



February 13, 2019

Dr. Clarissa Anderson  
Executive Director  
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
9500 Gilman Drive, 0206  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0214

Dear Dr. Anderson:

On behalf of Scripps Educational Alliances and Birch Aquarium at Scripps, I enthusiastically endorse the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego. The Ocean Observing System's work with local, state and federal agencies, resource managers, industry, policy makers, educators, scientists and the general public is invaluable. The data, models and products advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global environment and have broad application in supporting science-based decision making in areas as diverse as marine operations, coastal hazards, climate variability and change, marine ecosystems, fisheries, and water quality. The societal relevance of the applications of SCCOOS data and products also make them ideal for use in STEM education.

As Director of Scripps Educational Alliances and a member of the leadership team at Birch Aquarium at Scripps (BAS), it has been a pleasure to grow our relationship with SCCOOS and advance the educational use of SCCOOS data, models and products. We are currently working with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), the San Diego Unified School District and several other state-wide initiatives to include earth and ocean sciences data in a wide variety of education and outreach programs and materials designed to help teachers implement Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The ability to engage students in using observatory data is one of the goals of our efforts and the participation of SCCOOS staff has been essential. SCCOOS recent contributions to this initiative have been exemplary and will allow us to capitalize on the ongoing availability of SCCOOS data for educational uses locally and at the state and national level. For example, the new the Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Alert Program served as the basis for a series of grade level lessons that are now part of a state-wide initiative on Environmental Literacy that is being coordinated by SDCOE ([Environmental Literacy Phenomena Summit](#))

I understand that SCCOOS is funded primarily by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sustained funding for SCCOOS will be crucial to the maintenance of the program's ocean observing network and to the continuity of the important data products and services that these observations enable. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Peach".

Cheryl Peach  
Director, Scripps Educational Alliances  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
UC San Diego