



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

February 4, 2009

Neal Pargman, Founder
Save The Earth
37594 Eveningside Road
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Dear Neal,

As you know, the Davidson Seamount has recently been added to the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. There will now be protection for ancient, spectacular corals as well as newly discovered rare species (we've identified 13 species new to science so far). The recent research that Save The Earth funded has identified a key regional role that the Davidson Seamount serves to the Central California ecosystem, and has provided for a strong site characterization that is the basis of a management plan we are developing for Davidson Seamount. Your sponsorship has helped generate sound science and national excitement to protect this area.

When President Bush announced that Davidson Seamount would be protected under the Sanctuaries Act, and again when the designation was final, the national media seized upon this topic that engenders excitement with the public. Save The Earth clearly recognizes the need for engaging national and international audiences in important environmental issues. There are more than 30,000 seamounts in the global oceans, a fraction of one percent have been explored, and some seamounts have already been obliterated of coral communities by destructive harvesting. As the only seamount in the National Marine Sanctuary program, Davidson will serve as a research and education focus on this unique habitat type. Only through exciting research that can be interpreted to the public can we effectively influence public policy and human behavior.

Your support of our volunteer Beach COMBERS program continues to support direct involvement by the public in assessing environmental health. There is now interest in expanding our Beach COMBERS program to address injury response from oil spills. Regular beach surveys are needed to inform impact and cleaning end points from the eventual spills associated with constant tanker transit in and out of San Francisco Bay.

Again, I want to thank you for your continued partnership on research and conservation issues. We've made great progress and there are many exciting opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,

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