



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

AGENDA

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

3:00 PM

40 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553
Construction Conference Room

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/83497196908>

| Dial: 888 278 0254 |
Access code: 198675

The public may attend the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting in person and remotely via call-in or Zoom.

Persons who wish to address the Fish and Wildlife Committee during public comment or with respect to an item that is on the agenda may comment in person, via Zoom, or via call-in. Those participating in person should offer comments when invited by the Committee Chair. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by pushing *9 on their phones.

3:00 P.M. Convene Meeting.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF CONFLICT

A member who has a conflict should, prior to consideration of the decision: (1) publicly identify in detail the financial interest that causes the conflict; (2) recuse himself/herself from discussing and voting on the matter; and (3) leave the room until after the decision has been made.

2. REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting Record for July 16, 2025. [25-3374](#)

Attachments: [7-16-25 Draft Minutes](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Includes public comment on topics on the agenda and items not listed on the agenda. The FWC shall also accept public comment on agenda items at the time they are discussed.

4. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Presented by Staff and FWC Members)
Includes discussion of implementation of actions authorized previously, correspondence received, and upcoming meetings of interest to the FWC.
5. CONSIDER the following Consent items: [TMP-12150](#)
 - a) REVIEW and ACCEPT the letter of appreciation from Marine Science Institute regarding the grant they received for their "2025 Delta Discovery Voyage Program" project.
 - b) REVIEW and APPROVE the request from Kathy Kramer to modify the usage of approved grant funds for the 2025 "Bringing Back the Natives Events" project.

Attachments: [Marine Science Institute Letter](#)
[Bringing Back the Natives Request](#)
6. REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Worth a Dam for their 2025 Beaver dams build neighborhoods: 'Playing with a full deck' project. [TMP-12148](#)

Attachments: [Worth A Dam Final Report](#)
7. DISCUSS the Fall Forum.
8. CONSIDER the 20 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund applications submitted by August 1, 2025. Consider inviting one or more organizations to the following meeting if the Committee has further questions on their grant proposals. [TMP-12147](#)

Attachments: [Grant Applications A - J](#)
[Grant Applications K - T](#)
[2026 Grant Summary Spreadsheet](#)
[Worksheet](#)
[2025 Grant Recommendations - for reference only](#)
[2024 Grant Recommendations - for reference only](#)
9. DETERMINE the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is September 17, 2025. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:
 - 2026 grant application review
 - 2025 Fall Forum planning
 - Informational brochure on invasive species
 - Draft 2025 Work Plan and Annual Report
 - Delta Conveyance Project update
 - Field Trip

ADJOURN

The Committee Chair may alter the order of agenda items at the meeting. Please contact Maureen Parkes at 925-655-2909 or maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us (or Abigail Fateman at 925-655-2908 or abigail.fateman@dcd.cccounty.us) at the CCC Department of Conservation and Development if you have questions about the Fish & Wildlife Committee or desire materials related to this agenda. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed to a majority of the FWC members less than 96 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection at 30 Muir Road in Martinez during business hours. The FWC will provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities planning to participate in this meeting who contact staff at least 72 hours before the meeting.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-3374

Agenda Date: 8/20/2025

Agenda #: 2.

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVAL of the Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting Record for July 16, 2025

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

Recommendation:

REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVAL of the Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting Record for July 16, 2025.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

3:00 PM

40 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553
Construction Conference Room

ZOOM LINK

<https://ccccounty-us.zoom.us/j/83497196908>

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3:00 P.M. Convene Meeting.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF CONFLICT

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Nicole Balbas, Tim Fares, Roni Gehlke, Susan Heckly, Kathleen Jennings, Brett Morris, Olivia Ortega and Danny Pellegrini attended the meeting. Jamin Pursell provided advance notice that he would be absent. Courtney Coon provided advance notice that she would not be able to attend the meeting in person, so she attended remotely as a member of the public. Tony Holland (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), Tim Jensen (CCC Flood Control), Peter Mangarella (John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited), Hilario Mata (City of Pittsburg, Public Works), Bob Peoples, Jill Ray (Office of District 2 Supervisor), Paul Seger (Diablo Water District and Sierra Club Delta Group) and Roger Wachtler (John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited) attended the meeting. Maureen Parkes (CCC Department of Conservation and Development) attended as staff.

Tim Fares, the new District 3 FWC member, introduced himself and was welcomed by the

Committee.

2. REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the minutes for the May 21, 2025 meeting. [25-2847](#)

Attachments: [05-21-25 Draft Minutes](#)

The meeting minutes were approved as written. (Vote: 8-0: Balbas, Fares, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Morris, Ortega and Pellegrini: Absent: Pursell)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Includes public comment on topics on the agenda and items not listed on the agenda. The FWC shall also accept public comment on agenda items at the time they are discussed.

There were no public comments.

4. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Presented by Staff and FWC Members)

Includes discussion of implementation of actions authorized previously, correspondence received, and upcoming meetings of interest to the FWC.

Brett Morris informed the Committee that he attended the 2025 Martinez Beaver Festival and was very impressed by the event.

Maureen Parkes provided the following updates to the Committee:

- Courtney Coon and Jamin Pursell provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting today. Courtney Coon will attend remotely as a member of the public.
- Committee members were reminded that completing the Advisory Body trainings every two years is a new requirement.
- 2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant applications are due Friday, August 1, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

Correspondence forwarded to Committee members:

- Emails from Supervisor Candace Andersen regarding an EBRPD survey, the availability of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grants, and EBRPD Trail Network Expansion at Sycamore Valley Open Space Regional Preserve.
- Emails from Supervisor Diane Burgis regarding the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Management Plan winning a planning award, the availability of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grants, Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee openings, an announcement regarding the Delta Adapts: Climate Adaptation Plan and an EBRPD survey.
- Emails from Supervisor Ken Carlson regarding the Urban Limit Line comment period closing and the availability of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grants.
- Emails from Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston regarding the availability of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grants, meeting with Contra Costa Conservation District on water infrastructure, green projects, and community resilience; and an

EBRPD survey.

- Email from Roni Gehlke regarding an article entitled: A Ramble Around Pacheco Marsh Near Martinez.
- Email from Susan Heckly regarding the University of California having a series of webinars highlighting invasive species.
- Emails from Abby Fateman regarding a webinar on Mount Diablo controlled burns and a Bay Nature article about grounds squirrels.
- Emails from Maureen Parkes regarding the updated advisory body requirements and an updated roster.
- Email from Elizabeth Dougherty regarding grants and overhead fees.
- Email from Gordon Frankie with a brief update on his work with native bees and beavers.

Newsletters and Announcements forwarded to Committee members:

- Bringing Back the Natives - 3
- California Fish and Game Commission - 13
- CCRCD - 1
- East Bay Regional Park District - 1
- Golden Gate Bird Alliance - 4
- John Muir Land Trust - 2
- IPM agenda - 2
- Kids for the Bay - 5
- Lindsay Wildlife Hospital -1
- Save Mount Diablo - 5
- Sustainability in Contra Costa County -1
- The Watershed Project -1
- Urban Tilth - 2
- Worth a Dam -1

5. Presentation on the Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Habitat Monitoring Study (Peter Mangarella and Roger Unger, John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited)

Peter Mangarella and Roger Wachtler provided a comprehensive presentation on the Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Habitat Monitoring Study. For more information click here:

[Trout Unlimited Presentation](#)

6. DISCUSS the 2025 Fall Forum.

The Committee discussed the Fall Forum.

7. CONTINUE discussion to develop an informational brochure on invasive species.

The Committee discussed the brochure on invasive species.

8. DETERMINE the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is August 20, 2025. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:

- 2026 grant application review
- 2025 Fall Forum planning
- Informational brochure on invasive species
- Draft 2025 Work Plan and Annual Report
- Delta Conveyance Project update
- Field Trip

ADJOURN

DRAFT



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: TMP-12150

Agenda Date: 8/20/2025

Agenda #: 5.

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: Consent Items

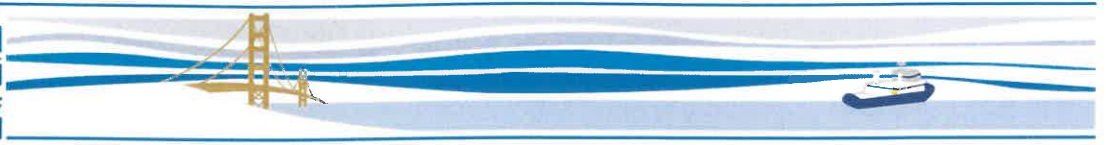
Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

Recommendations

CONSIDER the following Consent items:

a) REVIEW and ACCEPT the letter of appreciation from Marine Science Institute regarding the grant they received for their "2025 Delta Discovery Voyage Program" project.

b) REVIEW and APPROVE the request from Kathy Kramer to modify the usage of approved grant funds for the 2025 "Bringing Back the Natives Events" project.



July 23, 2025

Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee
c/o Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553-4601

Dear Maureen:

Thank you so much for Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee's generous grant of \$1,463.00 to the Marine Science Institute (MSI). This was received on 6/30/2025. We acknowledge that this grant supports the essential fuel and supplies necessary to successfully carry out MSI's Delta Discovery Voyage program.

We are thrilled to welcome back 5th-grade students aboard the R/V Robert G. Brownlee, where they will embark on an unforgettable journey through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Thanks to your generosity, MSI will provide this one-of-a-kind opportunity to over 900 young explorers. These students will learn about the importance of water conservation, understand how everyday actions impact the Delta ecosystem, and deepen their connection to the environment and their community. They will also experience the thrill of fishing, searching for animals in the mud, and engaging in hands-on exploration, creating memories that inspire future stewardship. Your support is vital to making these transformative experiences possible.

We look forward to continuing our partnership and keeping you updated on the impactful work your support makes possible. Thank you again for recognizing the importance of our mission and joining us in this journey of discovery and stewardship.

Sincerely,

Marilou Seiff
Executive Director
(650) 364-2760 x11
marilou@sfbaymsi.org

The Marine Science Institute is a tax-exempt organization under Sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) of the tax code. Your contribution of \$1,463.00 received on 6/30/2025, is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. The Institute's tax exemption number is 94-1719649.

From: [Kathy Kramer](#)
To: [Maureen Parkes](#)
Subject: Request to the Committee
Date: Thursday, August 7, 2025 5:19:21 PM

Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee

August 7, 2025

I am writing to you in regards to the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant that the Golden Gate Bird Alliance was awarded for the "Bringing Back the Natives Events" project.

First, thank you again for funding the "Bringing Back the Natives" proposal: we are grateful.

Next, I am writing to let the Committee know that I overestimated the cost of the Zoom fees, and underestimated the cost of the t-shirts.

I am writing to request that the Committee approve, without change in total funding, a modification to our budgeted expenses. With the Committee's approval we will use the excess funds in the Zoom category to purchase an additional \$154.95 in t-shirts.

Please let me know if I can provide you with additional information. My landline is (510) 236-9558 .

Warmly,

Kathy

Kathy Kramer
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Coordinator
(510) 236-9558 (land line)
kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net
www.bringingbackthenatives.net
[Visit the Garden Tour on Facebook](#)
[YouTube](#)

I hope you enjoy this article as much as I have:

[The Chickadees Guide to Gardening: In Your Garden, Choose Plants That Help the Environment](#)



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: TMP-12148

Agenda Date: 8/20/2025

Agenda #: 6.

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Worth a Dam for their 2025 Beaver dams build neighborhoods: 'Playing with a full deck' project.

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

Recommendation:

REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Worth a Dam for their 2025 Beaver dams build neighborhoods: 'Playing with a full deck' project.



FINAL REPORT: **BEAVER DAMS BUILD NEIGHBORHOODS:** *Playing with a Full Deck*

"The sun shines not on us but in us. The rivers flow not past, but through us." John Muir

Every beaver festival has it's own vibe: some are full almost rafters with strangers who barely know the beaver story. are so dominated by locals it is practically a reunion. This was full of good feeling and beaver believers. Not the MOST but the BEST people, and more children than we have seen recent years. One woman arrived with her suitcase from Chicago after reading about the festival in this month's National Geographic. She has plans to start her own festival next year.



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REQUEST FOR CHANGES TO THE GRANT APPROVAL AND EXPLANATION OF CHANGES:

The trading card activity was a huge hit with attendees – such that several young adults tried to slip in as well. There were a few significant changes we employed to make the activity run smoother, which made alterations to the expenses listed in the grant. First of all we decided to have children trade with other children to receive the cards, rather than simply receive them from a exhibitor This meant that they were responsible for identifying

every card and knowing what was missing. It also made for a more active understanding of beaver pond neighborhoods and when each child returned to the starting booth with their complete set to *"Join the beaver booster pack"* they were smiling and proud. Some children even said they had put the cards in order!

Since we were able to have our own volunteers staffing the "trading booth" we were more able to monitor the activity and be sure every child knew what was involved. We added one other card with an overview of the project and showing all the cards they were meant to collect. Because of our early ordering and return customer status this still cost less than was budgeted for the original 600 cards. However since the children were trading amongst themselves to collect the cards we needed more prominent signs marking the activity at a slightly higher cost. It turned out that this had the added benefit of making it more visible to adult attendees as well who presented to volunteers with questions and comments about beaver ponds.



Finally, a third change was the packaging for the cards themselves. Our original idea was to use credit card sleeves for children to keep the cards, but in actuality we learned that the sleeves were much too slender to hold the cards. In reviewing our options we saw a thin card case from the same company that could hold a few business cards at a time. These were far too expensive to order for 100 children so we ordered one to familiarize ourselves



with the design then fashioned them ourselves on evenings and weekends. The paper, stickers and gluesticks needed for the designs are listed in the receipts. It was surprising how impressed children were by the finished packs and how seriously they responded to earning them.

More boys than girls wanted to participate for the first time. In all eighty children participated in the card activity. Fifty of those took the post test with an accuracy of 80%. Most of those that got items incorrect were confused by the idea of predators being part of a healthy creek although everyone seemed to know right away that trash and fishing tackle didn't belong.

As usual children were eager to show off their knowledge with the post-test. Often parents had to be encouraged to stand back and let their child puzzle out the answer for themselves. Participants were very motivated by the chance of winning one of the beaver kit puppets. One of the lucky winners made sure his answers were understood by writing them out at the bottom of the test. Winning contestants were from Santa Clara and Concord.



Meanwhile the chalk artist completed her compelling design in the middle of the exhibit for all to see. Because of the 'tooth' of the patio she made the decision to use a slightly less expensive pastel than in previous years. We made the decision to credit her with an sandwich sign near the display using chalk pens. Building on the chalk theme we added a small chalk board to the start of the trading card activity. A brother and sister team were allowed to help with some of the lettering.



One of the nicest parts about her work is that it makes everyone feel as if they are included as part of the beaver story, with the creek unfolding right at their feet. Several people thanked us for bringing the festival to Martinez and one woman proudly displayed the beaver shirt she had obtained at the very first festival back in 2008.

All in all it was a dam fine day!

*Heidi Perryman. Ph.D.
President & Founder
Worth A Dam
July 6th, 2025*

Worth A Dam: Playing with a full Deck Expenses

CARDS			
133.35	6 trading cards x 100		
64.32	Explainer Card X 100		
197.67		\$197.67	Actual = Trading Cards
CARD SLEEVES			
		\$81.37	Home made version
18.73	sample	\$212.15	Cost for display signs
16.45	cardstock	\$127.46	Chalk expenses
7.22	glue stick	\$22.89	End signs & Post test
9.99	gold emboss sticker	\$394.48	Maps for cards and exhibits
10.96	Booster pack stickers	\$1,036.02	Total
18.02	Booster pack stickers		
81.37		81.37	Home made version
Trading Card Signs			
155.13	Trading Card Signs		
36.18	Neighborhood pond flags 2		
20.84	flag pole		
212.15		212.15	Cost for display signs
Chalk Artist			
81.5	Actual Chalk cost		
18.53	Chalk pens for mar1uee		
27.43	Small Chalk board activity		
127.46		127.46	Chalk expenses
End signs & Post Test			
16.45	Trading post sign		
6.44	Pens for post test		
22.89		22.89	End signs & Post test
Maps/Brochures			
394.28	Brochures X 500		
		394.48	Maps for cards and exhibits
		\$1,036.02	Total



Project Budget (itemized):

The following expense list outlines costs for the activity. Note that in-kind donated services include: sponsor consultation and participation, card design and Amy G. Hall two day artwork.

Trading cards	100 sets x 6	250.00
100 Credit card sleeves	2 beaver pond sticker	50.00
Exhibit location map	festival brochure x 500	350.00
Trading card flags	x 6	100.00
5 artist quality 48 Koss soft chalk pastels		250.00
Printing of signs & post tests		30.00

Total cost for project:

1030.00



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: TMP-12147

Agenda Date: 8/20/2025

Agenda #: 8.

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: Consideration of 2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Applications

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

Recommendations

CONSIDER the 20 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund applications submitted by August 1, 2025.

Consider inviting one or more organizations to the following meeting if the Committee has further questions on their grant proposals.

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

A

Project title: Assessing the demography of a threatened Golden Eagle population in California

Organization/Individual applying: BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE

BOISE, IDAHO 83725-1135

Telephone: (208) 426-4420

Fax:

E-mail: OSP@BOISESTATE.EDU

Name and title of contact person: CARA GREENLEE, DIRECTOR OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS

One sentence summary of proposal: This project uses non-invasive genetic sampling of molted feathers to estimate survival & population size of golden eagles in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area of California.

Requested grant: \$4,245.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Adam Musser, PreAward Research Administrator

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):

ELLA CHRISTIANSEN

ELLA CHRISTIANSEN (07/25/2025 16:53:04 MDT)

Signed on 07/25/2025

Clear Form

2) *Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Proposal*

Assessing the demography of a threatened Golden Eagle population in California

The Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) in California is home to one of the densest reported populations of golden eagles in the world. The area, which includes parts of both Contra Costa and Alameda County, also supports large numbers of wind turbines that have altered the landscape and have killed many birds, including golden eagles. Wind energy is a significant resource in California, thus mitigating the impacts it has on wildlife is crucial to support the continued development of sustainable renewable energy.

Golden eagles are of high conservation concern, and a heavily managed species. In the APWRA, the golden eagle population has been a subject of intensive monitoring for several decades. Recent work has included surveying for occupied golden eagle territories, monitoring productivity and reproductive success at nests, and providing estimates of numbers of breeding pairs. This information already has been important for making informed management decisions to limit disturbances of wind turbines on these eagles.

Despite the extensive monitoring that has occurred recently, two central problems to understanding and managing this eagle population are estimating rates of adult survival and estimating the true size of this population. Calculating longevity and death rates of eagles can be difficult since doing this requires monitoring large numbers of individuals and implementing techniques such as telemetry to track individuals, and because it can be expensive and time consuming. Similarly, reliable estimates of true population size are challenging to generate, especially for species like eagles with a prolonged sub-adult stage. However, estimates of these parameters can provide crucial insight into the stability and resilience of populations and thus can underpin future conservation and management efforts.

The goal of this project is to provide estimates of survival rates of territorial eagles, and to understand the true population size of the eagles in this population. We will use a non-invasive approach to estimate these parameters. These methods involve the collection of molted (i.e. naturally shed) feathers at nests, territories, and roosts, extraction of DNA from those feathers, and characterization of that DNA to provide unique genetic IDs to identify individuals. There have been several recent examples showing that these types of non-invasively collected data can then be used to estimate population size, turnover, and survival of populations. These approaches rely on the fact that adult eagles return to the same site to breed year after year, and non-breeders tend to congregate in large numbers at certain sites. In both cases, these birds naturally shed feathers which can be used for the foundation of the non-invasive analyses we propose.

Over the past 10 years, ~11,000 molted golden eagle feathers have been collected at known nest and roost sites of golden eagles in the APWRA. Our lab and statistical analyses will rely on these feathers. It is not possible or necessary to analyze all 11,000 feathers, so we have implemented a subsampling approach that lets us estimate demography by only analyzing some of these feathers. To estimate turnover and survival rates we will target ~1000 feathers collected from ~40 eagle territories, each visited annually over a 5 – 8 year period. DNA will be extracted from each feather and genotyped, providing unique genetic IDs. These genetic IDs will be compared across years and territories, allowing us to track individuals and ultimately use a classical mark-recapture analysis to estimate turnover and survival rates. Doing this will also allow us to calculate some APWRA-specific metrics unique to this population, for example, a comparison of turnover and survival at nests that are far from vs. close to wind turbines.

To estimate the size of the non-breeding portion of the population, we will use a similar approach. Feathers have been collected at shared roost sites in the APWRA, areas occupied by non-breeding individuals. One of these roost sites was visited quarterly across a year, and feathers found during each visit were collected. We will use genetic methods to extract DNA from ~700 feathers that were collected at this site and identify (genetically)

individuals present. We will then use another mark-recapture analysis to estimate detection rates across these visits and use these data to estimate the total size of this group.

Benefits to wildlife of Contra Costa County:

The results from this project will directly benefit the wildlife of Contra Costa County by providing information on golden eagle demography in the APWRA, and how that demography may be impacted by wind turbines. This detailed insight can be used by management organizations to more directly conserve and manage the golden eagle population in the APWRA. A more targeted approach to management of these eagles may also have a trickle-down effect on other wildlife, including raptors and birds who can be disturbed similarly by wind turbines.

Requirements of Fish and Game Code:

This project falls under section 13103 (i) of Fish and Game Code: Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department.

3) Project Schedule

Feathers for this project have been legally collected for the past ~10 years. We started to design and gain experience in laboratory analysis in 2024. Currently, DNA has been extracted from ~600 of the 1700 targeted feathers from territories and roosts. We will begin genetically identifying these samples this year. All lab work, including DNA extractions and genetic analyses are expected to be complete by August 2026. Lab supplies will be needed continuously throughout the duration of this time. Following completion of lab work, analyses on data collected will be conducted.

4) Project Budget (itemized)

Item	Units needed	Cost per Unit	Total Cost	Description of item
Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (250 samples)	2	\$946	\$1892	DNA extraction kit containing reagents and supplies needed to extract DNA from samples.
Envelopes (250 pk)	3	\$34	\$102	Needed for storage of samples.
Razor Blades	8	\$12	\$96	Needed for isolating individual samples.
Pipette tips	4	\$180	\$720	Needed for extracting DNA from samples.
Taxes & Shipping (estimated)	n/a	n/a	\$190	n/a
Indirect Costs	n/a	n/a	\$1245	Indirect costs are based on University negotiated rates with the cognizant federal authority and are applied at a rate of 41.5%.
Total (Estimated)			\$4245	

5) Annual Budget of applying organization

For this proposal, the annual budget reflects the total funding requested, including both direct and indirect costs, and totals \$4,245.

6) Applying organization, Board of Directors, officers, and affiliated organizations

Boise State University is a public research university located in Boise, Idaho. As a state institution of higher education, Boise State University does not have a traditional Board of Directors. Oversight and governance are provided by the **Idaho State Board of Education**, which serves as the university's governing body.

A full list of current board members can be found on the Idaho State Board of Education website: <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/board-facts/board-members/>

Boise State University is not formally affiliated with any other organizations for the purposes of this application.

7) Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization and participating individuals for completing the project

Boise State University (BSU) is a public research focused university. BSU is a leader in innovative and collaborative research. The Department of Biological Sciences at BSU promotes research in multiple biological fields, including significant involvement in raptor research.

Participating Individuals:

Hannah Rudd, MS Biology Graduate Student, Boise State University. She will perform lab work associated with the project and conduct analyses on data.

Stephanie Hudon, Ph.D. Research Associate Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Boise State University. She manages the genetic sequencing lab at BSU and works with the Genetics and Infectious Disease Lab at BSU. She has been involved in several research projects using genetic techniques to study wildlife.

Todd Katzner, Ph.D. Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey and Boise State University Affiliate Faculty. Currently, his research is directed at understanding the impacts of renewable energy infrastructure on avian species.

8) Individuals responsible for performing and overseeing project

Hannah Rudd: Responsible for data collection and entry, sample preparation, DNA extraction, and genetic analyses of samples.

Stephanie Hudon: Responsible for overseeing lab protocols, reviewing data quality, and supervising progress of project and deliverables.

Todd Katzner: Responsible for overseeing lab protocols, reviewing data quality, and supervising progress of project and deliverables.

9) Permits

We possess valid and current scientific collection permits to perform this work. All feathers collected for this project were collected under appropriate permits and laws.

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

B

Project title:

Organization/Individual applying:

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain))

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Name and title of contact person:

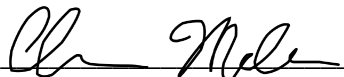
One sentence summary of proposal:

Requested grant:

Proposal prepared by (name & title):

I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (*Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered*):

_____

Signed on 8/1/2025_____

Project Description

Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP) contains over 3,000 acres of oak savannah, vernal pools, and grasslands which support sensitive species such as California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), San Joaquin spearscale (*Atriplex joanquiniana*), crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *coronata*), and big tarplant (*Blepharizonia plumosa* spp. *plumosa*).

Livestock grazing has historically played a role in shaping this landscape, and studies in California have shown that grazing can be an effective tool for benefitting many of the sensitive species and ecosystems in the park. However, State Parks lacks critical information about ongoing and historic grazing management practices at MCSP and how these practices relate to the spatial distribution of sensitive resources throughout the Park. Additionally, the lack of a formal grazing management plan has led to inconsistent oversight and limited integration of grazing with habitat or cultural resource objectives. Impacts such as soil compaction, invasive species spread, lack of regeneration of blue oaks, and trampling of sensitive areas have been observed.

This proposal requests funding for consultants to improve State Parks' understanding of current and historic grazing management practices, location and condition of grazing infrastructure, and current vegetation conditions at MCSP. This information will be integrated into a pasture-based framework of vegetation management alternatives that will improve State Parks' understanding of management alternatives, special-management areas, and long-term needs to sustain an effective conservation-oriented grazing program. This information will fill a critical gap in the State Parks' current understanding of their grazing program and will provide a foundation for improved monitoring, communication with the grazing lessee, and long-term planning. It will provide the basis for future development of a comprehensive grazing management plan by State Parks, which will describe adaptive grazing strategies to support sensitive species and other management goals at MCSP.

Critically, a formal grazing management plan would enable State Parks to establish a long-term lease with the grazing operator, which is a key requirement for pursuing restoration funding through programs like the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under such a lease, the grazing operator would be eligible to apply for EQIP funding on public lands, supporting conservation practices and infrastructure improvements like restoring degraded stock ponds to enhance habitat for special status species, promoting regeneration of blue oaks, and protecting sensitive vernal pool habitat.

This project meets the following requirements of CA Fish and Game Code Section 13103:

- Improvements of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.

- Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department.

