



UC DAVIS
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center

December 1, 2023

Subject: Support for Catalina Island Conservancy Restoration Plan and removal of deer from the island

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Principal Investigator and co-Director of the University of California Davis Wildlife Health Center (UCD-WHC) California Carnivores Project. I have conducted research on mountain lions, Channel Island foxes, and multiple other mammalian and bird species in the region and throughout California – including extensive work on Catalina Island and the other Channel Islands and the Farallons. My work has been involved not only with the animal species but also with integrity of habitat that is critical to their survival.

Catalina Island, like most island ecosystems in the world, has been seriously impacted by the influence of humans and invasive animal and plant species that have accompanied them. I have seen the beneficial effects on multiple islands of removal of invasive species, especially larger mammals that have the power to disrupt the native plant and animal communities the most. Catalina has benefited greatly from past removals of goats and wild pigs, but the deer that are still present are exerting serious negative impacts on the ecosystem there that one can easily see.

I feel that the Catalina Island Conservancy is well positioned to complete the work that they are proposing, and that it deserves support to achieve the goals laid out in their Restoration Plan. I fully support their proposed deer removal plan as part of their overall Restoration Plan for the island.

Sincerely,

T. Winston Vickers, DVM, MPVM

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