STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS
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March 30, 2006

Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sirs:

In fall of 2005 the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) adopted the California Ocean and Coastal Information and Outreach Strategy which identifies the goal, objectives and needs for information, research and monitoring, and outreach to coordinate efforts with federal, state and local governments. Seafloor mapping is one of the major cross-cutting informational needs identified by the various research disciplines. The U.S. Geological Survey has applied to the OPC for financial assistance to further this important research need along the California coast.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways strongly supports the Santa Barbara Seafloor Mapping Project currently proposed by the U.S. Geological Survey's Coastal and Marine Geology Program (USGS) in California. The Department of Boating and Waterways is the state agency mandated with studying and remediating the affects of severe coastal and beach erosion in California on public beaches. Our beaches and nearshore marine resources are world renowned tourist destinations that generate billions of dollars in economic activity and sustain over 500,000 jobs that return substantial tax income to our state. With over 12 % of the nation's population residing in California and over 75% living within one-hour of the coast, Californians utilize coastal resources at nearly three times the national average.

The mapping project proposes to infill significant areas of the seafloor bottom that have not been mapped to date. Identifying and understanding the characteristics of the seafloor bottom through high-resolution mapping techniques will provide resource managers with valuable baseline map information of substrate type, habitat and ecosystems, surface geologic structure, potential geologic hazards, sediment pathways along with man-made bottom perturbations such as shipwrecks, oil wells, pipelines and sewage outfalls.

In the last few years, we have worked with the USGS to develop and foster several successful partnerships between our organization, and several other state and local agencies. These active collaborative research projects focus on (1) understanding the transport and fate of fine-grained (mud) sediment, the major transporter of chemical contaminants in the coastal environment, and

(2) understanding coastal processes and erosion in the San Francisco Bight and Santa Barbara channel areas. We are also working together on proposals to understand the impact of turbidity (from sediment) in the coastal water column. These are valuable studies that will have significant local and regional impact. We are continually impressed with the communication, energy, creativity, and focus that USGS brings to this collaborative work.

In summary, mapping and characterizing the coastal nearshore seabed along the Santa Barbara Channel is of great importance to the many cities, regional governments and state and federal agencies that look to the State of California for leadership and assistance. In turn, state and local agencies look to the USGS for its valuable and impartial applied technical expertise and research capabilities. It is our hope that the USGS will continue to grow its research in this area and we pledge to help support this effort through any applicable means.

We encourage your support of this important project.

Sincerely,

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APR 03 2006
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Raynor Tsuneyoshi
Director

RT:ks:ms

cc: Mr. Samuel Y. Johnson
Mr. David Johnson
Mr. Kim Sterrett

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *GOVERNOR*

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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5 April 2006

Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
c/o Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Doug and Mike,

I am writing in support of the proposal being put forward by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for funding seafloor mapping in state waters of the Santa Barbara channel. The "Santa Barbara Channel Seafloor Mapping Project," when complete, will provide detailed imagery of the seafloor between Goleta and Point Dume, augmenting existing USGS surveys, mostly in Federal waters. Funding already exists for about a third of the remaining areas to be surveyed. The funding being requested from the Ocean Protection Council would allow approximately another third of the area to be mapped. USGS plans to put together a similar partnership next year to allow completion of the project.

Detailed imagery of this part of the state's seafloor will be especially valuable to the Coastal Commission (and others) for a number of reasons. First, the imagery can be used to produce detailed benthic habitat maps which provides spatial distribution of bottom substrate types. These maps can be used to characterize and prioritize Marine Life Protected Areas as required by the Marine Life Management Act. Second, the seafloor mapping will provide critical information on the presence and character of offshore sand bodies that could be a valuable resource for nourishment of the region's depleted beaches. Third, The Santa Barbara channel area is presently the site of significant offshore infrastructure, mostly related to oil and gas production. Pressing decisions regarding decommissioning of existing oil and gas platforms requires accurate baseline mapping of nearshore ecosystems and habitats. Fourth, the Santa Barbara Channel is cut by numerous faults. Seafloor mapping will produce information on fault length, segmentation, slip rate, and recent activity, all of which will help characterize potential offshore earthquake sources. Fifth, damaging local tsunamis in the Santa Barbara-Ventura area could be generated by movement on offshore faults or by submarine landslides. Seafloor mapping along the shelf edge and along the walls of submarine canyons will further clarify potential tsunami hazards. Sixth, the mapping will provide important information on the number and locations of oil seeps, seep discharge, and environmental impacts. Seventh, the mapping will provide a baseline for

assessing sediment impacts associated with the removal of Matillaja Dam, scheduled to begin in 2009. Finally, regional seafloor mapping offshore of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties will provide improved understanding of coastal and marine sediment and contaminant budgets and transport, which will be useful in regional sediment management for the benefit of coastal environments.

The staff of the Coastal Commission strongly supports the proposal of USSG for funding to continue the Santa Barbara Channel Seafloor Mapping Project, and urges The Ocean Protection Council to fund this proposal.

Sincerely,

Peter

Peter Douglas
Executive Director

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RESOURCES AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

801 K STREET • MS 12-30 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

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March 30, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: USGS Santa Barbara Channel Sea Floor Data Acquisition

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The California Geological Survey (CGS) enthusiastically supports the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) proposal to acquire and interpret additional multibeam sonar bathymetry and backscatter data in the eastern, shallower Santa Barbara Channel area. High quality, recent data is available for the deep-water areas of the channel. The USGS has completed a survey off Carpinteria, and will be conducting additional surveys off Santa Barbara and Ventura. CGS has completed new onshore geologic mapping, including extensive re-interpretation of recent depositional environments on the Oxnard Plain. Together, the onshore CGS and offshore USGS and Monterey Bay Research Institute data provide a nearly complete record of the effects of sediment erosion, transport, deposition and tectonic deformation in this highly active environment. The missing piece of the puzzle is detailed data and interpretation in the shallow water adjacent to the Oxnard Plain. With acquisition and interpretation of these data, and its integration into habitat and geologic maps, we will be much better able to address issues on the volumes, transport mechanisms, sea floor characteristics, and contaminants of sediments in this area.

In addition to basic data on sediment budgets, complete geologic and habitat mapping of the Santa Barbara Channel will allow federal, state, and local agencies to address important questions including: characterizations of habitats; mapping areas of potential sand resources for beach replenishment; mapping areas of active sedimentation that could be appropriate for disposal of harbor dredge spoils; analyzing the effects of the planned removal of Matilija Dam on riparian and offshore habitats; mapping the active faults beneath the channel for potential earthquake hazards; and mapping submarine landslides that could trigger tsunamis. The USGS effort to acquire and interpret new multibeam data in the shallow waters of the eastern Santa Barbara Channel is a key component in constructing an integrated and coherent geological and habitat picture along California's shoreline.

Sincerely,

John G. Parrish, Ph. D.
State Geologist

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

CITY of CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA

Members of the City Council

J. Bradley Stein, *Mayor*
Michael Ledbetter, *Vice Mayor*
Donna Jordan
Gregory Gandrud
Joe Armendariz

March 23, 2006

Marina Cazorla
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-0565

Dear Ms. Cazorla,

I am writing in support of a USGS-led Santa Barbara Channel Seafloor Mapping Project to be conducted in 2006 and 2007, in collaboration with the California Coastal Conservancy. The City of Carpinteria recently entered into an agreement with the USGS (PI: Patrick Barnard) for a shoreline erosion study along Carpinteria beaches, and this additional work would be an excellent complement to their ongoing research. Further, extensive seafloor mapping would provide an enduring benefit with essential baseline data for contemporary and future research efforts focused on coastal erosion mitigation in Carpinteria as well as all of Santa Barbara County. The USGS has demonstrated to us that they have the personnel and experience to execute this important public project in a timely and professional manner. I have full confidence in their abilities.

Sincerely,

Matthew Roberts

Matthew Roberts
Director, Parks and Recreation
City of Carpinteria

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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7 April 2006

Marina Cazorla
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: The Santa Barbara Channel Seafloor Mapping Project

Dear Ms. Cazorla:

I am writing this letter to express BEACON's strong support for the subject project. The USGS mapping project will provide an unparalleled data set that can be used by wide range of coastal scientists and planners to address such issues as nearshore benthic habitats, coastal sediment budgets, nearshore sand sources, potential offshore earthquake sources, and potential offshore tsunami sources.

BEACON is a Joint Powers Agency whose mission is to protect and enhance beaches along the Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties coastline. One of our long-term goals is to utilize nearshore sand deposits to augment diminishing coastal sand supplies. The Santa Barbara Channel Seafloor Mapping Project will help to identify potential borrow sites along with their estimated sediment volumes and sediment characteristics. Sand could then be extracted from high quality sites and placed on eroding beaches.

Another of BEACON's interests is in understanding the coastal sand budget and sediment transport pathways. The subject project will help to determine if major flood events deposit their sediments in the nearshore (with subsequent onshore wave transport) or are they transported across the shelf and into deeper water by density underflows. The project will also help to determine if nearshore and shelf sediments are transported alongshore and ultimately into the region's prominent submarine canyons. A better understanding of these processes will help BEACON develop long-term plans for addressing ongoing and future beach erosion problems.

BEACON is also interested in the USGS's efforts to identify potential earthquake and tsunami sources. Last year's tsunami in Southeast Asia was a grim reminder of the immense damage that a tsunami can cause to coastal areas.

In summary, we strongly urge the Coastal Conservancy to provide the funds requested by the USGS to carry out their planned mapping project.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. Bailard

James A. Bailard, Ph.D.
Technical Advisor

B.E.A.C.O.N.
Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment

A California Joint Powers Agency

Member Agencies

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City of Oxnard
City of Port Hueneme
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City of Santa Barbara
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