



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

AGENDA

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

3:00 PM

40 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553
Construction Conference Room

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/88999953831>

| Dial: 855-758-1310 |

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. INTRODUCTION 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 minutes for the October 15, 2025 [26-1159](#) meeting.
Attachments: [Draft Meeting Minutes: 10-15-25](#)
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. (3 minutes each speaker)
4. CONSIDER electing the Fish and Wildlife Committee 2025 Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary).

5. 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.
6. CONSIDER the following Consent items: [26-1158](#)
- a) REVIEW the letter of appreciation received from International Bird Rescue for their 2025 “Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife” project grant reimbursement.
- b) REVIEW the administratively approved request from Save Mount Diablo for their 2025 “Expanding the Kestrel Population on Mount Diablo” project to use unspent grant funds and for an extension of time to complete the project.
- c) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their 2025 “Wildcat Creek Fish Habitat and Fish Barrier Assessment Study” project.
- d) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from The Watershed Project for their 2025 “Contra Costa Water Quality Monitoring and Water Quality Apprenticeship Training Program” project.
- e) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Golden Gate Bird Alliance for their 2025 “San Francisco Bay Osprey Camera” project.
- f) REVIEW and APPROVE the request from Earth Team regarding their 2026 “Water Quality Monitoring in Contra Costa Watersheds” project for a modification to the usage of approved grant funds; and RECOMMEND APPROVAL to the Board of Supervisors for an early disbursement of funds for half the amount of the award due to financial hardship.
- g) REVIEW and RECOMMEND APPROVAL to the Board of Supervisors the request from Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee/The Watershed Project regarding their 2026 “Mira Vista Field Restoration Project” for an early disbursement of funds for half the amount of the award due to financial hardship.
- Attachments:** [International Bird Rescue - Letter of Appreciation](#)
[Save Mount Diablo - Request](#)
[John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited - Final Report](#)
[Golden Gate Bird Alliance - Final Report](#)
[Earth Team - Request](#)
[Mira Vista - Request](#)
7. DISCUSS the Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund and receive general updates from local enforcement agencies responsible for California Fish and Game law enforcement.
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8. UPDATE on the activities of the Contra Costa County Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee (IPM) (Wade Finlinson, Contra Costa Health). [26-1156](#)
Attachments: [County IPM Policy](#)
[Ground Squirrel Decision Document](#)
9. RECOMMEND the appointment of a Fish and Wildlife Committee representative to serve on the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee. [26-1157](#)
Attachments: [IPMAC Roster](#)
10. PREVIEW interactive grant database for the Fish and Wildlife Committee webpage.
11. DETERMINE the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is May 20, 2026. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:
- 2027 Grant RFP Review
 - 2027 Grant Application Review
 - 2026 Fall Forum planning
 - Draft 2026 Work Plan and Annual Report
 - Informational brochure on invasive species
 - Field Trip
12. 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 #: 26-1159

Agenda Date: 3/18/2026

Agenda #: 2.

Advisory Board: Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the minutes for the October 15, 2025 meeting.

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

Recommendation:

REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the minutes for the October 15, 2025 meeting.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

3:00 PM

40 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553
Construction Conference Room

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccounty-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

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Nicole Balbas, Courtney Coon, Tim Fares, Susan Heckly, Kathleen Jennings, Brett Morris, Danny Pellegrini and Jamin Pursell attended the meeting. Roni Gehlke provided advance notice that she would not be able to attend the meeting. Olivia Ortega was absent. Pam Arifian (Napa County, Conservation Division), Phil Kohlmetz (International Bird Rescue), Satoko Mills (The Watershed Project) and Jeffry Tibbetts attended the meeting. Maureen Parkes (CCC Department of Conservation and Development) attended as staff.

2. REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the minutes for the September 17, 2025 meeting.

[TMP-13354](#)

Attachments: [9-17-25 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)

The minutes were approved with a correction to reflect \$8,400 as the amount recommended for funding the KIDS for the BAY grant request. (Vote: 8-0)
Balbas, Coon, Fares, Heckly, Jennings, Morris, Pellegrini and Pursell; Absent: Gehlke and Ortega

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.

Maureen Parkes provided the following updates to the Committee:

- Roni Gehlke provided advance notice that she would not be able to attend the meeting today.
- Pamela Arifian, one of the staff representatives for the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission, will be attending the meeting today to join the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund discussion.
- A new intern will be developing a webpage for the Fish and Wildlife Committee to display grant awards.
- The Court reports displaying fine data should be available early 2026.

Correspondence forwarded to Committee members:

- Email from Assemblywoman Lori D. Wilson, District 11, recognizing Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Week.
- Emails from Supervisor Candace Andersen regarding California Coastal Clean Up Day.
- Emails from Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston regarding a Walk & Talk at the Bay Point Regional Shoreline with East Bay Regional Park District naturalists, Contra Costa Urban Limit Line public review now open, and Contra Costa Shoreline Leadership Academy.
- Emails from Supervisor Diane Burgis regarding Trashure Hunting on Coastal Clean Up Day hosted by The Watershed Project, Autumn Open House Weekend at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, information regarding Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District, and Contra Costa Shoreline Leadership Academy.
- Emails from Olivia Ortega regarding the Pittsburg Marina Coastal Clean-up Day.

- Email from Heidi Perryman regarding beaver reintroduction.
- Email from Kathy Kramer thanking the Committee for the invitation to the Fall Forum.

Newsletters and Announcements forwarded to Committee members

- Greenbelt Alliance - 2
- California Fish and Game Commission - 6
- Kids for the Bay - 4
- Save Mount Diablo - 3
- California Department of Water Resources - 4
- Contra Costa County Sustainability Team - 1
- Golden Gate Bird Alliance - 1

5. CONSIDER the following Consent items:

[TMP-13337](#)

- a) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Contra Costa Resource Conservation District for their 2024 "Ours to Conserve: Flora and Fauna in the Watershed Signage Program" project.
- b) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from International Bird Rescue for their 2025 "Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife" project.
- c) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour for their 2025 Bringing Back the Natives Events project.
- d) REVIEW and APPROVE the request from Things that Creep to modify the usage of approved grant funds and for an extension of time to complete their 2025 "Pocket Guide to the 30 Native Reptile Species in the San Francisco Bay Area" project.

Attachments:

[Contra Costa Resource Conservation District - Final Report](#)
[International Bird Rescue - Final Report](#)
[Bringing Back the Natives - Final Report](#)
[Things that Creep - Request for Modification and Extension of Tim](#)

The Committee reviewed and accepted Items 5a, 5b and 5c; and reviewed and approved Item 5d. (Vote: 8-0) Balbas, Coon, Fares, Jennings, Heckly, Morris, Pellegrini and Pursell; Absent: Gehlke and Ortega

6. DISCUSS outcome of the September 25, 2025 Fall Forum and consider plans and potential speakers for next year.

The Committee discussed the outcome of Fall Forum, highlighting the engaging speaker,

attendance, venue, and food prepared by Danny Pellegrini and his crew. Approximately 120 people attended. The Committee discussed outreach and participation and tentatively identified September 24, 2026 as the date for the 2026 Fall Forum.

7. DISCUSS the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

The Committee discussed the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. Staff provided historical information on annual revenues from fines. Committee member Tim Fares presented spreadsheets summarizing recent fund distributions. Pam Arifian from the Napa County Conservation Department joined the discussion and shared details about their Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant program.

The Committee continued the discussion to the March 18, 2026 meeting and requested that staff contact representatives involved in the enforcement of Fish and Game laws to attend a future meeting to discuss related matters.

8. REVIEW and consider APPROVING the draft 2025 Work Plan and Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors. [TMP-13355](#)

Attachments: [2025 Draft Work Plan and Annual Report](#)

The Committee reviewed the draft 2025 Work Plan and Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors. Staff explained that a previous version had been provided and will update the correct version to incorporate the Committee's revisions.

9. DETERMINE the Fish and Wildlife Committee 2026 meeting schedule.

The 2026 FWC meetings will be held on March 18, May 20, August 19, September 16, September 24 (Fall Forum) and November 18.

10. DETERMINE the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is to be determined. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:

- 2027 grant application review
- 2026 Fall Forum planning
- Informational brochure on invasive species
- Draft 2026 Work Plan and Annual Report
- Delta Conveyance Project update
- Field Trip

11. Adjourn



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 26-1158

Agenda Date: 3/18/2026

Agenda #: 6.

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: Consent Items

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

Recommendations:

CONSIDER the following Consent items:

- a) REVIEW the letter of appreciation received from International Bird Rescue for their 2025 “Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife” project grant reimbursement.
- b) REVIEW the administratively approved request from Save Mount Diablo for their 2025 “Expanding the Kestrel Population on Mount Diablo” project to use unspent grant funds and for an extension of time to complete the project.
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January 23, 2025

Maureen Parkes
Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee
30 Muir Rd
Martinez, CA 94553-4601

Dear Maureen,

Thanks to you and the entire Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee for your grant payment to International Bird Rescue in the amount of \$19,449.66 made on 1/12/2026 to support the Northern California Wildlife Program. Through your partnership, we have been able to address the challenging bird flu crisis with a new quarantine shed, and purchase much-needed new equipment and materials necessary to rehabilitate injured and orphaned Contra Costa wildlife.

Each season, nature begins anew—and thanks to donors like you, thousands of waterbirds get a fresh start, too. From tiny hatchlings to injured adult birds, patients arrive at Bird Rescue’s clinics every day—orphans, victims of contamination, or birds in distress. With your support, our team provides the expert, compassionate care they need to grow, heal, and return to the wild. You also power essential behind-the-scenes work: research, rapid emergency response, conservation, and public education.

This season especially, your generosity makes all the difference. Every action we take at Bird Rescue is an act of hope—for wild birds, for a thriving planet, and for a future we can build together.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, team and volunteers, I thank you so much for your support!

Best regards,

JD Bergeron
Chief Executive Officer

THANK YOU TO THE ENTIRE
COMMITTEE!

