



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 22, 2004

Herrick Hanks
California Coastal National Monument
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Subject: California Coastal National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft
Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) [CEQ #040435]

Dear Mr. Hanks:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The DEIS evaluates alternatives for managing the new California Coastal National Monument, which includes more than 20,000 rocks, small islands, exposed reefs, and pinnacles along the 1,100-mile length of the California coastline. The alternatives evaluated in the DEIS include the No Action, Balanced Management, Resource Protection Emphasis, and Recreation Opportunity Emphasis alternatives.

Under the Proposed Action, the Balanced Management Alternative, environmental resources will be protected while recreation, education, and research opportunities are provided. We support the proposed monitoring and adaptive management, as well as close inter-agency coordination, which are essential elements of your management proposal. We have rated this DEIS as LO -- Lack of Objections (see enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions").

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS and request a copy of the FEIS when it is filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3854, or have your staff call Jeanne Geselbracht at (415) 972-3853.

Sincerely,

/S/

Lisa B. Hanf, Manager
Federal Activities Office

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Enclosure: "Summary of Rating Definitions"

cc: Resource Agency of California
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Parks and Recreation