

Pacific Seabird Group



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

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Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003

Re: Delisting California Brown Pelican

Dear Field Supervisor:

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 Service found that this action “may be warranted” in its Federal Register notice dated May 24, 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 FWS and the State of California to list the Xantus’s Murrelet as an endangered or threatened species, and PSG often has provided FWS 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 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