



Department of Fisheries Biology

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

21 December 2004

Dear Sirs:

Per this brief letter, I wish to notify the SWRCB that Humboldt State University's Telonicher Marine Laboratory (TML) intends to seek an exception to the Ocean Plan policy regarding discharge of wastes into the Kelp Beds at Trinidad Head Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). I believe that our discharge, if modified appropriately, will not compromise protection of ocean waters for beneficial uses and I believe that our marine laboratory serves many purposes that are in the public interest.

Our marine laboratory has a recirculating seawater system that maintains our water quality so that we can hold marine organisms successfully for indefinite periods of time. We use no chemical treatments to prevent fouling in our system and we maintain no exotic species in our aquaria. Therefore, we do not believe that our waste seawater discharge would compromise the unique features of Trinidad Bay in any manner.

We may, however, have some other plumbing issues that will require attention before we can confidently demonstrate that our discharge will not compromise protection of public waters for beneficial use. As initial steps toward addressing these issues, HSU requested capital funds for an analysis of the TML discharges in Dec 2003. Funds were received in Fall of 2004, and the campus has contracted with a local consulting engineering firm (Winzler & Kelly) to assist in that analysis. We have already begun a retrofit process to redirect outflow from (freshwater) drains and plumbing fixtures that currently discharge to the bay so that they will instead drain into our laboratory's sanitary sewer cesspit.

We plan on sending our main equipment technician, Dave Hoskins, to the January 13th La Jolla meeting that will be hosted by Mr. Dominic Gregorio of the Ocean Standards Unit. Dave is more familiar with the physical operation of our marine laboratory than any other individual at HSU and I am confident that we can work with the SWRCB to see that your concerns are fully met and that we can continue to operate our fine marine laboratory in Trinidad.

Sincerely, 
David Hankin
Professor of Fisheries &
Interim Director
Telonicher Marine Laboratory