Tasks, Timeline, and Budget

1) Conduct a Site Visit and Interview with Current Grazing Operator (Months 1-2)

- Description:* The consultant will conduct a site visit to MCSP with the rancher and State Parks' staff. Interview rancher about current and historical grazing on the property – stocking practices, timing of grazing, distribution of livestock, infrastructure condition and needs, natural resource issues, weed management, use of special habitat areas (e.g., vernal pools), resulting vegetation conditions.
- Rationale:* Establishing this dialog and documenting this information will greatly improve State Parks' ability to manage sensitive resources at MCSP. By understanding ongoing grazing practices and constraints to the operation, State Parks will be better positioned to adapt grazing practices to optimize habitat conditions. It is also an opportunity to address issues raised by the grazing operator.
- Estimated Cost:* \$2260

2) Grazing Infrastructure Survey (Months 3-6)

- Description:* The consultant will perform a livestock infrastructure survey to assess condition, function and location of infrastructure (fences, watering facilities, corrals, etc).
- Rationale:* State Parks currently lacks a map of livestock infrastructure in MCSP. Mapping the location and conditions of livestock infrastructure would help inform management decisions, highlight management units with natural resources that need specific management (e.g., vernal pools, sensitive species, etc), and improve their ability to plan for long-term management and agricultural opportunities in Contra Costa County.
- Estimated Cost:* \$7500

3) Develop Residual Dry Matter (RDM) Monitoring Protocol and Train State Parks Staff in RDM Monitoring (Months 7-8)

- Description:* The consultant will: 1) provide an on-site training of State Parks Staff to conduct residual dry matter (RDM) monitoring at MCSP. 2) Develop an RDM monitoring protocol, including locations of RDM sample points (these will be sited in the field during the livestock infrastructure surveys in Task 3). 3) Analyze and provide *brief* feedback on RDM data collected by State Parks Staff.
- Rationale:* RDM serves as an indicator of the combined effects of forage production during the previous growing season (driven mainly by weather and site topography), consumption and traffic by grazing animals, mulch present on the soil, and the soil seed-bank. The amount and distribution of RDM on the ranch relates to aspects of rangeland health and to habitat quality for sensitive or rare species that are or may be present. Adequate levels of RDM protect the soil from erosion and influence species composition and forage production in the subsequent year. Monitoring RDM annually will provide an overall understanding year-to-year of livestock distribution on the ranch in relation to the grazing operation and physical factors that will help inform adaptive management decisions to achieve biological objectives.

c. *Estimated Cost: \$6820*

4) Brief Report Detailing a Pasture-by-Pasture Assessment of Conservation Priorities and Management Alternatives (Months 9-12)

- a. *Description:* The consultant will perform a pasture-by-pasture assessment based on available natural resource surveys, conversations with state park staff, and on-site observations. The report will discuss pasture conditions, current grazing management, known special resources, and other vegetation management considerations.
- b. *Rationale:* The report will help identify what natural resources (special status species, pest plants, etc) and general rangeland conditions are in each pasture. This site-specific information will help guide livestock management decisions, including both timing and intensity of grazing, in each pasture to ultimately optimize the benefits and minimize the impacts of grazing. Given that there are no set biological goals and objectives associated with a grazing management plan for MCSP, the recommendations for each pasture will be based on what the rangeland consultants believe to be optimal for the existing habitat/conditions.

c. *Estimated Cost: \$6220*

5) Contract Administration and Project Implementation

- a. *Description:* State Parks staff will oversee the contracting process, manage the consultant agreement, coordinate site access, and review and approve deliverables to ensure project objectives and timelines are met.

b. *Estimated Cost: \$3000*

Total Estimated Cost: \$25,800

Qualifications

The Diablo Range District is part of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and is responsible for the stewardship of 21 State Park units spanning from Sacramento County to San Benito County. In alignment with the Department's mission—to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California—the district works to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its most valued natural and cultural resources, and support opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

Christina Lew McLain, Environmental Scientist with the Diablo Range District, will serve as the Project Manager and brings over 6 years of experience managing natural resource projects, including habitat restoration, invasive species control, and grant-funded field operations. She has successfully overseen multi-agency collaborations, managed budgets, and ensured timely completion of deliverables in compliance with CEQA, permitting, and reporting requirements.

Annual Budget for the Applying Organization

The annual budget for the Diablo Range District's Natural Resource Program is approximately \$400,000.

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Tracking Western Pond Turtle Upland Traversal with GPS Loggers

Organization/Individual applying: Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Ben Weise

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 2001 Clayton Rd., Suite 200

Concord, CA 94520

Telephone: (925) 690-4145

Fax:

E-mail: bweise@ccrcd.org

Name and title of contact person: Ben Weise, Agriculture Program Director

One sentence summary of proposal: CCRCD seeks funds to purchase GPS loggers to track Western Pond Turtle upland habitat traversal and dispersal to inform habitat management strategies.

Requested grant: **\$19,196.00**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Ben Weise, Agriculture Program Director

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature *(Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):*



Signed on _____

Clear Form

Description of the Project for Which Funding is Requested:

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) seeks funding from the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to purchase GPS loggers and other monitoring equipment to track the upland habitat movement of Western Pond Turtles that will allow CCRCD to build capacity and join the Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative which includes researchers from the East Bay Regional Park District, Sonoma State University, New Mexico State University, Swaim Biological, Incorporated, Oakland Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, and others that are researching these species to derive management considerations for their upland and aquatic habitats across Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Western Pond Turtles (WPT) – representing both *Actinemys pallida* (Southwestern) and *Actinemys marmorata* (Northwestern) – are experiencing rapid declines across their range due to climate change, habitat fragmentation, and urban encroachment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed federal protections for both species under the Endangered Species Act, highlighting the urgency for proactive conservation measures. In the San Francisco Bay Area, particularly Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, the two species may potentially intergrade and hybridize, forming a biologically unique population segment that remains critically understudied.

Very little is known about WPT nesting behavior or upland habitat use within Contra Costa county. It is known that upland habitat is critical for nesting, with adult females traveling hundreds of meters from aquatic sites to lay eggs, and hatchlings often remaining in terrestrial environments for many months, however, conservation and restoration efforts typically focus on aquatic habitats, leaving a significant blind spot in our understanding and protection of essential life stages.

To address these urgent knowledge gaps, the Alameda County Resource Conservation District has formed the Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative. This group has initiated foundational research in Alameda County's urban creeks and livestock ponds, tracking turtle movement (GPS), nesting behavior (GPS and VHF), population dynamics, health, and genetics. This work has already yielded rare and valuable insights including identifying nesting hot spots and the location of over 40 nests (important for habitat management practices), confirming overland journeys of several miles by males, local population dynamics, disease prevalence (e.g., shell fungal disease), genetic diversity across the WPT range, and finally trialing the use of scent dogs to detect turtle nests.

In July 2025, the East Contra Contra County Habitat Conservancy (ECCHC) applied for a Natural Community Conservation Planning Local Assistance Grant Program (LAG Grant) in partnership with CCRCD and subcontractors Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) and biological consulting group Swaim Biological, Incorporated for \$49,400. If funded, this proposed project would expand the efforts by the Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative into Contra Costa County and will include four ecologically important, yet data-deficient ponds located in the Morgan Territory and Clayton Ranch properties owned and managed by the East Bay Regional Park District.

Through the LAG Grant, CCRCD will have staff time covered which will allow us to get into the field and learn from experts and research how to shape a Western Pond Turtle Conservation Program for the benefit of the species, similar potentially to the successful Contra Costa Voluntary Local Program which has improved rangeland conditions for both livestock and listed California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and Alameda whipsnake. Unfortunately due to grant budget limits, the LAG Grant is really only able to provide staff time for Contra Costa RCD Staff, Alameda County RCD Staff, and Swaim Biological Incorporated, relying on existing GPS loggers that Alameda County RCD has.

With Fish and Wildlife Propagation Funding, CCRCD would purchase GPS Loggers and other monitoring equipment like waders, nets, bait, sterilization equipment, wader and more, expanding capacity of CCRCD to participate in this effort. CCRCD has prepared a budget below based on 12 GPS Loggers, three per identified pond in the LAG Grant. CCRCD's proposed grant budget is scalable, with partial awards reducing the total number of loggers purchased. If the LAG Grant is not awarded, CCRCD, ACRC, and the ECCHCP will continue to seek grant funding to cover staff time and expand this project into Contra Costa County. CCRCD would use unrestricted funds to cover staff time in these cases and continue to seek staff funding to fully fund the program.

This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 of the Fish and Game Code Section (e) improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, section (g) purchase and maintenance of supplies, and section (i) scientific fish and wildlife research. Swaim Biological, Incorporated holds the scientific research permit for this project (CDFW SCP-2672) and all GPS monitoring would be performed under their supervision.

3. Project Schedule

	J a n	F e b	M a r	A p r	M a y	J u n	J u l	A u g	S e p	O c t	N o v	D e c
Enter into agreement with Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development												
Purchase GPS Loggers after entering into agreement												
Attach GPS Loggers and collect data with Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative												
Submit final billing to Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee												

4. Project Budget (Itemized)

Item	Units	Unit Cost	Total
GPS Trackers	12	\$1,500	\$18,000
Trap Nets	25	\$20	\$500
Misc. Monitoring Equipment (Pens, Field Binders, Labels, Sterilization Equipment, etc.)	12	\$8	\$96
Full Chest Waders	3	\$200	\$600
Total			\$19,196
CDFW Local Assistance Grant (LAG) (Match)			
Staff Time (Contra Costa RCD, Alameda County RCD, Swaim Biological, Incorporated)			\$49,400

5. Annual Budget for Applying Organization

	General Operations	Fund Development	Program	Total
Income	\$422,151	\$6,550	\$3,580,732	\$4,009,434
Expenses	\$456,744	\$272,034	\$2,753,649	\$3,482,429
Net Income	\$(34,592)	\$(265,484)	\$827,082	\$527,005

6. Statement describing the applying organization:

The CCRCD is a non-regulatory special district of the state of California. The CCRCD's mission is to facilitate the conservation of natural resources in Contra Costa County. The CCRCD accomplishes this by partnering with farmers, ranchers, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies. The organization works throughout Contra Costa County and has championed projects including the Pinole Fish Passage Improvement Project, livestock pond restorations, developing carbon farming plans, coordinating the Contra Costa Watershed Forum, and supporting grassroots creek/watershed groups.

CCRCD Board of Directors

Renee Fernandez-Lipp – Board President, Manager of Governance, Vegetation Management Program, PG&E

Walter Pease – Board Member, Retired City of Pittsburg Public Works

Igor Skaredoff – Board Member, Retired Shell chemist, East Bay Regional Parks Planning Committee

Bethallyn Black – Board Member, Horticulture Professor at DVC

Lorena Castillo – Board Member, Executive Director, Groundwork Richmond

7. Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) was first incorporated in 1941 and has a rich history of providing natural resource conservation services to farmers and ranchers. The Agriculture Conservation Program works to achieve voluntary conservation on farms, ranches, school gardens, and urban farms. CCRCD has facilitated the restoration of livestock ponds under the Voluntary Local Program since 2015, resulting in 24 restored ponds and 5 miles of livestock water pipelines installed for the benefit of livestock, ranches, and wildlife on private and public lands throughout Contra Costa county.

8. List of Individuals Responsible for performing project

Ben Weise, Agriculture Program Director, will manage the grant and oversee the procurement of the GPS Loggers. Genna Fudin, Agriculture Conservation Coordinator, will work closely with Alameda County RCD Staff and Swaim Biological, Incorporated staff to attach and manage the loggers on western pond turtles. Farley Connelly, Biologist (Alameda County RCD) will work and mentor Genna Fudin and Swaim Biological, Incorporated will assist with monitoring the turtles and analyzing the results.

9. Statement describing the status of permit approvals necessary to perform project:

All turtle trapping, marking, and GPS deployment activities associated with this project will be conducted in compliance with applicable California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulations. Swaim Biological, Incorporated holds a valid Scientific Collecting Permits (SCPs) issued by CDFW ([SCP-2672](#)), authorizing them to capture, handle, mark (e.g., PIT tagging and shell notching), and attach GPS and VHF telemetry units to WPTs. Turtle capture and handling will be conducted using CDFW-approved methods (e.g., baited hoop traps and hand capture), with strict adherence to animal welfare protocols outlined in their SCPs. All GPS attachment techniques have been previously reviewed and approved through CDFW permitting and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocols. Data collected through this work will be reported to CDFW in accordance with permit conditions, and nest or capture locations will be submitted to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDb). If additional permits are required, CCRCD will coordinate with the appropriate agencies and landowners (e.g., EBRPD, ECCHC) to obtain written approval prior to project start.

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Wildlife Intensive Care Unit

Organization/Individual applying: Lindsay Wildlife Experience

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 1931 1st Ave

Walnut Creek CA 94597

Telephone: (925) 627-2953

Fax:

E-mail: pflowers@lindsaywildlife.org

Name and title of contact person: Peter Flowers RVT - Hospital and Rehabilitation Manager

One sentence summary of proposal: Provide regulated heat and oxygen for wildlife cases in need of intensive care.

Requested grant: **\$24,390.00**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Peter Flowers RVT - Hospital & Rehabilitation Manager

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):



Signed on 7/30/25

Clear Form

Organization Background:

The Lindsay Wildlife Experience's (LWE) mission is "to connect people with wildlife to inspire respect and responsibility for the world we share." Our mission began more than 60 years ago when Walnut Creek resident Alexander Lindsay shared his passion for the natural world with the community. LWE has been an established nonprofit organization since 1955 and is accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM).

LWE's Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital rescues, rehabilitates, and releases California native wildlife. We work in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. On average, the hospital receives more than 5,000 animals per year from across the San Francisco Bay Area, including many threatened and endangered species. Included in the hospital's mission is to educate the public to prevent human/wildlife interaction issues and actively participate in wildlife research to gain knowledge and adapt to an ever-changing world. The hospital teaches veterinary students from multiple universities and offers summer internships to many aspiring college students looking for experience in wildlife rehabilitation.

LWE is also a wildlife museum that strengthens the connection between people and the natural world utilizing both its non-releasable live animal collection and its natural history collection – both of which focus on native California wildlife. Today, LWE is home to over 60 live animal ambassadors, all of whom couldn't survive in the wild, and aid the museum in educating visitors about their species and their native California habitats. Our museum serves over 100,000 visitors annually and over 4,000 local students through onsite field trips.

Project Overview:

Lindsay Wildlife Experience (LWE) requests \$24,390 to provide the hospital with an intensive care unit to supply regulated oxygen and heat therapy for injured and debilitated wildlife. On an annual basis LWE hospital receives a large percentage of animals that are the victim of human-wildlife interactions that result in severe trauma. These injuries can include window strikes, vehicle collisions, toxins, pets, and falls from tree trimming. Many times, these injuries require supplemental oxygen and warmth to support recovery. This unit will expand out capacity to provide needed therapy for injured wildlife brought to the hospital and increase their odds for recovery.

This project directly aligns with Fish & Game Code Section 13103 (b) in line with our normal duties and responsibilities of providing temporary emergency treatment of injured and orphaned wildlife. Many of the animals we receive have extensive injuries due in most part to human and wildlife interaction, including cat and dog interactions, automobile injuries and trapping. Having the essential environment to be able to properly provide the essential space needed is a cornerstone to the very foundation to the mission to care for and release healthy and healed animals back to the wild.

Project Schedule:

This project would begin upon receipt of funding notice. The equipment has already been identified and vendor has been contacted for estimate of equipment.
The work can be completed within 30 days of order placement.

Product Budget:

A budget for direct project expenses is below. The budget does not include LWE operating costs or overhead such as staff time and benefits as these costs will be covered under the regular operating costs of the museums.

Company	Description	Price
Snyder Mfg Co.	ICU Standard hinge location is left & right 46 3/4" wide model Sitting on counter top	\$21,812.65 with discount
	Crate charge	\$89.00
	Freight	\$560.00
	Tax	\$2017.68
	Total	\$24,390.33

Annual Budget of Organization: \$3,800,000

Project Managers:

LWE project managers will include Peter Flowers RVT Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Manager who will select and oversee the ordering and installation to ensure that it will meet the needs of the hospital.

FY 25-26 Board of Officers and Directors

Statutory (Voting) Members - Officers

Carl Taibl, President

CFO, Community Initiatives Laboratories

Dyann Blaine, Secretary

Asst General Counsel, Patterson Energy

Scott Rhoades, Treasurer

Senior Vice President, Charles Schwab & Co. (retired)

Murray Ross – Vice President

Statutory (Voting) Members - Directors

Kathy Hemmenway

Executive Director, Walnut Creek
Downtown Association

Yulanda Smith

Marketing Consultant

Doug Griffith

CFO/Controller for Independent
Construction Co.

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Steve Frank

Managing Counsel, PG&E

Anne M. Partman

Environmental Supervisor, Marathon
Petroleum

Don Pryor

Controller, Joybound People & Pets

Valerie Wayne

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Training a new workforce to improve riparian habitat in Contra Costa County

Organization/Individual applying: California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 1442-A Walnut St. #462, Berkeley, CA 94709

Telephone: (510) 843-3902

Fax: (510) 217-3500

E-mail: aswanson@cal-ipc.org

Name and title of contact person: Amanda Swanson, Grants and Contracts Manager

One sentence summary of proposal: management
Arundo removal and workforce training for long-term invasive plant
in Contra Costa County

Requested grant: **\$16,606.00**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Amanda Swanson, Grants and Contracts Manager

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (*Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered*):

Doug Johnson

Signed on 7/31/2025

Doug Johnson, Executive Director

Clear Form

2) Project Description

Project need and description: Arundo (*Arundo donax*) is a highly invasive perennial plant that establishes in riparian habitats. Notorious for its impacts on wildlife and ecosystems, it grows quickly, outcompetes native vegetation, and reduces available habitat for animals. The Alhambra Creek Watershed contains several stands of Arundo that have largely been unmanaged, in contrast to the nearby Walnut Creek Watershed where work has been ongoing for nearly 10 years with exceptional success. More trained crews are needed locally to tackle this difficult weed. This project will train Pittsburg Civicorps crews on Arundo's impacts, removal techniques, and best management practices (BMPs) for addressing invasive plants. We will organize one classroom training followed by two field days to cut and remove Arundo, with third-party herbicide treatment. Partners will participate directly in the training and indirectly, as beneficiaries.

Arundo removal will benefit the fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County by increasing stream flow and improving riparian vegetation structure. By pairing classroom with on-site training, Civicorps crew members will become familiar with all aspects of this invasive plant, its removal, and the larger value of the Alhambra Creek Watershed. This project will develop a new local workforce for wildlife enhancement through Arundo removal while supporting underserved members of the community by creating additional training and environmental job pathway opportunities.

Collaborations with the local community

Listed below are several local organizations that will be involved in this project, either directly or indirectly, as beneficiaries and the benefits they will receive.

- Friends of San Ramon Creek (FOSRC) – Site-specific Arundo removal instruction; guidance to partners on permitting; in-kind materials.
- Contra Costa County Integrated Pest Management Program - Input on IPM instruction.
- Friends of Alhambra Creek (FOAC) – Permit / permit exemption application through the Alhambra Creek Watershed Council; herbicide applicator if needed; site selection; beneficiary and a future local driver of Arundo control projects, using FOSRC's program as a model.
- Contra Costa Resource Conservation District - Trained contractors and training resources.
- Contra Costa Public Works - Trained contractors and training resources.

This project will help establish a long-term local partnership with Civicorps, where partners can work with Civicorps to accomplish the first biomass removal phase of longer-term Arundo management.

Section 13103 (a): Education relating to scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation

Funds requested will support the creation of formal training instruction modules for Civicorps. Cal-IPC will create and execute a training module to teach Civicorps about (1) regional watershed ecology, (2) impacts of invasive plants with an emphasis on Arundo, (3) BMPs for managing invasive plants with an emphasis on Arundo control, (4) the benefits of invasive plant management to local plants and wildlife, and (5) wildlife and sensitive resource considerations during control work. Instruction will center around how invasive plant removal benefits fish and wildlife, so Corpsmembers understand the intent and larger context of their work.

The teaching materials developed (slides with notes and training agenda) will be shared free of charge with local partners to be used for future trainings in Contra Costa County.

Section 13103 (e): Benefits to fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County

Arundo has several negative effects on riparian habitats. Fish and wildlife species, such as steelhead trout, river otter, beaver, and green heron, exist in riparian habitats and are largely dependent on native woody vegetation structure. Willows, native riparian trees that support many bird species, are outcompeted by Arundo, and riparian birds suffer if native-dominated nesting and foraging habitat is displaced. When growing along a creek bank, the shallow roots of Arundo are undercut by streamflow, facilitating erosion

and increasing sediment load. Larger stands can alter stream flow and cause flooding. Arundo also uses more water than native vegetation. The removal of Arundo throughout the watershed will repair streamside habitat and prevent further future degradation of habitat quality.

Fish and Wildlife Committee acknowledgements

To promote the project and acknowledge Contra Costa County's Fish and Wildlife Committee support, we will publish one article in our newsletter, the *Dispatch*, following completion of the project. We will also create two social media posts about the project highlighting the Fish and Wildlife Committee's contribution. Social media posts will be shared on Cal-IPC's social media platforms including X, Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Additionally, we will acknowledge the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee on all training materials such as handouts and slide presentations.

3) Project Schedule

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Activity	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Finalize subcontract with Civicorps												
Development of training curriculum												
Training-field/classroom												
2-3 days of field work post-training												
Social Media posts (x2)												
Dispatch Article												
Quarterly invoices												
Final invoice and final project report												

4) Project Budget

Personnel	Qty	Rate	Total	Notes
Science Program Manager	10 hrs	\$125	\$1,250	Oversight, field training
Conservation Specialist	60 hrs	\$90	\$5,400	Curriculum development, partner meetings, coordinating and planning, classroom and field training delivery
Grants & Contracts Manager	10 hrs	\$90	\$900	Invoicing, contracting, social media
Civicorps	2.5 days	\$3,572	\$8,930	Classroom and field training for up to ten Corpsmembers and one Supervisor
Travel – mileage	180 mi	\$0.70	\$126	1 round trip to Civicorps Pittsburg for classroom training, 2 round trips to Martinez for field days
Grand Total			\$16,606	

Additional in-kind services and goods provided include: a qualified applicator and materials to apply herbicide (FOAC), a dumpster for Arundo if needed (FOAC), site-specific Arundo removal instruction (FOSRC), materials (plywood, ropes) to remove Arundo (FOSRC). Total estimated in-kind: \$2000.

5) Total Annual Budget: \$5,950,000 in 2025, Of this, \$4,850,000 goes to subcontractors for various projects, most significantly the Invasive Spartina Project which works to protect San Francisco Bay tidal marshes.

6) Applying Organization

Cal-IPC is a non-profit established to protect California's lands and waters from ecologically damaging invasive plants through science, education and policy. Protecting biological diversity is key to our mission. We coordinate regional partnerships, design science-based tools and projects to remove invasive plants, train volunteers and professionals, and advocate for sound public policy and funding.

Board of Directors

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Stephanie Ponce, <i>President</i>	CA Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways
Michael Kwong, <i>Secretary</i>	CA DWR
Matt Major, <i>Treasurer</i>	Orange County Parks
Alys Arenas, <i>Secretary</i>	CDFW
Doug Gibson	Wetl. Scientist, unaffiliated
Jason Giessow	Dendra, Inc.
Sarah Godfrey	Map the Point Consulting
Alan Kaufmann	Laguna Canyon Foundation
Drew Kerr	Invasive Spartina Project
Metha Klock	Pepperwood Preserve

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Tanya Meyer	Yolo County RCD
LeeAnne Mila	El Dorado Co. Dept. of Ag.
Tom Reyes	CNPS
Scott Oneto	UCCE - UCANR
Lauren Quon	USFS
Lana Nguyen	California State Parks
Marcos Trinidad	TreePeople
Justin Valliere	UC Davis
Hannah Wallis	Ecologist, unaffiliated

7) Sponsoring Organizations and Individuals

Cal-IPC is a statewide nonprofit with a proven track record in project execution. This project will be successful because of our ongoing relationship with Civicorps, our association with listed partners, our experience with invasive plants and their impacts, and our expertise in culturally relevant programming.

Jutta Burger, PhD, Science Program Director, has over 30 yrs experience working with invasive plants and California ecosystems, has a qualified applicator license, and is a member of FOAC.

Constance Taylor, Conservation Specialist, has been creating and leading Civicorps trainings since 2021. She brings over a decade of experience in public outreach and ecological education.

Amanda Swanson, PhD, Grants and Contracts Manager, has extensive experience with invasive plants and grants management and currently leads Cal-IPC's social media presence.

8) Individuals Responsible for Performing and Overseeing Project

<i>Name and Position</i>	<i>Role in Project</i>
Jutta Burger, PhD, Science Program Director	Overseeing and performing project
Constance Taylor, M.S., Conservation Specialist	Performing project
Amanda Swanson, PhD, Grants and Contracts Manager	Overseeing and performing project

9) Permit approvals – CDFW SAA application for Arundo removal in progress through FOAC and the Alhambra Creek Watershed Council, with FOSRC guidance.

10) Request for Exemption – N/A

Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center

Organization/Individual applying: Cal State East Bay, Concord Center

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 4700 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Concord, CA 94521

Telephone: 530-848-9516

Fax:

E-mail: kate.shade@csueastbay.edu

Name and title of contact person: Kate Shade, Assistant Professor, Nursing

One sentence summary of proposal: This project involves removal of invasive plant species and planting, protecting, and promoting native plants to support pollinator habitat.

Requested grant: \$7,456.92

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Kate Shade, Assist. Prof. & Kathy Cutting, Campus Support Coord.

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (*Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered*):

Kate Shade

Signed on July 18, 2025

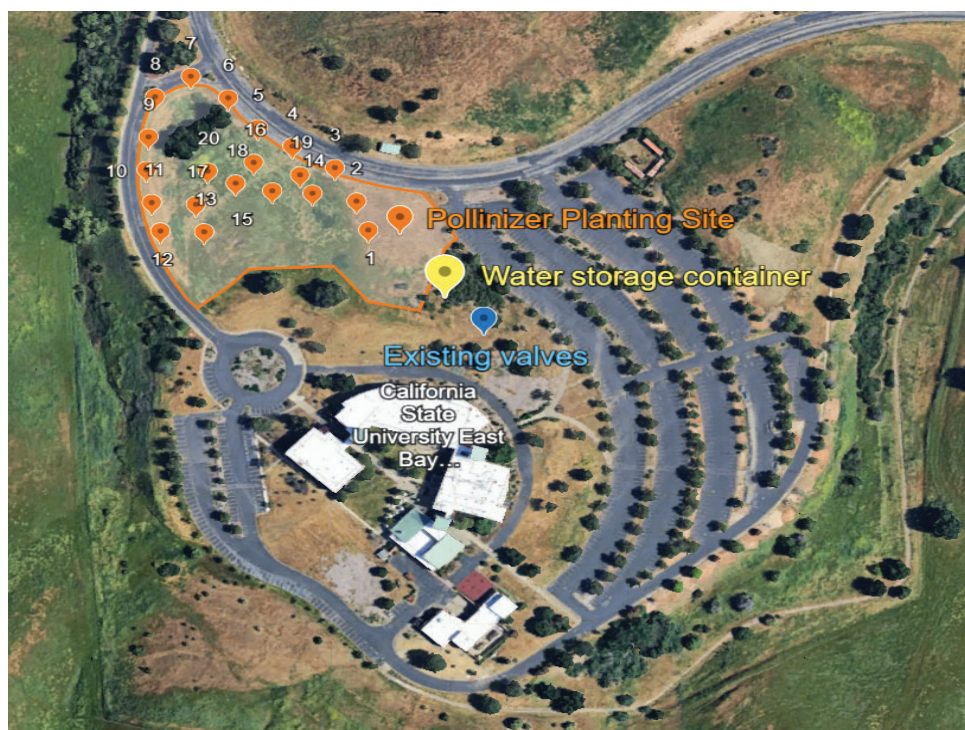
Clear Form

Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center

Description of the project: This project will establish native plant hedgerows and patches to provide habitat for pollinators on approximately 3 acres. The specific location is a large meadow at the entrance to the Cal State East Bay Concord Center. The space is bordered to the north and northwest by Campus Drive. To the south of the space is a ridge with two large valley oak trees. At the highest point, above the project location, the ridge offers views of Suisun Bay, the Delta, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, and Mount Diablo. This project is part of a larger initiative funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to increase green infrastructure and promote land and water stewardship at the 324 acres of open space at the Concord Center.

This project is designed to improve wildlife habitat. As such, it meets the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, as described in the California Fish and Game Code Section 13103 (e). The funds will be used to purchase tools and equipment needed to prepare the 3-acre site; an irrigation system to maximize the likelihood of project success, and about 400 native plants. Plants that are native to the East Bay will be selected based on their low-water needs, size at maturity, attractiveness to pollinators, and availability. A grant from the U.S. EPA is funding the labor for this project, with Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) as a subcontractor on the grant. See the project map, preliminary plant list, and budget below.

Project location:



Project schedule:

In early 2026, working with the CCRCD, the water storage container will be installed on the hillside on a level area covered with gravel. Drip lines will be run to 20 plots. Plants will be purchased, as available, and maintained in a protected area until ready to plant. Plot areas will be marked and cleared for planting. Plants will be selected based on a mix of perennials and annuals, shrubs, and a few trees, with an estimated 20 plants per plot. Small, caged plants will be marked with brightly colored flags. Plants will be watered once a week for several months, depending on rainfall. Signage will be posted to read 'Habitat Restoration in Progress.' In spring and summer, invasive plant species, primarily purple vetch, black mustard, Italian thistle, and yellow starthistle, will be removed from the area. Depending on the weather, plant health, and soil conditions, plants will be deep-watered once a month for the remainder of the year.

