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## Endorsement of the nomination of Wim Kimmerer for the Brown-Nichols Award

It is an honor to support the nomination of William J “Wim” Kimmerer to be the 2012 recipient of the Brown-Nichols Award. Wim has been involved with San Francisco Bay, estuary and delta science and management issues since 1986, first as a senior scientist at BioSystems Analysis, Inc, and then since 1994 as a research professor at San Francisco State University’s Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies (RTC).

Wim exemplifies all three of the stated criteria for award consideration: his body of research includes at least 50 peer-reviewed articles on Bay/Delta science that were published in science or environmental management journals, he has provided long-term service on 14 Bay/Delta management related projects, and he is a consummate collaborator both with colleagues and with RTC students.

His ecological view of the Bay/Delta system and analyses of human impacts on the system provide a very holistic approach to dealing with the many complex issues. Conversations with Wim provide ample opportunity to rethink questions and positions.

I refer the review panel to Wim’s website:

<http://rtc.sfsu.edu/kimmererwww/Kimmererweb/Home.html> for documentation of his science and management contributions. I would like to address the third criteria mentoring and collaboration. In the latest RTC annual report, Wim listed 33 collaborators. But I would specifically like to address Wim’s mentorship of students.

As a RTC research scientist, Wim is under no obligation to mentor students, yet he is a terrific mentor, serving in the last decade as the advisor for 10 masters students. In addition, he has been on many other student thesis committees and is extremely generous with his time, especially when assisting students with statistical issues. Right now his lab is bursting at the seams; there are two full time technicians, one half time technician, two assistants (one is a UCLA student on his third summer in Wim’s lab), five and a half (one is shared) masters students, two post doctoral researchers and three summer teacher in training Student Teachers Attaining Research (STAR) students working together in his laboratory. Almost all of these researchers and researchers-in-training are focused on Bay/Delta issues. Under Wim’s leadership, his laboratory is one of the most exciting and vibrant programs at the Center; his students give some of the clearest and well organized student seminars. And the number of his students who move on to

fill important roles in the Bay science and management community is testimony to his dedication to training first rate scientists. As a faculty member at the only university educational research center located on San Francisco Bay, Wim contributes in many ways to the overall success of the emerging group of young scientists from San Francisco State University.

Within the RTC community, Wim demonstrates an equal commitment to ensuring that RTC is a vital contributor to California environmental science. He serves on numerous internal committees and is always a voice of reason as the Center deals with many conflicting issues and shortages of resources. Wim is one of the first people I consult when dealing with sensitive and difficult issues. In addition, Wim is a truly genuine and pleasant person.

It would be a fitting acknowledgement of a first rate contributor if Wim were awarded the Brown-Nichols Science Award.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Newell Garfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Newell Garfield  
Director and Professor  
Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies