

Milena Viljoen

From: Leslie Baer [lbaer@catalinaconservancy.org]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 12:44 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: MSRP, please reply to robert@lambertinc.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Webmaster" <Webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org>
Date: Mon May 23, 2005 10:11:30 AM America/Los_Angeles
To: "Leslie Baer" <Lbaer@catalinaconservancy.org>
Subject: Fwd: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles! (From the Webmaster)

From: "Robert Browning" <robert@lambertinc.com>
Date: Mon May 23, 2005 10:03:49 AM America/Los_Angeles
To: "Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program" <msrp@noaa.org>
Cc: <webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org>
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

This is a letter regarding the plans to reallocate funds currently given to the Institute for Wildlife Studies. It is so important that the work that the institute engages in is funded as best as possible. The bald eagle's existence on the island relies on it. Catalina Island is the only place in California where bald eagles can be seen. It would be a dishonor to the citizens of our country if the bald eagle and its preservation are ignored in this way.

Thank you for your heavy consideration,

Robert Browning
Office Manager
2001 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 505
Santa Monica, CA 90403
Phone (310) 453-9656
Fax (310) 829-6288

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

Confidentiality Note: The information contained in this message contains privileged and confidential information intended only for the use of the individual(s) or entity named on the e-mail. If the reader of

Milena Viljoen

From: Leslie Baer [lbaer@catalinaconservancy.org]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 12:46 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: MSRP, please reply to Fordsijt@aol.com

From: Fordsijt@aol.com
Date: Mon May 23, 2005 10:07:39 AM America/Los_Angeles
To: Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program<msrp@noaa.org>
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Please Don't abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles.

We are part time residents in Avalon and unlike most visitors to the island our favorite past time is hiking in the interior. This place is truly a magical ecological environment. Please allow the continuation of the Bald Eagles project to continue. There are so few unique locations like the island of Catalina. Please preserve this as a habitat for future Bald Eagle generations.

Most sincerely,

Julie Ford, D.D.S.
16941 Edgewater Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
714-846-2359

Milena Viljoen

From: Leslie Baer [lbaer@catalinaconservancy.org]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 12:46 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: MSRP, please reply to che@tax-online.com

From: "Che Elliott" <che@tax-online.com>
Date: Mon May 23, 2005 11:21:57 AM America/Los_Angeles
To: "Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program" <msrp@noaa.org>
Cc: <webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org>
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

This is a letter regarding the plans to reallocate the funds currently given to the Institute for Wildlife Studies. It is very important that the work the institute engages in is funded as best as possible, as the Bald Eagles very existence heavily relies upon it. Catalina Island is the only place in California where Bald Eagles can be seen. It would be a great dishonor to the citizens of our country if the Bald Eagle and its preservation are ignored in this way.

Thank you for your heavy consideration.

Sincerely,

Chélis Elliott

Office Administrator

Law Offices of Robert M.L. Baker III

2001 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 505

Santa Monica, CA 90403

Phone: (310) 828-4849

Fax: (310) 828-3069

Alt. Fax: (310) 829-6288

Milena Viljoen

From: chris swenson [cswenson2003@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 1:50 PM
To: Montrose Draft EIS
Subject: comment in support of Alternative 2

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) in the Draft Programmatic EIS for the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program. I support this alternative because it would put a greater percentage of the funds toward restoration of seabirds, specifically island restoration projects.

Sincerely,

Chris Swenson

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<http://mail.yahoo.com>

Milena Viljoen

From: Mary T Stein [dbos@catalinaisp.com]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 2:05 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: Funding for Catalina Island's Bald Eagles

to: Greg Baker - Program Manager
from: Mary Stein & Randy Brannock - owners
Descanso Beach Ocean Sports, Avalon

Dear Greg,

Please do not abandon the funding for the Catalina Island Bald Eagle project. We have witnessed first-hand, the importance of this funding. A large part of our kayak and snorkel business, operating out of Avalon, is guided natural history "eco" tours by kayak along our coastline. In 2004 alone, we introduced over 9,000 visitors to the wonders of our island via these tours, another 18,000 visitors experienced the island on their own by renting kayaks from us and exploring the coastline.

We inform our patrons of the eagle's plight and educate them on the need to protect and conserve our natural resources. Eighty percent of the time our customers get to see the bald eagles at rest on the shore, in flight and often fishing - making their experience more fulfilling. The vision of our national bird inspires more than just the beauty of nature. They take images of these natural encounters back to the mainland, to Southern California, other states and other countries.

The fact that the re-introduction of bald eagles has had limited success, proves even more the necessity to continue the funding. There is no greater cost than the inability of our scientists to reverse the damages done to the ecosystem and our eagles. We must continue the program to keep the travesties of chemical dumping in the minds of our citizens, to keep them aware of the delicateness of Nature and the role that business plays in Nature's manipulation. Little by little headway IS being made, and given the success of the Brown Pelican, the Bald Eagle will also be restored to its former range.

Sincerely,

Randy Brannock
Mary Stein
Auroura Vickers
Michael Clark
Jake Brannock
Janel Works
Chris Fell
Chris Todd
Micah Phillips
Jessica & Tim Mitchel
Humberto Hernandez
Paul Sanchez
Ben Eroen
Deanna Stone
LeAnn Human
Alex Lane
Colby Cushing
Keani Hooikaika
Sayre Yazzie
Joseph Vickers

Rory Olsen
Hugh Radde
Kevin Poole
Kristina Elakovic
Kathleen Zeller

Milena Viljoen

From: Sue Dewey [sdewey@nhm.org]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 11:34 AM
To: greg.baker@noaa.gov
Subject: Bald Eagle Recovery

Dear Mr. Baker,

It is vital that the \$250,000 in appropriated funds continue to support the recovery efforts of the Catalina bald eagle. Redirecting these funds will devastate an already fragile ecological balance, and have a negative effect on tourism to the island.

Please continue funding efforts to restore our nation's greatest symbol.

Sincerely,

Sue Dewey
Pasadena, CA

Milena Viljoen

From: padianteam@aol.com

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 2:27 PM

To: msrp@noaa.gov

Dear NOAA

I read the story about the DDT contamination in the Sunday LA times, and have three comments.

1) The DDT has been in the water a long time, and apparently will remain so for a long time longer. Majestic as they are, we shouldn't be spending the few precious dollars available on a program (eagle reintroduction on Catalina) that is doomed to failure until the DDT is cleaned up. We should concentrate these resources where we know we will get some sort of result that respects the birds (such as the other islands) as opposed to sentencing them to a premature and continued decline and death. In essence, the existing program is just a scientific experiment to see how bad things are, with no regard to the test subjects. I am sure there are more cost effective and less impacting ways to monitor the spread of the DDT.