International Bird Rescue is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with the Tax ID 94-1739027. No goods or services were exchanged for your donation.

**SF BAY-DELTA
WILDLIFE CENTER**

4369 Cordelia Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
P 707.207.0380
E sfbird@birdrescue.org

**LOS ANGELES
WILDLIFE CENTER**

3601 S Gaffey Street Box 3
San Pedro, CA 90731
P 310.514.2573
E labird@birdrescue.org

**ALASKA WILDLIFE
RESPONSE CENTER**

651 E 100th Avenue #C
Anchorage, AK 99515
P 907.562.1326
E alaska@birdrescue.org

BIRD HELPLINE

P 401.285.0895

SPILL EMERGENCY LINE

P 888.447.1743

BIRDRESCUE.ORG



December 23, 2025

12/29/25

Administratively approved by Abby Fateman.

Attn: Ms. Maureen Parkes
Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Ms. Parkes:

Save Mount Diablo would like to express its appreciation for the grant support recommended by the Committee, and approved by the Board of Supervisors, to support our efforts to Expand and Track Kestrel Re-Population on Mount Diablo.

We would also like to respectfully request a 6-month extension of time to use the unspent funds remaining in the grant award that was approved by the Board of Supervisors' action on December 3, 2024.

During the kestrel study's first year, the pace of implementation was slower than expected and a portion of the funds generously awarded to Save Mount Diablo remain unspent.

If permitted, the unspent funds would be used to cover items listed in the original grant application, which included research intern payments, WIFI bluetooth trail cameras, lithium batteries, SD cards, and materials for nest boxes.

Save Mount Diablo's study of the kestrel population is ongoing and an extension of time to use unspent funds from the study's first year will contribute directly to productivity in the study's second year.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr.
Executive Director

2025 Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Propagation Grant 25-3401

Final Report from the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Wildcat Creek Fish Habitat And Fish Barrier Assessment Study

Trout Unlimited is conducting a multi-year project on Upper Wildcat Creek, in collaboration with The Watershed Project, and under the supervision of the East Bay Regional Park District. The original Research Proposal was accepted by the EBRPD, and a Research Permit was approved for a 3 year period May 18, 2023 to May 18, 2026. The project focus initially was on fish habitat suitability with an emphasis on water quality, but that evolved over time to include restoration work and public involvement.

As TU and TWP conducted this work it became apparent that a limiting condition affecting cold water fish populations in Upper Wildcat was fish mobility and access to high quality habitat, so we requested from EBRPD a research permit extension to include fish passage barrier assessment. EBRPD extended the TU research permit to Nov. 30, 2027.

Background

The rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is an iconic and charismatic native fish species found in Northern California's coastal areas, making it a compelling tool for public engagement and environmental education. Resident rainbow trout are not state or federally protected but maintaining and enhancing their populations are natural resource management priorities because of the species' current limited distribution and their important ecological functions. In addition, resident populations are adapted to local conditions and may provide the gene pool for re-establishing populations in other local streams as they are restored.

The EBRPD Fisheries Management Unit conducts annual fisheries surveys using electroshocking to document and track population trends and utilizes that data to assist in evaluating species health and to develop management and restoration strategies (**Figure 1**).

Goals and Objectives

Given this background, the goal of the 2025 study was to characterize the habitat discussed above, and to add a fish barrier assessment component to the study.

The objectives of the project are:

- Build on the monitoring work conducted by The Watershed Project in lower Wildcat Creek to create a whole-watershed water quality baseline, and create a sustainable monitoring program to identify trends that will help guide future restoration efforts.
- Characterize the water quality and habitat conditions in the upper watershed where there is a resident population of rainbow trout, and where trout can spawn and rear, and also for the potential population of steelhead trout that is envisioned as fish passage barriers in the watershed are mitigated.
- Identify habitat needs that are not currently served, especially in light of climate change, and plan climate resilient restoration of habitat (riparian vegetation, woody debris, refugia pools, etc) needed to sustain and grow the native trout population.
- Identify opportunities for expanding habitat through fish passage barrier restoration.

Collaboration

The study is a collaborative effort with the East Bay Regional Park District and The Watershed Project (TWP) which has conducted water quality monitoring at 4 stations in the lower portion of the watershed between Verde School and Alvarado Park. Trout Unlimited and TWP applied for and received approval of a research proposal from the EBRPD that extends from May 2023 to Nov. 30 2027. Staff from The Watershed Project provide training to TU volunteers and expertise in data quality and management.

Sampling Plan

Sampling is being conducted at 6 stations, with 4 stations in Tilden Park and 2 stations in Wildcat Canyon (**Figure 2**). The stations in Tilden Park are located between Lake Anza and the EBRPD Environmental Center, and are typically in a low gradient environment with stable substrate of gravel and rocks. In general there is a healthy riparian corridor. There is a trail adjacent to the stream that is popular with visitors, some of which have dogs which are encouraged to stay out of the stream. By contrast

the two stations in Wildcat Canyon are more remote, and the reach is steep and subject to significant sediment transport and streambed alteration.

Two types of monitoring equipment are employed: spot measurements using portable instruments and continuous measurements using instruments placed in the stream. Monthly measurements of dissolved oxygen and temperature are taken at each station with a YSI PROi 20 DO/T meter, and pH, conductivity, total dissolved solids and salinity are obtained with an Oaktan PCTS Testr30 unit. Quasi continuous (2 hour interval) dissolved oxygen and temperature is obtained using Onset Hobo Unit U26-001 sensor and dataloggers that are fixed to the stream bottom with rebar.

In addition to the water quality data, the following data are obtained primarily through visual means:

- weather observations
- hydrology (water depth, velocity and flow)
- observations of algae and other aquatic plants
- macro-invertebrate species
- streambed materials (mud, sand, gravel, etc)

The fish passage assessment element is being conducted in conformance with California Fish Passage Forum Guidance on rapid assessment methods. <https://www.cafishpassageforum.org/methods-protocols-guidelines/> Members of the TU and TWP monitoring team have been trained by CDFW staff on this guidance.

Data Management and Reporting

All monthly data is submitted into the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) program and the online water quality database maintained by The Watershed Project (<https://thewatershedproject.org/our-programs/healthy-watersheds/>). The Watershed Project Data Base contains the monthly data for all stations. Selected DO and temperature data obtained from the Hobo Units can also be found in The Watershed Project website.

Fish Passage Assessment data are being conveyed to the CDFW Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS), and ultimately will be input to the California Fish Passage Assessment Database. <https://www.calfish.org/ProgramsData/HabitatandBarriers/CaliforniaFishPassageAssessmentDatabase.aspx>

Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance/quality control measures are those activities undertaken to demonstrate the accuracy (how close to the real result the data are) and precision (how reproducible the results are) of the monitoring. The Watershed Project assisted in this aspect of the project through: 1) training of TU monitoring staff in the field, 2) training to fill out data forms, and 3) training on calibration before and after each monthly sampling event according to manufacturer's' instructions. All monthly monitoring data were reviewed, approved, or conditioned by staff at The Watershed Project. In general these procedures followed the California Water Resources Control Board's "Clean Water Team Guidance Compendium for Watershed Monitoring and Assessment" https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/clean_water_team_guidance.html#70

Quality assurance was also addressed through routine inspections of the Hobo units installed in the streams. Problems associated with siltation of the units and algal growth on the sensors was addressed through monthly inspections. Also batteries and sensor caps were replaced as needed.

Community Outreach

The monitoring is being conducted in a popular recreation area, and it is natural that hikers are interested in what the monitoring staff is doing. To capitalize on this, Trout Unlimited created a poster describing the work, and displayed the poster in a prominent location near the sampling stations (**Figure 3**). The poster also showed how people could obtain additional information and volunteer if interested. Trout Unlimited also cooperated with the EBRPD in conducting monitoring site visits and presentations to the EBRPD Junior Rangers, Boy Scouts and other interest groups.

Example of Water Quality Data

Monthly Data

Monthly data were collected in digital form and input into The Watershed Project online data base. An example of temperature and Dissolved Oxygen from September 2023 through July 2025 as measured at the Brooks Station is shown in **Figure 4**. The DO figure shows the 5 mg/L minimum limit for trout. Water can contain more dissolved oxygen as the temperature of the water decreases. So there is an inverse relationship

between the two. When the water is colder, the dissolved oxygen is higher, when the water is warmer the dissolved oxygen is lower. So the critical condition of high temperature and low DO occurs in the late summer and early fall when the weather is hotter and streamflows are low. These data indicate that temperature and DO conditions at this station meet the requirements for a sustainable population of rainbow trout.

Continuous Data

Figure 5 shows continuous measurements of Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature collected in Tilden Park at the Nook Station from October 15, 2023 through November 10, 2025. The graph shows Dissolved Oxygen (in blue) with the scale mg/L on the left, and temperature (in red) with the scale in degrees Centigrade on the right. The band in temperature and DO represents the daily range in these conditions.

Trout prefer cold and highly oxygenated water. As a general rule, trout prefer water with dissolved oxygen over 5 mg/L and water temperature below about 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 degrees Centigrade). Conditions become more critical during the dry season when flows are lower, and temperatures are higher. During such conditions trout seek out “hold over pools” where water is deeper and ideally shaded by vegetation. In general the data indicate that DO and temperature during the dry season at this station were suitable for trout.

The figures occasionally show a sharp drop in dissolved oxygen, which tend to occur during warm periods. This may be indicative of periods of algal growth which could accumulate around the sensor, which results in inaccurate DO measurements.

Findings Regarding Habitat in Upper Wildcat Creek

Based on the first 2 years of monitoring, the following are the initial preliminary findings regarding the overall conditions in Upper Wildcat Creek with regard to cold water habitat.

- Water Quality at all stations were generally suitable for cold water fish in that Dissolved Oxygen was generally above 5 mg/L and temperature was less than 15 deg C (60 deg F) during the hottest and driest portions of 2024 and 2025.
- Observations of macro-invertebrates on rocks are indicative of good water quality.
- There are good reaches of cobble/gravel at many stations, though some stations were depositional and covered in silt. The stations in Wildcat Canyon are steeper and

tend to have higher flows and more sediment transport which could adversely affect spawning and rearing habitat.

