January 22, 2016

Bren School Group Project Proposal Selection Committee

Bren School of Environmental Science and Management

2400 Bren Hall UC Santa Barbara, CA 93106-5131

**RE: Evaluating the effectiveness of TURF-reserves in Mexico**

Dear Bren School Group Project Proposal Selection Comitee,

I am writing in support of the Bren School proposal to perform an evaluation of the effectiveness of TURF-reserves in Mexico. Based on my preliminary discussions with Juan Carlos Villaseñor-Derbez and my review of the proposal, I believe that this project will help our Marine Reserves Program to continue to support projects that build the foundations towards sustainable fisheries management and conservation in Mexico.

While TURF-reserves have shown to be an effective approach to preserve biodiversity and sustainably manage fisheries, we acknowledge that not all coastal communities are able to invest in conservation. This project is important to Comunidad y Biodiversidad, as it will allow us to better understand which communities are more suitable for the implementation of TURF-reserves.

We expect this project to require the group to work with different types of scientific and economic data. The project will likely incorporate tasks such as data management and analysis, GIS mapping, computer programming, report writing, developing public presentation materials, project management, and developing of scientific publications.

As the client for this project, Comunidad y Biodiversidad will provide data on the location and status of the established TURF-reserves, and help the group to connect with contacts (*e.g.* other NGOs or fishers) that could provide other data and expertise. Additionally, Comunidad y Biodiversidad will provide at least one summer internships at one of our regional offices. Intern(s) will work under the Marine Reserves Program. Financial support will be available to cover travel expenses and accommodation for the length of the internship.

Feel free to contact me with further concerns.

Sincerely,

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Jorge Torre-Cosío

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