2) I am not a fish or oceanographic expert, but it seems pretty non-sensical that the DDT contamination would just stay where it was dumped. I was on Catalina this weekend, and saw many fishermen catching a variety of things, including many bottom feeders such as haibut and crustacians. And of course, a lot of animals higher up in the food chain and higher in elevation (i.e humans, birds, and other fish) are eating species that eat the bottom feeders. I am amazed that the entire area from Point Dume to San Clemente out to the Channel Islands is not posted with serious fishing warnings for all sea life, and that commercial and private fishing be banned along the Palos Verde coast. Placing a reef there would only expand the dispersal of the DDT to new animal and plant species, and more fisherman and fish eaters.

3. The DDT contamination is obviously an almost unfathomable (no pun intended) problem, and burying it under mounds of material seems to be a very crude and ineffective brute force way of dealing with the problem. Like nuclear waste (which no one really knows how to handle safely or wants in their backyard) and the past and continued deposition of un- and partially treated sewage and storm drain flows into Santa Monica Bay, the LA and Long Beach harbors, the Huntington Beach outfall, Newport Harbor, and Dana Point, we are creating awful legacies for the future generations of all of earth's inhabitants. We have to do better than accept the marginally acceptable solutions.

In summary, the dollars would be better spent fixing the problem and educating the public about the direct danger to anyone who consumes sealife along the greater LA and Orange County coast.

Thanks

Mike Padian

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

Milena Viljoen

From: Jon Mueller ext. 2162 [jmueller@savethebay.cbf.org]

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 2:54 PM

To: msrp@noaa.gov

Subject: Montrose Restoration Plan - Catalina Island Bald Eagle Restoration Program

Dear Mr. Baker:

Attached is a letter I would like you and the trustees to consider before reaching a decision on whether to continue funding the Catalina Island Bald Eagle Restoration Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jon Mueller

May 23, 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

RE: Montrose Restoration Plan - Proposal to terminate funding of Catalina Bald Eagle Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Baker:

I write to ask that you and the Trustees not terminate funding the Catalina Island Bald Eagle Restoration Project. While I know that this is a difficult decision for you and the other trustees and that you have considered the issue carefully, I have some personal knowledge of the issue which you may not have considered.

In the mid-1990's, I was an attorney with the United States Department of Justice and one of the attorneys working on the *U.S. v. Montrose Chemical Co.*, natural resource damages case. I was the lead attorney assigned to manage and work with all of the government's expert and fact witnesses examining DDT impacts to birds within the Southern California Bight. This work required that I understand such issues in great detail and determine what evidence would be of particular importance to the Court in reaching a decision upon the government's claims. As part of this work, I became intimately familiar with the DDT problem in the Bight and its impacts on bald eagles. I worked closely with David Garcelon who leads the bald eagle restoration project on Catalina Island and his staff at the Institute for Wildlife Studies ("IWS"). I made several trips to the area and visited Catalina Island twice with trips to the field station and some of the nest sites.

While I am certainly no expert in this field, I do know that Mr. Garcelon and his staff are highly qualified and highly dedicated individuals. These folks have continually risked their lives to ensure that our national symbol lives and breeds in one of its historic nesting territories. I also know, having put on the evidence at trial, what impact the evidence concerning the efforts of IWS and harm to bald eagles had with the Court, the audience in attendance at the time of trial, public opinion, and the defendants who ultimately settled the case and provided the funds which you and the trustees are administering today. In my opinion, the direct testimony of Mr. Garcelon and the historic evidence amassed by Lloyd Kiff, Ron Jurek and Stan Wiemeyer – individuals with years of experience in this field – provided the impetus for the defendants, who had fought the government for over 10 years, to settle the case. In fact, some of the same people who fought so hard to defeat the government in court personally wished to see bald eagles restored to Catalina Island.

You might ask how do I know that and why is this important? First, I saw the judge's reaction to the photographic images of bald eagles over Catalina, the nesting chicks, the impaired egg shells, and of Mr. Garcelon hanging from a rope hundreds of feet over the sea attempting to remove recently laid eagle eggs from their nest. Second, I also heard the reaction of those in the court room, including the defense attorneys and their clients who decided to settle the case the next day, when this evidence presented. Third, it is apparent that the restoration of bald eagles to their historic habitat is an issue which resonates with people from every walk of life, an issue you should strongly consider in making your decision.

Now, you might wonder why these facts are important to the trustees in reaching a decision on whether to end the eagle restoration program? These facts directly relate to the message you send to the public and the decades of work you effectively destroy if you make that decision. The message you send is that the bald eagles of Catalina Island are a lost cause and were not meant to nest there, in effect, that the citizens of the United States should not hope that bald eagles will repopulate their historic nesting grounds in one of the most spectacular areas of this country. You also send the message that the individuals who decided to pump tons of DDT into our environment have won.

The work you destroy is the work not of just Mr. Garcelon, IWS, and the Nature Conservancy but, the years of work undertaken by countless employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service, US EPA, the State of California, the San Francisco Zoo, and the US Department of Justice. All of these individuals fought for years against unbelievable odds and the best law firms in the country to restore the Bight with the bald eagle restoration program as the pinnacle of restoration efforts. If you end the Catalina program, eventually bald eagles will leave that island and all of this effort will be for naught and one of the shining examples of human natural restoration efforts will end.

I ask that you and the trustees continue the Catalina Island Bald Eagle restoration project so, that people around the world can continue to believe that the damage we do to the environment can be salvaged with hard work and sacrifice, and that those who pollute our world cannot forever destroy a great and endangered species.

Sincerely,

Jon A. Mueller
446 Epping Way
Annapolis, MD 21401

Milena Viljoen

From: Catalina Transportation Services [CatalinaTransportation@CatalinaISP.Com]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 3:27 PM
To: Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

To Whom it May Concern:

I live and work here on Avalon. The Institute for Wildlife Studies as well as the Catalina Island Conservancy are doing a great job at raising baby eagles for their re-population. They are a rare bird and we have had success here on the island raising them. Please do not discontinue your funding for these magnificent birds.

Thank you very much,
Karin L. Hague
310-510-0342

Josh Adams, Ecologist
PO Box 1103
Aptos, CA 95001

23 May 2005

Greg Baker, Program Manager
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470
Long Beach, CA 90802
562.980.3236
msrp@noaa.gov

Dear Trustees, authors, advisors, and members of the public concerned with the implementation of the *Montrose Settlement Restoration Plan* (MSRP),

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the Draft MSRP which I understand in its current form to be “conceptual” and in need of further development. As a citizen of the US and the State of California, I am obliged to share with you my thoughts regarding the implementation of certain restoration plans that seek to recover or restore natural resources that were (and continue to be) damaged by unprecedented negligence on behalf of Montrose Chemical Corporation and other chemical polluters. The ideas and thoughts put forth by me in this statement are mine, and do not necessarily represent ideas shared or endorsed by persons or entities with which I am affiliated in a professional capacity or otherwise.

The discharge of DDT and PCBs through the White Point wastewater outfall near Los Angeles spanned approximately one half of my parent’s generation. This represents the single greatest point-source of such contamination to the World’s Oceans and has caused well documented, devastating effects especially to seabirds, and other upper-trophic-level predators including Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, that depend on the complex marine food web of the Southern California Bight (SCB) and greater California Current System. I have worked, studied, and visited the SCB for more than the past decade; I share with many others a strong appreciation and value for the ocean, islands, people, and ecosystem that are encompassed by the Southern California Bight.

