

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** Chris Gale [chris@beaconzone.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2005 8:58 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Cc:** Dr. Sharpe  
**Subject:** Santa Catalina Island Eagle Restoration Funding

Dear Sirs,

I am appalled to hear that funding for the Santa Catalina Island Eagle Restoration after 2005, has been denied. I feel that this is an extremely important project and I really hope that you will reconsider the funding options for Catalina Island Eagles.

I live in the state of Delaware and my husband and I drive over 2 hours to a magical place called Blackwater Refuge in Cambridge Maryland.

<http://www.friendsofblackwater.org/camhtm2.html>

We go there to see the eagles, osprey and other of natures' treasures that are being sheltered there. Hopefully some day, if you continue your generosity, you will be responsible for a magical place like Blackwater where there is LIFE, not death.

Why don't you respect nature and try to give something back that has been taken away from us all? It was man who has taken the DDT and destroyed the eagles' eggs so I feel that all of us should compensate the eagles and continue to help them recover!

Please allow generous funding for the Santa Catalina Eagles who are only there due to the money that was set aside for Dr. Sharpe and his wonderful work there with not only the eagles but other species.

Respectfully,

Christine Gale  
204 E. Wayne Way  
Fairview Farm  
Middletown, DE 19709

302-378-7840

But you never were made, as I,  
On the wings of the winds to fly!

The eagle said.

*Will Carleton*

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** Audrey Tripp [atripp@surgery.usc.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2005 9:35 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** eagles nest.

To Whom It May Concern:

I just felt compelled to voice my thoughts, although I unfortunately do not have any solutions to the problems of funding this program. I would like to say my daughter and I are very fond of the eagles nest and we view the nest daily. I have sent the link to all of my extended family and friends, who also enjoy viewing the beautiful eagles in their wild environment. Please exercise all options while considering the programs fate. Thank You.

**Audrey A. Tripp**

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## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Dianna Moore [dlmoor2@coastaccess.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2005 8:54 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Catalina Bald Eagle project

Mr. Baker:

As a native Californian who now lives in Washington state, I am saddened to hear the funding for this project is "going away". This program is necessary if the bald eagle is to continue to survive in Southern California due to the dumping of chemicals nearby. DDT continues to play a major role in the health of not just these magnificent birds, but in the health of all creatures...including humans.

The money spent on this program is not nearly enough to make or break a budget; perhaps some of the restitution from the superfund sites can fund this endeavor?

I hope this worthwhile project can be continued. It is a small number of people making a huge difference in the lives of these birds, and in our own lives by getting to watch the process. It truly is PRICELESS!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Dianna L. Moore  
Ocean Shores, Wa.  
dlmoor2@coastaccess.com

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** Hagedorn, M.D., Fred [fhagedorn@teamumc.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2005 1:40 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** CATALINA BALD EAGLE RESTORATION PROJECT

IT IS MY HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO FUND THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS VISIT THE ISLAND EACH YEAR, AND CATALINA VIGOROUSLY PROMOTES THE RETURN OF THE BALD EAGLES TO THE ISLAND. I KNOW THE PROJECT IS DIFFICULT, SINCE THE EGGS MUST BE RETRIEVED, INCUBATED, AND RETURNED; BUT IT IS A WORTHWHILE ENDEAVOR, AND AN UNMATCHED EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OPPORTUNITY. THE EAGLES MAY BE EASIER TO REINTRODUCE TO OTHER AREAS, BUT THEY WILL NOT HAVE THE IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC THAT THE CATALINA PROJECT DOES. THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. FRED HAGEDORN, M.D.

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## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** linda [ttalley9@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2005 5:23 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** eagles

Gentlemen,

While watching these beautiful birds raise a chick on this cam I am awed with the beauty of nature. Ignorance of dumping chemicals into the ocean have hurt them, but watching the three birds in this cam cooperatively feed the chick is uplifting.

The cost is \$270,000.? Wow! That's cheap compared to welfare. My husband and I are teachers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and have classes watching the eagle cam and teaching lessons about enviromental issues. I imagine the cost of your study is in the millions. Raising children is hard, raising eagles that have been poisoned by humans is even harder. Please don't cut off this great educational tool.

Linda Talley  
Lee High School  
Baton Rouge, La

Tom Talley  
University Terrace Elementary  
Baton Rouge, La

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** n3mwq [n3mwq@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2005 12:27 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Catalina Eagle Programs  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am writing to implore you to continue funding the Catalina Island Eagle programs. I believe they are a priority and your choice to continue funding will be appreciated by future generations.

I hope that you will consider allocating the needed money; for this is an important decision regarding California's eagles' future. The eagles need your help. Please don't let them down.

Thank you,  
W.T.Gale III



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## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Jane Riskin [janeriskin@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2005 2:49 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Eagle Project on Catalina

To whom it may concern:

This project is one of the most exciting, wonderful and hopeful projects that has come to my awareness. Humans, taking responsibility for the errors and oversights of other humans, is one of the most noble and important activities we can do with our lives, and with our money.

In the case of the Catalina Island Bald Eagle Restoration Project, at the very least, your support and money are helping to counter the impact of DDT pollution, which causes thin egg shells, which would prevent the chicks from hatching.

Thanks you so much for all the support, financial and other, that you have provided until now.

PLEASE -- do whatever you can do to continue, and promote funding for this project. Do it for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you,

Jane Riskin

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** CliffRider@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2005 6:43 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Cc:** wgriffin@visitcatalina.org; AMuscat@catalinaconservancy.org; ralphmorrow@catalinaisp.com  
**Subject:** Comments on draft plan for Montrose Settlement Restoration Program

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
501 Ocean Blvd., Ste. 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 980-3236

Dear Mr. Baker,

After hearing about the plan to stop funding for bald eagle restoration efforts on Catalina Island, and then reviewing the executive summary of the draft plan posted on your website, I offer the following observations:

1. Catalina Island is perhaps the only place in Southern California where large numbers of visitors can reliably see Bald Eagles in a natural setting. Seeing a Bald Eagle in the wild does far more to reach the human psyche regarding the need to preserve our environment than any number of newspaper articles or television shows.
2. Catalina Island celebrates its Bald Eagles, and uses the whole Bald Eagle recovery project as a means of enlightening over a million visitors a year regarding conservation. Not only the Catalina Island Conservancy is involved in this promotion, but virtually all the commercial tour operators as well as the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce, which represents most of the businesses on the island. For example, this year's major promotional effort for Catalina Island is the "Eagles in Paradise" program, which includes street art consisting of giant eagles located throughout the town of Avalon, educational programs for kids and adults, and a big celebration in the Catalina Casino Ballroom in early November...all organized by the Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by the business community of Avalon. In a very real sense, the continued presence of Bald Eagles has a direct impact on the economy of Catalina Island and its thousands of residents. If Bald Eagle recovery on Catalina is abandoned for some of the other projects listed in your draft, I can only imagine the level of negative public relations that will occur as a result.
3. The Bald Eagle on Catalina Island is possibly the best yardstick of measure for the ongoing impact of DDT contamination in Southern California's coastal waters. As the highest level predator, the Bald Eagle concentrates the contamination from all the lower levels in the food chain, producing an "integrated" measure of the bio-environmental presence of DDT over time. What else could provide such a highly targeted and sensitive measurement for tracking the progress of environmental recovery?
4. The Bald Eagle Restoration Program on Catalina Island is nearing success. Finally, after years of efforts, some of the eagle pairs are showing trends in DDT levels that should lead to their ability to successfully incubate their own eggs within a few years. Cutting off funding now, on the verge of the outcome that has been the goal of the program since its inception, seems both short-sighted and ill-advised.
5. I have a philosophical problem with using money...collected from the polluters for the purpose of repairing the damage they did...to fix problems they had nothing to do with. For example, Montrose did not introduce rats and feral cats to the Channel Islands. Removing these animals on those islands is an important and worthy goal. The Catalina Island Conservancy has dealt with numerous feral animal problems and continues to do so. But DDT did not cause those problems, and diverting the DDT settlement money to solve them is not fair to those who suffered direct damage as a result of the DDT contamination. I can't see how such a diversion of funds will stand up to public scrutiny.