Preliminary plant list:

Narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), Showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Pacific aster (*Symphytotricum chilense*); California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*); Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*); California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*); California wildrose (*Rosa californica*); Bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*); Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*); Gumplant (*Grindelia hirsutula*); Bolander's sunflower (*Helianthus bolanderi*); Sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*); Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)

Project budget:

Item	Rationale	Quantity	Cost	Source
Native plants	A mix of plants to provide a long bloom period for pollinators	20 plants x 20 plots = 400 plants	Avg \$10/ plant x 400 = \$4,000 +tax	The Watershed Nursery and Native Here Nursery
Colored flags	Marking plants is essential for inventory and maintenance	400 landscape flags	4 100 packs @ \$9.97 ea. = \$39.88 +tax	Home Depot
Hoe	To clear non-native invasive plants from planting area	5 hoes	\$32.94 ea x 5 = \$164.70 +tax	Home Depot
Utility cart	To transport tools and plants within project area	1 cart	\$149 each +tax	Home Depot
Root Slayer	Shovels for extracting invasives/planting	2 shovels	2 @ \$51.35 ea. = \$102.70 +tax	Home Depot
Signage	18"h x 12"w aluminum signs 'Habitat restoration in progress' incl. QR codes	10 signs and 10 redwood posts to mount signs	\$24.69/ sign = \$246.88; posts \$10 ea. = \$100 =	Signs.com; Bay Area Redwood

	with information		\$346 +tax	
Irrigation Supplies	An intermediate bulk container (IBC) tank to facilitate gravity watering through drip lines is needed to establish new native plants	275 gallon IBC tank, 2,000' drip lines, 500" solid tubing, connectors, tees	\$399 tank \$87 gravel \$1500 drip lines and parts = \$1,986 + delivery fee \$150	Home Depot, Imperial Sprinkler Systems
TOTAL			\$6,788.28 + 668.64 tax =\$7,456.92	

Cal State East Bay's annual budget: \$240.7 million in the 2024/2025 budget.

About Cal State East Bay: The applying organization is a public university with a main campus in Hayward. The Concord Center is located on 384 acres in the foothills of Mount Diablo. The department of nursing faculty and students hold classes in Concord, including outdoor workdays. The department belongs to the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments—an effort to educate and prepare nurses to address the health impacts of climate change.

Individuals responsible for project implementation and oversight:

Kathy Cutting, Field Station Coordinator for CSUEB, and program coordinator for the EPA grant. She is responsible for maintaining the Ecocultural Garden and coordinating use by students, faculty and community members. Kathy has a BS in Geography and Environmental Studies from CSUEB and has worked for 8 years on many projects to promote land stewardship at the Cal State East Bay Concord Center. In 2019, she was certified as a University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) California Naturalist.

Kate Shade, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and primary investigator for the EPA grant that funds the Ecocultural Garden. She is responsible for overseeing grants, managing budgets, and coordinating research activities. Kate has a PhD in nursing from University of California at San Francisco and over 35 years of experience working in community/public and mental health programs.

Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

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Project title: Marsh Creek Steelhead Trout Spawning and Breeding Habitat Enhancement

Organization/Individual applying: Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain))

Address: 2001 Clayton Road, Suite 200, Concord, CA 94521

Telephone: 925-269-9190

Fax: n/a

E-mail: clim@ccrcd.org

Name and title of contact person: Chris Lim, Executive Director

One sentence summary of proposal: The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, proposes to restore Steelhead trout spawning habitat in Marsh Creek by adding gravel, engaging volunteers, monitoring redds, and fostering long-term community stewardship through education and signage.

Requested grant: \$19,622 (with \$13,366 match)

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Chris Lim, Executive Director

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):



Signed on 7/21/2025

2. Project Description - How will this project benefit Fish & Wildlife of Contra Costa County?

Steelhead trout are remarkable fish that migrate from Contra Costa County's freshwater creeks to the Pacific Ocean and return multiple times to spawn. Once abundant, their numbers have declined due to barriers to migration, flood control channelization, and the loss of complex riparian habitat. Today, they are listed as threatened in California, making habitat restoration efforts critical to their survival. One key limiting factor is the availability of suitable spawning substrate—gravel and cobble ranging from 1 to 8 inches in diameter—that provides the structure Steelhead need to build “redds,” or fish nests, for egg deposition.

As part of the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for the “Lower Marsh Creek Stream Corridor Restoration Program,” led by the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, it describes the historical state of Marsh Creek and the flood control focused improvements made due to floods in the 1950s:

“Similarly, these flood control improvements have eliminated nearly all the riparian and floodplain habitat that once flourished along the margins of Marsh Creek. Habitat in the stream channel itself has been further impacted by the loss of natural complexity associated with a meandering stream channel. Prior to the flood control improvements, the channel form was highly variable with pools, gravel riffles, gentle bars, and steep cut-banks...” (May 2019)

One recommended program element is “Installation of Instream Habitat Features”:

“This activity could include installation of either large woody debris (LWD) and/or rock features (e.g., rock barbs) below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) to improve degraded aquatic conditions by providing high flow and predation refugia, sorting sediment, and restoring pool and riffle characteristics. Augmentation of gravel could occur concurrently or in isolation and would enhance spawning opportunities for Chinook salmon and steelhead.”

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD), in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, proposes to restore spawning opportunities by placing 40 cubic yards of appropriately sized gravel at two priority sites of Marsh Creek in East Contra Costa County. This material will be spread to a depth of six inches, creating approximately 1,000 linear feet of improved habitat. By addressing this key ecological need, the project will support Steelhead in completing their full life cycle and help reestablish a self-sustaining population in the watershed.

The project also emphasizes community engagement and education. CCRCD will host four volunteer workdays where at least 50 local residents, including youth and families, will participate in gravel placement and habitat improvement. Another metric for success is five returning community volunteers throughout the workdays. The outreach will rely on current email lists of the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed, and the CCRCD. These hands-on opportunities will deepen public understanding of Steelhead ecology, the challenges they face, and the role local communities can play in recovery efforts.

Following installation, CCRCD and the Council will conduct at least two monitoring days in the winter to evaluate success by surveying for the presence of Steelhead redds in the enhanced reaches. Monitoring results will inform future adaptive management and help determine the feasibility of expanding gravel augmentation to other reaches of Marsh Creek, with additional funding. This pilot project, if successful, will serve as an example for low-cost, community-supported Steelhead restoration efforts across Contra Costa County.

Then, to foster continued stewardship of Steelhead trout in Marsh Creek, the partners will also work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and leverage their free signage related to harmful fish poaching. This

starting point will support the group in starting a signage program that, in the future, and with additional funding, to be able to design and install educational signage at strategic points on the creek. These signs will build awareness and share the stories of interconnectedness, ecosystem services, and cultural significance that trout bring to our local watersheds.

How does this project meet the requirements of Section 13103? This project meets California Fish and Game Code Section 13103 (e).

3. Project Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
TASKS	2026												2027	
Meetings														
Planning														
Gravel deliveries														
Workdays to disperse gravel														
Monitoring														
Determine sign locations and permissions														
Install signs														
Invoicing and reporting														

Note: some monitoring (orange) will occur outside the grant period

4. Project Budget (itemized)

SUPPLIES	Units	Cost per unit (\$)	Total	Total match
Gravel (various sizes)	2	4600	9200	
Rubber boots	4	25	100	
Work gloves	25	10	250	
5 gallon buckets	25	6	150	
Rakes	4	35	140	

OTHER

Bobcat rental	4	400	1600	
Gravel delivery	8	125	1000	
Streambed Alteration Permit	1	1882	1882	
Waste Discharge Permit	1	1300	1300	
Biological monitor (contractor)	2	2000	4000	

MATCH (in-kind)

CCRCD staff	72	80.30		5782
Marsh Creek Watershed Council	168	34.79		5845
Workday volunteers	50	34.79		1740

total supplies 9840
total other 9782
total match 13366
total project 32988

total ask of Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee **19622**

5. Annual Budget

	General Operations	Fund Development	Program	Total
Income	\$422,151	\$6,550	\$3,580,732	\$4,009,434
Expenses	\$456,744	\$272,034	\$2,753,649	\$3,482,429
Net Income	\$(34,592)	\$(265,484)	\$827,082	\$527,005

6. STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE APPLYING ORGANIZATION

The CCRCD is a non-regulatory, special district of the state of California. The organization's mission is to facilitate the conservation and stewardship of the natural resources of Contra Costa County. The CCRCD accomplishes this work primarily through voluntary partnership with landowners, farmers, ranchers, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies. This represents one of the organization's primary value propositions: we work directly with community to listen to their needs and co-create a vision for their community that is founded on the best available science.

CCRCD Board of Directors:

Renee Fernandez-Lipp – Board President. Manager of Governance, Vegetation Management Program, Pacific Gas & Electric

Bethallyn Black – Board Vice President. Emeritus Horticulture Professor at Diablo Valley College

Igor Skaredoff – Retired Shell Chemist
Walter Pease – Retired City of Pittsburg Public Works

Lorena Castillo – Co-Executive Director, Groundwork
Richmond

7. ORGANIZATION QUALIFICATIONS

CCRCD is well suited to oversee this project from the planning to implementation and monitoring phases of the project. The CCRCD has been providing natural-resources-related assistance to Contra Costa County for nearly 85 years. The organization works throughout Contra Costa County and has led projects including the Pinole Fish Passage Improvement Project, the Marsh Creek Restoration Planning, livestock pond restorations, coordinating the Contra Costa Watershed Forum, and supporting grassroots creek/watershed groups. The CCRCD currently works on over 35 different grants and contracts and maintains all the necessary systems to be able to track staff time, receivables, and expenses for every project.

8. INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PERFORMING AND OVERSEEING THE PROJECT

Chris Lim is the Executive Director of the CCRCD and is responsible for project oversight. Chris has over 25 years of experience in the environmental field, creating win-win partnerships to restore species from the top to the bottom of the watersheds, as well as working within all three sectors: nonprofit, public, and private. He has a BA in Integrative Biology with an emphasis in Marine Biology and Oceanography and a minor in Geography from the University of California at Berkeley and a Masters of Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco. He is currently an Ex Officio member of the Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee.

Ivette Rivero, a Watershed Conservation Coordinator with CCRCD, has a strong background in community outreach, ecological project management, and environmental monitoring. She has led public engagement programs, coordinated habitat horticulture projects, and trained interns in sustainable land stewardship. Fluent in both English and Spanish, Ivette has supported diverse communities by connecting them with vital resources and guiding outreach initiatives. Her academic training in fish and conservation biology, coupled with hands-on field experience, informs her work in fish redd monitoring and habitat restoration.

David Sondergeld is a retired Corporate Exec that in corporate life for 40 years ran volunteer events focusing on cleanups, helping the homeless, projects with parks and the environment as well as individuals with special needs. Privately, David has lived a life of volunteering starting as a youth Volunteer for kids with Autism at the age of 6. He has branched out close to 60 years volunteering with City, State and National Parks, he has run coastal cleanups for more than 35 years with many of awards from the coastal commission and local government. David ran Special Olympics Soccer for Northern California for 15 years. He served on national volunteer boards including the USHGPA and AYSO. David Founded the Bay Area Paragliding Association, Kids First Education Council, and is a founding board member, presently as chairman, for the Marsh Creek Watershed Council.

9. Project Permitting:

We are anticipating working within the stretches of Marsh Creek owned by the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (CCCFCFCD). The CCRCD has a strong relationship with the CCCFCFCD and the Marsh Creek Watershed Council has one of the CCCFCFCD's senior engineers as one of its Associate Board Members. Therefore, we envision continuing to partner with the CCCFCFCD for permission to access their property, help in planning and implementing this creek enhancement project.

We anticipate the need to obtain a Streambed Alteration Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and a Waste Discharge Requirement Permit from the State Water Board. The CCRCD has applied for these permit numerous times for other projects and is familiar with the process.

Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

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Project title: Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife

Organization/Individual applying: International Bird Rescue

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain))

Address: 4369 Cordelia Road, Fairfield, CA 94534

Telephone: 707-723-4245

Fax:

E-mail: alex.domeyko@birdrescue.org

Name and title of contact person: Alex Domeyko, Director of Development and Partnerships

One sentence summary of proposal: To achieve the proposed goals and provide the proposed benefits, we must replace obsolete and inoperable equipment and materials that have been fully depreciated, and which are necessary to rehabilitate injured and orphaned Contra Costa wildlife, including herons, egrets, and "Birds of Conservation Concern" in our Bird Conservation Region of "Coastal California:" California Gull, Western Gull, Western Grebe, and Brandt's Cormorant.

Requested grant: **\$20,719.92**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Alex Domeyko, Director of Development and Partnerships

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as "public works" under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):

Alex Domeyko
box SIGN 4KQQR6V8-13B5K93K

Signed on Jul 29, 2025

Clear Form



**Grant Proposal to the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee:
Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in
Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of
Injured and Orphaned Wildlife in 2026**

2. Funding Request, Project Description, Meeting the Requirements of Section 13103 of the Fish & Game Code

Thank you for considering our grant request! With your support we can benefit the people, agencies, and organizations of Contra Costa County and resolve human/wildlife interaction issues by providing immediate, ethical, effective, and humane solutions to the ongoing and persistent problem of native wildlife harmed by human impact.

Consistent with Section 13103 of the State's Fish and Game Code, this project benefits the wildlife of Contra Costa County by giving aquatic birds that have been harmed by human impact and *who have been referred to us by Contra Costa residents, organizations, and agencies* a second chance at a normal life through our best-in-class rehabilitation work. Birds successfully rehabilitated will be released back to the wild at species-appropriate locations.

Our San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center in Fairfield admits 1,750 local aquatic birds annually. We function as a regional "referral hospital:" the place of last resort, treating the most challenging cases that are beyond the capacity or skills of other regional wildlife centers and clinics, including our partners at Lindsay Wildlife Experience, and others. Contra Costa County residents and local Animal Control officers typically transfer ~ 200 wild, injured birds to us annually, collected from dense urban areas, and from the local shores and waterways of San Pablo Bay, Alhambra Creek, and others. Our [research shows that rehabilitated animals achieve successful, long-term outcomes, including \(but not limited to\) completing average life expectancies, producing and rearing their own offspring,](#) and serving as nutrition for other animals: all important outcomes of a healthy, balanced ecosystem.

To achieve the proposed goals and provide the proposed benefits, we must replace obsolete and inoperable equipment and materials that have been fully depreciated, and which are necessary to rehabilitate injured and orphaned Contra Costa wildlife, including herons, egrets, and "Birds of Conservation Concern" in our Bird Conservation Region of "Coastal California:" California Gull, Western Gull, Western Grebe, and Brandt's Cormorant.

Funding from the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund will support the material expenses of these necessary items. **No Contra Costa County funds will be used for labor of any kind, or to pay any person.**

Our work addresses multiple elements of the CA Fish and Wildlife Code Section 13103. This project is a direct expression of 13103(b): "Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife." The individual animals we rescue and rehabilitate from Contra Costa County return to the wild and propagate future generations.

Additionally, and as confirmed by both CDFW and County Staff in 2023, we provide "Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence" **13103(c)** when working with Animal Control Officers and Game Wardens, and our ongoing "scientific... wildlife research conducted by ...qualified researchers" **13103(i)** leads to innovations and new standards in animal care. Our "public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation" **13103(a)** reaches over 100,000 people annually in Northern California and around the world.

3. Project Schedule

Following the approval of both the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, this project can begin within 30 days, and be completed within 9 months.

4. Project Budget: necessary items to address CA Fish and Wildlife Code Section 13103(b): “Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.”

Cost	Item	Description	Anticipated Vendor
\$5,169.13	Bovie MI-750 LED Surgical Light	Replacement of the fully-non-repairable surgical light in our Surgery Suite to support patient outcomes for birds rescued and/or referred from Contra Costa County (the manufacturer of our current unit no longer repairs nor makes replacement parts for our unit, due to its age)	MFI Medical
\$4,422.96	Two Bovie MI-550 Exam Station Lights	Replacement of two fully-non-repairable Exam Station lights (the manufacturer of our current units no longer repairs nor makes replacement parts for our units, due to their age)	MFI Medical
\$2,052.52	Raypak 106 105,000 BTU Propane Gas Warm Water Pool Heater	Replacement of the fully-non-repairable above-ground, warm water pool heater to support aquatic bird patients rescued and/or referred from Contra Costa County, as they re-establish their waterproofing: necessary for release back to the wild at species-appropriate locations	Doheny’s
\$2,145.83	Disinfectant Station	Disinfection is critical for dishes, habitat enclosures, gavage tubes for feeding, floors, and for reusable medical supplies due to HPAI (aka Bird Flu); e.g., mallards rescued from Contra Costa County are asymptomatic carriers of Bird Flu	Midwest Veterinary Supply
\$2,320.40	Two OSHA-compliant Fortress Aluminum 4-Riser Stairs Systems	Replacement of two sets of dilapidated, non-OSHA-compliant wooden stairs for rehabilitation pools housing aquatic bird patients rescued and/or referred from Contra Costa County, to improve health, safety, and working conditions	Home Depot
\$2,022.10	Two Brinsea TLC-50 Advance Series II ICU/Recovery Incubators	Replacement of two fully-depreciated and non-operable incubators used for newly hatched chicks and sick, injured or orphaned birds from Contra Costa County	Chewy
\$1,021.00	Two Vitamix Commercial-grade Blender with Trian Containers	Replacement of two fully-non-repairable and non-operational industrial-grade animal food preparation blenders, necessary for animal nutrition while patients are in care and undergoing rehabilitation	KaTom
\$1,030.00	Welch Allyn Veterinary 3.5V Ophthalmoscope	Replacement of aged, poor-functioning equipment to improve patient diagnostics and outcomes	Rhino Medical Supply
\$535.98	Frigidaire 28” Freezer Refrigerator	Replacement of rusted, damaged refrigerator that stores medicines for patient intake, with new, Energy Star unit	Home Depot
\$20,719.92	TOTAL		

5. Annual Budget

We operate two specialty wildlife hospitals in California and an emergency response center in Alaska on a balanced \$3.75 million annual budget. Annual expenses for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center which serves Contra Costa County are \$754K: \$440K for specially-trained, necessary, professional veterinary and rehabilitation personnel, \$124K for utilities to provide clean water and stable wildlife rehabilitation habitat, \$87K for food, clinical, and medical supplies directly related to animal care, and \$103K for facilities, equipment, insurance, and transportation. **This funding request focuses on necessary material that our staff will use more than once to effectively and efficiently ensure our continued ability to care for native wildlife referred to us from Contra Costa residents, agencies, and organizations.** The Committee’s previous support continues to be recognized on our website: <https://birdrescue.org>.

6. Organizational Overview, Board of Directors, Affiliations

For over 50 years, we have been resolving human/wildlife interactions, advancing biodiversity, and conducting scientific research to benefit the people, wildlife, agencies, and organizations of Contra Costa County. Since 1971, we have responded to over 250 oil spills and wildlife emergencies, caring for more than 160,000 birds. **We specialize in emergency preparedness and response, day-to-day aquatic bird care, public education, and scientific research. We are a founding partner in California's Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) and a member of the Global Oiled Wildlife Response System. Other partners include CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Coast Guard, US Fish and Wildlife Service,** and dozens of: Audubon Society chapters, local Animal Control agencies, California counties, and referral partners. Our Board of Directors includes:

- Carmine Dulisse, Chair; President, PCCI, Inc.
- Tim Hayes, Vice Chair and Treasurer; Region Manager, Marathon Pipeline
- Martha Joseph, Secretary; Journalist (*retired*)
- Toni Arkoosh Pinsky, Immediate Past Chair; Community Leader
- Dr. Christine Bee; Group Leaders, Merck
- Nick Bockanic; Director of Brand Marketing, Universal Pictures
- Charong Chow; Senior marketing Manager, B2B Content, Adobe
- Maria Hartley; Global Technical Lead, Chevron Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Zach Hutton; Partner, Paul Hastings, LLP
- Dr. Paul Krause; Principal, Ramboll
- Tanmay Mathur; Supply Chain Executive
- Anjul Patney; Principal Research Scientist, NVIDIA
- Shah Selbe; Founder, Conservify
- Andy Sullivan; Communications Lead, Procter & Gamble
- Dave Wittrock; Price Wittrock CPA (*retired*)
- JD Bergeron; Chief Executive Officer, International Bird Rescue

7. Organization Qualifications

We have an exemplary track record of completing projects on time and on budget, and of completing grant requirements, reimbursements, and reports that meet strict standards for Contra Costa County as well as for two dozen other counties in California, national regulators, and international partners.

We were founded in 1971 in response to a massive oil spill that covered 50 miles of coastline in San Francisco Bay, affecting between 7,000 and 15,000 birds. Since then, we have become a *global leader* in addressing man-made disasters affecting marine wildlife (such as oil spills and debris), and in pioneering life-saving techniques to address ongoing/daily negative human impacts on wildlife. **We pursue our mission to inspire people to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis through three interrelated programs:** 1) Avian Rehabilitation and Research, 2) Wildlife Emergency Preparedness and Response, and 3) Conservation and Education.

8. Personnel

CEO JD Bergeron manages a professional staff of over 35. Our staff have literally "written the book" on wild animal care, contributing to "Merck Veterinary Manual" and "Medical Management of Wildlife Species: A Guide for Practitioners," among many others. Senior personnel responsible for carrying out this project at the San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center include Director of Research & Veterinary Science Rebecca Duerr DVM PMVM PhD; Director of Operations Julie Skoglund; and San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center Manager Kelly Beffa RVT.

9. Permits

We possess valid, current wildlife rehabilitation permits from both US Fish and Wildlife Service and CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. We are one of the few organizations that possess the federal permit to band birds. Treated birds are banded so that other scientists can track them in the wild, and in case a treated bird returns to us for further care. Data are analyzed by our veterinary care team as part of ongoing research, and the results freely shared.

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education

Organization/Individual applying: John Muir Land Trust

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 924 Main St., 2nd floor

Martinez, CA 94553

Telephone: (925) 228-5460

Fax:

E-mail: amelia@jmlt.org

Name and title of contact person: Amelia Flack, Grants & Institutional Giving Manager

One sentence summary of proposal: This proposal requests funding to support school field trips to Pacheco Marsh, where students will engage in hands-on learning about wetland ecology, native species, and the importance of conservation

Requested grant: \$14,636

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Amelia Flack, Grants & Institutional Giving Manager

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (*Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered*):

Amelia Flack

Signed on 8/1/2025

Clear Form



John Muir Land Trust: 2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Request ***Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education***

John Muir Land Trust is requesting \$14,636 to support school field trips to Pacheco Marsh, a restored tidal wetland in Contra Costa County. Grant funds will be used to cover transportation costs, educational materials such as binoculars and other teaching tools, and staffing expenses associated with delivering the program. These field trips will connect students from Contra Costa County schools and non-profit organizations, including public schools like Las Juntas Elementary, and will serving students from underserved communities, at one of the county’s most ecologically significant tidal marsh habitats. We plan to host at least three and up to five field trips during Spring and Summer 2026.

During the field trips, elementary students will engage in immersive, nature-based educational programming led by the John Muir Land Trust stewardship team. Activities will include guided walks through the marsh, wildlife observation, hands-on learning about marsh ecology, and discussions about wetlands restoration, habitat conservation, local species, and more. Students may also participate in stewardship activities such as native plant propagation and care and/or removal of invasive plants.

Pacheco Marsh supports a rare and ecologically rich tidal marsh habitat. Students will learn about native plant communities and animal species that rely on this habitat for survival. The site also provides an excellent opportunity to observe firsthand the value of restored wetland systems for climate resilience. The project directly supports the long-term conservation of Contra Costa County’s natural resources by fostering ecological literacy and instilling an ethic of stewardship in the next generation. By providing equitable access to hands-on environmental learning, the project offers Contra Costa County youth awareness and knowledge needed to support fish and wildlife conservation in their own communities.

The project meets the eligibility criteria under Section 13103 (a) of the California Fish and Game Code, directly supporting public education relating to, and fostering public awareness and appreciation for, fish and wildlife conservation. Programming will consist of an immersive day-long field trip at Pacheco Marsh discovering the ecology of the Bay Delta and marsh habitat. Through activities and real-world experiences at Pacheco Marsh, students gain a deeper understanding of local ecosystems and their role in protecting them. These field trips encourage environmental stewardship that extends beyond the outdoor classroom and into the broader community.

We can confirm that any materials developed relating to this programming during the grant period will include the specified attribution to Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee.

John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) is a nonprofit land conservation organization dedicated to permanently protecting and caring for the open spaces and natural resources of the East Bay. Since its founding in 1989, JMLT has preserved over 4,500 acres of land, ensuring that future generations have access to nature. Through stewardship, restoration, and community engagement, JMLT connects people with nature and promotes environmental education across Contra Costa County and beyond. In Spring 2025, JMLT officially opened Pacheco Marsh for public access. Located approximately 1.5 miles from Martinez, Pacheco Marsh hosts trails and an outdoor classroom where students explore and learn about the history of the region and the importance of restoring and caring for Pacheco Marsh and similar shoreline

environments throughout the Bay Delta. The stunning contrast of —thriving habitat surrounded by a stark industrial backdrop. The towers of oil refineries can be seen in the distance while tankers pass underneath the parallel spans of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge to the north. The entire history of the shoreline can be experienced in this one remarkable place.

JMLT's public access project ensures visitors have a variety of ways to explore this wonderful marshland while protecting the natural environment. Bird watchers and outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy 2.4 miles of trails and bridges, including a wheelchair-accessible trail, offering up-close views of nature while protecting the marsh's full-time wildlife residents. The kayak launch supports a unique 2-mile loop through the marsh, providing water lovers with an immersive, fascinating tour of the marsh and Suisun Bay.

John Muir Land Trust Board of Directors 2025

- Stephanie Becker, Chair, Stephanie Becker Consulting
- Dan R. Carl, Vice Chair, General Counsel and Secretary for Sybase Corporation (ret.)
- Karen Sakata, Secretary, former Superintendent, Contra Costa County Office of Education
- Jerald Weintraub, Treasurer, Weintraub Capital Management LP
- Arthur Bart-Williams, Immediate Past Chair, Executive Director, Grid Alternatives, Bay Area Region
- Jack Cortis, Co-Founder Family Harvest Farm
- Stephen Harvey, Residential Construction
- Katie Hill, Sr. Director of Global Marketing, SAP
- Tim Lipman, Transportation Sustainability Research Center Co-Director, UC Berkeley
- Ted Radosevich, General Counsel for East Bay Regional Park District (ret)

Full bios at: <https://jmlt.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>

John Muir Land Trust Leadership Team 2025

- Linus Eukel - Executive Director
- Lisa Lomba - Chief Advancement Officer
- Neil Roscoe - Chief Financial Officer
- James Wilson - Stewardship Director

Full bios at: <https://jmlt.org/about-us/jmlt-staff/>

Project Team

The project will be carried out by John Muir Land Trust's Stewardship team, which is responsible for organizing and leading the field education program at Pacheco Marsh.

- Ricardo Black, Stewardship Manager
 - Project Lead. Responsible for coordinating field trip logistics, facilitating and leading on-site educational programming, and communicating with participating schools
- James Wilson, Stewardship Director
 - Project Supervisor. Provides overall oversight and support, monitors program performance

Project Schedule:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate with stewardship team to finalize program logistics - Conduct outreach to local schools and begin to schedule field trips - Order and organize teaching materials and supplies - Schedule busses 	Winter – Spring 2026
Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host field trips at Pacheco Marsh - Lead students in hands-on learning about wetland ecology and conservation - Document lessons learned and student participation 	Spring – Summer 2026

Reporting

- Review participation numbers, school engagement, and program highlights
- Compile notes and assess program effectiveness
- Complete and submit final report to Contra Costa County

Fall 2026

Project Budget

Funding Activity	Funding Required	Funding Requested
<i>Binoculars - 30 pair (will be reused for future educational programming)</i>	\$3,290.85	\$3,000
<i>Spotting Scope</i>	\$384.07	\$350
<i>Transport – 1 bus serves 45</i>	\$7,560	\$4,536
<i>Misc. supplies</i>	\$800	
<i>Stewardship Manager – approximately 50 hours dedicated specifically to Pacheco Marsh education over the grant period</i>	\$7,500	\$6,750
	\$19,534.92	\$14,636

Organization Budget: 2023* Expenses and Reductions to Assets

Program Services

Conservation Activities	\$ 28,884,765
Environmental Education & Outreach	\$ 940,519

Supporting Services

Management and General	\$ 432,536
Fundraising and Development	\$ 705,648



* 2023 is the most recent year with complete financial information available. More detailed information can be found at <https://jmlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-JMLT-Financials.pdf>

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Tracking Kestrel Re-Population on Mount Diablo, Year 2

Organization/Individual applying: Save Mount Diablo

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 201 N. Civic Drive, Suite 190, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Telephone: (925) 945-3535

Fax:

E-mail: kferriere@savemountdiablo.org

Name and title of contact person: Karen Ferriere, Development Director

One sentence summary of proposal: Save Mount Diablo seeks to continue and expand the kestrel re-population project it began with more cameras and nest boxes last year, in order to better evaluate methods for ultimate project success.

