

## **County of Santa Cruz**

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069 (831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ FIRST DISTRICT ELLEN PIRIE SECOND DISTRICT MARDI WORMHOUDT THIRD DISTRICT TONY CAMPOS FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST FIFTH DISTRICT

**AGENDA:** 4/24/01

April 12, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS County of Santa Cruz 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is a letter from the Secretary of the Interior requesting this Board's view on the California Coastal National Monument created by President Clinton on January 11, 2000. Also attached is information from the Internet regarding this monument, as well as material from Congress Member Sam Farr describing the importance of this monument and his efforts to have it protected through legislation.

The California Coastal National Monument runs the entire length of the California Coast between Mexico and Oregon, extends 12 nautical miles from the shoreline, and encompasses thousands of islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles above mean high tide. Monument status for this area will provide an added level of protection for some of the State's most special resources - the natural bridges, rock outcroppings, coastal islands, etc. It will also raise the level of public perception and appreciation of these resources.

The letter from Secretary Norton is somewhat worrisome because it may indicate an intention on the part of the federal Administration to reverse the monument designation along the California coastline. I think it is important to let Secretary Norton know that our County supports the existence of the National Monument, thinks it provides needed protection for a precious resource, the California coastline, and opposes any efforts to reverse the designation.

April 12, 2001 Page 2

Therefore, I recommend that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

- 1. Direct the Chairman to write a letter to Interior Secretary Norton indicating the Board's strong support for the California Coastal National Monument as outlined in this letter and opposition to any efforts to change it; and
- 2. Direct the Chairman to write to the four City councils within Santa Cruz County informing them of this issue and urge them to similarly support the California Coastal National Monument.

Sincerely,

MARDI WORMHOUDT, Supervisor

Mardi Woumhoudt

Third District

MW:lg

Attachments

cc: Congress Member Sam Farr

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## THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WASHINGTON

MAR 2 8 2001

Honorable Tony Campos Chairman, Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street, Room 500 Santa Cruz, California 95060-4027

Dear Mr. Campos:

As you know, the previous Administration created the California Coastal National Monument, which is of interest to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. As the new Interior Secretary responsible for the Monument, I am writing to ask that you and your fellow supervisors work with me in determining what course we should take in determining the future of this National Monument. You and your constituents are the most directly affected parties in the Monument's creation and I believe you should have a significant say in how it is operated.

I would like to hear your views about the role of the Monument. Are there boundary adjustments that the Department should consider recommending? Are there uses inside the Monument that we should accommodate? I would like to know the views you and your colleagues have on traditional multiple uses that might be appropriately applied to these lands. I also want to learn from you which areas within the Monument are truly special and should be reserved for their unique environmental or historic characteristics. If you believe the Monument would benefit tourism or recreation, please advise us of that as well. I welcome your thoughts on these topics or other aspects of the Monument.

In the normal process, I believe local input would have gone before the creation of this Monument, but that process was not followed. I strongly believe, however, that we need your views and the views of other local individuals before we proceed. I want to encourage you to share your thoughts on these matters directly with your local Department of the Interior land manager or directly with me. Your local BLM State Director, Mike Pool, can be contacted at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, California, 95825.

I hope that we can achieve a cooperative and productive partnership that will balance local residents' needs with national interests. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Gul Almoton 30



### California Coastal National Monument

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Designated by Presidential Proclamation on January 11, 2000, the California Coastal National Monument runs the entire length of the California coast (840-miles) between Oregon and Mexico, extends 12 nautical miles from the shoreline, and encompasses thousands of BLM administered islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles above mean high tide.

Memorandum of Understanding

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Cooperatively managed with other federal, state, local government, universities, and private interests, the primary purpose of the Monument is to protect important biological and geological values. The islands, rocks, reefs, and pinnacles provide forage and breeding grounds for significant populations of birds and sea mammals. Click on the photos to view larger photos of some of these natural features. Map Fact Sheet Presidential Proclamation













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# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT in California

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#### California Coastal National Monument January 11, 2000

President Clinton will sign a proclamation today creating the California Coastal National Monument. The President will also sign proclamations creating the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and the Agua Fria National Monument in Arizona and expanding Pinnacles National Monument in California.

Preserving Coastal Riches. The new California Coastal National Monument is a biological treasure. Beginning just off shore and ending at the boundary between the continental shelf and the continental slope, it is a crucial part of the fragile coastal ecosystem. The monument will encompass all of the islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the California coast above the high water mark that are owned by the U.S. Government, running along the entire 840 mile California coast and extending out for 12 miles. (Because of the scattered small bits of land involved, acreage cannot be readily calculated.) Islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles already appropriated or reserved for other purposes will not be affected.

