

Milena Viljoen

From: Ben Myhre [bmyhre@countyofglenn.net]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 4:19 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!

Dear Sirs,

Wildlife West, Inc., has been involved for a number of years on Catalina Island with the wildlife management program. Since 1998 I have personally seen the successes of the Bald Eagle program that has been in place. When I first started with the program in 1998 eagles were seen occasionally. Now on any given day you can see an eagle soaring the skies above the Island and this is entirely due to the success of the program the Catalina Island Conservancy has put in place. The staff of the Conservancy and the Institute for Wildlife Studies have put forth great effort in time and man hours to make this project happen and the results are evident every day. The bald eagle is an integral part of the fragile ecosystem that remains on the Island, please do not let the recovery of this key species be set back by removing the necessary funding needed for this program.

Sincerely,

Ben Myhre
Wildlife West, Inc.
P.O. Box 282
Corning, CA 96021

Milena Viljoen

From: Marion Vincent [CHASMARVINCENT@peoplepc.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 4:35 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!

Please keep the settlement money from the Chemical Companies for Catalina Island!! I totally support the continuing efforts to increase the Bald Eagle & Peregrine population. It's important, too, because of the fox plight to keep these Birds; it's a vital part of the "living" chain! It is imperative to use the monies for which they were intended!

The Island is vastly visited by people worldwide. My family and I have visited the Island several times, including back-packing and hiking the back-country. We thoroughly enjoy all of Catalina and appreciate all the efforts being carried on by the Conservancy. Catalina is probably the only Island I and my family will ever visit and I'm sure we're not alone! Please keep the money to assist the effort in saving these magnificent creatures who have been put in great jeopardy by Montrose.

Sincerely,
Charlie & Mar Vincent
56123 Lee Valley Rd
Coquille, OR 97423

Milena Viljoen

From: James P Hill [hill@shlaw.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 4:46 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!

One of my most indelible memories is from our family's annual boating vacation to Catalina Island. I was kayaking alone just off Hen Rock on an early August morning a few years ago, casting a silver spoon into a nearby bait boil, hoping to hookup a yellowtail or hungry kelp bass. With no advance warning, a lone bald eagle swooped in from the nearby cliffs. The eagle glided down just above the water toward me and the bait ball. Deftly, without a pause, the eagle extended its talons to grasp a mackerel, returning to the cliffs with its catch. I just sat there, stunned but glowing from the experience. I didn't make another cast that day. The memory burns bright still to this day.

Whatever other creatures the Catalina Island Conservancy works to protect, please include the restoration of the bald eagle to Catalina Island. Hopefully, others will be able experience as awesome a sight as I had that past August morning.

Thanks.

Jim Hill
2215 Willow Street
San Diego, CA 92106

James P. Hill
Sullivan Hill Lewin Rez & Engel
A Professional Law Corporation
550 West C Street, Suite 1500
San Diego, California 92101
Tel: 619.595.3226
Fax: 619.231.4372
E-mail: hill@shlaw.com

Milena Viljoen

From: PATRICK.MICHELL@lw.com
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 5:03 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Cc: Dana@Mail.house.gov; frank.clifford@latimes.com; Karnette@assembly.ca.gov; jkay@sfchronicle.com
Subject: Do not discontinue funding of eagle restoration efforts on Catalina Island

Greg Baker, Program Manager

Please do not discontinue or reduce funding of eagle restoration efforts on Catalina Island. We have followed this program over the years and attended presentations when we have had an opportunity to visit Catalina. The Bald Eagle is environmentally good for the island.

Thank you.

Patrick Michell

633 West Fifth Street, Suite 4000
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2007
Direct Dial: (213) 891-8169
Fax: (213) 891-8763
Home: (323) 221-0929
Email: patrick.michell@lw.com
www.lw.com

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Latham & Watkins LLP

Milena Viljoen

From: Sarah Hinton [scullster78@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 6:05 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!

Hello,

My name is Sarah Hinton. I have lived in California my entire life. I am currently a Master's student in Geography at SDSU. Every summer since I was a little girl, my family has vacationed on Catalina Island. I really feel that the bald eagle restoration program should be continued on the island. For the past three years, my family members and I have volunteered with the Conservancy during our vacation, and we plan to do so again this year. A highlight of our volunteering efforts has been wonderful visits to the eagle breeding center and meeting with the dedicated and caring staff. There are many reasons the eagle restoration program should be continued:

- 1) I agree with the Conservancy that it is too early to stop funding this program. The eagles are on the brink of recovery and need humans' continued support if they are to survive and flourish.
- 2) This program is the best fit for the stated goals of the Montrose Settlement, specifically using money to restore areas most heavily impacted by the DDT.
- 3) The eagles are an integral part of the natural ecosystem of the island and are perhaps helping to protect the endangered Catalina Island Fox by limited the population of their main predator, the golden eagle. Therefore, the disappearance of the bald eagles could spell disaster for the endemic foxes.
- 4) Catalina is a very cost-effective investment because it is so close to the mainland and is enjoyed by thousands of southern California residents each year.

I have personally seen the eagles soaring over Catalina, and let me tell you, it is a wonderous sight!

I strongly urge the Montrose Natural Resource Trustees to reconsider their proposal to eliminate funding for the eagle restoration program on Catalina Island! As a concerned citizen and admirer of the wonderful work the Conservancy does to protect this amazing natural resource, I will be watching this issue closely.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Hinton

Do You Yahoo!?

Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
<http://mail.yahoo.com>

Milena Viljoen

From: CHRIS HUFF [CHUF@peoplepc.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 6:16 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!

Dear MSRP:

I'm a science teacher with a M.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences. 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.

Sincerely,

Chris Huff, M.S.

"Democracy is hard work. American democracy requires constant vigilance to survive and nothing short of total engagement to flourish." Steve Earle

Milena Viljoen

From: John Laun [jlaun@apogee.net]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 7:07 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!

As a Southern Californian who regularly enjoys Catalina Island's many delights, I would like to urge the continuation of funding by the Montrose Natural Resource Trustees for the Catalina Island Bald Eagle program. The Bald Eagle is majestic, and a vital habitat for the beautiful creature so close to so many citizens is a treasure.

Thanks for your consideration of this plea.

John Laun
San Diego, CA
619.840.4804

Milena Viljoen

From: michael-stuart@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 8:41 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!

To all interested parties,

The word Restore means, to return to the original condition. In relation to the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program, the bald eagles on Catalina Island are still a very long way from being restored to the healthy breeding colony they originally were. Montrose Chemical and the other's fatal misjudgment may very well have a severe impact on these birds and other species in the future. Without the continued support of the Institute of Wildlife Studies and the Catalina Island Conservancy the symbol of our country, these bald eagle, may become one more environmental failure do to further misjudgment of funding.

When protecting a species you need to look at the big picture and not the quick fix and I speak from the voice of experience. I'm the founder of the Amazonia Foundation which is well known for its successful environmental related projects in South America over the last 16 years.

Thank you,

Michael Stuart

amazoniafoundation.org

Milena Viljoen

From: Sea Peterson [teacher@catalinas.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 5:12 AM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org
Subject: Eagles Restoration on Catalina Island

Dear Mr. Baker and board members.

It is early Saturday morning on the Isthmus of Catalina Island, boats are gently rocking on their moorings while a pair of Eagles are nursing their eaglets in a nest high on a knoll above Catalina Harbor. My name is Sea Peterson. I am the teacher at the local Little Red Schoolhouse and a 25 year resident of Two Harbors. It has come to my attention that the Eagle Restoration program is being threatened for lack of funding. I want you to know that because of efforts by the Institute of Wildlife Studies eagles are beginning to make a come back on Catalina Island. This seemingly simple event is the culmination of many labor intensive hours of monitoring, capturing eggs, incubation, and restoration. The eagle population is fragile here and still requires human intervention to succeed. If IWS were to leave the island at this point, everything they have worked for would be lost. The eagle restoration program is on a precipice with its success in the balance. Without funding and intervention the eagles will once again parish. Please consider continuing the funding of this vital program through its completion.

Sincerely,

Sea Peterson

Teacher

Two Harbors Elementary School

Milena Viljoen

From: Paulette B Caudill [PauletteCaudill@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 6:43 AM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: Catalina Bald Eagle Restoration

Mr. Baker,

Please help keep the Catalina Island Bald Eagle Restoration Project alive because it is the right thing to do. Why spend more money, that is in limited supply, starting a new project when you have an existing program that is working. I encourage you to vote to continue this valuable program.

Sincerely, Paulette Caudill

Milena Viljoen

From: Pat Jamieson [pjamieson@visitcatalina.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 8:14 AM
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!

To Whom It May Concern,

I fully support and commend the wonderful job that was done to restore the beautiful Bald Eagle on Catalina Island. She adds precious beauty to a very precious Island for both residents and tourists alike! Keep up the good work!

Pat Jamieson
Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce
Member Services Sales Manager

Milena Viljoen

From: Jjhf9@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 11:39 AM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: bald eagles

Dear Montrose Settlements Restoration Program folks:

Those people have an obligation to reverse the damage they have done to this important species, the bald eagle. There should be NO modification in the existing program. Recently I was with a group of people when someone spotted a bald eagle. I have never seen one in real life and neither had any one in the group. The sight was so startling, so magnificent, it caused a cheer to go up, eyes were wet with tears.

Let's not blow it now.

Sign,
Jennifer Horsman
3013 Mt. View Drive
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
949.494.7780

Milena Viljoen

From: Mary Chabre [mchabre@adelphia.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 9:10 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: Catalina Bald Eagle Restoration

Please continue the good work on Catalina Island with bald eagle restoration.

Thank you.

Mary Chabre

Milena Viljoen

From: Lisa Marks [lisamarks99@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 7:23 AM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: bald eagle recovery program

To Whom This May Concern:

Please continue the bald eagle recovery program. It's not their fault that DDT was dumped in their habitat. Let's do the right thing, for the eagles, for the region, and for the generations to come.

Thank you

Lisa Marks
31522 Eagle Rock Way
Laguna Beach, CA.
92651

Milena Viljoen

From: irenei@cox.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 8:38 AM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Cc: dana@mail.house.gov
Subject: Montrose Settlements Restoration Program

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am e-mailing you to voice my support for the continuation of the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program's funding of the Institute for Wildlife Studies. I am specifically referring to the IWF's restoration program of the bald eagle to Catalina Island.

As the Program was initially funded to address environmental damage caused by DDTs and PCBs off the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and the environment around Catalina Island and San Pedro Basin was especially hard hit (especially the bald eagle and peregrine falcon populations), it is appropriate to focus funding to ensure that these animals' survival is restored to their prior levels.

Some of the reasons I believe this is important are:

1. The Catalina bald eagles impact the survival of other species, e.g., such as the rare Catalina fox, by complex interactions with other species.
2. A supporting population could provide a source population for other Channel Islands.
3. It is not clear yet that the bald eagle population would not be successful without continued human intervention. The work on the Catalina bald eagles is finally showing promise, and deserves further funding to see if we can correct the damage that human intervention caused in the first place.
4. As the most visited and visible of the Channel Islands, a positive public relations opportunity exists to show the public how delicate the environment is and on how society can correct their environmental mistakes.

I encourage you to continue the funding for the Catalina bald eagle restoration efforts. As a Southern California resident who has has been a student on Catalina Island and spent many years enjoying the Island from the water and on land, it is my hope that future generations can enjoy the Island and all the natural beauty it has to offer, including as much of its native flora and fauna as possible.

Sincerely,

Irene Ing

Milena Viljoen

From: John Merrell [jmerrell@hbllp.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 9:04 AM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Greg Baker:

I am e-mailing you to express my strong concerns that funds currently being used to assist the return of bald eagles to Catalina Island may be diverted to other purposes and other areas. I am a third generation Californian and Catalina is a part of my past and my heritage. My grandfather's family owned a home in Avalon before the turn of the century (20th). My grandfather and his extended family have sailed, hiked, swam and enjoyed Catalina for many years. The conservation of this unique asset is vital to the way of life in Southern California. To pull funding of a program such as this puts it at risk and we stand the chance of losing yet another natural wonder. I urge you not to adopt the revision in question and continue the funding of the eagle program.

Very truly yours,

John H. Merrell
Hutchinson and Bloodgood LLP
101 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 1600
Glendale, CA 91203
(818) 637-5000
(818) 240-0949 FAX
jmerrell@hbllp.com
www.hbllp.com

Milena Viljoen

From: Hamilton, Bill [wjhamilton@ucdavis.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 12:52 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: eagles

Greg,

I read the argument for continuing handled replacement of eagle chicks. I support your alternative, to wait until birds can lay eggs they can hatch. The current procedure may be useful in maintaining public support for habitat but, given the huge importance of reduction and elimination of exotic organisms elsewhere on the Islands the priority lies there, not with the captive egg hatching program.

William J. Hamilton III
Professor, Ecology, UCD
Certified Senior Ecologist, ESA

(currently 12 years into successful Tricolored Blackbird restoration)

Milena Viljoen

From: Martha Mapp [mlmapp@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 1:31 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: MSRP Plan - Public Comment

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am writing to encourage the Montrose Trustee Council to continue support for the Catalina Bald Eagle Recovery Program. While I have no scientific nor direct involvement in this effort, I am a concerned citizen who can relate to the Council that the work these folks do, and especially their eagle nest web cams, are vital to creating and maintaining general interest in conservation efforts. I have emailed the link to their web site to many people across this nation and it has been heartwarming to see the responses. So many people have thanked me for telling them about the site and relate that they watch it frequently with utter fascination as they watch the chicks grow and read about the work that this group does. This is probably one of the best educational outreach programs ever.

Thank you for your time and for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Martha Mapp
2728 Escobar Way
Sacramento, CA 95827

Michael D. Fowlkes
20950 Castle Rock Road
Laguna Beach, CA 92651-1115

May 5, 2005

Re: Habitat Restoration on Catalina Island

As a long time resident of Southern California and a frequent visitor to Catalina Island, I strongly urge you to continue your support of the Habitat Restoration on Catalina Island.

Reasons to Continue Funding Catalina's Bald Eagle Restoration, and to Allocate Funding for Peregrine Falcons and Marine Fisheries Restoration

- 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.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Fowlkes

Milena Viljoen

From: Nancee Wells [grancee@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 2:54 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT THE BALD EAGLE!

Dear Mr. Baker,

You should be receiving my letter and petition about continuing the bald eagle program on Catalina Island. As the letter reads, I am a frequent visitor to Catalina Island and a Laguna Beach resident. The people here urge you to PLEASE continue the funding for the program on Catalina. The biologists and others who work with the eagles are saying it's too early to discontinue funding! Everyone I have talked to on the mainland, (Laguna Beach & surrounding areas) are so supportive on this issue! After reading all the facts about the incubation and hatching of the bald eagle, everyone can see they still need human intervention. If you have ever seen a bald eagle up close not just for a second, but for a sustained amount of time will see how magnificent this bird is. I hope you can do something about this problem. Everyone will be so happy if we continue to see the bald eagle in our community. Thank you for your time,
Nancee Wells
[Grancee@cox.net](mailto:grancee@cox.net)

Milena Viljoen

From: Bob Rhein [bobrhein@att.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 3:07 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Dear Mr. Baker:

I was astounded when I heard about the possibility funding would be pulled from Catalina Island for a long shot on eagle research in the northern Channel Islands -- and then, that research may not be funded.

From what I understand, the team on Catalina is doing a great job. I saw a news report that showed researchers dangling from a helicopter to retrieve the eggs. The sight of them returning the newly hatched eagles to their nest was breathtaking!

Please allow this to continue on Catalina Island. It looks like they are doing it right!

Sincerely,

Bob Rhein
Fullerton, California

Milena Viljoen

From: Leah Vasquez [leahvasquez@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 3:07 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: Bld Eagle support

I am so pleased to see eagles in and around the south coastal and Laguna Beach areas. I whole-heartedly support the continuation of the protections fo these noble creatures and our symbolic image of pride, independence and courage. Please count on me to write in behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves such as the bald eagle.

Leah Vasquez,

Laguna Beach, CA.

Milena Viljoen

From: cindy shannon [c1shannon@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 4:28 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: bald eagles

Dear Mr. Baker,

Please consider keeping funding from the Montrose Settlement on the hardest hit areas such as Catalina Island. Islands are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation and restoration needs to be continued to assure recovery of wildlife populations. And in particular the bald eagle though many other species will benefit as well.

Thanks.

Karen Bagne
Dept of Biology
University of California
riverside, CA 92521

Milena Viljoen

From: Robert Keet [rkeet@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 4:56 PM
To: Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Please save the Catalina Island Bald Eagle Program. This is one of the most important conservation programs going on in California at the moment and it would be a disaster for the funding to stop coming in. The funding the Montrose Natural Resource Trustees puts in to the program conducted by the Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS) is for a problem that still exists as the DDT and PCB levels still affect the eggs of the American Bald Eagles that are at Catalina Island.

PLEASE DO NOT STOP THE FUNDING GOING TO THE INSTITUTE FOR WILDLIFE STUDIES.

Thank you.

Robert Keet

May 10, 2005

DEPT. OF COMMERCE - NOAA
RECEIVED

To Greg Baker, Program Manager

MAY 10 2005

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
NATURAL RESOURCES-SWR

Dear Mr. Baker

I am writing on behalf of the Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS) and the Catalina Island Conservancy. I do not believe that funds for the bald eagle project should be relocated to the Northern Channel Islands and islands in Mexico. Catalina Island has had an excellent restoration project. Please consider the following points.

The data of IWS shows that DDT levels are decreasing in the eggs of a least one nesting pair of eagles. The bald eagles may soon be able to produce on their own.

