

From: [Phil Kohlmetz](#)
To: [Maureen Parkes](#)
Cc: [Alex Domeyko](#)
Subject: Re: CCC Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund - Request for More Information
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 8:04:34 AM
Attachments: [International Bird Rescue 2026 Additional Context as Requested.pdf](#)

Good morning Maureen,

Thank you for inviting us to provide additional, accurate context about our current grant application, in support of the Committee's continued grant considerations.

Contra Costa County has been a consistent, valued, and necessary partner in our multi-agency, multi-year effort to provide immediate life-saving responses that benefit both people and wildlife in our community, and that meet the high standards and requirements for funding related to the CA Fish and Game Code.

Attached please find our two-page .pdf that addresses the Committee's request for additional context and information. We will be sure to be in attendance (either in-person or virtually) to be available to answer questions, clarify information, and to speak whether during public comments or to address specific agenda items.

Thank you for all you do to keep the County's processes operating smoothly, and to the Committee for their service as volunteers in support of Contra Costa wildlife.

sincerely,
Phil

Phil Kohlmetz
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***We dream of a world in which every person, every day, takes action to protect the natural home of wildlife and ourselves.
Be their voice!***

On Thu, Aug 21, 2025 at 12:09 PM Maureen Parkes <Maureen.Parkes@dcd.cccounty.us>
wrote:

-

Dear Alex and Phil : At its August 20, 2025 meeting, the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee reviewed your grant application for *“Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife.”* The Committee will continue reviewing applications at the September 17, 2025 meeting and is asking applicants to provide additional information before then.

- To assist with the review, please provide additional context on cost share of the overall program and a prioritized list of specific equipment requested in the grant application.

Please send your responses by **September 8, 2025**, so they can be included in the meeting agenda packet.

Thank you, Maureen

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Additional context on cost share of the overall program and a prioritized list of specific equipment requested in the grant application, as requested by Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee

September 8, 2025

Consistent with State of California Fish and Game Code, and with Contra Costa County written and verbal (unwritten) guidelines, **our funding request focuses on necessary, physical material that our professional staff and numerous volunteers will use, more than once, to effectively and efficiently ensure our continued ability to provide immediate, life-saving care for native wildlife referred to us from Contra Costa residents, agencies, and organizations.**

We are pleased to provide additional, accurate, objective context, and as described in our 4-page application (Cover Sheet plus 3 pages):

- Our overall organizational budget is ~3.75 million annually for all programs and services, 11% of which is service provided to Contra Costa County people and wildlife at a value of \$412,500. Facilities, vehicles, and equipment alone is budgeted at \$215,400, and 11% of that figure is \$23,694. **The maximum grant request amount in our most recent application of \$20,719.92 is \$2,974 less than the already-narrowed portion of Facilities, vehicles, and equipment expenses (\$23,694) necessary to serve Contra Costa County.**
- Looking specifically at the Northern California Avian Rehabilitation and Research Program, which is the *most direct expression* of 13103(b), it has annual expenses of \$754,412, 11% of which is service provided to Contra Costa County people and wildlife, for a value of \$82,985. CDFW has confirmed with other jurisdictions that personnel costs *are* allowable expenses for County Fish and Wildlife grants. Nonetheless, in concert with Contra Costa County directives, if we remove all project/program-specific personnel costs of \$440,000, we have a figure remaining of \$314,412 of *program-specific expenses that are necessary and are not part of our general operations or other programs*. Eleven percent (11%) of \$314,412 is \$34,585 of *Contra Costa County program-specific expenses that are necessary and are not part of our general operations*. **The maximum grant request amount in our most recent application of \$20,719.92 is \$13,865 less than the already-narrowed portion of Contra Costa County program-specific, non-personnel expenses (\$34,585) that are necessary and are not part of our general operations.**

In short, whichever way one “slices” or examines our a) grant application, b) the proposed grant expenses, and c) our program and organizational budgets, we have listened carefully to the Committee for many years and made repeated, good-faith, best attempts to respond to your written and verbal statements about how you prefer to review grants:

- Excluding personnel costs
- Using specific, to-the-penny, estimates
- Keeping requests in line with prior year requests and awards
- Keeping to strict, short page limits, and providing additional info whenever it is requested
- Focusing on necessary, tangible items specific to Contra Costa County patient load
- Involve the direct purchase of goods and materials that DO NOT require installation or labor, or trigger prevailing wage requirements
- Respect for the Committee’s decision-making process

The \$20,719.92 of multiple items originally requested in this year's application:

- A. Presumes all of the aforementioned financial and Committee considerations,
- B. Was presented in rank-order of importance,
- C. Is intended to help the Committee realign itself with the previously dictated criteria to focus grant requests on individual, line-item expenses *that themselves are specific to Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee criteria*, while also**
- D. Providing context for overall program and organizational expenses as part of Question 5 (Annual Budget for Organization), and in consideration of Contra Costa County's 11% cost share.

We approach other funders (private, individual, and public, both inside and outside of Contra Costa County) to "back-fill" expenses that the Committee rejects or declines to consider. International Bird Rescue has not to-date requested that Contra Costa County fully cover its share of the costs-of-service we provide to its citizens, residents, and wildlife. Yet, we continue to do this work because it aligns with our values. In short, it's the right thing to do.

We hope that the Committee shares our values of a) compliance with CA Fish and Game Code, b) resolving human/wildlife interaction issues by supporting life-saving care of wildlife native to Contra Costa County, and c) respect for long-standing, multi-dimensional partnerships that benefit the people and wildlife of California (in general) and Contra Costa County (specifically).

For ease, the prioritized list of specific equipment necessary to address CA Fish and Wildlife Code Section 13103(b): "Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife" from our application is reproduced below:

Cost	Item	Description
\$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)
\$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)
\$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
\$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
\$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
\$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
\$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
\$1,030.00	Welch Allyn 3.5V Ophthalmoscope	Replacement of aged, poor-functioning, Veterinary equipment to improve patient diagnostics and outcomes
\$535.98	Frigidaire 28" Freezer Refrigerator	Replacement of rusted, damaged refrigerator that stores medicines for patient intake, with new, Energy Star unit
\$20,719.92	TOTAL	