



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Pacific OCS Region

760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102

Camarillo, CA 93010-6064

November 10th, 2020

Dr. Anderson

Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System

Dr. Ruhl

Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System

Subject: Letter of Support for California Ocean Observing System

Dear Dr. Anderson and Dr. Ruhl:

On behalf of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Pacific Regional Office, I enthusiastically endorse the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), located at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego (UCSD) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), respectively.

BOEM, in the Pacific Region, has responsibilities for leasing and plans for energy development on the outer continental shelf (OCS) offshore Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii. As part of the leasing and plans processes, BOEM conducts environmental analysis to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and consultations for the Endangered Species Act (ESA). BOEM's subject matter experts utilize data provided by SCCOOS and CeNCOOS for oil spill modeling that informs environmental analyses for the OCS offshore California. In addition, BOEM utilizes that data in multiple BOEM-funded environmental research studies. It is important that BOEM continues to have access to ocean observing data for our ongoing and future operations.

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

Sustained funding for SCCOOS and CeNCOOS is crucial to the maintenance of the State of California's ocean observing network and to the continued development of important data products and services by these observing systems. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan F. Zaleski

Marine Ecologist
BOEM Pacific Regional Office