M B A R I MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE

31 October 2008

Mr. Roger Briggs
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Dear Mr. Briggs:

I am writing in support of the request from the Calera Corporation to renew the existing 60 MGD permit for the National Refractories site in Moss Landing, California, for the operation of Moss Landing Cement.

First, let me explain MBARI's interest in this project. For several years MBARI has had an initiative to understand the consequences of ocean acidification and has become increasingly concerned for the impacts on ocean ecosystems. Calera's process for creating cement from seawater while sequestering the CO_2 from power plants is the most promising approach currently on the table for affordably, in an energy-efficient manner, dealing with the problem of ocean acidification and global warming. At the same time, both Calera and MBARI recognize that the proposal is attractive enough, given the shortage of cement, that it could be adopted by profiteers seeking to create low-cost cement and earn carbon credits regardless of other impacts to the ocean during the manufacturing process. Therefore, MBARI is eager to be involved in this pilot facility to ensure that best practices are built into the industrial implementation from the beginning and replicated around the country and around the globe to ensure that the ocean not only benefits long-term from foregone ocean acidification, but also is not harmed in the near term by the proximity of this large-scale operation to sensitive ocean habitats.

MBARI's best scientists in the fields of ocean chemistry, marine biology, climatology, and marine geology will be working together with Calera's scientists to conduct research and publish papers that validate the process and quantify impacts, such as on the marine carbon cycle, primary productivity, coastal ecosystems, and pH. Our plan is to use the pilot facility to launch a world-class research institute where options to deal with the climate challenge are vetted by some of the top scientists in the world.

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Given our understanding of the low-temperature process used to make cement from seawater, MBARI believes Calera's process will have a more benign impact on marine ecosystems than water drawn for cooling systems. We understand that Calera Corporation, with help from MBARI's researchers, is willing to address any concerns that you and other groups might have during the pilot phase and take the necessary steps to meet these challenges as they ramp up to larger scale.

I want to emphasize how high the stakes could be here. Building the pilot in Moss Landing will ensure that the process has been thoroughly tested and analyzed by top scientists, and adjustments made where necessary to protect the ocean. If the pilot facility cannot be built in Moss Landing, the initial implementation might happen in the Middle East or someplace else where economic concerns trump environmental ones. The investors backing this new technology would like Moss Landing to be the first demonstration, and we want to help them do the right thing. We fully expect that creating cement from seawater will be a huge success within the next few years, and will largely supplant, or at least greatly curtail, the CO_2-emitting Portland cement process while safely locking up long-term the CO_2 from power plants. Moss Landing can set a wonderful example for the nation and the world.

Sincerely yours,

Marcia McNutt

Marcia McNutt
President and CEO

Cc: Peter von Langen, California Regional Water Quality Control Board