



July 30, 2012

Bay-Delta Science Conference  
Delta Science Program  
Delta Stewardship Council

Dear Brown-Nichols Award Committee:

This letter supports the nomination of James E. Cloern (Jim) for the Delta Science Program's Brown-Nichols Science Award. Jim should be chosen for the Brown-Nichols Award for the following reasons:

1) Jim is recognized internationally for his work on nutrients as demonstrated by his 120 peer reviewed publications, their frequency of citation, and his current role as editor of Coasts and Estuaries. In addition, Jim's expertise in nutrients has become an issue of critical importance for the future of the Bay.

2) Jim has fathered one of the most extensive long-term continuous monitoring programs in the Bay. The USGS web site reporting the water quality information that Jim's lab has collected in the Bay over the last several decades is the most easily accessible source of data about San Francisco Bay that exists. The site has probably been visited more than any other site reporting data about the Bay.

3) Besides mentoring a number of post-docs and graduate students working on the Bay, Jim has collaborated with academic labs, government labs, and independent scientists. Because his research vessel, the Polaris, is so frequently and predictably traveling the axis of the Bay, it provides the perfect platform for people with new ideas to hop on and test out their research.

4) Jim's research has focused on several critical management areas in the Bay besides eutrophication, including the long-term effects of climate change, and the success of salt marsh restoration in the South Bay. His impact is demonstrated by his frequent testimony in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

5) Besides the information available on the USGS web site discussed above, Jim makes the Bay come alive as one of the most compelling speakers about the Bay. Having been on almost a dozen organizing committees for the annual science conferences about the Bay, Jim is always considered as a keynote speaker because he is able to present the science so entertainingly. We will all remember his Aretha Franklin "Respect" for the Bay.

As someone who has worked in both the local NGO and local governance community, but had encountered Jim's presence extensively in scientific societies and conferences before I began working in the Bay Area, I strongly encourage you to present the Brown-Nichols award to Jim. Both the local NGO community, the local stakeholder community, and the local governance community hang on his opinion on Bay issues.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Michael S. Connor  
General Manager  
East Bay Dischargers Authority