STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0115

California Legislature

March 20, 2025

Office of Senator Adam Schiff
Senate Office Building #112.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schiff:

As the Representative for California's 17th District, I am writing to express my support for Point Blue Conservation Science's proposed project, "Farallon Islands Infrastructure Upgrades" for FY26 Congressionally Directed Spending. The Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge (FINWR), located within the City and County of San Francisco, is a vital sanctuary for seabirds and marine mammals, hosting the largest nesting seabird colony south of Alaska.

The waters within the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary are a globally significant, extraordinarily diverse, and productive marine ecosystem that supports abundant wildlife, including at least 25 endangered or threatened species, and provides breeding and feeding areas for local and migratory seabirds and marine mammals. The wildlife supported by the Refuge is vitally important to San Francisco and the region's economy, drawing tourists from all over the globe.

This past fall, I traveled to Cali, Colombia for the UN Biodiversity COP together with representatives from Point Blue. Point Blue is a well-regarded non-profit within the California environmental community. They have a demonstrated ability to provide high quality science that can inform management, and an ability to communicate results to a general audience about the importance of protecting the wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources of this diverse and bountiful marine ecosystem. Infrastructure upgrades are vital for the continuation of critical research conducted on the Farallon Islands.

I strongly support Point Blue's proposal to upgrade the Farallon Islands infrastructure and urge you to fund it.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Matt Haney

Assemblymember, 17th District

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuaries
991 Marine Drive, The Presidio San Francisco, CA 94129

March 19, 2025

Point Blue Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive, Suite 11,
Petaluma, CA 94954

Dear Dr. Jahncke:

On behalf of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (GFNMS/CBNMS), I am writing to express my support for your proposed project "Farallon Islands East Landing Access Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrade - Phase II" for FY25 Community Project Funding.

The waters within GFNMS and CBNMS are a globally significant, extraordinarily diverse, and productive marine ecosystem that supports abundant wildlife, including at least 25 endangered or threatened species, and provides breeding and feeding areas for local and migratory seabirds and marine mammals. The site of the proposed project, the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge is within the boundaries of GFNMS and the animals that haul out and nest on the Farallon Islands forage within GFNMS and CBNMS.

GFNMS/CBNMS have worked with Point Blue Conservation Science on monitoring projects for decades, and Point Blue staff have served on the Advisory Councils of both GFNMS and CBNMS. Point Blue has demonstrated the ability to provide high quality science that is critical to inform management and protect these national marine sanctuaries. Examples include information on the local populations of marine mammals and seabirds that breed, nest, or roost on the islands, information about the presence of endangered whales in the area to help the sanctuary reduce ship strikes, sightings of white sharks to inform management of this apex predator, and information about disturbances to birds and mammals from aircraft or vessels that informs sanctuary outreach efforts to reduce disturbances. This high-quality science is dependent on biologists conducting field work at this remote location which requires adequate facilities. Infrastructure upgrades are vital for the continuation of critical research conducted on the Farallon Islands. The project will address two critical infrastructure improvements: (1) repairing the East Landing crane, the primary access point for personnel and supplies, and (2) upgrading the powerhouse, which ensures sustainable energy for long-term conservation research and monitoring efforts.

Point Blue's proposal to upgrade the Farallon Islands infrastructure is critical to maintaining operations on the island.

Sincerely,

Danielle Lipski

Danielle Lipski
Acting Superintendent

The Nature Conservancy

Sacramento Office
830 S Street
Sacramento, California 95811

tel [916] 449-2850
fax [916] 442-2377

nature.org
nature.org/california

March 10, 2025

Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for the Farallon Islands Landing Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrades

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), I am writing to express our strong support for Point Blue Conservation Science's Farallon Islands East Landing Access Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrade - Phase II proposal for FY26 Community Project Funding. This project is critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of one of the most ecologically significant marine ecosystems on the U.S. West Coast.

TNC is a leading global conservation organization dedicated to protecting lands and waters for people and nature, working in 79 countries and territories and the support of over one million members. The Farallon Islands provide essential breeding and foraging habitat for numerous seabird species, marine mammals, and other key ocean wildlife, playing a crucial role in the broader California Current marine ecosystem. Point Blue's long-term ecological monitoring, data collection, and conservation efforts are fundamental to informing adaptive marine management strategies that support climate resilience, sustainable fisheries, and ocean health.

The proposed upgrades to the East Landing crane and powerhouse are essential for maintaining year-round conservation research, monitoring efforts, and science-based policy recommendations. The crane ensures safe access for researchers, while modernizing the powerhouse will provide sustainable, efficient energy for ongoing scientific operations. This infrastructure is also key to enable priority conservation interventions, including the proposed US Fish and Wildlife Service invasive house mouse eradication. Without these critical infrastructure investments, the ability to implement conservation action, monitor ecosystem shifts, support fisheries sustainability, and mitigate climate impacts on marine wildlife will be severely compromised.

This project aligns with TNC's mission to advance climate resilience and marine biodiversity conservation through science-based solutions We strongly support this funding request and urge its approval to safeguard the future of scientific research, conservation efforts, and sustainable marine management on the Farallon Islands.

Sincerely,

Nick Holmes

Dr. Nick Holmes
Associate Director for the Oceans Program, California
The Nature Conservancy

OCEANA Protecting the World's Oceans
99 Pacific Street, Suite 155C
Monterey, CA 93940 USA

+1.907.586.4050
OCEANA.ORG

March 10, 2025

Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for the Farallon Islands Landing Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrades

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

On behalf of Oceana, I am writing to express our strong support for Point Blue Conservation Science's Farallon Islands East Landing Access Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrade - Phase II proposal for FY26 Community Project Funding. This project is vital to ensuring the continued success of critical marine research, conservation, and policy initiatives that safeguard ocean ecosystems and biodiversity.

As the largest international advocacy organization dedicated to ocean conservation, Oceana is committed to protecting and restoring ocean abundance. The Farallon Islands serve as a key habitat for endangered marine life, seabird colonies, and critical fish populations that are central to the health of the California Current ecosystem. Point Blue's long-term monitoring efforts provide essential data that inform fisheries management, marine protected area effectiveness, and climate resilience strategies—all of which align with Oceana's mission to promote sustainable oceans.

The proposed infrastructure upgrades to the East Landing crane and powerhouse are essential to maintaining safe access for researchers and ensuring a reliable, sustainable energy source for ongoing scientific operations. Without these improvements, the ability to monitor ecosystem health, track climate impacts, and advocate for science-based ocean policies will be significantly hindered.

This project directly supports marine conservation, fisheries sustainability, and ocean climate resilience, key priorities for Oceana's work in the U.S. and globally. We urge full funding support for this proposal to secure the future of scientific research and ocean stewardship efforts on the Farallon Islands.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Shester, Ph.D.
California Campaign Director & Senior Scientist, Oceana

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

CARMEN DOMINGO, DEAN
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
1600 Holloway Avenue, TH 323
San Francisco, CA 94132

March 10, 2025

Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for the Farallon Islands Landing Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrades

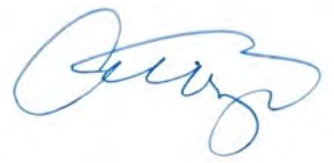
Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

I am writing to express my strong support for Point Blue Conservation Science's proposal, Farallon Islands East Landing Access Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrade - Phase II, for FY26 Community Project Funding. As Dean of the College of Science & Engineering at San Francisco State University, I oversee our Estuary and Ocean Science (EOS) Center, where our scientists and students have benefited immensely from collaborations with Point Blue.

This project is vital for the continued success of hands-on field research and conservation training on the Farallon Islands. Infrastructure upgrades, including modernizing the East Landing crane and upgrading the powerhouse, will enhance accessibility and safety for researchers, ensuring that critical data collection and student engagement can continue uninterrupted. These improvements will also support access to field-based training for students from all backgrounds, furthering the next generation of marine scientists.

We strongly support this funding request to enhance scientific research and conservation efforts on the Farallon Islands.

