

Sara Wan

Mrs. Wan received her B.S. in Zoology from Vassar College, an M.S. in Biology from Yale University, and an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine. She was appointed to the California Coastal Commission in January of 1996 and still serves on that Commission. During this time she served as the Commission's Chair for 3 years. Prior to being appointed to the Commission, Mrs. Wan served on numerous Boards of environmental organizations.

As a biologist and engineer, who is also a member of a regulatory body that oversees the resources of the Coastal Zone of the State of California, Mrs. Wan is qualified to sit on this Advisory Committee. Mrs. Wan has the technical know-how to understand, analyze and review the scientific information dealing with the subject of acoustic impacts on marine mammals. Her field of specialization in Engineering was in applied mathematics; her thesis topic was a mathematical model of evolution. In addition, she taught Systems Engineering and Controls at California State University, Long Beach. As a biologist, Mrs. Wan can integrate her knowledge of mathematics and engineering with her knowledge of marine organisms and ecosystems and how they function. She has also spent many years in applying her knowledge of biology to her decisions at the Commission. As a Commissioner she is involved in setting regulatory policy for a wide variety of land use issues as well as decisions dealing with the impacts of noise on marine mammals. She is intimately familiar with the laws, regulations and legal rulings under which the Coastal Commission operates, i.e. the California Coastal Act and the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act. These laws, regulations and legal rulings determine the decisions of the Commission as they relate to the State's jurisdiction over coastal resources, including marine mammals.

Prior to being appointed to the California Coastal Commission, Mrs. Wan spent a number of years working on the issue of noise in the marine environment. Mrs. Wan was a member of the HESS (High Energy Seismic Survey) team, a committee established by the Minerals Management Service in California whose purpose it was to review the known impacts of seismic surveys on marine life, recommend studies necessary to improve knowledge of their impacts, and put together a streamlined, process for dealing with the regulations pertaining to the use of high energy seismic surveys in California waters.