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Agriculture
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Dan Haifley
Recreation
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CA Resources Agency

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Frank Degnan
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Ted Balestreri
Tourism

Tami Grove
CA Coastal Commission

Christopher Harrold
Research

Vacant
Representative At-Large

Ron Massengill
Representative At-Large

Vicki Nichols
Conservation

Peter Grenell
Harbors

Deborah Streeter
Representative At-Large

LT Thomas Stuhreyer
US Coast Guard

Craig J. Wilson
CA EPA

Fred Wendell
CA Dept of Fish and Game

**Non-Voting
Members**

Becky Christensen
Elkhorn Slough NERR

LCDR Matt Pickett
Channel Islands NMS

Edward Ueber
Gulf of Farallones NMS /
Cordell Bank NMS

William Douros
Monterey Bay NMS

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 647-4201

Mr. Roger Briggs, Executive Officer
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5411

October 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Briggs,

I am writing on behalf of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council to recommend that the Regional Board factor in the efforts underway on the Sanctuary's Agriculture and Rural Lands Plan when addressing the renewal of conditional waivers for Waste Discharge Requirements for agriculture as described in Senate Bill 390 (1999). The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects the coastal and marine ecosystems along over 300 miles of central California and has been collaborating with the Farm Bureaus and many other partners on an industry-led effort to reduce agricultural pollution on the central coast.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council) was established in 1994 by Federal law to facilitate continued public participation in the management of the Sanctuary. The Council's nineteen voting members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public, plus seven local, state and federal governmental jurisdictions. In addition, the respective managers for the four California National Marine Sanctuaries (Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary) and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve sit as non-voting members.

The Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program developed the Agriculture and Rural Lands Action Plan (<http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov/resourcepro/ag.html>) to address agricultural sources of polluted runoff and is intended to protect and enhance the quality of water that drains into the Sanctuary. The collaboration of partners carrying out the plan is collectively known as the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance (AWQA). As directed in the plan, a six-county Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus has been formed and has begun to organize watershed groups, comprised of farmers and ranchers, to address water quality protection planning in several subwatersheds. These watershed groups are receiving training and assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation Districts and UC Cooperative



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



The Advisory Council is composed of 19 federally appointed representatives from government agencies, local institutions, and user groups concerned with the resources of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Council advises the Sanctuary Superintendent on matters of policy and provides a link between the community and Sanctuary management.

Extension to implement on-the-ground conservation practices and water quality monitoring techniques.

The Council requests that the Regional Board consider the efforts and recommendations of the Sanctuary's Agriculture Plan in the development of future nonpoint source programs. This partnership has the support of many diverse stakeholder groups and could be used as a model throughout the State to develop a proactive, long-term commitment to water quality protection by the agricultural community. The Council supports an approach that will contribute towards strengthening the collaboration that has been developed with the agricultural community.

Please feel free to contact Katie Siegler at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (831- 647-4219) for any additional information on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Harlan".

Stephanie Harlan
Chair