



BREN SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT
NAOMI TAGUE, GROUP PROJECT CHAIR

SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106
<http://www.bren.ucsb.edu/>

March 23, 2016

Jorge Torre-Cosio
Executive Director

Alvin Suarez
Marine Reserves Manager for the Gulf of California & And Marine Reserves Science Responsible
Comunidad y Biodiversidad, A.C.

Juan Carlos Villaseñor-Derbez, MESM 2017
Caio Faro, MESM 2017
Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

Dear Jorge, Alvin, Juan Carlos, and Caio,

The Bren School Group Project Selection Committee has completed the process of evaluating proposals for the 2016-17 cycle. This year we received more than twice as many proposals as we were able to implement, so I am especially pleased to inform you that your project entitled "Evaluation of TURF-reserve effectiveness in Mexico," has been selected!

The students on your project team are: **Caio Faro, Jael Martínez, Juan Carlos Villaseñor Derbez, and Melaina Wright**, and the faculty advisor is **Dr. Christopher Costello**. Their email addresses are as follows:

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mmartinez@bren.ucsb.edu
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mwright@bren.ucsb.edu
costello@bren.ucsb.edu

Project teams will contact their clients within the next few weeks to schedule an initial meeting or conference call to discuss the proposed project.

The Bren student group assigned to your project will be expected to take full responsibility for developing a strategy to address the problem and produce the deliverables. Because this project also serves as a master's thesis, the students will be required to submit a final paper, project brief, and poster, and present an academic defense and public presentation in winter quarter 2017. The faculty advisor will meet with the students weekly to provide guidance with respect to the scope of the project, analytical approaches and interpretation of results, among other academic considerations.



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Clients may be involved in group projects to a greater or lesser extent, depending on your availability and expertise. We have asked the students to schedule a meeting with you and the faculty advisor during the second week of spring quarter (April 4-8, 2016) to ensure that they understand your proposed project objectives. During this meeting or shortly thereafter, the students, advisor and client should come to agreement on what is feasible for the year-long group project.

We encourage the students to maintain frequent and open communication with you throughout the year. In particular, the students may need your assistance to connect with a particular individual who or organization that may have data or expertise related to the project. Further, the students may need your assistance to actually obtain the data. To make sure that the project proceeds smoothly, we ask you to be responsive to the students' questions and let them know realistic timelines to obtaining data, the nature of the data, and any other opportunities or constraints that arise.

The students will organize quarterly review meetings in spring and fall to provide updates to you (the client), faculty advisor and other external advisors whom they may recruit to assist them. The review meetings are an important time for you to review the students' progress and provide suggestions for current and future work toward the solutions. If you are not able to participate in the review meetings in person, then we ask you to participate via phone or Skype.

If you or your organization has provided internship opportunities or financial support for this group, please discuss the terms of the internship with the faculty advisor and students during your first meeting. You may want to select an intern from the group through an application process or you may defer to the group to develop a method of selecting the intern(s). The simplest arrangement for a group project intern is to pay the student directly through your organization. If you need any assistance in planning the internship opportunity, please contact our Career Development Director David Parker (david@bren.ucsb.edu). If you will provide additional financial support for travel, supplies or other items, it is easiest if your organization is able to purchase these items directly for the students. If that is not possible, then please contact our Financial and Operations Manager, Kim Fugate (kim@bren.ucsb.edu), to discuss the best way to provide support for the group.

On behalf of all at the Bren School, I thank you for expressing your confidence in our students by submitting a project that will serve as a key component of their Master's of Environmental Science & Management education. Please do not hesitate to contact our Academic Programs Coordinator, Casey Hankey (casey@bren.ucsb.edu), if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi Tague
Group Project Chair

cc: Steve Gaines, Dean
Casey Hankey, Group Project Coordinator