

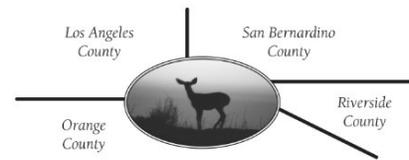
# H i l l s F o r E v e r y o n e

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*Southern California comes  
together at the Puente-Chino Hills*

January 21, 2025

Charlton Bonham  
Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Support the Catalina Island Restoration Project

Dear Director Bonham,

**On behalf of Hills For Everyone I am writing to express our organization's support for the Catalina Island Restoration Project.** Invasive species have adversely impacted the island for decades, and it is imperative to act to reverse the damage. Catalina Island is a special place for the many species who live on and visit the Island. With more than 60 endemic plant and animal species, 3,500 year-round residents, and a terrain that offers ample recreational opportunities for over one million annual visitors, this Restoration Project is critical. It will help protect the biodiversity that will secure climate resilience for this wonderful and unique landscape.

With the presence of nesting bald eagles in Anaheim Hills and the Prado Basin, those of us who live on the mainland are reaping the benefits with the bald eagle restoration efforts that occurred on Catalina.

The Island's ecosystems are at risk. Without protective measures, many native and endemic species face extinction, and the Island may no longer be able to withstand climate change. The effects of disappearing species are already evident, as native chaparral habitats transition into invasive annual grasslands. Native plants on the Island absorb and retain water and are drought-resistant, acting as natural protection against wildfire while providing important habitat for native animal species. Without them, catastrophic wildfire is inevitable, such as the 2007 Island Fire, in which 10% of the Island burned and 700 residents and visitors were forced to evacuate.

We support the Catalina Island Restoration Project to safeguard the Island from more catastrophic impacts and bolster the Island's ability to recover.

Yours truly,

*Claire W. Schlotterbeck*

Claire W. Schlotterbeck  
Executive Director