
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 30, 2012

Bay-Delta Science Conference
Delta Science Program
Delta Stewardship Council

SUBJECT: Support for Nomination of Jim Cloern for the Brown-Nichols Science Award

Dear Brown-Nichols Award Committee:

When I think of those stalwarts that belong in the pantheon of scientists that, through their work, have most advanced our understanding of the San Francisco Bay Estuary and allowed us to make informed decisions about the Estuary, it is clear that Randy Brown and Fred Nichols belong in that pantheon, as do Peter Moyle and Sam Luoma. However, that pantheon is incomplete without Jim Cloern among its members. As such, I'm pleased to support the nomination of Jim Cloern for the Brown-Nichols Science Award.

The criteria for the Brown-Nichols Science Award form an accurate outline for Jim's extensive research and contributions to all stakeholders in the San Francisco Estuary and its watershed. All of his research and contributions are too extensive to detail here, but the following are a sampling:

- 1) Jim's evolving work on phytoplankton dynamics over the past 30 years has driven numerous policy initiatives, including the need for the Regional Water Board to list invasive species on the federal 303 d) list as impairing the Bay, the need to revisit our management of sediment discharges to the Bay, and the need to develop a "Nutrient Strategy" to inform future regulatory approaches towards nitrogen and phosphorus discharges;
- 2) Jim has established the longest continuously running monitoring program in the Bay and has consistently worked to make the program's data readily available to all scientists and the public at large. This monitoring effort pre-dates but directly compliments the Regional Monitoring Program for Traces Substances mandated by the Regional Water Board in 1992. Jim's analysis of the data collected by his program was instrumental in demonstrating that the Bay was no longer impaired by depressed dissolved oxygen;
- 3) The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Program is a nationwide model both for its visionary attempt to restore nearly 15,000 acres of salt ponds to tidal marsh and for its adaptive management approach to implementing the restoration. Jim's contributions to the success of this program are broad and continuing, including assisting in the development of its monitoring programs, identifying data gaps in the monitoring

programs, and collecting data relevant to management decision-making. His evaluation of the data, such as his identification of harmful algae blooms, continues to inform the management of the Restoration Program; and

- 4) Jim's outreach towards educating the regulated community, government agencies, and all other stakeholders on the processes that form and change the Bay and its Estuary is unceasingly top quality, engaging, and clear in its messages. He is regularly called on to present his research and perspectives at conferences, including the Bay-Delta Science Conference, to contribute to the scientific literature, and to lead or serve on collaborative scientific and stakeholder groups. His continuing efforts to advise and mentor the next generation of Bay scientists ensures his research is broadly applied and that the next generation will generate work that can be as widely used by policy makers and the public as his continues to be.

It is rare that an issue of Bay protection or management comes up that has not been positively informed by Jim's work. Jim is definitely one of our scientific pantheon and is fully deserving of the Brown-Nichols Science Award.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer