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

December 15, 2003

Daniel J. Basta, Director
National Marine Sanctuary Program
1305 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Basta,

I am forwarding on the position of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council on the issue of the shared boundary with the Gulf of the Farallones. At its December 5, 2003 meeting, the Advisory Council crafted the following statement, which was agreed upon by consensus.

The MBNMS Advisory Council:

1. Recognizes the legitimate feelings of disenfranchisement expressed by some constituents.
2. Believes the National Marine Sanctuary Program should commit to a higher level of service to address these concerns.
3. Is concerned about administrative costs associated with a boundary change and potential unintended risks to resource protection, such as the statutory oil and gas ban in the MBNMS.
4. Urges that the National Marine Sanctuary Program also explore other alternatives that would not incur those risks and costs.

We hope that this will be helpful in your deliberations.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Harlan
Chair
MBNMS Advisory Council

cc: Barbara Emley, Gulf of the Farallones NMS Advisory Council Chair



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.