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12TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0512

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND
CONSUMER CREDIT

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEE:

GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AND
ORGANIZATION PROCUREMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
GLOBAL WARMING

December 29, 2010

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Doug:

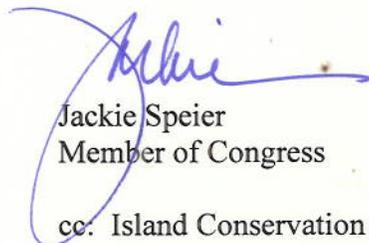
Thank you for the past, wonderful work of the California Coastal Conservancy. Your agency's funding legacy is evident to all of us who treasure our sea and coast.

My understanding is that the Coastal Conservancy is considering a grant application from Island Conservation. The purpose of the grant would be to plan and test the implementation of a project that will benefit an enormous population of birds, but in particular the Ashy-storm Petrel. My understanding is that half of the global population of this species are on Southeast Farallon Island. Non-native house mice will be removed from Southeast Farallon and West End Islands.

I hope that this grant request will receive the fullest consideration of the Coastal Conservancy. Island Conservation has demonstrated its capacity to cost-effectively complete ambitious restoration projects on islands in the region. The projects have saved numerous seabird populations.

The organization is also experienced in working with contractors and in responding to public concerns about restoration projects. I thank you for considering the application of Island Conservation. We have only a few chances to remedy environmental problems created by past practices in sensitive habitats. There are few so sensitive as the Farallon Islands, and I hope that the California Coastal Conservancy will act expeditiously to help restore nature's balance.

All the best,


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress
cc: Island Conservation

Best to you in the New Year!

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P.O. BOX 942849
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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
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**Assembly
California Legislature**



FIONA MA
馬世雲
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, TWELFTH DISTRICT

January 12, 2010



COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT
AND SOCIAL SECURITY
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE
CHAIR, SELECT COMMITTEE ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

As a legislator representing a district with sensitive coastline and offshore habitats, it is a great pleasure to know that the State Coastal Conservancy is working so diligently to manage our State resources. Thank you for your continuing efforts to protect our cherished coastal ecosystems.

I am writing in support of Island Conservation's proposal to protect island fauna by removing non-native house mice from Southeast Farallon and West End Islands in the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge.

The introduced mice have had serious impacts on native wildlife and over 250,000 breeding seabirds and endemic species will benefit from their skilled efforts to eradicate this pest. In particular, the elimination of mice on the Farallon islands will benefit the Ashy Storm-petrel, a California species of special concern and a federal candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Island Conservation is well experienced to carry out the planning, testing, and implementation of a feasible project to eliminate mice from the island. The organization has demonstrated its capacity to successfully, safely, and cost-effectively complete ambitious restoration projects on other islands in the region, as indicated by their work in Northwest Mexico, the Channel Islands in California and the Aleutian island chain in Alaska.

I hope that you take great consideration of their application, and please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

In Peace and Friendship,

Fiona Ma
Speaker Pro Tempore & Assemblywoman
12th Assembly District

Cc: Amy Hutzal, Project Manager



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California State Senate

SENATOR
MARK LENO

THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
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CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET AND
FISCAL REVIEW
HEALTH
JUDICIARY
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS
NATURAL RESOURCES
AND WATER

January 14, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing in support of Island Conservation's proposal to carry out the planning, testing, and implementation of the project to protect the Ashy-storm Petrel by removing non-native house mice from Southeast Farallon and West End Islands in the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge.

The project is a critical step toward restoring the island to a condition closer to its natural state free of damaging, invasive species. Beneficiaries will include 250,000 breeding seabirds and endemic species on the island, plus exceptional benefits for the Ashy Storm-petrel, a California Species of Special Concern and federal candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Half of the global population of this rare, range-restricted and declining species breeds on Southeast Farallon Island, where it is threatened by the presence of invasive house mice. Removing house mice is a key investment in the future of the Ashy Storm-petrel, the only seabird virtually endemic to the state of California.

