

**Statement of Work
Rodent Eradication Consulting Services
Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge
(DRAFT – 5 May 2021)**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), has a need for expert consulting services to advise the environmental compliance process in support of the South Farallon Islands House Mouse Eradication Project (Project). The technical expert must have extensive and demonstrated knowledge and experience with: 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, 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.

Specifically, the consultant will assist the Service 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. Mainly, the consultant will assist 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 the Service's presentation, and participating in at least two preparation meetings. Reading the Service's Environmental Impact Statement on the Project is also advised.

At this time, the Service projects presenting at the Commissions June 11-13, 2021 meeting. The Farallon Project hearing itself is expected to last from 3 to 5 hours, but could be longer depending on the meeting schedule, number of public comments given, and length of discussion by the Commission. The Service estimates about five working days total for preparation and participation at the Commission hearing.