

November 2, 2021

Ms. Liane Randolph, Chair
c/o Harborcraft
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Chairwoman Randolph,

The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum is the leading provider of marine science education in Santa Barbara County to school age children. Each winter, the Museum takes low income, at-risk, and disadvantaged youth out on the water aboard local sportfishing boats during their "off" season. The purpose of the trips is to provide hands-on, authentic marine science education to Central Coast students. A lab is set up on board the boats for students to study phytoplankton and zooplankton. A live otter trawl is also used to collect specimens as part of the program. A marine scientist and a marine naturalist from the Maritime Museum conduct scientific lessons.

During the winter season of 2020 (January-February), the Museum delivered science programs to 28 classes (696 students), with 22 of those being Title 1 schools. Additionally, four groups were from after-school at-risk youth programs. Students who participated in the program were from Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Santa Ynez, and Santa Maria. The program has been in place for many years and continues to grow and serve additional students.

In addition to a high quality and unique marine science program, students are exposed to the world of non-commercial sportfishing. Students interact with scientists and work side-by-side with local fishermen running a small business. Along with scientists, students are able to engage with the boat captain and crew to learn and understand different professions. The opportunity to expose students to a variety of unique careers is a valuable component.

Both the mission at the Maritime Museum and our marine science program are completely dependent on our relationship with the small family business that operates the local sport fishing boats. It is a mutually beneficial relationship that has developed and expanded over many years in the Santa Barbara Harbor. There is no other option for our marine science program. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has proposed impractical and cost prohibitive engine emission regulations. Enforcement of these proposed regulations will end our marine science program. The real cost to the children of the greater Santa Barbara area is immeasurable. We sincerely hope a solution to reduce emissions can be reached without putting our small local fleet of sportfishing boats out of business. Our Marine Science program depends on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Linda Stirling
Board of Directors
Chair, Education Committee



Holly Lohuis
Marine Biologist/Naturalist
Education Committee



Lis Perry
Director of Education