Sincerely,



Carmen Domingo, PhD
Dean, College of Science & Engineering
San Francisco State University

SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Biological Sciences
College of Science

San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0100

TEL: 408-924-4900
FAX: 408-924-4840
bioassistant-group@sjsu.edu

Undergraduate Programs

Biological Sciences

Ecology and Evolution

Marine Biology

Microbiology

Molecular Biology

Graduate Programs

MA Biological Sciences

MS Ecology & Evolution

MS Molecular, Microbial, and Physiological Biology

10 March 2025

Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for the Farallon Islands Landing Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrades

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

On behalf of San José State University (SJSU), I strongly support Point Blue Conservation Science's Farallon Islands East Landing Access Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrade - Phase II for FY26 Community Project Funding.

I have been collaborating with Point Blue for over a decade (since 2011), engaging graduate student research projects on seabird breeding ecology, habitat use studies, and conservation science on the Farallon Islands. All told, 14 Masters students from my lab have conducted their thesis research at the Farallon Islands, or used data collected by Point Blue. Sadly, these experiences are in jeopardy because aging infrastructure threatens the continuation of these research and education initiatives. Upgrading the East Landing crane will ensure safe and reliable access, while modernizing the powerhouse will support sustainable, low-impact research operations.

As I'm sure you are aware, SJSU is a Hispanic Serving Institution so this upgrade project directly benefits students from underrepresented backgrounds by expanding access to real-world conservation training. I urge your full support for this funding request to maintain the Farallon Islands as a premier site for scientific research, conservation, and education. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Shaffer
California Academy of Sciences Fellow
Professor of Ecology and Evolution
San José State University
Email: scott.shaffer@sjsu.edu

CENTRAL & NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

CeNCOOS.org / 831.775.2126
hruhl@mbari.org
7700 Sandholdt Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039

March 21, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I write in relation to Point Blue Conservation Science's research and monitoring program on the Farallon Islands. Specifically, the Farallon Islands East Landing Access Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrade - Phase II.

Point Blue has been an invaluable partner in our mission to provide robust and reliable ocean information, including via this program. Point Blue's contributions to the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and it's California Ocean Observing Systems Data Portal (https://data.caloos.org/), specifically their long-term annual breeding metrics on Southeast Farallon Island, have significantly enhanced our understanding of marine biodiversity and ecosystem health. This data is crucial for our collaborative efforts to monitor and manage the marine environment effectively. Specifically, we work to make this data readily available to our members and can be found here:

- https://data.caloos.org/#module-metadata/fab2156f-b6e2-4290-ab39-49e609eeabc2
- https://data.caloos.org/#dashboards/layer/992f5507-2898-46c5-a2ac-da7c5c65f032

The Farallon Islands are a critical habitat for up to 12 species of breeding seabirds, including notable populations of common murres, Cassin's and rhinoceros auklets, and western gulls. Point Blue's rigorous monitoring and research since 1968 have been fundamental in informing conservation strategies and policy-making to protect these vital populations. This project not only addresses the immediate needs of the Farallon Islands but also supports broader environmental conservation and education initiatives that benefit underrepresented communities and contribute to climate resilience.

This is key data source for the CeNCOOS and other collaborative scientific efforts across the nation and globally. Users of resulting information include those manage State of California and Federal resources and managed spaces, such as those involved in understanding the potential impacts of developing the offshore wind energy industry in our region. This includes managers of state Marne Protected Areas and the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Such information is vital as new industries grow in California waters such as for offshore wind energy, balancing observations in areas of primary industrial activity, vs. protected areas such as the Greater Farallones.

Sincerely,

Henry Ruhl, CeNCOOS Director

March 18, 2025

Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for the Farallon Islands Landing Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrades

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

On behalf of the Greater Farallones Association (GFA), I am writing to express our strong support for Point Blue Conservation Science's Farallon Islands East Landing Access Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrade - Phase II proposal for FY26 Community Project Funding. This project is essential for maintaining scientific research, ecological monitoring, and conservation efforts on the Farallon Islands, a globally significant marine ecosystem.

The Greater Farallones Association, a long-standing nonprofit partner of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, is dedicated to protecting the unique habitats and wildlife of the California Current ecosystem through education, research, and community engagement. The Farallon Islands provide critical habitat for breeding seabirds, marine mammals, and other species that depend on healthy ocean conditions. Research conducted by Point Blue Conservation Science has been instrumental in informing sanctuary management, fisheries policies, and climate resilience strategies.

