



San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

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August 10, 2012

Brown-Nichols Science Award Selection Committee
Bay-Delta Science Program
Re: Support letter for nomination of Dr. Brenda Grewell

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Brenda Grewell for the 2012 Brown-Nichols Science Award. Brenda is an exceptional scientist, a vocal advocate for scientifically sound management of Bay-Delta tidal wetlands, and a trusted spokesperson for the principles of estuarine stewardship.

Brenda's extensive research on the natural history and ecology of endangered soft bird's beak (*Chloropyron molle* subsp. *molle*) has stood the test of time and continues to guide restoration practices and management strategies relating to this important species. Through her equally important work on exotic and invasive weeds, Brenda tackles challenging and controversial scientific issues that are highly relevant to researchers and managers throughout the estuary. Brenda is well known for her adamant adherence to rigorous scientific standards, even while she accommodates every last detail of permitting regulations and on-the-ground politics. It is her reputation for responsible, top-notch science that gives Brenda credibility among land owners and managers who are otherwise often very skeptical of the biases that scientists promote.

In addition to conducting rigorous ecological research, Brenda participates in many advisory committees, contributes her time and expertise to a wide range of professional and graduate research projects, and strives to make her science relevant to resource managers, regulatory agencies and the general public. Brenda devotes an amazing amount of her time and energy to assist others with their work. For example, she has contributed countless hours of consultation to the Solano Land Trust as they struggle to implement management strategies that are beyond their capacity for staff and infrastructure. Brenda regularly advises and collaborates with graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, contributing her expertise to critically important issues such as management of invasive perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) in Suisun Marsh.

Brenda Grewell's passion for rigorous and applied research is contagious, and her scientific accomplishments are broadly recognized. Brenda's personal commitment to improving the conservation and management of tidal marsh ecosystems in the San Francisco Estuary is an inspiration for us all and continues to influence research and restoration projects around the region. I hope that you seriously consider Brenda for the Brown-Nichols Science Award.

Sincerely,

Matt Ferner, Ph.D.

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San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is a partnership among National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, San Francisco State University, California State Parks, Solano Land Trust and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

