

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 20-21, 2022

**9. REGULATION CHANGE PETITIONS (MARINE)****Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

This is a standing agenda item for FGC to receive new regulation change petitions and act on regulation change petitions received from the public at previous meetings. For this meeting:

- (A) Receive new petitions for regulation change
- (B) Act on previously-received petitions for regulation change – *none scheduled at this time.*

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions****(A) New Petitions for Regulation Change – Receipt**

- Today receive new petitions **Apr 20-21, 2022; Monterey/Trinidad**
- Potentially act on new petitions Jun 15-16, 2022; Los Angeles/Orange County areas

**(B) Regulation Change Petitions Scheduled for Action (N/A)****Background****(A) Receipt of new petitions for regulation change**

Pursuant to Section 662, any person requesting that FGC adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation must complete and submit form FGC 1. Regulation change petition forms submitted by the public are received at this FGC meeting under (A) if they are delivered by the comment deadline (included in meeting materials) or by the supplemental comment deadline.

Under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, FGC cannot discuss or take action on any matter not included on the agenda, other than to schedule issues raised by the public for consideration at future meetings. Thus, petitions for regulation change generally follow a two-meeting cycle (receipt and direction); FGC will determine the outcome of the petitions for regulation change received at today's meeting at the next regularly-scheduled FGC meeting under (B), following staff evaluation (currently Jun 15-16, 2022), unless the petition is rejected under 10-day staff review as prescribed in subsection 662(b). Note that in the past, new petitions were received under "general public comment."

FGC received one new marine petition by the comment deadline; the petition is summarized in Exhibit A1, and the petition is provided as Exhibit A2.

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 20-21, 2022

**(B) Action on previously-received petitions for regulation change**

Petitions received at the previous meeting are scheduled for FGC consideration at the next regularly-scheduled business meeting under (B). A petition may be (1) denied, (2) granted, or (3) referred to a committee, staff, or DFW for further evaluation or information-gathering. Referred petitions are scheduled for action once the evaluation is completed and a recommendation made.

No marine petitions are scheduled for action today.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

- A1. [Summary of new petitions for regulation change received through Apr 7, 2022](#)
- A2. [Petition 2022-06, received Mar 4, 2022](#)

**Motion (N/A)**

## CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

### RECEIPT LIST FOR PETITIONS FOR REGULATION CHANGE: RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM ON APRIL 7, 2022

FGC - California Fish and Game Commission   DFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife   WRC - Wildlife Resources Committee   MRC - Marine Resources Committee

Tracking No.	Date Received	Name of Petitioner	Subject of Request	Short Description	FGC Receipt Scheduled	FGC Action Scheduled
2022-06	3/4/2022	Ken Kurtis	Marine Protected Areas: Casino Point SMCA	Rename Casino Point SMCA to "Dr. Bill Bushing SMCA at Casino Point" to provide permanent recognition of the 55 year legacy of resident marine biologist Dr. Bill, who had a direct connection to the area now named Casino Point SMCA; Dr. Bill passed away in December 2021; June 2022 would mark his 75th birthday.	4/20-21/2022	6/15-16/2022



Tracking Number: (2022-06)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

## **SECTION I: Required Information.**

*Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages*

### **1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**

Name of primary contact person: Ken Kurtis

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

### **2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested:** [Marine Life Protection Act (Fish and Game Code 2850-2863), and California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 632, Marine Managed Area Improvement Act (Public Resources Code 36700-36900)]

### **3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:** [Rename the currently-designated "Casino Point SMCA" to the "Dr. Bill Bushing SMCA at Casino Point."]

### **4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change:** [Bill Bushing – or "Dr. Bill" as he was known to just about everybody he ever met – was (1947-2021) a local icon and diving enthusiast who not only had a passion for the ocean that he shared with anyone who wanted to know, but he spent much of his life diving specifically in the MPA currently designated as the Casino Point SMCA. Environmental management and the ecological restoration of regions impacted by human activity were of particular interest to him.]

There is precedent for renaming an existing MPA after an individual. Case in point would be the Lovers Point SMR on the central coast which was renamed Lovers Point-Julia Platt SMR. Like Dr. Bill, she was a well-known marine biologist and conservation enthusiast in the Monterey Bay area. As with Lovers Point, our proposal honors the individual while also preserving the geographic designation.



Dr. Bill was the resident marine biologist on Catalina for more than 55 years. After graduating from Harvard in 1969 (yes that Harvard), Bill became head of the science and math department at the Catalina Island School. A few years later, he started teaching marine biology to Avalon's high school students in both theory (classroom) and practice (he took his students diving in the Casino Point SMCA). Dr. Bill was able to use Catalina's terrestrial and marine habitats as natural laboratories.

After the school closed in 1979, Bill continued his teaching by reaching out to the public through his very popular "Diving Dry with Dr. Bill." This took the form of both a 30-minute public-access television show with over 100 episodes produced, as well as a regular column in the *Catalina Islander* newspaper with over 800 entries. Dr. Bill was an ocean geek in the best possible sense of the word.

Bill could be found almost daily at his beloved Casino Point SMCA (known colloquially in its entirety as the Avalon Underwater Park, which incorporates the land portion under the jurisdiction of the City of Avalon) where he completed thousands of dives. When you'd see his golf cart parked near the entry stairs, you knew Dr. Bill was in the area and most likely underwater. And if you had a question for him or just wanted to say hello, he'd eventually emerge from the water, dripping with salt water and brimming with enthusiasm for whatever fauna he'd just encountered.

One year we found an unusual fish in shallow water right by the entry stairs. It looked out of place. Fortunately, we were able to photograph it and sent it to Dr. Bill. He was able to tell us it was a White-Tailed Damsel (ID confirmed with Dan Gotshall) and that it was 200 miles further north than it had ever before been spotted. That's just one example of how his expertise helped expand ours as a diving community.

Dr. Bill was always willing to share his knowledge of the ocean with anyone who asked. He took his passion for the ocean and helped nurture that passion in others. A number of those people – including Dr. Bill's longtime friend Jean-Michel Cousteau - have taken time to write a short note about what Dr. Bill meant to them and their enjoyment of diving, and those comments are attached as supporting documentation to this request.

We hope you'll agree with us that Dr. Bill's legacy is deserving of permanent recognition in the form of renaming this MPA the "Dr. Bill Bushing State Marine Conservation Area at Casino Point."

