

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

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California State Senate

SENATOR
BYRON D. SHER
ELEVENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



COMMITTEES

CHAIR:
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2

MEMBER:
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BAY AREA TRANSPORTATION
INVESTIGATE PRICE
MANIPULATION OF THE
WHOLESALE ENERGY MARKET
MOBILE & MANUFACTURED
HOMES

September 23, 2003

Paul Morabito
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
c/o Mary Travis, Project Manager
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I wish to express my support for the project "*Restoring Habitat and Conserving Biodiversity on Año Nuevo Island*" presented to the State Coastal Conservancy by Oikonos and PRBO Conservation Science. These efforts are necessary to protect one of the few remaining breeding and resting refuges for island wildlife in California.

The Año Nuevo region of California is rich in sensitive, unique natural resources. Protecting such sensitive habitat is the first step and we support further use of State funds to take actions when necessary to restore degraded habitats. There are numerous benefits of the proposed restoration work for wildlife and public education. Immediate restoration action is warranted due to the poor habitat quality causing a reduction in survival rates of a State listed "Species of Special Concern", Rhinoceros Auklet.

There is a great need to increase community awareness of how human actions affect the health of marine ecosystems and the limited island habitat remaining for wildlife in California. Although this near shore island is too sensitive to allow public access, the Marine Education Center at Año Nuevo State Reserve provides an effective forum to educate visiting public (over 200K visitors annually) and school groups about sensitive island ecology. In addition, this office is familiar with the impressive body of knowledge that has been gained from the protection and conservation of resources at Año Nuevo State Reserve by Park personnel and long established research collaborators.

Therefore, I wish to go on record in support of the *Restoring Habitat and Conserving Biodiversity on Año Nuevo Island* project and urge your favorable consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

BYRON D. SHER
Senator, 11th District

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SEP 25 2003
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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Oct-15-02 04:49P

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State of California • The Resources Agency

Gray Davis, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Rusty Arrias, Director

Bay Area District
250 Executive Park Blvd., Suite 4900
San Francisco, CA 94134-3306
415-330-6323

October 15, 2002

Mr. Tim Duff
Coastal Conservancy
11th Floor, 1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Duff,

The purpose of this letter is to express support from California State Parks, Bay Area District for the proposal "*Restoring Habitat and Conserving Biodiversity on Año Nuevo Island*" submitted to the Coastal Conservancy by Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) and OIKONOS.

We support the project goals and actions to reduce erosion and improve habitat quality on the central portion of Año Nuevo Island. These efforts are necessary to protect one of the few remaining breeding and resting refuges for island wildlife in California. These actions are recommended in The Año Nuevo State Reserve management plan (Lewis and Tyler 1987). The rapid degradation of the only remaining area with sufficient topsoil for burrow nesting seabirds on the island warrants restoration action as soon as possible.

Planned in-kind support from State Parks includes expert consultation and review of restoration plans, island transportation costs, safety equipment, and research facilities. We intend to provide in-kind and direct support up to \$20,000 for this project.

This project also presents an exciting opportunity to increase public awareness of the value of island refuges in California through presentations and restoration updates at the Año Nuevo Visitors Center.

Please accept this letter of support in reviewing the proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron P. Schafer".

Ron Schafer
District Superintendent

OCT-15-2002 17:42

96%

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Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039-9647 USA Tel: (831) 632-4400 Fax: 632-4403

(<http://www.mlml.calstate.edu>)

Chair Paul Morabito
State Coastal Conservancy
c/o Mary Travis
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

September 28, 2003

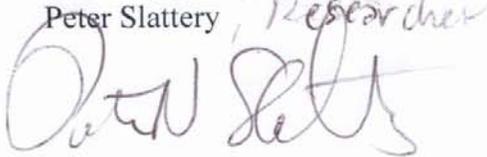
Dear Mr. Morabito:

It is with pleasure that we in the Benthic Lab strongly recommend funding for Michelle Hester and her associates, including Oikonos, for restoration of habitat on Ano Nuevo Island. This is a wonderfully unique place because of the diversity and density of breeding birds and marine mammals. But it is missing the habitat value of a native flora. Plant restoration would immediately contribute to breeding habitat and help build diversity for birds. And of at least equal importance a native flora would begin to rebuild the terrestrial ecosystem that had been severely damaged by human actions. This island is truly a gem in the rough and restoration would finish bringing out its beauty, not just esthetic but a long-term ecological one.

We have experience and success in restoring coastal terrestrial plant communities and Michelle drew upon our expertise to advise her. She provided us with a tour of the island and we made suggestions about restoration per se and also about other contact people. She has followed through, making connections with local competent plant ecologists and restorationists as well as people who can donate material.

Michelle will be able to squeeze every penny's worth of value from any funding she gets. This is an example of dedication to a low-profile cause by a network of good people. The state could not find a more worthy use of funding.

Sincerely yours,
Peter Slattery

Researcher


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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

September 20, 2003

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

BY FAX 510-286-0470
and by US Mail

Re: Support of "Restoring Habitat and Conserving Biodiversity on Año Nuevo Island" Project of Oikonos and Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science

Dear Mr. Morabito,

On behalf of the 1300 family members of the Committee for Green Foothills (CGF), I am writing to encourage your support of the above-referenced Año Nuevo Island restoration project.

The Año Nuevo area supports a rich diversity of natural resources, of which the marine mammals are best known. Our organization has been most interested to learn of the proposal you are considering which would protect and restore one of the few remaining breeding and resting refuges for island wildlife in California.

Measures to protect and restore habitat for the Rhinoceros Auklet, a State listed "Species of Special Concern", are urgently needed, as this habitat on the upper areas of the island has been severely degraded. Restoration of vegetation will enable these birds to avoid depredation by predatory gulls.

There is also a great need to increase community awareness of how human actions affect the health of marine ecosystems and the limited island habitat remaining for wildlife in California. Although this near shore island is too sensitive to allow physical public access, the Marine Education Center at Año Nuevo provides numerous highly effective programs close to the island so the visiting public and school groups can learn about sensitive island ecology. It is also impressive that the scientific research programs associated with Año Nuevo continue to add to the body of knowledge that will help guide measures to protect and enhance the habitats for marine and terrestrial species at this most special Preserve.

Committee for Green Foothills urges your favorable action on this commendable restoration project.

Sincerely,

Lennie Roberts
Legislative Advocate
Committee for Green Foothills

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SEP 23 2003

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

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