



CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE
OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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October 25, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES) to confirm support for the Catalina Island Conservancy's (CIC) island restoration project which includes, in part, eradicating introduced mule deer from Catalina Island. CIES is a California-based nonprofit organization with over 40-years' experience advancing conservation of coastal and marine birds and healthy island ecosystems in the Pacific region through sound science, restoration, partnerships, and community outreach. Our organization is well versed in efforts to conduct restoration work on the Channel Islands, having participated in numerous restoration and conservation projects on seven of the eight islands.

CIC's comprehensive restoration project is designed with the best science available and is in line with the best practices and approaches used across the world for island conservation. These global island conservation best practices regularly use helicopters to eliminate introduced mammals (e.g., deer, pigs, goats). Once removal of destructive mammals has occurred, restoration of the island ecosystem can be truly initiated. This includes actions such as removal of non-native vegetation that crowd out native plants, degrade wildlife habitat and alter fire cycles and soil chemistry. It also includes conducting plant restoration in conjunction with the invasive plant control work. The plant restoration work includes using techniques such as creating a seed farm so that native seeds can be produced in bulk and used for restoration efforts. It also includes out-planting native plants grown in an on-island native plant nursery that helps ensure the recovery and maintenance of a resilient ecosystem. All these actions are included as part of CIC's plan.

In conclusion, the CIC habitat restoration project is well designed, and its implementation is essential to restoring a healthy ecosystem by preventing erosion of soils, promoting native vegetation, and building resiliency to wildfires. Ultimately these actions are essential so that the unique plants and animals of Catalina Island not only persist but thrive, resulting in a functioning ecosystem. It is important to understand that the restoration of the Catalina Island ecosystem cannot occur until all the introduced mule deer are removed from the island. CIES supports the CIC habitat restoration project because it follows the best available science and methods as seen across hundreds of global island conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Michael Parker

Michael Parker
Executive Director