

# Support for Santa Cruz Island Restoration Efforts

✿ The support of outside scientific experts, organizations and community leaders is essential to the overall success of restoration efforts on Santa Cruz Island. Comments and excerpts thus far include the following:

"...one of the most important first steps in restoring the native ecosystems of [an] island is the removal of exotic wild pigs. As you know, this has been accomplished partially or completely on Santa Rosa and Santa Catalina islands... Consequently, we support the plans to eradicate wild pigs on Santa Cruz Island.

"...the Department has the authority for management of wild pigs in California...The Department would not approve a request to translocate wild pigs from Santa Cruz Island to the mainland. Our reasons for objecting...are two-fold: 1) potential spread of disease to other wild pigs or domestic swine, and 2) increasing the distribution and abundance of an exotic species with great potential of causing damage." 9/9/99

David Zezulak, Ph.D., Chief, Wildlife Programs Branch  
California Department of Fish and Game

"Given that there is a viable swine production interest in California (as well as an even larger population of "pet" pigs) it would be irresponsible to risk the health and welfare of those animals by attempting to relocate and intergrate the Santa Cruz Island pigs. Even without the health risk, which cannot be ignored, there is no feasible method of live capture and relocation and there are no options for placement or relocation...As difficult as it may be, the only solution to the pig problem is destruction. I know that this issue has the potential to become highly charged but trust that [the National Park Service] are sensitive to the concerns of the community and will carry out the pig eradication in as humane a manner as is possible..." 10/8/99

Kathy Jenks, Director  
Ventura County Animal Regulation Department