

Orange County Sanitation District

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January 31, 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

Henry Ruhl
CenCOOS Director
Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System
7700 Sandholdt Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039

Subject: Support for Continued Ocean Observations

I am writing on behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) to express my support for continued federal funding support for the Southern California Coastal Observing System (SCCOOS). The valuable data and services provided by SCCOOS has helped OCSD's ocean monitoring program for over a decade.

OCSD, as a large coastal wastewater treatment agency, is required to monitor the effects of its discharge of highly treated effluent to the receiving water environment. Collaborations with SCCOOS have included agency specific monitoring programs, such as a 2012 diversion of our effluent to a near coast discharge point during a large outfall rehabilitation project. SCCOOS provided critical data and products used for the implemented adaptive sampling program and for management purposes (e.g., Do beaches need to be posted or closed?). SCCOOS also hosted the web-based project portal allowing access for OCSD staff, regulators, and the public. Currently OCSD and SCCOOS are collaborating on updating the sensor suite on a local pier to collect measurements relevant to ocean acidification and hypoxia. Data from weekly harmful algal sampling is used by OCSD and its regional partners in evaluating HABs on the San Pedro Shelf and has been used to initiate field sampling events.

As a science-based decision support system, SCCOOS—along with its sister, the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System—interactively work with local, state and federal agencies, industry, educators, scientists and the public to provide information (data, models and products) that advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global environment. In my opinion, the success of the recently adopted California Ocean Protection Council's ocean acidification action plan will rely on SCCOOS's continued operation.





I understand that SCCOOS is primarily funded by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); these are the dollars needed to keep the lights on and the assets operational. The sustained funding for SCCOOS remain 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,

George L. Robertson

Senior Scientist

Our Mission: To protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.