I participated in the MSRP Bird Technical Workshop held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sacramento Office Sacramento, CA on January 9, 2003. Although many of the points raised in those discussions are addressed in the Draft MSRP, I hope that the Trustee’s will address certain additional concerns, considerations, and suggestions herein and that you will continue to maintain an open dialogue with the public prior to implementing additional restoration activities.

My two main objectives are primarily related specifically to the restoration of seabirds damaged by DDT and PCBs in the SCB:

1. to provide comment on the process undertaken by the *Trustees* to formulate a restoration plan that seeks to restore damages to seabirds, and

2. to provide comment on specific “seabird restoration actions” advanced to Tier 2 by the *Trustees*

Formulating a geopolitically biased restoration plan

“The Trustees will use the damages for restoration of injured natural resources, including bald eagles, peregrine falcons and other marine birds, fish and the habitats upon which they depend, as well as providing for implementation of restoration projects intended to compensate the public for lost use of natural resources” (from Consent Decree; page 5, lines 18–22).

*“After consideration of the foraging ecology of seabirds in the SCB, the Trustee Council concluded that **it was likely that most, if not all, species of seabirds using the SCB had been exposed to DDTs or PCBs.**”*

“DDTs and PCBs have come to be distributed over a wide region (through movement of sediments, water, and uptake by mobile biological organisms) beyond the immediate area of the Palos Verdes Shelf..... the ecological injuries and human use losses caused by the DDTs and PCBs discharged by the defendants have occurred over a broader area of the SCB. For this reason, the SCB rather than just the Palos Verdes Shelf forms the primary geographic area of focus for the Trustees’ natural resource restoration actions.”

The Consent Decree was sufficiently accurate to account for **all** species potentially affected – yet the Draft MSRP fails to recognize the ecosystem of the SCB as it relates to the seabird communities that exist there (i.e., the ecosystem includes BOTH breeding and migratory species), ignores science, and insufficiently addressed the advice of the public and experts when defining restoration goals. The Plan is based on insufficient data gap studies (fish only). Furthermore, among the other resources damaged, the Plan targets only a handful of species (eagles, falcons, cormorants, ashy storm-petrel, and xantus’s murrelet, Cassin’s auklet), and only those few that were examined for egg-shell thinning (almost exclusively within the Channel Islands).

The vast majority of marine birds (>60% of species) that rely on the SCB breed elsewhere. These migratory birds spend considerable amounts of their lives foraging in the SCB, and because they are numerically dominant—by orders of magnitude greater than local breeding species—the bulk of the DDT, DDE, and PCBs were and continue to be accumulated by these species. As recognized by the Trustee’s and the Consent Decree, the Montrose contamination catastrophe is an ecosystem-level impact. Although the MSRP states that Trustees considered foraging ecology, it is clear that the Plan fails to venture beyond a pre-determined geopolitical boundary—given the magnitude of the contamination, the relatively large restoration settlement, and the complexity of the ecosystem-level impacts—this plan targets only a few species and, in some cases, falls short of actual restoration.

It has been estimated that between 1975 and 1978, >400,000 Pink-footed Shearwaters (now listed under the ICUN Red List as Globally Threatened, and by the Colonial Waterbird Plan as “High” priority for conservation status) occurred in the SCB (Briggs et al. 1987). From 1999 to

2001 abundance of Pink-footed Shearwaters during May (the month of maximum abundance) reflects a 79% decline to approximately 62,400 individuals (Mason et al. 2004). Not only is it *likely* that Pink-footed Shearwaters were exposed to DDTs or PCBs, but published studies show that egg concentrations from colonies in Chile measured in the mid-late 1990s displayed elevated concentrations of PCBs ($102 \pm 56 \text{ ng g}^{-1}$) and DDT ($163 \pm 273 \text{ ng g}^{-1}$). Furthermore, the composition of the PCB constituents (degree of chlorination) in shearwater eggs is different from 3 other seabirds assessed that reside off South America throughout the year, indicating northern hemisphere contaminant sources for the Chilean Shearwaters (Cifuentes et al. 2002).

By far the most abundant seabird inhabiting the waters of the SCB is the Sooty Shearwater. Between 1975 and 1983, Briggs and Chu (1986) estimated >2 million Sooty Shearwaters off central and southern California in May. During May from 1999 to 2001 the estimated abundance off Sooty Shearwaters within the SCB declined to approximately 366,500 individuals (Mason et al. 2004). This is consistent with other surveys off California that have revealed dramatic (~75 – 90%) declines in the abundance of this species (Viet et al. 1997, Oedekoven et al. 2001, Hyrenbach and Viet 2003). Dacre (1974) recorded extremely high concentrations of residual organochlorines or in the fat of Sooty Shearwaters in New Zealand. It is important to point out that contaminated chicks of this species are consumed by humans. As with Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters, Short-tailed Shearwaters chicks whose parents also winter (austral) in the northern hemisphere, and forage in the SCB, also have been documented as having some of the greatest concentrations of DDE and PCB contaminants measured in seabirds (Tenaka et al. 1986).

Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters rely on the same key prey in the SCB (northern anchovy and pacific sardine) responsible for transferring DDT and PCBs to pelicans and cormorants. The formerly great numbers of shearwaters (order of magnitude greater than the total population of all breeding species in the Channel Islands) that occurred in the SCB, combined with their reliance on contaminated anchovy and sardine, indicate that the vast majority of DDT and PCBs accumulated by the impacted seabird community were taken up and assimilated into the tissues of Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters.

“Trustees selected resources and injuries that they felt were representative, rather than inclusive, of the potential injuries caused by the release of the contaminants. The Trustees propose to undertake actions aimed at restoring key species and services to their baseline condition (i.e., the condition that would exist if the releases of DDTs and PCBs had not occurred).”

Selected resources chosen were limited to local breeders, did not include any of the many migratory species which dominate the marine avian community of the SCB, and hardly could be classified as “representative”. There is no discussion of what constitutes “baseline condition”—this is absolutely important to define this quantitatively, if possible, to insure that restorative actions can be evaluated and restoration success can be established, measured, and documented.

Not only the affected shearwaters, but entire, globally significant island ecosystems in Chile and New Zealand would benefit by applying proven restoration efforts toward the total eradication of introduced, non-native mammalian predators from these islands. The Trustee’s should address

reasons why, when provided with appropriate Nexus, international stakeholders were not included in the MSRP. Furthermore, the Trustees should consider now and in the future, such long-lasting restoration alternatives that would benefit key impacted migratory species and entire ecosystems.

After recognizing that the damaged resources can not be contained within the economic and geopolitical boundary defined in the Plan, the Trustees of the MSRP should adopt similar approaches to established trans-boundary conservation and restoration goals that have been adopted by others in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency (i.e., Partners in Flight, Waterbird Conservation Plan), and NOAA Fisheries (i.e., The Bellagio Blueprint for Action on Pacific Sea Turtles). These agencies are charged with managing globally shared migratory species

Bald Eagles

The MSRP clearly states that bald eagles on Santa Catalina Island continue to “have high concentrations of DDTs from their diet, produce abnormal eggs, and require continued human intervention (manipulation of eggs and fostering of chicks into their nests) to sustain their presence on the island. Assessments indicate that this situation is likely to persist on Santa Catalina Island for the foreseeable future.”