Island Conservation, a Santa Cruz, CA based non-profit, is well qualified to carry out this project. The organization has demonstrated its capacity to successfully and cost-effectively complete ambitious and complex restoration projects on islands in the region, as indicated by its work in Northwest Mexico, the Channel Islands in California and the Aleutian island chain in Alaska. Collectively these projects have saved numerous seabird populations, several seabird species, and dozens of endemic species from extinction.

Island Conservation has also demonstrated sensitivity to public concerns over removing introduced species from islands, and is experienced at working with contractors and agencies to build public support for the work in the context of these concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support, and we look forward to continued action to restore Southeast Farallon Island.

Sincerely,

Mark Leno



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
9500 Thornton Avenue
Newark, California 94560

December 22, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

RE: Farallon Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourages the State Coastal Conservancy to consider funding for Island Conservation to conduct an Environmental Assessment and planning for the Farallon Restoration Project. This restoration project proposes to eradicate introduced house mice from the South Farallon Islands, which are part of the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

This project is necessary to help restore native wildlife and plants on the Farallon Islands. The non-native mice attract Burrowing Owls to the islands during their fall migration, which then remain for the winter feeding on the mice. During the winter, the mouse population crashes and then the owls switch to preying mostly on native seabirds, especially the rare Ashy Storm-Petrel. Ashy Storm-Petrels are a California Bird Species of Special Concern and were recently petitioned for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Owl predation on the storm-petrels is significant and is affecting their population at the Farallon Islands, the world's largest breeding colony for the species. By removing the mouse population, we believe that few owls will overwinter on the island and mortality to the storm-petrels will be significantly reduced. Reduction or elimination of owl predation on Ashy Storm-Petrels is one goal of the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (published in 2009) and will assist efforts to keep this species off the endangered species list. We believe that eradication of house mice from the Farallon Islands will have additional benefits as well, including increased populations of the endemic Farallon subspecies of the arboreal salamander, invertebrates, and native plants.

In order for the proposed project to proceed, first a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) must be completed, reviewed by the public, then finalized and approved. One of our partners on this project, Island Conservation, has taken the lead on drafting the EA and also will lead the planning and implementation phases. Island Conservation has a proven track record at successfully conducting such projects. The EA has already been through several internal drafts, with many changes as new information has come along. Following a series of field trials this past

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November, more changes are needed. Initial funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the EA totaling about \$150,000 have been spent, as have other funds raised by Island Conservation. These funds have gotten the EA to where it is now but much work still needs to be done.

Funds totaling \$972,313 for planning and implementation of the Farallon Restoration Project were recently obtained from the Luckenbach Trustee Council as part of the Luckenbach Oil Spill Restoration Plan. When this project was budgeted several years ago, it appeared that this would be an adequate level of funding. However, as we learn more about the large task at hand and adjust for inflation, we realize that this project will require substantially more funds. For this reason, Island Conservation has proposed to the Coastal Conservancy for funds to assist this important project.

At this time, we are at a critical point in determining whether or not this project can be successfully achieved at this time. The matching funds described above, which we waited on for several years, have finally become available and we have a competent team assembled. To delay further may mean the loss of this team and loss of adequate funding to complete the project. In that case, impacts to native seabirds and other resources on the Farallon Islands that result from invasive house mice will continue and Ashy Storm-Petrels may require listing under the Endangered Species Act. Thus, acquiring additional funds to complete the project are critical.

The Farallon Islands, 27 miles offshore but part of the City of San Francisco, are jewels of the Pacific Ocean. The islands host the largest seabird colony in the contiguous United States, with 350,000 breeding birds of 13 species, as well as five species of marine mammals, an endemic cricket, an endemic salamander, and hundreds of species of migratory birds. House mice are the last non-native mammals remaining on the Farallon Islands; introduced rabbits and cats were eradicated in the early 1970s. Thus, removing the mice will also help restore the native ecosystem of the islands.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service.