The eagles now present may leave if they cannot reproduce.

Catalina is the one place where visitors in Southern California can see bald eagles in a natural setting.

The Montrose settlement was meant to address damage by DDT and PCBs. These funds should be applied to the areas of greatest impact, making Catalina Island and its surrounding waters the most appropriate site for use of the funds.

Catalina Island is the most
Cost-effective investment in comprehensive
eagle recovery. Human intervention is
still needed to ensure reproduction.
At \$250,000 dollars a year the eagles
could be restored in perpetuity and the
Northern Channel Islands could also
be funded.

I hope you give this serious
consideration.

Sincerely,
Nan Durantini
1053 Peninsula St.
Ventura, CA 93001

MAY 13 2005

May 11, 2005

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
NATURAL RESOURCES-SWR

John Greene
1213 East Fern Drive
Fullerton, CA 92831

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

RE: Catalina Island Bald Eagle Project

Dear Mr. Baker,


Please accept this letter as opposition to the Montrose Settlement Trustee Council's intention to eliminate funding of the Catalina Island Bald Eagle Project.

I have had the pleasure of watching the project over the years through the media – in an IMAX movie I took my entire family to at the Irvine Spectrum a few years ago, on the Animal Planet “Killer Jobs” program, on various news programs, in magazines and in the Los Angeles Times. All of these have been wonderful presentations of this heartwarming story, but none have matched the Institute for Wildlife Studies' Eagle Cam. I have had innumerable hours of entertainment in the past couple of years watching the eagles nest and chicks develop. I have even made the excursion to Catalina Island several times to see the eagles first hand.

I don't ask for the project to continue solely for its entertainment value. I strongly believe that a wrong was done to the inhabitants of Southern California when DDT was dumped into the sewage system. Humans did it – a fact no one will deny. Why is it that the eagles – our national symbol – are the ones that will now pay the ultimate price? They have been lovingly attended to for many years now – relying on risk-taking biologists to help them perform their only function, reproduction, because we have been foolhardy with our chemicals? It appears to me inhumane to stop funding this program now.

I have read the executive summary of the Draft Resolution Plan. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend a public meeting. By no means does my absence imply my apathy. I support the efforts to fund self-sustainable projects in all the other areas, i.e. sea birds and fishing. But I strongly object to the termination of funding to the Catalina project just because the problem is so bad it can't take care of itself. Isn't that the reason there is a settlement in the first place?

Sincerely,


John A. Greene

12 May 2005

DEPT. OF COMMERCE - NOAA
RECEIVED

MAY 13 2005

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

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
NATURAL RESOURCES-SW2

**SUBJECT: Comments in Response to the Programmatic EIS/EIR for the
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Draft Restoration Plan**

Dear Mr. Baker:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes appreciates the opportunity to comment upon the draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Draft Restoration Plan. The City offers the following comments on the EIS/EIR and the plan itself:

1. In the discussion of Noise Impacts within the affected environment (Section 3.9.2, p. 3-81), Table 3.9-1 lists residential development and Point Fermin Park as sensitive receptors within Coastal Reach 3, which includes the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. The City respectfully requests the inclusion of Abalone Cove Beach Park and the Portuguese Bend Co-op Preschool as sensitive receptors in Coastal Reach 3. Also, the City has recently approved the 582-room Long Point Resort Hotel on the site of the former Marineland aquatic park, which might also qualify as a sensitive noise receptor upon its completion.
2. In the discussion of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Evaluations of Restoration Ideas (Sections 5.2.6 and 5.3.2, pp. 5-9 and 5-13, respectively), two restoration ideas within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes that were not carried forward from the Tier 1 evaluation to the Tier 2 evaluation are briefly mentioned: restoring overgrazed seashore at Abalone Cove; and acquiring and enhancing peregrine falcon habitat on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Based upon their brief description in the draft Plan, the nature and scope of these restoration ideas is not entirely clear. However, we would note that the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy have been involved for many years in the preparation of a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) for the City, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The City and the Conservancy are also

actively pursuing the acquisition of hundreds of acres of undeveloped land containing coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat as permanent open space for an NCCP reserve. If the NCCP and the open space acquisition are ultimately successful, they may have the affect of indirectly implementing the two rejected restoration ideas proposed within the City.

3. In the detailed discussion of the proposed Fishing and Fish Habitat Restoration Actions related to the construction of artificial reefs and fishing access improvements (Section 6.1.1, p. 6-3 and Appendix A1), the draft Plan indicates that such improvements are evaluated in concept, and that supplemental analysis would be required. Within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the most likely location for any future fishing access improvements would appear to be at the City's existing Point Vicente Fishing Access. Also, at the public meeting on 28 April 2005, MSRP's fish biologist stated that new data regarding levels of DDT and PCB contamination in fish might now support proposals for such access and habitat restoration projects along the shore of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, which was previously thought to be too contaminated to be considered for such projects (see Appendix A, Figure A1-4, p. A1-9). If a more definitive list of possible future access projects includes the Point Vicente site, the City would like the opportunity to review the nature and scope of such improvements so as to ensure that they are compatible with surrounding land uses.
4. In the discussion of Restoration Alternatives 2 and 3 (Section 6.2, pp. 6-17 through 6-25), slightly more than half of the \$25 million allocated for Phase I restoration efforts is earmarked for various bald eagle, peregrine falcon and seabird restoration projects in California's Channel Islands (excluding Santa Catalina Island) and the Coronado and Todos Santos islands off the coast of Baja California, while just under half is allocated to on-shore and near-shore restoration of fishing resources and fish habitat. The City understands that the presence of DDTs and PCBs in fish has contributed to the decimation of bird populations beyond the immediate area of the contaminated sediments between the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Santa Catalina Island. However, given the close proximity of the Peninsula to these sediments and the likelihood that the capping and containment of these sediments will never be completely possible or feasible, we expect that the City of Rancho Palos Verdes will continue feel the indirect effects of these contaminated sediments long into the future. Therefore, the City respectfully suggests that whichever restoration alternative is eventually selected, the higher priority for distribution of the settlement proceeds to the various restoration projects be given to those projects located nearer to the physical source of the problem (i.e., the contaminated sediments) than those projects located further away.

Greg Baker
12 May 2005
Page 3

5. In the discussion of the environmental consequences of the Plan (Section 7.1, p. 7-2), the project is identified as having insignificant impacts with respect to soils, geology and geologic hazards. The City of Rancho Palos Verdes has experienced constant land movement related to the active Portuguese Bend landslide, as well as the catastrophic failure of a portion of the Trump National Golf Club (formerly Ocean Trails Golf Course) in 1999. The City respectfully suggests that any future near-shore artificial reef or fishing access projects that might be proposed along the base of the City's coastal bluffs be carefully designed to address the potential to trigger and/or exacerbate any landslide movement.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (310) 544-5228 or via e-mail at kittf@rpv.com.

Sincerely,



Kit Fox, AICP
Senior Planner

cc: Mayor and City Council
Les Evans, City Manager
Joel Rojas, Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

MAY 13 2005


OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
NATURAL RESOURCES-SWR

May 15, 2005

Dear Civic Leader:

Please consider the letter below as a request to continue funding for Catalina Island restoration efforts. The island has been a source of rest and inspiration for thousands of travelers, young and old, for many decades. I believe the funding is critical to the survival of the restoration project(s)! Thank you for securing the beauty of the natural habitat for generations to come.

Reasons to Continue Funding Catalina's Bald Eagle Restoration, and to Allocate Funding for Peregrine Falcons and Marine Fisheries Restoration

- **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.

Sincerely,


Diane Silvers

DEPT. OF COMMERCE - NOAA
RECEIVED

MAY 16 2005

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
NATURAL RESOURCES-SWR

May 16, 2005

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

Dear Sir:

Over the past few years the Catalina Island Conservancy took the lead in restoring the bald eagles to the island. The program desperately needs continued funding from the Montrose Resource Fund. I am dismayed that if support from the fund is withdrawn, the eagles now present may leave or die out.

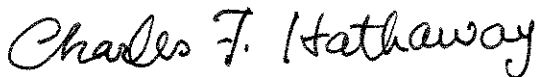
The bald eagles bring awareness and joy to the countless thousands who visit this island.

Another successful program has been saving the small Island Fox. There is a fragile balance that could be destroyed if the bald eagles leave and the American eagles return.

Funding from the Montrose Settlement Fund should be continued.

On behalf of the 1,500 members of the California Yacht Club, I urge you to allow these programs to continue.

Sincerely,



Charles F. Hathaway
Honorary Commodore



CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

A responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation

DEPT. OF COMMERCE - NOAA
RECEIVED

MAY 18 2005

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
NATURAL RESOURCES-SWR

May 17, 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

Dear Mr. Baker:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Executive Staff and scientific professional staff of the Catalina Island Conservancy, this letter reflects the Conservancy's formal response to the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program (MSRP)—Draft Restoration Plan.

The overall goals of the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program as stated in settlement documents are:

- 1) *"To restore, replace, rehabilitate or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources and the services that those resources provide; and,*
- 2) *To compensate for the interim lost services of the injured natural resources while those resources are recovered."*

It is our position that these goals can best be achieved through the MSRP targeting its *"efforts on a narrower range of actions that would place greater emphasis on primary restoration of injuries and lost services."* This means continuing the Bald Eagle Restoration Program on Catalina Island into the foreseeable future. In addition, we ask for further consideration of the Restoration Alternative that restores peregrine falcons to the Southern Channel Islands, including Catalina Island. And finally, we feel strongly that marine fisheries enhancement work should be considered for the near shore environment of Catalina Island--an alternative that is not even discussed in the plan as it now stands.

We strongly and respectfully disagree with the Natural Resource Trustee's preferred Alternative 2, which proposes ideas not directly linked to the loss of natural resources from DDTs and PCBs contamination (e.g. wetland recovery and implementation of Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Channel Islands), and directs significant portions of the settlement funds away from the severely damaged sites to locations in the Northern Channel Islands and Mexico.

We believe there are a number of compelling reasons that support this disagreement:

- ***It is Simply Too Soon to Abandon Efforts for Catalina Island's Bald Eagles*** – According to the Institute for Wildlife Studies' (IWS) current data (Dave Garcelon, personal communication), DDT levels are decreasing in the eggs of at least some of the nesting eagles. This suggests that Catalina's bald eagles in the not too distant future may be able to reproduce on their own.

The Natural Resources Trustees have begun a bald eagle restoration program on the Northern Channel Islands. The oldest birds on the Northern Channel Islands are only three years old, and will not start breeding until they are five or six years old. If the Catalina effort is abandoned, no new eaglets will be fledged in the Channel Islands at least until 2007-2008. Since we are not sure of DDT levels in and around the Islands to the north, we don't really know if their bald eagles will fare any better than Catalina's in the years to come.

- ***Eagles Now Present on Catalina Island May Leave*** – It cannot be assumed that Catalina's current population of 20 eagles will stay on the Island if they cannot reproduce over the next few years. 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 since Catalina is the only venue that can presently guarantee eagle reproduction.

In the words of the MSRP, "*One potential outcome of stopping human intervention and allowing the nests to fail is that eagle pair bonds may break down and the birds may abandon the Island. If that is the case, additional restoration efforts may be needed to reestablish breeding bald eagles on Santa Catalina Island in the future should contaminant levels decline sufficiently to allow for successful reproduction.*" Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on the effort on Catalina; reallocating funding now threatens what has already been accomplished and could amount to a waste of those dollars.

- ***Broad Public Access to Eagles Should Be a Priority!*** – With **more than a million visitors each year**, and as the only California Island with significant visitation, Catalina is the one place in Southern California that diverse audiences can enjoy bald eagles in a magnificent natural setting. Since the MSRP is meant to restore this natural resource to the public, **programs on Catalina should be a priority**. Catalina's bald eagles are also enjoyed in highly populated mainland areas like Newport and Huntington Beach, which regularly reports sightings of tagged Catalina eagles.

- ***Settlement Monies Are Most Appropriately Used On and Near Catalina*** – MSRP funds were meant to address the damage to natural resources such as bald eagles and peregrine falcons that were impacted by DDTs 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 funds 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 sites of the greatest impact.

Removing cats and rats from other Channel Islands, and even from an island in Mexico that is an important haven for seabirds, are worthy undertakings. Our Conservancy has and will continue to fund conservation work that deals with the impacts of introduced species, and we know first hand what havoc they can wreak. However, these sea bird populations have for the most part recovered from the impacts of DDTs and PCBs and now are suffering the impacts of a different problem than the one the MSRP was intended to address.

While we understand that the notion of “compensatory restoration” within CERCLA regulations allows for such considerations, we would argue that doing these efforts **in lieu of** continuing to fund a successful eagle recovery program on Catalina Island that, arguably, was hardest hit by the damage, would be an inappropriate trade-off both scientifically and philosophically.

• ***Catalina’s Endangered Fox is at Risk*** – Abandoning bald eagle restoration on Catalina may put the Catalina Island fox population at risk. The MSRP Restoration Plan states, “*No other species plays the same ecological role as the bald eagle. In the absence of bald eagles on the Northern Channel Islands, golden eagles (not native to the Northern Channel Islands) have become established. Nesting adult bald eagles defend territories and would likely have excluded golden eagles from establishing on the islands (USFWS 2004). The golden eagle, a terrestrial predator, has had tremendous negative impacts on native island foxes, a species that does not have evolutionary adaptations to avoid predation (Coonan 2001, Roemer 1999.*” Discontinuing bald eagle restoration efforts on Catalina is simply too risky to the continued recovery of the Catalina Island fox, which is a federally listed endangered species.

Catalina Island’s fox population is still in recovery after an outbreak of canine distemper in 1999. This required an expensive and comprehensive recovery program wholly funded by the Conservancy that included research, vaccination, captive breeding and now intensive monitoring. At this time, with the presence of bald eagles on Catalina, there are no golden eagles, voracious fox predators, on the Island. We don’t have enough information to rule out that the loss of bald eagles on the Island could threaten our fox population, which, at just about 300 animals, is only beginning to recover.

• ***Catalina’s Bald Eagles Fuel Recovery Elsewhere*** – Bald eagle restoration efforts on Catalina Island are a source population for recovery of bald eagles on the Northern Channel Islands, and for the adjacent mainland. More than 90 chicks have been successfully released on Catalina and some are now in residence on Northern Channel Islands and dozens have traveled to the mainland, being sighted as far north as Canada.

• ***Catalina is the Most Cost-Effective Investment*** – An investment in Catalina’s recovery program is an investment in a comprehensive Island restoration effort. These efforts include the human intervention still necessary to ensure eagle 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.

The Catalina Island Conservancy makes an annual investment in the millions of dollars into the ongoing ecological health of the Island and the ecological literacy of its resident and visiting populations. The \$270,000 per year Bald Eagle Restoration Program on Catalina is not only an investment in a single restoration effort focused on fostering chicks into nests, but rather it is an investment that is part of **a comprehensive effort that protects and restores critical habitat and provides on-going public outreach and education**, both of which are central to the Conservancy's mission. As an example of the latter, we are in the process of producing an educational video on the eagle program and creating an eagle exhibit in a new Nature Center in Avalon, both at our own expense.

You have asked us that if this program is so important to the Conservancy why don't we just support it ourselves. The fact is that we already support this effort through our ongoing protection and restoration of the habitat the eagles call home, an effort that costs millions of dollars each year, and through ongoing educational outreach. In terms of why we are unable to provide cash funding to the Institute for Wildlife Studies, we are a small organization that is stretched beyond our capacity in managing 42,000 acres in a way that is appropriate both to nature's needs and human needs. Some of the enormous conservation challenges that we face include invasive (76 species) plant removal and management; introduced faunal species management including feral cats and mule deer; ongoing monitoring of our Island fox recovery and assessing a new threat, cancerous ear tumors that lead to death in older foxes; and, assessing the causes of oak woodland dieback and developing effective restoration strategies; to name just a few. In addition, we have more than \$6 million in deferred maintenance of roads, buildings and runways that the Conservancy must address over the next five to ten years, infrastructure that allows access to the Island for residents and the visiting public, and supports researchers working on the Island.

But beyond the challenges of the Conservancy to absorb additional, major restoration projects, the fact is that the Montrose Natural Resource Trustees are managing funds set aside to address environmental damage done to Catalina and the surrounding waters. The Conservancy did not dump DDTs and PCBs; Montrose and other polluters did. Montrose Settlement funds were meant precisely for the type of eagle restoration work that is currently taking place on Catalina Island, and applying those Montrose funds to that work is the most appropriate use of the funds, and is in the best spirit of **public-private partnerships that leverage scarce dollars for the public good**.

The Trustees are proposing to spend \$3.3 million on the Northern Channel Islands (NCI) Bald Eagle Feasibility Study. For a five-year study, this amounts to \$660,000 per year, almost two and a half times what the bald eagle work on Catalina is costing. The Montrose Natural Resource Trustees funded five years of work on Catalina Island for \$1.2 million. What accounts for this significant difference in cost?

The Trustees indicate that \$6 million will be left after funding the NCI Feasibility Study and the past five years of the Catalina Island program. If those dollars were placed into a long-term endowment, and assuming a traditional 5% return on investment (which even builds principal assuming a portfolio performs at 8-9%), \$300,000 per year could fund the Catalina Island effort in perpetuity, if that were required. If the NCI Feasibility Study found that a self-sustaining population is not possible on the Northern Channel Islands, then a decision could be made about how the investment income should be spent, with perhaps a sharing between the Northern and Southern Channel Islands. However, if those dollars are spent on restoring sea bird populations in Mexico and the Northern Channel Islands, which have recovered from the impacts of DDT, there won't be sufficient funds to support a continued presence of bald eagles on Catalina Island and perhaps even the rest of the Channel Islands.

