EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 2, 2008

TO: HEADS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: JAMES L. CONNAUGHTON, CHAIRMAN

SUBJECT: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLEAN MARINAS CHALLENGE

The President has challenged the Federal government to lead by example, be good stewards of our resources, and operate in an efficient, effective, and sustainable manner. Under Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, agencies will be reducing their acquisition and use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and expanding their waste diversion programs. Management of our Federal marinas provides a significant opportunity to meet these sustainability goals in a way that protects America's marine environments.

The Administration is focused on achieving meaningful results that make our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes cleaner, healthier, and more productive. To reduce pollution, the President's Ocean Action Plan directed the Federal government to achieve Clean Marina certifications for all marinas that are currently operating in national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and military bases in states that participate in the Clean Marina Program.

The Clean Marina Program is a voluntary, state-based program that encourages marina operators and recreational boaters to protect coastal water quality and habitat by engaging in environmentally sound operating and maintenance procedures such as pollution prevention and waste management. Each participating state certifies the marinas implementing these environmental friendly measures. A list of the participating states can be found at http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/marinas.html. Protecting the environment at Federally-owned marinas, while providing the services and facilities the public expects, requires innovative measures to protect the environment.

Through the Federal Clean Marinas Challenge, the President is committing the Federal government to provide advice, assistance and support to help Federally-owned marinas set an example for all marina operators. Once these practices are implemented, the Federal agencies will be able to demonstrate to the public that it conforms of the Clean Marinas Program.

Therefore, I am challenging the Federal agencies to take part in the Federal Clean Marinas Challenge. We are asking the agencies to ensure that Federally-owned marinas not currently certified will take steps to implement the measures outlined in the Clean Marina

Program and achieve certification from the participating states. Additionally I encourage your agency to achieve similar performance in states that do not currently participate in the Clean Marina Program and work constructively with any state seeking to adopt the program.

The Federal Clean Marinas Challenge is one important step agencies can undertake to meet the goals outlined in Executive Order 13423 and to be an environmental leader while ensuring that the American public enjoys and benefits from our nation's natural resources.