6. There is another more complex case for maintaining Bald Eagles on Catalina Island. The Catalina Island Fox has just recently been saved from the brink of extinction due to an epidemic of canine distemper. This was accomplished by spending well over a million dollars and countless hours of both paid professional and volunteer time on the project. Although yet to be proved with certainty, it appears that the presence of Bald Eagles on Catalina prevents Golden Eagles from establishing residence on the island. Where the Bald Eagles have not been re-established on the Northern Channel Islands, Golden Eagle depredation has been one of the principal reasons leading to population crashes of Island Fox. Abandoning the Bald Eagle recovery project on Catalina Island may well result in the same dynamic occurring there in the near future, as its population of Bald Eagles die off or move away due to lack of reproductive success. The fox recovery program on Catalina has received extensive positive local, national, and international coverage, from the first understanding of the epidemic, to the captive breeding program, to the release of fox puppies back into the wild, and finally the release of the captive breeding pairs back into the wild with the declaration that the recovery was successful. Once again, I can only imagine the interest level on the part of all those same newspaper and television reporters to the story that Catalina's Bald Eagle restoration project, on the brink of potential success, is being abandoned in favor of killing cats on the Northern Channel Islands, and that this abandonment may put Catalina's fox in danger once again.

In summary, I believe that there are rational, scientific, economic and equitable reasons for continuing support of the Catalina Island Bald Eagle recovery program, and very real public relations risks for not doing so. I would therefore strongly recommend that whatever program decisions are made as a result of public input to the draft recommendations, that continued full funding of the Catalina Island Bald Eagle recovery program be included in the final outcome.

Respectfully,

Clifford Hague

Note: I have written this letter to you and your organization as an individual expressing my own personal opinions regarding the various points I've raised. I should disclose that I have direct relationships with certain organizations, including a number based on Catalina Island, but also that the statements and opinions expressed above are mine only, and do not reflect any formal position by any of the organizations with which I am associated.

Clifford Hague  
 Chairman, Catalina Transportation Services, Inc.  
 Chairman, Catalina Island Vacation Rentals, Inc.  
 President, Catalina Island Property Management  
 President, Catalina Island Museum Board of Trustees  
 Director, Catalina Island Conservancy Board  
 Member, Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau  
 Member, National Resource Defense Council  
 Member, Nature Conservancy  
 Member, World Wildlife Fund  
 Full-time resident of Avalon, California

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** Brooks, Miranda [Miranda.Brooks@fra.dot.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2005 9:31 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Eagles

What a fascinating and environmentally important the Catalina bald eagle project is! It should not be on anyone's projected agenda to in any way alter or end this program.

We do so much horrible damage to our animals on this planet and most of the time I don't see us doing anything about it. We hear there are studies done but not very often does one see actual events taking place to help a species survive. When one does, it helps keep us from being totally lost in recklessness. This is one project that is working and it gives us humans just a little bit of our humanity back.

Please do not stop the project! If anything this project should be encouraged and supported and continued and hailed as a great thing. We kill baby seals and we are about to do damage to the animals in Alaska. Let this project continue and perhaps it's beacon of humane caring and decency towards our environment and animals will somehow reach out to others.

Thank you,

Miranda J. Brooks

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Dirk H. Van Vuren [dhvanvuren@ucdavis.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2005 10:55 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Catalina Eagles

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program

Dear Mr. Baker;

I am writing to comment on one aspect of the Draft Restoration Plan of the Montrose Trustee Council: the plan to stop funding the restoration of bald eagles to Catalina Island. I am strongly opposed to this action, and I believe the funding for bald eagle restoration to Catalina Island should be continued.

The Draft Plan argues that funding should be stopped because the eagle population on Catalina is not self-sustaining--and that this is because of continued effects of the DDT contamination caused by Montrose. The problem with this argument is that the concept of "restoration" is not limited to establishing self-sustaining populations; rather, it means restoring a functioning ecosystem. Actions by Montrose caused the extirpation of bald eagles from the Catalina Island ecosystem, and settlement funds should be used to undo this damage. The question of whether or not the eagle population is self-sustaining is secondary, and is a financial question, not an ecological one. Many restoration projects require annual support for many years, and funding only those that we can walk away from in a few years generates a short-term mentality that defeats the concept of restoration.

Sincerely,

Dirk Van Vuren, Professor  
Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology University of California  
Davis, CA 95616

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Rick Brown [rnb2@humboldt.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2005 1:21 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Bald Eagle Restoration Dismissed?



Letter in response  
to planned ...

Hello,

Please find the attached comment on the plan to stop funding eagle restoration in the Channel Islands with monies from the Montrose Settlements. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this comment.

Best Regards,

Richard N. Brown  
Department of Wildlife  
Humboldt State University  
1 Harpst Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

Office Phone: (707) 826-3320  
Office Fax: (707) 826-4060  
E-mail: RNB2@humboldt.edu



# HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Wildlife

25 April, 2005

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562-980-3236)  
Email:msrp@noaa.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to provide a comment on the chosen alternative for allocating funds from the Montrose Settlement for the restoration of the Southern California Bight. I am specifically concerned that you are planning to end bald eagle restoration in the Channel Islands. It is clear to everyone that pollution, specifically DDT and PCB contaminants, led to the decline in bald eagles in the region. It is also equally clear that the establishment of nesting golden eagles in the Channel Islands resulted, at least in part, from the decline of bald eagles. Thirdly, predation on island foxes by golden eagles is understood to be a primary threat to the viability of the four subspecies of island foxes listed separately as endangered under the ESA. Thus, humans caused the decline of bald eagles, bald eagle restoration is an essential component of long term management of golden eagles in the Channel Islands, and bald eagles are therefore an essential component in the management of four endangered foxes in the Channel Islands.

Unfortunately, funding for conservation programs, even of high profile species including bald eagles and island foxes, is always limited. The Montrose Settlement has been used to support bald eagle restoration in the Channel Islands during past couple of years, and the funding is considered essential for the future viability of the bald eagle restoration program. While I am aware that DDT and PCB levels persist in the food chain, and that eagle reproduction may not be sustainable because of the persistence of these pollutants in and around the Channel Islands, I am also a firm believer in the necessity to maintain high profile conservation efforts. Bald eagles were a top predator, and they are an essential component of the ecological web of the region. By cutting the funding to bald eagle restoration, it is my belief that you are unnecessarily jeopardizing efforts directed toward the recovery of both the bald eagle and the four listed island foxes (which indirectly suffer as a result of pollution on which the settlement is based), and that you are ignoring public demands for the continued conservation of bald eagles. I encourage you to reconsider this aspect of the preferred alternative or to choose a different alternative such as Alternative 3.

