

July 16, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Dr. Wim Kimmerer's nomination for the 2012 Brown-Nichols Science Award. The San Francisco Estuary science community is blessed with a fair bit of financial support and a large group of very talented academic and agency scientists. The pace of new scientific learning in the estuary is so fast that it can be difficult to keep up with. With such a vibrant science community, there are obviously numerous "all stars" that deserve consideration for the Brown-Nichols Award. However, it is my opinion that Wim is hands down the best all-around scientist working in the San Francisco Estuary. Nobody, and I literally mean nobody, is as well rounded and so broadly knowledgeable.

Wim is one of a very limited number of scientists who have published or co-authored more than 40 papers on the ecology of the San Francisco Estuary. In doing so, he has covered an incredible array of topics in the peer-reviewed literature from statistics, to estuarine physics, to details of how the planktonic community functions, to fish population dynamics, and the integration of all of these subdisciplines. His scientific contribution has been somewhere between stellar and astronomical!

I have known Wim since about 1997 and have been extremely fortunate to have him as a mentor in the intervening fifteen years. I was never a student in his lab, but I have collaborated with him on several Interagency Ecological Program and CALFED Science Program studies and syntheses. His dedication to the Interagency Ecological Program's Estuarine Ecology Team, which he has been instrumental in continuing since at least the mid-1990s, has also been an extremely useful informal 'classroom' for dozens of scientists and students, myself included. I am certainly a better scientist because of these opportunities.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Wim's well-deserved nomination.

Sincerely,



Matt Noriga

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service