



**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

Office of Spill Prevention and Response  
1700 K Street, Suite 250  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone: (916) 445-9326



September 12, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of the Department of Fish and Game, I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

As you know, the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the maintenance of California's native fish, wildlife, plants and natural communities. The proposed lab will assist the Department in ensuring the survival of marine species and natural communities by rapidly and consistently diagnosing toxins and emerging health problems in marine wildlife so that we may respond to crises and plan appropriate environmental.

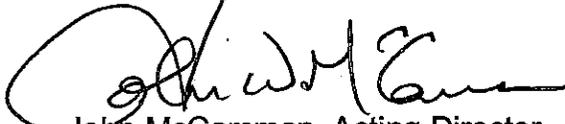
We are convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. We have worked with the UC Davis to develop the State's oiled wildlife response system, create California's Wildlife Action Plan, expand the scope of our Resource Assessment Program, and plan the recovery of multiple endangered species.

We urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
June 20, 2007  
Page Two

resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McCamman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

John McCamman, Acting Director  
Department of Fish and Game

cc: Mr. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, California 94612

Mr. Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, California 94612



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams.  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906  
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

18 July 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, I would like to express my support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the-art laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

Our Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program staff has interacted extensively with the University of California at Davis to learn more about the diseases that are killing marine mammals. Many of these diseases have anthropogenic origins, and our agency is responsible for addressing associated sources in the Central Coast. Right now many of the diagnostic tests associated with these organisms are not commonly available, certainly not for routine monitoring such as is conducted by my program. The proposed ecosystem health laboratory will provide a much needed analytical resource for this important work.

At the present time, the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program does not have the capacity to incorporate routine monitoring for these disease-causing organisms into our monitoring activities. However, we are actively working on building our financial capacity for the long-term, by building an endowment in partnership with a non-profit organization (the Bay Foundation). We hope that as our resources grow in the future, we can make monitoring of some of these organisms of concern part of our regular coastal monitoring program. Our program monitors routinely at river mouths adjacent to Marine Protected Areas, so we see tremendous opportunity here for assessing potential impacts of these organisms on these important coastal areas.

*California Environmental Protection Agency*

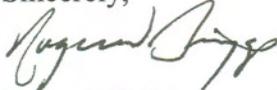
Name

- 2 -

Date

We have worked with the School of Veterinary Medicine on a number of grant projects associated with marine ecosystem health, and have already made use of their research findings in our storm water permits, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and in other regulatory and management decisions for the Central Coast. We fully expect to continue this fruitful partnership with U.C. Davis, and hope that your funding will ensure that this important facility can be built to support the monitoring of ecosystem health into the future. We are convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Briggs  
Executive Officer

cc. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

S:\Monitoring & assessment\Correspondence\UCDavislabsupport.doc

*California Environmental Protection Agency*



August 10, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman,

On behalf of California State Parks, I wish to express my support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

As Director, my department is charged with helping to protect the state's extraordinary natural heritage values, both terrestrial and marine, for the inspiration and education of present and future generations. One-third of the California's coastline is within the State Park System managed by California State Parks. These park units provide access to hundreds of miles intertidal and nearshore marine areas for fishing, scuba diving, surfing, swimming and kayaking, protection of ocean ecosystems, natural and cultural resources. Many of our units presently border special marine protected areas (MPAs) and many new areas are expected to be located off State Park units over the next few years through ongoing implementation of the MLPA process. We believe the proposed laboratory will be valuable in supporting our expanding role in providing the level of education, interpretation and ecological monitoring necessary to protect our marine environments.

We believe that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory.

We urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
August 10, 2007  
Page 2

Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,



Ruth Coleman  
Director

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 13 2007  
COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



7/18/07

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of NOAA Fisheries/ Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

As leader of the Marine Biotoxins Analytical team at NWFSC, I often get requests to analyze marine mammal tissue samples collected from stranded animals for various agencies. We do respond to these requests, however, due to a lack of designated funding for this service in our program, we often cannot provide these services in a timely manner. For this reason we strongly support the development of the proposed ecosystem health laboratory. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kathi Lefebvre", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathi Lefebvre, Ph.D.  
NOAA Fisheries  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
2725 Montlake Blvd. East  
Seattle, WA 98112

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 23 2007**

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

cc. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Jonna Mazet, Director, Wildlife Health Center, University of California, Davis



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240  
June 21, 2007

IN REPLY REFER TO: N16

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I am writing you in support of the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support construction of a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory.

The National Park Service manages eight ocean parks in California waters. These parks contain nearly 500 miles of shoreline, more than 660,000 acres of coastal habitats, including 156,000 acres of submerged lands, and host nearly 23 million public visits each year. Monitoring the ecological vital signs of these parks is the cornerstone of our stewardship program. A prototype vital signs monitoring program at Channel Islands National Park has been in operation for 25 years, and was used as a model for the National Park System. However these park-based programs do not have, but need, the capacity offered by the proposed ecosystem health laboratory.

The proposed state-of-the art laboratory to support marine ecosystem health monitoring in California would be of great value to California's ocean national parks. It could also be used to support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states, where we have additional ocean parks. This laboratory could provide centralized, high quality services and training, similar to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

The National Park Service has had a long and productive relationship with UC Davis. We believe that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. We urge you to fund the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Davis  
Chief, Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

**RECEIVED**

JUN 25 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
3435.5247.7531

July 24, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I would like to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of a proposed Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing to develop a state-of-the-art laboratory to support permanently the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will be unique in its dedication to evaluating the health of marine wildlife and the ecosystems on which this wildlife depends. It promises to provide centralized, high quality services to California, as well as to support joint ocean health efforts among the west coast states.

As you may know, the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office is charged with the responsibility for southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) recovery under the Endangered Species Act. The achievement of recovery goals depends on the identification and amelioration of factors that are suppressing population growth. Disease has been recognized as a major cause of mortality in southern sea otters, but the pathways by which disease agents reach sea otters are not well understood. The proposed ecosystem health laboratory will serve a critical role in our efforts to bring the southern sea otter to recovery by providing a means to monitor the health of sea otters, to identify new diseases that might impact the population, and to validate new diagnostic tests that can be used to monitor population health. Diagnostic capabilities at collaborating outside institutions have been reduced in the past few years, while our need to detect and monitor diseases in sea otters has grown. The proposed laboratory would be able to serve consistently in this capacity with trusted diagnostic techniques.

The VFWO has also proposed a coastal program for the central California coast, which would identify important coastal resource problems and solutions, develop partnerships to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects, and encourage community action in high priority coastal areas. Reliable information on the diseases and toxins affecting marine organisms and the pathways by which they enter the marine ecosystem will be critical to the development of solution-oriented projects and partnerships under this program.

Mike Chrisman

2

We have worked with the Wildlife Health Center at the University of California, Davis on sea otter health issues in the past and feel they have significantly advanced our recognition of diseases that affect marine mammals. We believe they are well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. Therefore, we urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the proposed Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lilian Carswell, Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Marine Conservation Coordinator, of my staff at (831) 459-4033.

Sincerely,



Diane K. Noda  
Field Supervisor

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

June 8, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of the U. S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

As Director of the Western Ecological Research Center, my research center is charged with conducting ecological research related to Department of Interior trust responsibilities, including within California, such species as seabirds and sea otters. We need the proposed marine diagnostic health laboratory in order to provide toxicant and disease determinations that support and complement our population oriented research and for addressing health issues of these ocean dwelling species.

We are convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. We have worked for many years with the veterinarians and scientists at UC Davis on health issues of sea otters and other wildlife and have found their collaboration and services timely, cutting edge and complementary to our own efforts. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, and support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources.

Sincerely,

Steven Schwarzbach, PhD  
Director, Western Ecological Research Center, USGS



**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**  
**OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR**  
FRED KEELEY - TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

TREASURY DIVISION TELEPHONE (831) 454-2450  
OFFICE: 701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 150, SANTA CRUZ CA 95060  
MAIL: POST OFFICE BOX 1817, SANTA CRUZ CA 95061

June 12, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

This letter is intended to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California.