## **SECTION II: Optional Information**

5. **Date of Petition:** **March 4, 2022**

6. **Category of Proposed Change**

☐ Sport Fishing

☐ Commercial Fishing

☐ Hunting

☒ Other, please specify: **Rename existing MPA**



7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*  
☒ Amend Title 14 Section(s): 632(b)(127) |  
☐ Add New Title 14 Section(s): Click here to enter text. |  
☐ Repeal Title 14 Section(s): Click here to enter text. |
8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** Click here to enter text. |  
Or ☒ Not applicable.
9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.  
If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: June 12, 2022, if possible – this would have been Dr. Bill's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday |
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: Please see attached PDF – “Dr. Bill Bushing SMCA at Casino Point – Community comments of support” - which contains hundreds of notes of support from the local diving community, as well one from Jean-Michel Cousteau. |
11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: None known nor anticipated |
12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:  
None known |

### SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 03/04/22 |

FGC staff action:

- ☒ Accept - complete  
☐ Reject - incomplete  
☐ Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: \_\_\_\_\_ |

Meeting date for FGC consideration: \_\_\_\_\_ |

FGC action:

- ☐ Denied by FGC  
☐ Denied - same as petition \_\_\_\_\_ |  
Tracking Number  
☐ Granted for consideration of regulation change

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS  
(COMMUNITY COMMENTS)**

---

**RENAME EXISTING MPA  
DR. BILL BUSHING SMCA AT CASINO POINT**

---

**SUBMITTED BY:  
KEN KURTIS  
MARCH 4, 2022  
310/652-4990  
kenkurtis@aol.com**

---

**23 PAGES FOLLOW THIS COVER PAGE:**

- **LETTER FROM JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU (1 page)**
  - **E-MAILS FROM DIVING COMMUNITY (8 pages)**
- **COMMENTS FROM CHANGE.ORG PETITON (14 pages)**

*"Protect the  
Ocean and You  
Protect Yourself."*



03/03/2022

To the California Fish & Game Commission:

I am writing in support of renaming the existing Casino Point State Marine Conservation Area the "Dr. Bill Bushing SMCA at Casino Point."

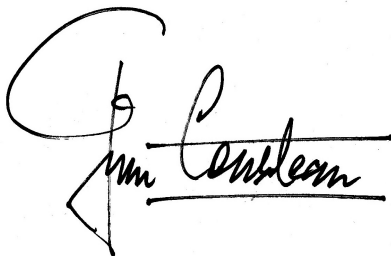
I first met Dr. Bill (as he was known to everyone) over 25 years ago and we stayed in touch regularly. Over that period of time, I came to know Dr. Bill as a fierce advocate, not only for the ocean in general, but for the waters in the vicinity of Avalon and specifically what you call the Casino Point SMCA and what others known as the Avalon Underwater Park.

Bill dove those waters regularly, many times on a daily basis. He came to know the many inhabitants of this MPA as well as he could see environmental changes that occurred as well, such as when Giant Sea Bass started coming back to the area in large numbers as well as when Sargassum would flourish within the park boundaries. But Bill never kept this knowledge and observations to himself. He would regularly share his insights with anyone who asked (and even some who didn't). He put his knowledge and love for the ocean to the best possible use: To educate others as to the intricacies of the marine environment and to show them the things they could do to help make it better.

As humans, we all hope people will remember us when we're gone. As educators, we hope that our memory we will continue to live on through those who we have taught and hopefully inspired. And in the case of Dr. Bill, he did that on a grand scale. There could be no more fitting acknowledgment of his impact on marine education than to rename the MPA the "Dr. Bill SMCA at Casino Point" and that is something I sincerely hope you will do with the utmost urgency.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jean-Michel Cousteau

President



**DIVING COMMUNITY COMMENTS  
IN SUPPORT OF RENAMING THE EXISTING MPA  
THE "DR. BILL BUSHING SMCA AT CASINO POINT"**

---

I support renaming the Casino Point State Marine Conservation Area to the Dr. Bill Bushing State Marine Conservation Area at Casino Point. Bill was a long time scientific diver who worked for the Catalina Conservancy as its Director of Education in the early 2000s. Bill helped teach a variety of community scientists who were part of Catalina Conservancy Divers to identify the species found in the waters off Catalina. He was often found at Casino Point diving and sharing his knowledge with divers visiting Casino Point. This would be a great honor for Bill and I am fully supportive of this effort.

Thomas W. Turney  
Director  
Wrigley Institute of Environmental Sciences/Catalina Conservation Divers

---

I am a PADI DiveMaster now living and diving in the Pacific Northwest. My training and over a decade of diving initially was done in So Cal. As a So Cal diver and dive professional, I and so many spoke of the incredible, unofficial mayor of the dive park, Dr. Bill. He was a living legend, an incredible guide, a wealth of knowledge and arguably the biggest ambassador to diving in Avalon at the park. A true SoCal treasure.

I had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with him nearly every time I dove the park. He would be so easily spotted in or out of the water. On land, he helped give sound advice, watch over the area and get people to truly understand the majesty of our treasured Avalon and its underwater world.

The Express trip was worth it just to meet and see Dr. Bill.

Please add my request to the list of many in order to honor his life and the many people he influenced. Thank you.

Bill Bergschneider  
206-468-9968  
PADI DM ##351184

---

I write in support of the effort to rename the Casino Point MPA the "Dr. Bill Bushing State Marine Conservation Area at Casino Point," or any other variation that honors Dr. Bill and his contributions.

I was not a relative or close friend of Dr. Bill. I was one of thousands of near-strangers he taught, encouraged, and treated like a friend. I began diving a little over 3 years ago, and quickly became aware of our local celebrity in the dive community. I began following him on ScubaBoard and FaceBook to learn more about the local marine life. He accepted my friend request, wished me a happy birthday, and began answering my questions when I posted pictures I'd taken of fish and critters I couldn't identify. I would see him at the dive park, in his characteristic tattered wetsuit, and though he likely never recognized me, he always greeted me warmly. I would ask if he'd seen any wreckfish--I learned from him that "giant sea bass" was a misnomer. I keep half-expecting to see him there still.

I like to think a bit of Dr. Bill lives on in each of us who warn a buddy against touching white feather hydroids or educate snorkelers against camping out on the stairs. But it would be nice to see it formally acknowledged. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Amy Meier  
1288 N. Raymond Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
(617) 894-2147

---

I support renaming the Casino Point State Marine Conservation Area to the Dr. Bill Bushing State Marine Conservation Area at Casino Point. Bill was a long time scientific diver who worked for the Catalina Conservancy as its Director of Education in the early 2000s. Bill helped teach a variety of community scientists who were part of Catalina Conservancy Divers to identify the species found in the waters off Catalina. He was often found at Casino Point diving and sharing his knowledge with divers visiting Casino Point. This would be a great honor for Bill and I am fully supportive of this effort.

Jill A Boivin  
Event Chair  
Avalon Harbor Cleanup

---

I write today in support of renaming the Casino Point State Marine Conservation Area in memory Dr. Bill Bushing with the proposed name of "Dr. Bill Busing State Marine Conservation Area at Casino Point".

Though I did know Dr. Bill well in the personal sense, I had many interactions with Dr. Bill over the years. As an enthusiast in underwater photography Dr. Bill was always available to help identify a fish or unusual creature. His depth of knowledge was invaluable to those of us who love to explore and conserve the ocean. So many times while diving a blue torpedo would streak by and it was Dr. Bill, off to the depths of the dive park in search of giant black sea bass, or to do his best to rid the park of invasive seaweed. He'd strike up a conversation with anyone, and seemed to know everyone. His loss isn't just a gaping hole in the local dive community, but also for the protection and conservation of the ocean we all love and depend on. The renaming of the dive park is a fitting tribute to the person whose presence there was nearly indistinguishable from the ocean itself. Thank you.

Justin Jolly

---

I have known Dr. Bill Bushing for two decades, as a fellow scuba diver and marine ecology enthusiast. His devotion to preserving marine life and educating everyone he could about the underwater world is legendary among divers, marine biologists and much of the public. His favorite scuba diving spot was Casino Point, which he likely dived thousands of times, and he authored hundreds of informative articles about the marine life he witnessed there over the decades. Accordingly, I believe it is fitting that Casino Point be memorialized and renamed in Dr. Bill's honor for the many contributions he made to increasing public awareness of the importance and beauty of our oceans.  
Thank you for your kind consideration in doing so.

Kevin Lee  
Explorers Club MN '17  
Adventurers Club #1163  
[www.diverkevin.com](http://www.diverkevin.com)

---

I fully support renaming the Casino Point MPA (officially known as "Casino Point State Marine Conservation Area") to the "Dr. Bill Bushing State Marine Conservation Area at Casino Point." Dr. Bill's career and life at Catalina embodied everything state marine conservation areas are designed to achieve - safeguarding the long-term health of California's marine life and environment, ensuring future generations are able to enjoy and appreciate California's underwater treasures the way they historically were, and educate future generations on marine conservation, including as a constantly evolving natural resource to study and learn from. Dr. Bill epitomizes marine conservation, underwater education, and a love of the natural underwater beauty of Catalina, and in particular the area around Avalon. He was beloved by many, and in multiple ways served as an ambassador for the undersea world around Avalon through his writings, many online contributions, and travels. This is no name more fitting than the Casino Point MPA than linking it to Dr. Bill, and no better posthumous tribute to Dr. Bill than naming the Casino Point MPA in his honor.

Geoff Walsh

---

I'd like to submit a few words in support of renaming the Casino Point Dive Park in Avalon in honor of Dr. Bill Bushing.

Over several summers doing the Casino Point Dive Trail for the Catalina Conservancy Divers, I noted that Dr. Bill was a fixture at the park in his tattered wetsuit. He was always a good source of information for divers, frequently sharing observations on underwater wildlife in the park. He frequently filmed subjects, for his column there as well. Through those and his participation in an internet dive forum, divers from all over enjoyed meeting him at the park; in that regard, he was an integral part of the Catalina diving experience.

Mary-Lou Quinn

---

My name is James McMullin, I am the Owner and Director of operations @Signature Scuba Diving, 11955 Jack Benny DR., Rancho Cucamonga, Ca 91739.

My life was not easy growing up, but one of the greatest accomplishments is my success in Scuba. Part of the success was being able to spend time with Dr. Bill at Catalina's casino point dive park, his knowledge and inspiration has always helped me with my growth. Understanding the importance and knowledge he shared with everyone.

I know this is supposed to be short and I am trying my best, but there is nothing short with Dr. Bill, he is an amazing Person that gave back and shared his passion and knowledge. Dr Bill was and always will be an inspiration to all divers who crossed paths even after his passing. He will be missed and not forgotten.

I am grateful and Blessed to have known him . I respectfully request to have the Avalon Dive Park in honor of Dr. Bills contribution to be changed in representing his love, passion and lifelong commitment.

James R. McMullin  
SDI/TDI Instructor Trainer  
PADI Master Instructor  
(909) 476-8183  
Website: [www.signaturescuba.com](http://www.signaturescuba.com)

---

I first met Dr. Bill 12 years ago at the Avalon Dive Park. I quickly learned that he was a kind, unassuming, and approachable man. His knowledge of marine flora and fauna around Catalina is unmatched given his life-long devotion to the study and protection Catalina's marine resources. He was quick to answer anyone's questions about the things they saw beneath the surface. As a regular traveler to the dive park, I always looked forward to seeing him there and discussing the latest subjects of my underwater photos. As a dive instructor, I often took students to meet him. He kindly answered every one of their questions no matter how obscure or off-base their questions were. Besides merely answering questions, Dr. Bill produced a public access television show and published a weekly newspaper column which is one of the most comprehensive resources to learn about the life beneath the waves along our coast. Even while battling a terminal illness, he remained actively engaged with the dive community through social media and both in-person and online presentations to dive clubs. He committed his life to the preservation of our precious marine resources through education and activism. If anyone deserves to be honored by renaming the Casino Point SMCA, it is his him.

Sincerely,  
Michael Francisco  
Head Instructor  
Sharky's Scuba & Swim, San Dimas, CA

---

I've been diving for 11 years, my first dive was when I was 12 at Catalina Dive Park. After getting out of the water and feeling a huge sense of accomplishment as this was one of my life goals to become a diver, Dr. Bill congratulated me and made me feel welcomed into the community. I have been diving at the park multiple times a month for the past 11 years. It is one of my favorite places in the world. Dr. Bill has and always will be a huge motivating force for me as I continue to peruse my graduate school in marine biology. He would could always be seen at the park taking to divers, talking about the dive conditions, and anything else divers wanted to talk about. The dive community was greatly changed for the better by Dr. Bill. He has made a great impact on my own life as I am sure he has on others, he will be greatly missed. Nothing would make me happier than to see one of my hero's honored by having his favorite dive location renamed after him.

Daniel Benjamin Ortega  
Executive Director  
Marine Genome Project  
Work: (951) 234-9971

---

I am writing because I am highly in favor of renaming the Casino Point Dive Park to reflect Dr. Bill Bushing's name. I have taught and dove here in Catalina for 20 years now, and there was not a time when Dr. Bill didn't have a moment for my many students. Dr. Bill also spoke yearly at my Women's Dive Weekend event. He was an absolute wealth of information and always willing to answer questions about the local ecosystem. I think by doing this very simple thing, it will help to keep his vision and passion for the ocean alive for our future divers. It would also bring

closure to the many who called him a friend in the dive community. He was well loved and an icon in Catalina. I, for one, miss him dearly.

Cindy Sieman  
PADI IDC Staff  
NAUI and HSA dive instructor  
Owner/operator of World Wide Scuba, Global Elite Divers and Scuba Women

---

I am writing to request that the AVALON SMCA be renamed in honor of Dr. Bill Bushing.

Dr. Bill was an inspiration to divers world-wide and is a personal hero of mine, HE did so much for the community.

Michael Zwibel, Scuba Diver

---

I think it's a necessity to rename the Avalon SCMA in honor of Dr. Bill Bushing. He was an icon! Whenever we thought of the dive park, we thought of Dr. Bill. He was always around imparting knowledge and goodwill to divers there.

When I heard of his death my first thought was " the dive park will never be the same".  
Renaming it in his honor is a must!

Sheri Bauer

---

My name is Glenn Kerr and I am the General Manager for Signature Scuba Diving, in Rancho Cucamonga. I've met Dr. Bill many times and he was always there with encouragement and willing to lend a hand to all. I respectfully request to have the Avalon Dive Park in honor of Dr. Bill's contribution to be changed in representing his love, passion and life-long commitment.

Signature Scuba Diving  
11955 Jack Benny Dr #102  
Rancho Cucamonga CA 91739  
909-476-8183

---

I think it's imperative to rename the Avalon SCMA in honor of Dr. Bill Bushing. He was the embassies of the dive park. Whenever we thought of the dive park, we thought of Dr. Bill. He was always around imparting knowledge and goodwill to divers there. Many, many, many of his "diving dry" articles pictures were shot there.

Upon hearing of his death my first thought was "the dive park will never be the same."  
Renaming it in his honor insures the warm feel of his presence for divers now and in the future.

Sheri and Bill Kendig  
Santa Barbara Divers

---

Although I have been a diver since 1984, I have only been a dive professional for 10 years now. During that time I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Bill Bushing. From the first time I was introduced to him he was a wealth of knowledge, not only of "all things dive park", but also about the history of Avalon. He always had time to meet new divers, but also answer any of our questions.