- Riparian coverage is very important in maintaining cooler temperatures. This observation led to a project to restore the riparian habitat at the Waterfall Pool Station pool.
- Algae was identified in some of the Tilden stations, driven by high temperature and nutrients.

Fish Observations

Fish observations conducted by EBRPD staff fish biologists in 2025 electroshocked rainbow trout at sampling stations in Tilden Park including the Waterfall Pool Station (**Figure 6**) and the station just below Brooks Road crossing. This was the first year in six years that the electroshocking found rainbow trout.

Fish Barrier Assessment

The fish barrier assessment work began in the fall of 2025 with data collected at the Brooks Station barrier (**Figure 7.**) The data have been submitted to the CDFW Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) as an initial effort at collaborating with this program. Ultimately it is anticipated that the data will be entered into the California Fish Passage Database.

The next area to be investigated will be the Havey Creek watershed which flows into Wildcat Creek at the Rifle Range Monitoring Station through an elevated culvert. Initial water quality data and flow observations indicate that this tributary has potential for providing good spawning and rearing habitat.

Restoration

The ultimate purpose of monitoring is to identify limiting factors that restrict fish populations and to restore the ecological system such that fish can thrive. Just such an opportunity occurred at the Waterfall Pool station where water temperatures were elevated, in part because of a lack of sufficient riparian vegetation and shade. This observation led to a cooperative restoration project conducted by the EBRPD and Trout Unlimited, that led to planting riparian vegetation around the periphery of the Waterfall Pool Station and the installation of additional fencing to prevent dogs from entering the pool. **Figure 8** shows volunteers from Trout Unlimited and EBRPD planting

vegetation including willows and plants that attract pollinators that can potentially add to the aquatic food chain.

Summary

This report summarizes activities and findings from a project being conducted jointly by the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited and The Watershed Project under a research agreement with the East Bay Regional Park District. The project was initiated in May 2023 and under the current agreement, will extend to November 2027. The focus of the work in 2024 and 2025 was on monitoring fish habitat in Upper Wildcat Creek, and that focus has now been expanded to include fish barrier assessment. The ultimate goal of this work is to improve fish habitat through restoration, including restoring access to high quality habitat by removing fish barriers. The project also is designed to educate and encourage participation of the public who recreate in Tilden Park and Wildcat Canyon.



photo credit: Peter Mangarella

Figure 1 Fish Sampling in Wildcat Creek Conducted by EBRPD Fisheries Biology Staff



graphic credit: Satoko Mills, The Watershed Project

Figure 2 Sampling Stations in Upper Wildcat Creek

S T U D Y I N P R O G R E S S



JOHN MUIR



TROUT UNLIMITED

the watershed project



The purpose of this study is to obtain data on the cyclical nature of Wildcat Creek hydrology and water quality throughout the watershed. We 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 global warming and drought.

Significant work is being conducted in Wildcat Creek to reconnect the watershed so as to facilitate steelhead and salmon passage between San Francisco Bay and the headwaters of Wildcat Creek in Tilden Park. For these efforts to be successful, there must be suitable spawning and rearing habitat in Wildcat Creek.

The study is a collaborative effort with the East Bay Regional Park District and The Watershed Project (TWP) which has conducted water quality monitoring at 4 stations in the lower portion of the watershed between Verde School and Alvarado Park. Trout Unlimited and TWP has applied for and received approval of a research proposal from the EBRPD that extends from May 2023 to May 2026. Staff from The Watershed Project are providing training to TU volunteers along with expertise in data management. Monitoring commenced in September 2023.

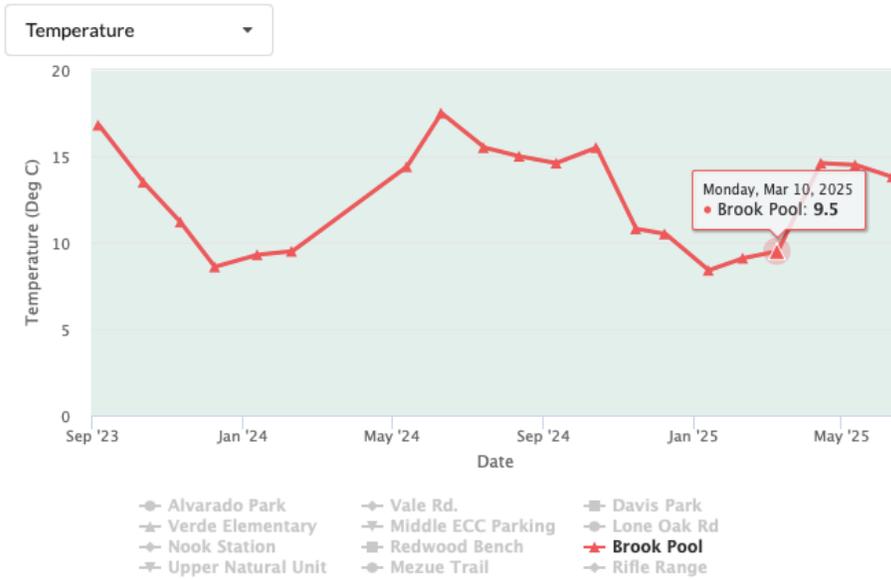


HELP US! STAY OUT OF THE WATER HERE

graphic credit: Roger Wachtler

Figure 3 Poster Placed Near Each Station Explaining Project and How to Obtain Additional Information, Including Volunteering

Select Water Quality Feature



Click and drag on the chart to zoom in

▶ more details

Plots

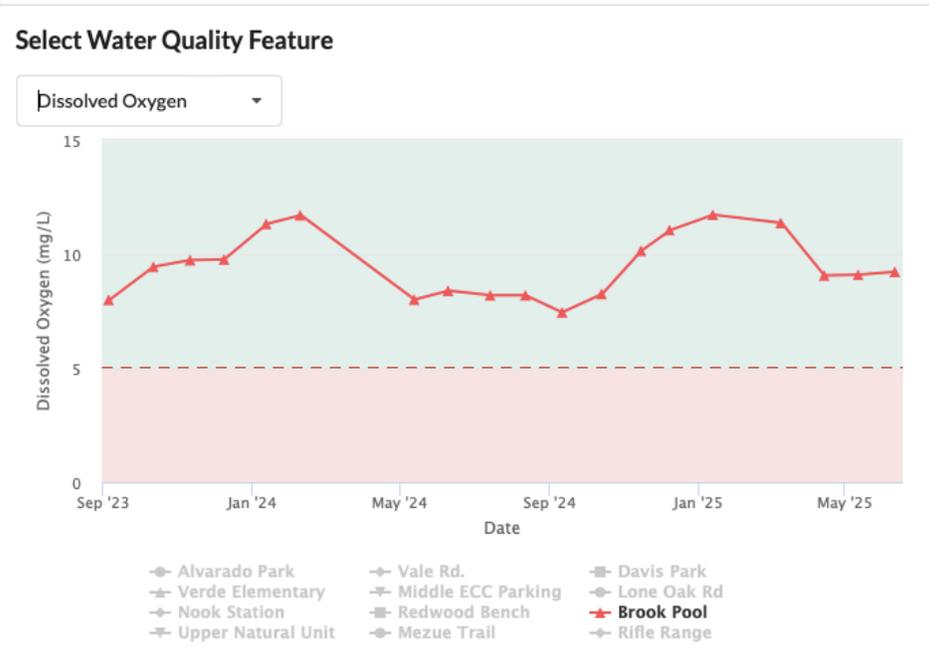


Figure 4 Monthly Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen at Brooks Station.

