

Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

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October 19, 2006

Eric Loft
Wildlife Programs Branch
California Department of Fish & Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Delisting California Brown Pelican

Dear Mr. Loft:

On behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), we endorse the petition to delist the California Brown Pelican that was filed by the Endangered Species Recovery Council. The Director of the California Department of Fish & Game found that “the petitioned action may be warranted, and that the petition should be accepted and considered” in its memorandum to the Executive Director of the Fish and Game Commission dated October 2, 2006. PSG is an international, non-profit organization that was founded in 1972 to promote the knowledge, study, and conservation of Pacific seabirds. It has a membership drawn from the entire Pacific basin, including Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Russia, Japan, South Korea, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. Among PSG’s members are biologists who have research interests in Pacific seabirds, government officials who manage seabird refuges and populations, and individuals who are interested in marine conservation.

PSG has long had a strong interest in the conservation of the California Brown Pelican and in endangered seabirds. In recent years, PSG has endorsed proposals by federal and state trustees to spend funds to benefit California Brown Pelicans from the *American Trader* and *Jacob Luckenbach* oil spill trust funds and funds from the Montrose DDT settlements. In 2002, PSG petitioned the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the State of California to list the Xantus’s Murrelet as an endangered or threatened species, which resulted in your department listing that species as threatened. PSG often has provided your department with its views on various aspects of the management of threatened Marbled Murrelets.

PSG approaches the delisting of the California subspecies of the Brown Pelican from an even-handed scientific perspective. We are pleased to conclude from all information available to us that this subspecies has fully recovered and no longer warrants being listed as “endangered” because it is not currently in danger of extinction nor should it be merely down-listed to “threatened” because it is not likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. We believe that the California Department of Fish & Game and other wildlife agencies should acknowledge the positive news that the California Brown Pelican has recovered.

Please feel free to contact us if you need additional information on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O’Reilly, Ph.D.
Chair