



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

NOAA Restoration Center  
Southwest Region  
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 219-A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

August 13, 2012

Michelle K. Shouse, Biologist  
USGS - Delta Science  
Pacific Southwest Area  
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Ms. Shouse:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Restoration Center is pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Kathryn Boyer of San Francisco State University's Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, for the 2012 Brown Nichols Science Award.

Dr. Boyer has worked with the NOAA Restoration Center for the past eight years on research that has provided the Agency with much needed information on the restoration of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) and the native oyster (*Ostrea lurida*). Dr. Boyer's dedication to the research of these species is exceptional and her work is helping NOAA to understand and recover San Francisco Bay's precious resources.

Dr. Boyer's research has management applications and her work has facilitated the evaluation of the Cosco Busan oil spill, the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals project, and numerous restoration and mitigation projects around the Bay. Her lab works at the interface of basic and applied ecology, with the philosophy that restoration and conservation activities will be most effective when there is an understanding of the processes that govern natural communities.

Dr. Boyer routinely demonstrates leadership and has brought together colleagues from across the country to discuss San Francisco estuary research and restoration. She works effectively with academia, agencies, non-governmental organizations, and tactfully navigates the Bay's complex regulatory and political environment. Kathy has become a recognized expert in Bay wetland, eelgrass, and benthic ecology and has become a true asset to the Bay.

The NOAA Restoration Center has been very fortunate to work with Dr. Boyer and hopes that you will consider her for this prestigious award. Should you require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 707-575-6059.

Sincerely,

Natalie Cosentino-Manning  
Restoration Program Manager, Southwest Region  
NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center/Damage Assessment

