and only provides advice on issues I put before it. Neither is correct. For each Advisory Council meeting, the chair sets the agenda based on input from Council members and me and my staff. Because Sanctuary staff support the Advisory Council, I review the agenda to ensure staff are available for agenda topics and to assist the chair in time management.

In the item "Overlapping Jurisdictions", I want to share with you what I've told your staff. One of the special aspects of central California, and thus the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, is the diverse and productive marine ecosystem that adjoins some urban areas, such as along Cannery Row. A great deal of effort and resources are spent helping study, interpret and protect the habitats and species off the City, precisely because it is a national marine sanctuary. Furthermore, a strength of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, including here in Monterey Bay, is its ability to resolve complex resource management issues with stakeholders. By starting a process where conflicts are avoided by shrinking the Sanctuary is to step away from this tried and true approach. There are few if any resource management issues we are aware of that could be solved by shrinking the Sanctuary or its protections offshore of the City of Monterey.

Finally, I want to emphasize that public comment to Sanctuary staff can be submitted at any of the 20 public scoping meetings and via mail or email prior to January 31, 2002.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist in your deliberations on this matter. Should city staff have questions in the future, please contact our Management Plan Coordinator, Sean Morton. He can be reached at 647-4217; his email is Sean.Morton@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. DOUROS
Superintendent

