



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

March 24, 2025

Re: Support the Catalina Island Restoration Project

Dear Director Bonham:

On behalf of Catalina Island Company (Island Company), I am writing to express our support for the Catalina Island Restoration Project (CIRP).

Our parent corporation, the 'Santa Catalina Island Company' was founded in 1894 and, for over 80 years, owned almost the entire island. Both before and during that time, we learned about ecological devastation that can occur from certain non-native species, including invasive plants and animals. Then, in 1972, with the help of members of the Wrigley family, we created the Santa Catalina Island Conservancy and, in 1975, deeded over 88% of the island to that special non-profit organization. (The company kept its land in Avalon and Two Harbors, along with some other island parcels.) The hope and dream of the Island Company was that the Conservancy would advance the stewardship of this incredible undeveloped land in the best ways that science and land management could provide.

Our belief is that the Conservancy's CIRP is, in fact, based on the best research and science available and builds on the restoration results of other channel islands. Those studies and efforts have shown that the CIRP is critical not only to protect the native biodiversity of Catalina Island but also to expand it in the most beneficial ways possible.

Aside from believing in and supporting the Conservancy's restoration efforts, the Island Company and many other businesses, as well as hundreds of thousands of individuals, will directly benefit from the CIRP. The company itself owns over 10% of the island. Our team (often over 500 people) live and work here. We rely on the Conservancy and its land for eco-tourism, access to our various properties, fire prevention and more. In addition, the CIRP will better enable our tour guides to tell the story of Catalina's incredible biodiversity and its restoration – including that the CIRP will help secure climate and fire resilience. The CIRP will also be a significant resource for

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communities across California to learn about and experience unique landscapes and species.

All in all, we at the Catalina Island Company believe that the CIRP is one of the most exciting ecological programs not only for Catalina Conservancy and for the island itself, but for the entire world. We look forward to seeing what it will do for the beauty, biodiversity and ecological resilience of the Conservancy's lands and we can't wait to educate our many visitors about this amazing project as we share with them the treasure that is Santa Catalina Island.

Very Truly Yours,



Geoffrey Claflin Rusack
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Whitney Latorre
Terry Grill