

Mr. Alain Steinbrugge
Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region
Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, California 94123

Dear Mr. Steinbrugge:

We would like to thank you for taking the time and effort to review and comment on the NOAA Strategic Plan for 2005-2010. We realize your time is valuable, yet we also realize the importance of internal and external reviews in our planning process and value your contribution. Most of those who reviewed this version of the plan considered it to be an improved, relevant strategic plan for NOAA. As a whole, recommendations for making changes focused on how we handle partnerships, the role of satellites in the agency, how we will deal with cross-goal linkages, and the vision and mission statements. We discussed and addressed all comments and made changes in the plan where appropriate. The letter from Under Secretary Lautenbacher that accompanies the plan also clarifies how we envision partnerships as an integral part of the NOAA enterprise.

While we have elected not to include individual programs in the Plan, we understand that PORTS is a vital element of NOAA's Commerce and Transportation Mission Goal. The related section of the Strategic Plan includes several references to the benefits of PORTS in the introductory paragraphs, outcomes, performance objectives, and strategies. For example, the sentences stating that NOAA will improve "delivery of real-time oceanographic information" and "enhance navigational safety and efficiency by improving information products and services" refer to PORTS and other navigation-related programs.

We appreciate your time and efforts and look forward to implementing this plan through NOAA's programs and Line Offices. Responsive and comprehensive planning is necessary for us to provide better information, services, and products for society in making environmental, economic, and social decisions. Your contributions help us do that.

Sincerely,
James H. Butler
Acting Director
Strategic Planning Office

The NOAA Strategic Plan has now been revised and approved and is available on the web at <http://www.spo.noaa.gov>.

cc: Joan Lundstrom
Chair, Harbor Safety Committee of the
San Francisco Bay Region