

**LETTE** *PROPOSED on Nov 18, 2016 for APPROVAL by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council*

# Sanctuary Advisory Council

## CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

November \_\_, 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**

<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

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

Mr. Helmut Portmann, Director  
National Data Buoy Center  
Bldg. 3205  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

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. Portmann, 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 Sanctuary<sup>1</sup>, 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,

<sup>1</sup> *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,

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Dianne Black, Chair  
Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc: Chris Mobley, Superintendent, NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
Mark Jackson, Meteorologist In Charge, National Weather Service, LA/Oxnard Office  
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, September 16, 2016

<u>Council Seat</u>	<u>Name of voting representative</u>	<u>Vote</u> <i>(or Absent)</i>
Tourism		
Business		
Non-Consumptive Recreation		
Commercial Fishing		
Recreational Fishing		
Education		
Research		
Conservation		
Public At-Large1		
Public At-Large2		
Chumash Community		
National Marine Fisheries Service		
National Park Service		
U.S. Coast Guard		
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management		
U.S. Department of Defense		
California Dept of Fish & Wildlife		
California Resources Agency		
California Coastal Commission		
County of Santa Barbara		
County of Ventura		

**YES:**  **ABSTAIN:**  **NO:**