Temperature vs. DO at Nook Station at Wildcat Creek

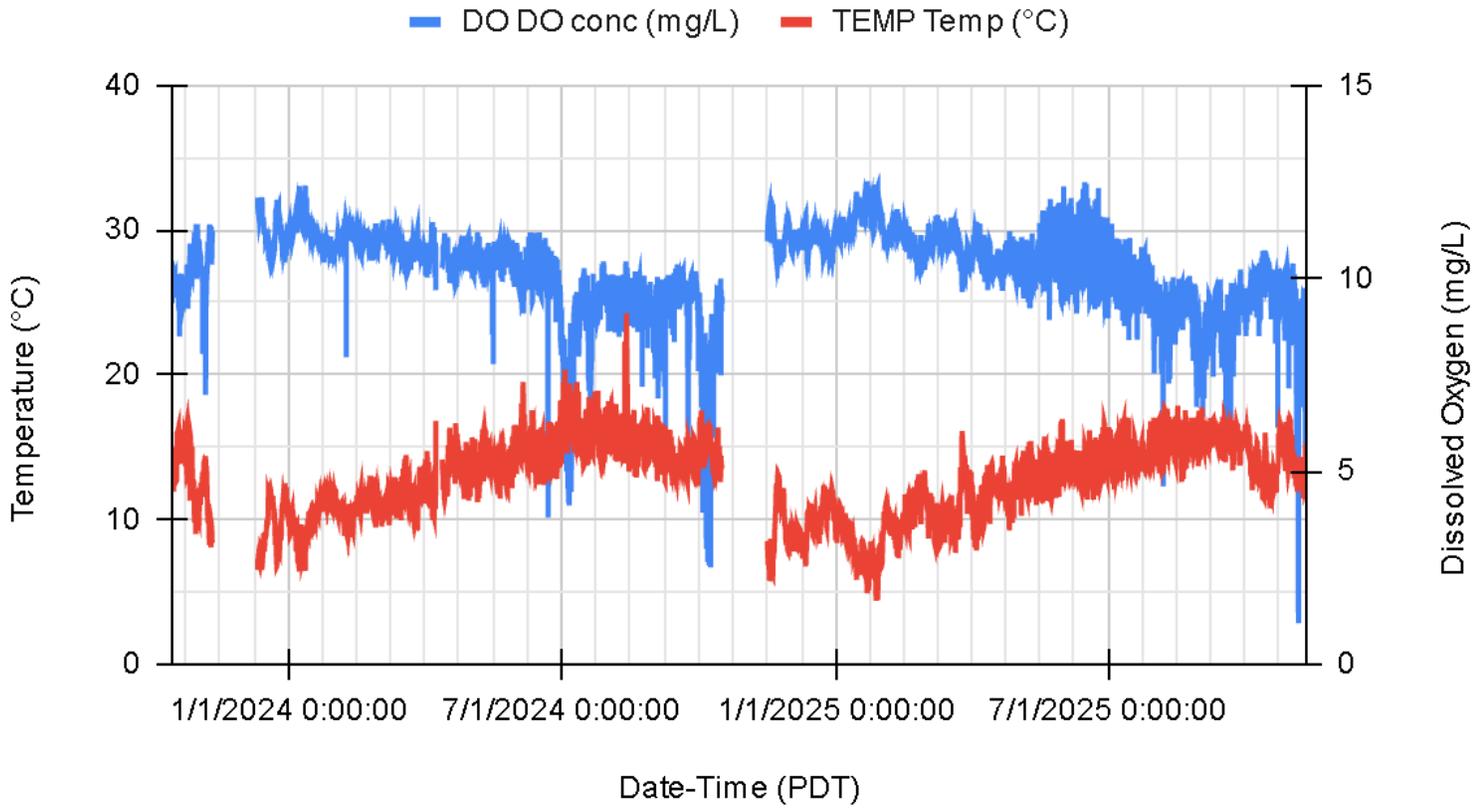


Figure 5 Continuous Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Measured at Nook Station from October 15, 2023 to November 10, 2025. The gap in data corresponds to periods when the Hobo units are removed from the stream for maintenance.

credit: Satoko Mills The Watershed Project



photo credit: Satoko Mills The Watershed Project

Figure 6 Rainbow Trout Sampled by EBRPD during 2025 Annual Fish Survey at Waterfall Pool Station, Tilden Park.



photo credit: Roger Wachtler John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Figure 7 Brooks Road Crossing Fish Barrier in EBRPD Tilden Park



photo credit: Roger Wachtler, John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Figure 8 Riparian Vegetation Restoration at Waterfall Pool Station

JOHN MUIR



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

c/o Richard Unger, Treasurer
5622 Oak Grove Ave.
Oakland, CA 94618

December 11, 2025

Maureen Parkes
Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553. via email

Dear Ms. Parkes,

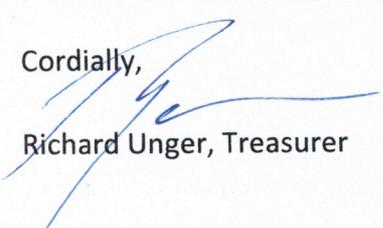
Enclosed please find our organization's financial report for the Department's 2024-2025 grant for our project "Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Habitat Monitoring Study".

I have enclosed a printout of the County's requested table of our expenditures as well as a breakout second sheet indicating prices of the purchased items with sales tax and shipping recorded separately. Our budget request to the county listed shipping as a separate line item, but did not include sales tax. Additionally, we had requested a budget item for battery replacements for instream monitoring units. However in our experience towards the end of the budget cycle, we found that most of these batteries had not yet reached the end of their duty cycle, but because of the stream conditions we encountered, the units did require earlier membrane and cap replacements. One unit required a battery replacement (invoice item #4. We hope that the County will take these changes in our expenditures as made within the general requirements for flexibility in allowing us to pursue the Grant's objectives. We are not asking for any additional funds from the County beyond the \$7,030 generously granted.

Should the auditors have any questions regarding the financials, I would be pleased to respond to any questions. They should contact me directly at (510) 529-5356.

My colleague, Peter Mangarella will be submitting our report on the very fruitful activities we were able to conduct as supported by the County's generous grant.

Cordially,


Richard Unger, Treasurer

2550 9th Street, Suite 104
Berkeley, CA 94710

<http://johnmuirtu.org>
info@ebtu.org

"Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Habitat Monitoring Study"

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Approved Dec 11, 2024

Contact Richard Unger (Treasurer) (510) 529-5356

Invoice Page #	Description of service/item and amount allowable from grant award		Vendor	Receipt date and invoice number
1	Replacement DO sensor cap	\$ 784.03	Onset	4/16/25 WB00115933
2	YSI Pro 20i DO/T Sensor	\$ 1,193.31	Fondriest	2/12/25 151638-3
3	YSI Pro 20i DO/T Sensor	\$ 1,233.79	Fondriest	6/12/25 155613
4	Hobo Logger Battery replacements	\$ 319.00	Onset/Hok	10/28/25 316194
5	Oakton PCT tester and stds	\$ 479.60	ColeParme	2/12/25 W020250212N0218
6	Oakton PCT tester and stds	\$ 435.47	ColeParme	6/12/25 W020250612N0168
7	Hobo Dissolved Oxygen Logger	\$ 1,636.50	Onset	12/2/25 WB00123597
8	Waders	\$ 307.95	Ms Mayfly	12/2/25 5310
9	Waders	\$ 363.77	Amazon	12/2/25 112-9226937-409066
10	Replacement DO sensor cap	\$ 766.73	Onset	10/15/25 WB00122166
S1	Shipping	\$ 18.71	UPS	10/15/25 MM51VP1A91A04
S2	Shipping	\$ 30.81	UPS	11/8/25 MM1VP1K92D4R

"Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Habitat Monitoring Study" BREAKOUT

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Approved Dec 11, 2024

Contact Richard Unger (Treasurer) (510) 529-5356

Invoice
number

	Number	Allowed Unit price	Total Price	Purchase Date	Item Price	Sales Tax	Shipping	total	
Onset DO Sensor caps	6	115	690	4/16/25	\$ 690.30	\$ 70.73	\$ 23.00	\$ 784.03	#1
YSI Pro DO/T Sens	2	1092	2184	2/12/25	\$ 1,078.23	\$ 78.17	\$ 36.91	\$ 1,193.31	#2
				6/12/25	\$ 1,115.97	\$ 80.91	\$ 36.91	\$ 1,233.79	#3
Cap and Membran	2	81.25	162.5						
ONSET HOBO DO Battery relacement	6	250	15600	10/28/25	\$300.00		\$ 19.00	\$319.00	#4
Oakton PCTS Test	2	301.5	603	2/12/25	\$ 381.40	\$ 46.55	\$ 51.65	\$ 479.60	#5
				6/12/25	\$ 393.20	\$ 42.27		\$ 435.47	#6
Replacement for Onset Dissolved Oxygen HOBO Unit	1	1395	1395	12/2/25	\$ 1,439.00	\$147.50	\$ 33.00	\$ 1,636.50	#7
Waders	2	350	700	12/2/25	\$ 299.00		\$ 8.95	\$ 307.95	#8
				12/2/25	\$ 329.95	\$ 33.82		\$ 363.77	#9
Replacemet D/O Sensor Cap			690	10/15/25	\$ 696.00	\$ 70.73		\$ 766.73	#10
Other Shipping			500	10/15/25			\$ 18.71	\$ 18.71	s1
				11/8/25			\$ 30.81	\$ 30.81	s2
Totals					\$ 6,723.05	\$570.68	\$258.94	\$ 7,569.67	



February 17, 2026

Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee
Attn: Maureen Parkes
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553
maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us

RE: Final Report for San Francisco Bay Osprey Camera Grant Awarded 12/11/2024

Dear CCC Fish and Wildlife Committee,

Thank you again for the generous grant awarded to Golden Gate Bird Alliance for our San Francisco Bay Osprey Camera project, award date December 11, 2024 for \$6,444. The project came in precisely on budget for a total of \$6,444.

With this funding we were able to sustain the ongoing webstreaming and online hosting of the Osprey webcam for a full year. These funds helped us connect people with ospreys, the Richmond area, and teach them about their conservation success in the Bay Area. Ospreys in the SF Bay have well recovered from their almost complete extirpation and the story is an inspiration for conservation efforts for other species.

Rosie and Richmond, the beloved Osprey pair, nested again on the light pole adjacent to the Whirley crane area in the Port of Richmond. Wildlife are unpredictable and while we wish our views were better, as they were when they nested on the Whirley Crane itself, we are grateful to have the opportunity to share this wonderful pair and the drama of their everyday lives with people.

Thank you!

Whitney Grover
Director of Conservation

GOLDEN GATE BIRD ALLIANCE

2150 Allston Way, Suite 210 Berkeley, California 94704

phone 510.843.2222 fax 510.361.0140 web www.goldengatebirdalliance.org

This table MUST be completed with your grant reimbursement request. Please submit as an Excel spreadsheet.
Tape receipts to paper and number each page in the upper right hand corner.

Grantee Name: Golden Gate Bird Alliance
Name of Project: San Francisco Bay Osprey Camera
Contact Name Phone and Email if there are questions about this: Whitney Grover, wgrover@goldengatebirds.org

Page number that receipt is on.	Description of service/item and amount allowable from grant award	Vendor	Date on Receipt/Invoice number	Description of service/item on receipt (highlight item(s) on receipt)	Total Amount of Receipt/Inv	Receipt/Invoice for reimbursement from the
1	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	12/1/2024	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
2	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	1/28/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
3	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	1/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
4	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	3/3/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
5	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	2/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
6	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	3/3/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
7	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	3/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
8	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	3/26/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
9	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	4/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
10	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	4/26/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
11	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	5/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
12	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	5/27/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
13	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	6/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
14	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	6/25/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
15	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	7/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
16	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	7/22/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
17	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	8/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
18	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	8/23/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
19	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	9/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
20	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	9/23/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
21	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	10/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
22	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	10/21/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
23	Webcam streaming and hosting services	HDOntap	11/1/2025	HDOntap Lite Streaming Package	\$299.00	\$299.00
24	Website including the live chat feature	Derique Hanché Images	11/24/2025	Services: Hosting and Rumbletalk	\$238.00	\$238.00
TOTAL						\$6,444.00



Board of Directors

Mark Westwind, President
Sustainable Contra Costa

Paul Wicks, Secretary
Ridecell, San Francisco

Caedmon Bear, Treasurer
Honeycomb Financial

John Steere
Contra Costa County

Hope Frye
Project Lifeline

Manuel Alonso-Martinez
Executive Director

Advisory Board

Vladimir Foronda
UCLA

Joe McBride
UC Berkeley

Doug Karpa
Clean Coalition

Katharine Barrett
*UC Botanical Garden
(retired)*

Michele Perrault
Sierra Club

Office

1301 S 46th Street, B155
Richmond, CA 94804

Tel. 844-704-4030
Fax. 844-704-4030

info@earthteam.net

www.earthteam.net

2026-03-12

Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Revised Request for Advance Payment — Marsh Creek Watershed Water Quality Project (Award Date: November 28, 2025)

I am writing to submit a revised request for consideration by the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee regarding Earth Team's awarded grant for water quality monitoring equipment.

The purpose of our request has not changed. We are still seeking support for water quality testing equipment to be used in Contra Costa watershed monitoring and in our youth field-based science programming. However, after further review of our program needs and of the equipment options available, the specific equipment package we are requesting is different from the one originally described in our proposal.

We are requesting approval to purchase the following equipment which better serves the data quality needs, and will offer a more comprehensive water trends profile with the same cost:

3 HOBO MX801 Submersible Loggers

3 Dissolved Oxygen Sensors

The total quoted cost is \$4,997.18, including tax, freight, and fees.

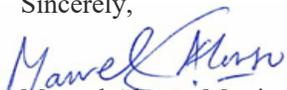
While this revised package differs from the originally proposed equipment, it better serves the same core purpose: supporting water quality monitoring in Contra Costa restoration sites and allowing Earth Team's trained high school interns to participate in meaningful field-based scientific data collection.. Data quality will be higher.

In addition, Earth Team is currently facing significant cash flow constraints. For that reason, we would also like to request consideration of a hardship advance in the maximum amount allowable under County policy, so that we can move forward with the purchase as soon as possible if the revised request is approved. I am also confirming that the project can move forward with only half of the award amount available up-front, should that be the maximum approved.

If possible, we respectfully ask that this revised request be included for consideration at the Committee's March 18 meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Manuel Alonso-Martinez
Executive Director

Earth Team is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN 68-0347329

Proforma Invoice/Quote

2/25/2026 9:26:43 AM



Onset Computer Corporation
470 MacArthur Boulevard
Bourne MA 02532
United States
508-759-9500

Customer: SL09732

Ship To: 1

Earth Team
1301 South 46th Street
Bldg 155
Richmond CA 94804
United States

Manuel Alonso-Martinez
Earth Team
1301 South 46th Street
Bldg 155
Richmond CA 94804
United States

Phone:

Phone:

Fax:

Email: manuel@earthteam.net

Estimate	Terms	Quote Date	Expiration Date	Salesperson	Ship Via
E000061945	Credit Card	2/24/2026	3/26/2026	Kayla	UPS - Ground
Quantity	Item			Unit Price	Extended Price
3	MX801	HOBO MX801 Submersible Logger		483.60000	1,450.80
				7.00 %Discount	
3	W-DO	Dissolved Oxygen Sensor		1,018.35000	3,055.05
				7.00 %Discount	
				Sale Amount:	4,505.85
				Sales Tax:	439.33
				Freight:	37.00
				Additional Fees:	15.00
				Total Amount:	4,997.18

Exhibit A : Spending Plan

Category	Manufacturer	Model	SKU/Part	#	Qty	Unit Price (USD)	Line Total (USD)	Preferred Vendor	Notes
Multiparameter Sensor	Hanna	HI98194 Portable Multiparameter Meter (pH/C	HI98194		1	\$1,880.00	\$1,880.00	Hanna / Fisher Scientific	Staff-led reference unit; logs, Measures pH, EC, DO, Temp
Turbidity	LaMotte	2020we Turbidity Meter (0–4000 NTU), waterp	2020we		1	\$1,095.00	\$1,095.00	LaMotte / Fisher Scientific	Rugged turbidity sensor
Student Sensor	Vernier	Go Direct Optical Dissolved Oxygen (GDX-ODO	GDX-ODO		2	\$399.00	\$798.00	Vernier	Two team units
Student Sensor	Vernier	Go Direct Conductivity (GDX-CON)	GDX-CON		3	\$149.00	\$447.00	Vernier	Two team units + 1 floater to speed field measurements
Student Sensor	Vernier	Go Direct pH (GDX-PH)	GDX-PH		3	\$119.00	\$357.00	Vernier	Two team units + 1 floater to speed field measurements
Calibration & Maintenance	Hanna	pH Buffer 4.01, 500 mL	HI7004L		1	\$45.00	\$45.00	Hanna / Fisher Scientific	Intern pH calibration
Calibration & Maintenance	Hanna	pH Buffer 7.00, 500 mL	HI7007L		1	\$45.00	\$45.00	Hanna / Fisher Scientific	Intern pH calibration
Calibration & Maintenance	Hanna	pH Buffer 10.01, 500 mL	HI7010L		1	\$45.00	\$45.00	Hanna / Fisher Scientific	Intern pH calibration
Calibration & Maintenance	Hanna	Conductivity Standard 1413 µS/cm, 500 mL	HI70300L-1413		1	\$35.00	\$35.00	Hanna / Fisher Scientific	Mid-range EC calibration
Calibration & Maintenance	Hanna	Conductivity Standard 12.88 mS/cm, 500 mL	HI7039L		1	\$35.00	\$35.00	Hanna / Fisher Scientific	High-range EC verification
Calibration & Maintenance	YSI	DO Zero-Oxygen Solution (Sodium Sulfite), 50C	006095		1	\$25.00	\$25.00	YSI / Fisher Scientific	Zero calibration for DO (anchor checks)
Calibration & Maintenance	LaMotte	AMCO-AEPA-1 Turbidity Standards Set (0, 20, 1	R-2020-AMP		1	\$60.00	\$60.00	LaMotte / Fisher Scientific	Verify turbidity meter accuracy
Calibration & Maintenance	Hanna	pH Electrode Storage Solution, 500 mL	HI70300L		1	\$18.00	\$18.00	Hanna / Fisher Scientific	Keep pH sensors hydrated
Calibration & Maintenance	Hanna	pH Electrode Cleaning Solution, 500 mL	HI7061L		1	\$22.00	\$22.00	Hanna / Fisher Scientific	General-purpose cleaning
Reference	Traceable	NIST-Traceable Digital Thermometer (±0.05°C)	Control Co. 4000		1	\$129.00	\$129.00	Fisher Scientific	Verify temp inputs for pH/EC compensation
Field Case	Pelican	Pelican 1500 Case with foam (for anchor + tur	1500		1	\$210.00	\$210.00	Pelican	Transport & storage
Accessories	Various	Wash bottles (500 mL), pack of 3	WB500-3		1	\$24.00	\$24.00	Fisher Scientific	DI rinse between measurements
Accessories	Various	Sample cups (polypropylene), pack of 100	SCUP-100		1	\$18.00	\$18.00	Fisher Scientific	Sampling cups
Accessories	Various	Nitrile gloves (box of 100), size M	NG-M-100		1	\$12.00	\$12.00	Fisher Scientific	Hygiene and safety
TOTAL							\$5,300.00		

*This is the additional information requested by the Fish & Wildlife Committee and provided at the September 17, 2025 meeting. The Committee’s recommendation to approve was based on this information. The Committee ultimately recommended approval of a grant amount of \$5,000 because that was the amount requested in the original grant application.

Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee
c/o The Watershed Project
1327 South 46th Street, Bldg 155
Richmond, CA 94804

March 13, 2026
Via e-mail

Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Committee
Attn: Maureen Parkes
Department of Conservation & Development
30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553
Maureen.Parkes@dcd.cccounty.us

Subject: Mira Vista Field Restoration Project Grant

Dear Ms. Parkes:

We are requesting early disbursement for a portion of grant-funded project expenses (half the grant amount). As you may know, with restoration work timing can be critical and this season it was imperative to jump quickly on the control of invasive weeds which are copious, resulting in earlier-than-anticipated purchases of grant-funded items needed to work on their control. Our volunteer organization has a limited balance available to front costs of restoration tools and materials, and so *receipt of Fish and Wildlife Propagation grant funding on a cost reimbursement basis will create a financial hardship and be detrimental to the operation of the field restoration program.*

Unfortunately, we did not anticipate this situation at the time of grant application. (Note that while The Watershed Project is the fiscal sponsor for the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee, the Stewardship Committee is responsible for fronting the grant-reimbursible costs)

In addition to the purchase of tools and materials necessary to attack the invasives, our 2025 fund balance was further depleted by costs incurred to mulch the walking paths with wood chips prior to the rainy season. This work was completed prior to Board of Supervisors approval of the grant award and so is not eligible for reimbursement at this time. I only mention it to demonstrate another item that has depleted our little groups' available funds. We will be applying for reimbursement for grant-funded path mulching work to be completed in the Fall of 2026.

We have been able to accomplish a lot of the planned work since the award of the grant, in particular:

- identifying focus areas for the current restoration work, that are highly visible and where we can get "the most bang for the buck"

And, in those areas,

- hand weeding with volunteers
- spraying young invasive weeds with vinegar to stop their growth
- hand mowing around areas with established native grasses to prevent spread of non-native vegetation into those areas
- sheet mulching areas of the highly invasive oxalis, which seems to be especially aggressive this year

All of the above has been accomplished by our volunteers using tools and supplies provided for in the grant award. We have a current complete log of expenditures, which we understand is to be submitted with our project final report.

We apologize for this inconvenience but hope that our request can be approved. Please let us know if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you for your consideration,



Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee, by Adèle Ho

Cc: Juliana Gonzales, Executive Director, The Watershed Project



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 26-1156

Agenda Date: 3/18/2026

Agenda #: 8.

