

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 1995

Moss Landing Harbor District Office

Moss Landing, CA

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Conservation Working Group (CWG), met on Tuesday, September 19, 1995 at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office. Working group members in attendance were Rachel Saunders, Chair (Center for Marine Conservation), Vicki Nichols (Save Our Shores), Ellen Faurot-Daniels (Friends of the Sea Otter), Daphne White (League of Women Voters), Corie Johnson (Sea Grant), Jack Wickham (Sierra Club - Ventanna Chapter), Thomas LaHue (Surfrider Foundation), Dave Iverson (Save Our Shores - Half Moon Bay), and Mark Pickett and Jane DeLay (MBNMS).

Special guests in attendance were Pat Cotter, Environmental Scientist for the MBNMS, and Linda Sheehan, West Coast Director, Marine Pollution Prevention Program, Center for Marine Conservation.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. CWG ADMINISTRATION

1) Approval of previous meeting minutes --

The draft minutes from the August 22, 1995 meeting were approved as amended.

2) Review of Agenda --

It was noted that efforts are being made to invite representatives from the personal water craft industry to the October CWG meeting.

Thomas LaHue commented that there is going to be a repeal of the Tuna Fishing ñ Dolphin Safe Law in Congress and requested that it be an item for discussion at this meeting or one in the near future.

3) Set October Meeting Date --

The October meeting will be on Tuesday, October 17 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.

4) Announcements and Other Meeting Dates --

á Daphne White will be in Washington, D.C. in October and has been promised copies of documentation, including the Magnuson Act (fisheries);

á The World Affairs Council is sponsoring a special two-day seminar on ocean policy issues on November 4 - 5, 1995. Three panels will address subjects concerning global ocean policies. Ambassador Malone, Chief Negotiator for the Law of the Sea, will be the moderator. The event is FREE to the public and will be held at the Monterey Peninsula College;

á With respect to the issue of Jade collection in the Sanctuary, Jack Wickham suggested that any policies or regulations proposed should include a system of review;

á Jack also reminded CWG members that the question of sound in the Sanctuary and its impact remains unanswered and requested that the working group keep the issue as a priority;

á Dave Iverson remarked that the Half Moon Bay Fishing and Marketing Association had expressed concerns that they were left out of the public hearing process on ATOC. CWG members expressed surprise about this and suggested that the Association contact the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermans' Associations and the California Coastal Commission to find out more about the process and outcome;

á Thomas LaHue reported on the proposed 319 grant for a Model Storm Water Management Project put forth by the MBNMS, the Coastal Commission, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), and the cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz. According to Tom, the regional board ranked the project and that there is probably a 99% chance that there will be funding;

á Vicki Nichols announced the following:

- * Santa Cruz Sanctuary Celebration -- Sunday, September 24;
- * Saturday, September 23 is shore clean-up day;
- * A 4-mile hike in Half Moon Bay sponsored by the Half Moon Bay Chapter of SOS is scheduled for October 4; and,
- * A Sanctuary Steward received an \$11,000 contribution to place an advertisement for the MBNMS license plates in the October issue of Motortrends Magazine. The ad will include an application;

á Other meeting dates:

Sanctuary Advisory Council -- Friday, September 29 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Friday, October 27 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Moss Landing Chamber of Commerce Building in Moss Landing;

Research Activity Panel -- Friday, October 20 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Pacific Grove NOAA facility at 1352 Lighthouse Avenue;

Sanctuary Education Panel -- Thursday, October 19 from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Conference Room.

á Look to the agenda for dates of interest in September and early October.

III. SANCTUARY UPDATE

Administrative --

The contract for Steve Laughlin, a water quality specialist was extended for another six-months;

Sanctuary management is trying to even out staff support for the working groups as is appropriate.

Sanctuary Activities --

Vessel Traffic Safety Study (VTS) -- Due to some expressed concerns that the document was not specific enough in its proposed recommendations, the study is still undergoing changes. NOAA is working closely with the Coast Guard on this project;

Oil spill response -- PG&E will no longer be responsible for responding to oil spills when they occur and is, therefore, removing their response equipment from the Moss Landing facility. Efforts are underway to create a local response plan designed to protect Elkhorn Slough and other areas from oil spills. Organizers are hoping to include more participation from the local community and environmental groups. CWG members are encouraged to attend the meetings. For more information, please contact Steve Ottaway at (510)437-3884.

There will be public meeting for the proposed Edward F. Ricketts underwater park on Thursday, September 21 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Colton Hall in Monterey.

Permit Report --

Questions and requests for copies of the September Permit Report should be directed to Scott Kathey at the Sanctuary office, (831) 647-4251.

Enforcement --

The CWG again raised concern over the lack of an enforcement plan for the Sanctuary and the need for a full-time Enforcement Coordinator;

With respect to the Personal Water Craft issue, CWG members concurred that there needs to be a concerted effort to implement and coordinate an educational program for the jet ski issue. It was recommended that the CWG have a special meeting on this topic. Questions to be addressed in the session would include: What agencies are involved? Who will develop the educational materials? and, What is the time-line for the deployment of the buoys?

Following discussion about the topic, CWG members had the following suggestions for action:

- 1) Produce a brochure mock-up that can be used as a basis for discussion at the special planning meeting mentioned above;
- 2) Develop an insert outlining the regulations that could be placed in already existing brochures and literature, as well as distributed to the Harbors and personal water craft stores;
- 3) Devote the bulk of the October CWG meeting to begin work on a plan for personal

water craft education and enforcement;

4) Request that the personal water craft issue be placed on the agenda of the Sanctuary Advisory Council's subcommittee on Enforcement;

5) Clearly define the types of enforcement measures to be employed, e.g. response to reporting of violations, possible confiscation of equipment, etc.

Mark Pickett cautioned that the personal water craft issue is just one part of a very complex enforcement problem.

Jade -- The public comment period for a Federal ruling on the collection of Jade in the Sanctuary closed on September 8. Approximately 200 comments were received in the Sanctuary office.

Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) --

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Division of the National Ocean Service's Office of Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment has responded that they will remain involved in the WQPP program for another six months and will also provide some funding to pay for a technical support person in the sanctuary office.

Research --

The Research Activity Panel along with Sanctuary management have selected the proposals to receive funding for research on marine mammals in the three northern California Sanctuaries;

Andrew DeVogelaere, the Research Coordinator for the MBNMS, is updating the research plan -- especially as it relates to the work of the sanctuary office and its staff.

Education --

The Monterey Sanctuary Celebration on September 10 was well attended. Congratulations to everyone who worked on the event;

Liz Love, Education Coordinator for the MBNMS, is working to make more color brochures on the Sanctuary;

Approximately 150 people attended the Eco-Tourism seminar on September 13;

The Sanctuary is printing more regulation brochures with some revisions for the personal water craft regulations; and,

There will be a seminar on September 20 with the business and tourism industry to develop an economic plan for the region.

IV. UPDATE/DISCUSSION: SANCTUARY WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Pat Cotter, an Environmental Scientist with the MBNMS and Linda Sheehan, West Coast Director, Marine Pollution Prevention Program, Center for Marine Conservation, provided the report on water quality issues.

Highlights of the report included the following:

Central California Regional Water Recycling Project Feasibility Study -- The Study evaluates the feasibility of a regional water recycling project using recycled water from the San Francisco Bay Area. Each project alternative proposed in the study involves maximizing local water recycling within the Monterey Bay Area and exporting the recycled water in excess of that used locally.

Of immediate concern to the MBNMS and the CWG is the proposed alternative to build a pipeline to carry agricultural drainage from the Central Valley and dump it in the "donut hole" at the northern end of the Sanctuary. Moreover, if such a pipeline was constructed for the purposes of the Central California recycling plan, an additional threat would be from the ease with which other untreated material could also be carried to the ocean at some point in the future. Strong condemnation is needed now so the ocean pipeline alternative is dropped early in the process.

Pat and Linda recommended that the CWG support the alternative that meets the need for water in Monterey and to try to move the project developers away from the DMC outfall alternative (which could include the ocean pipeline). They suggested that a dialogue be started about the Monterey option, and commented that communications between the project developers and the appropriate individuals in Monterey must be improved.

CWG members are encouraged to write a letter asking that we be notified of the schedule for public meetings and that a meeting be scheduled in Monterey, Salinas, or both. Written public comments on the Study should be addressed to: Randy Raines, Study Coordinator, CCRWRP, P.O. Box 12681, Oakland, CA 94604-2681 or call (510) 251-2888, Ext. 2149.

The CWG decided on the following actions:

- 1) Send a letter to Randy Rains to ask for a public meeting to be scheduled as soon as possible in Salinas; and,
- 2) Support and encourage a comprehensive environmental review for the feasibility study. The study currently gives minimal importance to an environmental review.

6217 Non-point Source Pollution -- In recognition of non-point source pollution as the largest contributor to ocean pollution, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) were charged with submitting a document entitled, "Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Submittal" to the Environmental Protection Agency and NOAA. The document is to be submitted to meet the requirements of the Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Management Act Reauthorization.

Upon review of a draft document from the State Board, Linda Sheehan suggested that the document needs vast improvement, specifically, to add detail to the recommendations contained in the report, and to incorporate many of the suggestions from the ten 6217 Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), which represent the efforts of over one hundred volunteers from throughout the state. The TAC reports should be provided to add detail and substance to a document that presently remains vague and ineffective.

Ms. Sheehan presented testimony and written comments to the State Board and will be submitting comments to the Coastal Commission. Rachel will keep the working group informed.

Water Quality Protection Programs -- Pat Cotter provided the following highlights:

á Research in the Fort Ord restricted area is progressing -- a side-scan sonar revealed some unidentified targets in the Southern end of the area. Further studies will be conducted to determine their origin;

á Other work being done in the zone include: analysis sampling by Mark Stephenson; fish surveys by Greg Cailliet; flood sedimentation analysis; benthic studies; and, target studies;

á Fort Ord is cleaning up the former firing ranges. Pat remains concerned about the high lead content that will still be present in the area, and commented that one of the highest contaminated areas has been designated as a future campground;

á Mid-coast Sewage Authority at Half Moon Bay recently received a Cease and Desist Order which means that any further violations will come with a penalty;

á The Cambria Desalination Project has provided an Addendum to their original proposal. A subcommittee of the Research Activity Panel is investigating the project further. CWG members were reminded that the Cambria Desalination Project is a State project and, therefore, not subject to Federal procedure. However, many permits are involved;

á The WQPP has a new brochure -- CWG members are asked to please distribute whenever possible;

á The WQPP has almost completed it's ten strategies for urban run-off -- a draft action plan should be ready in October;

á Pat Cotter and Holly Price are working on a Sanctuary Advisory Council subcommittee to gain financial support for the State Mussel Watch Program; and,

á Finally, there will be a workshop on Regional Monitoring on October 25.

V. MARINE PARK PROPOSAL

There will be public meeting on the Underwater Park proposal on September 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Colton Hall in Monterey. All CWG members are encouraged to attend.

VI. LOOSE ENDS

Additional Members -- Rachel requested that Donna Meyers from the Coastal Watershed Council, a non-profit focusing on watersheds in Santa Cruz County, be considered as a new member of the CWG. She will be invited to the next meeting.

News on the National Scene -- Good news on the budget allocations for the Sanctuary program. The Senate has marked up an appropriations bill for the National Marine Sanctuary Program which incorporates the President's request of \$12.3 million for the program. The House mark was \$11 million. At this point, the Program is expected to come away with level funding for 1996.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
SAC Coordinator

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