

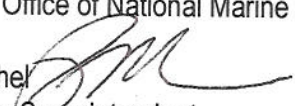


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
299 Foam Street  
Monterey, California 93940

December 20, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Daniel J. Basta  
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

FROM: Paul Michel   
Sanctuary Superintendent

SUBJECT: Transmittal of support letter from the Monterey Bay National Marine  
Sanctuary Advisory Council to ONMS Director

At the December 8, 2011, council meeting, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council wrote a letter and requested it be transmitted to the NOAA Administrator and the NOAA Office of Education Director.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (council) was made aware of the loss of funding for the California Bay Watershed Education and Training (CA B-WET) Program for the 2011-2012 budget. The council requests that allocation for this important program be placed into the NOAA budget with the other B-WET programs as administered by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

As the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent, I am in support of the council's request to have funding reinstated for the CA B-WET program.

I respectfully request that you transmit the attached letters to Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, and Louisa Koch, NOAA Office of Education Director.

If you have any questions please contact me at (831) 647-4258.

Attachments



#### Voting Members

Dr. Chris Harrold  
Research  
Chair

Kirk Schmidt  
Agriculture  
Vice Chair

Margaret Webb  
Representative At-Large  
Secretary

Amy Vierra  
CA Resources Agency

Mat Fuzie  
CA State Parks

Kathy Fosmark  
Commercial Fishing

Simona Bartl  
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Phil Sammet  
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Cynthia Walter  
Business/Industry

Michael Bekker  
Tourism

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Richard Ely  
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Representative At-Large

Geoffrey Shester  
Conservation

Gary Pezzi  
Recreation

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Steve Scheiblauber  
Harbors

Jane Parker  
AMBAG

Russ Jeffries  
CA EPA-RWQCB

Paul Reilly  
CA Dept of Fish and Game

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LT Elisa Garrity  
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Dave Feliz  
Elkhorn Slough NERR

Chris Mobley  
Channel Islands NMS

Maria Brown  
Gulf of the Farallones

Dan Howard  
Cordell Bank NMS

Paul Michel  
Monterey Bay NMS

**Sanctuary Advisory Council**  
**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**  
299 Foam Street  
Monterey, CA 93940  
(831) 647-4201

December 20, 2011

Dr. Jane Lubchenco  
Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
14<sup>th</sup> & Constitution Avenue NW  
Herbert C. Hoover Building  
Washington, DC 20230-0001

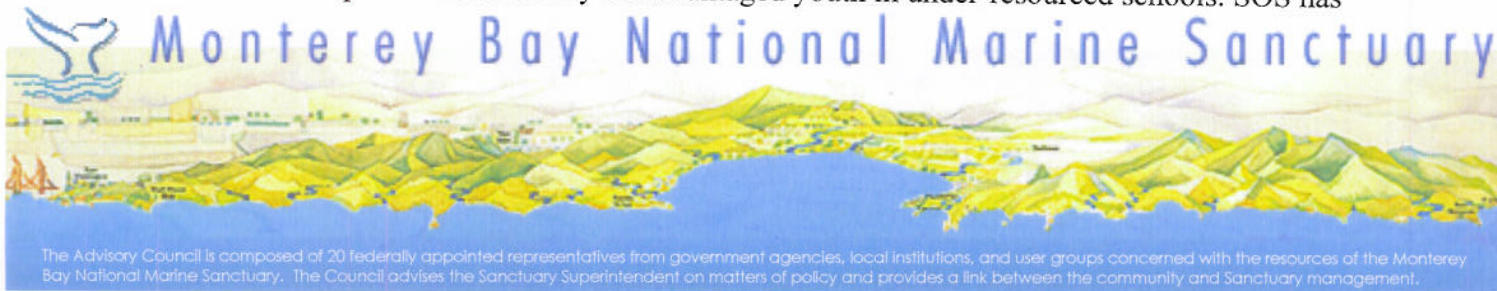
Dear Dr. Lubchenco,

As the chair of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (advisory council) of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), I am writing to express our concern about the loss of many dynamic, cost-effective, and acclaimed educational programs that partner with the MBNMS to promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation of the Sanctuary. This loss is a direct result of last year's congressional budget cut of the California Bay Watershed Education and Training (CA B-WET) Program as a separate line item from the current 2011-2012 budget. Since B-WET funds were to be allocated to grantees in Fall 2011 their loss is already acutely apparent.

The advisory council respectfully requests that the **CA B-WET allocation be placed into the NOAA budget** with the other B-WET programs to be administered through the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. If this request cannot be accomplished this year, we ask that language be developed for allocating a portion of **funds going to the NOAA Office of Education to be allocated to CA B-WET programming.**

To support our request, we gathered quotes from a sampling of the impacted organizations:

- "Previously we had been able to reach over 520 Salinas students from over 10 elementary schools in the Salinas Valley with our CA B-WET funding. This year we have had over a third of our schools drop out of participating all together. The work and time we had put into developing these relationships with the individuals' schools and their families have been negatively impacted by this cut. While these schools are working to try to raise the necessary funds to continue their meaningful outdoor experiences, many have had to cancel due to lack of funding." – Exploring New Horizons, Felton, CA
- "We leverage B-WET grant funds for our watershed education efforts along California's Central Coast, supporting staff-led classroom presentations and field trips for economically disadvantaged youth in under-resourced schools. SOS has



The Advisory Council is composed of 20 federally appointed representatives from government agencies, local institutions, and user groups concerned with the resources of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Council advises the Sanctuary Superintendent on matters of policy and provides a link between the community and Sanctuary management.

been able to provide meaningful watershed education to over 400 students and has built valuable partnerships with schoolteachers and administrators. Students participating in our program showed significant increases in knowledge regarding their local environment as well as significant increases in behavior changes related to waste reduction and stewardship practices. SOS has not been able to partner with our schools due to lack of funds, and teachers and administrators have shown frustration in not being able to utilize these resources that we spent so much time building together”. – Save Our Shores, Santa Cruz, CA

- “In 2010-2011, BWET funded a project allowing 60 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Robert Down Elementary School to explore their personal connection to the Monterey Bay watershed by learning about the challenges currently facing California sea otters. The BWET program allowed students to connect classroom learning to real-world experiences and learning opportunities in the local environment...At a time when science is not taught at public elementary schools and when many middle and high schools teach science through memorization or textbook reading, it is so very important to support funding for the BWET program; BWET provided students with opportunities to learn science as it should be taught – with students as active learners engaged in meaningful activities that connect to, yet extend beyond, classroom learning”. – Parent, Robert Down Elementary School, Pacific Grove, CA

The California B-WET program promotes locally relevant, systemic experiential learning in the K-12 environment.

- In fiscal year 2010, CA B-WET funded **35 awards**, totaling **>\$2,000,000**, collectively reaching **12,680 students** and training **440 teachers**.
- Each year CA B-WET provides more than **\$1,000,000** in the creation of **jobs** and **\$500,000** in the form of resources that go directly **to schools and teachers**.<sup>1</sup>
- CA B-WET builds capacity in underserved and underrepresented communities to support environmental literacy by requiring that applicants work with **Title 1 schools**.
- **100%** of CA B-WET funds support the President Obama’s **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiative**
- Annually, more than **\$200,000** in CA B-WET funds supports the **Ocean Guardian School Program**, a **school-based program** that inspires students to implement stewardship projects to protect our ocean resources.

Evaluation results for National B-WET programs<sup>2</sup> find them to be overwhelmingly **effective** with collective gains in:

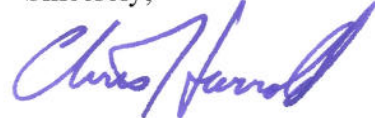
- teachers' confidence in their ability to implement ocean science curriculum
- students' characteristics associated with environmental stewardship
- students' knowledge in watershed issues
- students' enjoyment of learning about and protecting the ocean
- students' and teachers ability to identify ways in which watersheds and sanctuaries can become polluted

The **America COMPETES Act** (33 U.S.C. 893a) specifically calls out the NOAA B-WET Program as a model program and notes that the B-WET Program was cited by

**the National Research Council** for its rigorous program-wide assessment of performance and impact among students and teachers. These funds represent an investment in our future, both as early job and skills training in STEM related fields, and in terms of developing an informed, engaged, environmentally and scientifically literate youth force--tomorrow's citizens and leaders.

Please respond to our request and use any means possible to reinstate CA B-WET for fiscal year 2012 and for the years to come.

Sincerely,



Chris Harrold  
Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Chair

<sup>1</sup> Compiled by Seaberry Nachbar, CA B-WET Coordinator, from FY10 funded awards.

<sup>2</sup> NOAA California B-WET Program Project Evaluation Report Review 2007-2008 *and* An Evaluation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training Program Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences

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Louisa Koch  
Director of Education  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
14<sup>th</sup> & Constitution Avenue NW  
Herbert C. Hoover Building  
Washington, DC 20230-0001

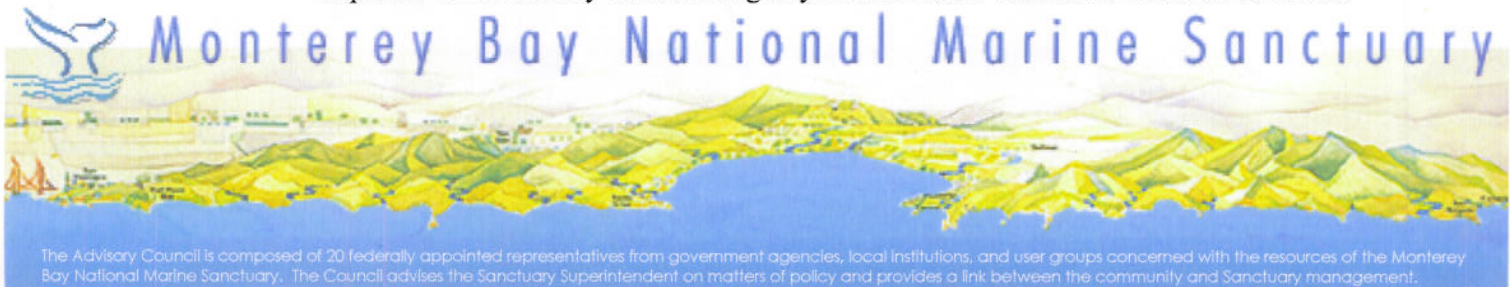
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