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November 2, 2006

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
One Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Dianne:

I would like to thank you for your recent statements about my environmental accomplishments and my 100th birthday salutations. As I reflect upon your environmental protection accomplishments for California, including the new Point Reyes National Seashore for which I recently thanked you, I realize we must continue to work actively to protect our lands. The San Francisco Bay Area has incomparable natural and historic resource areas protected at Point Reyes National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

My colleagues have informed me that your office has had discussions about the Drakes Estero oyster operation at Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge you to support the Point Reyes National Seashore decision not to continue the oyster operation in this Congressionally designated wilderness area and to allow it to convert to full wilderness status as Congress desired 30 years ago.

Many of us worked extremely hard to place the waters of Drakes Estero into wilderness, and after a four-year planning effort, the area was designated by Congress as potential wilderness by the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act (Public Law 94-544.) In a 1973 letter from the People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area, I stated that "we reiterate our belief that the establishment of the GGNRA makes possible a new attitude in planning for land use in the Point Reyes National Seashore and we urge the National Park Service to take maximum advantage of this basic reality in its final proposals for Wilderness in the Seashore." House Report 94-1680 reiterated the public's desire that the National Park Service complete the wilderness areas as Congress intended. The House Report states the intention that those lands and waters designated as potential wilderness, to the extent possible, be the subject of efforts to steadily continue to remove all obstacles to the eventual conversion of these lands and waters to wilderness status.

The Drakes Estero area is a lynchpin of Point Reyes National Seashore and a crucial component of the spectacular Philip Burton Wilderness. The area is home to an outstanding diversity of native and threatened flora and fauna. Drakes Estero and

Point Reyes contain the largest concentration of mainland harbor seals in California.
Drakes Estero is the center of this incredible harbor seal pupping area.

As always, your support for the environment and parks is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you in the future. Please call me if I may be of service.

With warm regards,

Ed

Edgar Wayburn, M.D.

Cc: William Meadows, TWS
Don Neubacher, PRNS
Brian O'Neill, GGNRA
Amy Meyer, PFGNRA
Gordon Bennett, Sierra Club Marin Group