Requested grant: \$5,680.24

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Marsha Mather-Thrift, Grant Writer/Consultant

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as "public works" under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):

Karen Ferriere

Signed on 7/28/25

Clear Form

CONTRA COSTA FISH AND WILDLIFE - PROPOSAL FROM SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Save Mount Diablo has protected more than 120,000 acres on Mount Diablo and it is now working to protect the entire 200-mile Diablo Range, stretching south to Kern County, to ensure protection of habitat and wildlife corridors. Corridors will be even more essential in the years to come, as climate change continues to adversely impact habitat. Save Mount Diablo is engaged in advocacy, advancing partnerships, accepting acquisitions in northern counties which can eventually become parks, and approaching ranchers to interest them in conservation easements.

The American Kestrel's population in coastal California has declined by 69% since the 1960's as well as elsewhere in California. Scientists aren't sure why, but there are multiple possible reasons, including loss of nesting habitat. To counter this, Save Mount Diablo has been working to expand American Kestrel populations on the mountain by providing nest boxes for shelter as well as boxes that enable fledging in appropriate habitat. Areas near grasslands are essential to American Kestrel prey hunting.

Save Mount Diablo has been tracking population growth, and working with Lindsay Wildlife Museum to release rehabilitated American Kestrels on the mountain. In 2025, Save Mount Diablo, with a grant from Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, initiated a program to expand nest box location and data gathering. In 2026, we propose to further expand the nest box area, in three new and/or expanded sites, to support more population expansion, to further evaluate overall nest box usage and best locations for boxes, and to also evaluate for possible impacts of avian influenza.

All of our nest boxes are strategically placed, since the birds often prefer to nest in cavities they find. Mount Diablo's Land Programs Director, Sean Burke, who has extensive experience with wildlife restoration, has worked with Eagle Scouts to build our 2025 nest boxes, and scouted locations that are in open habitat and high enough off the ground to keep the birds safe, away from predators. He also ensures eastward facing placement to warm faster from the sun. Six locations now exist at Mangini Ranch and Curry Canyon Ranch, owned by Save Mount Diablo. Mangini is also an important education center for youth and adults who learn about the impacts humans have on bird and wildlife populations.

Through our data gathering, we can now count 126 American Kestrels thriving and surviving over the four and a half years that we have been working to build the population. In 2023 alone, we observed 24 birds inhabiting the nest boxes placed at the time. In the most recent release, in late 2023, Save Mount Diablo, Lindsay Wildlife and Wilton Rancheria, along with raptor rehabilitation specialist Sherrill Cook, took part in a release for seven American Kestrel fledglings. (We have done no releases in the last year.) Originally, we monitored 7 nest boxes closely out of 37 we had installed and of those 7, each fledged 4-5 birds annually. Last year, in late 2024, we received funding from Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, and began installing 12 new boxes with 12 cameras. We have now gathered the memory cards from the installed boxes and begun to sift through the thousands of images captured, utilizing our interns. We hope to have more data soon from this year's nesting activity. We do know that 10 of 12 boxes were successful in 2024.

Over the years, our cameras have captured images of important moments for American Kestrels raised in these boxes, including parents bringing an assortment of food (once including a king snake) and their first flights as they take off from atop the boxes. Many of the rehabilitated American Kestrels released in Curry Canyon this year needed care in the first place because of a lack of safe nesting locations generally in the East Bay. Local American Kestrels have been known to nest in metal tubes, which overheat in the summer. Population decline is due to many factors, including habitat loss, increased forest management with worries about wildfires, and loss of suitable cavities in woody snags, although the problem is compounded by multiple complex factors including pesticide use, loss of insect populations, and predation from other species, particularly Cooper's hawks. At a minimum, American Kestrels need grasslands to hunt, and Mount Diablo has an abundance of unpolluted undisturbed grasslands on the properties where we have been placing nest boxes, and where we now propose to expand the nest box area. We include properties we own, as well as nearby parks, like Mount Diablo State Park and East Bay Regional Parks.

With a second year grant, and installation of an additional 12 NEW nest boxes in 2026 that we will build, along with cameras and the equipment needed for them, we plan to gather much more data in this second grant year, utilizing thousands of images from the cameras, parsed by interns, to record valuable data on population success, food variety, seasonal fluctuations such as late fledging, chick growth, nesting materials, possible signs of avian flu, and more.

HOW PROJECT MEETS REQUIREMENTS OF CA FISH AND GAME CODE 13103: The department has determined that this project falls under Sections (e), (i), and (m) – including 1) improvement of habitat, 2) scientific fish and wildlife research, and 3) other expenditures, approved by the department for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.

RECOGNITION: We propose to recognize the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee, using the preferred language, in articles about American Kestrel research and monitoring that will be posted in our blog, as well as in print newsletters, and in media releases.

PROJECT BUDGET: SMD AMERICAN KESTREL POPULATION EXPANSION BUDGET – 2nd Year

ITEM	COST	NUMBER	TOTAL	NOTES
PERSONNEL				
Research Interns x 2, probably from Cal State East Bay	\$15/hr	120 hours each	\$3,600.00	Review slides and record data for summary reports
Subtotal Personnel			\$3,600.00	
EQUIPMENT				
Additional WIFI Bluetooth Trail Cameras for Curry Canyon, Schwendel Ranch, and Youngs Canyon	89.99	12 cameras	\$1,079.88	Monitoring nest boxes
Lithium batteries		TBD	\$ 400.00	For cameras
SD Cards	15.03 ea	12 cards	\$ 180.36	For cameras
Materials for nest boxes	\$35/each	12 boxes	\$ 420.00	
Subtotal Equipment			\$2,080.24	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET			\$5,680.24	

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION BUDGET: \$4,554,610

ORGANIZATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIST: For 50 years, Save Mount Diablo has pursued its mission to defend, preserve and restore land for the public to enjoy. Our focus is on creating healthy watersheds and healthy communities of plant and animal species in the densely populated East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area. We have built a successful track record in conserving open space in three northern California counties, growing to more than 120,000 protected acres. We are also now mounting a major capital campaign to expand our work in the entire 200-mile Diablo Range (currently only 25% protected) in order to protect crucial open space through conservation easements, acquisition of key parcels, and turning acquired lands over to parks and open space agencies. Our work consists of hands-on scientific research, restoration, and the sound maintenance and stewardship required to protect ever-more impacted California resources. We manage this with staff and scores of volunteers. Education is equally important to maintain these lands into the future, and so we host field trips and work days with local schools, enlist college interns, and engage community members, companies, and groups from nearby cities to take part in education and restoration work.

Board of Directors: Keith Alley, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus, UC Merced (ret), Steve Balling, Ph.D., Entomologist, Del Monte Foods (ret.), Jim Felton, SMD President, Senior Biomedical Scientist (ret.), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, John Gallagher Veterinarian (ret.), Liz Harvey-Roberts, Chief Development Officer, The Nature Conservancy (California Chapter), Claudia Hein, MS Professor of Chemistry, Diablo Valley College (ret.), Scott Hein, Ph.D., Founding Principal, Diablo Analytical, Inc.,

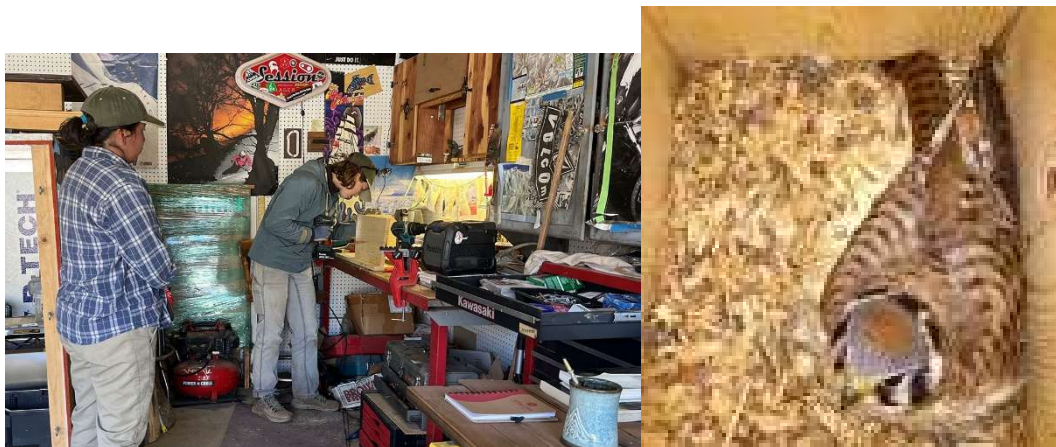
Giselle Jurkanin, J.D., SMD Vice President/Secretary Real Estate Development Attorney (ret), Shirley Langlois, Manager, Medical Economics and Statistics, Director of Competitive Intelligence (ret.), Bob Marx, Principle, Marx Associates, Inc. Owner, Summit Ranch Equine Center, LLC, Doug Matthew, MBA Transportation and Logistics (ret.), Amara Morrison, Attorney and General Counsel to various transportation organizations, Phil O’Loane, MHSA, Healthcare Executive, Former City Councilmembers, Robert Phelps, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History and Executive Director, California State University of the East Bay, Concord Campus (ret)., Malcolm Sproul, Ph.D., President Principle Biologist LSA Associates, Jeff Stone, J.D., Asset and Project Manager, Diamond Construction, Achilles Tu, Educator, Pittsburgh School District. Jerome Holland, Vice President at Matson Logistics and overseeing strategic planning and business development, Maga Kisriev, Hood and Strong accountants for nonprofit clients including national and international private foundations, public charities, and associations.

ORGANIZATION: Save Mount Diablo partners with California and local Fish and Wildlife staff, as well as volunteer professional scientists, and it provides research grants to scientists and graduate students each year through its Mary Bowerman Science and Research program. We collaborate with graduate students at Cal State East Bay, where we teach a conservation class, and students from U.C. Berkeley.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT STAFF QUALIFICATIONS: Sean Burke - Land Programs Director. Sean spent 8 years as Park Ranger for the East Bay Regional Park District, focused on large infrastructure projects, and natural, cultural, and rangeland resource management, including rare plant and animal species rehabilitation. As a member of the Cherokee Tribe, Sean has an extremely strong stewardship connection to our wild lands and to the importance of communities in balance with nature. B.S. from the UC Santa Cruz.

Stewardship Manager Roxana Lucero – Roxana manages programmatic elements, events, outreach, and fieldwork. She also maintains the mapping program for SMD. She earned her B.S. from San Francisco State in environmental studies, natural resource management and conservation. She has worked with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Nature in the City, gaining more experience before joining SMD’s staff.

STATUS OF PERMIT APPROVALS – No permits are needed for this project.



Volunteers building nest boxes and a kestrel enjoying one

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Watershed Action Program

Organization/Individual applying: KIDS for the BAY, a project of Earth Island Institute

(Organization type: please check one – government, ☒ non-profit, school, other (explain)

Address: KIDS for the BAY, 1771 Alcatraz Ave, Berkeley, CA 94703

Telephone: (510) 734-3835

Fax:

E-mail: mandi@kidsforthebay.org

Name and title of contact person: Mandi Billinge, Executive Director/Founder

One sentence summary of proposal: KIDS for the BAY is requesting funding to support our Watershed Action Program to engage eight elementary school classes, including 200 students, their teachers and families, in under-resourced schools in Contra Costa County, in hands-on watershed education and stewardship.

Requested grant: \$8,400

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Mandi Billinge, Executive Director/Founder

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):

Mandi J. Billinge

Signed on July 31, 2025

Clear Form

KIDS for the BAY

Watershed Action Program

2. Project Description

The KIDS for the BAY (KftB) Watershed Action Program (WAP) will engage low-income students, families and teachers in under-resourced schools in Antioch, El Cerrito, Hercules, Pittsburg, Richmond or San Pablo in hands-on environmental science education and watershed stewardship. Two hundred elementary school students in eight classes will connect with nature in their local watersheds and on special field trips to creek, bay and delta habitats. Students will discover wildlife in unique aquatic environments, explore and investigate like scientists, and make personal connections with nature. KftB will work together with partner schools to increase access to nature for all students, and to support Next Generation Science Standards with meaningful, hands-on learning.

Students will become environmental leaders at school and at home by taking action for their environment, making behavior changes and teaching their families and school communities how to protect their local watershed and wildlife. Students will collect and analyze data to assess the health of their local watershed. Each class will work together to select and complete an Environmental Action Project in their community, to improve human, fish and wildlife health through hands-on learning, leadership and stewardship.

Eight teachers will increase their confidence in using the local watershed as an educational resource, and empowering students to become environmentalists. Teachers will develop their skills in teaching hands-on environmental science and stewardship. Grade level teams of teachers will continue teaching KftB programs in future years through our follow-up teacher support Blue Watershed Classrooms program.

Watershed Action Program (WAP) objectives for the 2025-2026 school year in Contra Costa County schools:

- Two hundred students will increase their knowledge of watershed science in the classroom and in the field and become stewards of their local watershed and wildlife
- Two hundred family members will make behavior changes to reduce stormwater pollution
- Eight teachers will increase their confidence in using the local watershed as an educational resource and in empowering students to become environmental and wildlife stewards
- The WAP will be integrated into the curricula and culture of partner elementary schools and will engage school principals, teachers, students, and their families.

The WAP for each class will include:

- Four two-hour lessons at the school site both in the classroom and in the local watershed
- A nature-based field trip to a creek, bay or delta habitat
- An Environmental Action stewardship and leadership project
- Professional development and professional-level academic credit units for teachers through our partnership with California State University, East Bay.

Environmental Action Projects will develop students' leadership skills and will include the following options:

- Clean up and restore local urban creeks
- Monitor water quality, assess creek health and share findings
- Track the brands of plastic trash removed from local habitats and school neighborhoods to address corporate responsibility for plastic pollution
- Teach family members and peer students how to safely prepare and cook fish from the San Francisco Bay and delta to reduce the intake of toxins
- Create environmentally friendly pesticides to replace toxic pesticides for school gardens
- Presentations to families and buddy classes to educate others about water conservation and stewardship.

How the WAP Will Benefit the Fish and Wildlife of Contra Costa County

The WAP meets the requirements in letter (a) and some requirements in letter (e) of Section 13103 of the Fish and Game Code, as described below.

(a) Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal

instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.

The WAP will provide public environmental education focused on watershed ecology and health to third, fourth, and fifth grade classes in low-income, under-resourced elementary schools. Students will learn how to improve local creek and bay habitats in order to protect local fish and wildlife and ecosystems from pollution. The WAP is formal instruction that supports Next Generation Science Standards and is pursuant to a planned curriculum that includes watershed lessons, field trips, and Environmental Action Projects. Instructional techniques engage visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners, as well as English Language Learners and students with special educational needs. The WAP also provides professional development for teachers with the unique opportunity for teachers to learn alongside their students. Training and ongoing support are provided to enable teachers to continue teaching the WAP each year to new classes of students, which greatly increases the reach of the program.

(e) Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, [...] planting trees and other vegetation management.

The WAP addresses improvement of fish and wildlife habitat by:

- reducing nonpoint source stormwater pollution to the watershed
- cleaning up trash from school campuses/neighborhoods and creek and bay habitats
- partnering with local restoration organizations to complete planting projects in creek and bay habitats.

3. Project Schedule

KftB will use the funds received to support the WAP in partner schools in the 2025-2026 school year. The funds will be used by May 2026, less than a year from the date the grant is announced, if this grant application is successful.

4. Project Budget

The total project budget for the eight WAP classes is \$80,000. The \$8,400 grant from the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund will be spent on providing transportation to outdoor field trip sites for WAP students, teachers and families.

Expenses	Amount
Field trip bus transportation: 8 buses * \$1,050	\$8,400
Total	\$8,400

5. Annual Organizational Budget

The current annual organizational budget for KIDS for the BAY is \$716,000.

6. Organization Description Statement

KIDS for the BAY (KftB) has provided vital environmental education programs to under-resourced elementary schools in low-income communities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, for the past 33 years. KftB in-depth, multiple-visit programs provide professional development for teachers and academic enrichment for students, turning the local watershed into a living laboratory for learning and environmental stewardship. Students find joy in connecting with nature, get excited about learning hands-on environmental science, and become inspired environmentalists. KftB students learn that everyone has the right to live in a clean and healthy environment, including wildlife and people. Students are empowered to become leaders in their communities. Teachers learn alongside their students and receive the training, tools and resources needed to use the local watershed environment as a key educational resource.

KftB partners primarily with low-income, under-resourced elementary schools in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties where more than 65% of our school students are low-income students and more than 87% are students of color. Approximately 47% of students are English Language Learners. KftB teaching strategies, including English Language Learner support, and culturally responsive classroom management techniques focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion, ensure equitable access to learning for all students. Students with special educational needs are included in our programs. KftB programs address environmental health and justice issues that affect the communities we partner with, for example: access to nature and corporate responsibility for plastic pollution. KftB hands-on activities in the outdoors engage all students. Students are excited to connect with nature, engage in meaningful learning experiences and protect the local watershed environment. KftB is a project of Earth Island Institute, our 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

Advisory Board Member	Affiliation	KftB Role
Leilani Alo lanisf70@gmail.com	Senior Philanthropic Advisor Marin Community Foundation	Advisory Board President
Kimberly Aguilar kimberly.c.aguilar@gmail.com	Spanish Bilingual Elementary School Teacher, OUSD	Education Advisor
Kate Gallagher kate.gal56@gmail.com	Retired Teacher/Science Education Consultant, OUSD	Education Advisor
Jenny Park jennipark@gmail.com	Managing Director, Climate One	Communications & Development Advisor
Sheela Shankar boomshivshankara@gmail.com	Former Development Director Rose Foundation, now a consultant	Development Advisor
Clifford Thompson, D.Ed clifford.thompson@wccusd.net	Fifth Grade Teacher, WCCUSD, Board Member, OUSD	Education Advisor

7. Qualifications Statement

KIDS for the BAY is now celebrating our **thirty-third year** of providing engaging, hands-on environmental education programs to schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since 1992, **114,407 student Environmentalists** have graduated from our programs and **4,528 partner teachers** have increased their confidence in teaching hands-on environmental science both in the classroom and in the outdoors as a result of KIDS for the BAY's programs. Our students have significantly improved their local watershed environments through education and action. Since 1992, KftB students have:

- Cleaned up **45,299 gallons of trash** from school neighborhoods and local creek and bay habitats
- Planted **20,300 native plants** in creek and bay habitats
- Removed **35,580 invasive plants** from creek and bay habitats
- Become **leaders in their families and in their school communities**, and taught others how to protect, clean up and restore local watershed environments, through student-led schoolwide assemblies, class presentations to families, and educational posters and videos created and shared by our young environmentalists.

Mandi Billinge, Executive Director/Founder

Mandi founded KIDS for the BAY and has directed program and organization development for the past thirty-three years. Mandi was originally a classroom teacher in an inner-city London school, and a biologist and estuarine ecologist. She founded KIDS for the BAY to bring the same exciting, hands-on environmental science projects that she taught in her own classroom into schools in the San Francisco Bay Area.

8. Individuals Responsible

KftB Staff Overseeing Project:

Mandi Billinge, Executive Director/Founder

Yvette Diaz Samyoa, Program Manager/Environmental Educator

KftB Staff Performing Project:

Anais Wilson, Lead Program Coordinator/Environmental Educator

Additional Program Coordinators: Libby Kirk, Sabreena Verma, Neda Ibrahim

Grants & Communications Coordinator: Amy Asmussen

For more information on the [KIDS for the BAY Staff Team](https://kidsforthebay.org/about-us/staff/), please use this link:

<https://kidsforthebay.org/about-us/staff/>

9. Permits: No permits are required for this project.

2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Application Cover Page

L

Project title: MIRA VISTA FIELD RESTORATION PROJECT

Organization/Individual applying: THE WATERSHED PROJECT

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain))

Address: 1327 South 46th Street, Bldg 155, Richmond CA 94804

Telephone: (510) 665-3430

Fax:

E-mail: juliana@thewatershedproject.org

Name and title of contact person: Juliana Gonzalez, Executive Director

One sentence summary of proposal: Support of restoration work to restore Mira Vista Field, located in urban West Contra Costa County, to native serpentine grassland.

Requested grant: \$12,740 (lesser amount feasible)

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Adèle Ho, Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee member

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):

Juliana Gonzalez

Signed on 7/31/25

Mira Vista Field Restoration Project

Introduction

This grant application, by the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee with nonprofit The Watershed Project as partner and fiscal sponsor, supports and revitalizes ongoing work to restore Mira Vista Field, an 8 acre property located in urban West Contra Costa County, to native serpentine grassland. This restoration meets the goal of California Fish & Game Code Section 13103(e), improvement of wildlife habitat through vegetation management. In addition, it provides a venue for nature study by Mira Vista Elementary School students.

Restoration work is complex and time intensive, so using the most effective tools and processes possible can make all the difference. Grant funding will support and revitalize our efforts to restore this precious jewel, with tools and equipment, an updated plan of action, and enhanced public education and outreach.

Project Objectives:

- Preserve neighborhood natural grassland open space including localized seeps/springs
- Protect native plant species and wildlife
- Provide educational opportunities for schoolchildren
- Educate the public as to importance of wildland spaces within urbanized areas
- Promote community connections and involvement
- Added benefit: Improved wildfire resilience in an area adjoining a high risk zone for wildfires

Site Description and Background:

The Mira Vista Field site has long been a source of community and connection to nature. Members of the surrounding community have been using the property for recreational purposes for 40+ years..... walking, jogging, dog walking, bird watching... and they have spent thousands of hours weeding non-native plants and propagating native plants at the site. The site has become a neighborhood gathering place, with people meeting and connecting on their daily ventures to the field.

The parcels that make up the field comprise approximately 8 acres of undeveloped land located just below Mira Vista Elementary School in unincorporated Contra Costa County. We call it “Mira Vista Field”. The property is owned by West Contra Costa Unified School District but as agreed with the District 30 years ago, is used and maintained on a daily basis by a group of about 50 neighbors led by the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee. The land is home to 32 species of native plants, some of which are now rare due to the area’s development over the years. The field is a remarkable remnant of serpentine grassland....what much of the hills of the East Bay used to be. Close to 70 species of birds have also been identified at the field. It is a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat, an island of wildland in the midst of urban development.



Mira Vista Field community restoration site (outlined in green).

A plant inventory and habitat restoration guide was developed for Mira Vista Field by The Watershed Project around 2005. Volunteers from the community have implemented some of the basic methods to remove non-native species in target areas, with some success. With the recent formation of a Stewardship Committee, we have been able to encourage more volunteers to take part in the restoration weeding activities. Building our volunteer team is necessary to continue the work of restoration, and we need the tools to enable them to effectively contribute and work to improve the native flora and wildlife habitat.

More information on the field is available on the website, www.miravistafield.org.

Project Proposal:

Grant funds are requested to support ongoing enhanced implementation of the habitat restoration work at the field, and to educate and encourage the community to appreciate and participate in the restoration of this precious place. Specifically, we are requesting funding for the following tasks.

1. **Purchase new weeding tools, equipment, and materials** needed to continue the restoration of the native grassland at Mira Vista Field. These would include hand pick axes, string trimmers (weed whackers), hand mowers with thatch collection, backpack sprayers (for spraying vinegar on invasive weed seedlings before they can grow up), wooden stakes and flagging (for marking off “no mow” native plant areas), “Habitat Restoration Area” signs, as well as materials needed to fence off the seep area from entry by dogs (since this is an important resource for local birds).

We have found through our experience and research so far that properly timed mowing can have a significant impact in the elimination of non-native grasses and weeds. Although the School District does the major mowing at the field (after we mark off “no mow” areas containing high concentrations of native plants and grasses), it is nearly impossible to get them to mow at exactly the right time. Having hand mowers and weed whackers of our own will allow us to accomplish the necessary mowing in high priority and target restoration areas.

2. **Fund rental equipment** needed to mulch walking paths. Each year that we are able to obtain free wood chips, we host volunteer days to place wood chip mulch on the walking paths at the field in preparation for wet winter weather when the paths would otherwise become muddy. Throughout the winter people continue to frequent the field, and without wood chip mulch on the walking paths we find that they walk on the vegetation as they try to avoid the muddy paths. This year, we have acquired a large amount of chips from the School District’s tree removals, and we will need to rent 2 Bobcats for 2 days in order to spread the chips on the paths. This will support the restoration effort by preventing trampling of native plants!
3. **Public Education / Signage**
 - a. **Refurbish existing bulletin board.** The current bulletin board is falling into disrepair after more than 20 years of use. We believe that a nicer unit with new plexiglass, and organized with field information in a designated area and community postings in another, would be more inviting for field visitors to read. Information about the value of native grasslands, both for wildlife and for people, and on human (and dog, since so many field users are dog owners) co-existence with nature, along with upcoming field work days, native plants and weeds of the month, would be posted on a secure section and another section would be open for community postings. County Fish & Wildlife Committee grant funding would be acknowledged on the new bulletin board.
 - b. **Install signage** encouraging use of the mulched walking paths, discouraging digging in the restoration areas by dogs, and also encouraging courteous and responsible dog walking and cleaning up after one’s dog. Design of the signage would be accomplished by a local designer and/or volunteer, working with the Stewardship Committee.

Installation of these items would be done by volunteers, as part of a volunteer work day.

4. **Update our existing website.** The current website was created with an older platform; it is rather boring and not easy to navigate. Updating of the website would be done by one or more volunteers from our group; funding is requested from grant funds for the cost of the new web platform for startup fees and an initial 1 year.
5. **Create a postcard with QR code** linked to the website. This would be used as a handout at local events. Requested funds are for printing of 200 postcards.

6. **Update the *Mira Vista Field Restoration Guide*.** This document was authored by The Watershed Project in 2005, and there have been changes in plant distributions at the field as well as new developments in grassland restoration methods. Part of this update will involve a re-surveying of the plants present at the field and locating them on a map. Another part of the update will involve gathering information on current restoration methods that have been successful in similar geographic/geologic/climatic regions of the Bay Area, i.e., “learning from other successful restoration projects”. This information will be used to update recommended practices to be (or continue to be) implemented at Mira Vista Field in order to continue down the path of restoration to native grassland, and to develop a long term plan with specific target areas to focus on¹. This work will be accomplished by volunteers from the Stewardship Committee; requested grant funds are for printing of the updated guide and maps.
7. **Host a *Community Outreach and Volunteer Appreciation Event*** at the Field. This would be an event with food and beverages, speakers, and informational handouts, held at the field to celebrate the new bulletin board and signage, introduce and welcome new volunteers, and generally create excitement about the restoration work.

Budget:

Task #	Description (detailed breakdown for each Task available upon request)	Subtotals
1	Restoration tools, equipment and materials - hand tools, string trimmers (2), mowers (2), stakes, flagging, exclusion fence. "habitat restoration area" signs	\$ 4,620
2	Mulching pathways so people do not trample restoration areas - Bobcat rental to spread donated wood chips	\$ 2,000
3	Refurbish bulletin board, install signage at entrances to field	\$ 5,150
4	Website hosting – startup cost and first year annual fee	\$ 450
5	Postcard handout - printing	\$ 120
6	Restoration Guide Update - printing	\$ 200
7	Public Outreach and Volunteer Appreciation Event – food and beverages	\$ 200
TOTAL GRANT REQUEST		\$ 12,740

NOTE: Although we would love to receive funding for all tasks listed, we are open to the funding of individual task(s) if that better serves the Committee’s funding goals for this round of applications.