Thank you for your consideration of this funding request. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at (510) 792-0222 x 222 or gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Gerry McChesney
Manager, Farallon National Wildlife Refuge

Cc: Amy Hutzel

PRBO Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive, #11
Petaluma, CA 94954
707-781-2555
www.prbo.org



November 11, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO) encourages the State Coastal Conservancy to provide funding for Island Conservation to conduct their Farallon Island Restoration Project.

PRBO is an independent, conservation science non-profit. Our mission is to conserve wildlife and ecosystems through innovative scientific research and outreach.

Since 1968, we have worked in a unique partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducting research on and helping to steward the unique natural resources of the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge. With over 40 years of continuous work on the Farallones, PRBO and partners have produced hundreds of scientific publications and helped address marine wildlife management challenges including human disturbance, fishing bycatch, oil pollution, climate variability and establishing state marine protected areas.

PRBO supports the proposed restoration efforts by Island Conservation to remove introduced house mice from the South Farallon Islands. Their proposed actions are likely to reduce negative impacts to seabirds, support native vegetation, and further complement conservation efforts by PRBO and USFWS.

PRBO has been working with Island Conservation for over 5 years in planning this first-ever attempt at eradicating introduced house mice from an island in the United States. We believe that Island Conservation is extremely competent and well suited for this effort. We encourage your financial support. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with PRBO's Farallon Managing Biologist Russ Bradley at rbradley@prbo.org or 707-781-2555, ext. 314 for further information. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellie Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Ellie Cohen
President and CEO, PRBO Conservation Science

Cc: Amy Hutzler, Program Manager for State Coastal Conservancy

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NOV 15 2010

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Audubon CALIFORNIA

November 27, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2010

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Dear Mr. Bosco;

On behalf of our 150,000 members and supporters, Audubon California writes in strong support of Island Conservation's proposal to carry out the planning, testing, and full scale implementation of the project to remove non-native house mice from Southeast Farallon Island.

The project is a critical step toward restoring the island to a condition closer to its baseline state free of introduced species. Beneficiaries will include 250,000 breeding seabirds plus endemic species on the island, plus exceptional benefits for the Ashy Storm-petrel, a California Species of Special Concern and federal candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Half of the global population of this rare, range-restricted and declining species breeds on the island, where it is subject to high levels of predation by Burrowing Owls attracted to the island by the population of house mice. When the mice are eradicated, Burrowing Owls will have little reason to frequent the island. Eradicating house mice is therefore a key investment in the future of the Ashy Storm-petrel, the only seabird virtually endemic to the state of California.¹

Island Conservation is uniquely qualified to carry out this project. The organization has demonstrated its capacity to successfully and cost-effectively complete ambitious and complex restoration projects in the region, as indicated by its work in Northwest Mexico, the Channel Islands in California and the Aleutian island chain in Alaska. Conservation Director Brad Keitt and his staff have identified best techniques and practices for island restoration across a variety of habitat types and local conditions. Collectively these projects have saved numerous seabird populations, several seabird species, and dozens of endemic species from extinction.

¹ Mills, K., W. Sydeman and J. Buffa. 2002. Direct and Indirect Effects of House Mice on Declining Populations of a small seabird, the Ashy Storm-petrel, on Southeast Farallon Island, California, USA. In: Turning the Tide: The Eradication of Invasive Species. C. Veith & M. Clout, Eds. IUCN Species Survival Commission.

Island Conservation has also demonstrated sensitivity to public concerns over removing introduced species from islands, and are experienced at working with contractors and agencies to build public support for the work in the context of these concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support, and we look forward to continued action to restore Southeast Farallon Island.

Sincerely,

Anna Weinstein
Seabird Conservation Coordinator

Cc: Amy Hutzal, Project Manager