

Orange County Sanitation District

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November 18, 2020

Clarissa Anderson, Ph.D., Executive Director, SCCOOS (via email)
Henry Ruhl, Ph.D., Director CeNCOOS (via email)
The California Ocean Observing Systems

SUBJECT: Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System

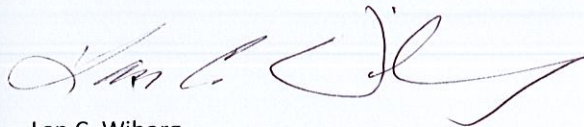
The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the Orange County Sanitation District's (OC San) endorsement on the high value we place on the data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS).

OC San is the third largest Publicly Owned Treatment Works in Southern California and as an ocean discharger we have considerable interests in research and monitoring of the coastal waters of California, especially those within the Southern California Bight (SCB). OC San conducts an extensive federally and state mandated ocean monitoring program off Orange County, California, but we recognize the interconnectedness of our local monitoring area to the rest of the SCB and, indeed, the entire California Current System. SCCOOS and CeNCOOS data and information are used to fill knowledge gaps within our study area and to provide regional context to our local monitoring data.

OC San has collaborated and partnered with SCCOOS since its inception in the early 2000s. The value we see in California's two ocean observation systems justifies our contribution of funding and staff time. Working with SCCOOS to leverage local dollars with federal funding allows both groups to collect data and provide valuable information products applicable to local, state, and national scales more efficiently and cost effectively.

With increasing attention on projected global climate change impacts to California's highly urbanized coast and to its coastal marine ecosystems, continued high-level federal funding of science-based decision support programs—like the CeNCOOS and SCCOOS—is critical to ensuring that local, state and federal decision makers and the public have the best information available as we move into the future.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at (714) 593-7450.



Lan C. Wiborg
Director of Environmental Services

LCW:RC:pe
H:\dept\es\610\Gen_Letters-Memos\2020\2020-11-18_SCCOOS CenCOOS NOAA funding support



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