The early scientific work done with bald eagles on Catalina Island was the most compelling evidence that eventually lead to the negotiation of the Montrose Settlement. It would be a travesty of justice if this Island, the one place millions of people can view their national symbol in a natural setting, was abandoned.

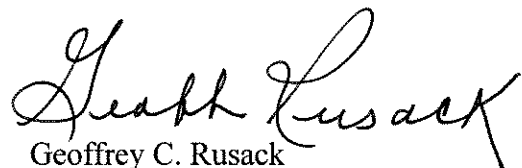
We strongly urge the Trustees to reconsider their approach, and to create an alternative that 1) supports ongoing bald eagle restoration on Catalina Island, 2) establishes funding for peregrine falcon restoration in the Southern Channel Islands, including Catalina, and 3) establishes a program to restore marine fisheries in the waters around Catalina Island – site of the greatest negative impacts from the chemical dumping.

We understand these are difficult management decisions and there are very rarely easy, clear-cut choices. We want to thank the Trustees for the last five years of bald eagle support on Catalina Island and we stand ready to discuss with you alternatives that place greater emphasis on the primary restoration of injuries and lost services in the area suffering the greatest loss of natural resources.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Muscat, Ph.D.
President and CEO



Geoffrey C. Rusack
Chairman of the Board

Milena Viljoen

From: ashton@kutztown.edu
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 5:49 PM
To: Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org; webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Dear Mr. Baker,

having performed field research on rattlesnakes on Santa Catalina Island, I am very familiar with the island and its fauna. I am upset to hear that funding for Bald Eagle restoration on Catalina from the Montrose Settlements Program may end soon. Bald Eagles are a prominent species, one which the general public enjoys observing whenever possible. Catalina Island provides one of the best opportunities in California to view Bald Eagles.

Discontinuing restoration funding would be premature and foolish. If the goal of the restoration settlement was to make amends for damage done from pesticide pollution, funding should be continued until it is assured that the lingering effects of the actions of Montrose on the reproduction of Bald Eagles are no longer present. That takes time and money. Given the horrific nature of the crime, polluting our environment with chemicals that decimate natural populations, it is absolutely necessary that any settlement funds go to ensuring that affected populations are COMPLETELY restored prior to switching focus to other areas. Otherwise, only halfway solutions are being provided. And halfway solutions are NO solution at all!

Sincerely,

Kyle Ashton

Dr. Kyle G. Ashton
Department of Biology
Kutztown University
Kutztown, PA 19530

Milena Viljoen

From: Roy [rcturney@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 7:57 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov

Please do not withdraw funds from the protection of bald eagles on Catalina Island. The island suffered mightlly from Montrose's illegal dumping and The Catalina Conservancy has been working hard to restore Catalina Island's wildlife both plant and animal. Help them until the bald eagle recovery program is more fully achieved.

Milena Viljoen

From: Jared Figurski [jared_figurski@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 8:17 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: Support Alternative 2

MSRP

I support implementation of alternative #2, providing funding for restoration of eagles, peregrine falcons, seabirds and fisheries. The release of DDT into the environment over thirty years represents one of the most appalling and difficult environmental problems our society must face. In particular, we cannot undo the damage to the system, however we can attempt to restore those groups of organisms most impacted. The funds must be used strategically to impart the greatest restoration benefit per dollar. I think focusing on the restoration of nesting seabirds in the southern bight is the most efficient use of funds. Even though eagles suffered tremendously and restoration of their population would be applauded by the general public, the evidence suggests that residual levels of DDT in the environment may be too high for them to successfully reproduce. Therefore, I support the use of some of the funds for exploration of the feasibility of restoring eagles, however I support the stipulation that diverts eagle funds to seabirds if the evidence demonstrates that eagles will not be able to support themselves.

The damage to fish populations as a result of chronic poisoning by DDT will never be entirely known. However, the poisoning of fisheries stocks is a crime against the ecosystem, fishers, and society as a whole. Restoration of fish stocks will mitigate the damage suffered by all parties. Fortunately, novel ecosystem-based management plans such as Marine Protected Areas are being applied and evaluated along the coast of California. Providing funds for evaluating the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas or researching essential fish habitat for commercial species would be a very productive use of the money available.

Thank you for considering my opinion,
Jared Figurski

~~~~~  
Jared Figurski  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
Long Marine Laboratory, Center for Ocean Health  
100 Shaffer Rd. Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Office: (831) 459-5783 / Home: (831) 420-1813/ Cell (831) 818-2769  
~~~~~

Milena Viljoen

From: ajcpve@cox.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 9:55 PM
To: Greg Baker
Subject: Catalina Bald Eagle program funding

Mr. Baker,

If you have ever had the good fortune to see from a boat four magnificent Bald Eagles perched on the skyline at the West End of Catalina as I did a few years ago, I am sure you would not wish to jeopardise the future of that very successful program by shifting resources to other programs, worthwhile as they may be, particularly since your funding was 'derived' from the environmental damage to the Palos verdes Peninsula/Catalina Island area. I urge you and the Montrose Natural Resource Trustees to reconsider the proposed reallocation of funding away from the Catalina Island program. I am writing to you as a member of KHYC who first sailed to Catalina in 1953, who treasures the Island as it is and supports the Catalina Island Conservancy efforts to restore and maintain the island's ecosystem. Thankyou,

Allen J Curtis

Milena Viljoen

From: Larry [archhill581@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 10:32 PM
To: Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Hello,

I know there are a lot of causes out there. It seems everyone has one.

But everything I've known about the Catalina Conservancy (and I suppose I know more than the average Angeleno) is that they have been doing a wonderful job with these bald eagles. Why stop funding while progress is being made? If you're going to shift funds at least wait until the project is complete.

Please reconsider. These birds and the Conservancy need your help.

Larry Travis
581 Arch Place
Glendale, CA 91206

Devora Hertz
31901 9th Avenue
Laguna Beach, Ca
92651
949 499-0117
PlanetLaguna@msn.com

May 18, 2005

Mr. Greg Baker Project Manager

501 West Ocean Blvd Suite 4470

Long Beach, CA 90802

Ph: 562 980-3236

Email msrp@noaa.gov

Re: Continuation of the Bald Eagle Recovery Program

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am writing out of concern for the Bald Eagle Recovery Program. It is my understanding that there is some thought of discontinuing the program. I urge you to continue with these recovery efforts.

Long Term Viability

The recovery program is just one portion of this bird's viability. I am not aware of any long-term studies indicating that these birds are in fact able to survive and reproduce on their own in the wild. The California Condor recovery program is a good example. Although able to successfully breed the Condor's in captivity, they found that when released into the wild had a high mortality rate. It was discovered that they were eating lead pellets from hunting rifles. Where they were able to successfully overcome one problem they discovered another that needed to be resolved before survival of the species could be anticipated. The same should be done with the Bald Eagle.

The Basic Underlying Problems Continues

As long as there continues to be that quantity of DDT buried off the Coastal Waters the threat continues. As long as this threat continues a program insuring, their continued existence should be in effect. It seems premature to discontinue the program while the basic problem persists.

Expansion on Closure

Many species of birds have been impacted by DDT, such as the Brown Pelican. If anything, it seems that the recovery program could expand not close. Your work has just begun not finished. If anything, expansion of the program seems to be what is needed, not closure. Now that you have mastered the caring process for the bald eagle, why doesn't the center take this success and expand upon it.

You serve a most valuable function. All species are at the mercy of man's new technological forays. Moreover, where we have not yet determined the particular significance, each species contributes; we know that the chain cannot function with missing links. So some of this greatness your contributing to nature has to rely on blind faith that what your doing is right and what your doing is good. For the animal and other species cannot speak for themselves. They will not be shaking your hand or presenting rewards to you at any conventions. The reward is to see them return to the normal functioning behavior. Nevertheless, this can be the most inspiring gift of all.

I hope you will consider the most important gift you are giving to these animals and the natural habitat that surrounds you. Please consider keeping the recovery program open.

Sincerely,

Devora Hertz

Milena Viljoen

From: Joan Matthias [joanmatthias@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 1:01 AM
To: Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program
Cc: dana@mail.house.gov; senator.lowenthal@sen.ca.gov
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Dear Mr. Baker,

I have been fortunate enough to be a volunteer for the Catalina Island Conservancy working on various projects for them. I am aware that you are considering pulling the money to support the Bald Eagle Restoration Project. I have seen up close the magnificent eagles on the island and they are truly a sight to behold. I can't imagine that you would discontinue funding now when significant progress has been made in their reproduction cycle. It is too soon to abandon efforts and to deprive the public of seeing this magnificent bird in its natural surroundings.

The majority of the damage from the Montrose dumping of DDT and PCB has been on Catalina Island. It stands to reason that they should receive sufficient funds to reestablish what the Montrose Company destroyed. Why would you force abandonment of a program that is operating successfully to support a program for eagles in the Northern Channel Islands and for the eradication of cats and rats on islands south in Mexico?

By forcing the abandonment of the bald eagle restoration on Catalina you are putting the Island fox population at risk. It is possible that their presence on Catalina deters the appearance of Golden Eagles which prey on the fox, which is federally listed as an endangered species. Why would you put this fox at risk?

As a concerned citizen, I ask that you do not cut the funding for the Eagle Restoration on Catalina Island.

Sincerely,
Joan Matthias

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Milena Viljoen

From: Bernie Tershy [tershy@islandconservation.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 9:28 AM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: Support for Option 2 MSRP

Dear Mr. Baker;

Congratulations to you and the Montrose Trustees for producing an outstanding draft restoration plan.

Attached is a letter outlining our support for MSRP option 2. The letter is in PDF format.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Bernie Tershy, PhD
Executive Director,
Island Conservation
*100 Shaffer Rd
Center for Ocean Health
University of California,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060*

(831) 459-1461

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Dedicated to preventing extinctions and protecting natural ecological and evolutionary processes.

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University of California

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

19 May 05

Dear Mr. Baker and Montrose Trustees:

I am writing to comment on the Draft Restoration Plan for the Montrose Settlements and Restoration Program. My organization, Island Conservation, strongly supports option #2, the preferred option.

Island Conservation is a science-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to preventing extinctions and protecting natural ecological and evolutionary processes on islands. We do this by integrating and applying the five main steps of biodiversity conservation:

- Research & Priority Setting
- Education & Policy Work
- Capacity Building
- Conservation Action
- Monitoring & Evaluation

We work collaboratively with government management agencies, local communities, and other interested groups who are our partners in the long-term protection of the islands. We developed a web-accessible database to quantify the biodiversity of each island in California and Western Mexico and the threats from introduced species. Our independent analyses clearly demonstrate the benefits of option 2.

We are also concerned about the ethics of releasing wild eagles into an environment where they are both unable to reproduce and may receive damaging or lethal loads of DDE. Finally, we are concerned that conservation funds will be used inefficiently attempting to prop up an unsustainable population of eagles when DDE levels are still dangerously high.

We suggest using the bulk of the funds for urgently needed restoration now (option 2) and putting a small amount of Montrose funds in a long-term trust so that in the future, when DDE levels are safely low, there will be sufficient funds available to reintroduce Bald Eagles to the Channel Islands (once DDE levels are low, reintroduction will be relatively inexpensive). This way, the public can see a maximum benefit from the Montrose settlement over time.

Sincerely,

Bernie Tershy,
Executive Director

Milena Viljoen

From: Mark D. Readdie [readdie@lifesci.ucsb.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2005 10:15 AM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: Montrose Settlements Draft Restoration Plan

To:
Greg Baker, Program Manager
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program

I would like to briefly show my support for Alternative 2 of the draft restoration plan for the Southern California Islands. My opinions on the matter closely match those of the Island Conservation and Ecology Group at Long Marine Lab, UCSC.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Readdie, Ph.D
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University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
Email: readdie@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Phone: 805-680-6634
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