



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEOLOGIC DIVISION
345 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
MENLO PARK, CA 94025

28 April 1999

Mr. Paul D. Thayer, Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Re: USGS seismic-reflection survey

Dear Mr. Thayer:

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 15 April concerning the U.S. Geological Survey's program tentatively planned for the offshore southern California area. Our request for an Incidental Harassment Authorization from the National Marine Fisheries Service, which you mentioned in your letter, shows that the purpose of our proposed activity is to identify the active faults in the nearshore region that might pose the most serious seismic hazards for the residents of southern California. In addition, in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the Southern California Water Replenishment District, we hope to obtain data that will address the critical issue of water quality, which is threatened by continuing salt-water intrusion into the fresh-water aquifers below the region. I think this research addresses issues that are critical to the public welfare.

As part of the planning for the proposed surveys, we submitted documents to the National Marine Fisheries Service, to the California Coastal Commission, and to the State Lands Commission. We are presently working hard to prepare additional information for the State Lands Commission. To that end, we are currently communicating with Mr. Dan Gorfain of your office to develop a satisfactory and cooperative solution to the issues that you raised in your letter.

Sincerely,

William R. Normark
Coastal and Marine Geology

Cc: Mr. M. Delaplaine, CCC