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Michael C. Watkins, Superintendent • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • 831-466-5600 • FAX 831-466-5607 • www.santacruz.k12.ca.us

September 4, 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

Oceanseed Project is a powerful solution to the biggest problems facing our community, country and world today—environmental sustainability and economic and social justice for all.

Oceanseed Project's evidenced-based, community-focused programs transform the lives of at-risk youth and thereby the future of our community by facilitating individual connections to our natural world. Oceanseed Project provides a site-based approach and access to our oceans, beaches, estuaries and watersheds accompanied with ongoing mentorship and participant-centered curriculum in the humanities, arts and science that fulfill both Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

Oceanseed Project's programs are experiential, self-directed and are on-going. Each program occurs over sustained periods time which provides participating youth appropriate time to explore an array of experiences and social interactions. This approach allows participants to discover and develop individual connections to new skills, values and the wonder of our natural world.

Oceanseed Project's framework uniquely fosters the establishment of strong soft skills in program participants. Scientific evidence unequivocally shows that the establishment of soft skills in children has the single greatest impact in life trajectories.

I strongly recommend Oceanseed Project to any organization and community considering it based on the profound impact the program has in supporting the youth of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Watkins', is written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Michael C. Watkins
County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Cruz County Office of Education