



ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
P.O. Box 1014 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
Tel. (805) 544-1777
Fax: (805) 544-1871
ecoslo@slonet.org

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February 4, 2002.

Hon. Dan Albert, Mayor
Mr. Bill Douros, Superintendent
Ms. Stephanie Harlan, Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council

Dear Mayor Albert, Mr. Douros, and Ms. Harlan:

I am writing in my capacity as Executive Director of the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo to address statements made by Morro Bay Mayor Rodger Anderson in a letter sent to two of the addressees and dated January 29, 2002. The contents of Mayor Anderson's letter are based on motions passed at a hearing on marine sanctuary status at the January 28, 2002, meeting of the Morro Bay City Council, which I attended. In his letter, Mayor Anderson added certain comments that were not a consequence of these motions.

Mayor Anderson wrote, "The City of Morro Bay does not support expansion of the MBNMS any further to the south." He also wrote, "... the City of Morro Bay does not support expansion to the south of the MBNMS. A Marine Sanctuary of the Central Coast should be a separately designated Sanctuary".

Neither statement was based on any action taken at the meeting. The following events actually took place: Mayor Anderson moved to support the ten recommendations made by the Monterey City Council under cover letter of November 28, 2002, from Mr. Albert to Mr. Duoros, and to strongly oppose southward expansion of the MBNMS. This motion was discussed and then split into two parts, the first part supporting the ten recommendations and the second part opposing southward expansion. The former passed unanimously but the latter died for lack of a second. Then Council member Janice Peters moved to support the idea of a central coast marine sanctuary, providing it would retain local control. This passed unanimously. Her motion did not specify whether the sanctuary should be separate or could be an extension of an existing sanctuary. The emphasis was on local control.

Public speakers and Council members discussed southward expansion at length before any action was taken, and the omission of language explicitly opposing southward expansion was not an accidental oversight. The Council simply took no position on it.

Cc:
Morro Bay City Council
595 Harbor
Morro Bay, CA 93442

William J. Douros, Superintendent
Monterey Bay National Marine
Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Hon. Dan Albert, Mayor
City of Monterey
Monterey, CA 93940

Stephanie Harlan, Chair, Sanctuary
Advisory Council
Monterey Bay National Marine
Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey CA 93940

Hon. Sam Farr
U.S. Representative, 17th District
1221 Longworth Building
Washington DC 20515

Hon. Lois Capps
U.S. Representative, 22nd District
1118 Longworth Building
Washington DC 20515

Hon. Jack O'Connell
California State Senator, 18th District
State Capitol, Rm. 5035
Sacramento CA 95814

Hon. Abel Maldonado
California State Assembly, 33rd District
State Capitol, Rm. 4015
Sacramento CA 95814

Jay Elder
Harbor Manager
Port San Luis Harbor District
PO Box 249

Avila Beach CA 93424

Stephen Scheiblaue
Harbor Master
City of Monterey
City Hall
Monterey CA 93940

Harbor Master
Moss Landing Harbor District
7881 Sandholdt RD
Moss Landing CA 95039

Mick Kronman
Operations Manager
Santa Barbara Harbor
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara CA 93102

Daniel J. Basta
Director, Office of National Marine
Sanctuaries
National Ocean Service (NOAA)
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring MD 20910

Donald Evans
Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Commerce
1041 Constitution AVE, Room 5854
Washington DC 20230