Thank you for your time,

*Richard N. Brown*  
Richard N. Brown, PhD, DVM  
Department of Wildlife  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521

707-826-3320  
RNB2@humboldt.edu

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** Brian Cagan [brian.cagan@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2005 1:24 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** bald eagle program  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Baker,

I have been following the eagle restoration program on Catalina for over 1 year now and I cannot begin to tell you the great pleasure it has brought me. Knowing that someone is helping to increase the bald eagle population in southern California is very comforting. With humans taking away the habitat from animals all over the world, it is of utmost importance to help them survive when we can. I watched the fostering of the chick into the West End nest last year and checked on her every day. I am again watching the new chick with equal interest. My conversations with friends inevitably include the phrase, "did you see the chick today?"

I had the honor of seeing a Catalina Island eagle up close and it was an experience I will never forget. If this program ends, very few people will ever get to have that amazing opportunity. Having the chance to see a bald eagle, the symbol of our country, is something every child is entitled to. I do not use the term loosely, but they are truly awesome creatures. I know I speak for many people when I say please do not end this program.

Thank you,

Denise Ransom Cagan

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** ANTONIO VILLARREAL [royalvillage33@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2005 8:23 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Bald Eagles

Is it true that Montrose Settlements Restoration Program is abandoning the project to repair the damages done to the Bald Eagle population? I believe this to be a devastating decision of it is true. I strongly feel that you should not be allowed to abandon your responsible to the environment damages produced by your company. Please continue the efforts to save the Bald Eagle population of Catalina Island. You need to fix what you broke.

ANTONIO

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Pamela Upton [uptonpamela@qwest.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2005 6:41 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Montrose Restoration Program

Dear Sir:

I am writing to voice my opinion on the Montrose Restoration Program for bald eagles on Catalina islands. Please don't let a corporation get away with polluting a habitat by allowing them to cease funding this program. Only now, some 40 years after DDT was banned are we beginning to see a rebound in the populations of birds of prey here in the Midwest where I live. Restoration efforts must continue!

Thank you,

Pamela S. Upton  
763-323-9853



Alexandra Winqvist  
USC WMSC  
One Big Fisherman's Cove  
Avalon CA 90704

April 26, 2005

In regards to: Bald Eagle Restoration

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlement Restoration Program  
501 Ocean Blvd, Suite 4470  
Long Beach CA 90802

Dear Sir:

Please do not put the Catalina bald eagle program at risk by removing funding. Funding made possible by the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program is vital to the survival of Catalina's burgeoning bald eagle populations, the return of Catalina to a healthy ecosystem, the protection of the endangered Catalina Island Fox, and environmental and marine education in southern California.

At the University of Southern California's Wrigley Marine Science Center we regularly bring people to learn about and admire the beauty of the bald eagle. These people, of all ages, come from all over – from southern California to the maritime provinces of Canada to East Asia. The bald eagle program is essential to our visitors understanding the importance of bald eagles on Catalina, conservation, and the importance of foresight in daily decisions regarding the environment.

Please continue to support the bald eagle program on Catalina.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Winqvist, USC WMSC Education staff

Leslie Baer, MAOM  
Chief Communications Officer  
Catalina Island Conservancy

Comments to the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program Public Hearing  
April 28, 2005 – Long Beach Federal Building

Good morning. My name is Leslie Baer and I am the Chief Communications Officer for the Catalina Island Conservancy. I know that you have already heard the concerns of our President and Chief Executive Officer, Ann Muscat, so I will not restate those here for the Committee in detail. I will however state those concerns in brief for the members of other concerned organizations, and for the public who are here today.

As most people here today probably already know, the Montrose Settlement was established after Montrose Chemical Company and others were found culpable for the systematic dumping of DDT and PCBs over decades. The marine environment around Catalina Island and the San Pedro Basin was particularly hard-hit. These chemicals in the offshore sediments were determined to be the cause of the total disappearance of bald eagles and peregrine falcons from Catalina Island by the early 1960s. They were also the cause of failed nesting of numerous sea birds, and of the contamination of a number of popular eating fish.

Today, 20 bald eagles call Catalina Island home thanks to a comprehensive restoration effort by the Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS), which works directly with eagle eggs to ensure reproduction; and the Catalina Island Conservancy, which protects in perpetuity the habitat that the eagles and other important species call home.

While the Conservancy's restoration and protection efforts are privately funded, the intensive efforts by the Institute for Wildlife Studies have, in recent years, been funded by monies from the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program. The current proposal by the Montrose Natural Resource Trustees would reallocate these funds to efforts on the Northern Channel Islands and islands well south in Mexico.

The Catalina Island Conservancy respectfully disagrees with the alternatives favored by the Trustees, which would discontinue funding of eagle restoration efforts on Catalina Island and which could have a number of highly undesirable impacts.

There are a number of reasons to continue funding Catalina's bald eagle restoration, and taking it a step further, to allocate additional funding for peregrine falcons and marine fisheries restoration. I'll state six of those reasons today:

First, it is too soon to abandon efforts on Catalina Island. According to the most current data from the Institute for Wildlife Studies, the organization that is actually handling bald eagle eggs on Catalina Island, DDT levels are decreasing in the eggs of at least one pair of nesting eagles. This suggests that Catalina's bald eagles may soon be able to reproduce on their own, and that it is simply too soon to abandon restoration efforts on Catalina.

A second reason to continue funding, is that in the absence of the human intervention which is now ensuring reproduction, the bald eagles now present on Catalina Island may leave. It cannot be assumed that Catalina's current population of eagles would stay on the Island if they couldn't reproduce over the next few years; and, in fact, the reallocation of funds could mean the disappearance once again of bald eagles from Catalina, the island hardest hit by Montrose dumping. And since many eagles produced on Catalina relocate to Northern Channel Islands, discontinuing funding on Catalina could negatively impact restoration efforts on all the Channel Islands.

A third reason to continue funding restoration efforts on Catalina Island, is that based on the stated goals of the settlement, public access to bald eagles should be a priority. With more than a million visitors each year, and as the only Channel Island with significant visitation, Catalina Island is the one place in Southern California that a significant number of people can visit to enjoy bald eagles in a natural setting. Since the Montrose Settlement was meant to restore this natural resource to the public, Catalina should be a priority where funding restoration efforts is concerned.

A fourth reason, is that settlement monies are most appropriately used on and near Catalina. Montrose Settlement monies were meant to address damage to natural resources such as bald eagles that were impacted by DDT and PCBs directly. These monies were not meant for addressing the impacts of introduced predators and invasive plant species that are now negatively impacting sea bird populations. The Trustees are proposing that as an alternative to funding the important bald eagle or peregrine falcon restoration work on Catalina, or fisheries restoration around Catalina, the monies be reallocated to fund bald eagle and marine restoration on the Northern Channel Islands and for the eradication of cats and rats, some of which would be done in Mexico. These locations are far from Catalina and the San Pedro Basin, the site of the greatest impacts of the dumping. In order to meet stated goals of the Montrose Settlement, these funds should be applied in the areas of greatest impact, making Catalina Island and its surrounding waters the most appropriate site for use of Montrose Settlement funds.

A fifth reason to continue funding bald eagle restoration on Catalina, is that in the absence of bald eagles, Catalina's Endangered fox may be at risk. While much is still unknown, it is possible that the presence of bald eagles on Catalina deters the

formation of a golden eagle population. Golden eagles have decimated Island fox populations in the Northern Channel Islands. Discontinuing bald eagle restoration efforts on Catalina is simply too risky to the continued recovery of the Catalina Island fox, which is federally listed as an endangered species and is found on Catalina and nowhere else in the world.

