



**SOUTH BAY CITIES**  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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April 8, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan  
State Senate 6<sup>th</sup> District  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
State Assembly 7<sup>th</sup> District  
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0007

Dear Senator Pan and Assemblymember McCarty,

On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), this letter is in support of increased investments in the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Oceanography Program. Currently funded at \$1.5 million annually, the recent trend of cuts to this program threatens California's position as a global leader on environmental stewardship. Increased investment in this program ensures the continuation of critical research and observing projects vital to understanding climate change impacts on coastal erosion, wave conditions, and supporting safe navigation in our harbors and waterways.

Oceanography Program-funded research supports California's growth as the world's 5th largest economy and continues to identify vulnerable regions of coastline disproportionately affected by climate change. As the rate of coastal change and extreme events increases, the need for continuous data observations also increases. This program is integral for identifying and responding to threats against California's coastal infrastructure, property, and public lands.

The SBCCOG is currently developing a sub-regional adaptation plan as the next step to already approved 15 cities' and a sub-regional Climate Action Plans. The sub-regional adaptation plan will include a vulnerability assessment to climate hazards such as sea level rise. The SBCCOG is utilizing models and visualization tools - which are only as good as their data inputs--to identify and prepare for the social, economic, and ecological impact of sea level rise in our communities. As the SBCCOG and other local and regional governments consider what adaptive actions should be taken, it is imperative that the programs we rely on to provide the best available data are fully funded.

The Oceanography Program supports collaboration and innovation resulting in data products and tools used by millions of Californians – including our 15 member-cities. Increased investment in the Oceanography Program is crucial for California's ability to adapt and remain resilient to climate and weather extremes.

I urge you to support the highest possible funding levels for this program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Britt Huff  
Chair, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Cc: Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins

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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita  
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills  
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles District #15 Los Angeles County