



**HOPKINS MARINE STATION
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30 November 2004

Mr. Dominic Gregorio
Division of Water Quality: Ocean Standards Unit
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Mr. Gregorio:

I am writing in response to the letter I received in late October from Ms. Celeste Cantu of the State Water Resources Control Board, concerning "Prohibition of waste discharges into the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens and Hopkins Marine Life Refuge Area of Special Biological Significance."

Per the instructions given in the first paragraph on the second page of this letter, I wish at this time to indicate that Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station intends to seek an exception to the regulations concerning discharge of water into the Hopkins Marine Life Reserve. It is essential for us to maintain our flowing seawater systems, if our programs in teaching and research are to continue. Nonetheless, we have a strong vested interest in seeing that the waters in our Area of Special Biological Significance are protected, and we plan to work closely with your Board to achieve this shared goal.

At Hopkins, we take in fresh seawater, use it in our aquaria, and, then, return the seawater back to the ocean, without adding any chemicals whatsoever. Therefore, we are not discharging any waste with the seawater we return to the ASBS. Also, we do release any exotic species into the ocean.

It is my understanding that the State Water Resources Control Board will be holding a workshop at which will be presented the specific requirements that must be met to allow the granting of exceptions and for the regulation of discharges into the Areas of Special Biological Significance. I definitely will participate in this workshop and trust that it will provide us with the guidance we need to satisfactorily meet the requirements of the California Ocean Plan.

Sincerely,

George N. Somero

Director—Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University