



Voting Members

Margaret Webb
Representative At-Large
Chair

Gary Pezzi
Recreation
Vice Chair

Brian Nelson
Diving
Secretary

Kirk Schmidt
Agriculture

Al Budris
Business/Industry

Kathy Fosmark
Commercial Fishing

Katherine O'Dea
Conservation

Brian Nelson
Diving

Tucker Hirsch
Education

Richard Hughett
Recreational Fishing

Dr. John Hunt
Research

Michael Bekker
Tourism

Dan Haifley
Representative At-Large

Gary Hoffmann
Representative At-Large

Edwin Smith
AMBAG

Dan Carl
CA Coastal Commission

Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso
CA EPA-RWQCB

Paul Reilly
CA Dept of Fish and Game

Deborah Halberstadt
CA Resources Agency

Brent Marshall
CA State Parks

Steve Scheiblaue
Harbors

Non-Voting Members

Clifton Herrmann
College

Chris Mobley
Channel Islands NMS

Dan Howard
Cordell Bank NMS

Dave Feliz
Elkhorn Slough NERR

Maria Brown
Greater Farallones NMS

Paul Michel
Monterey Bay NMS

Dr. Steve Lindley
NMFS

LCDR Jason Brand
US Coast Guard

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

99 Pacific Street, Building 455E

Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 647-4201

8 December 2016

Dr. Mary A. Papazian, President

San Jose State University

One Washington Square,

San Jose, CA 95192

Dear President Papazian,

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council hereby expresses its strong support for a new state-of-the-art coastal research vessel for California, to be operated jointly by the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

California has the 6th largest economy in the world, and the largest ocean economy in the United States (estimated at \$42.9 billion in 2000). The ecosystem services of the coast and ocean sustain this economic prosperity, yet the marine environment is threatened by unprecedented change related to climate and a growing coastal population. Tomorrow's leaders will need the information and experience that can only be gained from extensive research and education on our coastal waters, including investigations of the California Current and other waters beyond the reach of small boats and shore-bound observations. California needs a new state-of-the-art research vessel operated and maintained by the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) to provide educational and research opportunities for our scientists and managers of the future.

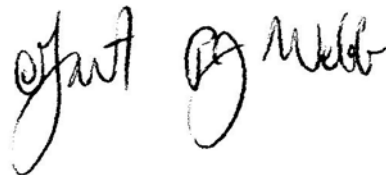
For nearly 30 years, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) operated the 135' Research Vessel (R/V) *Point Sur*. The National Science Foundation (NSF) owned the vessel, and MLML operated the ship within the national academic fleet of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS); it was the only UNOLS vessel in the CSU system. NSF sold the vessel this past year. At the same time Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) is retiring two of their vessels of similar size to the *Point Sur*. With the recent loss of these ships there is no regional class research vessel (RCRV) operating in the UNOLS fleet off California.

MLML, in partnership with the San Jose State University/CSU system, and SIO, in partnership with the University of California San Diego/UC system, are proposing to design, build, and operate a new RCRV for California that would serve as an excellent platform for classes and student research projects, and for research of vital interest to California. This ship will be capable of conducting critical studies on climate change, Marine Protected Areas, sea level rise, harmful algal blooms, water and air pollution, ocean chemistry, and changes in the physical and biological condition of the California Current ecosystem.

At present, approximately \$2 million is committed from UCSD and \$0.9 million from MLML. The design and construction of a new 120' vessel would be about \$20 million, with funding expected from the CSU system, UC system, State of California, and private entities. The maintenance and operation costs would be shared by SIO and MLML, with most of these costs recovered by users based on a daily rate. Purchasing a new vessel greatly decreases the year-to-year costs of operation and maintenance, and provides a more effective and energy-efficient platform for the necessary research and education.

We understand the enormous pressures on the coastal marine systems of California and the need for a state-of-the art vessel to help train our scientists and managers of the future. Management and protection of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary depends on research that provides current information on the rapidly changing marine environment, and the Sanctuary Advisory Council strongly supports the concept of such a vessel and the excellent partnerships that its availability would encourage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret (PJ) Webb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margaret (PJ) Webb
Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair

CC: John Armor, Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
William Douros, Director, ONMS West Coast Regional Office
Paul Michel, Superintendent, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary