

SAN FRANCISCO



August 13, 2012

Michelle K. Shouse, Biologist
USGS - Delta Science
Pacific Southwest Area
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Ms. Shouse:

This letter is in support of the 2012 Brown Nichols Science Award nomination of Dr. Kathy Boyer of San Francisco State University's Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies.

I had the distinct pleasure of working with Kathy on the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project in 2009-2010. At the time, I was representing the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission on the Core Team of the Project. As the Chief Deputy Director of a state regulatory agency with jurisdiction over the subtidal areas of the Bay, I recognized the critical need for the Subtidal Goals Project include the input of the most reputable and knowledgeable scientists in the area. I was pleased that Kathy was able to participate, as her work on eelgrass was well known to me.

The Core Team of the Subtidal Goals Project understood that the success of the project depended upon retaining scientific advisors who maintained the professional esteem of their colleagues while also earning the respect of the varied stakeholders in the project, from industry to environmentalists to government representatives. Kathy's scientific credentials with regard to eelgrass are indisputable, but she is also skilled at adeptly communicating complicated information to a variety of audiences; thus furthering the Core Team's ability to collaboratively generate a suite of defensible yet bold goals for the future of eelgrass in San Francisco Bay.

I once attended a multi-day conference with Kathy and several of her students. After witnessing the unabashed loyalty and utmost respect her students had for her, I was elated at the thought of the future accomplishments of this next generation of qualified and inspired people that Kathy was so successfully mentoring. Kathy is a cutting edge scientist who sees the big picture, a gifted communicator, a skilled collaborator and a successful teacher. As a policy maker determined to apply the best available science, in my work, these are the qualities I look to in a scientist and what I believe should be honored. I fully support the nomination of Kathy Boyer for the 2012 Brown Nichols Science Award.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caitlin Sweeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "S".

Caitlin Sweeney
Watershed Program Manager