



REDWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mary K Champagne, Principal
Be kind; Be safe; Be responsible

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Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 964612
January 14, 2006

Dear board members,

Exploring the marine flora and fauna off Laguna Point through the unique Interactive Underwater Program (IUP) will provide the participants with an educational experience that will lead them right into books and computer searches to answer their newly formed questions. This interactive technology will allow the viewers to extend their study beyond the visible tide pools in a safe and revealing manner.

For years, the California State Park rangers and docents have teamed with the Jughandle Farm Conservancy and Americorps in presenting exceptional field studies of the change in plant structure from the forest to the sand dunes at MacKerricher State Park. The Audubon Society has also shared their expertise with the students of the Fort Bragg Unified School District by investigating with spotting scopes and student binoculars the wide variety of bird habitats located there. The close proximity of this state park to our schools makes it an exceptional outdoor science lab for all ages.

Currently the students at Redwood are receiving an extensive series of lessons explaining in detail the water cycle's effect on the watershed and the overall importance of water. The natural extension of these lessons would be to investigate the mysteries of the marine world off our shores. The Fort Bragg High School, as a leader in marine science studies, would certainly use this specialized tool to move their studies forward. Visiting schools to our shores would also be able to make arrangements to study certain aspects of marine biology and oceanography at their own level.

Seeing first hand how interconnected and delicate the web of underwater life is by talking with the diver, students and parents can act upon this knowledge as stewards of nature. They may have the good fortune to observe the underwater activities of the harbor seal colony, record the measurements of the individual sizes of abalones at various depths or follow a hermit crab in search of a new home. Building the students' prior knowledge about how the underwater communities coexist can lead to further investigations. Even students in wheelchairs will be able to participate fully due to the accessible location of the IUP. A whole new world of science will become available to study.

This program would be a tremendous benefit to our Fort Bragg learning community. Coupling the scientific resources on the Mendocino Coast with the rare opportunities an IUP would provide insures an educational awakening as to the beauty and function of our own underwater park. With the advances in technology today, participants in this program would be able to share their information worldwide.

I respectfully urge the State Coastal Conservancy to support this program.

Kathryn Rex

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Rex". The signature is fluid and cursive.

teacher and technology committee member
rex1@mcn.org

Jan-24-2006 05:08pm

From-CA SENATE /RM #5100

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January 24, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
 State Coastal Conservancy
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 Oakland, CA 964612
 FAX: 510-286-9470

RE: Interactive Underwater Program

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I understand that a grant application, Interactive Underwater Program (IUP), is being presented to your organization by the California State Parks, Mendocino District. After studying the IUP proposal's goals, concepts, impact and likelihood of success, I am pleased to extend my strong support and endorsement for acceptance.

The IUP's interactive format that makes learning fun is an exciting prospect that should have positive influence on numerous people of all ages, incomes, abilities and cultures. This, in turn, should have constructive impact on our coastal and marine environments.

Other apparent strengths of IUP is that the program is expandable to other geographic areas, the relative cost to the number of people affected is a sound investment for California's coastal future, and IUP will continue long after the grant has ended.

I see IUP as a winner for the State, the many school children and adults who participate, and our coastal/ marine habitats.

Again, I strongly urge you to support this effort and the application for this grant. Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

WESLEY CHESBRO
 State Senator, Second District

WC: lb

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