



October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**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 Ocean Discovery Institute, 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.

At Ocean Discovery Institute, we use ocean science to empower young people from underserved urban communities of color to transform their lives, their community, and our world as science and conservation leaders. We integrate real science data into our curriculum to inform our students about relevant coastal and oceanographic issues. We use ocean observing data to teach students about multiple STEM topics, such as physical oceanography and math. Furthermore, discussions about ocean observing data also expose our students, all of whom are from backgrounds historically underrepresented in STEM fields, to a variety of STEM career types. The continued availability of this data is crucial to our ongoing efforts to provide science opportunities to young people from underserved backgrounds.

As a science-based decision support system, SCCOOS collaborates with local, state and federal agencies, resource managers, industry, policy makers, educators, scientists and the general public to provide data, models and products that advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global ocean.

SCCOOS focuses on coastal observations and product development to provide the information necessary to address issues on marine operations, coastal hazards, climate variability and change, and ecosystems, fisheries, and water quality.

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,

**Joel Barkan**

**Research and Restoration Manager**

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