Schedule: All purchases associated with Task 1, and all the work of Tasks 2 – 7, would be completed within 1 year of grant award.

Organizational Information:

The Watershed Project (TWP) is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization headquartered in Richmond, whose mission is to inspire San Francisco Bay Area communities to understand, appreciate, and protect our local watersheds. It has been in existence since 1997. More info here: <https://thewatershedproject.org> TWP provides fiscal sponsorship to local watershed groups, and has a 28-year track record of responsible money management, and strong record of successfully fulfilling local, state, and federal contracts and grants. Its Board of Directors includes: Heidi Nutters (Chair), Melissa Garvey (Treasurer), Rei Scampavia (Secretary), and Members Nahal Ghoghaie-Ipakchi and Maria Katticaran. The 2025-2026 budget for TWP is \$1,692,777.

The Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee operates solely on donations; annual expenditures are roughly \$1,000.

Project Personnel:

The Watershed Project - Juliana Gonzales, Executive Director of The Watershed Project since 2015.
Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee - Adèle Ho (Civil Engineer, Project Manager, retired Public Works Director), Jim Hanson (Landscape Architect, CNGA² former Board member, CNPS³ East Bay Conservation Chair), and local residents/long time field advocates Gena McCarthy, Nel Benningshof, Trish Clifford, Guillermo Ortiz, Michael DeClerck, Michael Curran, and June Kamerling.

Permits: No permits are required for work associated with the proposed grant funded work; it is part of our ongoing maintenance work at the field, as agreed upon with the School District (property owner).

¹ We anticipate using the “Bradley Method”, which recommends beginning with an area of existing high diversity of native plants and then working outward from there.

² California Native Grasslands Association

³ California Native Plant Society

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: 2026 Discovery Discovery Voyage Program

Organization/Individual applying: Marine Science Institute

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 500 Discovery Parkway Redwood City, CA 94063

Telephone: (650) 364-2760

Fax: (650) 364-0416

E-mail: Marilou@sfbaymsi.org

Name and title of contact person: Marilou Seiff, Executive Director

One sentence summary of proposal: Marine Science Institute delivers Delta Discovery Voyages with students in Contra Costa County and this grant would provide meaningful outdoor excursions with lessons that will last a lifetime.

Requested grant: **\$5,096.00**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Lilly C. Lew, Institutional Giving Manager

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Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):



Signed on 6/27/2025

Clear Form



Marine Science Institute Proposal for Funding Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant

Date: August 1st, 2025
To: Maureen Parkes; Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee (FWC)
From Primary Contact: Marilou Seiff, Executive Director, marilou@sfbaymsi.org, 650-364-2760
MSI Annual Budget: \$2,617,000
Title of Program: 2026 Delta Discovery Voyage Program

Project Description:

MSI delivers the Delta Discovery Voyage (DDV) to CCC 5th grade students with hands-on science curriculum aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), aboard our 90-foot research vessel, the *Robert G. Brownlee*, on the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. At an average of 3,700 students per season, MSI has educated more than 77,000 CCC 5th graders since 2003. We are asking the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee (FWC) to partially fund the 2025 DDV program (specifically Supplies, Vessel/Vehicle Fuel and Marina Fees) with a grant of \$5,096, so Delta wildlife and water education will continue without interruption.

DDV Program Description:

MSI's Delta Discovery Voyage Program addresses both the education and environmental needs of Contra Costa County (CCC). To gather input from teachers, we will host the DDV Teacher Fair in September 2025. We will introduce the program to new teachers and rekindle the excitement among returning teachers. Teachers will register their classes at this event. We anticipate our DDV program schedule will be near full by the end of the event.

Based on previous years, **we expect to educate at least 3,700 CCC 5th graders this year.** Among the students we will educate this year, approximately 1,800 (48%) will come from schools in Central CCC, and 1,900 (52%) will come from schools in East CCC. Our San Francisco Bay Discovery Voyage program is available when our ship comes to the Richmond Marina for 2 weeks in October each year. (The Richmond-based education is different from the DDV program since it focuses on life in the brackish water ecosystem of the Bay vs the freshwater ecosystem of the Delta.)

Local teachers reported they are under-supported to provide academically rigorous, culturally relevant, and meaningful environmental science education for their students. Approximately 46% of fifth grade students from CCC schools have historically scored below proficiency in science in standardized tests. DDVs teach exciting, place-based science to Contra Costa County students that expand their learning beyond the classroom and enables them to discover their relationship with the local natural environment. MSI's DDV program supports CCC teachers by providing grade-specific and developmentally appropriate curriculum plans and these activities align seamlessly with NGSS goals.

These students and their families source their drinking water from the Delta, yet they know little about their own direct effect on the Delta ecosystem. Most do not know the characteristics of the watershed and the importance of protecting this precious natural resource. By educating students every year - especially at this impressionable age on these topics and practical stewardship habits they can employ, water quality and supply will improve, and Delta wildlife will thrive.

Delta Discovery Voyage Outcomes

Through the 3-1/2-hour instructional voyage on the Delta aboard the R/V Robert G. Brownlee and the completion of the Water Patrol Activity, students will learn these key concepts:

- Drinking water comes from the Delta; all residents of the Delta region have a special responsibility to help keep the water/habitat clean (stewardship).
- A watershed is an area of land that drains water, sediment, and dissolved minerals to a common outlet; the Delta's watershed boundaries are quite large and cover urban, rural, and unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County.
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) needs to be transported to special disposal facilities.

- Mercury, a significant Delta contaminant, is sourced from fluorescent lightbulbs and other Household Hazardous Waste products.

The 2026 Delta Discovery Voyage Program satisfies the eligibility requirements of Section 13103 **(a)** of the Fish & Game Code for requesting funding from the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. It provides public education that is aligned with CA Common Core and NGSS for public schools, and to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation by using supervised formal instruction conducted with a planned curriculum and aids to education.

MSI agrees to obtain advance written approval from the FWC of any communication/written material that may be understood to represent the views of the FWC and to provide the FWC with reasonable opportunity to review, comment and approve the communication/written material in advance. MSI also agrees to use the following statement, if funding is granted: "Delta Discovery Voyage equipment and ship fuel are funded in part by the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee."

Project Schedule:

Dates	Task Name	Description
September 2025 (Date TBD)	Host Teacher Fair	Teachers attend an in-person event at Big Break OSP to learn about the DDV program and register their classes.
1/ - 2/27/2026	Teach programs	5 th grade students from Contra Costa County schools participate in DDVs.
1/5 - 2/27/2026	Inform DDV funders	Host Delta Donor Voyage on 2/10/24. Host funders, as requested, on Delta Discovery Voyage instructional programs. Attend meetings hosted by funders.
3/1-5/1/2026	Evaluation and report	Evaluate all teacher surveys; compare outcomes to objectives. Create and submit a funder report. Host funder teleconference.
12/31/2026	Additional reports	Submit additional reports to funders, as requested.

MSI Request for Exception to Expenditure Timing Requirement

Per current guidelines, project expenditures eligible for reimbursement must occur only after the Board of Supervisors (BoS) approves grant funding. While MSI has taken care to ensure that all project expenditures are scheduled to begin after BoS approval, we recognize that delays in the decision-making process can sometimes occur. Therefore, MSI respectfully requests an exception to this requirement. If grant approval decisions are not finalized until 2026 and our program is set to begin in January 2026, we seek permission to make necessary purchases in December 2025 to ensure timely implementation. We fully understand that this request does not imply, or guarantee grant approval, and we accept the risk that early expenditures may not be reimbursed if funding is not awarded.

Project Budget:

Expenses	2025-2026 DDV Budget	CCCFWC Project Budget	Description
Payroll and Benefits	\$174,564		
Outside Services	\$6,070		
Supplies and Operating Expenses	\$12,852	\$1,463	Expendable supplies – Buckets, Fish Keys, Trawl Nets, Hand/Plankton Nets. Click here for a complete list
Travel and Fuel	\$8,092	\$2,800	Vessel fuel
Occupancy	\$5,746		
Insurance, Repairs, Other	\$15,676	\$833	Harbor fees
Depreciation	\$32,016		
Total Expense	\$255,016	\$5,096	

Organization Description:

The Marine Science Institute (MSI) is a 501c3 organization founded in 1970. Our mission is to inspire environmental stewardship through hands-on learning and exploration of San Francisco Bay ecosystems. We provide NGSS-aligned curriculum and field trips for schools on the San Francisco Bay and Delta aboard our 90' research vessel, the *Robert G. Brownlee*; at our shoreside campus in Redwood City; on the Pacific coast; and in school classrooms via our Mobile Aquarium. MSI programs provide students with the opportunity to observe, touch, and discuss live animals from the Bay, Delta and/or coastal ecosystems while building fundamental knowledge in biology, physics, microbiology, and chemistry.

MSI Board of Directors and Officers:

Tuan Nguyen, Board Co-Chair ; Chief Financial Officer, Kinevant Sciences

Neeraj Pendse, Board Co-Chair; VP Head of Product Management, Elo Touch Systems

Will Cheung, Treasurer ; VP of Finance Planning & Analysis, Visa Inc.

Syed Arij, Secretary; VP of Product Management, Walgreens

Clark Morey, Member at-Large ; Senior Account Director, Adobe

Tim Davis, Member at Large; Global Escalations Team Manager, Marketo

James Roberts, Financial Consultant

Victoria Hunter, Member at Large; Digital Biomarker Director, Koneksa

Jack Spallino, Member at Large; Principal, J. Spallino & Associates Commercial Real Estate

Manvinder Singh, Member at Large; VP of Product Management, Redis

Laura Bajuk, Member at Large; Nonprofit Executive

Other Funders:

Other agencies who fund the Delta Discovery Voyage program include Contra Costa Water District, Delta Diablo, Central San, Golden State Water Co, Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation, Corteva and Marathon Petroleum.

Qualifications of Marine Science Institute:

Since 1970, **MSI has educated over 1.3 million students** through programs that build science knowledge, spark curiosity, and inspire stewardship for the local environment. MSI completed the upgrade of our school curricula to achieve alignment and implementation with NGSS in 2015. All curriculum is presented with strong conservation messages and new habits students can apply to their everyday lives to encourage their personal environmental stewardship behaviors.

Key personnel responsible for the Delta Discovery Voyage program and qualifications:

Marilou Seiff, Executive Director: Marilou has been with the Marine Science Institute since November 1996 and became Executive Director in 2003. Before MSI, Marilou worked as an Aquatic Biologist at the Pacific Environmental Laboratory, a diver at the Marineland of the Pacific, and a biologist at the California Department of Fish & Game. Marilou holds a B.S. in Biology from Stanford University, and a M.S. in Biology from the University of the Pacific.

Karen Peluso-Galaviz, Ship Program Manager: Karen directs all aspects of the ship- and canoe-based programs including hiring, training, and scheduling of all Science Instructors and Marine Educators. She started at MSI as an Instructor with the Delta Discovery Voyage program in 2003 and became MSI Ship Program Manager in 2006. Prior to MSI, Karen held educator roles with Save the Bay, Don Edwards SF Bay NWR, and the Common Murre Restoration Project. Karen has a B.S. in Biology from Murray State University in Kentucky.

Jackson Gentry, Senior Captain: Jackson captains R/V *Robert G. Brownlee*, performs vessel maintenance, trains and oversees the crew on program procedures and safety protocols. Jackson has obtained and maintains licenses or permits in US Coast Guard (USCG) Masters 100GT NC, CA Dept of Fish and Game (DFG) Scientific Collection, CA DFG Commercial Fishing, CA DFG Commercial Fishing Vessel Operator, USCG Marine Safety and Survival Drill Instructor, NorEastern Trawl Advanced Deck and Equipment Skills, and Southern CA Merchant Marine Training Master and Towing Instruction.

Inspiring respect and stewardship for the marine environment through experiential learning.

500 DISCOVERY PARKWAY • REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063-4746 • (650) 364-2760 • FAX: (650) 364-0416 • WWW.SFBAYMSI.ORG

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

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Project title:

Organization/Individual applying:

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain))

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Name and title of contact person:

One sentence summary of proposal:

Requested grant:

Proposal prepared by (name & title):

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Signature (*Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered*):



Signed on 8/1/25

Project: Moorhen Marsh and the Mt. View Sanitary District Wetlands Education Program

Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) respectfully requests financial assistance for the improvement of wildlife habitat in Moorhen Marsh and its wetlands education program serving Contra Costa County students from January 2026 to December 2026.

2) Fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County will benefit from this project through the enhancement of water circulation by increased aeration in the Moorhen Marsh ponds. Moorhen Marsh is host to the MVSD Wetlands Education Program. The students who participate in this program develop an understanding of fish and wildlife in Contra Costa County and are given tools that they can put into action in the community to help protect this wetlands habitat.



This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) by providing public education through the MVSD Wetlands Education Program and Section 13103(e) through the improvement of Moorhen Marsh's native habitat. The following describes the project:

MVSD's treated effluent flows into a series of wetlands ponds that make up Moorhen Marsh, rather than a deep-water outfall as most treated wastewater does. Moorhen Marsh is completely dependent on MVSD's advanced secondarily treated effluent for its water. Without the approximately 1.2 million gallons of effluent provided by MVSD's treatment plant every day, this historic marsh would cease to exist.

Moorhen Marsh, enhanced by the reclaimed effluent, is rich and diverse in wildlife that includes the western pond turtle, North American river otter, mink, North American beaver, and many species of birds and fish. It also assists in the treatment process by reducing nutrients as the effluent travels through the marsh before flowing into Peyton Slough and eventually out to the Carquinez Strait.

Like wetlands and water bodies throughout California, Moorhen Marsh has seen an increase in algal blooms. Algal blooms can pose a significant threat to humans, wildlife, and aquatic ecosystems. To fight this threat, MVSD and its consulting environmental specialist will increase aeration in Moorhen Marsh by installing fine bubble aeration discs with weighted specialized aeration tubing, powered by a solar generator. Increasing aeration in the ponds will optimize oxygen levels and ecosystem health by reducing and controlling algae. Installing a solar power station to support the aeration ensures a sustainable energy source.

Moorhen Marsh, a healthy and vibrant wetland environment, provides the backdrop for MVSD's Wetlands Education Program. The complimentary field trip experience serves all Contra Costa County elementary schools and allows students to explore Moorhen Marsh, dip net for aquatic animals, tour MVSD's treatment plant, and learn about water pollution prevention and aquatic animal adaptations. The treatment plant tour gives students a first-hand look at how wastewater is treated so it can be safely returned to the environment and describes how everyone can participate in keeping our creeks and waterways clean by learning what is safe to pour down the drain. While participating in the wetlands field trip hike, students look for mammal signs, learn how to find and observe birds like great blue heron and Canada goose, perform dip-netting activities for closeup inspection of a variety of fish and invertebrate species, and perform water quality testing. MVSD uses ethically sourced

animal specimens to provide students with a close examination of birds and mammals and the adaptations that help them live and thrive in a wetland environment like Moorhen Marsh.

During the program, students receive an educational booklet to record their experiences. The booklet is designed specifically for the MVSD wastewater treatment plant, Moorhen Marsh, and its wildlife. If funding is granted, the Fish and Wildlife Committee will be acknowledged for their support via these student booklets, MVSD social media platforms, the MVSD website and additional outreach communication to the community.

MVSD started this program in 1996, and an average of 1,600 students benefit from the program each school year. The community's students as well as the county's fish and wildlife benefit from the program as it increases awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the functions and values of wetland habitats and the wildlife they support.

3) Project Schedule

Date	Project Task
January-26	Purchase booklets
	Finalize field trip supplies & order
	Source animal specimens & order
February-26	Field trips resume after winter break
May-26	Finalize aeration parts/supplies & order
June-26	Education program ends
July-26	Finalize field trip supplies & order
	Aeration project installed
August-26	Education program starts
December-26	Field trips end for winter break

4) Project Budget

Project Expenses	Quantity (if applicable)	Funds Requested
Wetlands Student Booklets - branded MVSD, FWC	1,600	\$3,270
Animal Specimens (otter, beaver, mallard, muskrat)	4	\$5,341
Field trip supplies (dip nets, water quality testing, etc.)	n/a	\$850
Stainless steel LTC fine bubble aeration discs with compressors	12	\$17,328
Solar Generator & power station	1	\$25,230
Aeration supplies (tubing, cables, etc.)	n/a	\$1,750
Total		\$53,769

5) The MVSD Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Budget appropriates funds for anticipated expenditures of \$12.8 million for all District funds with total revenue projections of \$12.9 million with Fiscal Year-end June 30, 2026. The FY25-26 O&M budget projects revenues of \$11.3 million and expenditures of \$9.1 million and reflects a 3% increase in expenditure from the prior year. Sewer Service Charges and other miscellaneous charges and fees fully support operations and maintenance expenditures.

6) Mt. View Sanitary District's mission is to protect the public health and environment, in a safe and reliable manner, at a reasonable cost while providing wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services for a portion of the City of Martinez and adjacent incorporated lands. The Board of Directors consists of Gregory Pyka, President, Jared Ruddell, Vice President, Brian Danley, Julia Halsne, and Marjan Javadi.

Mt. View Sanitary District is proud to be affiliated with Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG), California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), and the California Water Environmental Association (CWEA).

7) Mt. View Sanitary District frequently consults botanists, biologists, docents, and environmental specialists in water treatment through vegetation and will continue to do so for the management of Moorhen Marsh and its related educational programs.

8) Mt. View Sanitary District's Deputy General Manager, Stacey Ambrose, and Public Outreach & Administrative Services Supervisor, Robin Mitchell, are responsible for overseeing Moorhen Marsh and the Wetlands Education Program.

9) No permits are required to implement the MVSD Wetlands Education Program or for the water circulation improvement project in Moorhen Marsh.

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Steelhead Trout Protection Research Project

Organization/Individual applying: The Watershed Project

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 1327 South 46th Street Building 155 Richmond, CA 94804

Telephone: (510) 665-3430

Fax:

E-mail: satoko@thewatershedproject.org

Name and title of contact person: Satoko Mills, Environmental Monitoring Manager

One sentence summary of proposal: Steelhead Trout Protection Research includes Fish Barrier Assessment, water temperature and connectivity, other WQ monitoring with John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU) in Wildcat Creek

Requested grant: **\$13,405**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Juliana Gonzalez, Executive Director

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Signature (*Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered*):

C Juliana Gonzalez

Signed on 7/29/25

Clear Form

Project Description: The Watershed Project (TWP) and the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU) propose to take action to protect steelhead trout in Wildcat Creek. Steelhead trout is listed as a threatened species under the federal and California Endangered Species Act. According to East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) research, steelhead trout exist in Lake Anza, and TWP’s 2025 benthic macro-invertebrate survey (BMI) found sufficient food sources for native trout to thrive below Lake Anza. We also found through our current survey with JMTU that Upper Wildcat offers suitable habitat for their spawning and rearing. But there are no trout downstream of Lake Anza in the lower reaches of Wildcat Creek.

TWP and JMTU will carry out a Fish Barrier Assessment with community science volunteers in 2026 to identify any barriers negatively affecting trout migration. Our research project will be a partnership between TWP and JMTU to cover the entire creek, with JMTU taking the lead in the upper watershed and TWP taking the lead in the lower watershed. (JMTU is also submitting a grant proposal for their work). Together, we will standardize protocols, equipment, training, and data documentation. TWP will continue to monitor the water temperature and connectivity, which are important parameters in the lower area, while JMTU will monitor the water temperature and dissolved oxygen in the upper area. TWP’s trash cleanups will physically improve the habitat.

The Watershed Project respectfully requests \$13,405 from the Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Committee to support steelhead trout protection research activities. We will use these funds towards purchasing equipment to assess fish barriers, water temperature loggers, water quality monitoring equipment, lab analysis fees, educational materials for public events, and supplies for trash cleanups. We will measure barrier structures such as culverts, bridges, crossings, weirs, dams, and passage status, and water depth and flow (velocity), to assess whether steelhead trout can pass through or not.

We will share the data we collect on the Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS), which is the state-wide inventory owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In lower Wildcat Creek, TWP has been deeply involved with the Fish Passage re-design—which could enhance our efforts with the fish barrier assessment and improve the fish passage.

The proposed activities and data collection will be a key part of TWP’s Wildcat Watershed Innovation Leadership & Development Group (WWILD) community engagement events. We’ll provide public education tools for the local community, such as a trout story book for kids, *“Kiyana and the Wildcat Creek,”* to engage them through bilingual storybook readings in English and Spanish.

Lower Wildcat Creek is often dry during the dry season, producing a lack of connectivity from the upper to lower watershed. Steelhead trout need creek connectivity in order to migrate toward the ocean from spring to summer. Using HOBO loggers, The Watershed Project (TWP) continuously monitors sites in the lower watershed to detect the presence or absence of water and measure temperature. TWP supplements this data with monthly videos of water flow and photographs of creek water levels taken by community volunteers at 10 educational water-level monitoring stations. The photographic series will provide a timelapse showing the creek’s variability.

Because steelhead trout are a threatened species and there is limited evidence that resident rainbow trout can reestablish anadromous runs once lost, it is crucial to protect the existing steelhead population in Wildcat Creek. Our research and data collection will inform future fish barrier removal projects, while our educational events and cleanups will engage the community. Thank you for considering The Watershed Project’s proposal.

Benefit to Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife: This project will identify current potential problems for steelhead trout migration and habitat. We will share our results with the state-wide interactive map, BIOS, and will help inform future fish barrier removal plans. All our research and activities will directly protect steelhead trout, which is listed as an endangered species. TWP will also share our data with the community to educate and generate a stronger voice for this iconic wildlife protection.



Requirements of Fish and Game Code: The project promotes public education relating to fish and wildlife conservation as indicated in Section 13103(a) of the Fish and Game Code. It also improves fish and wildlife habitat as indicated in Section 13103(e).

3. and 4. Project Schedule and Budget

Project	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Fish Barrier Assessment and other data collection												
Plan and Training, Assessment Activity												
HOBO logger and WQ data collection												
BMI Survey												
Data Sharing												
Submit Fish Barrier data, share HOBO data												
Upload WQ data to CEDEN, TWP website												
Cleanup												
Cleanup Events												
Report												
Report Writing												

Item	Cost
<i>Fish Barrier Assessment</i>	
Measuring tapes (100 ft, 300ft)	\$130
Flow sensors (1)	\$210
Tree Canopy Densiometer (1)	\$185
Auto Level (1)	\$930
Leveling rod (1)	\$220
<i>Lab Fees</i>	
Price to preserve and ID 1 BMI sample	\$450
<i>Water Connectivity, WQ Monitoring</i>	
Calibration standards for Wildcat Creek (pH, Conductivity, Nitrate, Turbidity)	\$900
Replace meters (HOBO loggers, parts, modules), batteries, and any maintenance items	\$3150
<i>Trash Cleanup Items</i>	
Trash bags (10; heavy duty, 55 gallon, 50 count box)	\$240
Trash pickers (20)	\$600
<i>Trash Monitoring Items</i>	
Microplastics monitoring kit (2)	\$1170
<i>Public Education Materials</i>	
Education materials for public events (posters, stationery)	\$600
Creek Cleanup Volunteer Workdays or public event snacks	\$500
Print Flyers	\$100
Educational Water-level monitoring station signages (10 sites)	\$2500
<i>Safety Items</i>	
Safety vest (3), First-Aid (5), Waders (2), Insect repellent (2), Decontamination (1)	\$320
<i>Other Items</i>	
Accounting Services and Liability Insurance x \$100/month	1,200
Total Cost	\$13,405



5. Annual budget for applying organization

The Watershed Project's organizational budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 is \$1,620,777.

6. Statement describing the applying organization, Board of Directors, and officers of the organization, and listing all affiliated organizations.

The Watershed Project began in 1987 as the education department of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, before becoming its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 1997. Based in Richmond, our mission is to inspire San Francisco Bay communities to understand, appreciate, and protect our local watersheds. TWP's goals include increasing awareness and stewardship of natural resources and building healthier habitats in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Watershed Project's Board of Directors includes Nahal Ghoghaie-Ipakchi, Senior Climate Team Leader at BluePoint Planning; Melissa Garvey, Treasurer, is the Director of Projects and Planning at the National Restaurant Association.; Maria Katticaran, an urban designer and architect passionate about creating sustainable and resilient cities; Heidi Nutters, Principal Program Manager at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and Rei Scampavia, WRA plant biologist. Our partners for the proposed work include John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU), East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), and Safe Organized Spaces (SOS).

7. Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization and participating individuals for completing the project.

The Watershed Project has won many awards for our work over the last 25 years, including the 2023 Outstanding Contra Costa Watershed Protection Award for the North Richmond Watershed Connections project, the 2021 Leadership in Sustainability Award from Sustainable Contra Costa, and the 2019 Contra Costa County Watershed Leadership Award. Since its inception, The Watershed Project has engaged over 30,000 community members in creek and wetlands restoration efforts; and fostered the work of over 40 grassroots community creek groups. Our actions have helped to educate thousands of community members about water quality issues and how to make critical behavior changes to create a healthier watershed, and help improve water quality and enhance habitat for native fish and wildlife.

Satoko Mills oversees TWP's creek and oyster monitoring programs. She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Nihon University and has experience as a water quality analyst at an environmental laboratory. Paula White, TWP's Senior Manager for Urban Watershed Stewardship, coordinates the Richmond data collection effort for the Taking out the Trash source control and waste reduction project. She serves as Contra Costa County's Coastal Cleanup Day coordinator. Roger Wachtler with JMTU leads the Wildcat Creek Habitat Study. Roger is the president of the JMTU and has been responsible for deploying and maintaining the Onset Hobo units. Peter Mangarella is responsible for report writing. He studied Civil Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University and Stanford University (PhD). Ed Culver, a fisheries biologist with the EBRPD, will assist with permitting and fish barrier assessment training.

8. List of individuals responsible for performing project and responsible for overseeing project.

Satoko Mills will coordinate the Fish Barrier Assessment and all monitoring programs, including purchasing equipment, volunteer coordination, data analysis, grant management, reporting, and partnership building. Paula White will oversee the entire program and provide supervision.

9. Statement describing the status of permit approvals necessary to perform the project (if applicable).

The Watershed Project obtained a Scientific Collection Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2024 for a Benthic Macroinvertebrate survey (expires on 03/20/2027). TWP and JMTU will obtain an extension on an existing Research Permit from EBRPD to take a fish barrier assessment.

10. Request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship or an exception for a small project under \$1,000. N/A

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Upper Wildcat Creek Habitat and Fish Passage Barrier Study

Organization/Individual applying: John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain))

Address: 2550 9th Street, Suite 104, Berkeley, CA 94710

Telephone: 510-280-5368 (TU office)

Fax:

E-mail: pmangarella44@gmail.com

Name and title of contact person: Peter Mangarella, Conservation Chair (510 289 8163)

One sentence summary of proposal: Provide equipment and supplies to measure fish habitat and conduct fish passage barrier assessment in Upper Wildcat Creek.

Requested grant \$5755

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Peter Mangarella, Conservation Chair, John Muir TU

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):

Peter Mangarella

Signed on 29 July 2025

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2026 Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund

Wildcat Creek Habitat and Fish Passage Study

Project Description

Significant work is being conducted in Wildcat Creek to reconnect the watershed so as to facilitate the restoration of resident and anadromous trout (steelhead). For example a recent project in lower Wildcat Creek included the redesign of a poorly functioning fish passage, funded by a \$1.2M grant from the Department of Water Resources. Construction is planned for 2026.

In 2024 and 2025 the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU), in collaboration with The Watershed Project and the East Bay Regional Park District, has been monitoring the suitability of Wildcat Creek to provide spawning and rearing habitat. These data have shown that upper Wildcat Creek has all the needed elements for native trout to thrive and anadromous fish to utilize for spawning and rearing, but there are no trout to be found downstream of Lake Anza. Why?

It would appear that watershed wide fragmentation of Wildcat Creek is limiting the range of native trout and preventing anadromous steelhead from accessing the habitat in the upper watershed. Moreover what work that has been done on documenting access issues is outdated. We need current fish passage barrier data that will motivate stakeholders (and grant funding agencies) in addressing this issue.