A sixth reason to continue funding on Catalina is pure economics: Catalina is the most cost-effective investment of Montrose monies. An investment in Catalina's recovery efforts is an investment in a comprehensive eagle recovery effort which includes the human intervention still necessary to ensure reproduction, the protection and restoration of bald eagle habitat that is critical to the birds' survival on the Island, and, important educational outreach efforts that engender an appreciation of these magnificent birds and inspire the public to support their reestablishment and protection.

Members of the Committee, in your proposal, your preferred alternatives spend settlement money on species in far-away places. The Catalina Island Conservancy would ask that you create an alternative that guarantees that you will continue to provide funds for bald eagle restoration work on Catalina – just about \$250,000 a year of the \$25 million you have stated remains for this type of restoration. This investment would ensure that these magnificent birds will fly free for millions of Catalina visitors to enjoy today, and throughout future generations.

We also wish to note that bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and sea birds need a healthy ocean and island. The Committee also proposes to spend significant funds supporting research on fisheries in the recently designated Marine Protected Areas on the Northern Channel Islands. Catalina, the island hardest hit and most visited, should also be considered for funding for its fisheries and ecosystems.

In conclusion, I would respectfully suggest to you today, that not only is it imperative that bald eagle restoration efforts on Catalina continue to be funded, but also, that funding bald eagle restoration on Catalina Island is the very best use for Montrose Settlement dollars, and, is the **ONLY** use that even begins to meet the goal of the settlement to return this resource to the public.

Thank you.

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Post Office Box 484  
Avalon, CA 90704  
April 29, 2005

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
501 Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am writing in regard to the proposal by the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program Committee to end funding of the Catalina Island Bald Eagle Reintroduction Program. I have a concern that such a proposal is under consideration, as I believe that the purpose of this Montrose settlement was supposed to, in part, restore lost natural resources in the southern California area.

I spent my growing up years on Catalina Island and one of the exciting experiences for me and countless other residents and visitors alike was the opportunity to see magnificent bald eagles living along the coastline. The dumping of DDT by the Montrose Chemical Corporation helped put an end to this. Thanks to the efforts of the past twenty or so years, once again, millions of people are enjoying the site of our national symbol residing here.

Three eaglets were recently hatched from eggs produced on the island this year. I understand that this success rate is greater than ever before in eggs hatched through human intervention. It appears to me that progress is being made toward future eggs being able to hatch on their own. What a shame to drop this program when such progress is being made.

Even if eagles were not able to successfully hatch without human intervention, is it not the purpose of the Montrose settlement to restore lost resources? If human intervention is the only way to achieve this with Catalina's eagle population, it would be very much in keeping with that purpose to continue this very worthwhile effort.

More and more is being learned each year as to the importance each native species is to the overall ecological health of Catalina. I respectfully urge the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program Committee to continue funding this important and worthwhile restoration effort.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rose Ellen Gardner  
President and CEO, Retired  
Catalina Island Conservancy

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Lou Ann Denison [lannd4animals@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 01, 2005 2:08 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Keep Funding for Bald Eagles!

Gary Baker, Program Manager

As you know restoration funds were funded by those companies that were responsible for the decline of animals affected by the duping of DDT. Eagles were especially affected-- so now that money should be used to help restore the important population of Bald Eagles on Catalina Island. This is important to the Catalina Island fox population as well. Please support continuation of the funding for the Bald Eagle Rehabilitation Program!

Thank you.

Mr. & Mrs. James L. Denison  
6931 E. 11th St.  
Long Beach, CA 90815

## GLEN A. SMITH

---

1701 E. Palm St.  
Bellflower, CA 90706  
562-804-9152  
smithgl@msa.com

May 1, 2005

**Greg Baker, Program Manager**  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Baker,

I wish to express my concern that earmarked Catalina Island funds designated to restore the Bald Eagle population on the island is in danger of being reallocated elsewhere. This is a very bad proposal since diversion of funds for the most heavily impacted area providing habitat to such critical keystone species is folly. Restoring the marine system in the Catalina Island and San Pedro basin area is of paramount importance to keeping a stable and thriving environment for this Bald Eagle species.

We all know a healthy wildlife community is representative of a healthy environment, and maintaining such is a positive feedback to island visitors wishing to enjoy a healthy lifestyle!

Please stop the proposed diversion of the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program funds away from the Catalina Island and San Pedro basin area.

Sincerely,



Glen A. Smith

**Milena Viljoen**

---

**From:** The McKays [mckays@catalinaisp.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2005 12:47 PM  
**To:** greg.baker@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Catalina Island Bald Eagle Project

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am very concerned about your proposal to scrap the Catalina Island Bald Eagle project. This project has resulted in several pairs of breeding birds and a growing population, yet you propose to withdraw funding because the eggs still rely on human intervention in order to be successfully hatched. I cannot fathom your logic. Human intervention was needed at the outset because of DDT in the ecosystem, and that DDT still exists in the waters off Catalina Island. Therefore, human intervention in order to overcome the deleterious effects of the chemical for which the Montrose Fund was established may always be required. I feel you would be making a huge political and ecological mistake to simply abandon the project.

Politically, the public will have an even more negative view of the company responsible for DDT. You will be viewed not only as the creator of this terrible chemical, but the company that pulled the rug out from this highly visible bald eagle project. The return of the eagle has become a major source of pride and symbolic of Catalina Island's native heritage. Thousands of visitors annually are enthralled by the story of the reintroduction of the bald eagle to Catalina Island.

Ecologically, I view the abandonment of these eagles as terribly inhumane. They are finally able, with human assistance, to thrive in their former channel island home. I see withdrawing your support as punishing the bald eagles because they have not been able to overcome the damage created by your DDT in their food chain. I understand that the northern channel islands eagle project may have greater success, due to less DDT in the food chain, but please keep in mind that it was no fault of the bald eagle that DDT nearly caused their extinction. Both projects deserve funding.

Sincerely, Karen McKay [mckays@catalinaisp.com](mailto:mckays@catalinaisp.com)



## Milena Viljoen

---

**From:** Pollina, Bettie Jean [BPollina@stclaircounty.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 03, 2005 8:27 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Bald Eagle funding

I feel that it would be in the best interest of the country to continue the funding. We are starting to bring these beautiful eagles back. Let's keep up the good work, and not lose what has been accomplished.

The Eagle is the representative of our great country. What is next, if we lose them?

*BETTIE JEAN POLLINA*

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Fritz Hertel [fritz.hertel@csun.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2005 8:52 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Bald Eagles

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Greg Baker,

This is a quick comment with regards to the Montrose Restoration Plan for the California Channel Islands. I have read the section on the Bald Eagle and I would like to encourage continued funding for the their restoration on the islands. I see that funds have proposed for certain aspects of the Bald Eagle project but not necessarily for their reintroduction. I have assisted Dave Garcelon (Institute for Wildlife Studies) with his efforts on various occasions over the years and I think he has made great strides on the behalf of the eagles. Much of what we have learned is the result of his efforts and I think further investment would be worth it. I understand the concerns for not wishing to support certain aspects of the Bald Eagle project but this letter is a word of encouragement for continued support for the reintroduction aspects of the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fritz Hertel, Ph.D.  
Department of Biology  
18111 Nordhoff St.  
California State University  
Northridge, CA 91330-8303

Phone: (818) 677-3353  
email: fritz.hertel@csun.edu

*Bette and Frank Brooks*  
27711 Hidden Trail Road  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653  
(949) 643-2301(H)/(949)367-9900(W)  
(949)302-1470 (B-c)/(949)300-1470 (F-c)  
[brooksbe@cox.net](mailto:brooksbe@cox.net)/[brooksfr@cox.net](mailto:brooksfr@cox.net)

May 4, 2004

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Baker:

Our letter is in regard to the Bald Eagle Restoration Funding Allocation Changes regarding Catalina Island under the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program.

Your Alternative 2 Plan looks comprehensive. It shows the overview of financial allocation; What we can't determine is exactly how it affects that destination which is near and dear to our hearts, Catalina Island. Since the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program monies are designated to work to provide restoration to those areas hardest hit, then most noticeable would be those areas where tourists and Californians can appreciate those restoration efforts. In regard to land masses, it would seem logical to spend much of that restoration money on the hardest-hit island of Catalina and the waters around it, both because it is the most affected, and because people (who ultimately paid the price for this restoration) like to enjoy that area.

While you have yet to determine whether the bald eagle will be able to reproduce on its own or not, it seems that this is exactly what the restoration monies are supposed to do – work at restoring the natural habitat and the natural processes which contribute to it. It may take longer than 'expected' and in fact may never be totally achieved, but the advances made on that behalf are the very purpose designated by CERCLA. The added advantage of potentially restoring the bald eagle population, and quality of water and marine life surrounding Catalina, is that those efforts would be doubly rewarded because of the appreciation of the public for those very efforts. While the other islands may also need attention, they are both farther away from the original contamination (thus hopefully less in need of restoration), and are areas which offer limited access for public enjoyment and appreciation purposes. There must surely be a weight of responsibility on the part of MSRP funding to benefit the public in its restoration efforts. That said, we respectfully request more funding go to Catalina Island's work with the bald eagle population's restoration, and in fact, additional monies be provided for some kind of "Bald Eagle Experience" where the public can enjoy these wonderful birds in their natural habitat.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests in your overall Funding Allocations.

Regards,

*Bette and Frank Brooks*

## Milena Viljoen

---

**From:** Jim & Carolyn Jacob [lobster@sssnet.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 07, 2005 9:28 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Catalina Island Eagle Program

I feel that it would be a tragedy to end what has been a successful and educational program to restore and enhance our national eagle population.

There are so many wonderful people that are involved and so many of us "out here" in the US that care about this project, I cannot imagine that the small percentage of funds from the total budget delegated to this worthwhile cause would be deemed disposable.

I respectfully ask you and your committee to reconsider cancellation of the Catalina Island funding.

I for one will be offering financial assistance to this and three other programs nationally in which I have a personal interest, to the small degree that I can. Hopefully others will too, but we really need a consistent funding source for the base costs to maintain the program.

Hoping for your consideration.

Carolyn Jacob  
4060 Isle Circle NW  
Massillon, OH 44646

**Milena Viljoen**

---

**From:** Lou Kridle [Lou@Kridle.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2005 9:04 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov; Dana@Mail.house.gov; Senator.Lowenthal@sen.ca.gov;  
Frank.clifford@latimes.com; jkay@sfcronicle.com; Cox@Mail.house.gov  
**Subject:** Montrose Settlements Restoration Program - Catalina Island

As you may know, the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program is thinking of discontinuing funding efforts on Catalina Island to restore the bald eagle. They are asking for public comments on their proposal by May 23, 2005.

**Please use your influence to change their mind. Do not let them divert funding away from this critically need effort on Catalina Island.**

Attached, please find a letter I sent to Greg Baker, Program Manager on the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program.

Sincerely,

Lou Kridle

May 9, 2005

To: Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
C/O Greg Baker, Program Manager  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA. 90802

Subject: Funding of eagle restoration efforts on Catalina Island.

Dear Mr. Baker:

**Please do NOT reduce/reallocate funding of the eagle restoration efforts on Catalina Island.**

The Catalina Island effort is a critical part of the Restoration Plan and funding must be maintained at its current level. The recent establishment of an eagle incubation facility ON Catalina Island shows how Catalina Island is the focal point for the successful efforts to reestablish the bald eagle on Catalina Island as well as other Northern Channel Islands.

Monies from the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program must NOT be diverted from efforts on Catalina Island at this critical time. Current data from The Institute For Wildlife Studies indicates that DDT levels are decreasing in the eggs of one pair of nesting eagles. BUT, it is simply too soon to abandon restoration efforts on Catalina Island.

In your options to use available funding in a wise manner, I plead with you to continue funding the eagle restoration efforts on Catalina Island at its current level. Please do NOT divert critically needed funds from Catalina Island's efforts for the restoration of the bald eagle.

Sincerely,

Lou Kridle  
PO Box 8823  
Anaheim, CA. 92812  
(714) 536-7151

- A lover of our natural environment and Catalina Island's wildlife.
- A property owner on Catalina Island, as well as a visitor there for over 50 years.

**Marnie Gaede**

5218 Donna Maria Lane  
La Canada, CA 91011  
818-952-0108

May 8, 2005

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlement Restoration Programs  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802

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MAY 10 2005

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
NATURAL RESOURCES-SWR

Dear Mr. Baker:

As a citizen and a teacher I should like to comment on the Draft Restoration Plan that outlines how funds will be used to help wildlife recover from the impact of DDT in the Southern California oceans. I have read your Draft Restoration Plan and in the Executive Summary I would like to differ with the preferred Alternative 2, under which funding for the Catalina Island Bald Eagles would cease after 2005. Instead I prefer Alternative 3 because it would continue the effort to maintain the 5 nests on Catalina Island.

I teach Environmental Issues at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. There isn't much "good news" and each term I refer my students to the great collaborative work between the Montrose Settlement and the Institute for Wildlife Studies. In fact, this is my visual poster child for a chemical company taking responsibility for the impact of DDT upon wildlife. Each spring my students watch the Bald Eagle's nest, noting the necessity for fostering the chicks into the nests due to weakened eggshells.

I understand that the goal of this program is for the Bald Eagles to be self-sustaining in their re-establishment to the Catalina Island ecosystem. I also believe that there hasn't been enough time given to the project and that continued fostering and manipulation is important. Many have criticized the effort and financial cost made in restoring the California Condor to the wild. Through that effort, many conservation strategies were discovered that have benefited other species recovery efforts. The Catalina Bald Eagles may be able to provide important strategies for long-term chemical impacts and long-term recovery efforts.

A great deal of effort has gone in to establishing the nests and territories for these eagles. If the project loses funding and the nests fail to reproduce offspring, the Bald Eagles may abandon the Catalina ecosystem. If the ecosystem subsequently recovers from the DDT and PCB contamination, the Bald Eagle repatriation would, in effect, need to start over again. That is why I recommend continuing the work of the Catalina Bald Eagles. It is an optimistic investment in the future.

There are many citizens and students that have watched these Bald Eagles via the web cam. For many, including myself, it is wonderful to watch the process of re-establishing this wonderful bird to the Catalina Island ecosystem. The three Eagles on the West End nest are inspirational and educational.

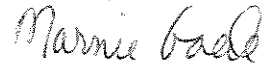
I have given many talks to Elementary and Secondary school classes on the importance of being a good steward to the planet and how to protect wildlife and biodiversity. The Bald Eagle project on Catalina demonstrates how human intervention can work to help repair the damage done to an ecosystem. I always refer to this project in my lectures.

I hope that the Trustees see that these benefits outweigh the cost and the as yet unknown time for complete recovery. It took thirty years and millions of pounds of DDT to create the problem, and I believe it needs more time to see if all the efforts to date can contribute to success in the future. Why jeopardize the Bald Eagle territories before all efforts to stem the effects of DDT have been exercised?

The current program of restoration is the best choice for the Bald Eagles of Catalina and the Channel Islands. This program recognizes the goal to return an injured natural resources to respective baselines. The Institute for Wildlife Studies non-profit has done an outstanding job of including the public in the effort supported by the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program. The techniques learned on Catalina will benefit the effort on the Channel Islands, as well as other ecosystems that have been damaged by chemicals.

I also believe that what is good for the Bald Eagle will ultimately benefit numerous other species in the ecosystem and request continued support for the Catalina Bald Eagles nests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marnie Gaede".

Marnie Gaede



MAY 12 2005

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
NATURAL RESOURCES-SMR

Date: May 9, 2005  
To: Greg Baker, Program Manager, Montrose Settlement Restoration Program  
From: Jack Baldelli

Subject: Opposition to Stopping Bald Eagle Restoration Program on Catalina Island

I have been coming to Catalina Island since 1957 and have seen first hand the positive changes that have been taking place in the Island's ecosystem. For over 30 years the Catalina Island Conservancy has worked tirelessly to raise private dollars to restore habitat on Catalina Island. Just this month they discovered a plant thought to be extinct on the Island. The Conservancy has also been paying for the restoration of Catalina's ecosystem so that Bald Eagles can have a healthy habitat in which to live. While the Montrose Settlement has supported the Bald Eagle Restoration Program for the last five years, the Conservancy and others have been contributing to its success for the past 25 years. Nonetheless, I would like to thank the Trustees for their support of the existing Eagle Restoration Program on Catalina Island. It is one of my greatest thrills to see with my own eyes eagles nesting and living on Catalina. It would be a crime to stop this program at this time. It would eliminate our national bird for a second time, and this is wrong and a foolish mistake that should not be allowed to happen.

Here are some of the reasons why I feel the program on Catalina Island should be continued:

1. I do not feel that the Montrose Settlement money should be use to kill cats and rats on Mexican Islands and Northern Channel Islands. While this is something that needs to be done, in my opinion it does not even come close to meeting the guidelines of the trust agreements. This appears to be nothing more than a grab for money, and the guidelines for this agenda do not comply with the Montrose Settlement goals. You could justify feeding the homeless with the Montrose money if you use the same logic that is used to fund killing cats in Mexico.
2. I also feel that the Montrose Trustees (all federal and state agencies) channeling almost all of the money to the Northern Channel Islands, which are primarily under federal and state jurisdiction, is a conflict of interest. Catalina and the San Pedro Channel is where the greatest injury by DDTs has been done, and should be receiving the lion's share of this money.
3. It is too early to abandon this program since some of the breeding pairs egg shells may soon be thick enough to hatch on their own. There must also be other ways that the Trustees and the Catalina Island Conservancy can keep this program going. They both need to think out of the box and come up with a program that is cheaper, better and tries different strategies to keep the eagles alive forever on Catalina Island.
4. Catalina is the only place that millions of people in Southern California can see Eagles in the wild. Some of Catalina eagles are flying to the mainland, so that is

another reason to keep the program going. These eagle are supplying mainland populations.

5. The Conservancy has also saved the endangered Catalina Island Fox from near extinction using all of their own money. If the program ends on Catalina Island and the bald eagles leave, this may open up territories for the golden eagles to come in and kill the fox.
6. The plan only has three choices with no room for compromise. I am sure that there is a way to change the money allocations so the Trustees can save our eagles.
7. The Peregrine Falcon is another example where the Montrose Settlement has let the public down. No money is being proposed to help reestablish falcons on the Island, and very little effort has even been made to monitor for the presence of falcons.
8. It also appears that the DDT plume that extends east and west also extends southward toward Catalina Island and no samples have been taken past the continental drop off. We do not know where this DDT plume stops, it may be next to Catalina now and since the Montrose Settlement Program did not even sample fish and sea life around Catalina for DDT contaminates, the public may be at risk for long range poisoning.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE THAT I HAVE WRITTEN A LETTER LIKE THIS.

PLEASE SAVE THE CATALINA BALD EAGLES AND SPEND THIS MONEY IN THE PLACE HARDEST HIT.

*Joel Bardell.*

MAY 12 2005

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
NATURAL RESOURCES-SWR

Advancement

213•763•3346 t  
213•743•4837 f

Mr. Greg Baker  
Program Manager  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am writing as a concerned California citizen to protest the discontinued funding of eagle restoration efforts at the Catalina Island conservancy. This decision could reverse years of careful and successful work on behalf of the bald eagle, and its results could be catastrophic. It is my hope that the trustees will reconsider their proposal, and vote instead on behalf of the environment, its species and habitat, and the public, not only in California but also around the world. Our decisions and their impact may feel local, but they are indeed global.

The following summarizes a few compelling reasons for your consideration:

- *Too Soon to Abandon Efforts* – According to IWS's current data, DDT levels are decreasing in the eggs of at least one pair of nesting eagles. This suggests that Catalina's bald eagles may soon be able to reproduce on their own, and it is simply too soon to abandon restoration efforts on Catalina.
- *Eagles Now Present May Leave* – It cannot be assumed that Catalina's current population of eagles would stay on the Island if they couldn't reproduce over the next few years; and, in fact, the reallocation of funds could mean the disappearance once again of bald eagles from Catalina. This could impact all of the Channel Islands.
- *Public Access to Eagles Should Be a Priority!* – With more than a million visitors each year, and as the only Channel Island with significant visitation, Catalina Island is the one place in Southern California that a significant number of people can visit to enjoy bald eagles in a natural setting. Since the Montrose Settlement was meant to restore this natural resource to the public, **Catalina should be a priority** where funding restoration efforts is concerned.
- *Settlement Monies Are Most Appropriately Used On and Near Catalina* – Montrose Settlement monies were meant to address damage to natural

resources such as bald eagles that were impacted by DDT and PCBs directly. They were not meant for addressing the impacts of introduced predators and invasive plant species that are now negatively impacting sea bird populations. The Trustees are proposing that as an alternative to funding the important bald eagle or peregrine falcon restoration work on Catalina, or fisheries restoration around Catalina, the monies be reallocated to fund bald eagle and marine restoration on the Northern Channel Islands and for the eradication of cats and rats, some of which would be done in Mexico. These locations are far from Catalina and the San Pedro Basin, the site of the greatest impacts. In order to meet stated goals of the Montrose Settlement, these funds should be applied in the areas of greatest impact, making Catalina Island and its surrounding waters the most appropriate site for use of Montrose Settlement funds.

- *Catalina's Endangered Fox is at Risk* – Abandoning bald eagle restoration on Catalina may put the Catalina Island fox population at risk. While much is unknown, it is possible that the presence of bald eagles on Catalina deters the formation of a golden eagle population. Golden eagles have decimated Island fox populations in the Northern Channel Islands. Discontinuing bald eagle restoration efforts on Catalina is simply too risky to the continued recovery of the Catalina Island fox, which is federally listed as an endangered species and is found on Catalina and nowhere else in the world.
- *Catalina's Bald Eagles Fuel Recovery Elsewhere* – The bald eagles that are being produced on Catalina Island are a potential source population for recovery of bald eagles on the Northern Channel Islands, and for the adjacent mainland.
- *Catalina is the Most Cost-Effective Investment* – An investment in Catalina's recovery efforts is an investment in a comprehensive eagle recovery effort which includes the human intervention still necessary to ensure reproduction, the protection and restoration of eagle habitat that is critical to the birds' survival on the Island, and, important educational outreach efforts that engender an appreciation of these magnificent birds and inspire the public to support their reestablishment and protection.
- *Support the Catalina Bald Eagle Alternative* – In their own plan, the Committee identifies an alternative that would use part of the settlement

funds to support eagle restoration on Catalina until Northern Channel Island eagles are reproducing. In that alternative, the Trustees are proposing \$10 million for that purpose, which in fact, at only \$250,000 per year on Catalina, could fund both Catalina Island and Northern Channel Island bald eagle restoration in perpetuity from just the interest! They would prefer, however, to spend the money on species in far-away places. Please ask that they create an alternative that continues to provide funds for bald eagle restoration work on Catalina, ensuring that these magnificent birds will fly free for millions of Catalina visitors to enjoy today and throughout future generations.