I strongly support the Trustee’s position to re-allocate any extra Phase 1 funding towards seabird projects. Under Alternative 2, funding for continued intervention to sustain bald eagles on Santa Catalina Island should cease after 2005, regardless of the outcome of the Feasibility Study. The proposed restoration of bald eagles here is not likely to be successful, and would provide little benefit toward the ecosystem or multiple species in this area. Successful restoration of bald eagles could benefit by actions targeting areas away from Santa Catalina Island.

Peregrine Falcons

The Trustees have recognized that Peregrine Falcons have, and continue to exhibit recovery throughout the Channel Islands and SCB area. I am of the opinion that restoration funds not be allocated toward restorative efforts for this species. The species should continue to increase and reach stability with no further efforts. Furthermore, additional hacking, relocation, or translocation of falcons may pose significant threats toward depleted and rare seabirds, and seabirds such as certain alcids that are targeted for restoration. I support continued monitoring of the SCB falco population and periodic assessments of contaminant concentrations, but this effort should match equivalent contributions to assess seabird recoveries.

Seabirds

The SCB is oceanographically complex, and provides critical habitat to >60 species of seabirds that nest throughout the Pacific Ocean. The islands, and to a much lesser extent, the mainland shores of the study area, provide breeding habitat for at least 20 species of seabirds. Because seabirds (both resident and migratory species) spend the vast majority of their lives at sea, they are particularly vulnerable to marine pollution, certain fishing practices, vessel transport, and certain military activities—great concern exists regarding impacts to local and migratory populations. Current trends in distributions and population numbers among species can be

difficult to sort out given large natural fluctuations caused by large-scale changes in marine climate and prey resources and the difficult nature of assessing populations on islands and at sea.

More resources are urgently needed to better understand the biology and populations of the seabirds (both breeders and migratory species) that reside in the waters of the SCB. Such resources are required to better understand the ecology of species targeted for restoration in the MSRP (see specific examples according to species and proposed seabird restoration efforts following). Without such investigations—successful restoration will be compromised, non-cost-effective, potentially misguided, and could potentially negatively affect target species.

During the MSPR planning period, the Trustees initiated and supported certain studies in support of resource restoration, including an approximate 5-year Feasibility Study on the reestablishment of bald eagles on the Northern Channel Islands (\$2.3 million for 2002-05, plus an additional \$1 million “over the next several years”), a comprehensive survey of fish contamination, and a survey of angler fishing practices and preferences. **A major shortcoming of the process included a lack of foresight to include data gap studies and similar “Feasibility” studies that involved seabirds.** Furthermore, just as funds are being considered for monitoring the natural recovery of falcons, it is unclear why no funds have been proposed or made available for monitoring the natural recovery of seabirds. I strongly support the Trustees in their suggestion to consider enhancing seabird monitoring through efforts that would

- Implement a comprehensive seabird monitoring program (contaminant concentrations, population, and effectiveness of MPAs in protecting populations),
- Expand monitoring of seabird populations at Northern Channel Islands,
- Augment seabird monitoring of Anacapa Restoration Program funded by the American Trader Restoration Council

In addition to suggested monitoring that would determine current DDT/PCB concentrations in seabird eggs within and adjacent to the SCB—it also is imperative to include similar ecotoxicological assessments among the numerically dominant (sooty shearwater), globally recognized species with conservation status (black-vented and pink-footed shearwaters) that nest in other parts of the Pacific, but have always and continue to spend a great amount of their long lives foraging on contaminated prey resources of the SCB. It is important to include the migratory species because they are significant international resources that continue to be exposed to pollution in the SCB. These species have economic, aesthetic, and cultural importance to many people that exist beyond the SCB, California, and the United States.

In addition to proposed support to continue monitoring of kelp forest communities (algae, invertebrates, and fishes), the Trustees of the MSRP should make available funds (proportion of the \$7.9 million proposed) to establish new long-term monitoring efforts to assess seabird (primary damaged resource) species and their prey fishes that depend on habitats and resources included within the recently created Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas. This aspect is important because such monitoring efforts would provide necessary information that is required

for adaptive management of the very resources identified as impacted. Currently, CIMPA's lack monitoring efforts directed toward seabirds.

Comments on Tier 2 Seabird Restoration Actions

Restore seabirds to San Miguel Island. This action enhances seabird nesting habitat on San Miguel Island in the Channel Islands National Park by eradicating the introduced black rat over a period of approximately 5 years.

I strongly support this proposed project. Such eradication efforts have proven successful throughout the world and have demonstrated broad, lasting ecosystem benefits to impacted islands. The successful eradication of black rats from San Miguel would greatly reduce the potential for rats to invade nearby Prince Island and Castle Rock, which together support approximately one third of the total breeding population of all seabirds in the Channel Islands National Park. These two islets are among the most important seabird nesting islands throughout California – if historically documented breeders are included, Prince Island hosts one of the most diverse seabird assemblages along the west coast. This project is recognized as true restoration, with multiple species benefits and recognized ecosystem-wide positive outcomes. The removal of rats likely will benefit native deer mice, reptiles, insects, song-birds, and the endemic island fox.

• **Restore alcids to Santa Barbara Island.** This action re-establishes a once-active Cassin's auklet breeding population and augments Xantus's murrelets on Santa Barbara Island in the Channel Islands National Park through social attraction and habitat enhancement.

Although I recognize the desired outcome of this proposed action's goal as beneficial, I am not fully supportive of the Plan as currently outlined in the Draft MSRP. The Santa Barbara Island ecosystem has long suffered from human occupation (i.e., grazing), introduced predators, and dramatically altered vegetation community structure (now dominated by introduced grasses). Introduced cats wiped out auklets near the turn of the Century [1908]), yet since the removal of the last cat in 1978—auklets have failed to recover on their own. Santa Barbara Island also currently supports a great abundance of native deer mice which likely have benefited by exploiting abundant grass seed during early spring-summer. It is unclear to me whether or not the native mouse population exceeds what would be normal on this island if it were restored to an intact native vegetation assemblage. Furthermore, several additional factors should be addressed by the MSRP prior to implementing this action. (1) SBI currently supports a year-round population of barn owls. Barn owls are known to be extremely efficient predators on Cassin's Auklets (Prince Island, J. Adams personal observation), and Xantus's Murrelets (SBI, CINP, unpublished data). The Trustee's should consider investigating the ecological linkages between the introduced grasslands, mouse populations, and barn owl populations before investing in the proposed action. (2) There is good evidence from surveys at sea and at colonies that Cassin's Auklets have declined throughout their range from California to British Columbia. SBI occurs at the southern-most limit for the northern subspecies' (*P. a. aleuticus*) historic range, in an oceanographic region characterized by relatively warmer waters than auklets typically occur. Recent studies in the northern Channel Islands have shown that auklets (breeding adults and birds at sea) depend on super-abundant prey located in the upper 15-m of the water column and

within about 30 km of their principal colonies off San Miguel Island. The capacity for auklets to breed successfully at SBI will depend on the distribution and availability of suitable prey resources in the area. Whereas the foraging habitat and prey resources off the San Miguel have been well documented, it is necessary first to assess prey resources within the potential auklet foraging area off SBI before implementing costly restoration actions for this species. This information also will be required for understanding and gauging restoration success (i.e., reproductive success and adult survival). (3) Social attraction of auklets (and murrelets) to artificial nest sites does not imply restoration. For auklets, the Trustees are urged to pursue and evaluate additional criteria for interpreting/demonstrating restoration success including, comparisons of reproductive parameters and chick growth with auklets nesting at Scorpion Rock and Prince Island, adult survival rates, and nest site fidelity. It is also recommended that this action include an evaluation of the potential for this action to increase (or in the event of poor reproductive success due to food limitation or predation, decrease) the overall abundance of auklets. How do anticipated restoration actions and outcomes to the populations compare with “baseline conditions” had dumping not occurred? (4) Xantus’s Murrelets, like Cassin’s Auklets are not presently limited by the availability of suitable nest sites. The recent eradication of rats from Anacapa and subsequent recovery of murrelets there continues at present. The number of active natural murrelet nest sites, however, has shown a long-term decline. Whereas murrelets may occupy artificial nest sites placed on SBI, it is unclear how this action can be interpreted as restoration. (5) Because the planned action also calls for restoration of native plants, the plan should demonstrate quantitative measures that can be used to demonstrate successful vegetation restoration. Lastly, it is not clear what the benefits to the two species will be after the estimated 5-yr action. Will the artificial sites be maintained indefinitely, or phased out once restoration is determined successful?

• **Restore seabirds to San Nicolas Island.** This action restores the western gull and Brandt’s cormorant colonies on the U.S. Navy–owned San Nicolas Island by eradicating feral cats on the island.

I support the Trustee’s in their decision to advance this project. The eradication of feral cats from other islands in the Pacific has demonstrated seabird and ecosystem-level benefits, regardless of whether or not cats significantly affect either Brant’s Cormorant or Western Gull.

• **Restore seabirds to Scorpion Rock.** This action restores seabird habitat off of Santa Cruz Island, within the Channel Islands National Park, through the removal of non-native vegetation, the installation of artificial nesting boxes, and reduction in human disturbance.

I support the Trustee’s decision to support the restoration of native vegetation, which will provide improved nesting habitat primarily for Cassin’s Auklet, but perhaps also for Xantus’s Murrelets. An important first step is to reduce human disturbance to this important seabird colony and roost site through signage and effective educational outreach (primarily targeting boaters and kayakers) who visit Scorpion Anchorage. One of the main factors contributing to degradation of habitat for seabirds and native vegetation is the rapid erosion of the soil horizon. In addition to maintaining existing artificial auklet nest sites until native vegetation is restored erosion should be stabilized. It should be realized that at present Scorpion Rock is a somewhat ephemeral nesting colony for auklets. Whereas auklets nested there during the anomalously cool

and productive years of 1999 to 2003, reproductive success is likely lower and more variable than at the principal colonies off San Miguel Island. In fact none appeared to occupy sites in 2004, and anomalous conditions in 2005 may prevent auklets from nesting again this season. Therefore, it is important to establish restoration criteria that evaluate success of this colony in the context of oceanographic conditions, and availability of suitable prey resources within the auklet foraging area off Scorpion Rock. Additionally, criteria that quantify restoration success in terms of reduced erosion and reestablishment of native vegetation over introduced species should be considered and implemented. Recent evidence indicative of bald eagle predation of western gulls (three gull carcasses, J. Adams pers. obs.) indicate Scorpion Rock also is used by eagles, at least occasionally. Adding additional artificial nest sites, and then determining that these sites are used by seabirds does not necessarily constitute restoration. The Trustee's should consider supporting longer term monitoring (> 5-yrs) of auklets at Scorpion Rock and Prince Island within the context of oceanographic assessments, to better understand and interpret restoration success.

• **Restore seabirds to Baja California Pacific Islands.**

- *Coronado and Todos Santos Islands.* This action restores seabird populations using social attraction, habitat enhancement, and reduction in human disturbance.
- *Guadalupe Island.* This action restores seabird populations through feral cat eradication. This action would be included in Alternative 2 should funding become available after the results of the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study

I strongly support this restoration action, and believe that it should be advanced despite the outcome of the NCI bald eagle feasibility study. Guadalupe Island is a sight of global significance and seabirds and the island ecology would benefit by eradicating feral cats.

• **Restore ashy storm-petrels to Anacapa Island.** facilitates the breeding of ashy storm-petrels on Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands National Park through social attraction. should funding become available after the results of the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study

I strongly support efforts to *evaluate the feasibility* of enhancing the population of Ashy Storm-petrels. This Species is endemic to the islands of central and southern California. Recent evidence indicate that Ashy Storm-petrels have declined, however very little is known about what factors are causing declines, what the magnitude of the declines is, and what factors currently are limiting this species' recovery. The Trustee's are urged to reconsider eradication of introduced house mice from the Farallon Islands colony to effectively restore damages to this species from chemical pollution in the SCB. Researchers in the Channel Islands and at the Farallon Islands have documented that the two colonies are linked by the occurrences of individuals marked in both systems. In addition, radio telemetry during 2004 documented northward movements of birds captured in the Channel Island as far as the Farallones. Furthermore, DDT and PCBs have been measured in high concentrations in ashies captured on the Farallon Islands. Although the Plan in its current form suggests that social attraction has been used successfully on this species, it is important to point out that this technique has only been used successfully to capture birds, but social attraction to nest sites has never been demonstrated. In fact, concerted efforts to use broadcast vocalizations to attract petrels to nest sites on the Farallons have failed. In addition, previous studies at the Farallones have showed

that among artificial nest boxes, only boxes that were installed within pre-existing sites were used by breeding individuals; boxes installed in suitable nesting habitat were not successful. Prior to initiating restoration actions, the Trustees are urged to consider continued support for ongoing petrel investigations throughout the Channel Islands that are designed to evaluate the efficacy and limitations of vocalization broadcasts, catch-per-unit-effort, inter-island exchange, adult survival, and population size. At present suitable nesting habitat for this species does not appear to be limiting. Furthermore, from a demographic perspective, increasing reproductive output for such a long-lived, late-maturing seabird with low lifetime reproductive output is not likely to enhance the population. More information is required to assess what limits sub-adult and adult survival (i.e., predation, attraction to artificial light, pollution, plastic ingestion, etc.). The Trustee's also should consider actions that would reduce disturbances to birds nesting in caves that are accessible to the public. Lastly, if conditions allow, petrels should return or initiate breeding on Anacapa now that rats have been removed.

Thank you once again for allowing me the chance to provide public comment on the Draft MSRP. I hope that these comments and suggestions help formulate a Final Plan. Should the Trustees have any further questions, please contact me.

Thank you,

Josh Adams

Milena Viljoen

From: kurt mahoney [cherokeeradiopeace@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 3:59 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: concerned citizen

I'm emailing to voice my support for the bald eagle restoration program on Catalina Island, and to urge you to continue the funding.

It would demonstrate a complete lack of courage and faith to discontinue the funds, when it is proving to be a success-yes it may take some time, but aren't these incredible creatures worth it???

Thank you, sincerely Kurt Mahoney. cherokeeradiopeace@yahoo.com

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Island Conservation Northwest
1485 Crawford Road
Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada
V1W 3A9

May 22, 2005

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

Re: Comment on DRAFT MSRP

Dr. Baker and Montrose Trustees,

I am writing to express my support for the preferred option (number 2).

I completed my Master of Science degree in 1997 from the University of British Columbia, which included a component of evaluating risk of pesticide use on bald eagles. I have also conducted field work on various other projects evaluating impacts of pesticides and other pollutants on bald eagles. For the last five years, I have followed the conservation issues surrounding bald eagles on the Channel Islands and the long-term DDT pollution that is characteristic of this area.

Bald eagles have made a dramatic come back in other areas of North America. Numbers continue to increase and the US Fish and Wildlife Service has upgraded the status of bald eagles in the lower 48 states to threatened from endangered. However, there still remains no self sustaining bald eagles in the Channel Islands. Unfortunately, based on the data I have seen, the bald eagles are at risk of exposure to significant and potentially lethal levels of contaminants in common prey items. It will likely take several years until the pollutants will have declined to allow bald eagles to successfully reproduce on the Channel Islands without human intervention. Perhaps once the environmental DDT residues have declined significantly can reintroduction of bald eagles be done efficiently and effectively, or ideally by natural colonization.

I believe the preferred option will provide the most effective use of public conservation funds because the investment into the proposed restoration projects will have a net positive benefit to many of the resources impacted from DDT, long after the restoration efforts are complete.

Sincerely,



Gregg Howald
Island Conservation Northwest

Milena Viljoen

From: Linda K. Williams [submissions@peaceloverssoul.com]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 4:38 PM
To: Greg Baker Manager Montrose Settlement Restoration Program
Cc: webmaster@catalinaconservancy.org; Leslie Baer
Subject: Please Don't Abandon Catalina's Bald Eagles!

Dear Decision-Makers:

The money which was allotted to restoring the Bald Eagles on Catalina Island IS making a tremendous difference in righting a wrong of the past. I truly don't understand why there is a plan to divert the monies from Catalina Island's efforts, and send the funds elsewhere. It has already been demonstrated that the efforts on Catalina Island have been cost-effective, and successful. Please continue to support them in their showing respect for the native wildlife, and putting forth efforts to restore it and preserve it for future generations--- do not divert the funds to elsewhere!

Thank you in advance for listening, and acting to support their efforts. Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Linda K. Williams, Teacher, author, and vacationer who has enjoyed the beauty of Catalina

Milena Viljoen

From: stacey buckelew [staceybuckelew@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 4:48 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Subject: support for alternative 2

Dear Mr. Baker-

I am writing to urge my support that funds from the Montrose settlement be directed toward Alternative 2, thereby allocating funds to both the seabird and eagle populations impacted by DDT releases. The actions detailed by alternative 2 are preferable as funds are directed toward a greater number of species and rely on techniques which have already proven beneficial to impacted populations. By adopting alternative 2 the results will promote long term, significant benefit to seabird populations which are key members of both marine and terrestrial communities.

Thank you for your consideration of my support.

Sincerely,

Stacey Buckelew

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Milena Viljoen

From: Karen Kirkpatrick [karenk@cos.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 4:55 PM
To: 'msrp@noaa.gov'
Subject: Catalina Island Bald eagle recovery

To whom it may concern:

As a biologist who has done field studies on Catalina Island, I am writing to encourage the re-funding of the IWS Catalina Island Bald Eagle recovery efforts. Dr. Peter Sharpe is one of the most competent biologists working, and the success that he has shown, although it may seem small and insignificant, is great. The fact that Catalina Island enjoys a Bald Eagle population of any number is significant. My concern for this population is also great, as I believe that without the proper funding and the assistance given to this population by Dr. Sharpe and his crew, the Eagles will disappear within a relatively short time period.

It is my general concern that wildlife protection, as a whole, is suffering defeats daily under our current administration. I would hate to see such a fine and successful program suffer defeat as well. Please consider giving it more time and funding. The Eagle Cam itself has been a great educational resource for our community college biology students over the last several years.

Thank you for your time,

Karen Kirkpatrick
Biology Department
College of the Sequoias
Visalia, CA 93277

559-730-3811
karenk@cos.edu

Milena Viljoen

From: Tom Dean [coastal_resources@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 5:05 PM
To: Greg Baker
Subject: Comments - MSRP Draft Restoration Plan

Mr.. Baker

Attached are my comments on the MSRP draft restoration plan. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and good luck with the program.

Tom Dean

Coastal Resources Associates, Inc.
5671 Palmer Dr., Suite K
Carlsbad, CA 92008

(760) 603-0612
email: coastal_resources@sbcglobal.net

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

Dear Mr. Baker:

Please accept the following comments on the MSRP Draft Restoration Plan and Programmatic EIS/EIR. In general, I found the draft well thought out and well presented, and concur with the selection of Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. The allocation of funds with respect to fish, seabird, eagle, and falcon resources seems reasonable and in keeping with the extent of injury to these resources. I also concur with the decision to discontinue funding of the Santa Catalina Bald Eagle Restoration program and to evaluate more sustainable restoration efforts in the Northern Channel Islands. In my opinion, it would be ill advised to continue to fund costly and clearly unsustainable Bald Eagle restoration activities on Catalina.

My only major concern with the program as proposed is with the timing of funding. I concur with the phased approach that is outlined given the uncertainties regarding the feasibility of several of the restoration efforts proposed, and with their dependence on the outcome of the EPA site remediation studies. However, I would suggest that more than five years may be needed to adequately determine the feasibility and efficacy of the site remediation work, and that decisions regarding many proposed restoration activities should await the outcome of those studies. The kinds of restoration activities that might be carried out to best benefit injured resources may depend greatly on the extent to which contaminated sediments might be cleaned up or made inaccessible.

I look forward to watching the progress of this important restoration effort.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Dean, Ph.D.

Milena Viljoen

From: Andrea Vona [avona@pvplc.org]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 5:22 PM
To: msrp@noaa.gov
Cc: Barbara Dye
Subject: Comments for EIR- ATTN Greg Baker



Response to
EIR.doc (30 KB)

Greg,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Andrea Vona
Associate Director
White Point Project Manager
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
tell (310) 541-7613 ex. 204
cell (310) 930-0583

May 23, 2005

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

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

Dear Mr. Baker:

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (Land Conservancy) 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 Land Conservancy offers the following comments on the EIS/EIR and the plan itself:

With respect to Restoration Alternatives 2 and 3 (Section 6.2, pp. 6-17 through 6-25), the Land Conservancy 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 Palos Verdes Peninsula will continue feel the indirect effects of these contaminated sediments long into the future. Therefore, the Land Conservancy 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.

