**State of California** • **Natural Resources Agency** **Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor***



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION Lisa Ann L. Mangat*, Director***

Dr. Emily Burns, Director of Science

Save the Redwoods League

111 Sutter Street, 11th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94014

20, September 2017

Dear Dr. Burns,

Please accept my enthusiastic endorsement of the proposal titled “*Marbled Murrelet and Steller’s Jay Management in Coastal Redwood Forests: An Emerging Conservation Success Story*?” that is being submitted to Save the Redwoods League by University of Wisconsin, Madison researchers Zach Peery, Anna Pidgeon, Elena West and Kristin Brunk. This project will conduct a second year of field work evaluating the success of a suite of recent Steller’s jay management actions implemented by California State Parks, including the Crumb Clean Campaign, controlled taste aversion (the deployment of noxious mimic eggs), and improved trash management. Excitingly, data collected in 2017 – funded by STRL - suggests that Steller’s jay densities in campgrounds are lower than they were prior to the intensification of our management efforts. However, additional work is needed to determine whether the decline was the result of management actions or the extreme drought and flood conditions experienced over the past several years. In speaking with the UW scientists, it has become apparent that they have developed a set of predictions that should allow for the rigorous testing of these competing hypothesizing using a suite of their well-developed methods such as stable isotope analyses, distance sampling, body condition assessments, and space use.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank STRL for providing significant funding for UW jay project over the last several years. Indeed, this project has helped us to develop, implement, and refine several of our marbled murrelet and Steller’s jay management strategies. ***In 2018, we have agreed to provide an additional $25,000 of matching funds for the jay project, should the above-mentioned proposal be funded.*** It is my understanding that our combined funding will provide the means to conduct this multi-faceted research project and provide one semester of support for MSc student Kristin Brunk, which will be a key to completing project tasks in a timely manner.

Again thank you so much for all of your support for the jay project and I hope we can continue our partnership, particularly given the potential success of recent research and monitoring efforts.

Sincerely,

Portia Halbert, Senior Environmental Scientist

California State Parks

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