

January 17, 2020

Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Environmental Observation and Prediction
Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of Commerce
For Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you a SAB report “Preparing for a Cloudy Future.” The SAB approved this report at its December 16-17, 2019 in-person meeting. The report was drafted by the SAB’s Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG). The purpose of the report is to provide recommendations in the following categories:

1. Recommendations for preparing analysis-ready datasets.
2. Recommendation for training researchers to work in the cloud.
3. Recommendations for preparing training data for machine learning.
4. Recommendations regarding process for agile cloud implementation and deployment

Although the SAB accepted this report as is, they recognize this is a complicated topic and have requested DAARWG to continue addressing several issues raised during the SAB meeting. These issues include:

- Coordination with the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF)
- How what NOAA supports being done in the cloud with its data connects back to its mission
- An appropriate business model for integrating private companies and industries
- Use of archival versus real-time data
- Security parameters for external partners
- Clarification on the role of the federal government with public-private partnerships.

The SAB values the advice and expertise of DAARWG and appreciates their contribution to this topic.

The SAB looks forward to hearing NOAA's response to these recommendations at the first opportunity. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,



Lynn Scarlett
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board
Chief External Affairs Officer, The Nature Conservancy

Attachment:
SAB Final Report "Preparing for a Cloudy Future"

CC: Tim Gallaudet
Craig McLean
Kevin Wheeler
Michael Weiss
Adrian Mahoney
Ed Kearns
Frank Indiviglio
Adrienne Simonson
Chelle Gentemann
Cynthia Decker
Caren Madsen
Courtney Edwards