

February 5, 2020

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Ruhl
California's Ocean Observing Systems
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System
Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System

Dear Dr. Anderson & Dr. Ruhl:

On behalf of The Wild Neighbors Database Project, 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 and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI).

The Wild Neighbors Database Project is a US 501(c)3 non-profit organization which promotes international wildlife rehabilitation by developing online data management software and helping implement its use worldwide to gather and exchange wildlife data. We are a small team of dedicated wildlife rehabilitators with the intent of supporting and improving the lives of wild patients everywhere. To date, we have 3 major projects that we have developed including The Wildlife Morbidity and Mortality Alert System (WMME Alert System). In coordination with the Ocean Observing network, our WMME Alert System integrates wildlife incident data in near-real time in order to enable early detection of a number of wildlife morbidity and mortality events in California. Primary data is provided by wildlife rehabilitators, however data from the Ocean Observing network is crucial in confirming unusual coastal wildlife morbidity events.

As a science-based decision support program, the California Ocean Observing Systems collaborate with local, state and federal agencies, resource managers, industry, policy makers, educators, scientists, tribes 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 and CeNCOOS focus on high-priority regional requirements to provide the information necessary to address issues marine operations, coastal hazards, climate variability and change, and ecosystems, fisheries, and water quality.

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

Sincerely,


Devin Dombrowki and Rachel Avilla
Co-Founders of The Wild Neighbors Database Project