

WEST COAST GOVERNORS'
AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH
CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

September 15, 2010

Steven Ramp
Program Director
Central and Northern California Ocean
Observing System (CeNCOOS)
Moss Landing, CA 95039

Julie Thomas
Executive Director
Southern California Coastal Ocean
Observing System (SCCOOS)
La Jolla, CA 92093

Jan Newton
Executive Director
Northwest Association of Networked Ocean
Observing Systems (NANOOS)
Seattle, WA 98105

RE: Support for West Coast Integrated Ocean Observing System Implementation Proposals

Dear Dr. Ramp, Ms. Thomas, and Dr. Newton:

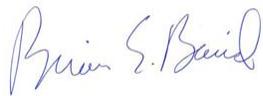
In 2006, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington entered a landmark partnership by signing the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health. Together, the Governors have committed to protecting the health of the West Coast's ocean and coastal ecosystems and the economies that depend on them. To achieve these goals, the governors released their Action Plan in 2008, laying out ambitious but concrete steps to improve the health and resiliency of the West Coast's communities and ocean environment.

In their Action Plan, the governors emphasized that the three West Coast Regional Associations (RAs) of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) – CeNCOOS, NANOOS, and SCCOOS – are regional centers of expertise providing essential data and information for local, regional, state and federal managers. Continued advancement of the RAs is essential for developing and sustaining the appropriate scale of observations necessary to realize many of our regional goals, including an ecosystem approach to management and effective adaptation to coastal climate change impacts. In particular, the West Coast RAs employ proven technologies and methods that enable timely oil spill preparedness and response; a deeper understanding of Harmful Algal Blooms and hypoxic events; and the tools to address regional impacts driven by global climate changes. The West Coast RAs also are poised to make critical contributions to help support the new Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) frameworks, policies and plans being developed in our states as well as future regional planning efforts, including those established under the national CMSP framework.

The delivery of timely informational products that summarize relevant observations of the coastal ocean – both long-term and real-time – is critical for effective management of our West Coast ocean and coastal resources. We support the proposals by CeNCOOS, NANOOS, and SCCOOS to continue the positive progress these organizations have been making in the development and implementation of an integrated ocean observing system on the West Coast.

We look forward to working with you in continued partnership.

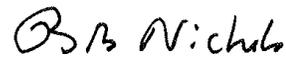
Sincerely,



Brian Baird
Assistant Secretary for
Ocean and Coastal
Policy, California



Jessica Hamilton
Natural Resources Policy
Advisor, Office of
Oregon Governor
Kulongoski



Bob Nichols
Executive Policy Advisor,
Office of Washington
Governor Gregoire