The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health research and management efforts among the West Coast states and federal agencies. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

We urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will serve an important role in maintaining health marine ecosystems along the California coast.

Sincerely,

  
FRED KEELEY  
Treasurer  
County of Santa Cruz  
(Trustee, California Ocean Science Trust)

cc. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

June 11, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's request to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory, to be built at the University of California at Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California.

The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will also support joint ocean health research and management efforts among the West Coast states and federal agencies. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health. The facility will play a key role in providing ongoing surveillance of ocean health issues, including emerging diseases that may affect humans and wildlife. This new laboratory will greatly enhance marine ecosystem and animal disease diagnostic capabilities on the West Coast, including development of applied solutions to address problems relating to ecosystem health and wildlife conservation.

The University of California at Davis is uniquely and centrally located to be the home of this new laboratory facility on the West Coast. I urge you to provide the essential funding to support construction of the University of California's California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory at UC Davis. The proposed laboratory will serve a vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems.

Sincerely,

LOIS WOLK

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mike,

I am writing to express my support for the University of California's proposed Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory.

SCCWRP is a research consortium formed by city, county, state and federal government agencies responsible for protecting southern California's marine environment. Our mission is to provide a scientific foundation for the management decisions of our member agencies. The proposed Laboratory will assist us in accomplishing our mission by filling a scientific niche that does not presently exist in the State.

The proposed ecosystem health laboratory will assist SCCWRP in elucidating linkages between the water quality perturbations we are measuring and indicators of animal health. For example, we recently experienced a significant harmful algal bloom and documented some of the highest levels of domoic acid toxin in near shore coastal waters ever seen. However, we have limited capacity to investigate relationships between HABs and wildlife health. We would be eager to have access to the services and expertise offered by a marine wildlife health diagnostic laboratory like the one proposed. I have interacted with their staff and am convinced that the Wildlife Health Center at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to operate this proposed laboratory.

I encourage your favorable consideration of their proposal. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. Weisberg, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



---

## MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM\*

November 16, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ref: UC Davis laboratory – request for OPC funds

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

The Monterey Bay Aquarium works to inspire conservation of the oceans and supports research to advance species conservation and ocean health. We're acutely aware of the challenges facing marine ecosystems and the wealth of species that depend on these ecosystems; however, we do not have a diagnostic facility in the United States (or anywhere in the world) dedicated to evaluating the health of marine wildlife and ocean ecosystems. Without access to real-time diagnostic services, we cannot identify threats to marine species and address issues impeding sustainability and conservation of our marine resources. For this reason, I urge the Ocean Protection Council to assist in funding the proposed Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory.

The proposed service-oriented laboratory at the University of California, Davis, will utilize the latest diagnostic and laboratory techniques to test for toxins and diseases in marine species. Diagnostic tests are often developed through significant investment from wildlife agencies, but tests are no longer offered on a fee-for-service basis after the research and development phase. The establishment of a permanent, centralized, high-quality diagnostic laboratory will finally provide diagnostic services to support ocean ecosystem health in California.

I realize that the OPC has spent considerable time and effort developing a set of strategic priorities to guide its decision-making, and I commend you on this commitment. While this project may not fit directly into your highest priority funding areas, it represents an important investment in our collective ability to understand, and respond to, the growing suite of pathogens in our marine environment. A commitment of funding now will enable the laboratory to be built along with other planned construction at UC Davis, allowing the marine community to take advantage of substantial cost sharing. The UC Davis Wildlife Health Center has an excellent record of disseminating information on ecosystem and wildlife health to the agencies, institutions, and organizations making key decisions for the advancement of marine stewardship in the state and the nation.



---

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM®

The proposed Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory and the surveillance activities it will provide are critical to the long term monitoring and protection of California's coastal environment. I thank you and the OPC for your consideration of this request, and for your ongoing commitment to the future of our state's ocean resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julie Packard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julie Packard  
Executive Director

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Drew Bohan, Executive Policy Officer, Ocean Protection Council



June 14, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th Floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

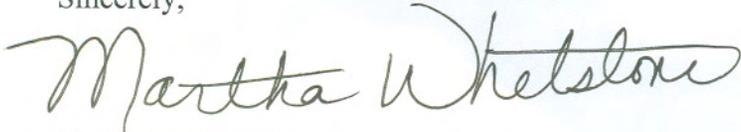
On behalf of the Marine Mammal Center, I wish to express my enthusiastic support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to help build the California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California proposes the development of a unique state-of-the art laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. This laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

The Marine Mammal Center is charged with the rehabilitation of injured and ill marine mammals, with conducting research on the diverse and complex causes of such illnesses, and with education about marine mammals and ocean health. We need the proposed ecosystem health laboratory in order to help us continue to excel in fulfilling all aspects of our mission.

We are convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is best-positioned to build and operate this laboratory. We have historically collaborated with the UC Davis for the clinical care of our patients, for example by sending samples to the microbiology laboratory for culture. We have conducted numerous successful research projects in collaboration, including work to describe the effects of domoic acid intoxication on sea lions, and to elucidate the complex relationships among toxin exposure, viral infection, and urogenital cancer in sea lions. Many UC Davis undergraduate, graduate, veterinary and post-doctoral students have gained hands-on experience with marine mammals and have carried out research projects in conjunction with our facility. The California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory will provide a center of excellence for continued collaboration on all these activities. Having a single facility that can handle both our clinical and research specimens will greatly simplify both many of our activities, and will best meet our needs. Furthermore, the laboratory can help provide an academic, scientific home for many of the students we work with, to complement the clinical facility that we provide. This will greatly improve our ability to provide top-notch, cutting-edge training that will produce future marine ecosystem health scientists.

We urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory at the University of California. The laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Whetstone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Martha Whetstone  
Executive Director

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy



1444 9th Street  
Santa Monica CA 90401

ph 310 451 1550  
fax 310 496 1902

info@healthebay.org  
www.healthebay.org

June 12, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, I wish to express support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California.

The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health research and management efforts among the West Coast states and federal agencies. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

We urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will serve an important role in maintaining health marine ecosystems along the California coast.

Sincerely,

Kirsten James  
Staff Scientist



CENTRAL COAST LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NETWORK

P. O. BOX 8346 • SANTA CRUZ • CA • 95061-4836 • 831.426.6326

July 6, 2007



Woutrina A. Miller, Ph.D.  
Veterinary Medicine  
University of California  
Davis, CA 95616



RE: Proposal for **California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory**

Dear Woutrina:



I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the referenced proposal, which is being submitted by the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis to the California Ocean Protection Council. The Central Coast Long-term Environmental Assessment Network (CCLEAN) is a regional water-quality monitoring program in the Monterey Bay area. Much of our regional monitoring approach is based on the need to protect the quality of water necessary for marine organisms. There is emerging evidence that pathogens discharged from terrestrial sources and biotoxins produced by diatoms that could be affected by nutrients discharged from land are negatively affecting the health of nearshore fauna, such as the southern sea otter. The effect of pathogens and biotoxins on the sea otter is an important area of investigation in efforts to improve ocean health, with substantial additional work planned. The proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory is an essential element in these efforts to determine the sources, amounts and effects of contaminants affecting the marine waters of California. Its research and analytical capability will provide the concentration of expertise necessary to address emerging ocean health problems related to pathogens and biotoxins. It potentially will be valuable for all monitoring and research programs and resource managers that are working to protect the quality of marine waters.



We look forward to the contribution that this laboratory would make to address environmental problems in the Monterey Bay area.



