UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

FEB 1 6 2011

Mr. Chris Harrold
Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council Chair
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Harrold: CHRIS

Thank you for your letter dated December 9, 2010, requesting additional resources for the Coastal Discovery Center (CDC) and southern office in San Simeon, CA.

I understand the importance of the CDC, our presence in San Simeon, and the value it brings to the southern region of the MBNMS. As you probably know, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) is struggling through severe budget limitations as is the entire government. Consequently, the ONMS is not able at this time to provide the MBNMS with an addition to their budget for San Simeon. We hope in the near future our budget woes will change, and at that time I will evaluate whether the MBNMS budget can be increased to provide additional support for the CDC and San Simeon office. The challenge is further complicated as Superintendent Michel, his staff, and others on the broader ONMS team, are evaluating how to fund and staff operations of the Sanctuary Exploration Center being built in Santa Cruz.

In the meantime, I encourage the advisory council to work with Superintendent Michel to develop a strategy for obtaining grants and other outside funding to support the CDC. These tough budget times demand creativity and innovation to meet our needs.

As always, I am extremely appreciative of your continued support and the hard work you do for the ONMS and the MBNMS.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Basta
Director

CC: Paul Michel, MBNMS

Printed on Recycled Paper