- *Support Habitat Restoration on Catalina Island* – Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and sea birds need a healthy ocean and island. The Committee also proposes to spend significant funds supporting research on fisheries in the recently designated Marine Protected Areas on the Northern Channel Islands. Catalina, the island hardest hit and most visited, should be considered for funding for its fisheries and ecosystems.

We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,



Dyan Sublett  
Senior Vice President, Advancement  
Natural History Museum, Los Angeles

**Ron von Freymann**  
8312 Atlanta Avenue, Unit 102  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646  
714-374-1330

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RECEIVED

MAY 12 2005

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
NATURAL RESOURCES-SWR

May 10, 2005

Greg Baker, Program Manager  
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program  
501 Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Eagle Restoration Program, Catalina

Dear Mr. Baker:

**What are you thinking????**

I just learned that funds previously earmarked to right the wrongs created by the Montrose Company have been tentatively earmarked for other programs that are unrelated to the damage done by Montrose. Montrose's reckless corporate behavior of dumping millions of pounds of DDT and PCB's into the San Pedro basin directly destroyed the marine and wild life environment around Catalina Island. The Company's greed and insensitivity directly destroyed the ability of the American Bald Eagle, **our Nation's symbol**, to reproduce, thus, causing the local extinction of the species. Montrose was ordered to pay nearly \$140,000,000 into a fund to right their wrongs.

Now, your reckless behavior will duplicate Montrose's heinous activities. What are you thinking??? If every dime of the settlement is spent attempting to restore our **Nation's Symbol** to the island of Catalina, it will be money well worth spent!!! To squander valuable resources on environmental issues unrelated to Montrose's merciless acts and in areas other than the United States is mindless and validates Montrose's behavior. You should be ashamed.

I, and millions of other veterans, and the American soldiers currently defending our country have put, and continue to put, their lives on the line to preserve the institutions and culture of our great Country. The Montrose Settlements Restoration Program shuns its moral, ethical, patriotic, and legal obligations to do likewise. A thriving population of our **Nation's symbol** on the island of Catalina, within a few miles of millions of persons in Southern California would be a validation of the intent, if not the letter, of the settlement with Montrose, and a visible and heralded statement of the perseverance of the American mettle. Anything less is unpatriotic.

Very truly yours,

  
Ron von Freymann

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** deanna stone [kahmemela@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2005 12:44 PM  
**To:** greg.baker@noaa.gov; msrp@noaa.gov; Karnette@assembly.ca.gov; jkay@sfchronicle.com; Dana@Mail.house.gov; frank.clifford@latimes.com  
**Subject:** bald eagles on catalina island

Dear Sirs and Madames...

This email is a plea to continue the funding for the eagles on Catalina Island. My name is Deanna Stone. I am a adventure kayak guide and a substitute teacher for the islands school. I can tell you that it is truly a gift to be able to see the eagles that live here on this island. Just a few weeks ago Peter Sharpe placed 3 eagle chicks back into there nests, after having to be brooded in an incubator in order for them to survive. The are still unable to make it on their own, due to the chemicals dumped in the ocean. This island , and it's people are dedicated to these eagles. It is a community. We cherish them. Please, continue the funding for the eagle project here. The eagle population is simply not in a place to survive and thrive on it's own.

Below are some supporting reasons for the funding to be continued. Thank you for your time

Deanna Stone

Too Soon to Abandon Efforts □ According to IWS's current data, DDT levels are decreasing in the eggs of at least one pair of nesting eagles. This suggests that Catalina's bald eagles may soon be able to reproduce on their own, and it is simply too soon to abandon restoration efforts on Catalina.

- Eagles Now Present May Leave □ It cannot be assumed that Catalina's current population of eagles would stay on the Island if they couldn't reproduce over the next few years; and, in fact, the reallocation of funds could mean the disappearance once again of bald eagles from Catalina. This could impact all of the Channel Islands.
- Public Access to Eagles Should Be a Priority! □ With more than a million visitors each year, and as the only Channel Island with significant visitation, Catalina Island is the one place in Southern California that a significant number of people can visit to enjoy bald eagles in a natural setting. Since the Montrose Settlement was meant to restore this natural resource to the public, Catalina should be a priority where funding restoration efforts is concerned.
- Settlement Monies Are Most Appropriately Used On and Near Catalina □ Montrose Settlement monies were meant to address damage to natural resources such as bald eagles that were impacted by DDT and PCBs directly. They were not meant for addressing the impacts of introduced predators and invasive plant species that are now negatively impacting sea bird populations. The Trustees are proposing that as an alternative to funding the important bald eagle or peregrine falcon restoration work on Catalina, or fisheries restoration around Catalina, the monies be reallocated to fund bald eagle and marine restoration on the Northern Channel Islands and for the eradication of cats and rats, some of which would be done in Mexico. These locations are far from Catalina and the San Pedro Basin, the site of the greatest impacts. In order to meet stated goals of the Montrose Settlement, these funds should be applied in the areas of greatest impact, making Catalina Island and its surrounding waters the most appropriate site for use of Montrose

#### Settlement funds.

- Catalina's Endangered Fox is at Risk □ Abandoning bald eagle restoration on Catalina may put the Catalina Island fox population at risk. While much is unknown, it is possible that the presence of bald eagles on Catalina deters the formation of a golden eagle population. Golden eagles have decimated Island fox populations in the Northern Channel Islands. Discontinuing bald eagle restoration efforts on Catalina is simply too risky to the continued recovery of the Catalina Island fox, which is federally listed as an endangered species and is found on Catalina and nowhere else in the world.
- Catalina's Bald Eagles Fuel Recovery Elsewhere □ The bald eagles that are being produced on Catalina Island are a potential source population for recovery of bald eagles on the Northern Channel Islands, and for the adjacent mainland.
- Catalina is the Most Cost-Effective Investment □ An investment in Catalina's recovery efforts is an investment in a comprehensive eagle recovery effort which includes the human intervention still necessary to ensure reproduction, the protection and restoration of eagle habitat that is critical to the birds' survival on the Island, and, important educational outreach efforts that engender an appreciation of these magnificent birds and inspire the public to support their reestablishment and protection.
- Support the Catalina Bald Eagle Alternative □ In their own plan, the Committee identifies an alternative that would use part of the settlement funds to support eagle restoration on Catalina in the long term. They would prefer, however, to spend the money on species in far-away places. Please ask that they create an alternative that continues to provide funds for bald eagle restoration work on Catalina, ensuring that these magnificent birds will fly free for millions of Catalina visitors to enjoy today and throughout future generations.
- Support Habitat Restoration on Catalina Island □ Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and sea birds need a healthy ocean and island. The Committee also proposes to spend significant funds supporting research on fisheries in the recently designated Marine Protected Areas on the Northern Channel Islands. Catalina, the island hardest hit and most visited, should be considered for funding for its fisheries and ecosystems.

