February 4, 2002.

Hon. Dan Albert, Mayor
Mr. Bill Douros, Superintendent
Ms. Stephanie Harlan, Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council

Dear Mayor Albert, Mr. Douros, and Ms. Harlan:

I am writing in my capacity as Executive Director of the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo to address statements made by Morro Bay Mayor Rodger Anderson in a letter sent to two of the addressees and dated January 29, 2002. The contents of Mayor Anderson's letter are based on motions passed at a hearing on marine sanctuary status at the January 28, 2002, meeting of the Morro Bay City Council, which I attended. In his letter, Mayor Anderson added certain comments that were not a consequence of these motions.

Mayor Anderson wrote, "The City of Morro Bay does not support expansion of the MBNMS any further to the south." He also wrote, "... the City of Morro Bay does not support expansion to the south of the MBNMS. A Marine Sanctuary of the Central Coast should be a separately designated Sanctuary ....".

Neither statement was based on any action taken at the meeting. The following events actually took place: Mayor Anderson moved to support the ten recommendations made by the Monterey City Council under cover letter of November 28, 2002, from Mr. Albert to Mr. Duoros, and to strongly oppose southward expansion of the MBNMS. This motion was discussed and then split into two parts, the first part supporting the ten recommendations and the second part opposing southward expansion. The former passed unanimously but the latter died for lack of a second. Then Council member Janice Peters moved to support the idea of a central coast marine sanctuary, providing it would retain local control. This passed unanimously. Her motion did not specify whether the sanctuary should be separate or could be an extension of an existing sanctuary. The emphasis was on local control.

Public speakers and Council members discussed southward expansion at length before any action was taken, and the omission of language explicitly opposing southward expansion was not an accidental oversight. The Council simply took no position on it.
Cc:
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