With respect to the 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 Palos Verdes Peninsula 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 Land Conservancy and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes 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 Land 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.

With respect to the evaluation of Tier 1 outreach programs and research proposals, it is stated that the Trustees are not classifying proposals for public outreach and education work as a separate natural resource restoration category. We respectfully request that public outreach and education are considered as a separate resource category. In the discussion of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Evaluations of Restoration Ideas (Sections 5.4, pp. 5-16 and 5-17), an education idea within the Palos Verdes Peninsula that was not carried forward from the Tier 1 evaluation to the Tier 2 evaluation is the development of the Interpretive Center at White Point Nature Preserve. Since the wastewater outfall was located directly offshore White Point Nature Preserve, we feel this is a prime location to offer public outreach and education and to tell the Montrose Story. Through public education and outreach we can better ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated in the future.

As participants in the initial public hearing held at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, several comments were made by the public requesting proximity to impact as a criteria for evaluation of proposed projects. Throughout analysis of the projects that have been selected to the Tier 2 evaluation level, it is not clear how proximity to impact was employed as criteria for consideration.

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) 541-7613 or via e-mail at bdye@pvplc.org.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dye
Executive Director



RUSACK

May 23, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am responding to the April 2005 Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Draft Restoration Plan. As a member of the Wrigley family, I have been devoted to the preservation and protection of Santa Catalina Island's precious resources for my entire life, and am deeply opposed to the proposed alternatives that would remove funding from the efforts to restore the environment of Catalina-- the area hardest hit by DDT and PCBs.

My family has been involved with Catalina since 1919, when my great grandparents, Ada Elizabeth and William Wrigley, Jr., fell in love with its natural beauty, and dedicated themselves to safeguarding it. My grandparents, Helen Atwater and Philip K. Wrigley, took that commitment one step further when they (along with Dorothy Wrigley Offield) established the Santa Catalina Island Conservancy in 1972 to ensure that Catalina would be protected in perpetuity. Since then, both my father's generation and mine have been active and enthusiastic supporters of the efforts of the Conservancy (and its associates) to restore and preserve all of Catalina and its surrounding ecosystem.

As you know, 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 effects of introduced predators and invasive plant species that are now negatively impacting sea bird populations. The Natural Resource 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 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 the 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.

Your 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 most directly hit and most visited, should be considered for funding for its fisheries and ecosystems.

The Catalina Island Conservancy's efforts to restore the health of the Catalina Island bald eagle have been funded by monies from the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program for some time now. By reallocating funds to the Northern Channel Islands, you would be discontinuing the support of an established restoration program. If this happens, 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 by removing an integral piece of the islands' food-chain.

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.

Based on this information, I urge you to reconsider your proposal. Catalina deserves to have its natural environment restored—not only for the fascinating and unique residents of its ecosystem, but also for future generations of people to enjoy and marvel at its beauty.

Sincerely,



Alison Wrigley Rusack

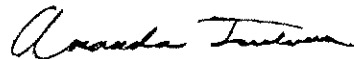
Amanda Trutwein
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Baker:

I have a strong opinion about what you are doing; this is an endangered species that we're talking about! I mean come on, how would you feel if someone stopped caring about you when you were dying!?! I mean my class never even got to see a bald eagle because they're not thriving anymore. We were really looking forward to seeing some, but sadly our hopes were crushed. We had a good time but I was just horrified that these terrible things were happening as we swam and hiked. I'm hoping that you consider this letter "important", so please try and find it in your heart not to give up on this program.

Sincerely,



Amanda Trutwein

Mollie peters
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23 2005

Greg Baker, program manager
Restoration program,
Montrose Settlements
501 W. ocean blvd, suite 4470
Long beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Baker,

I'm writing to complain about the thought of abandoning the chance to rescue our very own national cymbal!!! It's bad enough to not care' but to just oblivate it completely!!! I already have seven full fledge paragraphed resones against it. My main purpose for writing this letter is obviously about my opinion to your new found action. Also

my reson is the fact that abandoning a species that is on the brink of extinction is wrong but also a regretful action. It would please the fans of CIMI to continue the protection of the Bald eagles.

And remember, once the eagle is
extinct it's gone just like the
dodos.

Sincerely,

M. Peters

Mollie
Peters

*Claudia Jimenez
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23, 200*

*Greg Baker Program Manager
Montrose Settlement
501 W. Ocean Blvd., suite 4470
Long Beach, CA 90802*

Dear Mr. Baker,

I think that you should let the funding proceed. That way, next year we could learn about how the Bald Eagles get used to the environment in the CIMI area. My opinion is that what you are doing by helping the Bald Eagle is a good deed. Also this helping kids learn more about the C IMI area and to allow students come more often. Catalina Island is such a good, fun, and exciting experience to every person that will be coming in the near future. I hope that the Bald Eagles are apart of this experience.

*Sincerely,
Claudia Jimenez
Claudia Jimenez*

Lexi Katzman
1375 N.McColintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Baker,

I think that stopping the funding for restoring the bald eagles is the worst idea. Don't you want it to be a world where you can look outside and see the beautiful birds? There already not a lot of bald eagles. Why would you want to get rid of the ones we do have. One reason I did want to come to Catalina Island is because of the beautiful scenery. Why would I come if it looks just like my home? You have done a great job trying to keep the eagles alive. Keep it up! Thank you for a great time at Catalina Island. I really enjoyed it.

Sincerely,

Lexi Katzman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lexi Katzman", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Taylor Byrd
1375 N. McElintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23rd, 2005**

**Greg Baker, program manager restoration program
Montrose settlements
501 W. Ocean Blvd, suit 4470
Long beach CA 90802**

Dear Mr. Baker:

It is disappointing to see people cut the program for the bald eagles. Then the students will be less likely to see the bald eagles. Our whole school was so disappointed to hear about this. I feel so sorry for the bald eagle and their eggs. That they have just had to go through so much lately. I really want the program to go on, especially if they are endangered. But I just want to see the bald eagle because it means a lot to the teachers, everybody, and myself. Please let us see the bald eagle, if you do, everybody would be so happy. I just want everybody to be happy and that's what I really want. Really I do want to see the bald eagle more than other people do. It would mean so much to the class the school and myself if the program continues.

Please just please, find a way to make the bald eagle program better!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Taylor Byrd

Haley Shaughnessy
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler AZ, 85226
May 23, 2005

Greg Baker, program manager
Restoration Program,
Montrose Settlements
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4470

Dear Mr. Baker,

In the year 2000, the Palos Verdes Peninsula dumped DDTs and PCBs in the rivers. The fish, that the eagles ate, were poisoned. This made the eagles bodies polluted. Now because of the fish, that they ate, caused the eagle eggs to be too soft to sit on. Today only 20 eagles call Catalina Island home. Don't stop the fund, keep it going. Once the eagles are extinct, no one will ever see them ever again.

