



736 F Street Arcata, California 95521

City Council 822-5953	City Manager 822-5953	Public Works 822-5957	Police 822-2428
Community Development 822-5955		Environmental Services 822-8184	A&MRTS 822-3775
Finance 822-5951		Recreation Division 822-7091	FAX 822-8018

Senator Diane Feinstein  
One Post Street, Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Senator Feinstein,

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** We urge you to reject the President's proposal to drastically cut funding to NOAA, and to eliminate the Sea Grant program, **by submitting a programmatic request to fund Sea Grant at \$80M in FY17 and FY18**, and by following up that request by interacting with the House and Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee.

On Friday, 3 March, 2017, news emerged that the Trump Administration is urging drastic cuts to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) including complete elimination of the Sea Grant program. As constituents and beneficiaries of California's Sea Grant program, we are writing to ask you to request that the Appropriations Committees fund the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) at a level of \$80 million in fiscal year 2017 and 2018.

This recommended funding would support key focus areas in the program's strategic plan that are of special importance to the City of Arcata and the Humboldt Bay community: healthy coastal ecosystems; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; resilient communities and economies; environmental literacy and workforce development. This funding recommendation is consistent with guidance provided in a prior report from the Committee on Appropriations, and with pending authorization legislation. The Sea Grant program is administered by NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, which is funded in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Sea Grant is operated and governed by its enabling legislation. In that way, Sea Grant supports state and local decision makers via a non-regulatory approach based on competitive, peer-reviewed, sound science and technology. Sea Grant assists state and local entities as they address challenges facing coastal communities. Such assistance is increasingly crucial as the City of Arcata faces the impending impacts of sea level rise in Humboldt Bay. Furthermore, Sea Grant enables coastal economic interests to develop and thrive, which supports the growth and development of our local, coastal economy.

Sea Grant is an exceptionally worthwhile and valuable program. In the past year, Sea Grant documented nearly 1,000 actions, activities, and products that helped make coastal communities better, generated over \$500 million in economic activity, over 400 significant economic, social, and environmental benefits that made a difference in the lives of people living along our coasts and Great Lakes shores. Moreover, Sea Grant activities help create or retain more than 11,000 jobs and 5,000 businesses.

Approximately 95% of the federal funding provided to Sea Grant leaves Washington and goes to the state programs where it is used to conduct research, carry out extension and STEM education activities, and deliver valuable coastal resiliency services to our state and the other states that participate in this national program. Moreover, federal funding through the Sea Grant program has a significant leveraging impact with every two federal dollars invested attracting at least an additional dollar in non-federal resources in matching funding.

The Sea Grant programs in California receive approximately \$5M in federal funds, and leverages that investment to obtain more than \$12M annually to employ Californians, help coastal communities prepare for floods and storms, invest in the emergent aquaculture industries of California and our fishing communities, and support our state's university-based researchers. Elimination of Sea Grant would result in the direct loss of hundreds of jobs in California, and would dramatically set back some of the more important coastal industries in our state.

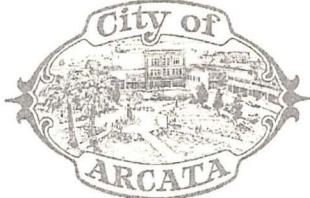
We recognize that the Nation is facing very tight fiscal constraints and that suggests that where we have discretion, federal funding ought to go to those programs that deliver economic, environmental, and education benefits to our state and local decision makers. The Sea Grant program does this while also increasing our coastal communities' resiliency in a cost effective manner. For that reason and because of the importance the Sea Grant program to the long term health of our state, we urge you to strongly support the National Sea Grant College Program by submitting a programmatic request to the Appropriations Committee that would fund the program at a level of \$80 million in fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Susan Ornelas  
Mayor  
City of Arcata  
736 F Street  
Arcata, CA 95521



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Senator Kamala Harris  
50 United Nations Plaza, Suite 5584  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Senator Harris,

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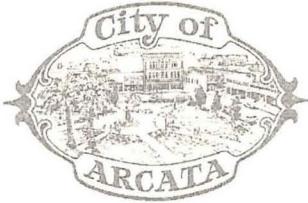
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Congressman Jared Huffman  
317 Third Street, Suite 1  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Congressman Huffman,

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