



**City of Morro Bay**  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6200

October 20, 2009

Mr. David W. Ortmann, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland OR 97220-1384

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 26 2009**

**PFMC**

Dear Chairman Ortmann:

The City of Morro Bay continues to provide committed support for the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to fish trawl permits with longline, trap, pot, and hook-and-line gear in a community based fishing association and I urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council to approve this application at its November meeting. Further, I urge the Council to also take action to develop guidelines for Community Fishing Association so that they will be in place when the trawl rationalization program is implemented.

Continuation of this project into its third year is essential as we learn more about how to work cooperatively to promote stewardship of the groundfish resource, experiment with monitoring protocols that can work in smaller boat fleets, and seek to revitalize and stabilize the contributions of the groundfish fishery to our community. Regulations to protect habitat and overfished stocks, market dislocations, increasing costs and diminishing harvest opportunities, as well as buyouts to reduce trawl capacity have taken their toll on many small communities – such as Morro Bay and Port San Luis - that have historically fished the groundfish resource on the West Coast. This project offers a unique opportunity to turn this trend around and improve both the sustainability of the fishery and the community's fishing economy.

This EFP is an innovative partnership between fishermen, public agencies, conservation organizations, and fishery managers. It will show that, by allowing some effort to switch from trawl to fixed gear and by working cooperatively at the local level, fishermen can do better both economically and environmentally and, as a result, our community will benefit.

This will provide information to managers that may be useful in developing the guidelines for cooperative management under Community Fishing Associations. Clear guidelines are needed to allow many small coastal communities to take proactive measures to preserve their access to the groundfish resource and their fishing heritage. The collaborative partnership that has been

**FINANCE**  
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**ADMINISTRATION**  
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**FIRE DEPT.**  
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**PUBLIC SERVICES**  
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**HARBOR DEPT.**  
1275 Embarcadero Road

**CITY ATTORNEY**  
955 Shasta Avenue

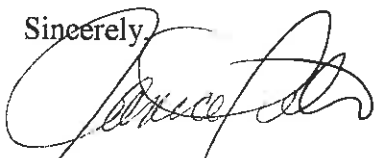
**POLICE DEPT.**  
870 Morro Bay Boulevard

**RECREATION & PARKS**  
1001 Kennedy Way

formed under the Morro Bay/Port San Luis EFP is an excellent example of a partnership between fishermen, community leaders, conservation organizations, and fishery managers can work together to improve the environmental, social, and economic performance of the fishery.

I believe this proposal to be a step in the right direction toward restoring our local fisheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Peters", written in a cursive style.

Janice Peters  
Mayor  
City of Morro Bay