

Sanctuary Advisory Council

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

November 18, 2016

Member/Alternate

Tourism

Andrea Mills / Garrett Kababik

Business

Michael Cohen / Capt. Kip Louttit

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Ben Pitterle / Tony Knight

Commercial Fishing

Stephanie Mutz / John Hoadley

Recreational Fishing

Capt. David Bacon / Merit McCrea

Education

Amanda Allen / Cliff Rodrigues

Research

Dr. Robert Warner / Dr. Mark Steele

Conservation

Kristen Hislop / Greg Helms

Public At-Large 1

Phyllis Grifman / Judy Willens

Public At-Large 2

Rich Block / Eric Kett

Chumash Community

Luhui Isha Ward / Mati Waiya

National Marine Fisheries Service

<vacant>

National Park Service

Russell Galipeau / <vacant>

U.S. Coast Guard

CDR Rom Matthews / LCDR Jason Brand

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Donna Schroeder / Dr. Ann Bull

U.S. Department of Defense

John Ugoretz / Walter Schobel

California Department of Fish and Game

Dr. Craig Shuman / Julia Coates

California Resources Agency

<vacant> / Amy Vierra

California Coastal Commission

Dr. Jonna Engel / Molly Troup

County of Santa Barbara

Dianne Black / Anne Almy

County of Ventura

Danielle Tarr / <vacant>

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley [non-voting]

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Paul Michel / Karen Grimmer [non-voting]

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown / Brian Johnson [non-voting]

Chair: Dianne Black

Vice Chair: Phyllis Grifman

Secretary: Michael Cohen

Ms. Lynn Sadler, Deputy Director
California Division of Boating and Waterways
One Capitol Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Mark Jackson, Meteorologist In Charge
NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office, LA/Oxnard
520 N. Elevar Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

Ms. Julie Thomas, Executive Director
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System Scripps
Institution of Oceanography
Mail Code 0214
La Jolla, CA 92093

Dear Ms. Sadler, Mr. Jackson, and Ms. Thomas:

I write to you on behalf of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council to ask for your support in assuring continued operation of the Waverider data buoy at Goleta Point off Santa Barbara, California. Our council, which is comprised of community members and representatives from government agencies providing advice on management of NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary¹, learned recently that continued funding has yet to be identified for this buoy, and that it will be pulled from the water once its batteries fail, which is expected soon. It is our understanding that average annual cost for maintaining operation of the buoy is approximately \$30,000. The Goleta Point Waverider buoy and its continued operation is very important to the members of our council, as the buoy helps to fill critical information gaps in a heavily trafficked and commercially valuable area within the Santa Barbara Channel.

Information from this buoy located in the Santa Barbara Channel, southwest of Santa Barbara Harbor, supports a variety of operations and provides valuable services to the greater Santa Barbara community. Because of its ideal location, the Goleta Point buoy can detect west and southwest swells that other area buoys do not detect due to island shadowing, refraction, and reflection. Recreational and commercial users, including ferries which shuttle over 70,000 people every year to Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary,

¹ *The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

make business and safety decisions based on wave and temperature data from this buoy and rely on it for understanding and predicting local ocean conditions. Other types of local businesses that rely on this data buoy to help them make important decisions include, for example, recreational fishing charters, guided kayak tours, and providers of SCUBA dive trips. Regional agencies and coastal communities also depend on the buoy for coastal flooding and wave damage detection. Without this buoy, predictions for beaches, harbors, and general conditions in the Santa Barbara Channel will need to rely on more distant sources, resulting in a significant reduction in model accuracy.

Overall, the Goleta Point buoy assists us, and sanctuary managers, in making informed and safe operational decisions about on-water activities, and is an important long term source of meaningful data on ocean conditions. As a diverse group of community members, representing local tourism, research, education, and recreational and commercial fishing interests, we urge you to work together to pursue and secure funding support for the continued operation of this important data buoy. We encourage you to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Thank you for time and consideration of our input. Please feel free to contact me or sanctuary staff should you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss the situation as a guest at a future meeting of our council.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Grifman, Vice Chair
Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc: Chris Mobley, Superintendent, NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Mr. Helmut Portmann, Director, NOAA National Data Buoy Center
Dr. Robert Jensen, Wave Information Studies, US Army Corps of Engineers
Assemblymember Das Williams, District 37, California State Assembly
Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, District 19, California State Senate

enclosure: Council voting record on adoption of this letter and approval for its dissemination.

ATTACHMENT: Voting Record for council letter from Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council concerning Goleta Point buoy, November 18, 2016

<u>Council Seat</u>	<u>Name of voting representative</u>	<u>Vote</u> <i>(or Absent)</i>
Tourism	Andrea Mills (member)	Y
Business	Michael Cohen (member)	Y
Non-Consumptive Recreation	Ben Pitterle (member)	Y
Commercial Fishing	Stephanie Mutz (member) John Hoadley (alternate)	Absent
Recreational Fishing	Capt. David Bacon (member)	Y
Education	Amanda Allen (member)	Y
Research	Dr. Robert Warner (member)	Y
Conservation	Kristen Hislop (member)	Y
Public At-Large1	Phyllis Grifman (member)	Y
Public At-Large2	Eric Kett (alternate)	Y
Chumash Community	Luhui Isha Ward (member)	Y
National Marine Fisheries Service	Vacant Vacant	Absent
National Park Service	Russell Galipeau (member)	Y
U.S. Coast Guard	CDR Rom Matthews (member)	Y
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Donna Schroeder (member) Dr. Ann Bull (alternate)	Absent
U.S. Department of Defense	Walter Schobel (alternate)	Y
California Dept of Fish & Wildlife	Dr. Julia Coates (alternate)	Y
California Resources Agency	Amy Vierra (alternate)	Absent
California Coastal Commission	Dr. Jonna Engel (member) Molly Troup (alternate)	Absent
County of Santa Barbara	Dianne Black (member)	Y
County of Ventura	Danielle Tarr (member)	Y

YES: 16 ABSTAIN: 0 NO: 0