

# Kill has set off a firestorm of anger



On the ground, hunters are preparing to kill all remaining non-native elk and deer.

## HUNT

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ural state, before the non-native elk and deer were put there. And under a court-approved settlement stemming from the sale of the island 25 years ago, all elk and deer must be removed by the end of this month. The original plan was to slaughter the animals, leaving carcasses

where they fall; but the National Park Service eventually agreed to a plan where much of the usable meat would be given to charity. The kill has set off a firestorm of anger from people who want to know why the remaining animals could not be left on the island, which, after all, they have inhabited for about 90 years. Short of that, others are decrying

the fact that the animals were being killed instead of moved to some other long-term home. The final kill was to start on Tuesday, but officials say now it will happen sometime this week. The island is closed to the public through Halloween. email: sstepleton@newspress.com

# Beutel again on leave

## Skirts yet another Lance DUI hearing

By SCOTT STEEPLTON  
NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR

Medical leave has once again come between Officer Kasi Beutel and investigative journalist Peter Lance.

Two weeks after the Santa Barbara Police Department DUI star came off medical leave supposedly ready to testify in a pre-trial court hearing in the highly charged misdemeanor DUI case against Mr. Lance, undisclosed health problems have again caught up with her.

Wednesday, on the eve of a DMV hearing in Mr. Lance's case, Officer Beutel—described as “similar in many ways to a comic book superhero” by staff at the California Health & Longevity Institute, where she was a Project Transformation winner for turning her health around—was declared unable to attend today's 9 a.m. session.

The declaration, signed on her behalf by SBPD Lt. James Pflieger and dated Oct. 12, states Officer Beutel would not appear. The explanation, Lt. Pflieger wrote, “Off duty - medical.”

On Sept. 21, a confident Sanford Horowitz, the deputy district attorney prosecuting Mr. Lance, declared in court to most everyone's surprise: “Officer Beutel will be here to present live testimony here on the witness stand Sept. 30.”

It was a surprise because she'd

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already missed hearings in the Lance and other matters because of an undisclosed on-the-job injury. But she apparently got better; at least that's what it sounded like coming from Mr. Horowitz that day in court.

Then came another hearing almost two weeks, where, once again, Mr. Horowitz declared the officer

ready to take the stand. Indeed, she was outside court, all smiles and the picture of health. But testify she didn't.

Mr. Lance's attorney Darryl Genis sees something sinister afoot—like trying to protect an officer with questionable practices from having to take the oath to tell the truth in a questionable case.

“At the last court hearing, Deputy District Attorney Sanford Horowitz could not contain himself from loudly and frequently declaring that Kasi Beutel was present and would take the stand. Indeed she was present, with her lawyer, Charles Goldwasser.”

“Now we come to find that not only is Kasi Beutel not going to testify Thursday (even with her attorney present) but that there is no date in sight when she will testify,” Mr. Genis said.

“And for the first time in 32 years of criminal practice, I have been told that if I want information about her availability, or lack thereof, I must get it not from the prosecuting attorney, but from the civil city attorney.”

“Now the reality is revealed: the District Attorney's Office knew they had no intention whatsoever of putting Kasi Beutel on the stand, but they wanted to create the illusion that they would for the benefit of the media. We'll be deceived no longer.”

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# Capps: ‘The housing market collapse has devastated our economy’

## CRISIS

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Made up of 34 Democratic representatives, the delegation wrote a letter to the president suggesting administrative actions that do not require approval by Congress.

Top among the recommendations is that the president urge the Federal Housing Finance Agency to allow mortgages owned by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to be refinanced at low market rates.

The administration's housing efforts “have had little bits of success, but woefully inadequate,” Lois Capps, D-Santa Barbara, told

reporters. In Santa Barbara County, one out of every 296 housing units is in foreclosure, she told the News-Press.

California was at the forefront of the housing bubble, she added, and as a result is now suffering foreclosures at twice the national rate.

“The housing market collapse has devastated our economy, and though we have recovered slightly since the depths of the crash, we're nowhere near where we need to be,” Mrs. Capps said in a prepared statement.

“Foreclosures continue unabated and thousands more are on the brink, intensifying the downward spiral of deflating home values, fewer home

sales and fewer jobs.”

In addition to refinancing, the delegation urged a major principal reduction plan for underwater homeowners and a “Homeowner's Bill of Rights.”

intended to streamline the process of receiving a modification, ensure accountability for banks and eliminate both administrative and financial obstacles to modifications.

Representatives shared “horror stories” from their home districts about constituents who were promised refinancing or a modification and then denied, whose paperwork was repeatedly lost or who simply didn't hear back regarding their requests at all.

Attributing this to a lack of pressure from the federal government, the delegation said the “Homeowner's Bill of Rights” would help assure people actually get the help they need.

Because homeowners making manageable payments would be more likely to stay in their homes, the effect would far exceed anything proposed by the president, including payroll tax reductions, argued Rep. Jackie Speier, D-San Francisco.

Several representatives, including Mrs. Capps, assured reporters the plan would not cost taxpayers anything. Rather, banks would suffer the loss of the refinanced mortgages. Mark Schniepp, director of the

California Economic Forecast, told the News-Press refinancing all loans owned by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would likely give the housing market a boost and ultimately could help return the economy to normal several years early; but the cost would ultimately increase the deficit and fall on taxpayers.

“This is radical, it would be drastic,” he said. “You're redistributing winners and losers.”

Because at least 70 percent of all loans are owned by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the recommendation would cost the government billions or even trillions of dollars, Mr. Schniepp said. It would reduce debt for homeowners unable to make pay-

ments, but shift the burden of those payments elsewhere.

However, refinancing would “absolutely” more effectively revive the housing market than any program the Obama administration has tried, he said.

“The ones they've tried have been complete flops,” Mr. Schniepp said.

“This is like a socialist program, making the entire population pay for the few that screwed up,” he concluded. “Would it be fair? No. Would it get the economy going again? Probably. There would be pros and cons.”

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