The proposed infrastructure upgrades are necessary to ensure the continued success of conservation efforts on the Farallon Islands. Repairing the East Landing crane will maintain safe and reliable access for researchers, while modernizing the powerhouse will provide a sustainable energy source for ongoing monitoring and ecological studies. These upgrades will also support collaborative initiatives that advance marine conservation, reduce human impacts on wildlife, and enhance climate adaptation efforts.

This project aligns with the Greater Farallones Association's mission to promote the health and resilience of our ocean ecosystems for future generations. We urge full funding support for this proposal to ensure the Farallon Islands remain a cornerstone of marine conservation and scientific discovery.

Sincerely,

Jeff Loomans
Board President
Greater Farallones Association

March 10, 2025

Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for the Farallon Islands Landing Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrades

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

On behalf of The Marine Mammal Center, I am writing to express my strong support for Point Blue Conservation Science's Farallon Islands East Landing Access Improvements and Powerhouse Upgrade - Phase II proposal for FY26 Community Project Funding. The Marine Mammal Center has enjoyed a long-standing and highly valuable partnership with Point Blue, benefiting directly from their continuous ecological monitoring and data collection on the Farallon Islands.

Founded in 1975, The Marine Mammal Center is a global leader in marine mammal health, science, and conservation. With facilities across California and Hawai'i, our mission relies on high-quality, long-term data to understand marine ecosystem health, mitigate human impacts on marine mammals, and inform conservation efforts. Point Blue's work on the Farallon Islands provides critical, year-round data that enhances our research and response capabilities.

The Farallon Islands serve as a critical habitat for pinniped populations and key cetacean species that we monitor. Upgrading the East Landing crane will ensure reliable access for researchers, while modernizing the powerhouse will provide sustainable energy for continued monitoring and conservation activities. These infrastructure improvements are vital for maintaining long-term datasets that inform NOAA's sanctuary management, ship strike prevention efforts, and climate resilience strategies.

Without these upgrades, the ability to track population trends, assess threats to marine wildlife, and collaborate on whale protection initiatives like Whale Safe and ship strike mitigation will be significantly impacted. This project directly benefits marine mammal conservation, fisheries management, and ecosystem-based decision-making.

We strongly urge full funding support for this proposal to ensure the Farallon Islands remain a cornerstone for scientific research, conservation, and marine wildlife protection.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Boehm, DVM, DACAW
Chief External Relations Officer
The Marine Mammal Center

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

September 10, 2024

To Whom it May Concern
Point Blue Conservation Science
Petaluma, California

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing again to share with you our desire to continue to collaborate with the Oceans team at Point Blue Conservation Science, in our shared effort to improve fisheries science and management in marine resource in the California Current Ecosystem. For over 40 years, we have collaborated with seabird biologists with your organization, in recognition of the strong interactions between Farallon Island seabird populations and the fisheries resources, particularly juvenile stages of rockfish and other groundfish, as well as northern anchovy and other forage fishes, upon which they depend. The unique nature of our 42 year Rockfish Recruitment and Ecosystem Assessment Survey time series and the even longer record seabird breeding success and food habits data collected by your research institution have provided numerous unique opportunities to both inform ecological studies and provide indicators of key ocean processes to the many resource managers working to maintain sustainability in this ecosystem.

