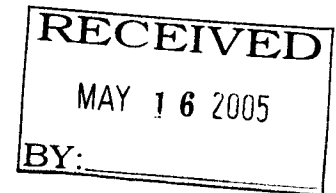




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

MAY 10 2005



Ms. Deborah Streeter
Chair
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Ms. Streeter:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2005 expressing the enthusiastic support of the Sanctuary Advisory Council for the planned Sanctuary Visitor's Center in Santa Cruz. I assure you that I am fully committed to making this project a complete success.

In an effort to ensure that our understandings to date are the same, I just wanted to review in this letter, where we stand, and the direction we've agreed to pursue. The following is the summary:

- If Congress identifies funds in the FY2006 Appropriations for the Santa Cruz Visitor Center, we will begin the process of developing the detail design. The design will be scalable to accommodate various levels of funding. This will allow us to be flexible.
- We will seek guidance from NOAA and the Department of Commerce, as to what types of leases we can enter into with the City of Santa Cruz. If Congress does not provide full funding for the construction of the Visitor's Center, the City may pursue issuing Bonds to raise monies to complete the project.
- Based on the results of the lease issue, the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) will negotiate an MOA with the City, articulating our respective roles and responsibilities as we move forward.
- The NMSP will work with the City and other partners to pursue opportunities to develop temporary exhibits, identifying the location and the purpose of a future visitor center.
- The NMSP will reach out to the University of California at Santa Cruz, to identify the connection between the University's Seymour Center and the Sanctuary Visitor's Center.
- The NMSP will work with the City to refine the schedule to conduct NEPA/CEQA for the project.

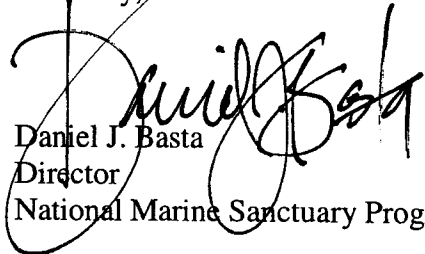


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I believe that these are all excellent steps forward to continue this important project. We will also move forward with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and others to pursue additional resources to make this endeavor a success. We will also continue to move forward in planning and designing the exhibit needs for the Visitor's Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Basta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Daniel J. Basta
Director
National Marine Sanctuary Program

cc:

Ted Lillestolen – N/ORM6

Matthew Stout – N/ORM6

William Douros – N/ORM6x22