



**MARIN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT**

220 Nellen Avenue Corte Madera CA 94925-1169
www.marinwater.org

April 11, 2005

Mr. Don Neubacher
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Attention: Non-Native Deer Management Plan

Dear Mr. Neubacher:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Marin Municipal Water District (District) I am writing in support of Point Reyes National Seashore's Non-Native Deer Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Plan) and specifically for the preferred Alternative E. As a neighboring landowner to the Seashore we share common interests in managing invasive species such as axis and fallow deer. You will recall that our agencies collaborated on successful feral pig control in the 1980s. Our watershed management polices promote the protection of native flora and fauna and specifically call for the control of exotic species. Your plan suggests male fallow deer are already leaving National Park Service lands and that without effective control, fallow deer may become resident on our lands. We are very concerned about this prospect.

We support Alternative E because it calls for the eradication of both non-native deer from the park because it is consistent with natural area management policies that protect native diversity. We also believe that it is a more humane alternative in the long run than maintenance of herds at pre-determined low levels (Alternatives B and C), because herd maintenance calls for culling herds in perpetuity. Alternative E calls for the application of long-acting contraceptives in combination with shooting by trained NPS staff. We applaud the park service for emphasizing non-lethal means even though they are experimental and unproven.

A successful deer management program is required to protect the ecological integrity of our wildlands. A no action alternative would lead to widespread ecological degradation beyond park boundaries and is therefore unacceptable. We commend you and your staff for the careful science-based evaluation and effective proposal for a difficult and controversial issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Helliker".

Paul E. Helliker
General Manager