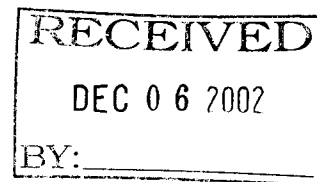




THE LEAGUES  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, THE SALINAS VALLEY AND  
SANTA CRUZ



December 5, 2002

Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
299 Foam St.  
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Council Members:

The Leagues of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley and Santa Cruz request the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council (SAC) to recommend close observation of the ocean liner visits to the Monterey Bay. Based on our support of preserving water quality in coastal waters, we request that the SAC advocate for close regulation of the discharge of trash and wastewater into Sanctuary waters. The League looks forward to eventual Sanctuary regulations concerning discharge into the Sanctuary. In the short term, however, the League supports a voluntary No Discharge policy applicable to all cruise lines with all visiting liners providing complete records to the Sanctuary concerning compliance.

In addition, we are increasingly concerned about the likely future expansion of cruise ship activity in the Bay and thus about its cumulative environmental impacts on the irreplaceable ocean resources protected by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Given this eventuality, we strongly urge the SAC and the Sanctuary to begin now to evaluate likely scenarios for future cruise ship visitations and to develop realistic guidelines and if warranted, Sanctuary regulations governing discharge practices, the allowable frequency of visits, special areas for anchoring and mooring, and protocols for passenger transport.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beverly Bean  
President  
LWV/Monterey Peninsula

Morgan Rankin  
President  
LWV/Santa Cruz

Anne Herendeen  
President  
LWV/Salinas Valley