Sincerely,



Haley Shaughnessy

Emma Galindo
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Baker,

Answer this question: **WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?!** Why are you trying to *stop* helping the Bald Eagles? What did they ever do to you? They are America's National bird! Did it ever occur to you that you are trying to make the Bald Eagles extinct?! I have been to Catalina Island and I saw **one** Bald Eagle. If I saw more than just one Bald Eagle, the scenery would be a **lot** more beautiful. So please, don't take away the Bald Eagles. I am going there next year, and I want to see more than **one** Bald Eagle.

Sincerely,
Emma Galindo
Emma Galindo

David Radtke
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Baker:

I think that the funding for the Bald Eagle should continue. The reason I think it should continue is because I never got to see a Bald Eagle at Catalina Island, and next time I go there I want to see a Bald Eagle!!!

I know that there are 20 Bald Eagles left on Catalina Island. If you stop the founding a lot of the students that go to Catalina in the future will not get to see an almost extinct animal.

Sincerely,
David Radtke

Lizette Daniel
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85225
May 23, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Baker,

I think getting rid of bald eagles is lame. I think we should have bald eagles because they help us with animals that we loath, like rattlesnakes for instance. If I go to CIMI next year I want to explore and see bald eagles flying around, eating or maybe even sleeping. I think bald eagles are cool to learn about. I also think you should keep more bald eagles in Catalina Island then anywhere else because we kids go there to explore things and have fun. It is cool seeing bald eagles flying around in the sky. I ask you to also help by telling people what the bald eagles mean to us. Will you tell people who want to get rid of bald eagles that the bald eagle is AMERICA'S #1 animal? Thank you for all your concern.

Sincerely,
Lizette Daniel
Lizette Daniel

**KHALIFA KHATTALY
1375 N.MCCLINTOCK
CHANDLER, AZ 85226
MAY 23,2005**

**GREG BAKER,PROGRAM MANAGRER
MONTROSE SETTLEMENTS
501 W. OCEAN BLVD., SUITE 4470
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802**

DEAR MR.BAKER,

**I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD KEEP THE BALD EAGLE PROGRAM
BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO
LEARN ABOUT THE BALD EAGLE, INCLUDING MY SELF.BALD EAGLES
ARE EXTRODINARY ANIMALS THAT DO NOT DESERVE TO BE EXTINCT.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF YOU WE'RE GOING TO NEVER LIVE AGAIN
OR BE EXTINCT? IT WOULD ALSO BE A BUMMER FOR PEOPLE WHO
HAVE NEVER BEEN TO CATILINA ISLAND. HAVE THE EAGLES DONE
ANYTHING TO YOU? HAVE THEY HARMED YOU IN ANYWAY? WHY DO
YOU WANT EAGELS TO BE EXTINCT?**

SINCERELY,

KhaliFa Khattaly

Gabrielle Aguilar
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ, 85246
May 23, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Baker,

I think you should keep the bald eagle program because it is very interesting. I think that Mr. Baker should keep the program going because it's fun for the kids to learn by observing instead of doing worksheets. Sometimes kids will fall asleep and at Catalina Island, they won't because you could learn a different way, like real life. This is why they should keep the program.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Aguilar

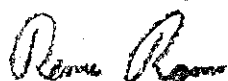
Renee Romo
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23, 2005

Greg Baker, program manager
Montrose settlements of the restoration program
501 W. ocean blvd., suite 4470
Long beach, C.A. 90802

Dear Mr. Baker:

I would like to tell you that I don't like their idea about abolishing the bald eagle program. I think that it is not a great idea, because if the bald eagle program were to be abolishing, the bald eagle would become extinct. Even if they don't have that much (DDT) in there bodies, they could still be infected. I would personally do something to raise money for the program, because I want to see a bald eagle. What is going to happen if I go to Catalina Island and I want to see a bald eagle. I know the answer. I won't be able to because of the people that are taking you're program away. It is also not all about me, but about millions of people in the world. These people pay lots of money and take long rides, or drives, just to get to see a bald eagle. Please people think about it, don't take that great program away don't.

Sincerely,



Renee Romo

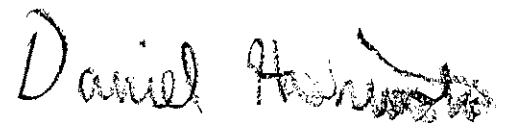
**Daniel Hashimoto
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23, 2005**

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

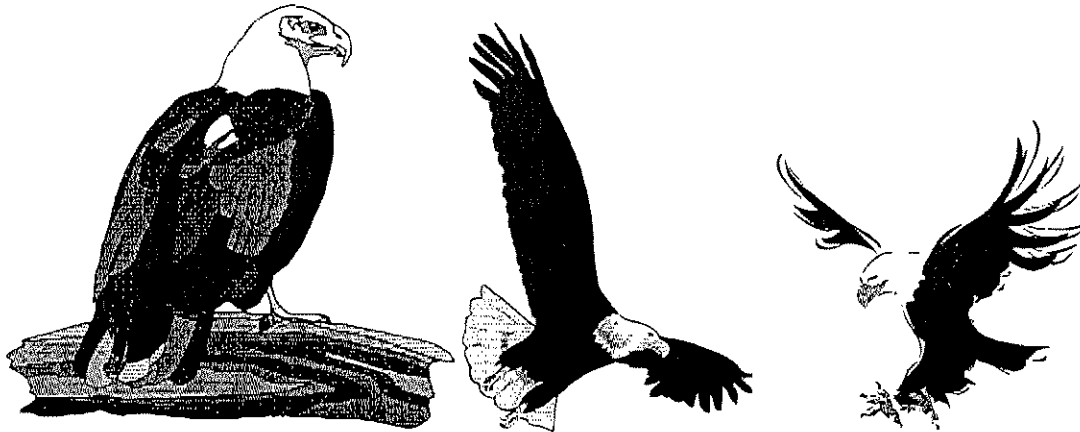
Dear Mr. Baker,

I think that the bald eagles shouldn't become extinct. They are awesome and I think you should ask MNRT why they want to stop the fund. I mean, the bald eagle is on the back of the dollar bill! The re-introduction has helped the bald eagles produce more of its kind. I want the fund to continue. Mr. Baker, please help the fund and convince MNRT to keep up with the funding.

Sincerely,



Daniel Hashimoto



Kyle La Bounty
1375 N. McClintock
Chandler, AZ 85226
May 23, 2005

Greg Baker program manager
Montrose Settlements
501 W. Ocean Blvd Suite 4470
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Baker:

I was just recently informed of your funding being cut for your project of the re-introduction of the Bald Eagles. If this project ends, the people who come to CIMI to see the island may never get to see these beautiful animals. But if this project continues, we can keep seeing these magnificent birds. We can also keep making movies, books and new documents about these animals. So the reason I'm righting this letter is that I want to help these birds not become extinct.

Sincerely,

Kyle La Bounty