



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2191 (O'Donnell): Ocean Protection Council: White Shark Population Monitoring and Beach Safety Program

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of Assembly Bill 2191 (O'Donnell). The City Council voted unanimously to support this legislation on March 6, 2018. AB 2191 proposes to establish a White Shark Population Monitoring and Beach Safety Program to award grants to academic institutions engaged in, and local agencies assisting with, research regarding white sharks, as well as to local agencies engaged in operations to promote public safety on California's beaches.

The City of Long Beach proudly partners with researchers at the Shark Lab, located at the California State University of Long Beach (CSULB) to learn more about shark behavior as the population of Great White Sharks increases along the California coastline. This research is used, in part, to inform the City's public safety decisions related to sharks and marine safety. Long Beach is home to 6 miles of beaches that support a host of recreational water activities including kite surfing, sailing, paddle boarding, swimming and fishing.

It is essential that California have the resources to research, educate and implement policies that promote a safe relationship between human users of the aquatic environment, and sharks. AB 2191 proposes to establish a program that brings together researchers and public safety officials to the benefit of those visiting the California coastline.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 2191 (O'Donnell).

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach