



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes Station, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

03/15/2010

TO: Elliot Dale

RE: **Ex 6** Application: NPS Statement of Support for NPS George Melendez
Wright Climate Change Fellowship.

Dear Review Committee:

Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) endorses the proposal by **Ex 6** (SFSU) to investigate the affects of mariculture related disturbance on harbor seals. The research will take place in Drakes Estero, which is a congressionally designated potential Wilderness area. The estero is an important breeding, pupping, and molting area for harbor seals. Unfortunately, there is considerable controversy over the nature of mariculture/seal interactions, and additional data may help elucidate the nature of these interactions and allow better management of both the mariculture program and the harbor seals.

Please consider supporting her work.

Sincerely,

Ben Becker, Ph.D.
Director and Marine Ecologist
Pacific Coast Science and Learning Center
Point Reyes National Seashore

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