

Statement of Work
Rodent Eradication Consulting Services
Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge
(July 16, 2021)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), seeks the expert consulting services of Dr. Gregg Howald to assist the environmental compliance process in support of the South Farallon Islands House Mouse Eradication Project (Farallon Project). Dr. Howald has a unique background in environmental toxicology and extensive and demonstrated knowledge and experience with the following : 1) island rodent eradication planning, including the environmental compliance process (NEPA and other required permits); 2) all aspects of island rodent eradication implementation, including methodology, preparation, best practices, history of rodent eradication, lessons learned from past projects, development of protocols, staffing, mitigation measures, and application for supplemental bait labels; 3) use, efficacy, toxicology, government registration process, and potential impacts to non-target fish and wildlife, water (aquatic and marine), and soil of rodenticides used in island rodent eradications, in particular, brodifacoum and diphacinone; 4) non-toxic methods that have been used or considered for island rodent eradication, including contraceptive baits, and pros and cons of their potential use; and 5) excellent oral and written skills communicating to the public and government authorities on the details of numbers 1 to 4, above.

Dr. Howald will assist the Service with environmental compliance for the Farallon Project, including providing information and expert advice for the preparation of environmental compliance documents including a Federal Coastal Consistency Determination and other permits. This will include serving as an expert panelist when the Service presents its Federal Coastal Consistency Determination to the California Coastal Commission (Commission) during one of their scheduled monthly public meetings. This will include assisting the Service during the hearing with responding to public comments and answering technical questions posed by the Commission about the Project, the proposed methods, process of preparing for and conducting an island rodent eradication, toxicology of rodenticides and their potential impacts on the environment, potential non-toxic alternatives including the use of contraceptive baits, and the history of island rodent eradications and lessons learned from past projects and how those lessons can be applied to the Farallon Project.

Preparation for the Commission hearing will include reading the Service's Consistency Determination, reading the Commission staff report on the Consistency Determination (will be made available about two weeks prior to the hearing), review and comment on a draft version of the Service's presentation to the Commission, review and comment on draft versions of other materials that may be produced as part of this process, and participating in at least two preparation meetings. Familiarity with the Service's Environmental Impact Statement on the Farallon Project will also be needed.

At this time, the Service projects presenting to the Commission in the fall of 2021. The Farallon Project hearing itself is expected to last anywhere from 5 to 10 hours, but could be shorter or longer depending on the meeting schedule, number of public comments given, and length of

discussion by and with the Commission. At this time, the Service estimates about seven 8-hour working days total for Dr. Howald. This amount may increase depending on future needs of the Service. In that case, funding may be added depending on availability.