



October 6, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to Ms. Diana Martin. Ms. Martin served as a research associate for me in 2007 on a water resources management project regarding sustainability in the Lower Colorado River Basin. I am well acquainted with many of Ms. Martin's skill-sets, and have a clear understanding of her intelligence, attitude, and ability to accept instruction and work as a member of a team.

Ms. Martin impressed me very favorably in the time she performed her research. She was given some relatively broad mandates and challenging tasks; and one thing that impressed me was that she both followed the research plan well, and also improvised cleverly, *showing an excellent aptitude for problem solving*. Because Diana was so reliable and self-directed, I gave her increasingly more freedom, and allowed her to take the lead in creating a database at the heart of our project. Ms. Martin utilized a variety of software to complete her tasks, including database, geographical information systems, and other complementary software packages. Ms. Martin served as our liaison with professionals across the Lower Colorado River Basin, setting-up collaborative arrangements. She also contacted water purveyors, and conducted elaborate surveys of government and private entities. Towards the end of her time on our project, Ms. Martin wrote a technical report to help others to be able to follow-up her initial work. She did an excellent job, showing the professionalism to follow each of her responsibilities to their conclusion, and facilitating others taking over where she left off. I would have been happy to offer her a fellowship to stay on with us, but her plans did not allow this.

I hope this letter clarifies some of Ms. Martin's qualities. I believe that you will find that she has notable intelligence, motivation, and attention for detail, a consistently positive personality, and a keen sense of how to creatively acquire resources to accomplish important missions. She has tremendous potential.

I hope you find this letter helpful. If I can be of service, please do not hesitate to contact me at (702) 895-4440, or email bill.smith@unlv.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William James Smith, Jr.', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. William James Smith, Jr.
Department of Environmental Studies

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Department of Environmental Studies
Box 454030 CDC 728 • 4504 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas NV 89154-4030
Main 702-895-4440 • Fax 702-895-4436
<http://environment.unlv.edu/>