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**Milena Viljoen**

---

**From:** Kevin Ryan [ryan@iws.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2005 1:08 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Eagles, Catalina.

Hello Mr. Baker,

I am Writing you this e-mail to encourage you to continue funding the Bald Eagle work on Catalina. I am a biologist working for I.W.S. on Catalina but I am not working on the Eagle of Fox project. I can understand that because of the long-term nature of solving the ddt problem, you may think that the money could be better used elsewhere. I understand that this is an important consideration, however, the presence of the Bald Eagles on Catalina may be a major deterrent to Golden Eagles. We do not want a problem like Santa Cruz island where the Island Foxes are being severely impacted by Golden Eagle predation. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Ryan

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** John King [afishinado@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2005 3:10 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Blad Eagles on Catalina Island

I run fishing charters around the island and I can tell you that one of the most fascinating experiences for visitors is to see these magnificent birds swoop down from their perch and garb a struggling fish. Although I can understand efforts to move your funding elsewhere, I cannot imagine the return you get could be better anywhere other than Catalina Island. This is one of the most popular destinations in California. Rather than remove funding for the Eagles, I would suggest that you take some of the monies and let folks know what great work you have been supporting for the last number of years.

Just my two cents,

John King  
Afishinado Charters  
323-447-4669

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## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Ann Wright [amwright1@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2005 10:48 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Bald Eagle Catalina restoration

Please do not cut the funding for our bald eagles.

Ann Wright  
212 Descanso  
Avalon

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** colleen mcavoy [mcavoyc@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2005 11:09 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Catalina Island Bald Eagles

Please continue to fund the effort to restore and protect the bald eagle population on Catalina Island. Having volunteered with the Conservancy last year during my family's annual week-long visit to the Island, I have witnessed their efforts first-hand. Those efforts deserve long-term support. It can take years of steady effort to make a difference!

Colleen McAvoy  
80 Dartmouth Ave  
San Carlos, CA 94070

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** David Barth [davidbarth@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 14, 2005 1:54 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Cc:** webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org  
**Subject:** BALD EAGLES ON CATALINA

I have been a member of the Catalina Conservancy for many years and I applaud Conservancy efforts at restoring the island's natural habitat. But, I have never favored efforts to re-introduce bald eagles to the island, and always considered the eagle program a gigantic waste of money. Money that could have been used for more worthwhile endeavors. Don't waste any more time, effort and money on Catalina eagles.

David Barth, Newport Beach, CA

**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** Gatsbysimon@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 14, 2005 4:02 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Stop Reallocation of Montrose Funds

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing today to express my great concern at the proposed reallocation of funds for Catalina Island's bald eagle and fox projects. Such reallocation of funds to efforts in the northern Channel Islands and Mexico would greatly harm the worthy, and more importantly, **effective** efforts of the Catalina's resident biologists. Already DDT levels in the eagle eggs have been significantly lowered. Such funding by Montrose to help in clean-up and habitat monitoring have made such important strides possible. To pull funding could potentially take away from such important strides and cause further harm to the future generations of these rare and magnificent creatures. I am also concerned about the future of the island fox as well. Such efforts to repopulate the island after the devastating virus that took the lives of so many fox, would be for naught if golden eagles were to repopulate-- a certainty if bald eagle numbers were to dwindle. Also, like so many visitors to the island, I look forward to seeing the eagles in their natural habitats. It would be a great shame to lose yet another area to view these symbols of our great nation. Perhaps Montrose would prefer to simply settle for a dingy zoo aviary instead?

A Concerned Citizen,

Jennifer Plummer

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** Kressgary@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 15, 2005 7:47 AM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Catalina's Bald Eagle Restoration

Greg,

I ask your support to Continue Funding Catalina's Bald Eagle Restoration. It's too early to give up. The ddt levels are dropping and the eagles are nearly ready, but not yet, to survive on their own. Their survival was the true purpose of the fund. Please don't give up early and divert the money elsewhere.

Gary Kress

Catalina property owner

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** hopedancing@earthlink.net  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2005 2:28 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov; Dana@Mail.house.gov; frank.clifford@latimes.com;  
Karnette@assembly.ca.gov; jkay@sfchronicle.com  
**Cc:** webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org  
**Subject:** Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles, OUR NATIONAL SYMBOL!

Dear Friends,

I am a frequent visitor to Catalina Island, and often have had the pleasure of seeing American Bald Eagles in the skies overhead -- both in the interior of the Island, and in Avalon.

I understand that there is much politics around the allocation of funding. In the case of the Montrose Settlement, there appears to be a move to reallocate funding for the restoration of bald eagles from Catalina, the privately-held-for-public-use wildlands most impacted by DDT dumping, to other islands where restoration is managed by federal agencies. (For additional information, see [www.catalinaislandconservancy.org](http://www.catalinaislandconservancy.org) and see story at top of web page).

In this matter, please consider the potential risks to the endangered Catalina Island fox. But beyond the fox, please don't let this kind of politicking endanger the survival on Catalina of bald eagles -- OUR NATIONAL SYMBOL -- which are revered by island residents and the million-plus visitors that journey to the island each year, in part, to see these magnificent birds!

Hope Dancing  
hopedancing@earthlink.net

cc:  
Governor Arnold Swartzenegger  
President George Bush

Leslie C. Baer, MAOM  
Chief Communications Officer  
Catalina Island Conservancy  
(951) 733-2588  
lbaer@catalinaconservancy.org  
[www.catalinaconservancy.org](http://www.catalinaconservancy.org)

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**Milena Viljoen**

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**From:** XAVIER634@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2005 3:56 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov; Dana@Mail.house.gov; frank.clifford@latimes.com; Karnette@assembly.ca.gov; jkay@sfchronicle.com  
**Cc:** webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org  
**Subject:** Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Gentlemen,

Please, do not abandon the Catalina Island Eagle project. Since its inception, those of us who live on, or visit Catalina Island on a regular basis, have taken huge pride in the successful birthing of our eagle friends. Many have contributed financially to the project as well. Nothing can be more wonderful than watching the eagle parents take the youngsters on their first flight around the harbor. Visiting the nests is a regular part of our daily life. We take pride in the few eagles that we proudly call our own. I looked with amazement in the Pacific Northwest recently at the sight of hundreds of thriving eagles. I know with continued nurturing our National Bird will be alive and well in Southern California as well. Please don't abandon us. It feels like you are burning the flag of our country.

Thank you.

Mary Ann Xavier

## Milena Viljoen

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**From:** steve rocco [roccoland@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2005 4:17 PM  
**To:** msrp@noaa.gov; dana@mailhouse.gov; frankclifford@latimes.com;  
karnette@assembly.ca.gov; amuscat@catalinaconservancy.org  
**Subject:** save the eagles

Dear Sirs

As a long time visitor to Catalina Island I was quite dismayed upon hearing of your decision to cutback on funding for the bald eagle program. Seeing eagles on the island is always a trip highlight for not only myself but my guests as well. As you are no doubt well aware Catalina hosts more visitors than all the other Channel Islands a hundred times over. Many of these people would live their whole lives never seeing a bald eagle were it not for the efforts of the conservancy to reintroduce them. This is not to say that the other islands are less important but rather that funds should be concentrated where they could do the most good. Environmentalism begins with public awareness and no other island is capable of producing that level of awareness. Therefore I would like you to please reconsider your decision. Sincerely Steve Rocco