Sincerely,



*Dane Hardin*

Dane Hardin  
Director



California Program Office  
1303 J Street  
Suite 270  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone 916-313-3800  
Fax 916-313-5812  
www.defenders.org/california

June 11, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

*Re: Support for the California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory*

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife and our over 125,000 members in California, I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

As marine program associate for Defenders of Wildlife and with marine ecosystem health and the critical linkage of the land-sea connection being one of our primary roles in our marine program in California; this proposal is one that resonates deeply with us. We need the proposed ecosystem health laboratory in order to better understand marine ecosystem health, and, specifically within our programmatic work, to understand sea otter health and sea otters as critical indicators for the health of our nearshore waters.

We are convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. For many years we have worked with UC Davis staff in various departments (including the Wildlife Health Center, Epidemiology and Pathology labs) on sea otter research, conservation and recovery issues.

We urge you to provide the essential funding for the proposal to support the construction of the University of California's California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,

Jim Curland  
Marine Program Associate

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Jonna Mazet, Director, Wildlife Health Center, University of California, Davis

National Headquarters  
1130 Seventeenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-6604  
Telephone: 202-682-9400  
Fax: 202-682-1331  
www.defenders.org



UC Davis  
Lab Support  
LTR.

May 31, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute expresses its strong endorsement for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a laboratory dedicated to monitoring the health of the marine ecosystem of California. The proposed laboratory will serve our state and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. We anticipate that the proposed laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a fashion similar to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute has been conducting research along California's coastline for the past four decades. Water birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and invertebrates have all been studied relative to their roles in the regional ecosystem and toward evaluating potential human impacts on these animals. The proposed laboratory would significantly complement our existing research programs by providing diagnostic support for biomedical samples collected during the course of our field and laboratory studies. Such a laboratory would be particularly valuable to our ongoing long-term ecosystem studies in the Southern California Bight, where we have been studying the population ecology, health, and behavior of pinniped, seabird and fish communities for over 30 years. Our white seabass replenishment research program, the Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP), which we conduct in collaboration with CDF&G, would benefit significantly from a laboratory dedicated to disease surveillance and timely diagnosis, as would our replenishment program for depleted rockfish species. The Institute's marine finfish aquaculture program is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in the field. Although U.C. Davis currently is able to provide some support for fish health assessments and disease surveillance, too often we are forced to turn to distant laboratories (often in countries such as Canada and Japan) for the diagnostic support we need. A laboratory such as the one proposed by the University of California would not only expedite diagnoses and thereby improve fish health, but would provide welcome opportunities for additional collaborative research.

The scientists at HSWRI are convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. Our scientists work with Wildlife Health Center and other U.C. Davis researchers on a regular basis, including several current projects on marine mammal and marine finfish health. The availability of increased laboratory infrastructure located and operated by WHC researchers would be a tremendous asset to our public trust scientific mission.

We urge the Council to give every consideration to providing funding for construction of the California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory as proposed by the University of California. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,



Donald B. Kent  
President

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy



Program in Marine Environmental Biology  
Biological Sciences  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

University of Southern California  
3616 Trousdale Pkwy., AHF 107  
Los Angeles, California 90089-0371

31 May 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to that which currently exists for domestic animals and human health.

As a Professor of Biological Sciences at USC and a Biological Oceanographer, I conduct research on marine biotoxins that are produced by phytoplankton. My specific research focuses on the distributions of these algae and toxic events. I work closely with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, other agencies, and wildlife rehabilitation organizations on monitoring harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Southern California and examining their impact on marine animal populations. I am very excited about the proposed ecosystem health laboratory because it will help me elucidate linkages between marine biotoxins and real-world effects of these biotoxins on marine wildlife. For example, we are currently experiencing a significant harmful algal bloom, and are documenting some of the highest levels of a powerful neurotoxin, domoic acid, in nearshore coastal waters. This is the single most toxic bloom that has been documented to date in Southern California, yet we are limited in our capacity to investigate possible linkages between HABs and wildlife and human health problems. I would be eager to have access to the services and expertise at a centralized marine wildlife and ecosystem health diagnostic laboratory like the one proposed by UC Davis in order to investigate these important ramifications of poor water quality in Southern California. I am confident that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory.

I urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource

agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Caron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David A. Caron, Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Southern California  
3616 Trousdale Ave., AHF 301  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0371  
Tel. (213) 740-0203  
Fax. (213) 740-8123



DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY  
DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
TEL. (619) 543-6146  
FAX (619) 543-6614

UCSD MEDICAL CENTER  
200 WEST ARBOR DRIVE  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92103-8416

June 12, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of the University of California Veterinary Medical Center-San Diego (UC VMC-SD), I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

As Co Director of the UC VMC-SD, my charge is to provide leadership in veterinary and comparative medicine in Southern California in a joint program of UCSD and UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. We need the proposed ecosystem health laboratory in order to access diagnostic and surveillance services for marine animal and emerging zoonotic diseases.

We are convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. We have worked with the UC Davis in the UC VMC-SD since 1998 and are looking forward to collaborative opportunities in the California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory.

We urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,



Lynette B Corbeil, DVM, PhD  
Co-Director, UC VMC-SD  
Professor of Pathology, UCSD  
Professor of Population Health and Reproduction, UC Davis

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED  
JUN 18 2007  
COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
BOX 951772  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1772

July 18, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

As the Principal Investigator of the *High Speed, High Volume Laboratory Network for Infectious Diseases* (HTLN) and *Center for Rapid Influenza Surveillance and Response* (CRISAR), I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

As an infectious disease physician and Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health, I am leading an effort to build a high-throughput laboratory network that will enable near real time surveillance of infectious diseases, beginning with influenza. New and emerging infectious diseases (like influenza) are products of our ever changing and complex ecosystem that is changing in ways never fully imagined. We need the proposed health laboratory in order to appropriately monitor and understand how California's vast ecosystems are changing and to educate and train the next generation of experts in this increasingly important area that encompasses the human-animal interface and health security.

I am convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. I have worked with the UC Davis faculty on animal and human surveillance of influenza viruses and believe that they are extremely well qualified for the proposed program.

I urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Scott P. Layne'.

Scott P. Layne, MD  
Professor

cc: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy

**RECEIVED**

JUL 30 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



May 25, 2007

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Chair, Ocean Protection Council  
State Coastal Conservancy  
13th floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

On behalf of the Center for Ocean Health at Long Marine Lab, University of California in Santa Cruz, I wish to express my strong support for the University of California's proposal to the California Ocean Protection Council for funding to support the construction of the proposed Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic & Surveillance Laboratory. The University of California is proposing the development of a state-of-the art, one-of-a-kind laboratory to permanently support the monitoring of marine ecosystem health in California. The proposed laboratory will serve California, and will support joint ocean health efforts among the West Coast states. This laboratory will provide centralized, high quality services and training in a similar fashion to what currently exists for domestic animal and human health.

As part of my duty as a Research Scientist with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCSC, and an affiliate of the United States Geologic Survey – Western Ecological Research Center, I am charged with monitoring sea otter populations in California and Alaska. We need the proposed ecosystem health laboratory in order to effectively monitor the health of sea otters, identify new diseases that might impact both the California and Alaska populations, and validate new diagnostic tests that can be used to monitor population health. Diagnostic capabilities at collaborating outside institutions have been reduced in the past few years, while our need to detect and monitor diseases in sea otters has grown. We need a laboratory that will be able to serve consistently in this capacity with trusted diagnostic techniques. We are convinced that the Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, is well-positioned to build and operate this proposed laboratory. We have worked with UC Davis on sea otter health issues in the past and feel they have greatly advanced our recognition of diseases that affect marine mammals.

We urge you to provide the essential funding to support the construction of the University of California's proposal for a California Marine Ecosystem Health Diagnostic and Surveillance Laboratory. The proposed laboratory will broadly serve California's public health and resource agencies, support our collective vision of a healthier ocean for Californians and our precious living marine resources, and once again put California on the global map as a world leader in ocean governance and stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Tinker".

Dr. M. Tim Tinker  
Assistant Research Biologist

cc. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy  
Neal Fishman, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy