

March 5, 2007

RE: Katherine Whitaker

To Whom It May Concern,

ABA Consultants had the responsibility of monitoring for marine mammals during the installation of several fiber optic cables during 2000 and 2001. Clients included AT&T, Global Photon, and MCI, and Southern Crossing, under permits issued by the State Lands Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Katherine Whitaker has been an integral part of all ABA's marine mammal observation activities. Katherine assisted in developing the protocols that were used during the monitoring effort, and spent extended periods of time at sea performing the monitoring. She was primarily responsible for some of the report writing, supervised the other members of the monitoring team, and coordinated communications between the clients and the observers. She was excellent in all capacities. She was quite comfortable at sea, and developed an easy rapport with the wide range of people-from managers and academics to construction workers and ship crewmen-with whom she had to interact. She is cheerful and easy to work with, while at the same time being absolutely professional in performing the necessary activities. Katherine has since (2005-2006) assisted ABA in monitoring marine mammals during shoreline construction activities near Moss Landing, and performed admirably.

Katherine has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

James Oakden
Principal
ABA Consultants
