COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

December 15, 2015

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

Re: Support for Rose Canyon Fisheries Sustainable Aquaculture Project

Dear Ms. Sablad,

I support 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 the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coast of San Diego.

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.

San Diego is a center for biotech, medical research and information 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.

The Rose Canyon Fisheries project is overdue and has my full support. Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Sherri S. Lightner

Sherri S. Lightner

202 C STREET • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101
(619) 236-6611 • FAX (619) 236-6999 • EMAIL: SHERRILIGHTNER@SANDIEGO.GOV