The monument contains many geologic formations that provide unique habitat for biota, such as sensitive feeding and nesting habitat for an estimated 200,000 breeding seabirds, including gulls, the endangered California least tern, and the brown pelican. Development of the mainland has forced seabirds that once fed and nested in the shoreline ecosystem to retreat to the monument. There is also forage and breeding habitat for several mammal species such as the threatened southern sea otter. Future economic or commercial development as well as some recreational use threaten the objects of the monument.

Managing the New Monument. The federal lands in the area are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Department of the Interior. With the new monument designation, management will continue under the BLM's existing authorities for the predominant purpose of protecting the objects for which the monument has been created. Currently, California State Department of Fish and Game manages the area under a Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM. This arrangement with the State of California will continue (with any necessary revisions to the MOU). The monument does not enlarge or diminish state or federal regulatory authority over fishing, oil and gas development, or other uses of adjacent waters. Valid existing rights including any oil and gas leases are unaffected.

Public Process. There is a history of actions to protect this type of coastal

area. In Oregon, for example, the entire coast is similarly protected through management by the Fish and Wildife Service. Several other islands off the California Coast, including Cat Rock, already enjoy this type of protection. June 1999, Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey, California, introduced, for the second time, a bill (H.R. 2277) to designate these islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the coast of California as wilderness. No hearings were held on this bill. In September 1999, Secretary Babbitt, accompanied by Congressman Farr as wells state and community leaders, visited the coastline to discuss protection for the rocks and islands including possible designation as a national monument.

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# California Coastal 0170 National Monument

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The monument contains many geologic formations that provide unique habitat for biota, such as sensitive feeding and nesting habitat for an estimated 200,000 breeding seabirds, including gulls, the endangered California least tern, and the brown pelican. Development of the mainland has forced seabirds that once fed and nested in the shoreline ecosystem to retreat to the monument. There is also forage and breeding habitat for several mammal species such as the threatened southern sea otter. Future economic or commercial development as well as some recreational use threaten the objects of the monument.

Managing the New Monument. The federal lands in the area are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Department of the Interior. With the new monument designation, management will continue under the BLM's existing authorities for the predominant purpose of protecting the objects for which the monument has been created. Currently, California State Department of Fish and Game manages the area under a Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM. This arrangement with the State of California will continue (with any necessary revisions to the MOU). The monument does not enlarge or diminish state or federal regulatory authority over fishing, oil and gas development, or other uses of adjacent waters. Valid existing rights including any oil and gas leases are unaffected.

Public Process. There is a history of actions to protect this type of coastal

area. In Oregon, for example, the entire coast is similarly protected through management by the Fish and Wildife Service. Several other islands off the California Coast, including Cat Rock, already enjoy this type of protection. June 1999, Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey, California, introduced, for the second time, a bill (H.R. 2277) to designate these islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the coast of California as wilderness. No hearings were held on this bill. In September 1999, Secretary Babbitt, accompanied by Congressman Farr as wells state and community leaders, visited the coastline to discuss protection for the rocks and islands including possible designation as a national monument.

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CONGRESS&IN SAM FARR

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January 11, 2000

California Coastal National Monument January 11, 2000 President Clinton will sign a proclamation today creating the California Coastal National Monument.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January II, 2000

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## CONGRESSIMAN SAM FAKR 0174

◆ 17th Congressional District of California ◆

# News **Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 11, 2000

CONTACT: Rochelle Dornatt (202) 225-2861

#### CLINTON CREATES NEW WILDERNESS AREAS IN CALIFORNIA

#### Praises Farr for His Dedication to the Land

(Washington, DC) — President Clinton made it official today: he designated an additional 8000 acres as part of the Pinnacles National Monument and created a new national monument by designating as wilderness all the federally-owned rocks, islands and outcroppings along the coast of California. He did it at the behest of Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) and his Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt.

The signing ceremony, held on the lip of the Grand Canyon., included Farr and Rep. Ed Pastor (D-Phoenix). During his remarks the President praised the hard work of Farr for pushing for this wilderness designation, first in legislation, then through executive flat. The president declared three new national monuments, including one near the Grand Canyon, and expansion of a fourth. Clinton said it was fitting that he made those declarations today, because on Jan. 11, 1908, Roosevelt made the Grand Canyon a national monument, protecting ir from mining or other activities that he felt would mar it. "None of you who can see what is behind me can doubt the wisdom of that decision," Clinton said.

"America the beautiful just got more so," said Farr. "By adding this land to the Pinnacles National Monument and creating a national monument out of the California coastal rocks and islands, we take a step today in preserving our natural and national heritage for generations to come." Farr spent the morning with the President touring the new Grand Canyon-area park land by helicopter and participated in the signing ceremony. "There can be nothing more inspiring to save our natural beauty than to watch the sum rise over America's greatest natural landmark," said Farr. "I am proud that I have been able to contribute to the country's wilderness and that Californians will always have these pristine places to walk among and contemplate."

