

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0069  
(916) 319-2069  
FAX (916) 319-2169



March 26, 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 the California 69th Assembly District, I write to express my support for a healthy, climate resilient, and fire-resistant Catalina Island where humans and nature can thrive for years to come. Invasive species have had adverse impacts on the island for decades, and it is imperative to act now to halt and 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. The Catalina Island Restoration Project is critical to protect the biodiversity that will secure climate resilience for an important resource for communities across California to learn about and experience unique landscapes and species.

Without protective measures, many native and endemic species face extinction, and the Island may no longer be able to withstand climate change or support diverse ecosystems for years to come. Native plants on the Island absorb and retain water and are drought-resistant, acting as natural protection against wildfire and providing important habitat for native animal species. When these native plants are threatened by non-native wildlife and other risks, the Island is vulnerable to devastating climate threats such as wildfire and drought. Support for the Catalina Island Restoration Project will safeguard the Island from similar catastrophic impacts, lessening the damage to the Island and bolstering the Island's ability to recover.

The Catalina Island Restoration Project is a science-based, comprehensive plan to protect the Island's biodiversity, reduce erosion, prevent wildfires, and create a sustainable environment where nature and humans will thrive for years to come. The implementation of the Restoration Project is urgent due to the heightened climate threats.

We thank you for your time and greatly look forward to working together to ensure that Catalina Island will be preserved for generations to come.

Sincerely,

**JOSH LOWENTHAL**  
Assemblymember, 69<sup>th</sup> District