

Sanctuary Advisory Council

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Member/Alternate

Tourism

Andrea Mills / Capt. Mat Curto

Business

Capt. Richard McKenna / Michael Gould

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Debra Herring / Nicole Peters

Commercial Fishing

Bruce Steele / Stephanie Mutz

Recreational Fishing

Capt. David Bacon / Merit McCrea

Education

Maria Petueli / Amanda Hendrickson

Research

Dr. Robert Warner / Dr. Mark Steele

Conservation

Linda Krop / Greg Helms

Public At-Large 1

Phyllis Grifman / Victor Cox

Public At-Large 2

Eric Kett / <vacant>

Chumash Community

Luhui Isha Waiya / Vennise Miller Forte

National Marine Fisheries Service

Elizabeth Petras / Stephanie Koes

National Park Service

Russell Galipeau / David Ashe

U.S. Coast Guard

CDR Christina Davidson / LCDR Elisa Garrity

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Donna Schroeder / Dr. Ann Bull

U.S. Department of Defense

John Ugoretz / Walter Schobel

California Department of Fish and Game

Marija Vojkovich / Kristine Barsky

California Resources Agency

<vacant> / Amy Vierra

California Coastal Commission

Dr. Jonna Engel / Steve Hudson

County of Santa Barbara

Dianne Black / Susan Curtis

County of Ventura

Lyn Krieger / <vacant>

Channel Islands Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley [non-voting]

Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Paul Michel / Karen Grimmer [non-voting]

Gulf of the Farallones Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown / Brian Johnson [non-voting]

Chair: Eric Kett

Vice Chair: Bruce Steele

Secretary: Phyllis Grifman

May 31, 2012

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
14th & Constitution Avenue NW
Bldg HCHB, Suite 6622, Room 5810
Washington, DC 20230-0001

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

As chair of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, I am writing on behalf of the council with appreciation for the partial restoration of California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) funds in this current fiscal year, and to express strong support for future funding of this important program. As you know, the deletion of these funds from the 2011 budget was a great loss to our local schools. We understand that in the current economic climate funding is being cut at all levels. We hope that in addition to funding our core Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) staff and programs, additional funds will be found to reinstate our local B-WET programs to benefit the youth in our community.

B-WET funding provides a unique opportunity for the CINMS to work with local NGOs and businesses in order to implement the best ideas originating from K-12 educators in our area. As a result of prior year funding, thousands of students in Santa Barbara and Ventura school districts received excellent watershed education opportunities. These B-WET funded programs foster a sense of personal responsibility for our natural world which can only be gained through the development of a personal connection with it, a difficult task for school districts to accomplish without outside funding. Programs such as these also offer opportunities for immediate and direct positive change to take place through student actions.

During the 2010-2011 school year, B-WET funds in the CINMS community have¹:

- Fostered a sense of environmental stewardship in 2,689 students of elementary, junior high and high school grade levels;
- Helped shape over 120 teachers of environmental and science classes to more effectively serve students and teach watershed science;

- Directly decreased trash production in 11 classrooms and removed over 100 pounds of debris from our watershed during student led clean-ups;
- Planted over 300 native plants in restoration efforts; and
- Provided over 2,000 students the opportunity to visit and explore a watershed first hand, and afforded many students multiple opportunities for field explorations of local beaches, creeks, and the Channel Islands.

These fantastic B-WET programs have demonstrated more than an increase in environmental stewardship, they have also resulted in improved teacher confidence in teaching science content and an increased student knowledge and understanding of watershed ecology. Additionally, they provided valuable career connection opportunities for our local youth, boosted the economy by supporting local businesses that support student field activities, and created appreciation and stewardship towards the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

One of our local B-WET success stories is the CINMS Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) Academy program. Since 2006 this program has provided continuous experiential science learning opportunities for our large multi-cultural community. For exampleⁱⁱ:

