



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**  
University of California Santa Barbara  
Ocean Science Education Building 514, MC 6155  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-6155

28 March 2024

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District  
Tyler Harris, Manager – Planning, Rules, and Incentives  
4567 Telephone Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Ventura, CA 93003

RE: Letter of Commitment/Collaboration for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Opportunity  
“Reducing Ocean-Going Vessel Speeds – Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies (BWBS)”

Dear Mr. Harris,

This Letter of Commitment/Collaboration outlines the shared priorities and intended actions regarding a collaboration between NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA CINMS) and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District in respect to the implementation grant application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for Ocean-Going Vessel Speeds – Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies (BWBS) as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

We understand that this letter is not legally binding and does not obligate funding or allocation of resources, assets, or personnel, but rather offers our support to the venture and indicates our/my genuine interest in our collaboration.

We have recognized shared goals and an intent to work together for the purposes of species and environmental protection and greenhouse gas reduction measures as described in the CPRG implementation application.

Since 2014, NOAA CINMS has collaborated with Ventura County Air Pollution Control District and other agencies and non-profit partners to create and implement a program that incentivizes shipping lines in operation of Ocean-Going Vessels to reduce speeds in areas off of California.

We have discussed and recognized the following shared priorities and co-benefits achieved by this collaborative effort:

- 1) Significant reductions in endangered whale impacts through a decrease in the risk of fatal ship strikes;
- 2) Significant reductions in environmental impacts through a measurable decrease in underwater noise;
- 3) Significant improvements in coastal air quality and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

NOAA CINMS and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, alongside other agency and non-profit partners, intend to continue to work together to implement the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program and enhance its impact throughout California. As a continued collaborator on this effort, NOAA CINMS intends to provide in-kind federal staff support for this program as well as continue to provide funding to non-profit partners for affiliate staff to support

implementation of the work. Through established stakeholder advisory forums known as Sanctuary Advisory Councils, NOAA CINMS will also continue to engage and solicit feedback from community members on these efforts.

To support these efforts, we propose we continue to meet monthly with Ventura County Air Pollution Control District staff to further discuss the shared goals and aspirations in this letter and will additionally work towards the establishment of a Memorandum of Agreement between our entities on this work.

This letter is an expression of collaboration with you to support the grant application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for Ocean-Going Vessel Speeds – Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies (BWBS). We understand that as the collaboration evolves, we may determine additional needs, shared priorities, or intended actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Hastings".

FOR

Chris Mobley  
Superintendent  
NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

