

October 1, 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:

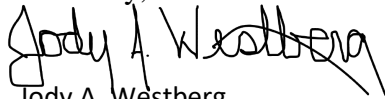
On behalf of SeaWorld San Diego, I enthusiastically endorse the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego.

SeaWorld San Diego has been rescuing marine life since its inception in 1964; this includes over 20,000 animals of over 100 varying species. We have seen a change in the ocean's health in these last 56 years, and the telltale sign is in the animals we rescue, especially those that suffer from ever increasing naturally occurring toxins. The SCCOOS is valuable for us to see trends in algal blooms impacting local wildlife and where they may be impacted. This helps us to prepare to respond to these greater stranding needs and gather the most up to date biological data to help future populations. We are very aware that what impacts marine wildlife will eventually impact human health

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.

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,



Jody A. Westberg

Stranding Coordinator, SeaWorld San Diego