



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

January 4, 2007

Brady Phillips  
JMPR Coordinator  
NOAA – National Marine Sanctuary Program  
1305 East-West Highway, Room 11163  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries (CEQ # 20060402)

Dear Mr. Phillips:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Based on our review, we have rated the DEIS as Lack of Objections (LO) (see enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions"). EPA supports the proposed action that will benefit various environmental resources. These include benefits to water quality from proposed new and modified prohibitions on discharges in the sanctuaries, including those from cruise ships, as well as several other actions beneficial to water quality. We commend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for this project, which will protect California's rich offshore marine ecosystems.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this DEIS. When the Final EIS is released for public review, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 947-4184 or Karen Vitulano, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-947-4178 or [vitulano.karen@epa.gov](mailto:vitulano.karen@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Paula Bisson, Manager  
Environmental Review Office  
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosure: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions