



ROMBERG TIBURON CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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24 July 2012

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is in support of Dr. Wim J. Kimmerer's nomination for the Brown-Nichols Science Award. Wim is a world-renowned oceanographer, known for both his research and enthusiasm for communicating science. Wim's outstanding research career and numerous management/policy contributions make him a strong candidate for this award; however, it is his enthusiasm that most embodies the spirit of Dr. Randall Brown and Dr. Frederic Nichols.

Wim is currently a Research Professor at the Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, a research and teaching laboratory associated with San Francisco State University. He has been conducting research within the San Francisco Estuary since he relocated to the Bay area approximately 25 years ago. Wim's research interests focus on estuarine food webs, with an emphasis on the San Francisco Estuary. He has examined topics ranging from biogeochemical cycling and water flow to foodweb dynamics and species introductions. The information that Wim has collected regarding the San Francisco Estuary alone has been published in over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles and been reported at countless scientific meetings.

In addition to its general scientific importance, nearly all of Dr. Kimmerer's research is of interest to managers and policy makers. Some of Wim's more high profile projects include: an effort to investigate the causes of the pelagic organism decline the San Francisco Estuary by examining foodweb function, the creation of a numerous models to examine the impacts of environmental variables on population success of the threatened delta smelt and a study to investigate the introduction of new species through ballast water. As a result, Wim has worked with numerous agencies to collect information regarding important environmental issues and to develop strategies that improve the health of the San Francisco Estuary. Additionally, Wim is was a member of the Steering Committee for the Delta Risk Management Strategy, which examined some of the more significant threats to the San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta, including levee failure. He also provided technical input to the Governor's Delta Vision Task Force and helped to develop a long-term plan that addresses fundamental conflicts between environment and political issues within the Delta. Wim also acts as an advisor to the Bay-Delta Program, the Environmental Water Account and the Interagency Ecological Program.

Regarding Dr. Kimmerer's mentoring ability and good science practices, the fact that several of Wim's graduate students have thought to nominate him for this award speaks volumes. As a postdoctoral fellow from the Kimmerer lab, I fully support the sentiments of his students. Wim currently advises 6 Masters' students and participates on

several other student committees. Wim meets regularly with his students and is generous with his knowledge, resources and moral support. Dr. Kimmerer also promotes the transfer of knowledge within the local scientific community. Wim is a founding member of the Estuarine Ecology Team, an informal discussion group exploring ecological topics related to San Francisco Estuary, which consists of researchers from several universities and state agencies. In addition, Wim has numerous international affiliations and has collaborated with researchers on numerous continents, including North America, Australia and Asia.

Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Kimmerer still contributes significantly to public outreach and education. Dr. Kimmerer and his lab participate annually in Discovery Day, an institutional open house, where they have received awards for their foodweb based activities and enthusiasm. Additionally, Wim has traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with policy makers concerning issues specific to the San Francisco Estuary, including water policy. Finally, Wim is more than willing to share his knowledge and enthusiasm, which extends far beyond the shores of San Francisco Estuary, with anyone he encounters whether through email to colleagues, meeting with students, or chance conversations on city sidewalks.

In conclusion, I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Wim J. Kimmerer for the Brown-Nichols Science Award. His research, contributions to management/policy, enthusiasm and dedication to science communication clearly exemplifies the criteria for the award and make him a more than worthy candidate for such an honor. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay J. Sullivan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lindsay J. Sullivan
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