

did exactly the opposite.

It is completely hypocritical to claim to be concerned about Chen and ignore the women for whom he risked his life. To those who would ask what we can do for those women, the answer is simple: Cut off international funding to those who force them to have abortions. After what we have seen this week, the worn-out excuse that international funds aren't used to pay for abortions is a pathetic evasion unworthy of anyone with a conscience.

Albert Alioto, San Francisco

Invasive plants bad habitat

I was pleased to read in "5 agencies vying for birds' adopted home" (May 6) that one of California's most endangered birds is making a stand in Alameda.

Contrary to what was reported in the article, pampas grass and ice plant, two of the Bay Areas most damaging invasive plants, are not perfect habitat for birds and other wildlife.

While the endangered California least terns residing on the old Alameda Naval Air Station may be using the pampas grass and ice plant that sprouted there as makeshift habitat, neither is a substitute for native vegetation, nor good for the ecosystem overall.

As is evident in coastal areas throughout the Bay Area, pampas grass and ice plant are aggressive and spread quickly, blanketing natural areas and eventually pushing out native animals and plants. These and other invasive species are the second greatest threat to wildlife, including least terns, after outright habitat destruction.

To protect remaining habitat and restoration on and off the Alameda airbase, it's imperative we stop the sale of invasive plants like pampas grass and ice plant.

Ashley Boren, executive director,

Sustainable Conservation, San Francisco

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