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Foreword

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Foreword

Michael Sawyer*

At this time, we would like to thank our sponsors who have helped make this conference possible. The Boalt Hall Dean's Office has provided generous support for this symposium. The Lexis Nexis Legal Research Corporation has helped to underwrite our keynote speaker. The UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly has provided very valuable funding, enabling this event to be free for Berkeley graduate students. The UC Berkeley Chancellor's Activities Fund has made a very generous grant available to help support this event for the general campus population. Finally, we received a very nice grant from the Boalt Hall Center for the Study of Law and Society.

Just briefly, I would like to take a minute to talk about this symposium. It began, initially, with a conversation that I had with the Editor-in-Chief of the Ecology Law Quarterly, Scott Birkey. We initially thought that it would be interesting to do a retrospective—to pick certain fields of environmental law and to look back at how they have progressed over the last thirty or forty years—as a way to commemorate the changes over the years and the beginning of the new millennium. With more thought, we realized that at the dawn of a new century and millennium we did not need to look back as much as we needed to look forward. And so, we planned a symposium that we hope will give cause and opportunity to look into the future—to look at the issues that are emerging or that are upon us that will play a predominant role in the environmental discourse over the next ten to thirty years of this new century.

As the symposium idea progressed, we realized that we would be doing our audience a great disservice if we limited the symposium's scope to legal academics and practitioners. We felt

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very strongly that this symposium needed to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to looking at environmental issues. Within the law school context, environmental law classes often do not provide an interdisciplinary approach to environmental issues. Law students spend a lot of time talking about things such as standing, administrative remedies, and causation linkages. We often assume that the students, or the lawyers, either know the science or that an expert will be available to help the lawyers understand the science. In principle, this is probably the way environmental law classes should be taught. After all, clients pay environmental lawyers to resolve legal questions. However, one of the goals of this conference is to bring to light the importance of working together with the scientific and the policy disciplines, and the importance of taking an interdisciplinary approach to solving environmental problems.

The symposium has been structured around a two-tiered format that, we believe, helps facilitate an interdisciplinary approach. First, preeminent scholars from the physical and social science community will present on what they view as the major environmental challenges of this new century. Legal and policy scholars will respond by analyzing how their respective disciplines can respond to the issues framed by the scientists. We think this two-tiered approach reinforces the absolute necessity that members of all professional communities work together. Further, the symposium structure emphasizes the reality that no one community has all the right answers to any environmental discussion, nor the ability to provide all the guidance that is needed to identify issues, to formulate policy, and to implement it in an effective manner.

The Ecology Law Quarterly hopes that you, the conference participants (and our published audience), walk out of this conference with a better understanding of the critical environmental challenges that face our nation and planet in the founding years of this new century. We hope that you gain an appreciation for the range of legal and policy responses that are available to deal with these challenges. We hope that you see the over-arching themes that develop between the speakers and the panels. We hope that you gain new insights into how to integrate into your own work or research the different perspectives/knowledge of the represented professions. We hope that you see our current legal, political, and scientific institutions in a new light—one that reinforces the positive aspects of individual specialties while also setting the stage for reforming those institutional aspects that require change.
Finally, we hope that you gain a better appreciation for the needs and capabilities of our institutions to continue with their transition towards creating a more sustainable society and a more secure environment.