



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105**

January 5, 2012

Gene Brighthouse, Superintendent
Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PO Box 4318
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Subject: EPA comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Draft Management Plan, American Samoa (CEQ # 20110354)

Dear Mr. Brighthouse:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The DEIS evaluates the impacts of the proposed actions which include changing the name of the sanctuary to American Samoa National Marine Sanctuary, designating additional units to be included in the sanctuary, revising sanctuary regulations, and implementing new sanctuary action plans. Based on our review, we have rated all alternatives in the DEIS as Lack of Objections (LO) (see enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions").

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this DEIS. When the Final EIS is released for public review, please send one electronic copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Karen Vitulano, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-947-4178 or vitulano.karen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosures: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions