

Member/Alternate

Tourism

Lauri Baker / Andrea Moe

Business

William Spicer / Manny Aschemeyer

Non-Consumptive Recreation

W. Scott Dunn / Carolyn Greene

Commercial Fishing

Jim Marshall / Bruce Steele

Recreational Fishing

David Bacon / Merit McCrea

Education

Maria Petueli / Jose Chicote

Research

Dr. Robert Warner / Bernardo Broitman

Conservation

Linda Krop / Greg Helms

Public At-Large 1

Phyllis Grifman / Amy Spandrio

Public At-Large 2

Eric Kett / Dan Powell

Chumash Community

<vacant> / <vacant>

National Marine Fisheries Service

Melissa Neuman / Elizabeth Petras

National Park Service

Russell Galipeau / <vacant>

U.S. Coast Guard

CWO Ronald Fien / LTJG Brittany Steward

Minerals Management Service

Dr. Fred Piltz / Donna Schroeder

U.S. Department of Defense

Steven Schwartz / Walter Schobel

California Department of Fish and Game

Marija Vojkovich / John Ugoretz

California Resources Agency

Brian Baird / Amy Boone

California Coastal Commission

Steve Hudson / Barbara Carey

County of Santa Barbara

Dianne Black / <vacant>

County of Ventura

Lyn Krieger / Marilyn Miller

Channel Islands Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley

Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Paul Michel / Karen Grimmer

Gulf of the Farallones Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown / Kelley Higgason

Chair

Dianne Black

Vice Chair

Linda Krop

Secretary

Eric Kett

Sanctuary Advisory Council

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

May 30, 2008

Mr. Chris Mobley, Sanctuary Superintendent
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
113 Harbor Way, Suite 150
Santa Barbara, California 93109

Re: Support for NOAA weather buoys #46054 and #46023

Dear Mr. Mobley,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or Sanctuary) Advisory Council is a 21-member body of community members and government agencies that advise the Sanctuary Manager and NOAA on management of the Sanctuary. At our March 14, 2008 Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council) meeting, the Council was alerted to the loss of buoy maintenance for two weather buoys in the Santa Barbara region.

Thank you for your previous support of maintenance and operation of NOAA weather buoys, including #46054, West Santa Barbara Channel, and #46023, Point Arguello.

The CINMS cherishes the rich maritime history of our area, both recreational and commercial, and we are writing to enlist your support in our effort to strongly urge continued operation and maintenance of weather buoys #46054, West Santa Barbara Channel, and #46023, Point Arguello, both scheduled for decommissioning after the end of 2008 or upon failure (http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/buoy_removal.pdf).

Information from these buoys is critical to the safe transit of pleasure boats, commercial fishing vessels, merchant shipping, and oil tankers through the Santa Barbara Channel, and specifically the National Marine Sanctuary. The weather and sea conditions at the West SB Channel buoy are often very different than at the Pt Conception buoy, even though they are only 11 miles apart. The loss of these fundamental information tools would create a 'data blackout' in and around the west end



of the Santa Barbara Channel, creating a potential safety risk for the thousands of visitors and mariners that annually travel these waters.

Of particular concern is the risk of lost response time to an environmental hazard such as an oil spill or marine accident. This area of the channel is well known for turning from calm to convulsive in a very short time, and without current weather information clean-up or rescue response could be compromised.

Removal of these buoys will result in more time, money, and fuel spent by boaters as they 'explore' the channel's weather. Currently the information received from the buoys helps to limit the use of such resources, and plays a small part in keeping our waters clean.

In no small part, our area and the CINMS is tightly connected to ocean activities. Swimming, surfing, snorkeling, diving, and kayaking make up a significant part of California's culture. Thousands of individuals rely on accurate buoy data to help them decide where and when to enjoy their ocean activity. Without this valuable information, more resources will be spent both on land and sea to determine activity locations. This will result in more vehicle traffic along our roads and highways, leading to an increase in congestion and pollution.

Thank you for considering our comments, and we urge you to continue your support of maintenance and operation of buoys #46054, West Santa Barbara Channel, and #46023, Point Arguello.

Sincerely,



Dianne Black
Chair, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Enclosure: Sanctuary Advisory Council voting results on a motion to send this letter to Chris Mobley

Voting Results:

Below are the voting results of a Sanctuary Advisory Council motion to send a letter to Chris Mobley (Sanctuary Superintendent) requesting support for NOAA weather buoys #46054 and #46023.

SAC Seat	Representative	Vote
Tourism	<not present at vote>	--
Business	Manny Aschemeyer	Yes
Recreation (non-consumptive)	Scott Dunn	Yes
Recreational Fishing	David Bacon	Yes
Commercial Fishing	<not present at vote>	--
Education	Maria Petueli	Yes
Research	Bob Warner	Yes
Conservation	Greg Helms	Yes
Public At-large (1)	Phyllis Grifman	Yes
Public At-large (2)	Eric Kett	Yes
Chumash Community	<seat currently vacant>	--
National Marine Fisheries Service	Elizabeth Petras	Yes
National Park Service	<not present at vote>	--
U.S. Coast Guard	<not present at vote>	--
Minerals Management Service	<not present at vote>	--
U.S. Department of Defense	Steve Schwartz	Yes
California Department of Fish and Game	Marija Vojkovich	Yes
California Resources Agency	<not present at vote>	--
California Coastal Commission	Steve Hudson	Yes
County of Santa Barbara	Dianne Black	Yes
County of Ventura	<not present at vote>	--
Yes – 13	No – 0	Abstain – 1