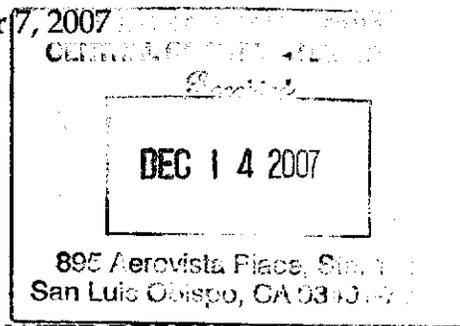




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

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

December 7, 2007



Mr. Roger Briggs
Executive Director
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES
AGENCY COMMENT LETTER POSTED IN PUBLIC NOTICE #2**

Dear Mr. Briggs,

This letter is in response to the letter dated 11/28/07 in which the Monterey County Water Resources Agency requested that any reference to the Reclamation Ditch be removed from the Salinas Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). By excluding the Reclamation Ditch, best management practices for streams, creeks, riparian zones and drainage course protection would not apply to this water body. It is the opinion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary that it is critical this water body remain covered in this SWMP. The Reclamation Ditch is a water course that is supplied by five creeks flowing into the City of Salinas. It flows through the City, receiving many discharges from both agricultural and urban sources. It ultimately discharges into the Old Salinas River channel which flows into Moss Landing Harbor and subsequently the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

This water body is listed as an impaired water body on the proposed 2006 CWA Section 303(d) list for many constituents including but not limited to ammonia, fecal coliform, pesticides and priority organics. The management measures and ordinances required in this SWMP must also apply to the Reclamation Ditch in order to improve the quality of water flowing through that drainage and ultimately into the sanctuary.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Bridget Hoover of my staff at (831) 647-4217.

Sincerely,

PAUL MICHEL
SUPERINTENDENT

