



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

March 29, 2024

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

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

Dear Tyler Harris,

On behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLO County APCD), I am submitting this letter of commitment in respect to the **Ocean-Going Vessel Speeds - Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies (BWBS)** CPRG implementation grant application as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

In 2023, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary expanded their support of the BWBS voluntary vessel speed reduction (VSR) program to their entire Central Coast jurisdiction. This expansion brought waters off the San Luis Obispo coast into BWBS. On June 21, 2023, our Board unanimously authorized our agency to provide support for the BWBS partnership. SLO County APCD strongly supports the continuation and expansion of this program through the CPRG implementation grant application.

The BWBS program engages and enrolls large global shipping lines to motivate them to reduce speeds in key areas off the California coast to reduce air pollutant emissions, underwater noise, and the risk to whales. Since 2014, the program has achieved more than 150,000 metric tons of regional greenhouse gas emission reductions, over 4,400 tons of harmful oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emission reductions, and an estimated 44 percent decreased risk of fatal whale strikes during prime migration season in the targeted coastal areas. The BWBS program is readily expandable to other parts of the California coastal waters given the resources and local partners. A statewide vessel speed reduction program could cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions significantly as part of a comprehensive effort to reduce emissions from ocean-going vessels. CPRG funding will allow the BWBS program to expand statewide and provide funds to increase outreach and develop partnerships with interested state and local agencies outside of California.

SLO County APCD partners with our BWBS partners to verify GHG, criteria pollutant, and toxic diesel particulate emission reduction benefits from BWBS participation by vessel companies. We also help secure support for the program through the California legislature, participate in monthly steering committee meetings, and amplify the BWBS successes and benefits through our outreach network.

SLO County APCD is pleased to support the **Ocean-Going Vessel Speeds - Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies** CPRG implementation grant application and requests federal assistance to continue and expand the successful operation of this program and further reduce harmful air pollutants and impacts to wildlife along the California coast. These reductions and the BWBS co-benefits are consistent with the CPRG goals and objectives outlined in the [CPRG Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) California's progression of GHG reductions over time specified in [SB 32](#) (Pavley: 40% GHG reduction by 2030) and [AB 1279](#) (Muratsuchi: carbon neutrality by 2045). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andrew Mutziger, Planning, Monitoring and Grants Manager, at amutziger@co.slo.ca.us or 805-781-5912.

Sincerely,



GARY E. WILLEY
Executive Director / Air Pollution Control Officer