I was also fortunate to call him a friend! We would often make time to get together for lunch, dinner or sit and chat. On many occasions he was my escape from the crazy work world. He would brief us on the last changes underwater in the park (i.e. Kelp, Sargasm and fish life). Even during the recent time when he couldn't dive, he would share info from the other divers that he spoke with in the park.

To say Dr. Bill will be missed would be an understatement! Renaming the park would keep his memory alive and prompt ongoing conversations about diving and what the park has to offer.

Sincerely,

Craig Yeaton  
Instructor/Owner  
Sharky's Scuba & Swim  
490 W Arrow Hwy, Suite F  
San Dimas CA 91773  
(909) 596-2505

---

My name is Ben Jarvis and I have been actively diving for over 35 years, including many dives at Casino Point in Avalon. Each time I dove Avalon, Dr. Bill Bushing was there to greet me, ask me about my dives, and provide pointers to the newer divers who did not yet know their way around the underwater park. Bill was a true ambassador for both Catalina Island and the waters that surround it. I support renaming the Avalon SMCA in his honor.

Sincerely,

Ben Jarvis  
Newhall, CA  
[kelpfish@aol.com](mailto:kelpfish@aol.com)

---

My name is Lisa M. Anaya-Munoz, an AAUS Scientific Diver, volunteer at the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber and Social Media Contributor for Signature Scuba Diving located at 11955 Jack Benny Drive - Rancho Cucamonga, Ca 91739.

I still remember when I became friends with Dr. Bill. It was after the clean up on February 6th 2014 when a small group of divers including myself volunteered to remove wreckage from the sailboat that sank on December 30th 2014. We remained in contact after that. I even had the pleasure to come and help out clean Doug Aitken's Underwater Pavilions in 2016. It was easy to keep in touch. We will see each other at the Scuba Show, Reef Check Galas and of course at Santa Catalina Island. He is deeply missed.

I respectfully request for this State Marine Conservation gem to be renamed, Dr. Bill Bushing State Marine Conservation Area at Casino Point in honor of Dr. Bill's contribution as a whole.

Lisa M. Anaya-Munoz  
AAUS Scientific Diver  
PADI Rescue Diver

(909) 476-8183

---

I am a resident of Orange County and a California scuba diver. I have been scuba certified since 1993 and have been to the Avalon – Casino Point State Marine Conservation Area (i.e. the “Avalon Dive Park”) many times.

I am writing this letter in support of re-naming the Dive Park in honor of Dr. Bill Bushing. Specifically to support the re-designation of the Dive Park as the **Dr. Bill Bushing State Marine Conservation Area at Casino Point**.

While I only met Dr. Bill Bushing a few times in person, I corresponded with him on a regular basis over the last few years. I was constantly impressed with his knowledge of the underwater world, his enthusiasm for the marine environment and his dedication to sharing the underwater experience with others. He was able to broaden my knowledge of the marine world and Catalina Island waters in particular. He was a regular (to say the least) at the dive park and worked to provide exposure of the resources of the Park to many others.

I can think of no better way to honor his efforts than to undertake this effort and I urge action accordingly.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Robert E. Anslow  
Telephone – 714-478-0951  
[reanslow59@gmail.com](mailto:reanslow59@gmail.com)

---

I am writing in regards to renaming the Casino Point (Catalina Island) State Marine Conservation Area in honor of Doctor Bill Bushing. Dr Bill as he was affectionately known to thousands of divers via his social media presence, as well as to hundreds who knew him personally, was a Catalina island resident for almost 50 years. Most of us knew him as an avid scuba diver and marine scientist. Dr Bill was also a tremendous person, always willing to share a story, or help educate us about our local underwater world. He shared his knowledge willingly to any who would listen, and with a purpose so we could all understand and enjoy our waters more fully. His time as a teacher, his online contributions, articles and in person discussions were always enlightening. And his opinions came from vast experience from his thousands of dives in our local waters, not just academics. He was also very outspoken about the need for conservation of this environment.

In addition to his knowledge, Bill was also a very nice person. More often than not if you dove in the Casino Point Dive Park you would at some point see him. A quick hello usually became a longer conversation. And his love of Catalina and the Dive Park was evident in these talks. His impact to the Southern California dive community is hard to quantify, but I can honestly say I doubt it would be as robust as it is without his influence.

There would be no better tribute to such an Icon of the island and to our community than to name this MPA after Dr. Bill Bushing.

Mike Laban

---

I fully support the renaming of the dive park to Dr. Bill Bushing State Marine Conservation Area as Dr. Bill was a diving icon synonymous with the casino point diving ecosystem. He proudly championed and represented the local diving community and was literally a fixture at the park, always smiling willing to talk and answer questions about the local kelp forests and its inhabitants. He was and always will be a part of my Catalina Island diving experience. Armed, always, with his video camera, a well worn wetsuit and a big smile, Bill captured the very essence and spirit of the sport, the dive park and the diving community at large. He was very simply an ambassador to the dive park. Bill always "passed it forward". Let's help him, now, to keep passing it forward, by renaming the water portion of the dive park after Dr. Bill, a real hero and forever legend.

Sincerely,  
Matt Brandt  
323-821-2425



## Rename the SMCA the "Dr. Bill Bushing SMCA at Casino Point"

Original Change.org petition comments as of 1/20/2022

"Diving community looks at him with greatest respect and he is an active environmentalist and educator"

-Abdul Aziz Khan  
Woodbridge, VA

"Knowledge is an invaluable gift, and he gifted geneeatiins to come"

-Alez Aripez  
Spring Valley, CA

"What a terrific idea. Would love to see this happen."

-Alf Johnson  
Yorba Linda, CA

"dr bill is awesome"

-Allan Swann  
Granada Hills, CA

"Dr. Bill so richly deserves this honor for his tireless work within, love for, and promotion of this park."

-Allison Vitsky  
San Diego, CA

"His sister is a dear friend and I have followed his works through her"

-Angela Keener  
Shawnee, KS

"Come alive SCUBA dive"

-Ann Volkman  
Coronado, CA

"I dive catalina bring my fivers from San Diego and want to show respect for those who show respect and protect our diving enviornment"

-Ann Volkman  
Coronado, CA

"bill is from my home town and a great guy! deserves the honor"

-Annette Levin  
Northbrook, IL

"Dr. Bill greatly deserves this honor!"

-Austin Meredith  
Los Angeles, CA

"This work is so important and Dr Bushing deserves to be memorialized for his contributions to the ecology of our seashore."

-Barbara Souza  
Orange, CA

"Dr. Bill is a great ambassador for Avalon, the dive park, and planet. Naming the park after him would be very appropriate!"

-Ben Jarvis  
Santa Clarita, CA

"Dr Bill is a long time friend and has done more than anyone for Catalina, its environment, and SoCal diving in general."

-Bill Powers  
Torrance,

"Dr. Bushing ..what a amazing Man. Wonder if he ever dry out. You have my vote. Bob Evans Force Fin"

-Bob Evans  
Santa Barbara, CA

"Bill deserves to be recognized, honored and remembered through history for his life long dedication and contribution to environmental and marine science. The Avalon dive park was his home."

-Bonnie Dichter  
Silver spring, MD

"When I dive there, Dr Bushing is always active and supports the dive park community. Avid photographer and contributes much to the Dive Park at Avalon"

-Brenda Gustin  
Newport Beach, CA

"Decades of Unrecognised Research that he has Accomplished w/o placing himself in the spotlight."

-Bret Culpepper  
La Verne, CA

"Yes!"

-Brett Kotheimer  
Marina del Rey, CA

"Dr Bill was instrumental in my dive education of cold water diving. He was always there to encourage and tell us about what was happening around Catalina under the surface."

-Brian Ko  
Winnetka, CA

"This is a great cause."

-Brian Turner  
Fullerton, CA

"Gracious, fun, knowledgeable and has loved this dive park. Forever. Please it deserves his name."

-Bruce Bray  
Enumclaw, WA

"I can't think of a more fitting tribute. Dr Bushing's contributions to the love and understanding of Catalina's underwater world are unequaled. His Dive Dry with Dr. Bill articles, Facebook posts and pictures and the educational articles and videos on his website ([www.starthrower.org](http://www.starthrower.org)) allow those around the world to develop an appreciation of Catalina's coastline."

-Bruce Guay  
Delmont, PA

"Dr. Bill has been a steady, selfless, energetic, and articulate defender of Catalina's flora and fauna, especially its marine biodiversity. His teachings and writings are a legacy of decades of tireless work on behalf of the Island. I would love to see this honor bestowed on him. Adding my signature with joy!"

-Carlos de la Rosa  
Pleasant Hill, CA

"Yes! Dr. Bill Bushing Park!! I'm going to call it that regardless!"

-Caro Yamazaki

"I think this is a great idea.. you have my vote"

-Cary Gitre  
Oscoda,

"Bill is the very essence of Avalon and the dive park. His knowledge and his enthusiasm for diving and for the creatures we share the ocean with are limitless and he shares all of this willingly with anyone and everyone. This generosity should be rewarded!"

-Catherine Genender  
Malibu, CA

"Friend since high school days. He's devoted his professional and personal life to Catalina and it's ocean life."

-Cathy Rivers  
Lyons, CO

"Dr. Bill is a legend on Catalina, and deserves to be honored"

-Chris Menjou  
Torrance, CA

"As a favor to a friend."

-Christine Lorber  
Hollywood, FL

"Considering the irrefutable existence of angelfish and fact that one of heaven's most famous logos is ichthys, I'd say most assuredly, there is scuba diving in heaven! Happy Diving Bill"

-Christopher Conrad  
Seattle, WA

"I couldn't think of a better tribute! If the moderator/petitioner would please contact me I would appreciate it."

-Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy  
Avalon, CA

"For an honorable man!"

-Cindi Emerson  
Chapel Hill, NC

"Dr. Bill had been the heart of the dive community as long as I can remember."

-CINDY SIEHAN  
Taft, CA

"Absolutely support this!!! Please make it happen!"

-Cristi Quill  
San Diego, CA

"I support honoring influential people in direct view of others who share their passion and legacy."

-Curtis W  
Monterey, CA

"In addition to renaming the dive park I have suggested a memorial statue at or near the dive park steps with a plaque. A fund raiser in the dive community at our annual fundraising event we hold at the L B Aquarium. Even if the dive community donated \$2 each it would more than cover the cost."

-Dan Jonathan Blake  
La Verne, CA

"Dr Bill has been amazing for our community! Really our local Darwin of the dive park! He is so important to our community this only makes sense."

-Daniel Rugenstein  
Valencia, CA

"Well deserved."

-Darcy Escovedo  
Palo Alto, CA

"his contributions to marine science"

-david Bergman  
Minneapolis, MN

"He deserves it."

-David Bower  
Monrovia, CA

"Bill is a champion of the area and deserves public recognition for this."

-David Chambers  
Lincoln, CA

"DR Bill Bushing (Boo) was an inspirational teacher/Professor for me while I attended Catalina Island School 75 to 77. At that age I had wanted to pursue Marine Biology and he heaped it on me. The many wonderful dives he would take the class on, the hours we would spend in the Lab observing the microscopic sea life, identifying 100 of these sea creatures was an amazing odyssey for a teenager. My last dive with him was in 2012 and I came over for a weekend reunion with several classmates of the school we attended not too long ago. Forever our friend, forever loved, forever remembered; this would be the most fitting tribute for an amazing man that had inspired so many of us. Farewell, you are now one with the waves and with those that have passed before us."

-David Chenelle  
Santee, CA

"Dr. Bill has taught me love for Catalina's waters since my childhood. From the garibaldi to the kelp bass to the leopard sharks, he's had me explore most of the island the best way, through the underwater parks."

-David Hunter  
Orlando, FL

"I enjoyed Dr. Bills online articles."

-David Jackson  
Tustin, CA

"Having lived in southern CA for a portion of my life, I'm familiar with Dr. Bill and his work. He is most deserving of this honor!"

-Debbie Chandler  
Spokane, WA

"I stand with Bill Bushing and Avalon dive park"

-Debra Worman  
Enumclaw, WA

"I am signing this because Bill Bushing PhD has been a wonderful ambassador for the dive community."

-Dennis Berube  
Carson, CA

"Awesome"

-Dewitt Jones  
Waukeg, IA

"Because I should for it's legacy."

-Dhaval Shukla  
Ahmedabad,

"I was able to enjoy Bill Bushing's wonderful educational presentation about the wonders of the underwater world and I hope his efforts continue to inspire."

-Diana Henry  
Newport, VT

"This is important! Please rename to "Dr Bill Bushing Avalon Dive Park""

-Diane lane  
Sierra Madre, CA

"I can't think of a more fitting name for the park.Honoring Dr Bill for his tireless contributions to understanding the local underwater habitat is the least that Avalon can do, even more so for Catalinas unofficial Ambassador"

-Don Beary  
San Diego, CA

"Dr. Bill is such a great ambassador to not only Avalon, but the Oceans in general. His love and knowledge is spread world wide and this would most definitely be a very appropriate acknowledgement."

-Dori Booth  
Surprise, AZ

"Dr Bill rules!"

-Dylan Sharp  
El Segundo, CA

"I love the park and Dr. Bill's work"

-Edwin Chiu  
Sunnyvale, CA

"I've enjoyed Dr. Bill's online posts about Casino Point for years now. He's very generous in keeping the dive community informed about the status of the dive park. I definitely think he deserves this recognition for all his dedication and hard work."

-Elizabeth Tuttle  
San Diego,

"Dr Bill!"

-Eloise Williams

"It was an honor to have met Dr. Bill Bushing...his spirit lives on in those waters and among the kelp forests ♥"

-Ericka Gutierrez  
Anaheim, CA

"He deserves recognition."

-Evelyn Sardina  
Houston, TX

"Dr Bill did so much for Catalina diving."

-Fiona Rattray  
elora,

"I have been diving at casino point for pleasure and helping tech scuba for almost a decade. I've lost track of the number of times I've visited the city. Very rarely is Dr. Bill not present in the park, freely sharing his research and expertise and exciting and enticing people to come back and look even closer at the beauty of the park and surrounding areas. The entire diving community values this great man."

-Francisco Artes  
Round Rock, TX

"In honor of the contributions made by Dr. Bill Bushing to the City of Avalon."

-Frank Tullo  
Pasadena, CA

"I respect and have followed Dr Bill's Scuba postings for years. He is a true resource for the dive community"

-Gary OpBroek  
LEWISVILLE, TX

"Dr. Bill has always given, now is your turn to give back."

-Geoff Matson  
Crystal Lake,

"Bill deserves this!"

-George Austin  
Los Angeles, CA

"Dr. Bill Bushing is the heart of the Park by educating all divers and diving students about our part of the ocean."

-George Spanos  
Santa Monica, CA

"It's the right thing to do. He deserves this honor."

-Greg Buck  
Denver, PA

"I'm signing this petition because Dr. Bill has contributed significant time of his life to study the local ecology of this area."

-Gregory Borodiansky  
New York, NY

"A much deserved name for a beautiful dive spot."

-H G  
Escondido, CA

"We have a true California Ocean Ecology expert at our fingertips when we visit Catalina Island. Bill has taught me so much about the history, the seasonal changes, the preservation and the fight to keep the Dive Park for all to enjoy. The Dive Park in Avalon is a worldwide icon in diving and a lot of the credit for that status is attributed to Doctor Bill."

-Hal Wells  
Los Angeles, CA

"A Harvard Classmate and an inspiration to us all for his enthusiasm and knowledge"

-Henry Doerr  
Auckland,

"Dr. Bill has contributed so much to the local diving community, it would be well deserved recognition."

-Hilary Bein  
Los Angeles, CA

"Dr Bill has had a huge impact on my understanding of marine biology."

-Howard Mount  
Bremen, GA

"This will be the best tribute to Dr. Bill Bushing."

-J. Huston  
Oakland, CA

"It's the right thing to do"

-Jack Strieter  
Coxoa Beach, FL

"I am a former resident of Avalon, and recognize and appreciate the contributions Bill has made to the community. Including Dr. Bill Bushing's name further distinguishes one of Avalon's most treasured natural resources, a well-deserved honor."

-Jacqueline Lehr  
Haverhill, MA

"In recognition of his hard work and dedication to the the underwater world"

-Jai Guillemaud  
Calgary,

"No one has done more for the park than Dr. Bill. He's truly its ambassador."

-Jamie Extract  
Simi Valley, CA

"One of my favorite places to dive!!! Love the dive park and the island and reading Dr Bill's posts."

-Janet Kobs  
Murrieta, CA

"I share a friends passion"

-JANET NEWMAN  
Solana Beach, CA

"Who has dived Avalon more than Dr. Bill?? He has contributed so much knowledge about this park to the local dive community"

-Jason Shoup  
Los Angeles, CA

"Thank you, Dr. Bill, for always answering our Fish ID and other marine-related questions and for always being a model diver and citizen of Avalon!"

-Jayleen Sun  
Gardena, CA

"Dr Bill has accomplished so much to help others understand and enjoy Gods treasures!!"

-Jennifer Simonis  
Tuscaloosa,

"I support Bill Bushing and all that he has done for diving at Catalina. What a great guy."

-Jerald Pratt  
Poway, CA

"Dr. BI'll deserves to be honored for his contributions to the preservation and spread of information about our island and beyond."

-Jessica Herzog  
Avalon, CA

"Dr. Bill has unselfishly shared his love and knowledge of the ocean environment, to the enlightenment of a legion of admirers."

-Jim Forte  
Hillsboro, TX

"My sweet cousin, Kathy asked me to. :-)"

-Jim Mutchler  
Forest, VA

"I met Dr. Bill on the King Neptune during my certification class. He is, as he was then, a valuable source information regarding the ecology of SoCal waters."

-Joe Tugas  
North Hollywood, CA

"Dr Bill is a incredible person who has touch many lives, not just divers. A deserving person who devoted his life to the Catalina dive community."

-John Gelrud  
Orange, CA

"A fitting tribute to a man who truly loved the sea"

-John Lawton  
Vista, CA

"Respect Bill and all he has achieved."

-John Lewis  
Irving, TX

"Someone I care about believes in this cause and asked me to contribute, high respect and trust her judgment therefore I believe the is a good cause"

-John Scordino  
Eules, TX

"I'm signing because Bill Bushing is one of the smartest people I've ever known and has done so much for Avalon and Catalina Island!! He is also one of the best teachers I ever had the pleasure of learning from!!!"

-Jonathan Hurst  
Grass Valley, CA

"Dr Bill knows more about diving in Catalina Island than anybody else, has done so much for the area and has a wealth of knowledge of the aquatic life and environment there. He definitely deserves some recognition!"

-Jonathan Schmitt  
El Cajon,

"Dr. Bill has been a long time steward of Casino Point diving and an inspiration to the entire community. His mark on the dive park is unmatched."

-Jonathan Weirick  
La Jolla, CA

"Why not? Dr. Bill is the dive park. This is a great opportunity for Avalon to put a humane face to a diver friendly city and dive site. To be in the presents of Jacques Cousteau, Dr. Bill deserves this."

-Joseph Kiszeli  
Pomona,

"Dr. Bill is always helpful and informative."

-Joshua Christensen  
Lakewood, CA

"An appropriate tribute to a great man who has made it his life work to educate others on the great resource that is our oceans."

-Joyce Klein  
Deerfield Beach, FL

"I've learned a lot from Dr. Bill through the years. He deserves this honor."

-June Sisemore  
Land O Lakes, FL

"Followed Dr. Bill on online forums for a long time. How awesome it would be to recognize him. Good luck"

-Justin Myers  
Santa Ana, CA

"Dr. Bushing has focused his entire life on contributing to the conservation and education of the water wonders of Avalon. He deserves this recognition."

-Karen Russo  
Lake Oswego, OR

"I always loved talking with him."

-Karl Ross  
Santa Clarita, CA

"Dr. Bill has made diving at Casino Point immeasurably better for thousands of divers. While he and the park are informally synonymous to so many of us in the dive community, I'd love to see that relationship officially recognized."

-Kathryn Kempton

"Dr Bill has made this his life's work, done so much for the marine enviroment he loves and deserves this honor!"

-Kathy Mallon  
Hermosa Beach, CA

"Dr. Bill has been an ambassador to scuba diving, especially the underwater park in Avalon. He has even presented on the topic of marine biology to our local dive clubs to educate, enthuse, and generate more curiosity keeping divers active. The love he has for the underwater park is amazing."

-Kaz Aizawa  
South Pasadena, CA

"Dr. Bill Bushing Kicks Butt"

-Kevin Connolly  
Round Rock,

"Dr. Bill has done more for the dive park than any other group or individual. There is no other name appropriate, than his. :)"

-Kim Calder  
Lakewood, CA

"Because he loved Catalina and he loved the ocean. And the dive park was his home."

-Kim OBrien Jordan  
Culver City, CA

"Dr. Bill IS Catalina diving! You cannot stump him with any diving question. Great asset to Catalina and I'm proud to call him a friend!"

-Kirstin Rowe  
Long Beach, CA

"Dr. Bill is a legend and devotee to the Catalina U/W park. He has cataloged all the life there for years. A great scientist and wonderful human being!"

-Konrad Fry  
Mission Viejo, CA

"Kristen Bowe"

-Kristen Bowe  
Canyon lake, CA

"Dr Bill has long supported and promoted the Southern California dive community with his passion for diving and selfless sharing of his wealth of scientific knowledge. Both the dive park and the SoCal diving community would benefit by this appropriate and deserving memorial. I wholeheartedly stand in favor."

-L Richard  
Scottsdale, AZ

"In honor of Dr. Bill!"

-LeAnn Adam  
corvallis, OR

"During my active diving years there was rarely a time when I dove the Point where Dr Bill wasn't present, with his stories, advice, or just his smiling, friendly presence."

-Lew Turlington  
Los Angeles,

"Thing need to be done"

-li meng tan  
Singapore,

"My uncle was an amazing person and he will be missed — what an incredible tribute to his life's work."

-Liane Hunter  
Atlanta, GA

"A befitting tribute to a man who cared enough to make a difference for the greatness of all species."

-Linda Jane O'Brien  
Geneva,

"Dr. Bill's passion for our oceans and their critters is inspiring, his wealth of knowledge enviable. He never hesitates to share all he has learned about them. Renaming the Avalon, Catalina dive park his honor would be a fitting tribute to an incredibly generous man and educator."

-Lisann Francisco  
Temple City, CA

"Dr Bill is a living legend and tireless advocate for Catalina island diving. He freely shares his knowledge while encouraging kids to put down the phone and dive in."

-Liz Taylor  
Alameda, CA

"Absolutely, hands down.... Love Dr. Bill!"

-Lorenzo Murillo  
Oxnard, CA

"This is important as a diver it mean a lot to me and others."

-Louis Marinucci  
Philadelphia, PA

"He was Mr Catalina diving...period!"

-Makoto Nakanishi  
Fountain Valley, CA

"Bill was a champion of the ocean and willing to share his knowledge with anyone who came to Casino Point."

-Maria Korcsmaros  
Corona, CA

"I like the idea of honoring him"

-Maricela Garcia  
Avalon, CA

"Dr. Bill is a wonderful guy who has wisely advised so many scuba divers over the years. This is a great chance to honor him!"

-Marie Bailey  
Montrouge,



"Dr. Bill Bushing's contributions to studying and protecting the local ecology add permanent value to the City of Avalon and deserve to be commemorated by this initiative!"

-Marie-Elise Zovko  
Zagreb,

"Wenn es mehr Menschen wie ihn gäbe. Wäre diese Welt besser und friedlicher."

-Mario Martin Fehd  
Hagen /Essen,

"Dr Bill is and has been synonymous with the dive park, I cannot think of one without the other. He's my go to resource on the kelp forest and Southern California marine life."

-Mark Donoghue  
APO, AP

"His study, knowledge, and the enthusiasm with which he shares it (with me and my students) have long been one of the high points of my visits to the park, and he has been a wonderful representative for the park and the local marine ecology."

-Mark Kampe  
Los Angeles, CA

"Dr Bills study of creatures in the park and the eagerness with which he shared that knowledge."

-Mark Kampe  
Los Angeles, CA

"Everything I just read is so true and much more. Please do this for someone who has always supported Avalon. Thanx."

-Marsha Larson  
Laguna Woods, CA

"Bill deserves this honor in his lifetime. To acknowledge the research and learning Bill dedicated To the dive park will personalize and add character as a place of interest in Avalon"

-Martha Bill  
Irvine, CA

"Bill has tirelessly inspired divers to dive Casino point for many many years and so deserves to have it named in his honor!"

-Martha Edge  
Santa Ana, CA

"I know how often Dr. Bill dives this park and how he has contributed to the knowledge of the area with his observations. I think this would be a fitting tribute."

-Mary McCulley  
Redondo Beach, CA

"I am signing to honor Bill."

-Mary Menke  
Sherman, TX

"None could be more deserving of this honor than Bill!"

-Matthew Addison  
Las Vegas, NV

"Dr Bill has independently studied events in this marine park for years and produced hundreds if not thousands of hours of video footage that will serve future generations of diving enthusiasts and ecologists in years to come. This recognition is a small display of appreciation for his endless dedication to conservation."

-Mauricio Moreno  
Santa Ana, CA

"Bill Bushing is THE diving legend of Catalina. His efforts to educate divers and everyone else about the marine ecosystems of Catalina are unsurpassed. This is a fitting name change for the park he made famous. Please do it!"

-Melanie Moreno  
, CA

"I believe this brave man needs recognition for the work he has done for Catalina and the diving community."

-Melissa Weber  
Los Angeles, CA

"I taught with Bill at CIS and he supported my efforts in developing an outdoor program for the students. He was/is loved by students and staff of CIS."

-Michael Acebo  
East Marion, NY

"It's difficult not to associate the dive park with Dr. Bill. I owe much of what I know about the Catalina marine environment to him. Not only have his informative posts and videos have been a great resource, he is always willing to answer questions directly. I think this would be a great way of saying "thanks" to Dr. Bill for everything he's done for us."

-Michael Francisco  
La Verne, CA

"He has both taught Marine Biology on Catalina and has worked tirelessly to promote the Dive Park on the city's behalf. Dr. Bill is fighting Cancer, so the timing is important that it be made official sooner than later. Thank you."

-Michael Kienholz  
Carlsbad, CA

"When I think of the Dive Park I always think of Dr. Bill"

-Michael Orlando  
Palmdale, CA

"Dr. Bill was a fixture of the dive park and cared more about Catalina's marine environment than anyone."

-Michelle Hoalton  
Huntington Beach, CA

"Minerva Vasquez"

-Minerva Vasquez  
Menifee, CA

"Because Dr Bill has devoted his life to the care and educational research of the dive park!"

-Missy Parker  
Moab, UT

"I recognize his contributions and share this sentiment"

-Nancy Caruso  
Garden Grove, CA

"Thank you for honoring our brother. This means so much to all of us!"

-Nancy Hunter  
Jasper, GA

"Bill deserves the recognition"

-Nancy Starnes  
Davison, MI

"He was an extraordinary man!!"

-Nancy Witherell  
Redding, CA

"Renaming the park would be a fitting gesture to show appreciation for Dr Bushing's work as a marine conservationist and his devotion to the Island"

-Naomi Ware  
Tucson, AZ

"There isn't, will never be and has never been a greater Human being. He also happened to have a memory which talking to a kid or an arrogant Marine biologist from Woods Hole Institution of Oceanography. His knowledge and endless curiosity always with a smile. He touched many thousands of lives. I Was intelligent but had Zero focus from my first day in his class he got me. Pre-Med for 3 years until family issues and my decision"

-Nathan Wesley

"Dr. Bill has dedicated his whole life to the underwater park and surrounding areas and this is the least we/you could do to honor him."

-Neta Platt  
Capo Beach, CA

"Dr Bill is a wonderful knowledgeable human being."

-Nicki Shaw  
Azusa, CA

"I want to honor this man who has helped the environment."

-Noel Hoekstra  
Downers Grove, IL

"He deserves even more recognition here! He could enjoy a bit more.. soon."

-Norma Carlyon  
Avalon, CA

"Dr. Bill was the guardian angel, interpreter and evangelist for Catalina, the Dive Park and our marine environment. Super nice. Super committed. Super knowledgeable. And a friend to all who showed interest. This would be a great way to honor his life."

-Oren Noah  
Sebastopol, CA

"Dr. Bill has done so much for Avalon, Catalina and especially for the underwater life there. His constant educational and conservation messages have been a powerful force well beyond the island."

-Oren Noah  
Sebastopol, CA

"A well deserved tribute to a man who is passionate about our precious aquatic environment. PLEASE SIGN AND SHARE!!!"

-Patricia Conroy  
Delray Beach, FL

"Dr. Bill personified the Dive Park. Period."

-Paul Golonski  
Waipahu,

"I'm signing this petition to acknowledge and give due recognition to a man that contributed so much to the Avalon dive park (casino point) and to Southern California diving."

-Paula Rohland  
Lancaster, CA

"I believe this man deserves recognition for all the contributions he did for Avalon (casino point) dive park. Renaming the location will be a way to honor and remember all that he has done for park and the sport of diving in Southern California."

-Paula Rohland  
Lancaster, CA

"Harvard class of 1969. Roommate 1965-66."

-Peter Keiser  
Johnston, RI

"Love Dr. Bill. He is an asset to the local dive community."

-Phillip Rexinger  
Lake Elsinore, CA

"I and many others learned about the value, science and wonder of the marine biology environment at Catalina from Dr. Bushing. His sharing of bountiful knowledge has enriched the ecosystem and taught generations of people the value of protecting these waters. He is a natural treasure."

-PJ Doyle  
Vernon, BC

"It's good to honor those who given selflessly to Catalina for their entire life"

-Ray McKewon  
Vista, CA

"Awesome idea and do it sooner than later!"

-Richard Harp  
Avalon, CA

"He has done more for diving in that area than anyone."

-Richard Watson  
Bakersfield, CA

"Dr. Bill deserves this no matter what."

-Rick Lewis  
Simi Valley, CA

"I believe the in it"

-Rodney Mullannix  
Flatwoods, KY

"This is a perfect way to honor this mans  
legacy!"

-Ronald Hoogenboom  
Scottsdale, AZ

"I've followed and learned a lot from Dr Bill  
Bushing and we have engaged in several  
discussions on forums related to diving. He is an  
ambassador for the diving community and is  
more than deserving to preserve his legacy into  
the future."

-Russell Worman  
Everett, WA

"Bill helped me when I was getting started  
diving."

-Sam Osteen  
Oak Harbor, WA

"Bill Bushing had dedicated his life to this cause  
and should be recognized"

-Sandra Feloni  
Farmington Hills, MI

"This is a great way to honor Dr. Bill!"

-Sandra Rios  
Tempe, AZ

"Dr Bushing has contributed to the knowledge  
of so many people, divers and non-divers alike  
..... he's a wonderful human being who greatly  
deserves this honor .... Hope you agree"

-Sandra Snyder  
Sun City, CA

"Applaud his commitment and dedication"

-Sandra St John  
Danielson, CT

"Dr. Bill has done a lot to promote education  
and conservation of marine life. His work has  
helped tourism, as it brings in divers and  
tourists to the area."

-Sandy Cook  
Jupiter, FL

"I agree"

-Scott Nelson  
Long Beach, CA

"Met Dr. Bill in the late 80's for the first time,  
then again about seven years ago. Never  
hesitated then and now to stop and talk about  
SoCal waters to a visitor. Very deserving."

-Scott Whitney  
West Jordan, UT

"His body of work in the field if diving speaks for  
itself. He is a lical fixture at tyhe park, aiding in  
the maintenance and comraderie at the park."

-Sean Shrum  
Anaheim, CA

"I traveled half way around the world to have  
the honor of diving this site with Dr Bill. This  
site IS Dr Bill"

-Sheila Bowtle

"It's Dr. Bill...of course I signed!"

-Sherri Clarke  
Palm Springs, CA

"Would love to see this happen and have gotten  
an Avalon city councilwoman involved."

-Sherri Cline  
Wimberley, TX

"Great work deserves great recognition!"

-Siena McKim  
Bonita, CA

"I support the name change."

-Sigrid Twomey  
Santa Barbara, CA

"Dr. Bushing gave alotnof time and effort to preserve and protect the area and his love for the environment was important."

-Stephen Cary  
Vado, NM

"I fully support renaming the dive park in Avalon the Dr. Bill Bushing Dive Park in honor of Dr. Bill and his many contributions to marine science."

-Stephen Mendel  
Ventura, CA

"Bill has dedicated his life to the advancement of science, particularly in the Avalon Dive Park"

-Steven Wilson  
Glendale, CA

"I would like to see Dr Bill honored"

-Susy Horowitz  
Burbank, CA

"Love to read Dr Bill Bushing's blogs, respect his knowledge and feel as if I dive there because of his sharing and caring."

-Suuz Martines  
Charlotte, NC

"In honor of the contributions made by Dr. Bill Bushing to the City of Avalon."

-T Grannis  
MONROVIA, CA

"I hope this passes. Bill is a legend in the Catalina diving community."

-T W Turney  
Hermosa Beach, CA

"I believe the naming of this park after Dr. Bill Bushing should be done immediately!"

-Tatsuo Hirano  
Glendale, CA

"I've spent a lot of time at Avalon's dive park & know Dr. BI'll and all he has done to share the underwater world at Catalina"

-Terri Schwenzer  
Kailua-Kona, HI

"Hey, it's Dr Bill"

-Thomas Harris  
Moreno Valley, CA

"Dr. Bill truly deserves this honor. He has dedicated countless hours of research for this dive park!"

-Tiffany Chao  
Woodland Hills, CA

"Dr. Bill already comes to mind every time I think of Avalon, and I look for him every time I dive there, just in case! Renaming the park after him would be so fitting."

-Tiffany Poon  
San Diego, CA

"Because it is the right thing to do. Bill spent his time and money to save this area and to educate others on the importance of conservation."

-Tom Hallquist  
Franklin, TN

"This would be an appropriate honor."

-Tony Brazzale  
West Palm Beach, FL

"It is fitting"

-Tracey Anonymous  
Ferndale, MI

"He's a great man"

-Travis Gober  
hanford, CA

"Dr Bill has done so much for divers and. Education about the underwater world."

-Trish Pedroza  
Lancaster, CA

"A perfect gesture"

-Tyler Stalter  
San Diego, CA

"The best way to honor such a great man who had contributed so much to the dive community :-)"

-Vanessa Homyak  
San Diego, CA

"Dr Bill is the epitome of what a Marine Biologist should be and is ever present at the dive park, and to those who have never visited Catalina, his blog "Dive Dry with Dr Bill" conveys the best of what's underwater at the Casino Point."

-Walt Conklin  
Redondo Beach, CA

"No one spent more time, love and care than Dr Bushing in this park."

-Weiwei Gao  
La Jolla, CA

"Dr. Bill has devoted so many years to education awareness and conservation of the area around the island. He has published many great articles, cultivating an interest to bring in new tourists, while educating the locals as to the areas which needed ecological attention and preservation. A vocal conservationist and educator of the underwater world of Avalon Dive Park and more, he has done all this with enthusiasm and dedication throughout his life. I stand behind those advocating for this simple recognition which he so obviously deserves. Thank you!"

-Wendy Crown  
Cambria, CA

"Dr. Bill has devoted so many years to education awareness and conservation of the area around the island. He has published many great articles, cultivating an interest to bring in new tourist, while educating the locals as to the areas which need ecological attention and preservation. A vocal conservationist and educator of the underwater world of Avalon Dive Park and more, he has done all this with enthusiasm and dedication throughout his life. I stand behind those advocating for this simple recognition which he so obviously deserves. Thank you!"

-Wendy Crown  
Cambria, CA

"It's important to honor those who dedicate their lives to the preservation and protection of our Beloved oceans and dive park."

-Yasmine Salas  
Laguna Niguel,

"Dr. Bill has done so much. Educates to preserve the oceans of the world. His love of Catalina Island has given him even more reason to bring his message to us all. Diver, non diver, it doesn't matter. It would be a great show of respect to an amazing man."

-Yvette 'Betsy' Laban  
Duarte, CA