

## EXHIBIT 7: Letters of Support



State of California • The Resources Agency

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Año Nuevo State Reserve  
Pescadero, CA. 94060

Ruth Coleman, Director

August 14, 2004

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

**RE: Año Nuevo Island**

Dear Mr. Morabito,

The purpose of this letter is to express support from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation for the continued funding of the "AÑO NUEVO ISLAND HABITAT RESTORATION " project from the State Coastal Conservancy.

Our Department has supported these NGO's for the last decade to ensure protection and restoration of Año Nuevo Island, a portion of Año Nuevo State Reserve. We support the project goals and actions to reduce erosion and improve habitat quality in the auklet nesting areas of Año Nuevo Island that have been degraded by intensive human manipulation of the native flora. These efforts are necessary to protect one of the few remaining breeding and resting refuges for island wildlife in California. The rapid degradation of the only remaining area with sufficient topsoil for burrow nesting seabirds on the island warrants the completion of restoration action as soon as possible.

Restoration efforts in Year 1 exceeded expectations. Methods and techniques developed during previous feasibility studies proved effective on a larger scale as 1/3 of the auklet habitat was stabilized. Completion of the planting this fall/winter is important to prevent even further loss of soil and exposure in nesting areas adjacent to the areas planted in 2003/04.

With support from the staff at Año Nuevo State Reserve and collaborators at Go Native Nursery, Julie Thayer (PRBO) and Michelle Hester (Oikonos) have been effective at leading these efforts with over 12 years of collective experience aiding the Park in conserving wildlife on Año Nuevo Island and improving protection and management of these populations.

Please accept this letter of support in reviewing the proposal to continue the restoration work on Año Nuevo Island. If you have any questions regarding the Reserve please contact me at 650-879-2028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Strachan".

Gary Strachan  
Supervising Ranger

**RECEIVED**

AUG 18 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 7: Letters of Support



IN REPLY REFER TO:

N16-CHIS

August 31, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

The Channel Islands National Park supports continued funding of the "AÑO NUEVO ISLAND HABITAT RESTORATION " project from the State Coastal Conservancy.

Channel Islands National Park is charged with protecting and conserving the diversity of seabirds that nest in this valuable region with a complex history of resource use and restoration needs. Specialized techniques and results learned from Año Nuevo Island restoration will assist the park in determining the feasibility and benefits of improving habitat quality for burrow nesting seabirds that nest in the Channel Islands. We are considering habitat improvements on several islands and islets for two rare bird species, Xantus's murrelet and Cassin's auklet. The Año Nuevo project would further our restoration goals, as well.

The successful collaborative efforts among Oikonos, Go Native, Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science, Año Nuevo State Reserve and UC Santa Cruz during the first phase of restoration work warrants the completion of restoration plantings. We will receive the most benefit from this work if the stabilization is completed as soon as possible to prevent further erosion/loss of habitat and to enable data collection on breeding bird response to habitat changes in the entire nesting area.

Please accept this letter of support in reviewing the request for funding.

Sincerely,

Russell E. Galipeau, Jr.  
Superintendent

**EXHIBIT 7: Letters of Support**

**EXHIBIT 7: Letters of Support**