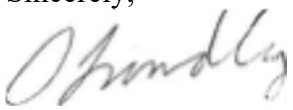
Some recent examples of these collaborations are worth highlighting. Our shared efforts to evaluate the impacts of variable ocean conditions on seabird predation of salmon smolts benefited from a flurry of extensive collaborations between 2016 and 2019, enabled in part by a NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy grant. This effort resulted in a number of manuscripts that revealed strong insights into the forage and predator dynamics that are at least partially responsible for variable year class strength in Sacramento River Fall Chinook salmon populations. These included manuscripts by Wells et al. (“Environmental conditions and prey-switching by a seabird predator impact juvenile salmon survival,” 2017), Warzybok et al. (“Prey switching and consumption by seabirds in the central California Current upwelling ecosystem: Implications for forage fish management,” 2018) and Ainley et al. (“Ecosystem-based management affecting Brandt's Cormorant resources and populations in the central California Current region,” 2018). Since that time we have continued to explore the implications of seabird mortality in several more recent analyses, for example a recent manuscript by Vasbinder et al. (“Size-selective predation effects on juvenile Chinook salmon cohort survival off Central California evaluated with an individual-based model,” 2024), built upon the foundation that was inspired by Point Blue data and collaboration to better understand the physical and biological factors that either increase or reduce the risk of predation on salmon to impact salmon survival and productivity. Additional ongoing modeling efforts are intended to provide guidance to managers seeking to mitigate such impacts. The seabird diet and productivity data collected by Point Blue Conservation Science are also highlighted in the California Current Integrated Ecosystem

Assessment (CCIEA), which synthesizes available climate and ecosystem information to better inform marine resource managers about important trends in the California Current ecosystem, so that such information can be considered when making management decisions.

The strong coherence between seabird diets and our trawl survey data were also critically important in providing assurances that our data were robust during the Covid 19 pandemic, as our 2020 survey was cancelled and replaced by a chartered fishing vessel which managed to conduct a limited set of operations in lieu of our usual effort. Evaluating the seabird diet data and comparing those data to our survey results in that year not only provided us with greater confidence that the limited survey results were robust, despite their greater uncertainty. Perhaps more importantly, this effort also provided the opportunity to publish a high profile manuscript in collaboration with Point Blue researchers (Santora et al. "Diverse integrated ecosystem approach overcomes pandemic-related fisheries monitoring challenges," 2021) that provides critical context for better consideration of use of food habits data from seabirds for ecosystem monitoring, as well as highlighting the need for integration across available data streams to better inform predictive ecosystem modeling. More recently, we are collaborating with the Oceans group to evaluate synchrony in the phenology of both rockfish (parturition dates of larvae that survive to the pelagic juvenile stage) and seabirds (egg lay dates), in order to better understand the oceanographic factors related to variable phenology in both groups of species. We have also worked with Point Blue researchers to help identify seabird prey items, particularly pelagic juvenile rockfishes, to the species level to help with their research and monitoring efforts, and have discussed future collaborative projects that might benefit from evaluation of these data. All of these collaborations and results help to emphasize the close relationship between pelagic juvenile rockfishes, breeding seabird dynamics and the overall productivity of the California Current ecosystem.

Although our research division is not currently able to provide direct support for these important monitoring activities, we remain highly supportive of these efforts, and of related efforts to leverage these programs and collaborations to better utilize these data streams in support of fisheries and living marine resource management. The ability to improve the scientific basis for resource management from an ecosystem perspective, in the face of a rapidly changing climate, will require growing and strengthening collaborations among research institutions to address complex, multidisciplinary research questions. We look forward to continuing our ongoing collaborations with Point Blue Conservation Science well into the future.

Sincerely,



Steve Lindley, PhD
Director, Fisheries Ecology Division
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, WA 98112-2097
(206) 860-3200

30 September 2024

Point Blue Conservation
Petaluma, CA 94954 USA

To whom it may concern;

I am writing on behalf of NOAA Fisheries' California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) team to express the importance of Point Blue Conservation's collection of valuable seabird data through its long-term monitoring efforts within the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

Since 2018, Point Blue has provided annual data on the diet and productivity of multiple species of seabirds breeding on the Farallon Islands to the CCIEA team, whose task is to evaluate the status of the California Current Ecosystem by interpreting a variety of environmental, biological, economic, and social indicators. These seabird data contribute to a portfolio of time series of seabird at-sea densities, diet, productivity, and mortality that tracks the status and condition of this important ecosystem component throughout the California Current. The CCIEA team communicates these time series to the Pacific Fishery Management Council each spring via the seabird section of its annual California Current Ecosystem Status Report (*e.g.*, the 2023-24 California Current Ecosystem Status Report), which compiles and interprets time series from a variety of ecosystem indicators. The team also communicates these time series through the Ecosystem Component: Seabirds pages on the CCIEA website.