The fish passage barrier identification study is designed to cover the entire watershed. JMTU would take the lead in the upper watershed, and The Watershed Project (TWP) would take the lead on the lower watershed. (TWP is submitting a separate grant application to the Fish and Wildlife Committee for their portion of the work.)

Methods, equipment, training and data documentation would be developed jointly, consistent with guidance from the California Fish Passage Forum (<https://www.cafishpassageforum.org/>) including inputting all water quality data into the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) and Fish Passage Barrier Data into the California Passage Assessment Database (<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/pad/home>).

Stream crossings and other potential impediments to passage will be evaluated using the first-phase assessment protocols identified in Part IX of the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2003). Based on this evaluation, crossings will be assigned to Green, Gray, or Red categories as outlined in the manual. Data collected will allow for future ranking of individual sites for redesign.

Collaboration

The study will be coordinated with The Watershed Project (TWP) and East Bay Regional Park District.

Benefit to fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County

The Wildcat Creek Habitat and Fish Passage Study will provide a direct benefit to anadromous fish species in Wildcat Creek by better understanding spawning and rearing conditions in the creek, and interventions necessary to accompany fish passage improvements. The shorter-term benefit will be to

restoring the range of the upper Wildcat resident trout population and the longer-term benefit will be to restoring the historic steelhead runs.

Requirements of Fish and Game Code

The project improves fish and wildlife habitat as indicated in Section 13103(e).

Project Schedule

Task	Timeline
Fish Barrier Equipment Purchase	March/April 2026
Fish Passage Barrier Training	April 2026
Fish Passage Barrier Identification	May -December 2026
Maintain and Replace Hobo Loggers	As Needed
Collect and compile data	Semi-Annually
Input data to CEDEN & CA Fish Passage Assessment Database	Semi-Annually
Prepare and Submit Final Report	March 2027

Project Budget

item	number	unit cost	total	comments
Onset DO Sensor Caps	18	115	2070	
Onset DO Sensor Batteries	6	250	1500	factory installation
Spherical Crown Densiometer	1	125	125	measures tree canopy
Laser Level	1	800	800	
staff gauge (leveling rod 25 ft)	1	150	150	
measuring tapes (100 ft & 300 ft)	1	100	100	
subtotal			4745	
state/local taxes (10.75%)			510	
shipping (estimate)			500	
Total			\$5755	

Statement describing organization, Board of Directors, and affiliated organizations

The John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2016. The Chapter is part of Trout Unlimited National, and Trout Unlimited California. The John Muir Chapter encompasses Alameda County, Contra Costa County, and a portion of Solano County. Within this area there are about 900 members of Trout Unlimited. The principal office of Trout Unlimited is 2550 9th St., Suite 104, Berkeley CA 94710. The John Muir Chapter's Board of Directors consists of Roger Wachtler, President, Richard Unger, Treasurer, Peter Mangarella, Conservation Chair, Mary Tealdi, Steven Cochrane, Mira Radosevich, Craig Martz, and Zach Spotts. Our partners for this grant proposal include The Watershed Project, and the East Bay Regional Park District.

Statement describing qualifications of sponsoring organization and participating individuals

Roger Wachtler with Trout Unlimited, leads the Wildcat Creek Habitat Study. Roger is president of the John Muir Chapter and has been responsible for deploying and maintaining the Onset Hobo units. Other JMTU volunteers include Mary Tealdi, Mira Radosevich and Craig Martz. Roger and Mira have recently taken a CDFW class in Rapid Passage Assessment. Craig Martz is a retired CDFW Environmental Program Manager with experience in fish barrier assessment. Peter Mangarella is responsible for report writing. He studied Civil Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University and Stanford University (PhD).

Satoko Mills oversees the creek and oyster monitoring programs at The Watershed Project. She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Nihon University and worked as a water quality analyst at an environmental laboratory before joining The Watershed Project. She also has experience doing restoration projects in creeks, wetlands, and open spaces, and she is passionate about maintaining clean water and restoring native plant communities in order to enhance ecosystem resilience. She also recently completed a class in Rapid Fish Passage Assessment put on by the CDFW Passage Assessment Database staff.

Responsible individuals: Roger Wachtler, Mary Tealdi, Criag Mertz, Mira Radosevich and other TU volunteers will conduct the habitat monitoring and fish passage assessment. Satoko Mills with The Watershed Project will assist in coordination with the lower watershed work. Ed Culver, a fisheries biologist with the EBRPD is the assigned stewardship staff contact.

Permits: Trout Unlimited and The Watershed Project have a Research Permit from the East Bay Regional Park District that extends to May 18, 2026. We have received verbal approval from EBRPD that they will accept an amendment to extend our current research project to May 18, 2029 and to add fish passage barrier assessment to the scope of work.

Exception For Non-Profit Organizations That Can Demonstrate Financial Hardship: The John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited is primarily funded by a remittances from TU National based on the number of TU members in the JMTU area. That remittance is approximately \$1000 per year and must cover various chapter operational expenses. The JMTU bank account as of June 2025 was \$5500.

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Habitat Restoration and Ecological Education for Future Generations

Organization/Individual applying: Wildcat Canyon Community School

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 3800 Clark Rd, El Sobrante CA 94803

Telephone: (510) 815-9332

Fax:

E-mail: SerenaWHorn@gmail.com

Name and title of contact person: Serena Horn, WCCS Garden Coordinator

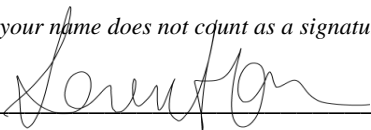
One sentence summary of proposal: The purpose of this project is to restore native wildlife habitat on the campus of Wildcat Canyon Community School, and to expand ecosystems education to the entire student body.

Requested grant: \$5,250.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Serena Horn, WCCS Garden Coordinator

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):



Signed on _____

Clear Form

Description of the Project

How does this project benefit the fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County?

The purpose of this project is to restore native wildlife habitat on the campus of Wildcat Canyon Community School (WCCS), and to educate future generations in the community about our native ecosystem. The children often bring home stories of wildlife sightings, including the deer, coyote, rabbits, hawks, heron, lizards, and a multitude of other creatures that live on the 91 acre campus, which borders the hills of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park in Contra Costa County. Preschool through 8th grade students venture into Wildcat Canyon regularly, and there is a great emphasis on outdoor education, land stewardship, and harmony with the natural world.

This project will continue the restoration of previously disturbed hillsides and allow for the creation of a new native ecosystem teaching garden. Restoration efforts will be carried out by the students and school community volunteers of WCCS, with an emphasis on educating participants on the ecological benefits of planting native plants and the impacts on wildlife. Funds from the grant would be used largely for the purchase of native plants, as well as some gopher and deer protection.



Continued Restoration of Hillsides

In 2022, the campus required removal of several stands of mature Monterey Pines that were determined to be in a state of decline due to infestation with Red Turpentine Bark Beetles. Left behind was a large area of exposed hillside and disturbed habitat, prone to erosion and invasive non-native plant species. In 2023, through generous funding from the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee, students and community volunteers worked to clear invasives like artichoke thistles, replacing them with native trees and shrubs like oaks, buckeye, elderberry, and sage. If awarded funding, the school community would be able to continue this important restoration work to help reduce erosion, improve species diversity, promote habitat, and provide shade. Given a second opportunity two years later, we will be able to choose the plants that have performed the best with the least amount of irrigation, deer, or gopher protection.



Teaching Gardens and Ecosystems Education

Ecological literacy is a valued part of WCCS curriculum. Grant funding would provide materials to expand immersive learning experiences to students throughout the grades. Students will explore the riparian forests and oak woodland habitats of adjacent Wildcat Canyon, and then have the opportunity to create their own native ecosystem teaching garden on campus. We could expand on the successes of 2023 grant funding, incorporating a project in which the whole school could participate and learn from. While planting oak trees, kindergarteners will have the opportunity to dig into the richness of soil life. First and second graders will inspect the caterpillars of the pipevine swallowtail that come to feed on newly planted California Pipevine. Fourth and fifth graders will explore the medicinal history and indigenous significance of the California bay, yarrow, and sage found in their local hills and watershed. Middle schoolers will delve deeper into ecosystem science, learning about keystone plant species and local native habitat, and use this knowledge to inform the garden design. Ultimately, these experiences will help students to cultivate a profound understanding of the delicate balance and interconnectedness sustaining all life, inspiring the next generation of ecological advocates and change-makers.

In addition to the planting that will be incorporated into the school curriculum, WCCS hosts monthly volunteer work days, during which hillside restoration will occur. Project leaders will educate school community volunteers about native plant species and their ecological implications through workshops, printed materials, and social media outlets. If granted funding, WCCS will also use these platforms to acknowledge funding for the project by the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee.

How does this project meet the requirements of Section 13103 of Fish & Game Code, letter (a) and (e)?

This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 **(a)** “Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum”...and **(e)** “Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including...planting trees and other vegetation management.”

Project Schedule

January 2026: purchase native trees and shrubs for hillside restoration

February 2026: Plant native trees and shrubs for hillside restoration, during specially designated school volunteer workshops and class times

March 2026: Finish native hillside planting

June-August 2026: K-8th curriculum development

September 2026: K-8 students take hikes into neighboring hills of Wildcat Canyon, observing and exploring local ecological communities

October - November 2026: sow native wildflower seeds (yarrow and CA poppy) on hillsides, students design native teaching garden

November-December 2026: students plant and create signage for native teaching garden

Project Budget

Item	Total Cost
Native trees and shrubs, 5 gallon, approx. 20	\$1,600
Native trees, shrubs, and perennials, 1 gallon, approx. 150	\$2,700
California native wildflower seeds	\$200
Gopher cages - 15 gallon and 5 gallon	\$400
6' x 100' welded wire fencing to protect young trees from deer	\$150
T-posts	\$150
Plant labeling materials	\$50
Total cost of project	\$5,250

Annual Budget for Applying Organization

Wildcat Canyon Community School is unique in that it follows a “pay what you can” tuition model. WCCS strives to offer schooling to all families that wish to be there, with a tiered tuition model, in which families choose the tuition tier they can afford. The primary source of income for the school is tuition, supplemented by fundraising, which totalled \$2,327,519 for the 2024-2025 school year. Expenses totalled 2,481,376; 80% of which was allocated toward payroll. The school is currently facing a deficit of \$50,000-\$100,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Statement describing the applying organization, listing the Board of Directors

Wildcat Canyon Community School is an independent, collectively governed, non-profit school that offers preschool through 8th grade. The school supports the education of 193 students, engaging both teachers and parents in cooperative community leadership to accomplish all of the school's necessary functions. WCCS aspires to provide education that promotes the joy in learning, honors the land, and values diversity and social justice. The WCCS community upholds the belief that we are all a part of this beautiful land, as well as its stewards and caretakers.

Circle of Trustees (Parents and Faculty):

Jubilee Daniels, Meaghen Liebe, Traver Riggins, Gingi Allen, Paul Smith, Alvin Lopez, Melanie Hatch, Fahad Khan, Vika Sirova, Miya Kitahara, Nick Valaris, and Allegra Guarino.

Affiliated organizations: Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training

Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization and participating individuals for completing the project

In addition to the successful completion of projects funded in 2023 by the CCFW Committee, WCCS has completed previous native planting projects, which included extensive invasive weed management, irrigation installation, native plant propagation, and native plant re-establishment. Community members with relevant expertise in native landscape design, habitat restoration, and ecological education have guided these projects. Other parent volunteers and students demonstrated an interest and commitment to native habitat restoration by personally purchasing plants and committing the time and labor to start the hillside restoration process.

**List of individuals responsible for performing project and of individuals responsible for overseeing project**

Serena Horn and Doug Streblow will oversee the project. Serena is the WCCS garden coordinator and a parent volunteer. She has a B.S. in biology and is passionate about ecosystem science and native plants of the San Francisco Bay Area. She also works as a nurse in the pediatric ICU at UCSF. Doug holds a degree in Environmental Education. He has developed and delivered hands-on environmental education programs in over 25 middle and high schools, and is also a WCCS parent volunteer.

Other individuals responsible for performing the project include:

Heather Madison - WCCS 5th grade teacher and summer camps director, B.S. in Biology, passionate about outdoor education and immersive learning in the natural environment, also a WCCS parent

Traver Riggins - WCCS garden/ecological literacy teacher, UC Master Gardener, certified in agroecological education, also a WCCS parent

David Weis - WCCS parent volunteer, local native landscape designer and installation

Request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship

If approved by the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee, in order to accomplish this project, WCCS requests that half of the funding is disbursed upon potential awarding of the grant, and half upon completion of the project.

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: The Water Guardians / Aqua Squad

Organization/Individual applying: Worth A Dam

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 1205 Castro Street

Martinez California 94553

Telephone: (925) 228-3190

Fax:

E-mail: hdshrnrkr@comcast.net

Name and title of contact person: Heidi Perryman

One sentence summary of proposal: A community based activity teaching the ways in which beaver dams help s store and improve water quality.

Requested grant: **\$895.00**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Heidi Perryman

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as "public works" under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):



Signed on 7-15-25

THE WATER GUARDIANS / AQUA SQUAD

‘The availability of [potable] water, more than any other environmental factor, will determine where we live and what we do.’ⁱ

Water is essential for all life; be it human, animal, plant or insect. Yet less than one percent of all water on earth is fresh and available for use. Given its critical importance, any animal that saves and improves that water has to be of similar value. We are just beginning now to understand how lucky we are to share our waterways with beavers who instinctively tend this resource in such a way that it benefits their own lives and others. Beaver dams improve water quality by reducing toxins and nitrogen, as well as assisting with sediment removal, nutrient cycling, erosion control and water clarity. The deeper water of beaver ponds recharges groundwater and these benefits increase as temperatures warm from climate change.ⁱⁱ

Learning about the finite nature and critical importance of water is part of how children come to understand resource scarcity and the impacts of their actions and choices on others. It prepares them for stewardship and introduces them to environmental science. Understanding the water cycle and its effect on survival is a key lesson in how the world works, and it is a mistake to tell this story without including the role of the beaver.

The Water Guardians is an activity designed to highlight the beaver’s key role in that critical cycle. It shows their stewardship of water and how their work preserves and filters it, reducing sediment and removing toxins, slowing it down in its course and pushing it underground where it becomes cooler. Compared to a stream without beavers a waterway with beavers is deeper, cooler, cleaner and slower, Children will learn this as they collect the four stickers that describe these qualities then place them on a water attributes card that features them all. Complete cards can be presented to earn a miniature vial of water with a beaver charm on a cord that they can wear, so that children can more easily remember the important connection between the two.

To begin, children will receive an empty “Water attributes card” with four unfilled spaces on it. Then they will use the map to find the four exhibits where they can earn stickers by discovering how beavers and their dams affect each quality. Participating booths will be water-focused exhibitors who present an illustration that shows beavers and their dams doing one of these. (For example, this illustration from Elizabeth Sanders at Cows and Fish an nonprofit in Alberta does a great job showing how beaver dams clean and filter water.





When the child correctly understands what quality the image is representing, he or she will be given that sticker to place on their card. Cards and signs will be distributed to sponsors on the morning of the festival by members of scout troop 429 who have participated with the festival in the past. When participants have collected all four they return to the start booth to claim their pendant necklace.

Meanwhile, artist Amy G. Hall will be simultaneously illustrating a 10 foot square in the plaza with chalk the day before and day of the festival – showing how beaver dams affect and improve water. Amy is an award-winning street and graphic artist from Napa with a special interest in beavers. She loves and is loved at the festival and has agreed to do this two-day piece without fee provided Worth A Dam pays for needed materials. This will be her eighth year chalking for the festival and we have found that her dynamic role really crystalizes the festival focus for all participants, even the adults.

After gathering stickers and earning their necklace, children will be able to finish the activity by completing a short “after quiz” that allows them to show what they have learned. Correct surveys will be raffled for prizes awarded after the festival to better incentivize participation. (We have found a beaver kit puppet makes a great and inexpensive motivator in getting kids eager to complete the after- quiz!) Parents enjoy seeing what their children learned, and it’s not uncommon for kids to correct their parents proudly during this period. Results will be analyzed along with sponsor and parent feedback to fine-tune next year’s activity.

Responsible parties:

Project oversight and planning: Heidi Perryman.

Map distribution: Cheryl Reynolds

Water Guardian Art: Amy G Hall

Signs & water stickers: Boy scout troop 429

Exhibitors: to be chosen beforehand from participating exhibits.

Post-test collection: Jon Ridler

Project Budget (itemized):

The following expense list outlines costs for the activity. Note that in-kind donated services include: sponsor consultation and participation, image and activity design and Amy G. Hall two day artwork.

Water attributes card x 100	75
90 small sticker book X 5	65



Location map festival brochure x 500	350
Attribute Graphic X 6	90
100 Mini Glass Bottles w/ Eye and cork	100
100 Beaver charms	100
100 Yards Cotton Waxed Cord	15
Chalk pastels x 7	100
	895

Eligibility for Grant Requirements:

The Water Guardians or Aqua Squad meets requirements for **13103(a)** by providing a specific curriculum of supervised learning in a unique community setting where children can learn alongside parents and siblings. By learning about the way beavers store and enhance water quality children can also learn how their own actions can conserve and protect water as well. While they are busy solving this puzzle in real time, Amy's mural will reinforce what they have learned, illustrating an answer that is unfolding 'under their feet', showing all present how beavers guard and benefit water and how all of us can help along the way.

Requesting Organization: Worth A Dam is an unincorporated association formed in 2008 to maintain the Martinez beavers in Alhambra Creek. In January 2014, it became a fiscally sponsored project of Inquiring Systems Inc.(ISI), a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation with EIN: 94-2524840. Worth A Dam education and outreach has been instrumental in teaching other cities how and why to live with beavers. The beaver festival has an annual budget of \$5000.00. In addition to holding the yearly festival and providing presentations and training on beavers throughout the year, we maintain an internationally visited website, with daily updates on beaver news and research from around the world. In 2022 we organized the first California Beaver Summit with Sonoma State University. Our members are:

Heidi Perryman - President
Jon Ridler – Treasurer
Leslie Mills: Education

Cheryl Reynolds - Vice President
FROgard Schmidt – Art
Virginia Holsworth: Volunteers

ⁱ Aysu B, Aral N, Aydoğdu F and Gürsoy F (2025) Children's attitudes towards water: a scale development study. *Front. Educ.* 10:1552082. doi: 10.3389/feduc.2025.1552082

ⁱⁱ Dewey, C., Fox, P.M., Bouskill, N.J. *et al.* Beaver dams overshadow climate extremes in controlling riparian hydrology and water quality. *Nat Commun* **13**, 6509 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-34022-0>

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

S

Project title: Marsh Creek Stewards: Education, Engagement, and Habitat Action

Organization/Individual applying: Sierra Club Delta Group of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite I Berkeley, CA 94702

Telephone: (714) 504-0838

Fax:

E-mail: psseger65@gmail.com

Name and title of contact person: Paul Seger, Chair

One sentence summary of proposal: A pilot program to expand Marsh Creek salmonid success through monthly habitat cleanups, classroom-based hatchery education, protective trail signage, and volunteer stewardship training.

Requested grant: \$13,000.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Paul Seger, Chair Sierra Club Delta Group

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as "public works" under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):

Signed on Aug 1, 2025

Clear Form

Sierra Club Delta Group – Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Proposal

Project Title:

Marsh Creek Stewards: Education, Engagement, and Habitat Action

Organization Applying:

Sierra Club Delta Group

Type:

501(c)(4) nonprofit

Contact:

Paul Seger, Chair – Sierra Club Delta Group

Email:

psseger65@gmail.com

Phone:

714-504-0838

Project Description

The Sierra Club Delta Group proposes a locally focused pilot project to improve the survival and success of native Chinook salmon in Marsh Creek, while expanding community-based stewardship and education. This combines practical habitat service work, protective signage, and local classroom-based salmonid rearing modeled on proven programs like Oregon's Eggs to Fry and California's CAEP.

Key elements include:

1. **Habitat Action & Stewardship:** We have built steady momentum through our "First Saturday Marsh Creek Cleanups," drawing consistent local participation each month. These actions have already removed over 60 tires, shopping carts, e-waste, and debris, reclaiming spawning corridors, and improving water quality for salmon.
2. **Classroom-Based Hatchery Program:** We intend to secure 5–6 aquarium kits for local junior high and high schools, providing students direct, hands-on experience raising salmon eggs and fry. Fertilized eggs and milt will be sourced with appropriate oversight.
3. **Educational & Protective Signage:** Signage along the trail will build awareness and deter violations, using durable, vandalism-resistant materials and QR codes linking to stewardship resources and reporting tools.
4. **Creek Watch Volunteer Training:** Volunteers will be trained to monitor creek conditions, recognize poaching risks, and report violations quickly.

Benefit to Fish & Wildlife

This project benefits Contra Costa fish and wildlife by:

- Improving habitat quality through consistent debris removal.

- Expanding public understanding of local salmon life cycles and anti-poaching laws.
- Strengthening deterrence and rapid response to poaching and dumping through signage and Creek Watch.
- Building long-term stewardship values in youth through classroom hatcheries and local engagement.

Relevant Fish & Game Code Sections

This project qualifies under:

- 13103(a): Public education
- 13103(d): Breeding/raising/releasing fish
- 13103(h): Predator control/anti-poaching
- 13103(m): Legal protection support

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has confirmed the project's eligibility under FGC §13103 (a), (d), and (m).

Project Schedule

Activities will begin upon funding approval in early 2026, including finalizing partnerships, distributing equipment, installing signage, and training volunteers. Classroom hatcheries, Creek Watch, and cleanups will run continuously, with full completion by January 2027.

Budget (Itemized)

- Aquarium kits for classrooms: \$7,000–\$7,500
- Trailhead signage: \$1,500–\$2,000
- Cleanup gear: \$750–\$1,000
- Youth waders/boots: \$750–\$1,000
- Educational print materials: \$500–\$750
- Stickers, T-shirts, engagement tools: \$750–\$1,000
- Interns: TBD

Estimated Total: \$11,500–\$13,000

Annual Budget (Organization)

The Sierra Club Delta Group operates under the national Sierra Club. We have no salaried staff or overhead, ensuring all funds directly support materials and stewardship. The Delta Group is a local group of the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter, and the chapter's budget is attached for reference.

Statement Describing the Applying Organization

The Sierra Club Delta Group, a local entity within the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter, is dedicated to grassroots environmental protection, education, and community stewardship in

East Contra Costa County. The group focuses on regional issues impacting the California Delta, with a strong emphasis on watershed health, youth education, and climate resilience.

Founded as part of the national Sierra Club's mission to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet, the Delta Group has been active for more than seven years and operates entirely through volunteer leadership and community collaboration. The group's efforts combine environmental advocacy with hands-on restoration and public education, building a broad base of support from residents, schools, and local partners.

The Sierra Club Delta Group is currently led by:

- Paul Seger, Chair
- Patt Young, Vice Chair
- Bruce Ohlson, Board Member
- Joe Kovalick, Treasurer
- Bud Chaddock, Salmonid & Watershed Advisor

The Delta Group's work is supported administratively and fiscally by the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter, a nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization. While the Delta Group does not employ paid staff or incur administrative overhead, it benefits from the compliance, governance, and finance infrastructure of the chapter. This structure ensures that all grant funds directly support program work in the field, including education, materials, and stewardship activities.

Affiliated organizations include:

Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter (parent chapter)

The Delta Group's proven track record in environmental education and stewardship makes it a strong and accountable applicant for the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

Statement of Qualifications

For more than seven years, the Sierra Club Delta Group has led local conservation, cleanups, and education. Project leads: Paul Seger (Chair) and Bud Chaddock (Salmonid & Watershed Advisor), with local educators and Creek Watch volunteers.

Status of Permits

No construction requiring permits is planned. Any fish rearing will comply with agency oversight.

Request for Cost Reimbursement Exception

If awarded, we request early disbursement of funds to allow timely procurement of educational materials and signage production. We understand this may require a simple contract per CDFW direction, and we are prepared to comply.

We may request an advance under the hardship exception due to our volunteer-only structure and zero overhead.

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET, SUITE 7320
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4003

DISTRICT OFFICE
420 VIRGINIA STREET, SUITE 1-C
VALLEJO, CA 94590
TEL (707) 551-2389

SENATOR.CABALDON@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

SENATOR
CHRISTOPHER CABALDON
THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE 4
CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
EDUCATION
HOUSING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE
RULES

July 24th, 2025

Contra County Fish & Wildlife Committee
c/o Contra Costa County Dept. of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553-4601

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Sierra Club Delta Group's grant application for the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. The project, Marsh Creek Stewards: Education, Engagement, and Habitat Action, offers a practical and inspiring model for combining environmental education with habitat restoration work in Contra Costa County.

The project is specifically aimed at improving the survival and success of native Chinook salmon in Marsh Creek, while expanding community-based stewardship and education. Given the continued decline of Chinook salmon in Northern California, this project represents an essential step forward.

By continuing and expanding monthly creek cleanups, the Sierra Club Delta Group is taking direct action to improve water quality and spawning habitat for Chinook salmon. Their proposed classroom hatchery program will give local students firsthand experience with salmon life cycles, fostering a deeper understanding of ecosystem balance and the importance of habitat conservation.

The Sierra Club Delta Group has a strong track record of successful grassroots conservation efforts. I strongly urge your consideration of this project for funding under the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. The Marsh Creek Stewards project represents a cost-effective and high-impact opportunity to protect native salmon, empower young people, and strengthen local stewardship in one of the Bay Area's most ecologically important waterways.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to me at (530) 750-7917.

Sincerely,

Senator Christopher Cabaldon
Senator, District 3

MAILING ADDRESS:
City Hall
150 City Park Way
Brentwood, CA 94513
Phone: 925.516.5400
Fax: 925.516.5401
www.brentwoodca.gov

CITY MANAGER
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5440
Fax: 925.516.5441

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5405
Fax: 925.516.5407

**FINANCE AND
INFORMATION SYSTEMS**
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5460
Fax: 925.516.5401

HUMAN RESOURCES
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5191
Fax: 925.516.5446

PARKS AND RECREATION
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5444
Fax: 925.516.5445

POLICE
9100 Brentwood Boulevard
Phone: 925.634.6911
24 Hr. Dispatch: 925.809.7911
Fax: 925.809.7799

**PUBLIC WORKS
Engineering Division**
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5420
Fax: 925.516.5421

Operations Division
2201 Elkins Way
Phone: 925.516.6000
Fax: 925.516.6001

July 30, 2025

Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee
c/o Maureen Martin
1025 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

**RE: Letter of Support for the Sierra Club Delta Group: Marsh Creek
Stewards Proposal**

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Brentwood, I am proud to voice our support for the Sierra Club Delta Group's Marsh Creek Stewards proposal. Marsh Creek is a vital natural asset for our community, and this initiative offers an effective way to protect and enhance it through hands-on cleanups, educational programs, and meaningful community involvement.

Brentwood is committed to fostering environmental responsibility and youth leadership. The Marsh Creek Stewards project complements our ongoing efforts to maintain safe trails, improve public access to natural spaces, and safeguard local habitats.

We applaud the Sierra Club Delta Group for their dedication to the health of Marsh Creek and encourage you to give their proposal full consideration.

Sincerely,



Darin Gale
Interim City Manager, City of Brentwood

Shannon Shaw
Mayor
District 4

Hugh Henderson
Vice Mayor
District 2

Aaron Meadows
Councilmember
District 1

George Fuller
Councilmember
District 5

Anissa Williams
Councilmember
District 3

Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee
c/o Maureen Martin
1025 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Letter of Support for Marsh Creek Stewards Proposal – Sierra Club Delta Group

Dear Members of the Fish and Wildlife Committee,

On behalf of the City of Oakley, I am pleased to offer our support for the Sierra Club Delta Group's *Marsh Creek Stewards* proposal, currently under consideration for funding through the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

The City of Oakley values the importance of community engagement, environmental stewardship, and public education — all of which are integral to this proposal. Marsh Creek is a treasured resource for our city and region, and the combination of classroom education, interpretive signage, and monthly cleanups represents a thoughtful and practical approach to building long-term care for the creek and its wildlife.

The City has worked consistently to improve trail access, promote safe and responsible public use of natural areas, and support volunteer efforts that benefit habitat quality. We view the *Marsh Creek Stewards* initiative as complementary to these goals and a welcome opportunity to deepen collaboration with local stakeholders and youth leadership in particular.

We commend the Sierra Club Delta Group for its proactive vision and ongoing stewardship of the Marsh Creek corridor. We hope the Committee will look favorably upon this grant proposal and the potential it holds to empower our residents, educate our youth, and strengthen the ecological health of this vital watershed.

Sincerely,



Shannon Shaw
Mayor
City of Oakley





BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
MARILYN M. TIERNAN
PRESIDENT

JASON SHAW
VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL SEGER
JOE KOVALICK

GENERAL MANAGER:
DANIEL MUELARTH

GENERAL COUNSEL:
WESLEY A. MILIBAND

BOARD SECRETARY:
KAIT KNIGHT

July 22, 2025

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
715 P Street,
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Letter of Support for Marsh Creek Stewards: Education, Engagement, and
Habitat Action— Sierra Club Delta Group**

Grant Administrator:

On behalf of Diablo Water District, I am pleased to offer our support for the Sierra Club Delta Group's proposal, *Marsh Creek Stewards: Education, Engagement, and Habitat Action*, submitted to the Country Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

This thoughtful, community-based initiative directly aligns with Diablo Water District's mission to protect public health and the environment. The project not only improves local fish habitat and water quality in Marsh Creek, but also strengthens our community through hands-on education and stewardship—key values reflected in our mission of sustainable water services and environmental guardianship.

The project's emphasis on youth engagement, education, and volunteer stewardship mirrors our guiding principles of innovation, transparency, and community partnership. By empowering the next generation to care for our local ecosystems, the Sierra Club Delta Group is creating lasting benefits for both wildlife and people.

We commend the Sierra Club Delta Group for their proposal as a worthy and impactful use of public conservation funds.

Sincerely,

Dan Muelrath
General Manager
Diablo Water District

Contra Costa County
Fish and Wildlife Committee
c/o Maureen Parkes
Contra Costa County Department of
Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553
Email: Maureen.Parkes@dcd.cccounty.us

Colin J Coffey
Ward 7, East Bay Regional Park District
Hercules, CA
Email: colincoffey@comcast.net

July 25, 2025

Re: Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Application Submitted by Sierra Club Delta Group

To the Committee: I am writing to express strong support of the application of the Sierra Club Delta Group of East Contra Costa and their proposal, Marsh Creek Stewards: Education, Engagement, and Habitat Action. I represent Ward 7 on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), an area that encompasses most of northern and eastern Contra Costa, from Hercules to Brentwood. In addition, I am a member of the Delta Group Chapter of the Sierra Club, and I have been active for the past several years in the effort to organize and launch the newly formed Marsh Creek Watershed Council. I also participate as a member of the Delta Protection Commission's Sacramento / San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Advisory Committee.

The proposal as summarized is a pilot program to expand Marsh Creek salmonid success through monthly habitat cleanups, classroom-based hatchery education, protective trail signage, and volunteer stewardship training. As the Committee knows, the revitalization of Marsh Creek as a more natural and resilient eco-system and habitat, with an emphasis on projects and stewardship promoting the return of salmon to this historic spawning Delta tributary, has been a priority over the last two decades. Contra Costa County, County Flood Control, Brentwood, Oakley, California State Parks, DWR, EBRPD, Friends of Marsh Creek, Native Tribes, and numerous other government and non-government organizations and funders such as the Coastal Commission and Delta Conservancy, have all contributed to ongoing efforts to restore, enhance, and protect this vital watershed.

The Sierra Club Delta Group's proposal, if supported, helps fill a gap in these efforts. Aside from the important projects that have been successful (e.g., Three Creeks, Oakley Community Park, the Fish Ladder) and occasional Coastal Clean Up day and other organized clean up efforts, there is not to my knowledge an ongoing year-round organized cleanup, community education, or community based Marsh Creek protection program. The creek and salmon protection component of the Delta Group's proposal is of particular importance. Fundamentally, the various agencies with the ability to "police" Marsh Creek, including the cities, County, and EBRPD police departments (and the EBRPD East County Trails park rangers), cannot be everywhere all the time to catch poachers. Having participated in these efforts, I know it is particularly difficult to act against poaching since it is hard to tell the difference between legal and illegal fishing taking place along the creek. If more signage and especially community education reaching everyday users of the Marsh Creek Trail could arm folks with the ability to discourage and report poaching, it would make a world of difference for the success of salmon spawning up the creek.

As an EBRPD Director representing much of the Marsh Creek Watershed, I can inform the Committee that this proposed program by the Sierra Club Delta Group aligns well with the Park District's own stewardship efforts. The Park District is a major landowner within the Watershed. The Park District conducts Delta educational programming at the Big Break Visitor Center and occasionally along the Marsh Creek Trail, and the Park District has a dedicated park ranger crew based in Oakley that maintains the Marsh Creek Trail. The Delta Group's proposed programs would be welcomed and supported by the Park District. Indeed, the Delta Group has held numerous programs at the Big Break Visitor Center, supported at times by the Big Break Naturalists and park rangers.

I want to attest to the value of the Delta Group's leadership on this proposed project. It includes highly experienced and respected local educators like Paul Seger and others who have engaged youth in environmental education. Notably, legendary local angler Bud Chaddock also leads the Group. I have come to know the members of the proposal's leadership team over the past several years and I'm confident they can bring the proposal to a successful implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sierra Club Delta Group's proposal for the Wildlife Propagation Fund 2025 grant for this exciting new Marsh Creek Watershed program.

Colin J Coffey
Ward 7, East Bay Regional Park District
Hercules, CA
Email: colincoffey@comcast.net
July 25, 2025



July 25, 2025

I write on behalf of Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed to support the grant application of the Sierra Club Delta Group to the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. The Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed is a Non-Profit group dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the Marsh Creek Watershed in Eastern Contra Costa County. Marsh Creek rises on the eastern slopes of Mount Diablo, flows through the farmlands and towns of Brentwood and Oakley and - until recently - emptied into the San Joaquin River at Big Break. In the past year, Marsh Creek became an integral part of the Dutch Slough Project with the removal of the levee separating it from the Project's Emerson Parcel portion. The creation of this new Marsh Creek estuary system expands marshland habitat for the Creek's Fall-run Chinook Salmon smolts to feed and adapt to salt water conditions. The addition of other Marsh Creek bank widening and revegetation efforts including the Three Creeks channel widening and revegetation project at the junction of Deer and Sand Creeks, lays the foundation to recreate riparian habitat along the entire length of the Marsh Creek corridor.

The Grant application complements the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed's current efforts to involve communities along the Watershed in the preservation and restoration of Marsh Creek's natural resources.

- A **monthly creek cleanup** program already drawing participation from across Oakley and Brentwood;
- **Interactive educational signage** that deters poaching and dumping while guiding the public to take protective action;
- A **classroom-based hatchery program** modeled on successful egg-to-fry education efforts;
- And a **Creek Watch volunteer training** effort to deepen local engagement and create a visible culture of stewardship.

Establishing a regular Creek Watch monitoring program and a Creek Cleanup program along with signage will support early remediation of toxic spills and illegal dumping and fish poaching along Marsh Creek. The Friends will support and collaborate with these Sierra Club programs. We plan to align our existing Creek Cleanup program, and our Oakley primary school Science Week program with Sierra Club activities.

We urge you to consider full funding of this program as it provides significant benefits to Marsh Creek and the public and wildlife along its course.

Thanks for your time and consideration,



B. Margesson

Barry Margesson

President Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed

barrymargesson@gmail.com

Dear California Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing to express my support for the **Sierra Club Delta Group** and their proposed **Egg-to-Fry pilot program**.

I have worked with members of the **Sierra Club Delta** group over many years. I have found them to be a trusted resource in my work on water when I have filled different roles:

- President of the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
- Volunteer in the San Francisco Bay Water chapter of the Sierra Club
- My profession in both industrial waste water treatment and in advocacy

The **Egg-to-Fry program** has the potential to make a real difference not just in material gains like the restoration in the Marsh Creek for salmon, but it also has the potential to make a difference in the hearts and minds of students, teachers and volunteers, allowing people to get their hands dirty and really understand the effort and resources that go into a successful restoration project. It will be an unforgettable learning experience, and develop appreciation for the natural resources heritage that we all benefit from as Californians.

The **Sierra Club Delta Group** is uniquely positioned to execute on the **Egg-to-Fry pilot program**. They bring not only experience in Municipal Water, but also pair that experience with a background in teaching. The **Sierra Club Delta group** has long worked for a sustainable regional ecology.

I wholeheartedly recommend the **Sierra Club Delta Group** for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant. They bring passion and excellence to their work and bring a strong background of success in promoting community sustainability.

Best Regards,
Mariah Lauritzen
Environmental Advocate

**Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Water Quality Monitoring in Contra Costa Watersheds

Organization/Individual applying: Earth Team

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain)
X

Address: 1301 South 46th Street, Building 155, Richmond, CA 94804

Telephone: (510) 213-4921

Fax: (844) 704-4030

E-mail: manuel@earthteam.net

Name and title of contact person: Manuel Alonso-Martinez

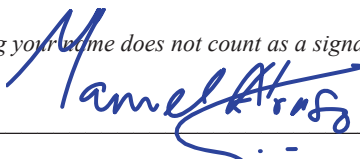
One sentence summary of proposal: To purchase water quality equipment and materials in order for Earth Team to collaborate data with all the County partners working in watershed health

Requested grant: \$5,000.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Manuel Alonso

☒ I understand that projects that qualify as “public works” under California law, such as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid in whole or in part out of public funds may trigger requirements including prevailing wage, public bidding, and contractor registration. Applicants proposing such activities will be required to demonstrate full legal compliance. (For more information go to the California Department of Industrial Relations Public Works webpage: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html>.)

Signature (Typing your name does not count as a signature. If this section is empty, your proposal will not be considered):



Signed on 7/31/25

Clear Form

2) Project Description

For many years, Earth Team’s Restoration Action program (RAP) has worked together with numerous agencies and community organizations to help protect and restore Contra Costa County watersheds. With annual internship programs running at Antioch High School, Pittsburg High School, Liberty Union, and Richmond High, we have been training and mobilizing a high-school workforce to participate in water quality data collection, analysis, restoration of native vegetation, and community outreach.

Most recently, our work has focused on sites such as the Upper San Basin, Pinole Creek, San Pablo Creek and the Three Creeks project, partnering with American Rivers and with support from the Rose Foundation, NOAA B-WET, Friends of Pinole and Marsh Creeks, CCRCD and others. Our trained paid interns work as research assistants to help restore watershed health in several sites in Contra Costa County.

However, it is surprising that Earth Team does not own yet proper water quality equipment and has had to rely on borrowing it from other organizations, resulting in timing conflicts very often and multiple complications. Given the longevity of our organization, serving to meet environmental education and protection needs (Earth Team was founded in 1984), and the amount of data we have collected in multiple projects, it will only make sense that we acquire the equipment we need to continue serving our community.

This project will benefit Contra Costa fish and wildlife by promoting scientific research, improving habitat, and educating the public. It meets Section 13103 (a) and 13103 (e) requirements. The research team will use scientific methods and instrumentation to perform WQ surveying, benthic macroinvertebrate surveying, invasive species removal, and native plant installations in several ongoing sites during 2025-26 and will be able to meet invitations to mobilize its trained youth workforce to participate in water quality events.

The problem with the high-end sonde-based systems that we have been borrowing for years is that they require expensive calibration chemicals + annual maintenance, giving them an annual cost of maintenance in the thousands of dollars. Currently, the classroom kits we use when lacking a borrowed sensor are more durable and easier to deploy. Still, they do not produce sufficient quality data to support student investigations or meet the scientific standards required for many projects to which we are invited to participate.

The proposed equipment configuration in Task 1, will support our internship model of small-group learning and fieldwork for up to 15 students per site.

Objective 1: Improve Earth Team’s scientific instrumentation infrastructure by acquiring the following equipment to monitor water quality in 2026 in several restoration sites

Task 1: Purchase the following items

- Four YSI EcoSense handheld meters for DO, pH, and conductivity (~\$500-700 each, \$2,800 total)
- Vernier Go Direct sensors for student teams (\$150-\$250 per sensor, \$1,000 total)
- Calibration solutions, backup probes, cases (\$800-\$1,000)

This equipment, materials, and supplies will support small-group learning and fieldwork for up to 15 students per site, and it would have several key advantages over our current setup.

- Improves student experience: better data quality than kits and calibration than sophisticated monitors
- Reduces staff burden: easier training and maintenance
- Fewer replacement + upkeep costs
- Program alignment: fits Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences

Task 2: 56 paid interns at several Contra Costa public high schools (Antioch, Pittsburg, Richmond, Pinole) will meet once a week for 32 weeks after school for 2-3 hours and/or weekends with project staff, restoration experts, and an aquatic biologist, to implement several field days (4-6 hrs per day) at several designated areas. Interns will collect WQ and benthic macroinvertebrate data for 3 field days, once every 3 months. Interns will conduct 3-5 habitat restoration field days in the months between data collection field days. Data collected will continue to add to the baseline established at multiple sites.

Objective 2: Inform community members and high school’s pathways and science teachers about the school’s ongoing restoration efforts with Earth Team at Upper Sand Creek Basin and the Three Creeks Project, the importance of restoring these watersheds, and the multiple benefits it brings to East Contra Costa County.

Task 3: Interns will create two informative color posters to display their work at their schools for school staff, students, and community members to observe. A tabling event will be organized during a lunch rally to show the equipment and talk with interested students.

3)Project Schedule

Activities	Time Frame	Locations
Interns from 4 Contra Costa County Public High Schools are recruited	September-25	Antioch, Pittsburg, Pinole, Richmond
WQ monitoring, habitat restoration	October-25	Marsh Creek, Pinole Creek, San Pablo Creek,
WQ Monitoring and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring data collection	December-25	Marsh Creek, Pinole Creek, San Pablo Creek,
Second WQ monitoring and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring Data Collection	April-26	Marsh Creek, Pinole Creek, San Pablo Creek,
Third WQ monitoring events	May-26	Marsh Creek, Pinole Creek, San Pablo Creek,
Data Analysis and Informative Signs	May-26	
Final Report and presentations, tabling in several campuses	May-26	Antioch City Hall and Antioch High

5) Earth Team Annual Budget (Fiscal Year 2025-26): \$580,000

6) Organization and Board of Directors

Earth Team mission is to empower teens to become lifelong environmental stewards through experiential education, skills development, and the building of strong community connections. Board members are: Mark Westwind, Paul Wicks, John Steere, Hope Fry, Caedmon Bear and Manuel Alonso.

7) Qualifications and Key Staff

Earth Team has been leading innovation in the environmental education field, providing programs to public schools in 3 counties in the SF Bay Area since 2000. It has an excellent track record of successful grants/project management, as well as an excellent reputation with the schools based on the high quality of its programs, fiscal transparency and cost efficiency. Each year we provide 150 internships to high school students in the San Francisco East Bay area with environmental science activities in the classroom and in the field. Team received the Governor’s Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) in the environmental justice category (2011

8) Responsible Individuals

Noah Slager, Earth Team, PI. Program Director, Noah graduated from Columbia University with a degree in Earth Science and Anthropology. As an undergraduate, he performed research on paleoclimate variability in the Italian Dolomites and led an outreach project which provided resources and supplies to those struggling with housing in the Morningside Heights community.

Jamie Skillen: Project Manager. She attended college at CSU Monterey Bay. There, Jamie fell in love with ocean conservation and sustainability, volunteering at the environmental education center, MEarth, and taking up a part-time job at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. After graduating with a degree in Environmental Education in 2020, Jamie joined the Aquarium’s Interpretive Programs department as a Naturalist. She delivered public programs and lead private tours all while inspiring ocean conservation to a diverse range of guests, donors, volunteers, and staff.

Manuel Alonso, Earth Team’s Executive Director, Ph.D Anthropology and Archaeology, will provide support in planning, implementation and evaluation and will coordinate project evaluation. Prior to joining Earth Team in April 2013, he worked for 20 years in executive positions with several nonprofit organizations.

9) Permits

Permits are provided by our partners the CCC Flood Control District, FOMCW, FOPCW, American Rivers, RCD.

4) Project Budget: \$5,000

	LABOR COSTS					
Line Item	Budget Item	Rate	Hrs./Units	FWC	Match	Total
	Task 1 – Planning, Research Training					
1	Earth Team PI (Program Associate)	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total Task 1			\$0	\$0	\$0
	Task 2/3 – Field Days - Data Collection/Analysis					
2	Earth Team PI (Program Associate)	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3	14 Research assistants (stipend)	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total Task 2/3			\$0	\$0	\$0
	Task 4 – Public outreach and education events					
4	Earth Team PI (Program Associate)	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5	14 Research assistants (stipend)	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total Labor Costs			\$0	\$0	\$0
	DIRECT COSTS					
	Project Supplies, Educational Materials & Services					
6	Water quality equipment and supplies	-	-	\$5,000	\$ -	\$5,000
7	Signage, public outreach flyers, posters	\$0	0	\$0	\$ -	\$0
	Total supplies			\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
	Travel					
8	Transportation to/from research site (14 interns)	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9	PI Mileage to / from research location	\$0.00	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total travel			\$0	\$0	\$0
	Contractors & Subcontractors					
10	Data contractor (webpage, video, data mapping)	\$0	8	\$0	\$ -	\$0
	TOTAL PROJECT COST			\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
A	Boise State University	school	Assessing the demography of a threatened Golden Eagle population in California	(i) scientific research *CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i)	Countywide	\$4,245.00		<p>This is a request for funds for a project that uses non-invasive genetic sampling of molted feathers to estimate survival and population size of golden eagles in the Atlatomont Pass Wind Area of California. Grant funds will be used for Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit, envelopes, razor blades, pipette tips and indirect costs.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> All lab work, including DNA extractions and genetic analyses are expected to be complete by August 2026. Lab supplies will be needed continuously throughout the duration of this time. Following completion of lab work, analyses on data collected will be conducted.</p>	
B	CA State Parks - Diablo Range District	government	Developing a Grazing Management Framework at Marsh Creek SP	(e) habitat improvement (i) scientific research *CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (e) and (i)	East County	\$25,800.00		<p>This is a request for funds to assess current grazing practices, infrastructure, and vegetation conditions to develop a conservation-oriented framework for a grazing management plan at Marsh Creek State Park. Grant funds will be used for a consultant, contract administration and project implementation.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> A start date was not provided. Estimated duration of project is one year.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
C	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	government	Tracking Western Pond Turtle Upland Traversal with GPS Loggers	(i) scientific research *CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i)	East County	\$19,196.00		<p>This is a request for funds to track Western Pond Turtle upland habitat traversal and dispersal to inform habitat management strategies. Grant funds will be used to purchase GPS trackers, trap nets, miscellaneous monitoring equipment and full chest waders.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - September 2026</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
D	Lindsay Wildlife Experience	non-profit	Wildlife Intensive Care Unit	(b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.	Countywide	\$24,390.00		<p>This is a request for funds to purchase an intensive care unit to supply regulated oxygen and heat therapy for injured and debilitated wildlife.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule::</u> The project can begin upon receipt of funding notice and be completed within 30 days of order placement.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
E	California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)	non-profit	Training a new workforce to improve riparian habitat in Contra Costa County	(a) education (e) habitat improvement	Central County	\$16,606.00		<p>This is a request for funds to train Pittsburg Civicorps crews on Arundo donax's impacts, removal techniques, and best management practices (BMPs) for controlling invasive plants, in order to build local capacity to address this invasive species within the Alhambra Creek Watershed. Grant funds will cover wages for the science program manager (oversight, field training), conservation specialist (curriculum development, partner meetings, coordinating and planning, classroom and field training delivery), grants & contracts manager (invoicing, contracting, social media), and Civicorps crews (classroom and field training for up to ten Corpsmembers and one supervisor), as well as travel mileage (one round trip to Civicorps Pittsburg for classroom training and two round trips to Martinez for field days).</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> February 2026 - December 2026</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
F	Cal State East Bay, Concord Center	school	Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center	(e) habitat improvement	Central County	\$7,456.92		<p>This is a request for funds to establish native plant hedgerows and patches to provide pollinator habitat on approximately three acres within a large meadow at the entrance to the Cal State East Bay Concord Center. Grant funds will be used to purchase native plants, colored flags, hoes, a utility cart, two root slayers, and signage.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> Project will start in early 2026. An end date was not provided.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
G	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	government	Marsh Creek Steelhead Trout Spawning and Breeding Habitat Enhancement	(e) habitat improvement	East County	\$19,622.00		<p>This is a request for funds by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, to restore Steelhead trout spawning habitat in Marsh Creek through gravel addition, volunteer engagement, redd monitoring, and fostering long-term community stewardship via education and signage. Grant funds will be used to purchase gravel, rubber boots, work gloves, 5-gallon buckets, rakes, bobcat rental, gravel delivery, streambed alteration permit, waste discharge permit, and a biological monitor contractor.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - February 2027</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
H	International Bird Rescue	non-profit	Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife	(a) public education (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife. (c) temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence. (i) scientific research * CDFW confirmed in 2023 that IBR projects are additionally eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (c) and (i)	Countywide	\$20,719.92		<p>This is a request for funds to replace obsolete and inoperable equipment and materials essential for rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife in Contra Costa, including herons, egrets, and “Birds of Conservation Concern” such as California Gull, Western Gull, Western Grebe, and Brandt’s Cormorant in the Coastal California Bird Conservation Region. Grant funds will be used to purchase the following items: Bovie MI-750 LED Surgical Light; Bovie MI-550 Exam Station Lights; Raypak 106 105,000 BTU Propane Gas Warm Water Pool Heater; Disinfectant Station; OSHA-compliant Fortress Aluminum 4-Riser Stair Systems; Brinsea TLC-50 Advance Series II ICU/Recovery Incubators; Vitamix Commercial-grade Blenders with Trian Containers; Welch Allyn Veterinary 3.5V Ophthalmoscope; and a Frigidaire 28” Freezer Refrigerator.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> This project can begin within 30 days of grant approval, and be completed within nine months.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
I	John Muir Land Trust	non-profit	Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education	(a) public education	Central County	\$14,636.00		<p>This is a request for funds to support school field trips to Pacheco Marsh, where students will engage in hands-on learning about wetland ecology, native species, and the importance of conservation. Grant funds will be used for bus transportation, binoculars, spotting scope, miscellaneous supplies, and a stewardship manager.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> Planning: Winter - Spring 2026 Programming: Spring - Summer 2026</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
J	Save Mount Diablo	non-profit	Tracking Kestrel Re-Population on Mount Diablo, Year 2	(e) habitat improvement (i) scientific research (n) other expenditures, approved by the department **CDFW confirmed in 2025 that this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Sections 13103 (e), (i) and (n).	Countywide	\$5,680.24		<p>This is a request for funds to continue the project that began in 2025 with a grant from the CCC Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to expand nest box location and data gathering for kestrels. In 2026, SMD proposes to further expand the nest box area, in three new and/or expanded sites, to support more population expansion, to further evaluate overall nest box usage and best locations for boxes, and to also evaluate for possible impacts of avian influenza. Grant funds will be used for two research interns, additional WIFI bluetooth trail cameras for Curry Canyon, Schwendel Ranch and Youngs Canyon, lithium batteries, SD cards and materials for nest boxes.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> A schedule was not provided.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
K	KIDS for the BAY	non-profit	Watershed Action Program	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	West County 66% East County 34 %	\$8,400.00		<p>This is a request for funds to support their Watershed Action Program to engage eight elementary school classes, including 200 students, their teachers and families, in under-resourced schools in Contra Costa County, in hands-on watershed education and stewardship. Grant funds will be used for field trip bus transportation.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> Funds will be used during the 2025–2026 school year and spent by May 2026.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
L	Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee The Watershed Project	non-profit	Mira Vista Field Restoration Project	(e) habitat improvement	West County	\$12,740.00		<p>This is a request for funds from the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee, in partnership with The Watershed Project, to restore Mira Vista Field, an 8-acre site in urban West County, to native serpentine grassland. Grant funds will be used for restoration tools, updated plans, and public outreach to enhance ongoing efforts and provide nature study opportunities for local students. Items to be purchased include hand tools, string trimmers, mowers, stakes, flagging, exclusion fencing, “habitat restoration area” signs, bobcat rental, refurbishing a bulletin board, installing entrance signage, website hosting, printing postcard handouts and an updated restoration guide, as well as food and beverages for a public outreach and volunteer appreciation event.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> The project would be completed within one year of grant approval.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
M	Marine Science Institute	non-profit	2026 Delta Discovery Voyage Program	(a) public education	Central County 48% East County 52%	\$5,096.00		<p>This is a request for funds to support the 2026 Delta Discovery Voyage program, which provides hands-on, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) - aligned science education to approximately 3,700 Contra Costa County 5th graders aboard MSI's research vessel. The program fosters student understanding of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta ecosystem, promotes environmental stewardship, and supports local teachers with curriculum and resources. Grant funds will be used for supplies (buckets, fish keys, vinyl posters, otter trawl net, hand nets, net plankton, and vials), vessel and vehicle fuel, and marina fees.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - May 2026</p> <p>**MSI requests that if the final approval of this grant takes place in 2026, that they may be reimbursed retroactively to allow them to purchase supplies in December, before the voyages begin in January.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
N	Mt. View Sanitary District	government	Moorhen Marsh & the MVSD Wetlands Education Program	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	Central County	\$53,769.00		<p>This is a request for funds for a water circulation improvement project in Moorhen Marsh and a wetlands educational program. Grant funds will be used for wetlands student booklets, animal specimens (otter, beaver, mallard, muskrat), field trip supplies (dip nets, water quality testing, etc.), stainless steel LTC fine bubble aeration discs with compressors, solar generator and power station, and aeration supplies (tubing, cables, etc.)</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - December 2026</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
O	The Watershed Project	non-profit	Steelhead Trout Protection Research Project	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	West County	\$13,405.00		<p>This is a request for funds from The Watershed Project (TWP). They will partner with the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU), who also submitted an application (see below) on a 2026 Fish Barrier Assessment in Wildcat Creek, identifying barriers that limit trout migration and steelhead access to lower watershed habitat. TWP will lead work in the lower watershed, monitoring water temperature and connectivity, conducting trash cleanups, and providing public education. Grant funds for this application will support barrier assessments, water quality monitoring, trash cleanup, public education, safety items, accounting services, and liability insurance.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> February 2026 - January 2027</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
P	John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited	non-profit	Upper Wildcat Creek Habitat and Fish Passage Barrier Study	(e) habitat improvement	West County	\$5,755.00		<p>This is a request for funds from the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU). They will partner with The Watershed Project (TWP), who also submitted an application (see above) on a 2026 Fish Barrier Assessment in Wildcat Creek, identifying barriers that limit trout migration and steelhead access to upper watershed habitat. JMTU will lead work in the upper watershed, conducting fish passage evaluations and monitoring water temperature and dissolved oxygen, while collaborating with TWP to standardize methods, equipment, training, and data documentation. Grant funds will support barrier assessment work and water quality monitoring in the upper watershed and will be used to purchase Onset DO Sensor Caps, Onset DO Sensor Batteries, a Spherical Crown Densiometer, a laser level, a staff gauge, and measuring tapes.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> March/April 2026 - December 2026</p> <p>**The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
Q	Wildcat Canyon Community School	school	Habitat Restoration and Ecological Education for Future Generations	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	West County	\$5,250.00		<p>This is a request for funds to continue restoring native habitat on their 91-acre campus and expand a native ecosystem teaching garden. Building on 2023 restoration work funded by a previous Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant, this project will add resilient native trees and wildflowers, protected from gophers and deer. Students from preschool to 8th grade will engage in hands-on restoration and outdoor learning. Grant funds will be used for native trees, native wildflower seeds, gopher cages, welded wire fencing, t-posts and plant labeling materials.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - December 2026</p> <p>**The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
R	Worth a Dam	non-profit	The Water Guardians/Aqua Squad	(a) public education	Central County	\$895.00		<p>This is a request for funds to support an educational activity that teaches children about the critical role beavers play in maintaining healthy waterways. Through interactive exhibits, children learn how beaver dams improve water quality, reduce erosion, and recharge groundwater. Participants collect stickers at four stations to earn a beaver-themed necklace and complete a quiz to reinforce learning. The program includes a large chalk mural illustrating beaver benefits, created by a local artist. Grant funds will be used for materials to support the activity and artist supplies which include water attributes cards, small sticker books, location map festival brochures, attribute graphics, mini glass bottles w/eye and cork, beaver charms, cotton waxed cord and chalk pastels.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> The event date is to be determined.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
S	Sierra Club Delta Group of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter	non-profit	Marsh Creek Stewards: Education, Engagement, and Habitat Action	<p>(a) public education</p> <p>(d) Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing fish</p> <p>(n) other expenditures, approved by the department *</p> <p>*CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (a), (d) and (n)</p>	East County	\$13,000.00		<p>This is a request for funds for a locally focused pilot project to improve native Chinook salmon survival and success in Marsh Creek through habitat restoration, classroom salmon-rearing programs, educational signage, and volunteer creek monitoring. Grant funds will be used for aquarium kits, signage, cleanup gear, youth waders, printed materials, engagement tools, and interns.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u></p> <p>Project will begin upon funding approval. Full completion by January 2027.</p> <p>**The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.</p> <p>This application was received approximately one hour after the deadline due to laptop issues.</p>	

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
T	Earth Team	non-profit	Water Quality Monitoring in Contra Costa Watersheds	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	East County 50% West County 50%	\$5,000.00		<p>This is a request for funds to acquire dedicated water quality monitoring equipment to support Earth Teams' ongoing high school internship programs across multiple Contra Costa County watersheds. 56 paid interns at Antioch, Pittsburg, Richmond, and Pinole high schools will conduct water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate surveys, invasive species removal, and native plant restoration at sites in 2025-26. Grant funds will be used to purchase water quality equipment and supplies including: YSI EcoSense meters, Vernier Go Direct sensors, calibration solutions, backup probes and cases.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> September 2025 - May 2026</p> <p>This application was originally received prior to the deadline. The applicant explained that formatting and PDF conversion issues caused the application to exceed the page limit, so they resubmitted a revised version the following business day to comply with requirements.</p>	
					Total	\$281,662.08			
		Total Available Funds as of August 13, 2025				\$579,995.18			
					Remainder	\$298,333.10			

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

Subtotals By Region	Requested Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Requested	Recommended Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Recommended for Approval
East	\$85,623.92	30.40%		
West	\$45,194.00	16.05%		
Central	\$95,809.00	34.02%		
Countywide	\$55,035.16	19.54%		
TOTAL	\$281,662.08	100.00%		

				Percentage of Total Amount Recommended for Approval
Subtotals by Region	Requested Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Requested	Recommended Funding Amount	
East	\$85,623.92	30.40%		
West	\$45,194.00	16.05%		
Central	\$95,809.00	34.02%		
Countywide	\$55,035.16	19.54%		
TOTAL	\$281,662.08	100.00%		
East County	Requested	Recommended		
CA State Parks - Diablo Range District	\$25,800.00			
CCRCD - Western Pond Turtles	\$19,196.00			
CCRCD - Steelhead Trout	\$19,622.00			
Kids for the Bay	\$2,856.00			
Marine Science Institute	\$2,649.92			
Sierra Club Delta Group	\$13,000.00			
Earth Team	\$2,500.00			
TOTAL	\$85,623.92			
West County	Requested	Recommended		
Kids for the Bay	\$5,544.00			
TWP - Mira Vista Field	\$12,740.00			
TWP - Steelhead Trout	\$13,405.00			
JM Chapter of Trout Unlimited	\$5,755.00			
Wildcat Canyon Community School	\$5,250.00			
Earth Team	\$2,500.00			
TOTAL	\$45,194.00			
Central County	Requested	Recommended		
Cal-IPC	\$16,606.00			
Cal State East Bay - Concord	\$7,456.92			
John Muir Land Trust	\$14,636.00			
Marine Science Institue	\$2,446.08			
Mt. View Sanitary District	\$53,769.00			
Worth a Dam	\$895.00			
TOTAL	\$95,809.00			
Countywide	Requested	Recommended		
Boise State University	\$4,245.00			
Lindsay Wildlife Experience	\$24,390.00			
International Bird Rescue	\$20,719.92			
Save Mount Diablo	\$5,680.24			
TOTAL	\$55,035.16			

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
A	Golden Gate Bird Alliance	non-profit	San Francisco Bay Osprey Camera	(a) public education	West County	\$6,444.00	\$6,444.00	<p>This is a request for funds to cover monthly web streaming and hosting costs for one year for GGAA's San Francisco Bay Osprey camera, an educational tool that connects people with ospreys and teaches them about their conservation success in the Bay Area.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> January 2025 - December 2025</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The SF Bay Osprey Camera project serves as a valuable educational resource about ospreys. Educators utilize video clips and live footage from the Osprey Camera to illustrate osprey behavior in their natural habitat and to showcase the success of conservation efforts, thereby reinforcing lessons on environmental stewardship and the impact of human actions. Full funding is recommended for one year to cover the monthly costs of webcam streaming, hosting services, and the website, including the live chat feature.</p>
B	Golden Gate Bird Alliance	non-profit	Bringing Back the Natives Events	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	Countywide	\$5,245.00	\$3,745.00	<p>This is a request for funds to support a Fall 2024 conference which will inspire and educate about native plants; the virtual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which takes place in April of 2025, and materials for twenty Contra Costa gardens on the in-person May, 2025 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Funds would be used for facility rental, Zoom fees, t-shirts, metal holders and labor.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> Bringing Back the Natives Virtual and In-person Events: April and May 2025 Conference: Fall 2024</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The Fall 2024 conference, the April 2025 virtual garden tour, and the in-person garden tour in May 2025 will improve habitat by educating Contra Costa County residents on the significance of native plants for wildlife. These events will encourage residents to transform their gardens into habitats and provide resources to help protect declining species by creating ecologically diverse gardens. Partial funding is recommended and may only be used for facility rental, Zoom fees, t-shirts, and metal holders for keystone species signs, with the 2024 Fall Conference facility rental to be reimbursed retroactively.</p>

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
C	Things that Creep	non-profit	Pocket Guide to the 30 Native Reptile Species in the San Francisco Bay Area	(a) public education	Countywide	\$16,000.00	\$7,200.00	<p>This is a request for funds to develop a pocket guide featuring each of the 30 common and uncommon native reptile species in the San Francisco Bay Area for free distribution to public elementary students, schools and public libraries in Contra Costa County. Grant funds would be used to hire a photographer, a graphic designer, and a biologist; staff salaries, and printing laminated field guides.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> January 2025 - December 2025</p> <p>The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The educational content of the pocket guide will enhance the understanding of local reptiles, including threatened or endangered species, encouraging support for conservation efforts. The guide will tackle human-wildlife interaction issues by offering information on safe and respectful ways to engage with reptiles, helping to reduce conflicts and promote coexistence. Partial funding is recommended and may only be used for printing 3,000 4-panel laminated pocket field guides.</p> <p>The Committee recommends approving Things that Creep's request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement.</p>

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
D	John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU)	non-profit	Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Habitat Monitoring Study	(e) habitat improvement	West County	\$7,030.00	\$7,030.00	<p>This is a request for funds to continue work on a previous grant awarded to JMTU. The purpose of this study is to obtain current data on the cyclical nature of Wildcat Creek hydrology and water quality throughout the watershed. JMTU would apply the study findings to better understand the habitat conditions (with respect to the spawning and rearing seasons) that native and anadromous fish would experience in this era of climate change. Funds would be used to purchase additional monitoring equipment and supplies: YSI Pro 20 DO/T Sensors, Cap and Membrane Kits, Oakton PCTS Testr30, replacement for Onset Hobo Unit (U26-001), Onset DO Sensor Caps (U26-RDOB-1), Onset DO Sensor Batteries, and waders.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> This is an ongoing project that began in the Fall of 2023. JMTU will provide a final report May 2025.</p> <p>The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (e) habitat improvement. The project will directly benefit anadromous fish species in Wildcat Creek by enhancing understanding of the spawning and rearing conditions within the creek, as well as identifying the necessary interventions to support fish passage improvements. Additionally, the creek monitoring program will train and involve citizen monitors in efforts to improve water quality in Contra Costa County, in order to provide suitable habitat for cold-water fish populations. Full funding is recommended for YSI Pro 20 DO/T Sensors, Cap and Membrane Kits, Oakton PCTS Testr30, replacement for Onset Hobo Unit (U26-001), Onset DO Sensor Caps (U26-RDOB-1), Onset DO Sensor Batteries, and waders.</p> <p>The Committee recommends approving Trout Unlimited's request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
E	Worth a Dam	non-profit	Beaver dams build neighborhoods: 'Playing with a full deck'	(a) public education	Central County	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00	<p>This is a request for funds for a children's educational activity at the 16th Annual Beaver Festival in Martinez. The project is a fun, free family activity that will allow children to learn about the different forms of life that exist in the riparian zone and how they are affected when beavers build and maintain ponds. Grant funds would be used to purchase trading cards, credit card sleeves, exhibit location maps, trading card flags, chalk pastels, and printing of signs and post tests.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> The event will be held on June 28, 2025.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. This project offers a tailored curriculum of supervised learning in a unique community environment where children can engage alongside their parents and siblings. Through collecting trading cards, children will gain insights into the diverse ecosystems of beaver ponds. As they piece together this puzzle, artwork revealed 'under their feet' will create a personal connection to the story of the watershed and its inhabitants. Full funding is recommended to purchase trading cards, credit card sleeves, exhibit location maps, trading card flags, chalk pastels, and printing of signs and post tests.</p>
F	Lindsay Wildlife Experience	non-profit	Mammal pen construction for wildlife rehabilitation	(b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.	Countywide	\$11,586.60	\$926.60	<p>This is a request for funds to expand wildlife rehabilitation capacity in compliance with CDFW regulations. Grant funds would be used to:</p> <p>1) Install a two inch drain line under the asphalt and connected to the existing sewer line approximately 45 feet, backfill and cold patch the asphalt. 2) Build aviary & screen aviary. 3) Purchase a supply shed for aviary supplies.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> The project can begin upon receipt of funding notice and be completed within 30 days of order placement.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife. However, the expenses for installing the drain and constructing the mammal pen were primarily driven by labor costs. The Committee prefers to recommend funding for materials; therefore, it recommends partial funding specifically for the purchase of a supply storage shed, which will enhance operational efficiency and ensure that necessary rehabilitation supplies are readily available.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
G	International Bird Rescue	non-profit	Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife	(a) public education (b)temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife (c) Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence.* (i) scientific research* *CDFW has previously confirmed that IBR is eligible to receive funds under FGC Sections 13103 (c) and (i)	Countywide	\$19,449.66	\$19,449.66	<p>This a request for funds to: a) address the persistent-and-now-permanent HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) crisis; and b) replace obsolete and inoperable equipment and materials that have been fully depreciated and are necessary to rehabilitate injured and orphaned Contra Costa wildlife. Grant funds would be used for a Tuff shed, pet dryers, pool filter sand 50 lb bags, and above ground pool pumps.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> The project can begin within 30 days of grant funding approval and would be completed within six months.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education, (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife, and (c) temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence, and (i) scientific research. This project will enhance the welfare of injured and orphaned aquatic birds in Contra Costa County by providing rehabilitation for them and will promote biodiversity by returning rehabilitated birds to their natural habitats. Full funding is recommended for a Tuff shed, pet dryers, pool filter sand 50 lb bags, and above ground pool pumps.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
H	The Watershed Project	non-profit	Contra Costa Water Quality Monitoring and Water Quality Apprenticeship Training Program	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	Countywide	\$11,840.00	\$10,690.00	<p>This is a request for funds for continued water quality monitoring with multiple partner groups and executing a water quality apprenticeship training program. Funds would be used toward purchasing equipment replacement parts, calibration standards, existing equipment repair fees, supplemental safety items to protect the monitoring crews, sending Benthic Macroinvertebrate and bioswale stormwater, soil, wood piece samples to a scientific lab for processing, educational materials, Water Quality Monitoring Annual event venue fee, catering, and outreach materials.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u> February 2025 - January 2026</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education and (e) habitat improvement. TWP's Water Quality Monitoring Program trains, educates, and engages community members and scientists in activities that analyze and discuss the County's water quality in order to enhance water quality to support healthy habitats for fish and wildlife. Additionally, TWP offers a youth education program through the Water Quality Apprenticeship Training Program. The Committee recommends partial funding for purchasing equipment replacement parts, calibration standards, existing equipment repair fees, supplemental safety items to protect the monitoring crews, sending Benthic Macroinvertebrate and bioswale stormwater, soil, wood piece samples to a scientific lab for processing, and educational materials; and may not be used for the Water Quality Monitoring Annual event venue fee, catering, and outreach materials as listed in TWP's grant application.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
I	SPAWNERS (San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education & Restoration Society)	non-profit	Water Quality Monitoring Equipment for Students	(a) public education	West County	\$582.00	\$582.00	<p>This is a request for funds to purchase student friendly water quality monitoring equipment to enhance SPAWNERS educational offerings with local schools at their Wilkie Creek Outdoor Classroom in Richmond. Funds are requested for water monitoring kits, refill tablets for nitrate, phosphate, DO, BOD, pH, and coliform, a plastic tote bin, and a ream of paper.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> SPAWNERS intends to complete the project within one year from the date of funding notification.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The project will provide SPAWNERS with materials to teach students in grades 4-12 about watershed ecology, the effects of human activity on watersheds, and the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation. Full funding is recommended for water monitoring kits, refill tablets for nitrate, phosphate, DO, BOD, pH, and coliform, a plastic tote bin, and a ream of paper.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
J	Marine Science Institute	non-profit	2025 Delta Discovery Voyage Program	(a) public education	Central County 48% East County 52%	\$5,096.00	\$1,463.00	<p>This is a request for funds for MSI's Delta wildlife and water education programs for 5th grade Contra Costa County students. Funding is requested for expendable supplies: buckets, fish keys, trawl nets, hand/plankton nets, vessel fuel and harbor fees.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> January 6, 2025 - December 31, 2025</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The project provides public education that is aligned with CA Common Core and NGSS for public schools, focusing on scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation by using supervised formal instruction conducted with a planned curriculum and aids to education. The Committee recommends partial funding for expendable supplies: buckets, fish keys, posters, nets, vials and slides as listed in their grant application; and may not be used for vessel fuel and harbor fees.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that if the final approval of this grant takes place in 2025, MSI may be reimbursed retroactively to allow them to purchase supplies in December, before the voyages begin in January.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
K	Save Mount Diablo	non-profit	Expanding the Kestrel Population on Mount Diablo	(e) habitat improvement (i) scientific research* (m) other expenditures, approved by the department * * CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Sections 13103 (e), (i) and (m)	Countywide	\$7,762.00	\$5,680.24	<p>This is a request for funds to purchase equipment to monitor and assist kestrel population expansion on Mount Diablo. Funds are requested for land stewardship manager payment, research intern payments, WIFI bluetooth trail cameras, lithium batteries, SD cards, and materials for nest boxes.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> This is an ongoing project that began in the Spring of 2020. A final report will be provided in July of 2025, with findings from that season's nesting populations that have been monitored, compared to previous years data. The study is planned to continue till 2030.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (e) habitat improvement, (i) scientific research, and (m) other expenditures, approved by the department. This project will contribute to kestrel population expansion on Mount Diablo. By constructing and installing 12 new kestrel nest boxes, along with the necessary cameras and equipment, SMD will significantly enhance data collection. They will analyze thousands of images captured by the cameras, with interns parsing this data to track population success, food variety, seasonal changes like the late fledging in May 2024, chick growth, nesting materials, and more. Partial funding is recommended for research intern payments, WIFI bluetooth trail cameras, lithium batteries, SD cards, and materials for nest boxes; and may not be used for land stewardship manager payment.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
L	Lindsay Wildlife Experience	non-profit	The Bear Den	(a) public education	Countywide	\$20,000.00	\$16,670.00	<p>This is a request for funds to create an intentionally designed habitat and conservation interactive exhibit around three bear specimens. Funds are requested for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- graphic design for all signage, graphics, and exhibit layout;-all exhibit signage, graphics, and exhibit title-3D interactives and displays <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> The project would begin upon receipt of funding notice and be completed by December 2025.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The Bear Den exhibit will support local and global conservation efforts by providing an engaging, interactive space that educates visitors about Grizzly, Black, and Polar Bears, and will focus on the importance of dwindling habitats, regional extinction, and the impact of climate change. Partial funding is recommended for all exhibit signage, graphics, exhibit titles, and 3D interactives and displays; and may not be used for graphic design related to signage, graphics, and exhibit layout as outlined in the grant application.</p>
					Total	\$112,065.26	\$80,910.50		
		Total Available Funds as of August 14, 2024				\$544,359.80			
					Remainder	\$432,294.54	\$463,449.30		

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Subtotals By Region	Requested Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Requested	Recommended Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Recommended for Approval
East	\$2,649.92	2.36%	\$760.76	0.94%
West	\$14,056.00	12.54%	\$14,056.00	17.37%
Central	\$3,476.08	3.10%	\$1,732.24	2.14%
Countywide	\$91,883.26	81.99%	\$64,361.50	79.55%
TOTAL	\$112,065.26	100.00%	\$80,910.50	100.00%

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
A	Lindsay Wildlife Experience	non-profit	Lindsay Wildlife Experience food storage expansion	(b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.	Countywide	\$8,217.35	\$8,217.35	<p>This is a request for funds for expansion of food storage capacity. Funds are requested for a refrigerator and freezer.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: The project would begin upon notice of grant approval. The equipment can be delivered within 30 days of order placement.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife. Full funding is recommended for the purchase of a refrigerator and freezer which are needed due to an increase in the amount of food they need to store and provide to their patients.</p>
B	Lindsay Wildlife Experience	non-profit	Creating an Interactive Bee Exhibit and Education Programs	(a) public education	Countywide	\$15,100.00	\$10,470.00	<p>This is a request for funds to upgrade the <i>HiveAlive!</i> exhibit on the museum's exhibit floor to make it more engaging and interactive, and to create associated programming. Funds are requested for graphic design for all signage, graphics, and exhibit layout; all exhibit signage, graphics, and exhibit title; honeycomb fabrication and painting walls.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: January 2024 - December 2024</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The upgrade will focus on the importance of pollinators, including honey bees and California native bees, how they support the growth of native plants, and what individuals can do to help protect their local pollinators inspiring environmental stewardship. Partial funding is recommended and may only be used for exhibit signage, graphics and exhibit title; and honeycomb fabrication as shown in the grant application project budget.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
C	John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited	non-profit	Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Habitat Monitoring Study	(e) habitat improvement	West County	\$2,823.00	\$2,823.00	<p>This is a request for funds for equipment and supplies to monitor water quality and fish habitat in Upper Wildcat Creek watershed. This study is a continuation of water quality monitoring in collaboration with The Watershed Project and East Bay Regional Park District. Funds are requested for a Hobo Waterproof Shuttle, Replacement DO sensor cap, shipping and miscellaneous supplies.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: Fall 2023 - May 2025</p> <p>The applicant requests an exception for non-profit organizations that can demonstrate financial hardship that would allow for a partial disbursement of funds after the grant is awarded. The applicant provided justification in the grant application.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (e) habitat improvement. The study will provide a direct benefit to anadromous fish species in Wildcat Creek by better understanding spawning and rearing conditions in the creek, and interventions necessary to accompany fish passage improvements. Additionally, the goal of their creek monitoring program is to train and engage citizen monitors on improving water quality in Contra Costa County in order to provide suitable habitat for cold water fish populations. Full funding is recommended for a Hobo Waterproof Shuttle, Replacement DO sensor cap, shipping and miscellaneous supplies.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
D	International Bird Rescue	non-profit	Address HPAI and Repair and Improve Rehabilitation Habitats for Contra Costa Wildlife Harmed by Human Impact - 2024	(a) public education (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife (c) temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence (i) scientific research* * CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i)	Countywide	\$21,462.28	\$5,640.00	<p>This is a request for funds to repair and replace currently unusable and obsolete facilities and materials. Funding is requested for eight Mirion Technologies Radiology Badges, repair of diving bird and pelican aviaries, supplies for the creation of additional HPAI screening and quarantine areas, and repair of rehabilitation habitats, eight 12' capture nets, and supplies for cleaning, sanitation/health, conservation of water and energy for eight pools.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: This project can begin within 30 days of grant application approval and be completed within six months.</p>	The project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education, (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife, and (c) temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence, and (i) scientific research. Partial funding is recommended and may only be used for materials for staff to create outdoor Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) screen facilities, repair and replace obsolete and unsafe rehabilitation caging areas; and eight 12' capture nets with articulated net and telescoping handles necessary for staff and specially trained volunteers to safely capture injured and oiled wildlife.
E	Marine Science Institute	non-profit	2024 Delta Discovery Voyage Program	(a) public education	Central County 48% East County 52%	\$5,167.00	\$5,167.00	<p>This is a request for funds for MSI's Delta wildlife and water education programs for 5th grade Contra Costa County students. Funding is requested for expendable supplies - buckets, fish keys, posters, otter trawl nets, hand nets, plankton nets (detailed supplies budget available upon request) and partial funding for ship fuel.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: January 2024 - December 2024</p>	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The DDV program teaches science that is unique and relevant to the region where the students live, human direct effect on the Delta ecosystem, and why it is important to protect watersheds. The Committee recommends full funding for expendable supplies - buckets, fish keys, posters, otter trawl nets, hand nets, plankton nets and partial funding for ship fuel.

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
F	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	government	eDNA Monitoring of Restored Livestock Ponds	(e) habitat improvement	Countywide	\$8,700.00	\$8,700.00	<p>This is a request for funding for eDNA sampling to survey restored livestock ponds in Contra Costa County to determine species presence to better support future livestock pond restoration efforts. Funding is requested for eDNA monitoring kits for vertebrates and invertebrates and chest waders for staff.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: January 2024 - December 2024</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (e) habitat improvement. The project will assess the success of their livestock pond improvement program and identify what species are using the ponds. CCRCD hopes to leverage the results of this project to better illustrate the importance of their livestock ponds and their restoration for the broad benefit of wildlife. Full funding is recommended for eDNA monitoring kits for vertebrates and invertebrates and chest waders for staff.</p>
G	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District and Friends of San Ramon Creek	government	2024 Arundo Removal and Replacement in San Ramon Creek Subwatershed	(e) habitat improvement	Central County	\$5,960.00	\$5,960.00	<p>This is a request for funding for Friends of San Ramon Creek to continue its Arundo removal effort to treat Arundo regrowth at several sites in 2024. Funding is requested for chipper rental, Roundup, MarkIt Dye, and two backpack sprayers.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: April 2024 - October 2024</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (e) habitat improvement. Friends of San Ramon Creek plans to complete the removal of the last patches of Arundo in the San Ramon Creek Subwatershed in 2024. The chipper is needed to reduce the canes to a compostable, non-viable biomass and it is anticipated that they will need additional herbicide and spraying equipment to keep up with managing Arundo regrowth. Full funding is recommended for chipper rental, Roundup, MarkIt Dye, and two backpack sprayers.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
H	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	government	"Ours to Conserve: Flora and Fauna in the Watershed" Signage Program	(a) public education	Countywide	\$6,392.00	\$6,392.00	<p>This is a request for funding for CCRCD to facilitate the replacement of damaged signs and introduce new, redesigned "Ours to Conserve: Flora and Fauna in the Watershed" signs across Contra Costa County watersheds in English and Spanish text. Funds are requested for aluminum sign panels, sign posts, and sign mounting hardware.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: January 2024 - December 2024</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The project will increase the public's environmental literacy by installing new, redesigned "Ours to Conserve: Flora and Fauna in the Watershed" signs across Contra Costa County watersheds in English and Spanish text. Full funding is recommended for aluminum sign panels, sign posts, and sign mounting hardware.</p>
I	East Bay Regional Park District	special district	Clayton Ranch Regional Park Pond Restoration	(e) habitat improvement	East County	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	<p>This is a request for funds for a consultant to provide permitting support and coordination for a project to restore aquatic habitat for the following special status pond dwelling species: California Red-legged Frog, California Tiger Salamander and the Western Pond Turtle at Clayton Ranch which is operated by the East Bay Regional Park District.</p> <p>Permits provided to staff and available upon request: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit #TE-817400-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">California Department of Fish and Wildlife permit #SC-2298 <p>Proposed Work Schedule: Mid-February 2024 - December 2024</p>	<p>Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the funding request was to pay a consultant and they prefer to fund material expenses.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
J	Golden Gate Bird Alliance	non-profit	San Francisco Bay Osprey Camera	(a) public education	West County	\$16,807.00	\$16,807.00	<p>This is a request for funds for a new camera (and associated costs) to monitor Ospreys and their habitats. Funds are requested for a new camera, HDOnTap technician trip cost, lift rental to access crane site and one year of annual costs of webcam streaming services through HDOnTap.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: November 2023 - July 2024</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The San Francisco Bay Osprey Camera (established in 1917) is an exceptional and popular educational tool for connecting people with Ospreys and teaching about their conservation success story. By learning about their history and witnessing their success firsthand through live footage of a nesting pair, and by connecting to them personally through the community engagement, viewers learn about the importance of conservation and how we can have a positive impact on the environment by taking action. Full funding is recommended for a new camera, HDOnTap technician trip cost, lift rental to access crane site and one year of annual costs of webcam streaming services through HDOnTap.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
K	City of Lafayette	government	Living with Wildlife in Lafayette Educational Signs	(a) public education	Central County	\$13,500.00	\$3,435.00	<p>This is a request for funds to create five portable signs to educate the public about coyotes, wild boars, gopher snakes, mountain lions and wild turkeys, plus four tri-fold handouts about living with local wildlife. Funding is requested for content development by Lindsay Wildlife Experience and graphic design work, coordination of printing of signs and handouts, and purchase of A-Frame sign holders including shipping costs.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: January 2024 - Approximately August 2024</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. Signs and handouts will have information on animals that live in the Lafayette area. Partial funding is recommended for five A-Frame signs, 50 Coroplast signs, printed 10 each of five designs, shipping and delivery for signs and frames and sales tax for signage as outlined in the additional information provided by the City of Lafayette on 11/9/23.</p>

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
L	Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden	non-profit	Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden Wildlife Habitat Signage	(a) public education	Central County	\$910.71	\$910.71	<p>This is a request for funds for signage and associated materials to use as an educational tool for visitors, volunteers, students and school staff to describe characteristics of a healthy wildlife habitat, to explain plant and pollinator ecology at the garden, and to encourage community adoption of more sustainable practices. Funds are requested for metal posts, concrete mix, strong tie metal brackets, plastic cover and printed signs.</p> <p>Proposed Work Schedule: ?</p> <p>This application was received approximately one hour after the deadline due to laptop malfunction. The applicant went to the library to complete the application and submitted it.</p> <p>The applicant requests that grant funding be disbursed prior to the beginning of the project since the requested amount is under \$1,000. The applicant provided justification in the grant application.</p>	<p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The funds will be used for signage and associated materials to use as an educational tool for visitors, volunteers, students and school staff to describe characteristics of a healthy wildlife habitat, to explain plant and pollinator ecology at the garden, and to encourage community adoption of more sustainable practices. Full funding is recommended for metal posts, concrete mix, strong tie metal brackets, plastic cover and printed signs.</p>
					Total	\$140,039.34	\$74,522.06		
		Total Available Funds as of October 9, 2023				\$571,625.00			
					Remainder	\$431,585.66	\$497,102.94		

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
			Subtotals By Region	Requested Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Requested	Recommended Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Recommended for Approval		
			East	\$37,686.84	26.91%	\$2,686.84	3.61%		
			West	\$19,630.00	14.02%	\$19,630.00	26.34%		
			Central	\$22,850.87	16.32%	\$12,785.87	17.16%		
			Countywide	\$59,871.63	42.75%	\$39,419.35	52.90%		
			TOTAL	\$140,039.34	100.00%	\$74,522.06	100.00%		