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

April 21, 2008

Sean Morton
NOAA – National Marine Sanctuary Program
1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM-6
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries (CEQ # 20080096)

Dear Mr. Morton:

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 SDEIS 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 SDEIS. 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) 972-3846 or Ann McPherson, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-972-3545 or mcpherson.ann@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nova Blazej, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosure: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions