ICICLE

December 10, 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

Dear Ms. Sablad:

I am writing to offer our 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.

I am the Vice President of Aquaculture for Icicle Seafoods, Inc. Icicle Seafoods is a diversified seafood company with fishing and processing operations in Alaska and net pen aquaculture operations in Washington State. We are headquartered in Seattle. Our combined annual seafood sales amount to more than 250 million lbs of salmon (both farmed and wild), crab, halibut, pollock, cod etc. We have 250 full time employees and a seasonal staff of more than 2,100.

We own and operate the only net pen salmon farms on the West Coast of the US. Doing business under the name American Gold Seafoods since 2008, these farms have operated for more than 30 years. Although small by international standards, they have been an important contributor to commercial salmon landings in Washington State. From only 21 acres of net pens, we have represented an average of 36% of all commercial salmon landings in Washington State over the last six years. In years with low pink salmon returns, our harvests represent closer to 45% of commercial salmon landings.

Recent studies published by U.S. researchers as well as by international, non-governmental organizations report that aquaculture, conducted properly, is 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. The RCF project will take the best of what we know today and then evolve as new technologies and protocols are developed, thereby ensuring that it constantly strives to set the highest standards for sustainability.

The Rose Canyon Fisheries project is critical and it has our full support.

Sincerely,

ICICLE SEAFOODS, INC.

Alan Cook
Vice President, Aquaculture

ICICLE SEAFOODS, INC.
4019 - 21st Avenue West • Seattle, WA 98199
P.O. Box 79003 • Seattle, WA 98119 • Tel: 206-282-0988 • Fax: 206-282-7222