

Sanctuary Advisory Council

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

DRAFT – FOR CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW BY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

<vacant> / Greg Helms

Public At-Large 1

Phyllis Grifman / Victor Cox

Public At-Large 2

Rich Block / Eric Kett

Chumash Community

Luhui Isha Waiya / Mati Waiya

National Marine Fisheries Service

<vacant> / Shelby Mendez

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 / <vacant>

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

September 16, 2016

[Suggested group list of recipients, to include: the Executive Director of SCCOOS, head of Coastal Data Information Program at Scripps, Director of CA Dept. of Boating and Waterways, and Director of the NOAA/NWS/National Data Buoy Center]

Dear ____:

I write to you on behalf of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, a group that brings together community members and representatives from government agencies to provide advice on management of NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary¹. At a recent public meeting of our council, it was brought to our attention that continued funding has yet to be identified for the Waverider data buoy at Goleta Point (46216) and that this buoy is currently slotted to be pulled from the water once the batteries fail, which is expected soon. 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.

With this buoy located in the Santa Barbara Channel, southwest of Santa Barbara Harbor, its information supports a variety of operations and provides valuable services to the greater Santa Barbara community. Due to 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 a million people every year to Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, all make business and safety decisions based on wave and temperature data from this buoy and rely on it as an essential tool for understanding and predicting local ocean conditions. Local agencies and coastal communities within the region also depend on the buoy for valuable 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 of input, 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, and we encourage you to contact us if we can be of assistance.

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.

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,

Dianne Black, Chair
Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc: Chris Mobley, Superintendent, NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

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