Advisory Board: Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: Update on the activities of the Contra Costa County Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee

Presenter: Wade Finlinson

Contact: 925.490.3428

Information:

The County Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy requires the IPM Coordinator to provide an annual update to the Fish and Wildlife Committee. The County IPM Program consists of the IPM Advisory Committee, the IPM Coordinator, and certain County operational departments or divisions that manage pests. Applicable departments and divisions-along with their contracted service providers-are subject to the County IPM policies and practices.

Referral History and Update:

Some highlights of the last year include the following:

- In support of the IPM Policy goal of promoting availability, public awareness, and public input into written County IPM records, the Committee approved decision documentation regarding the management of ground squirrels. State legislation that went into effect in January 2025 limited the use of rodenticides. The IPM Decision-Making Subcommittee held four meetings to revise the document to acknowledge and respond to the challenges posed by these operational impacts. The full Committee approved the document in September and will present recommendations to TWIC in the coming months.
- The IPM Training Subcommittee reviewed current training programs in applicable County departments and divisions and helped prioritize areas for improvement. The IPM Coordinator will work with staff from Agriculture/Weights & Measures to implement these suggestions into a resource document that clarifies training standards consistent with regulations and County policy for applicable personnel.
- The Nature-Based Solutions Subcommittee initiated a review of various County-owned properties and discussed potential nature-based climate co-benefits that overlap with IPM practices. This ongoing effort is in line with the IPM Policy goal to "minimize risks and maximize benefits to the general public, staff, and the environment as a result of pest control activities conducted by County staff and contractors."
- The IPM Coordinator also supported the reestablishment of the Alameda/Contra Costa Weed Management Area (WMA). Alameda County Resource Conservation District (RCD) is the fiscal lead. One of the initial funded programs of the WMA will allow Contra Costa RCD to expand efforts to control *Arundo donax* through EcoStewards.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Staff recommends receiving the update, asking any questions, and advising as appropriate.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

To protect public health, County resources and the environment, it is the policy of Contra Costa County to manage pests within County pest management programs in and on County-maintained properties and facilities, using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and techniques.

The mission is to promote the combined use of physical, cultural, biological and chemical control methods to effectively manage pests with minimal risk to humans and the environment.

For the purposes of this policy, the County adopts the Integrated Pest Management definition provided by the University of California Statewide IPM Project: Integrated Pest Management is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates that they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

The goals of this countywide policy are to:

1. Minimize risks and maximize benefits to the general public, staff and the environment as a result of pest control activities conducted by County staff and contractors.
2. Create, implement and periodically review written IPM plans in applicable County Departments specific to their operational needs and consistent with the U.C. definition above and this policy.
3. Promote availability, public awareness and public input into written county pest management plans and records.
4. Create public awareness of IPM through education.

To achieve these goals the County has established the following objectives

1. Require County departments to routinely use IPM.
2. Require County pest control contracts to incorporate County IPM policies and practices.
3. Require applicable Departments to report annually on the development and implementation of IPM programs.
4. Maintain a County IPM Coordinator position that reports to the County Administrator and Board of Supervisors.

5. Maintain an IPM Advisory Committee that provides advice to the Board of Supervisors and assists Departments in reviewing pest control alternatives and related costs or impacts.
6. Provide annual IPM training and outreach programs to address the needs of County Departments and employees.

Require County Departments to Routinely Use Integrated Pest Management:

- County Departments that manage pests are required to develop one or more written IPM Plans, or the equivalent, and designate a departmental/divisional¹ IPM Coordinator responsible for implementation.
- Department Heads, or their designees shall solicit input from the IPM Advisory Committee on the development and ongoing refinement of departmental/divisional IPM plans and decision-making documentation.

Require County Pest Control Contracts to Incorporate County IPM Policies and Practices

- All County Departments that contract for pest management services shall ensure that County IPM policies and practices are incorporated into contracts and adhered to by all licensed pest control contractors performing work on County-maintained properties and facilities. Such contracts shall also include a provision requiring the contractor to use IPM principles and techniques in their service delivery. Prospective contractors should be provided a copy of this policy during the bidding process.

Require Departments to Report Annually on the Development and Implementation of IPM Programs.

- Therefore, departmental/divisional IPM Coordinators shall prepare annual reports on department pest control activities to the County Administrator. The department annual reports will be reviewed by the IPM Advisory Committee. The IPM Advisory Committee shall compile the information into an annual report that will be submitted to the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors.

Maintain a County IPM Coordinator Position that Reports to the Board of Supervisors.

- In recognition that development, implementation and oversight of a County IPM Program requires allocation of resources, the position of County IPM Coordinator has been established and funded. The County IPM Coordinator serves as a resource for Department Heads to ensure compliance with the County IPM policy.

¹ The term “*departmental/divisional*” is used to broadly convey the spectrum of organizational units with IPM responsibilities under this policy. Disparate pest management functions within large departments may be better suited for the implementation of divisional IPM plans and designated divisional IPM coordinators in order to accurately represent considerations unique to specific work units. Departmental IPM plans and coordinators are best suited for small or mid-size departments that manage pests within a single program.

The County IPM Coordinator is required to serve as staff to the IPM Advisory Committee to assist Department Heads in identifying priorities and in acquiring data to properly evaluate pest control needs and appropriate solutions.

- The County IPM Coordinator will provide an annual update to the County Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Maintain an IPM Advisory Committee that Provides Advice to the Board of Supervisors and Assists Departments in Reviewing Pest Control Alternatives and Related Costs or Impacts.

- An IPM Advisory Committee has been created. The Advisory Committee serves as a resource to help both Department Heads and the Board of Supervisors periodically review, update, and improve existing programs and the processes used for making pest management decisions.
- Information regarding preferred pest control solutions must include data regarding comparative efficacy, cost, environmental impact and hazards to the public and applicator. Information and recommendations must be based on the best science available.
- The IPM Advisory Committee will also work with the County IPM Coordinator to develop IPM training programs for County Departments, their employees, and applicable vendors and contractors to assist in compliance with the County's IPM policy. Additional support may also be provided to County Departments who wish to develop public outreach programs to address environmental and public health concerns.
- The membership of the IPM Advisory Committee is detailed in the IPM Committee bylaws.

Provide Annual IPM Training and Outreach Programs to Address the Needs of County Departments and Employees.

- Training programs will be developed under the direction of the County IPM Coordinator with the concurrence of the IPM Advisory Committee to ensure that County employees understand IPM techniques and County policy. Utilizing resources such as the U.C. Pest Management Guidelines that have been developed by the University of California Statewide IPM Program, training classes on integrated pest management techniques will be developed and made available for County employees.
- Public outreach programs to address environmental and public health concerns will also be developed to complement existing County programs.

Contra Costa County
DECISION DOCUMENTATION for GROUND SQUIRREL MANAGEMENT

Date: Revised 9/18/2025

Department: Public Works (Airports, Maintenance Division, Facilities Services), Agriculture

Location: Countywide

Introduction: Prior to 2025, the Agriculture Department provided internal contractual services to control ground squirrel issues on critical infrastructure managed by the Public Works Department primarily through the application of first-generation anticoagulant baits. Other treatments were considered and occasionally deployed by each operational division within Public Works, but the baiting program was the only consistent tactic used on a regular basis.

On January 1, 2025, Assembly Bill #2552 (AB 2552)ⁱ—also known as the Poison-Free Wildlife Act—took effect. That legislation prohibits the use of first-generation and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in California. There are some exceptions for public health, vector control, water supply facilities, and other situations. However, it appears that none of the exceptions apply to properties maintained by the County according to the current legislation and its interpretation.

This document aims to capture the decision-making process and promote a roadmap for the implementation of integrated efforts to protect infrastructure and keep our communities safe.

<p>The problem species has been identified as the following:</p>	<p>California Ground Squirrel (<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>)</p> <p>Burrowing by ground squirrels can be very destructive, and they can cause severe erosion and loss of structural integrity. Ground squirrels are a problem in levees, in flood control facilities and canals, in earthen dams, on roads, on railroad berms, around foundations and retaining walls, and in landscaping where they chew on irrigation lines. In addition, California ground squirrels are known to be carriers of many transmissible diseases, including bubonic plague and tularemia.</p>
<p>What mandates or standards relating to ground squirrel management apply?</p>	<p>All operational divisions in the County <u>Contra Costa County Administrative Bulletin #542</u></p> <p>“The County will provide pest management in and on County maintained properties and facilities using integrated pest management (IPM). The purpose of this policy is to promote the combined use of physical, cultural, biological, and chemical control methods to effectively manage pests with minimal risk to humans and the environment.”</p> <p>Airports Division (Airport infield surfaces, runway safety areas, taxiway safety areas, grazing areas, habitat management lands, etc. at Buchanan Field & Byron Airports):</p> <p>Section 9.2.b of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Wildlife Hazard Management at Airportsⁱⁱ describes habitat modification and exclusion practices.</p> <p>The FAA has requirements for the safety areas of Part 139ⁱⁱⁱ airports like Buchanan Field to be smooth, free of ruts and other obstructions, and able to support aircraft that leave the paved surfaces. Caltrans also has similar requirements for general aviation airports such as Byron Airport. Additionally, ground squirrels are an attractant for other species such as coyotes or hawks that could potentially cause catastrophic consequences for airplanes.</p> <p>Public Works Maintenance Division (dams, levees, creeks, basins, roads, bridges, flood control structures, retaining walls):</p> <p>Inspectors from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DWR-DSOD) have discretion to determine whether damage caused by burrowing animals on dams and levees is problematic.</p> <p>Public Works Facilities Services Division (County buildings, communication towers, and landscapes/open space adjacent to facilities, within special district service areas, and in County-owned parks):</p> <p>No known formal standards apply, but burrow systems that undermine building foundations, paved areas, and other structures are not tolerated. Similarly, burrowing activity that creates trip hazards or other safety concerns in parks and other publicly accessible landscapes are prioritized for treatment controls.</p>

ⁱ

What is the process for how sites are monitored for ground squirrel activity?

Airports Division:
 Airport Operations staff at both sites monitor ground squirrel activity. Abatement procedures are used whenever those activities enter safety areas and sometimes before when the timing is right for our control methods. Any population in the safety areas is the threshold. Airport Safety Officers determine whether abatement is needed as part of their wildlife hazard management duties.

Public Works Maintenance Division:
 Activity is monitored during levee and dam inspections conducted in coordination with the USACE and DWR-DSOD. Monitoring for ground squirrel activity is critical component of evaluating structural integrity. These inspections are typically led by inspection teams alongside local representatives such as the Flood Control Crew Supervisor—who oversees site readiness and facilitates issue tracking. Inspectors then convey site-specific concerns to Maintenance Division leaders. Reports of rodent activity near roadways and other infrastructure come from citizen calls, as well as Public Works and Agriculture Department staff observation.

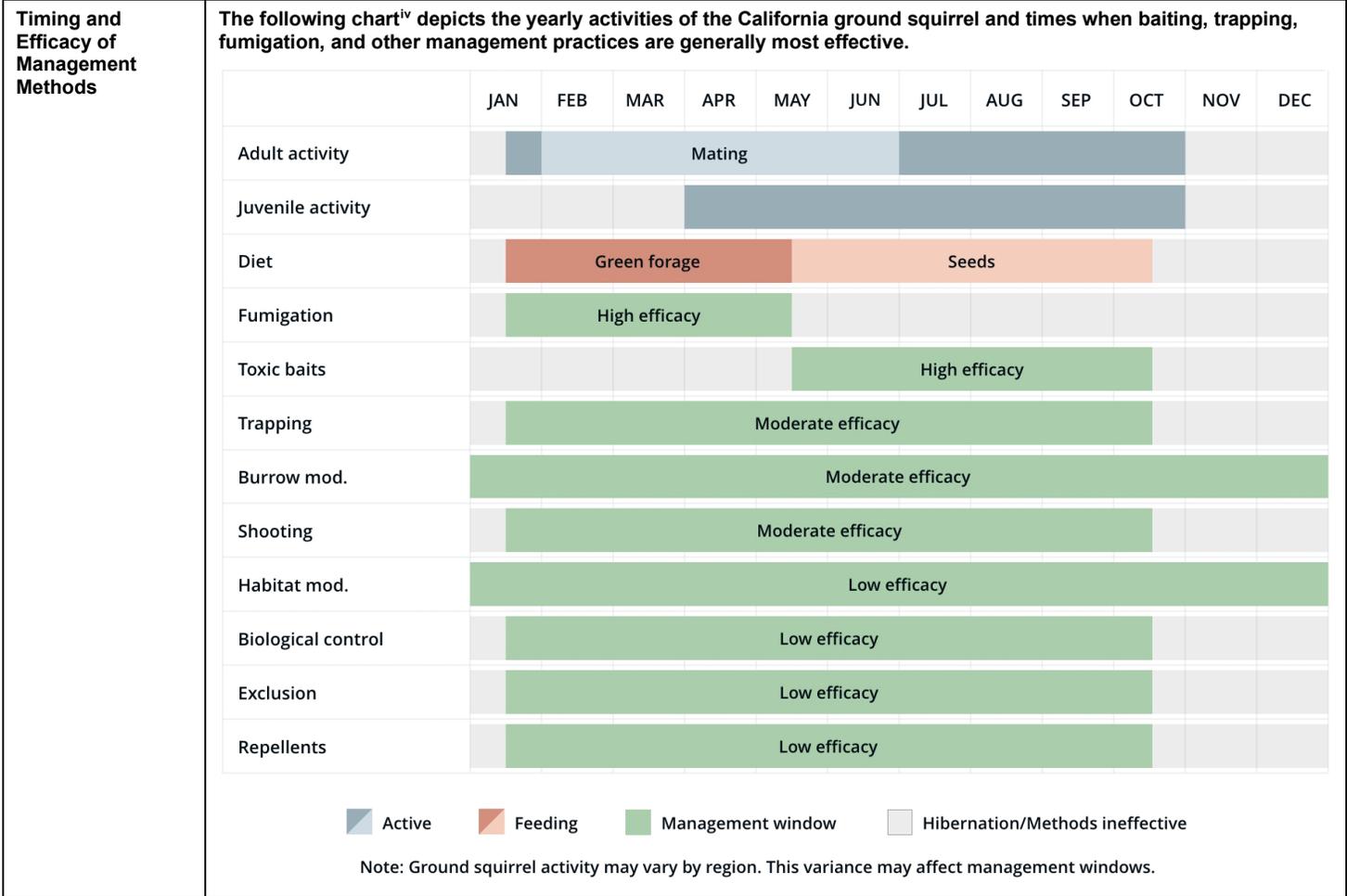
Public Works Facilities Services Division:
 Facility occupants typically alert the Division to ground squirrel concerns at County-owned buildings. The contracted structural pest control operator similarly reports any activity observed during routine service visits. For parks and special district landscapes, community members occasionally report applicable concerns. Special district service areas retain a contracted trapper for gophers and moles, but that does not include ground squirrels.

Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures:
 The vertebrate pest management program provides assistance and advice on a cooperative basis to the Public Works Department, other public agencies, and growers for the control of ground squirrels. In some cases, Agriculture personnel assist Public Works in monitoring squirrel activity.

Control Methods

This is not an attempt to consider all control methods available. The following sections identify the types of controls that are most likely to be incorporated into County operations. It is not an exhaustive list. For more information on controls see <http://www.groundsquirrelbmp.com/>

The County continues to investigate and review new control methods as they become available.



<p>Which cultural controls were considered?</p>	<p>Habitat modification:</p> <p><u>Proactive Vegetation Management:</u> This can involve the strategic planting of trees and shrubs and allowing herbaceous vegetation to grow more densely in order to make it more difficult to detect predators.</p> <p><u>Deep Ripping:</u> Using tractor-mounted ripping bars where burrow entrances are present in order to reduce the likelihood of ground squirrel reinvasion.</p> <p>EFFICACY: Low</p> <p>CONCLUSIONS:</p> <p>Airports Division: Trees and shrubs are not appropriate for airport operations. Some areas surrounding the Byron Airport may be suitable for proactive planting, but are not being considered at this time. Deep ripping is not feasible at either location.</p> <p>Maintenance Division: Dams and levees typically are not suitable for woody vegetation. Recent projects have restored riparian plantings as part of broader flood risk reduction efforts along creeks, but those activities are not feasible with maintenance operations. Tree planting on certain roadsides may be considered in the future, but those situations are more likely when tied to capital improvements. Deep ripping is not presently being evaluated.</p> <p>Facilities Services Division: Many facilities would benefit from expanded tree planting. However, the locations where ground squirrel populations occur do not typically coincide with the most appropriate planting sites. The Division is not evaluating deep ripping.</p> <p>Agriculture Department: These services are not offered through existing programs within the Department.</p> <p>Statement on efforts to prevent impacts on non-target species: Deep ripping could impact species of concern. Guidance from the Public Works Environmental Services Division is recommended when considering habitat modification tactics.</p>
<p>Which physical controls were considered?</p>	<p>Burrow modification:</p> <p><u>Cement and grout:</u> Injection of concrete, grout, or similar materials into burrow entrances.</p> <p><u>The Burrow Blocker:</u> A patented system that injects a sand and water slurry into burrows.</p> <p>Shooting: The use of small caliber rifles to dispatch ground squirrels causing damage to critical infrastructure.</p> <p>Trapping: Various types of live traps and kill traps are available. Ground squirrels caught with live traps cannot be relocated and must be humanely euthanized.</p> <p>Exclusion: Includes a variety of materials installed in a manner that limits access to particular areas.</p> <p>EFFICACY: Moderate (with the exception of exclusion, which is considered low efficacy. Also, research is limited regarding the efficacy of the Burrow Blocker and similar strategies involving cementing/grouting burrow entrances.)</p> <p>CONCLUSIONS:</p> <p>Airports Division: Certain areas of Division properties have incorporated fencing that has slowed access to runways and taxiways. These renovations are expensive and it is unlikely that they will be implemented at the scale needed at both airports. Trapping and burrow modification efforts are currently being explored.</p> <p>Maintenance Division: The Division previously injected grout into the entrances of ground squirrel burrows at some sites. The practice has not been used for several years, but the Division is analyzing the continuation of burrow modification practices and incorporating trapping. Burrow entrances next to paved roads will likely be covered with suitable materials while the Division adapts to recent rodenticide restrictions.</p> <p>Facilities Services Division: Trapping services are currently carried out by a contracted service provider at certain sites. The Division is open to exploring the expansion of trapping and the implementation of limited pilot projects to evaluate burrow modification measures. Exclusion practices are also being explored at some locations.</p> <p>Agriculture Department: These services are not offered through existing programs within the Department. In 2012, the Department conducted an in-house trial of live trapping and found it to be expensive and time-consuming. Pending staffing changes may add capacity to revisit trapping trials that could inform the feasibility of Public Works potentially incorporating these practices into their operations at some locations in the future.</p> <p>Statement on efforts to prevent impacts on non-target species: Among physical controls, trapping and shooting represent the lowest risk of impacts to non-target species. Nonlead ammunition is required. Guidance from the Public Works Environmental Services Division is recommended when considering burrow modification tactics.</p>
<p>Which biological controls were considered?</p>	<p>Biological controls available: Raptor perches and barn owl boxes are often deployed to target burrowing pest species. Since ground squirrels are diurnal, raptors active during the day are more likely than barn owls to prey on them. Barn owls are crepuscular and nocturnal, so they may hunt ground squirrels that are active at dusk and dawn. Installations like these are usually ineffective at controlling targeted pests if not deployed alongside other integrated methods. Interested members of the public typically have a favorable view of these measures.</p> <p>EFFICACY: Low</p>

	<p>CONCLUSIONS:</p> <p>Airports Division: Due to safety concerns and federal regulations, raptor perches and owl boxes are not being considered at airports.</p> <p>Maintenance Division: Community groups and adjacent property owners have installed these types of structures on or near Flood Control properties in the past, but many have fallen into disrepair. The Division may consider this further in the future but is focused on other controls at present.</p> <p>Facilities Services Division: Some parks managed by Facilities Services have owl boxes, but it isn't clear if they are being maintained. The addition of new boxes and perches is feasible, but partnerships to take care of them need to be identified.</p> <p>Agriculture Department: These services are not offered through existing programs within the Department. Pending staffing changes may add capacity to research where proactive efforts to incorporate these types of measures.</p> <p>Statement on efforts to prevent impacts on non-target species: Negative impacts on non-targets are not anticipated with efforts described in this section.</p>
<p>Which chemical controls were considered?</p>	<p><u>Toxic Baits:</u></p> <p>Zinc Phosphide: A non-anticoagulant rodenticide that converts to phosphine gas when consumed by the target animal. Zinc phosphide is a restricted use material and is a hazard to the applicator. There are also endangered species concerns and restrictions to consider prior to use.</p> <p>Diphacinone or Chlorphacinone-treated grain bait: First generation anticoagulant rodenticides are no longer accessible to most County-managed properties unless existing exceptions are further researched or applicable legislation is amended.</p> <p><u>Burrow fumigation methods:</u></p> <p>Gas cartridge: The cartridge (made from sodium nitrate, charcoal, and cardboard) releases carbon monoxide gas into the burrow system. This method is only effective when the soil moisture is high in either winter or spring. Gas cartridges are more effective when used prior to breeding or emergence of young. The timing, though, conflicts with other programs for which staff are needed such as the noxious weed program, the pesticide use enforcement program and the pest exclusion program. There are endangered species restrictions and concerns to consider prior to use.</p> <p>Aluminum phosphide: Aluminum phosphide reacts with moisture in the soil and in the atmosphere to produce phosphine gas. This fumigant is only effective when soil moisture is high and so has the same timing issues as above. Aluminum phosphide is a restricted use material and is a hazard to the applicator. There are also endangered species concerns and restrictions to consider prior to use.</p> <p>CO and CO₂: These fumigants require a CO or CO₂ generating device, which must be moved from burrow to burrow and site to site during treatment. These are most effective when soil moisture is high, and they have the same timing issues as gas cartridges and aluminum phosphide.</p> <p>EFFICACY: High</p> <p>CONCLUSIONS:</p> <p>Airports Division: The Division is working with the Agriculture Department to study the potential of using alternative baits in high risk areas at each airport. They are also evaluating cost and other considerations related to potential burrow fumigation controls.</p> <p>Maintenance Division: Some initial efforts using CO were completed in a levee system a few years ago. The Division is reviewing the possibility of expanding those efforts in additional areas, but cost is a barrier. They also recently retained the services of Ag. personnel to deploy gas cartridges. Evaluation of additional chemical controls is ongoing.</p> <p>Facilities Services Division: The current contract for structural pest management services includes ground squirrel control on an on-call basis. The business under contract provides some chemical controls and owns a large carbon monoxide injection system known as a CO-Jack. This contract has been used by Facilities Services and other divisions within Public Works and is available as long as the approved dollar amount for total contract is not exceeded.</p> <p>Agriculture Department: The Department will continue to support Public Works' efforts to review chemical alternatives to anticoagulant rodenticides. In limited circumstances, Ag personnel may be able to assist with using gas cartridges on certain properties, but these staff members are usually engaged in important regulatory work during the season when the devices are most effective. The Agriculture Commissioner will also monitor relevant legislation and rulemaking and adjust operations accordingly.</p> <p>Statement on efforts to prevent impacts on non-target species: Prior to recent legislative restrictions, the primary method of ground squirrel control to protect infrastructure at airports, dams, roadsides, and other County-owned sites was through the use of diphacinone or chlorphacinone-treated grain bait. Like most chemical and non-chemical pest management tactics, those applications represented a certain level of risk. Many reputable subject matter experts are concerned that these restrictions—which were intended to protect wildlife—were more targeted to the control of ground squirrels with limited off-target impacts. Burrow fumigation and other non-chemical tactics could threaten other species living in burrows. Since these considerations are often site-specific and subject to other key variables, the Public Works Environmental Services Division, the PRESCRIBE^V database, and other applicable resources should be consulted.</p>

<p>Recommendations from the IPM Advisory Committee</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each applicable operational division within Public Works is encouraged to allocate resources to promote a year-round ground squirrel monitoring and treatment program at threatened sites. Control methods deemed "High Efficacy" and "Moderate Efficacy" by the University of California Statewide IPM Program should be prioritized. Such efforts may include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Coordinating an RFP (Request for Proposals) process to procure on-call services that are currently unavailable from County staff and existing contracts. Services may include burrow modification, shooting, and other tactics. b) Collaboration with UC partners in facilitating research that furthers understanding of the impacts and efficacy of emerging technologies and under-studied management strategies. c) Assessing the feasibility of utilizing the IPM Coordinator^{vi} to set up a trapping pilot program at one or two priority sites. The purpose of this program will be to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. provide immediate support at critical locations while each operational division concurrently ramps up integrated strategies to address the anticipated increase in problematic ground squirrel populations. ii. Inform the potential development of operational staff or contractors performing long-term trapping operations where feasible. 2. The Board of Supervisors is encouraged to direct County lobbyists to follow and potentially shape legislative developments that expand exemptions for first generation anticoagulant rodenticides at airports, dams & levees constructed for the purpose of flood risk reduction, roads, and other elements of critical infrastructure. Efforts relating to this may also include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Engage the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and comparable local government entities to identify opportunities to closely study the potential impacts of AB 2552 and shape an effective plan of action. b) Support the efforts of County staff working with their equivalents in other local government agencies to further meaningful dialog about legislative refinements within the respective realm of each discipline or industry.
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ⁱ Available at https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2552

ⁱⁱ https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/wildlife/resources/media/2005_FAA_Manual_complete.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ FAA certification program for certain types of airports. More information available at the following link: https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/part139_cert

^{iv} Chart is from the University of California Statewide IPM Program's Pest Note for Ground Squirrels available at: https://ipm.ucanr.edu/legacy_assets/PDF/PESTNOTES/pngroundsquirrel.pdf Quinn NM, Dimson MJ, Baldwin RA. 2025. UC IPM Pest Notes: Ground Squirrel. UC ANR Publication 7438. Oakland, CA

^v PRESCRIBE stands for Pesticide Regulation's Endangered Species Custom Realtime Internet Bulletin Engine and is available at: <https://calpip.cdpr.ca.gov/county.cfm>

^{vi} Labor costs associated with the IPM Coordinator are already covered by various Public Works funding streams; only fees associated with start-up costs, and ongoing materials and supplies would be needed if there is an appetite to move forward.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 26-1157

Agenda Date: 3/18/2026

Agenda #: 9.

Advisory Board: Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: RECOMMEND the appointment of a Fish and Wildlife Committee representative to serve on the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee

Presenter: Wade Finlinson

Contact: 925.490.3428

Information:

The Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee (IPMAC) was established by the Board of Supervisors in November 2009. The general purposes of the Committee are to:

1. Protect and enhance public health, County resources, and the environment;
2. Minimize risks and maximize benefits to the general public, staff and the environment as a result of pest control activities conducted by County staff and contractors;
3. Promote a coordinated County-wide effort to implement integrated pest management (IPM) in the County in a manner that is consistent with the Board-adopted IPM Policy;
4. Periodically review departmental/divisional IPM plans and continuously monitor implementation of County IPM programs;
5. Make policy recommendations upon assessment of current pest issues and evaluation of possible IPM solutions;
6. Provide a forum for communication and information exchange among members in an effort to identify, encourage, and stimulate the use of best or promising pest management practices; and
7. Promote transparency in pest management decision-making by County Departments.

Referral History and Update:

Since 2010, a representative of the Fish and Wildlife Committee has filled a seat on IPMAC. Susan Heckly has served multiple terms in this seat since February 2014. Her current term concluded on February 28, 2026. The term expiration for the new appointee to IPMAC will match their current term on the Fish and Wildlife Committee.

IPMAC sets its meeting schedule at the first meeting each calendar year which is held on the third Thursday of January at 10:00 AM. The remaining meetings of the full Committee in 2026 are scheduled for 10:00 AM on August 20th, September 17th, and **November 19th**. **Additional** subcommittee meetings are scheduled at intervals determined by subcommittee members. Current areas of focus for IPMAC subcommittees include decision-making, training, and the overlap of IPM efforts with nature-based climate solutions as they pertain to land management strategies.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Staff recommends the nomination of a Fish and Wildlife Committee member to concurrently serve on IPMAC by a majority vote.

**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ROSTER**

(revised 3/11/26)

Seat Title	Appointee Name	Area of Residence or Primary Work Location	Appointment Date	Term Expiration
Public Member 1 – At Large	Thomas Fenster	Richmond	February 27, 2024	December 31, 2027
Public Member 2 – At Large	Jutta Burger	Martinez	February 27, 2024	December 31, 2027
Public Member 3 – At Large	Susanna Thompson Chair	Brentwood	February 28, 2023	December 31, 2026
Environmental Organization – At Large Seat	VACANT			December 31, 2026
Sustainability Commission Representative	Kiara Pereira	North Richmond	May 20, 2025	March 31, 2027
Public Member – Fish and Wildlife Committee Representative	VACANT			
Public Works Director or Designee	Michelle Cordis	Martinez	October 21, 2025	None
County/Unincorporated County Stormwater Program Representative	Michele Mancuso	Martinez	February 28, 2023	None
Agriculture Commissioner or Designee	Gabriel Chan Vice Chair	Concord	March 19, 2024	None
County Pest Management Contractor	Carlos Agurto Secretary	Antioch	February 28, 2023	None
University of California Representative	Andrew Sutherland	Martinez	June 4, 2024	None