Data collected from the Farallon Islands by Point Blue are some of the most important seabird monitoring data on the U.S. west coast because of their quality and longevity. They offer essential information about overall system productivity and about feeding conditions for a diverse predator assemblage at a critical time of year for the ecosystem. They complement other ecological time series, and they were some of the only ecological data available to us when other surveys were limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CCIEA team places a high value on these seabird time series because of the deeper understanding they provide of the California Current marine ecosystem and the potential for their application in living marine resource and ecosystem management.

Thank you;

Thomas Good, Ph.D., Seabird Lead – California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
Jameal Samhouri, Ph.D., Northwest Fisheries Science Center CCIEA Team Co-Lead
Elliot Hazen, Ph.D., Southwest Fisheries Science Center CCIEA Team Co-Lead

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

August 14, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am a research fishery biologist who studies the marine ecosystem off California. I am writing to express my support for the sea bird monitoring program off Southeast Farallon Island by Point Blue. The Pacific Ocean has been experiencing unprecedented warmth over the past decade. Our capacity to elucidate the impacts of this warming on biological life is made possible only by long time-series that track population dynamics before and after the sustained warming. The breeding bird time series that is tracked by Point Blue represents one of the few that is robust enough to give an accurate depiction of how life is affected by climate change. It began in 1971 and thus spans over a half century. Its' maintenance is critical for understanding and managing a healthy Pacific Ocean off California

Sincerely,

Andrew Thompson
andrew.thompson@noaa.gov

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, California 94555

April 30th, 2024

Dear Project Partners and Funders:

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), I am writing to express my support for projects that support conservation science on the Farallon Islands such as Point Blue Conservation Science's Community Project Funding Proposal – *Farallon Islands Water System Upgrade*.

The Service has a long history of collaborating with the conservation and scientific community to manage the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Point Blue Conservation Science, a Bay-Area non-profit, has been the main conservation science partner with the Service on the Farallon Islands, with their biologists maintaining a continuous presence on Southeast Farallon Island since 1968. During that time, Point Blue biologists have collected almost six decades of daily biodiversity and climate data, and offered unparalleled intern and early career training opportunities for more than 1,000 scientists from 18 countries, 45 states, and several hundred students from California universities.

The Farallon Islands are located 30 miles west of the Golden Gate Bridge and are part of the greater San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Their remote nature creates significant logistical challenges related to accessibility and maintenance of facilities on the islands. Additionally, the refuge complex hosts nearly one million visitors annually on the mainland, which requires dedicated year-round resources. As a result of budget uncertainty, the Service is no longer able to support the infrastructure required to maintain a year-round presence on the islands.

Projects like *Farallon Islands Water System Upgrade* –would support the conservation science work being done on Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge and the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW BROWN

Digitally signed by MATTHEW BROWN
Date: 2024.04.30 08:11:29 -07'00'

Matthew Brown
Complex Manager

Petaluma City Schools
Board of Education
200 Douglas Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
March 28, 2025

Office of Senator Adam Schiff
Senate Office Building #112
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for Farallon Islands Infrastructure Upgrade Community Service Fund Request

Dear Senator Schiff,

As President of the Petaluma City Schools Board of Education, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed infrastructure upgrades on the Farallon Islands. These improvements—including modernizing the East Landing crane and upgrading the powerhouse—are critical to ensuring the continued success of field research and conservation training in this unique and ecologically significant region.

For years, the Farallon Islands have served as an invaluable training ground for students and researchers, offering unparalleled hands-on experience in marine science and conservation. However, the current infrastructure presents challenges to accessibility and safety. By investing in these much-needed upgrades, we can safeguard uninterrupted data collection efforts and expand field-based learning opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds, fostering the next generation of marine scientists.

As a local institution committed to educational excellence and environmental stewardship, we recognize the profound impact this project will have on students from our district and beyond. We respectfully urge your support in securing funding for these vital improvements, ensuring that the Farallon Islands remain an accessible and effective research and training hub for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your continued leadership in advancing education and environmental conservation initiatives.

Sincerely,

Mady Cloud
President, Petaluma City Schools Board of Education