



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
9500 Thornton Avenue
Newark, California 94560



August 24, 2009

Liz Epstein
Special Funds Program
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery St., Suite 720
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Epstein,

I am pleased to support the proposal by Drs. Don Croll and Bernie Tershy, and their colleagues at U.C. Santa Cruz to develop an acoustic seabird monitoring network for the North/Central CA coast. As the Acting Manager for the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, I am interested in novel monitoring methods that will improve our ability to monitor the seabird populations breeding on the refuge. The Croll/Tershy lab deployed two automated acoustic recorders at Southeast Farallon Island in summer 2009 to assess their potential as monitoring tools for Ashy Storm-Petrels and Leach's Storm-Petrels. These two species are particularly difficult to monitor using traditional methods, are among the rarest of seabirds nesting on the Refuge, and have been directly or indirectly impacted by contaminants, introduced mice, and habitat disturbance. Preliminary data from other locations indicates that automated acoustic sensors have the potential to facilitate monitoring of these and other seabirds at the refuge and we are eager to see the results of the pilot project on Southeast Farallon in the coming months.

I therefore support this proposal to expand on the 2009 pilot project on the Farallon NWR, and test improved monitoring equipment at our refuge in 2010 and 2011.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please call me at 510-792-0717 ext. 222.

Sincerely,

Gerry McChesney
Acting Manager, Farallon NWR

