



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 27, 2012

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
14th & Constitution Avenue NW
Herbert C. Hoover Building
Washington, DC 20230-0001

Copy: Louisa Koch
Director of Education
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dear Dr. Lubchenco,

As the chair of the NOAA, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (AC) I am writing to express the council’s appreciation for restoring funds to the California Bay Watershed Education and Training program in this fiscal year’s budget. The loss of funding last year resulted in the elimination of many dynamic, science education programs that partner with the National Marine Sanctuaries to promote understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of watershed and ocean environments, including the Cordell Bank and the other National Marine Sanctuaries along California’s coast. These truly unique and acclaimed programs provide valuable opportunities to students for hands-on, engaging science education that is otherwise rare in today’s schools which suffer from state-wide education cutbacks. We are glad these important programs can be funded once again.

Here are some testimonials from some of the programs that CA B-WET supported before last year’s loss of funding:

-With CA B-WET funding we have been able to reach over one hundred students each year in the rural, coastal town of Point Reyes Station, over half of which are socio-economically disadvantaged. Using real scientific methods and equipment, these eager elementary and middle school students participated in learning about the Tomales Bay watershed, land use, and the impacts of human activities on our creeks, bay, and the marine environment. Our program integrated hands-on science, writing, digital media and art in a truly unique way to enhance classroom-based science education. It has truly enriched the minds and lives of these children and their families, and has raised awareness of our collective and individual impact on our coastal environment. Without B-WET funding this year, students miss the regular and meaningful engagement with their local watershed. – *Outdoor Ed in the Watershed*, Point Reyes Station, CA

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

Jaime Jahncke Research	Lance Morgan (Chair) Conservation	Kevin Krick Maritime Activities	TBD Fishing	Bill Wolpert Community-at-Large Sonoma	George Clyde (Vice Chair) Community-at-Large Marin	Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook Education
Pete Adams Research Alt.	Todd Steiner Conservation Alt.	John Berge Maritime Activities Alt.	TBD Fishing	Sarah Hameed Community-at-Large Sonoma Alt.	Mike Cummings Community-at-Large Marin Alt.	TBD Education Alt.

- SPAWN's B-WET-funded *Headwaters to Sea Summer Salmon Institute* is a unique professional development training experience focused on the connections that salmon provide between oceans and inland watersheds. Using classroom and field training, the program combined expert instructors, biologists and restoration ecologists with standards-based curriculum to provide teachers and environmental educators the skills and tools to connect their students to their watersheds year-round and become stewards of tomorrow. In the absence of B-WET funding, we had to cancel our *Summer Salmon Institute* this year, eliminating the teacher training program for 30 teachers, who collectively would have extended our reach to more than 500 students a year—year after year. While we continue to provide experiential learning activities for the 60 environmental educators and their hundreds of students from our previous Institute trainings, we heard from many disappointed teachers who learned of the program from their colleagues, and had hoped to participate in our program. – *SPAWN Headwaters to Sea, Summer Salmon Institute, Olema, CA.*

Evaluation results for National B-WET programs¹ find them to be overwhelmingly effective with collective gains in:

- teachers' confidence in their ability to implement ocean science curriculum
- students' knowledge of watershed issues
- students' enjoyment learning about and protecting the ocean
- students' and teachers ability to recognize ways that watersheds and sanctuaries can become polluted

The Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council is committed to supporting environmental and science literacy in our Bay area youth. We believe that public education is a critical link that leads to improved environmental stewardship, and that well-supported watershed and ocean education programs for our young people will benefit the long-term health of the marine environment and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. We are thankful for the restoration of B-WET funding this fiscal year, and strongly urge the continuation of future program funding at levels consistent with FY12, and more generously in the future when and if budgets allow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lance Morgan, Ph.D.
Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair

¹ NOAA California B-WET Program Project Evaluation Report Review 2007-2008 *and* An Evaluation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training Program Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences.