



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California Coastal National Monument

299 Foam Street

Monterey, California 93940

Telephone: (831) 372-6115

In Reply Refer To:
8200 (P)
CA-939

December 27, 2005

California Ocean Protection Council
c/o State Coastal Conservancy
Attention: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Secretary Chrisman and Ocean Protection Council Members:

I recently participated in the Strategic Planning Workshop for California Marine Habitat Mapping sponsored by the Coastal Conservancy. The California Coastal National Monument is pleased to collaborate with the many partners and stewards involved in this work. The priorities identified at the workshop align well with the priorities identified in our recently completed California Coastal National Monument Resource Management Plan and provide the template for further joint efforts with our core-managing partners the California Departments of Fish and Game and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

We support the proposal to fund mapping efforts in state waters in the Central Coast Study Region from Monterey Bay to Bodega Bay as developed at the workshop. The project meets the funding and selection criteria you have established and will provide vital information in the implementation of the California Ocean Protection Act.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation has helped to facilitate some of our work and that of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. An integral component in our management, conservation, and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems is the development of good seafloor and habitat mapping information. The proposed project is an important initiative and will help to lay the foundation of information for better resource management decisions.

We look forward to working on this important undertaking.

Sincerely,

/s/ Herrick E. Hanks

Herrick E. Hanks
Monument Manager



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

January 3, 2006

Mike Chrisman, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Chrisman and Ocean Protection Council Members:

The purpose of this letter is to indicate support of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), in particular the Monterey Bay, Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, for the California Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) "California Coastal and Marine Mapping Initiative". High-quality map products and GIS layers depicting substrate type and marine habitats within the three northern/central California national marine sanctuaries is a priority for both the OPC and the NMSP.

The NMSP encourages the OPC to approve the \$1.2 million seafloor mapping grant to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation ("Foundation") at your January 13, 2006 meeting in Santa Barbara. We support the proposal that the Foundation oversee an RFP process for fieldwork to acquire new habitat mapping data in the northern/central coast area, using recommendations made from the OPC-funded marine habitat mapping workshop organized by CSUMB on December 12-13, 2005. The California national marine sanctuaries, not just the MBNMS, have worked closely with the Foundation for many years on important resource protection, science, outreach and enforcement projects. We have always found the Foundation's work to be highly professional, prompt, fair and cost effective. Indeed, the Packard Foundation and others have shown their trust in the Foundation as it has managed several million dollar grants to help study and better protect coastal resources in central California.

You may be aware the NMSP is readying a new \$2.9 million 67' catamaran research vessel, named the *Fulmar*, for use beginning summer of 2006. This vessel will be outfitted with state-of-the-art scientific instruments to support data collection efforts in the north/central California sanctuaries.

In support of the fieldwork required for the California Coastal and Marine Mapping Initiative, the NMSP with this letter extends the offer of use of the *Fulmar* for up to 30 days per year for the next two years, as an in-kind contribution to the mapping project within the priority areas identified by the workshop – from Moss Landing to Bodega Bay. The NMSP will cover all operational costs for the *Fulmar* during these field days. The costs of ship time can be a large component, and at times a barrier, to coastal and marine habitat mapping projects. Our offer allows more of the state funds go towards processing data.



If this partnership effort proves to be a success, and if additional funding is available to cover the costs of the acquisition and processing of seafloor mapping data, the NMSP is prepared to extend this offer of ship time to map other areas of California state waters which are Sanctuary priorities.

As fellow resource managers of the special state coastal and marine habitats in central and northern California, we in the National Marine Sanctuary Program are happy to join in this important new partnership. Having high quality seafloor and habitat maps for the northern half of the state waters in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and nearly all of the state waters of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary will greatly benefit our shared resource management responsibilities. Whether it be to plan for future Marine Life Protection Act processes, respond to future oil spills, identify shipwrecks, facilitate marine research or understand impacts from proposed future ocean uses, knowing the habitats of state waters and national marine sanctuaries is a critical step to meet our shared ecosystem management goals.

Thank you for all the work of the Ocean Protection Council and for your support for the California Coastal and Marine Mapping Initiative proposed by your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Douros". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "W".

WILLIAM J. DOUROS
Acting Regional Superintendent
National Marine Sanctuary Program

cc: David Bosco, Chair, California Coastal Conservancy

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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15 December 2005

Mike Chrisman, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th floor
Oakland, CA 94110

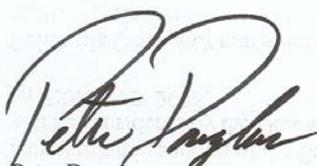
Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing in support of the California Marine and Seafloor Mapping Initiative project that will be considered by the Ocean Protection Council on January 13, 2006 and the Conservancy on February 3, 2006.

California Coastal Commission staff believe that the acquisition and dissemination of high-quality seafloor substrate and habitat maps for all of state waters, including the proposed pilot study area in the northern central coast, will be very useful to resource managers and regulators. In particular the mapping data will be useful for assessing geologic and tsunami hazards, promoting conservation within marine protected areas, reviewing offshore development proposals, and other applications.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Peter Douglas
Executive Director

RECEIVED

DEC 22 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 4, 2005

Mike Chrisman, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Secretary Chrisman, Mr. Bosco and Ocean Protection Council Members:

We strongly support the proposal to fund coastal mapping efforts in state waters through a grant to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation. The priority areas identified at the workshop in December, extending to Bodega Bay, have important benefits for the National Park Service. The project meets the funding and selection criteria you've established and will provide vital information in the implementation of the California Ocean Protection Act.

Point Reyes National Seashore encompasses approximately 80 miles of shoreline and more than 20,000 acres of coastal waters in this zone. Along with Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which includes another 40 miles of shoreline, the National Park Service is one of the largest land management agencies within the coastal zone of central California. The National Park Service has already invested substantial funding to initiate coastal mapping in this area and welcome the opportunity to continue this effort. Coastal mapping of nearshore areas is fundamental to knowing what resources occur there and to developing adaptive management strategies.

Because of the potential significance of MPAs for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management, we have been working with Moss Landing Marine Lab, local stakeholders, and UC Davis to collect and analyze seafloor habitat mapping data. We hope that this information will be used by stakeholder working groups designated by the MLPA while discussing potential MPAs along the Marin Coastline. We are also collaborating with the Mendonoma Marine Life Conservancy, which represents coastal Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, to ensure that broad stakeholder input goes into potential MPA suggestions. Further funding for coastline mapping will fill this critical data need and allow stakeholder working groups and the science team to better design and implement effective MPA networks in the "North-central" region.

With our partners, we have already mapped the nearshore regions of the Pt. Reyes Headlands and nearshore for much of Drakes Bay, however, we have identified additional critical mapping areas that include nearshore Tomales Point, and the region from Duxbury Reef to the Golden Gate. We hope these areas are considered for future funding.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation has the people and processes to facilitate the work. The proposed project is an important initiative and will help to lay the foundation of information for better resource management decisions.

We look forward to working together on these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Neubacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" being particularly prominent.

Don L. Neubacher
Superintendent



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

4665 Lampson Avenue, Ste. C

Los Alamitos, CA 90720

(562) 342-7108



January 11, 2006

Mr. Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

We appreciate and thank you for your efforts and concern as Chair for the California Ocean Protection Council regarding the marine ecosystem.

This week in Santa Barbara the California Ocean Protection Council will act on a proposal to grant \$1.2 million for seafloor and habitat mapping in the Central Coast Study Region from Monterey Bay to Bodega Bay.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation (MBSF) will serve as the facilitator of the project, in collaboration with a number of agencies. The National Marine Sanctuary Program is also offering a substantial amount of time and staff from their new research vessel, the Fulmar, to help conduct the mapping and ground-truthing.

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) would like to convey its support of this proposal and of the facilitation offered by the MBSF. The Department has a significant interest in the attainment of high-resolution mapping of the sea floor within all State waters for many reasons. The two primary reasons relate to the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) and the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).

The MLMA requires an ecosystem-based approach to managing our fishery resources. We are improving our knowledge of the habitat associations of fished species and we are obtaining data on densities of populations of these species through various survey methods. A fine-scale data base of all mapped habitats within State waters will allow the Department to obtain much better abundance estimates for fished species and greatly improve our ability to manage them.

The MLPA requires a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program for the package of proposed marine protected areas (MPAs) within the central coast which will ultimately be adopted by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission). A data base of fine-scale habitat maps within the new MPAs, as

Mr. Mike Chrisman

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well as within adjacent control areas, is critical to implementing an effective MPA monitoring and evaluation program.

The Department is managing a contract using funds from the Coastal Impact Assessment Program to assist in the implementation of the MLPA. This year we plan to encumber a significant portion of those funds to develop a contract for mapping new MPAs (and adjacent control areas) within the central coast region. The mapping will occur between Pt. Sur and Pt. Conception and will complement existing fine-scale habitat data between Moss Landing and Pt. Sur and the Ocean Protection Council's proposal for marine mapping habitat to the north.

Thank you for the considerable effort the Ocean Protection Council is making in improving the scope of knowledge of our marine ecosystems.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary B. Stacey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Gary B. Stacey
Regional Manager
Marine Region



SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH, ASSOC. VICE CHANCELLOR-MARINE AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR, UCSD CENTER FOR EARTH OBSERVATIONS & APPLICATIONS
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION

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January 13, 2006

The Honorable Mike Chrisman, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, I welcome this occasion to endorse both the priority and the approach of the California Coastal and Marine Mapping Initiative Project, Item 9.B. on today's Ocean Protection Council agenda.

The State Coastal Conservancy deserves recognition for its efforts to create a leveraged project based on a consensus of environmental and scientific needs. This is in keeping with the Council's objectives as stated in the Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy (IRO), adopted at your September 23, 2005 meeting, which Scripps was privileged to host. Specifically, the Council challenges all of us to help identify "the most critical ocean and coastal research needs for the State of California and pursue the most efficient and effective methods to increase research funding and data accessibility."

I am confident this project will go far towards demonstrating the merits of this policy, and will become a template for future collaborative endeavors among California's oceans research institutions, resource providers, and decision-makers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

John A. Orcutt



January 9, 2006

California Ocean Protection Council
c/o State Coastal Conservancy
Attention: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear California Ocean Protection Council Members:

I am writing in support of the California Marine and Seafloor Mapping project that you will consider in your January 13 Ocean Protection Council meeting. The collection and mapping of seafloor substrates and habitats is currently of great value for resource management. As a member of the Scientific Advisory Team to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on MPAs, I have found habitat maps to be some of the most important information we use to evaluate MPA proposals. In locations where substrate and habitat maps are lacking, we have a much higher uncertainty about the value of proposed MPAs.

Although much of the coast is in need of habitat mapping, the area from Monterey Bay to Bodega Bay was identified as a priority by participants of a recent habitat mapping workshop. Also, the project meets the funding and selection criteria you have established and will provide vital information in the implementation of the California Ocean Protection Act. I am confident the project will be of great value to the State of California's efforts to manage nearshore ocean resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Starr".

Dr. Richard M. Starr
University of California
Sea Grant Extension Program