September 16, 2015

For Immediate Release:
Contact: Meg Crockett (Public Relations Team, Pacific Wildlife Care)
Phone 805-503-9878
Email: meg@pacificwildlifecare.org

Pacific Wildlife Care Hires a new Center Director / Volunteer Coordinator & Common Murre Crisis Continues

Morro Bay, CA. Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC), the only wildlife rehabilitation organization in San Luis Obispo County, has hired Vann Masvidal as its new Center Director / Volunteer Coordinator. Mr. Masvidal brings ten years of previous experience in wildlife rehabilitation to our facility. His expertise in management and training of both rehabilitation staff and volunteers and his particular skills in the rehabilitation of seabirds, herons, egrets, and baby birds were what made him our top candidate for the position.

Mr. Masvidal’s previous wildlife rehabilitation experience had included work at International Bird Rescue (Cordelia), the Wildlife Care Association (Sacramento), Gold Country Wildlife Rescue (Loomis) and most recently at Wildlife Rescue Center of Napa County. He is co-founder and a member of the board of directors of Bird Ally X / Humboldt Wildlife Care Center, and president of the California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators (CCWR). He and Dr. Shannon Riggs, Director of Animal Care at Pacific Wildlife Care, were two of the co-authors of the book An Introduction to Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation published in 2012. He will be relocating to San Luis Obispo County from Sacramento with his family this fall and joining the staff at Pacific Wildlife Care at that time.

Meanwhile, Pacific Wildlife Care continues to receive extraordinary numbers of Common Murres into its rehabilitation facility. The organization has received 364 Common Murres this year (compared with 34 last year), with 285 of these arriving since August 1. Fifty-six of these starving seabirds are currently in care. Many reports on the beaches of the County describe large numbers of dead and dying birds from San Simeon to Nipomo. The die-off appears to extend into Northern California, Oregon and Washington states, with a report today from even Kodiak Alaska, but may be more extreme on the Central Coast.