



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

16 December 2009

Mr. P. Michael Payne
Chief
Permits, Conservation, and Education Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Payne:

On 10 December 2009 the National Marine Fisheries Service requested concurrence from the Marine Mammal Commission on its intent to authorize the Department of the Navy to acquire two non-releasable, rehabilitated California sea lions (ID Nos. FMMMCC-09-465 and TMMC-CSL-8395) from the Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur and The Marine Mammal Center, respectively. The Navy's request was submitted to the Service pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act of 1986 (10 U.S.C. § 7524), which requires the Navy to obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce on transfers of marine mammals acquired under that Act.

The Commission understands that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is satisfied that the Navy's facility in San Diego, California, where the animals will be housed, is in compliance with its regulatory requirements under the Animal Welfare Act for the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of marine mammals. The Marine Mammal Commission has no objection to the proposed transfer of the sea lions.

Please contact me if you or your staff has any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Ragen".

Timothy J. Ragen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Barbara Kohn, D.V.M.