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100 McAllister Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

John Laird to Receive 2019 Global Oceans Award

SANTA CRUZ, CA—The Seymour Marine Discovery Center will honor John Laird with the 2019 Global Oceans Award on Saturday, March 23, 2019. This award is bestowed annually to an outstanding individual who has made significant contributions to, and extraordinary impact on, the understanding and conservation of our oceans. Past awardees include Gary Griggs, Leon Panetta, Kathryn Sullivan, Julie Packard, Richard Harris, and others (complete list below).

Laird has spent nearly 40 years in service to California, most recently as the Secretary of Natural Resources. In this role he served as chief steward of California's parks, waterways, wildlife, fisheries, and coastal environment. Laird graduated with honors from UC Santa Cruz in 1972. In 1981, he was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council serving nine years, including two terms as mayor. He then served eight years on the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees. He went on to serve three terms as a state Assemblymember before becoming California Secretary for Natural Resources (2011–2019). As Secretary, his top priorities included climate change, water conservation, access to state parks, and ocean sustainability.

This benefit event supports the education programs of the Seymour Marine Discovery Center. Reservations will be accepted beginning February 5, 2019.

ABOUT THE SEYMOUR CENTER: Overlooking the Monterey Bay, the Seymour Center is a "living classroom" featuring exhibits, aquariums, touch pools, whale skeletons, full-scale elephant seal models, the Ocean Discovery Shop, and unsurpassed ocean vistas. The aquariums and exhibits feature the everyday tools of ocean exploration and focus on research conducted by scientists locally and around the world. Interactive stations provide hands-on learning experiences, while docents lead tours and bring marine science to life. The Seymour Center is a community-supported marine science education center of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

WHAT: Global Oceans Gala honoring John Laird

WHEN: Saturday, March 23, 2019

WHERE: UC Santa Cruz

TICKETS: Reservations accepted beginning February 5, 2019

GENERAL INFORMATION: seymourcenter.ucsc.edu; 831-459-3800

SPECIFIC INFORMATION / RESERVATIONS / SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES: 831-459-4568

Former Global Oceans Award Recipients:

2004 – M.R.C. Greenwood
2005 – Frans Lanting
2006 – Bruce McPherson
2007 – Leon Panetta
2008 – Marcia McNutt
2009 – Brent Constantz
2010 – Kathryn Sullivan
2011 – Julie Packard
2012 – Stephen Palumbi
2013 – Richard Harris
2014 – Andreas Merkl
2015 – Margaret Leinen
2016 – M. Sanjayan
2017 – Sam Farr
2018 – Gary Griggs

About the Global Oceans Gala: This semi-formal dinner honoring a key individual impacting ocean science, policy, conservation, or education is held each year. The event includes exquisite dishes from sustainable sources, paired with fine wines from award-winning California vintners. Proceeds directly support the Seymour Marine Discovery Center's education programs.

2019 Global Oceans Hero John Laird:

