SEAFISH
MARICULTURE

December 8, 2015

Ms. Elizabeth Sablad, Environmental Scientist
US EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street , (WTR-5)
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: NEPA Review for Rose Canyon Fisheries Sustainable Aquaculture Project

Ms. Sablad,
Please accept this letter of support for the Rose Canyon Fisheries (RCF) application for permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to operate a commercial aquaculture farm in our nation's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coast of San Diego.

The Earth's oceans are not able to meet the growing worldwide demand for seafood and aquaculture is critical to our nation's food supply. Over 50% of today's existing world supply of seafood is farmed. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the US Departments of Commerce and Agriculture recognize that Open Ocean aquaculture can significantly increase our nation's seafood production to meet the demand and increase consumption of healthy seafood products.

The U.S.A. has the largest agricultural economy in the world. This vital sector employs hundreds of thousands workers and feeds millions of Americans. It's high time we turn this proficiency toward our ocean resources, to complement our existing land-based food production capability. Properly designed fish farms are by far the most sustainable way to produce animal protein for human consumption. This is especially true of marine aquaculture, which requires minimal land-based infrastructure, no fresh water and minimal energy consumption. RCF aquaculture will take the best of what we know today and improve operations as new technologies and protocols are developed, thereby ensuring that it constantly strives to set the highest standards for sustainability.

Our nation is known for fostering innovative technologies and industries that raise the standard of living for all U.S. residents. San Diego, where RCF will be operated, is a center for biotech, medical research and ocean technologies that have contributed significantly to the regional economy and to our quality of life. A study conducted by the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation predicts that RCF will support hundreds of good paying jobs, help our seafood industry sustain the working waterfront and provide millions in taxes annually.

RCF is a good example of an enterprise that serves our needs while respecting the environment we all enjoy. This aquaculture business will be a tremendous asset for the US Pacific coast and will demonstrate the productive capacity of marine aquaculture for US seafood consumers.

Please approve the RCF development plan to support the development of marine aquaculture in this country.

Sincerely,

Joe Hendrix, President
SeaFish Mariculture
Houston, Texas