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July 29, 2011

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of  
Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)  
213 ½ North Limestone  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Re. STARS submission by California State University, Monterey Bay

Our submission of this Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report is a landmark moment in CSU Monterey Bay's commitment to sustainability, one that I affirmed in 2007 as a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. I proudly verify the accuracy of our STARS report, which supports our rating at a "gold" level. On behalf of our students, staff and faculty, I pledge a continuing effort to increase our university's contribution to a sustainable future for our planet.

The ethic of sustainability – encompassing human, environmental, and economic needs – is rooted in CSU Monterey Bay's founding in 1994 on the former Fort Ord Army base. In the years since, we have successfully transformed a military facility into a center of learning, including reuse of many buildings and careful removal and recycling of others. Our university's Vision Statement commits us to an educational program that makes high-quality education accessible to California's diverse population, while fostering innovation, recognizing global interdependence, and contributing to societal well-being.

This report documents CSU Monterey Bay's current progress across the spectrum of the STARS evaluation categories. We believe our efforts in learning outcomes, faculty research, and community service are especially noteworthy and indicative of our commitment to this effort.

Submission of this report is a great accomplishment and a credit to members of our Campus Sustainability Committee. I am grateful to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for providing this forum to motivate, educate and inspire institutions like our own. In the years to come, CSU Monterey Bay will maintain its progress while striving to meet ever-higher standards of sustainability as measured by STARS.

Sincerely,

Dianne F. Harrison, Ph.D.  
President