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7 June 2004

Dominic Gregorio
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: UCSD/SIO request for exception to Ocean Plan

Dear Dominic

As the Reserve Manager for the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, I am keenly interested in the continued protection of coastal resources, especially in those areas designated as Areas of Special Biological Significance. I have followed the process leading to the request for an exception to the Ocean Plan by the UCSD Scripps Institution of Oceanography to permit their continuing release of seawater into the San Diego Marine Life ASBS. In some respects the Scripps situation is similar to ours at Bodega Bay.

I have read over the terms and conditions of the proposed Negative Declaration for the Scripps discharge, and find them extremely thorough and extremely protective of any potential impacts on the resources and water quality within the ASBS. Although most of the discharge is the same seawater that is pumped from the ocean, the possibility of different chemicals used in treatments within the aquarium systems requires monitoring of the discharge to preclude any detrimental effects from that treatment. I am concerned that the list of monitoring requirements may exceed what is actually necessary, and I urge the State Water Resources Control Board to aim for the most appropriate set of requirements.

The seawater system at Scripps is of great benefit to public education and scientific research at one of the nation's premier marine labs. I strongly support your efforts to keep this valuable endeavor running while protecting the waters of the ASBS, and I support the UCSD/SIO request for an exception to the Ocean Plan, with appropriate mitigation requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter G. Connors'.

Peter G. Connors
Reserve Manager