- The MERITO Academy has served 4,100 4th-8th grade minority students and 130 educators from public schools and extended learning programs;
- 100% of the recruited educators serve at Title 1 schools (schools that serve economically disadvantaged students);
- The MERITO Academy collaborates with over 30 partner organizations in addition to more than 25 schools in seven school districts participating over the last six years;
- The most recent partner agency is the California Department of Education, which applied for and has been recommended NOAA B-WET funding to support the MERITO Academy from 2012-2015;
- A testimonial:

“Every child has a right to an equal and quality education, but the reality is that children in inner city schools miss out not only on science, but on the enrichment opportunities that can accompany it. The MERITO Program has given my students in an inner city school in the heart of the gang injunction zone of Oxnard, the opportunity to have access to a world-class science program complete with visiting scientists, science equipment, and field trips; it has given my students an awareness of the environment and how their actions affect the ocean. It has provided my students, many of who had never even visited the beach five miles away from them, the opportunity to visit the islands and revel in the beauty of the marine sanctuary that had previously been so close, yet so far away from them. My students have become ambassadors for the ocean. Who is to say the next Jacque Cousteau won’t come from our school?”

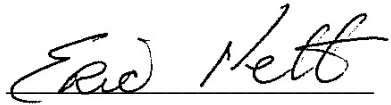
*-- Mrs. Nancy Karnoski, 5th Grade Teacher
McKinna Elementary, Oxnard School District, Oxnard, CA*

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council has always supported our local B-WET programs. B-WET programs expand the reach of the sanctuary to fulfill its management plan goals of linking local teachers with national efforts to improve ocean literacy, increasing

community awareness of the sanctuary, and building understanding and stewardship within the local community. We appreciate this year's funding and strongly urge that it be continued in subsequent years.

Thank you for continuing a commitment to ocean literacy in our community through the California B-WET program.

Sincerely,



Eric Kett, Chair
Sanctuary Advisory Councilⁱⁱⁱ

cc: Louisa Koch, Director, NOAA Office of Education
Daniel J. Basta, Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
William J. Douros, Acting Deputy Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Chris Mobley, Superintendent, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

enclosure: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council voting results, May 18, 2012.

ⁱ Source: NOAA California B-WET Program, Project Evaluation Report Review 2007-2008 and CA B-WET FY10: Santa Barbara Channel Watershed Project Summaries.

ⁱⁱ Source: Data compiled by Rocio Lozano, CINMS MERITO Coordinator.

ⁱⁱⁱ *The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

Voting Results: May 18, 2012 – Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council voting results on a motion approving a letter of support for NOAA’s California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program. May 18, 2012, Santa Barbara, California.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Council Seat - position</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Capt. Mat Curto	Tourism – alternate	Yes
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation - member	Yes
Capt. Richard McKenna Michael Gould	Business – member Business – alternate	ABSENT
Linda Krop	Conservation - member	Yes
Bruce Steele [Vice Chair]	Commercial Fishing - member	Yes
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing - member	Yes
Maria Petueli	Education - member	Yes
Dr. Robert Warner Dr. Mark Steele	Research – member Research – alternate	ABSENT
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 – alternate	Yes
Eric Kett [Chair]	Public At Large #2 - member	Yes
Luhui Isha Waiya	Chumash Community - member	Yes
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - member	Yes
David Ashe	National Park Service - alternate	Yes
CDR Christina Davidson	US Coast Guard - member	Yes
Donna Schroeder Dr. Ann Bull	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - member Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - alternate	ABSENT
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense – member	Yes
Marija Vojkovich Kristine Barsky	California Department of Fish & Game – member California Department of Fish & Game – alternate	ABSENT
<vacant> Amy Vierra	California Natural Resources Agency - member California Natural Resources Agency - alternate	ABSENT
Dr. Jonna Engel	California Coastal Commission – member	Yes
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - alternate	Yes
Lyn Krieger <vacant>	Ventura County – member Ventura County – alternate	ABSENT

Yes –15 No –0 Abstain –0