



Facilities and Campus Services

January 17, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the Sustainability Tracking, rating and Assessment System (STARS) Innovation Credit entitled "Toxins Reduction" being submitted by Pomona College Office Sustainability Integration Office.

With my 40 years of experience, in facility management, I have never seen such a broad approach to toxin reduction. This multi-faceted campaign has involved all areas of facilities management including planning, operations and services, along with continual communication to the campus community of changes required to the reduced impact to the environment.

Pomona's innovative green cleaning program, fertilizer reductions efforts, and integrated pest management have together significantly reduced the campus's use of hazardous and toxic materials. The College's Grounds and Housekeeping Departments have worked several years to transform the use of chemicals on the campus.

The Housekeeping Department has implemented 'Green Cleaning' through purchasing green certified cleaning products and 100% recycled paper supplies, the use of micro-fiber cleaning cloths washed in high-efficiency EnergyStar washing machine, the reduced use of aerosols on campus, using Green Seal or Ecolab certified cleaning chemical. Distribution of 53 Activation Ionator chemical free cleaning units that convert tap water to general use surface cleaner, units are also available students for personal cleaning.

In the past three years the Grounds Department has almost entirely eliminated the use of synthetic fertilizers resulting in an, 86% reduction from 2008-09 to 2009-10, with the utilization of organic fertilizers. The combined efforts of Integrated Pest Management, applying mulch (generate from our tree trimmings) in all planter areas, applying fertilizers only when needed and using organic fertilizers has resulted in the reduction of toxic pesticides use across the campus.

The open dialog of our operations staff with the various partners throughout the campus will continue to guide to us greater efforts in sustainability and help develop a better community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Quanstrom

Assistant Director of Facilities – Grounds & Housekeeping