

*Karin Strasser Kauffman*

April 5, 2002

To: Sanctuary Advisory Council - MBNMS

Re: Management Plan Review

I am writing to express my appreciation to you and to Chair Harlan for scheduling a meeting allowing the public to address your council directly with comments on the Management Plan Review being conducted for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Ideally such public participation would be encouraged beyond one afternoon session, and perhaps the SAC will wish to provide additional time to the various constituencies with an interest in Sanctuary issues and concern for good long-term management.

My comments will be nothing new to you, but merely a brief reiteration of points I have raised consistently over the seven years I served on the council as representative for the public at large, the first four of those years as your Founding Chair. My commitment to Sanctuary goals precedes the formal designation by many years—and continues to this day.

The Sanctuary program has been a welcome partner to the many initiatives and battles fought on the Monterey Peninsula and indeed the entire Central California coast over offshore oil drilling, clean water quality, and marine resource protection. The full potential of this partnership has yet to be realized. I am convinced that it will be achieved only if the public trust and confidence in the program is continuously wooed. The Sanctuary Council is the most appropriate structural mechanism to guarantee that goal.

Toward that end, I encourage your Council to develop specific language of your own to forward to Washington D.C. emphasizing the following goals:

1. An independent advisory body, with program support for public outreach and education
2. A re-stated commitment of open meeting laws and the solicitation of full public participation in all SAC endeavors, including formal local government interaction.
3. An action-oriented set of goals developed by the SAC for its own workings, in addition to whatever advice it may be requested to provide on and for the program internally.
4. Statement of respect for the goals of multi-use and of conflict resolution between users.
5. A recommitment to the fishing community of promises made at designation, in line with the letter from Congressman Sam Farr of January 31, 2002, and the comments made to your Council by former Congressman Leon Panetta last month.

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*Best Wishes!  
Karin*