

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 7, 2002

JAN 14 2002

Mr. Dan Basta
Director
National Marine Sanctuary Program
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Basta:

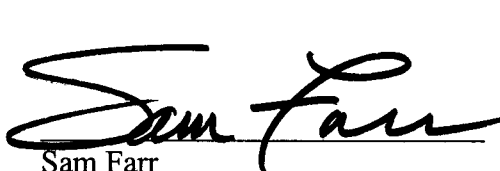
California is one of the largest coastal states and contains some of our most productive marine and coastal environments. The citizens of California have long been supporters of marine conservation and it was with their support that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration designated four National Marine Sanctuaries in California waters. As members of the California delegation we firmly believe that National Marine Sanctuaries play an important role in helping to ensure that California's marine and coastal resources are preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

We are pleased that the National Marine Sanctuary program has made a strong commitment to obtaining broad public input in the joint management plan review for the Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. Local management has done an excellent job of organizing and encouraging public participation in the scoping meetings that have taken place during the initial stage of the review. As the process moves from the public scoping phase to drafting and adopting new management plans, however, the work will become more challenging. In this second, critical part of the process we fully support the active involvement of the sanctuary advisory councils and strongly encourage sanctuary managers to maximize the participation of the users, interest groups and local governments that will be interacting with sanctuary management most directly in the years to come. This type of involvement will help to minimize potential conflicts and ensure that there is a clear and common understanding of both the intent, practical implications, and regional integration of the final management plans.

As this is the first time that the National Marine Sanctuary Program has attempted to concurrently review the management plans for adjacent sanctuaries, we also recommend that the process strive to obtain a comprehensive, regional perspective regarding the management issues common to all three sanctuaries, while recognizing that each sanctuary has its own identity, history, and unique attributes which should be reflected in its management. Identifying how programs and operations at the individual sanctuaries can be better integrated and coordinated will help to increase the efficiency of management and facilitate interaction with regional interest groups.

We see the joint management plan review as an excellent opportunity to involve the residents of California in shaping the future management of these sanctuaries. It is our hope that the National Marine Sanctuary program and the people of California will demonstrate, through this process, an improved approach for public participation in marine conservation to the entire nation.

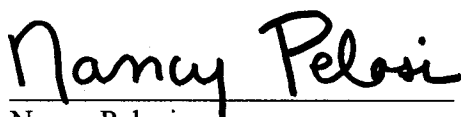
Sincerely,



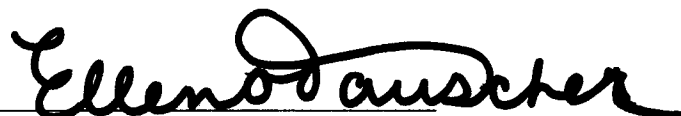
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



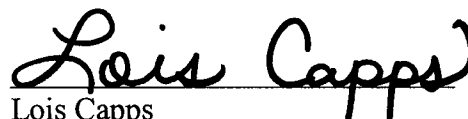
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



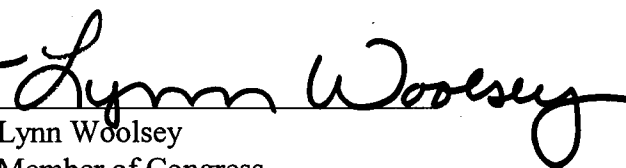
George Miller
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

CC: William Duros, Superintendent, Monterey Bay NMS
Ed Ueber, Manager, Cordell Bank NMS, Gulf of Farallones NMS