AMBAG
ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

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BY:

November 15, 2004

Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, USN (retired)
Undersecretary for Commerce for Oceans
and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Admiral Lautenbacher:

The Board of Directors of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) respectfully requests your attention to our recommendations regarding the operation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council. We believe that these recommendations would strengthen the role of both the Marine Sanctuary office and the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Our Board of Directors is comprised of elected officials representing the counties and cities of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties, in the north Central Coast of California, a region of approximately 750,000 people. The Association was formed in 1968 for the sole purpose of safeguarding the water quality of Monterey Bay. It is now a multi-purpose regional planning agency that was instrumental in the designation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 1992.

Following over an eight-month period of public discussion and input, our Board of Directors took formal action on October 13, 2004 to forward a set of recommendations to you on two specific issues: the selection process of the Sanctuary Advisory Council members and those members public disclosure of interests. Our detailed recommendations are attached.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests, which are made in the spirit of enhancing the established process in the best interest of the sanctuary program.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph Rubio
President

Enclosures

cc: Congressman Sam Farr
Dan Basta
Deborah Streeter
Holly Price

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Attachment

A. Recommendations Regarding Selection Process for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Members and Alternates.

1. Agriculture
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
   - Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus makes recommendations for member and alternate to the Sanctuary Superintendent

2. Business/Industry
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
   - The Sanctuary's Business/Tourism Activity Panel representative participates in the SAC selection subcommittee as the representative of the applicable community of interest.
   - Major Employer

3. Conservation
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
   - The Sanctuary's Conservation Working Group representative participates in the SAC selection subcommittee as the representative of the applicable community of interest.

4. Diving
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
   - The Central California Council of Diving Clubs makes recommendations for member and alternate to the Sanctuary Superintendent

5. Education
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
   - The Sanctuary's Education Panel representative participates in the SAC selection subcommittee as the representative of the applicable community of interest.

6. Fishing, Commercial
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
   - The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries makes recommendations for member and alternate to the Sanctuary Superintendent

7. Fishing, Recreation
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
   - The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries makes recommendations for member and alternate to the Sanctuary Superintendent

8. Recreation
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.

9. Research
   - Enhanced outreach
   - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
   - The Sanctuary's Research Activity Panel representative participates in SAC selection subcommittee as the representative of the applicable community of interest.

10. Tourism
    - Enhanced outreach
    - Modify the process by which the SAC recommendation subcommittee reviews applicants and recommends the top three candidates to the Sanctuary Superintendent to include provision for representatives of the applicable community interest to attend the subcommittee meeting and voice their recommendation (s) for candidates who have applied for the seat. These recommendations will then be taken into consideration by the SAC subcommittee during its deliberations.
    - The Sanctuary's Business/Tourism Activity Panel representative participates in SAC selection subcommittee as the representative of the applicable community of interest.

11. At-Large (3 seats)
    - enhanced outreach
    - The Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Cruz County Boards of Supervisors make recommendation for one at-large representative and alternate from respective County to the Sanctuary Superintendent

B. Economic Disclosure Statement

Recommend that a conflict of interest disclosure statement be completed by Sanctuary Advisory Council members and alternates similar to what is filed by public officials in the State of California.

Recommend that Sanctuary Advisory Council members and alternates file with the Superintendent's office and publicize on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's web site their formal affiliations and employment which might be relevant to their representation of their constituency on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.