

Letter to the Editor, Monterey Herald,
Submitted October 15, 2007:

Re: Sea Otters Need the Three R's - Research, Remedies, Recovery

Dear Ms. Garcia:

Last week, Sam Farr's "Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act" came under attack as being long on research and short on action. With decades of experience on this issue, our local and national groups (Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, Humane Society of U.S., OPTI/Earth Island Institute) know that the bill is exactly what otters need: the three R's - research, remedies, and recovery.

Research pervades all aspects of sea otter recovery. It identifies threats and pinpoints action. From this foundation, recovery steps can occur. Through our united efforts, recovery actions have been underway for years. While more must be done, it is foolish not to strengthen our understanding about sea otters, the threats they face, and the solutions available.

Yes, sea otters could benefit from well-directed efforts to clean up harbors, restrict tanker traffic, upgrade sewage plants, and achieve more effective enforcement. But without federal support and a scientific basis for legal and policy action, priorities that provide the greatest benefit to sea otters are uncertain, and recovery needs will remain just that, needs not actions. Let's work together to enact Farr's bill and gain federal support to make southern sea otter recovery a reality.

Signed,
Nina Young
Friends of the Sea Otter

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