



SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

August 31, 2023

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Spinrad:

**Subject: Transmittal of the NOAA Science Advisory Board Climate Working Group (CWG)
Review of the NOAA Climate Program Office Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2027**

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you the CWG's *Review of the Climate Program Office Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2027*. This review was developed at the request of the NOAA Climate Program Office to: 1) assess the Strategic Plan's strengths and weaknesses and its incorporation of recommendations from the CPO 2022 Program Review; and 2) identify the most important contributions and opportunities that are within the scope of CPO to address. The Strategic Plan will be followed by an Implementation Plan later this year.

The overarching recommendations from the CWG are as follows:

- 1. More specific "moonshot" level goals in service of the nation are required for our citizens:** While the reviewers are very supportive of the directions suggested in the Strategic Plan, the high-level presentation of goals and sub-goals is very general. Specific goals, including high-value "moonshots" are needed to fully appreciate continued and expanded investment in NOAA's Climate Program Office.
- 2. The Strategic Plan understates the significance of CPO to NOAA and the national and international climate enterprises.** The reviewers recommend assessing the plan for opportunities where a few more sentences could be used to better highlight the CPO's contributions. The Strategic Plan should be edited with an eye to its potential as a communication product that can generate awareness, interest, and support for CPO efforts.
- 3. Engage key audiences by adding examples of broadly relevant initiatives under each goal.** Concrete descriptions highlight key strengths/initiatives and illustrate the importance of furthering this work.

The SAB and CWG commend the CPO for sharing its strategic plan with others for feedback in the development process. This approach, which promotes both horizontal and vertical integration of goals, presents a valuable opportunity for increasing coordination and dissemination of the CPO's expertise across the agency. The SAB and CWG greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide this review and look forward to hearing the CPO's response to these recommendations by July 2024.

Very Respectfully,



John R. Kreider
SAB Chair

Cc: Sarah Kapnick
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Attachment: NOAA Science Advisory Board CWG Review of the Climate Program Office Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2027