



MORRO BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

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January 26, 2000

Mark Delaplaine, Supervisor
Consistency Determinations
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Delaplaine:

As our EPA regional representative recently discussed with your staff, we are requesting a consistency determination on the Morro Bay National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (Plan). We have evaluated the proposed Plan and have determined that it is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the California Coastal Management Program. This Coastal Consistency Determination is submitted in compliance with 15 CFR Section 930.34 *et seq* of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Federal Consistency Regulations (15 CFR 930). We respectfully request that the California Coastal Commission (CCC) concur with our consistency determination. To assist you in your review we have enclosed:

1. The public draft Plan;
2. A copy of the Base Programs Analysis that CCC staff helped prepare;
3. A summary of public comments received during the 60 day public review period;
4. The comment letter; on the Draft: Plan that we received from your Santa Cruz District Office; and
5. Example letters regarding Plan consistency determinations from other state coastal management agencies.

These documents are incorporated, by reference, into this consistency determination and provide the analytical basis for this consistency determination.

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program has worked closely with the CCC throughout the four-year planning effort leading to the draft Plan. In the early stages of the program's history we formed a partnership with the CCC Santa Cruz District Office by contracting for CCC staff to assist in completing our Base Program Analysis and by inviting Tami Grove to participate as a member of the Program's Local Policy Committee. Our program has benefited greatly from the expertise and talent of the CCC staff, and we believe their contributions are reflected in the draft Plan.

By sending you these materials now, we hope to assist you and your staff in recommending that the Commission concur with this consistency determination. We would appreciate knowing what else we might do to assist you in your review and what time frame is necessary to complete your process. Our goal is to present a final, approved Plan to the Governor by June 30, 2000.

Thank you for your assistance and collaboration, especially on our own federal consistency determination, and on explaining your process. We look forward to working with you as you complete this review. If you need additional

information, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Cheryl McGovern of the USEPA at (415) 744-2013. I can be reached at the number below.

Sincerely

Melissa Mooney
Program Director