



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Brown-Nichols Award Committee

17 April 2012

Dear Committee members,

It is my distinct pleasure to support the nomination of Dr. James E. Cloern, U.S. Geological Survey, for the Brown-Nichols Science Award for 2012. Dr. Cloern, who is one of the few Senior Research Scientists in the Department of the Interior, has been instrumental in developing our understanding of the San Francisco Estuary. His expertise and that of the many scientists that have worked on his project team over the years has been especially useful in providing critical information on water quality and primary production in the estuary. In addition, Dr. Cloern is a globally recognized expert on many aspects of estuarine ecology and has received a variety of awards for excellence from the U.S. Geological Survey and other organizations

Recently Dr. Cloern led the CASCaDE project which evaluated the possible effects of climate change on the San Francisco Estuary and its watershed. As a member of the interdisciplinary CASCaDE research team, I became personally acquainted with Dr. Cloern. I was impressed by his ability to think across a wide variety of scientific disciplines and focus on the most relevant aspects of those disciplines for addressing the questions at hand. His breadth of knowledge and curiosity about other disciplines are impressive. He is unfailing in his support of his team members and good science in general. Perhaps more important, he is not afraid to express his opinion to anyone when faced with scientific results and interpretations that do not meet the standards of scientific credibility.

Dr. Cloern's scientific contributions are almost too numerous to list, including over 90 journal articles, reports, and book chapters. He has given many talks at scientific meetings and to other groups. He has supported many post-doctoral researchers and students within his research group. He has served on the editorial boards of scientific journals and has served as a co-editor for the important journal *Estuaries and Coasts*. In

addition, he is adept at presenting science to a wide variety of audiences, including the general public.

As one of the members of the first Brown-Nichols Award Committee, I always believed the first 3 awards would go to Sam Luoma, Peter Moyle, and Jim Cloern. I believe these three scientists represent the best of San Francisco Estuary science. Other regions of the world are lucky to have a single scientist of their stature. Dr. Cloern easily fulfills all of the nomination requirements and, more importantly, represents all of the qualities the award is intended to recognize. I sincerely hope the committee agrees with me and the other supporters of Jim's nomination so that I can watch Jim receive the award at the upcoming conference.

Sincerely

Larry R. Brown

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