

April 23, 2024

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in Opposition to Catalina Island Conservancy’s Permit Application for Eradication of the Island’s Mule Deer Population

Apart from the City of Avalon, Santa Catalina Island (Island) is unincorporated territory of Los Angeles County, directly governed by this Board. The Catalina Island Conservancy (Conservancy) manages 88 percent of the Island’s land. The Conservancy has proposed the Catalina Island Restoration Project, a plan to eradicate the entire mule deer population from the Island, due to its negative impact on the Island’s ecosystem, by means of shooting the deer from aircraft. The Conservancy submitted a Scientific Collection Permit Application to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in August 2023 for authorization of the eradication of the mule deer.

The proposed methodology of eradication by aerial shooting from helicopters has caused an intense public outcry and generated significant community opposition. Eradicating Catalina Island's entire population of more than 1,770 mule deer through aerial shooting from helicopters is inhumane and drastic, and potentially dangerous to the public. Less extreme measures to control the deer population that do not pose risks to public safety should be considered and employed.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch, in consultation with the Office of County Counsel and the Department of Parks and Recreation, to send a five-signature letter to

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Charlton Bonham expressing the County's opposition to the Catalina Island Conservancy's Scientific Collection Permit Application based on the proposed methodology of eradicating mule deer through aerial shooting.

#

JH:jl