



**HOPKINS MARINE STATION  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950**

11 June 2004

Mr. Dominic Gregorio  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board

Dear Mr. Gregorio:

I have recently learned about an impending decision to be made by the State Water Resources Control Board on the request by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) for an exception to the California Ocean Plan, to allow continuing discharge of seawater into an Area of Special Biological Significance. As Director of Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station, a position I assumed after 21 years at SIO, I am well aware of the need for marine laboratories to possess seawater systems, in order to carry out their missions in education and research. Thus, discharge of sea water is a requisite for our functions, so I urge that the request being made by SIO for a "mitigated negative declaration" be granted.

There is an element of sad irony in this situation. Many of the Areas of Special Biological Significance were established through efforts of the California marine science laboratories, which I feel have had an exemplary record of environmental protection. Hopkins Marine Station is the second oldest Marine Life Refuge in the State, and we do all that is possible to protect our living resources. I am confident that no marine laboratory in California intentionally releases back into the ocean harmful materials that would endanger life in the Areas of Special Biological Significance.

In summary, I am very concerning about the precedent that this case will set. If marine laboratories are prevented from using their seawater systems, our important activities in research and teaching will be severely impacted. Thus, I strongly urge that SIO's request for an exemption be granted.

Sincerely,

Director—Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University