



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413

February 20, 2008

Dr. Eric Terrill
Scripps Institute of Oceanography

RE: *Implementation of Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System: Southern California Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System*

Dear Dr. Terrill:

Thank you for submitting your proposal, *Implementation of Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System: Southern California Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System*, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center in response to the *Federal Register* notice of July 2, 2007 (Vol. 72, No. 126, Pgs. 36255 – 36245), *Implementation of Regional Integrated Ocean Observing Systems (IOOS)*. At this time, we are unable to recommend this proposal for funding with the available FY2008 funds. Your proposal, however, will be held for consideration for funding in FY2009.

We received 27 proposals in response to this announcement. The review process for these proposals included a merit review panel consisting of 11 members of the IOOS community from the federal, state, and academic communities, and the private sectors. Mail reviews also were solicited, received and made available to the panel. Your proposal was considered to be worthy of receiving funds.

Panel scores and comments recorded during the panel discussion are summarized below. Written evaluations are provided as an attachment.

Panel scores: Very Good/88 Good/75 Very Good/83

Panel comments:

- Comprehensive proposal focusing on four main tasks. Clearly addresses focus areas of interest to feds, state, local agencies, along with industry
- No discussion of nested scales for models – modeling approach not well articulated. Modeling relies on ROMs exclusively – no description of how particle tracking will be incorporated
- Lacks identification of priorities – makes it difficult to identify what might be cut if reduced funding
- Good partnership with CeNCOOS
- Clear breakdown of activities – though all in appendices
- Milestone chart is not meaningful – need specific deliverables and dates
- Ambitious and difficult to track proposal, but comprehensive. The proposal lacks focus. Lacks specificity on what products will be developed. May be very difficult to track success

- Not clear how this will support Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP)
- Lacks some clarity on technical aspects
- All academics – no other partners at PI level. Lots of users, but few true partners – where are feds as partners?

As mentioned above, your proposal will be held for consideration for funding with FY2009 funds. This proposal has been through the merit review process and these scores and ranking will be used should funds become available to initiate new projects in FY2009. Decisions on potential FY2009 projects would be available no sooner than October 2008. We realize this is a long time to await a decision and apologize for the inconvenience.

We encourage you to submit future applications when federal funding opportunities are announced. If you have questions, please contact Mary Culver at Mary.Culver@noaa.gov or (843) 740-1250 or Geno Olmi at Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov or (843) 740-1230.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Culver". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Mary Culver
CSC IOOS Theme Lead