Earlier in the year Farr attempted to achieve the same wilderness designation for these areas by introducing legislation (HR 2277 - Rocks & Islands bill; HR 2279 - Pinnacles bill). However, though there was no substantive opposition to de legislation, the resistance of the Republican Leadership made moving the bills difficult. Farr sought a different avenue to achieving the same ends by taking the matter to Bruce Babbitt, the Secretary of the Interior. Farr brought Babbitt to his congressional district on September 1 and personally showed him the areas he hoped to see protected. Babbitt took the case to the President and announced on December 13 that, in fact, he was taking Farr's recommendation to the President and asking him to use his executive orders to designate the coastal properties as a national monument, as well as expanding the Pinnacles National Monument Today, Clinton fulfilled Farr's request and using powers vested in him under the Antiquities Act, forever protected the land Farr first sought to shield.

The Central Coast is truly the greatest meeting place of earth and sky and ocean any where on the face of the earth. Our action today only means that it will remain so, forevermore. said Farr.

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# ONGRESSMAN SAM FAR,;'

17th Congressional District of California ◆



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December, 13, 1999 http://www.house.gov/farr

CONTACT: Maria Guerra (202) 225-2861 maria.guerra@mail.house.gov

#### STATEMENT BY U.S. CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR

#### ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S MOVE TO PROTECT TWO CALIFORNIA NATIONAL MONUMENTS

I am overjoyed to learn that President Clinton may designate several areas surrounding the Pinnacles National Monument and the rocks and islands off the coast of California under the US. Bureau of Land Management as protected wilderness.

Early this year, I introduced legislation to expand and protect the lands surrounding the Pinnacles. I authored separate legislation to conserve California's offshore rocks and islands. While neither bill faced opposition, House leadership did not allow the bill to come up for a hearing or vote.

Fortunately, the effort to protect these resources does not have to end with the Congressional leadership's inaction. Earlier this month, I wrote letters to both President Clinton and Interior Secretary Babbitt urging them to protect these important federal lads through their executive authority. I am extremely pleased that the President has taken my request seriously and is considering making these wilderness designations by executive order. I am confident that the president will make the right decision as he has always kept the protection of California's environment at the forefront of his administration's priorities. These wilderness designations would be a truly wonderful holiday gift to all Californians.

The designation of wilderness is the highest possible protection offered to federal lands. By providing the wilderness designation to much of the land surrounding the Pinnacles National Monument in San Benito County, it will be free from the threat of urban sprawl inching toward the monument. The rocks and islands off of California's coast which are home to a diverse ecosystem of birds and sea mammals, would enjoy similar protection from commercial and industrial use, including offshore oil drilling. With these two initiatives, we are taking substantial steps towards protecting the environment for our future generations.

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Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 2252861

04/03/2001 10:39 FAX 831 424 7099

CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR

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To designate all unreserved and unappropriated California coastal rocks and islands currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management as a component of the National Wilderness... (Introduced in the House)

HR 2277 IH

106th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 2277

To designate all unreserved and unappropriated California coastal rocks and islands currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### **June 18, 1999**

Mr. FARR of California (for himself, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. STARK, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BILBRAY, and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

#### A BILL

To designate all unreserved and unappropriated California coastal rocks and islands currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

# SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROCKS AND ISLANDS WILDERNESS AREA TO BE ADMINISTERED BY BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

- (a) FINDINGS- The Congress finds the following:
  - (1) The California coastal rocks and islands are a critical component of a unique ecosystem of California

CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR

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- (2) The California coastal rocks and islands comprise-a narrow flight lane in the Pacific Flyway, providing protected nest sites as well as feeding and perching areas for millions of seabirds
- (3) This unique ecosystem is also important for the continued survival of endangered or threatened sea mammals, such as stellar sea lions and elephant seals.
- (4) Designation of the California coastal rocks and islands as wilderness would add a significant natural component to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- (b) DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS- In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 113 1 et seq.), all unreserved and unappropriated ocean islands in the State of California (as more fully described in subsection (c)) that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and shall be known as the California Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness.
- (c) DESCRIPTION OF COVERED ISLANDS- The ocean islands covered by subsection (b) are those islands, reefs, rocks, and islets lying within three miles off the Pacific coast of the State of California from Oregon to the Mexican border and above the mean high tides, except those already reserved and appropriated for other uses as listed in the exhibit titled 'Lands Not Affected By Wilderness Designation' dated February 26, 1997, and on file and available for public review in the California office of the Bureau of Land Management.
- (d) MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY- The California Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and the islands, reefs, rocks, and islets designated as wilderness under subsection (b) are managed, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, under a memorandum of understanding by the California Department of Fish and Game.
- (e) MANAGEMENT- Subject to valid existing rights, the California Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Wilderness Act, except that, with respect to such wilderness area, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act and any reference to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.
- (f) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS- This section shall take precedence over and supersede the temporary reservation made by the Act of February 18, 1931 (Chapter 226; 46 Stat. 1172).

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