



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## AGENDA

### Fish and Wildlife Committee

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Wednesday, August 19, 2026

3:00 PM

40 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553  
Construction Conference Room

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#### 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. INTRODUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF CONFLICT

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

2. REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the minutes for the May 20, 2026 [26-3573](#) meeting.

**Attachments:** [May 20, 2026 Draft Minutes](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

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

## 5. CONSIDER the following Consent items:

[26-3572](#)

a) REVIEW and ACCEPT the letter of appreciation from International Bird Rescue for their 2026 “Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife” project.

b) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from KIDS for the BAY for their 2026 “Watershed Action Program” project.

c) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Worth a Dam for their 2026 “The Water Guardians/Aqua Squad” project.

d) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Cal State East Bay, Concord Center for their 2026 “Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center” project.

e) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Things that Creep for their 2025 “Pocket Guide to the 30 Native Reptile Species in the San Francisco Bay Area” project.

f) REVIEW and APPROVE the request from the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee to receive an early reimbursement of expenditures for their 2026 "Mira Vista Field Restoration Project."

**Attachments:** [International Bird Rescue - Letter of Appreciation](#)  
[KIDS for the BAY - 2026 Final Report](#)  
[Worth a Dam - 2026 Final Report](#)  
[Cal State East Bay Concord Center - 2026 Final Report](#)  
[Things that Creep - 2025 Final Report](#)  
[Mira Vista Progress Report and Request for Early Reimbursement of Expenditures - 2026 Project](#)

## 6. Discuss the Fall Forum.

## 7. CONSIDER the 16 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund applications submitted by July 27, 2026. Consider inviting one or more organizations to the following meeting if the Committee has further questions on their grant proposals.

[26-3571](#)

**Attachments:** [2027 Grant Summary Spreadsheet](#)  
[Worksheet](#)  
[2027 Grant Applications A-H](#)  
[2027 Grant Applications I-P](#)  
[2026 Grant Recommendations - For Reference Only](#)  
[2025 Grant Recommendations - For Reference Only](#)



8. DETERMINE the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is September 16, 2026. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings include:

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

Adjourn

The Committee Chair may alter the order of agenda items at the meeting. Please contact Maureen Parkes at 925-655-2909 or [maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us) (or Abigail Fateman at 925-655-2908 or [abigail.fateman@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto: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

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**File #:** 26-3573

**Agenda Date:** 8/19/2026

**Agenda #:** 2.

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Advisory Board: Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the minutes for the May 20, 2026 meeting.

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

**Recommendation:**

REVIEW and CONSIDER APPROVING the minutes for the May 20, 2026 meeting.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Fish and Wildlife Committee

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Wednesday, May 20, 2026

3:00 PM

40 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553  
Construction Conference Room

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3:00 P.M. Convene Meeting.

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF CONFLICT

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Nicole Balbas, Courtney Coon, Roni Gehlke, Susan Heckly, Kathleen Jennings, Brett Morris, and Jamin Pursell attended the meeting. Olivia Ortega and Danny Pellegrini provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting. Tim Fares was absent. Joanne Chiu (CCC Department of Conservation and Development), Brian Holt (East Bay Regional Park District), Phil Kohlmetz (International Bird Rescue), Jill Ray (Office of District 2 Supervisor) 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 March 18, 2026 meeting.

[26-2236](#)

**Attachments:** [March 18, 2026 Draft Minutes](#)

The meeting minutes were approved as written. (Vote 7-0: Balbas, Coon, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Morris and Pursell; Absent: Fares, Ortega and Pellegrini)

## 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:

- Danny Pellegrini and Olivia Ortega provided advance notice that they would not be able to attend the meeting today.
- The Department determined that the two early grant disbursements previously approved by the Committee could not be issued without executed contracts, and that it was too late in the grant cycle to initiate the contract process.

Correspondence forwarded to Committee members:

- Supervisor Andersen sent newsletters that provided information on developing a restoration plan for the Walnut Creek Watershed, Earth Day events, Sustainability Commission open seats, Mosquito Awareness Week, and Animal Services' new online tool that helps residents report deceased animals on County roads and public property.
- Supervisor Burgis sent newsletters that provided information about the California Coastal Commission Workshop - Stop the Spread by Uninfecting Waterways on April 2, Earth Day Prep - April 22, "Speak About Nature - Marsh Creek Reservoir Restoration & Mercury Reduction Project", open seats on the Sustainability Commission, East Bay Regional Park District Park Explorer April and May 2026 editions, a sip and stroll at Big Break Thursday, April 16, 2026, Save Mount Diablo secures extra protections for Curry Canyon Ranch while generating resources to further its Diablo Range work, Contra Costa Clean Water Program launches community survey, and Delta Life Magazine 2026.
- Supervisor Carlson sent an email regarding Earth Day and John Muir Day.
- Supervisor Gioia sent emails regarding Earth Day events.
- Supervisor Scales-Preston sent newsletters that provided information on the "Rocks and Roots" event sponsored by the Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center (CREEC), Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) and California Climate Action Corps on March 28, 2026, a walk and talk with Supervisor Scales-Preston at the Waterbird Regional Preserve on April 4th, and information on "Our Neighborhood Trees" a plan to bring more shade and comfort to Contra Costa County neighborhoods.
- An article from Roni Gehlke regarding Nutria.

Newsletters and Announcements forwarded to Committee members:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife - 1
- California Department of Water Resources - 1

- California Fish and Game Commission - 12
- Contra Costa Resource Conservation District - 2
- Contra Costa County Sustainability Team - 1
- Contra Costa Watershed Forum - 1
- Golden Gate Bird Alliance - 7
- Greenbelt Alliance - 3
- IPM Advisory Committee - Decision-Making Subcommittee - 1
- John Muir Land Trust - 2
- KIDS for the BAY - 2
- League of Women Voters - 1
- Lindsay Wildlife Experience - 3
- Marine Science Institute - 1
- Save Mount Diablo - 6
- Sustainable Contra Costa - 1
- The Watershed Project - 1
- Urban Tilth - 5

5. Presentation on the new District Plan that East Bay Regional Park District is developing. (Brian Holt, East Bay Regional Park District)

Brian Holt provided an update on development of the District Plan, including the draft goals, public engagement process, and timeline for completion. He then responded to questions and comments from Committee members. To view the presentation, click on the following link:

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/92413/EBRPD-District-Plan-Presentation>

6. CONSIDER the following Consent items:

[26-2237](#)

- a) REVIEW and ACCEPT the letter from SPAWNERS declining their 2025 grant award.
- b) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Lindsay Wildlife Experience for their 2024 “Creating an Interactive Bee Exhibit and Education Programs” project.
- c) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Lindsay Wildlife Experience for their 2025 “The Bear Den” project.
- d) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from International Bird Rescue for their 2026 “Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife” project.

**Attachments:**

[SPAWNERS Letter Declining 2025 Grant](#)  
[Lindsay Wildlife Experience 2024 Final Report](#)  
[Lindsay Wildlife Experience 2025 Final Report](#)  
[International Bird Rescue 2026 Final Report](#)

The Committee accepted Items 6a, 6b and 6c on Consent. Item 6d was pulled for

discussion. The Committee accepted Item 6d with the condition that the receipt/invoice for the disinfectant station be provided to staff prior to the next FWC meeting scheduled on August 19, 2026. (Vote 7-0: Balbas, Coon, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Morris and Pursell; Absent: Fares, Ortega and Pellegrini)

7. REVIEW and DISCUSS Fish and Game revenue reports (FY 2025–26 Q1 & Q2). [26-2238](#)

**Attachments:** [Fish and Game Revenue Report FY 25-26 Q1](#)  
[Fish and Game Revenue Report FY 25-26 Q2](#)

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Fish and Game revenue reports.

8. Discuss the 2026 Fall Forum. Consider recommending that the Board of Supervisors authorize the FWC to spend Fish and Wildlife Propagation funds to host the 2026 Fall Forum.

The Committee discussed the Fall Forum and recommended that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Fish and Wildlife Committee to spend no more than \$3,000 to cover facility rental fees, food, dessert, water and event supplies. (Vote 7-0: Balbas, Coon, Gehlke, Jennings, Heckly, Morris, and Pursell; Absent: Fares, Ortega and Pellegrini)

9. REVIEW, MODIFY and CONSIDER APPROVING the draft Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2027 grant cycle. [26-2239](#)

**Attachments:** [Draft 2027 Grant RFP](#)

Maureen Parkes presented the proposed revisions to the draft RFP. The Committee reviewed and discussed the revisions and approved the RFP for distribution, with the addition of a section outlining the anticipated time frame between grant approval and contract execution. (Vote 7-0: Balbas, Coon, Gehlke, Heckly, Jennings, Morris and Pursell; Absent: Fares, Ortega and Pellegrini)

10. DETERMINE the agenda for the next meeting. The next regular meeting date is August 19, 2026. 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

Adjourn



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-3572

**Agenda Date:** 8/19/2026

**Agenda #:** 5.

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Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: Consent Items

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

### **Recommendations:**

CONSIDER the following Consent items:

- a) REVIEW and ACCEPT the letter of appreciation from International Bird Rescue for their 2026 "Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife" project.
- b) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from KIDS for the BAY for their 2026 "Watershed Action Program" project.
- c) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Worth a Dam for their 2026 "The Water Guardians/Aqua Squad" project.
- d) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Cal State East Bay, Concord Center for their 2026 "Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center" project.
- e) REVIEW and ACCEPT the final report from Things that Creep for their 2025 "Pocket Guide to the 30 Native Reptile Species in the San Francisco Bay Area" project.
- f) REVIEW and APPROVE the request from the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee to receive an early reimbursement of expenditures for their 2026 "Mira Vista Field Restoration Project."



**INTERNATIONAL  
BIRD RESCUE**

July 17, 2026

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

Dear Maureen,

Thank you for your donation to International Bird Rescue in the amount of \$20,719.92 made on 7/1/2026 for Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife.

Thank you for your continued support!

Nature gets a fresh start every year. Thanks to you, so do thousands of waterbirds. 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, as we prepare our clinics for the demands of baby bird season, 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 FOR HELPING US  
TO HELP CONTRA COSTA BIRDS!

**SF BAY-DELTA  
WILDLIFE CENTER**

4369 Cordelia Road  
Fairfield, CA 94534  
P 707.207.0380  
E [sfbird@birdrescue.org](mailto: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](mailto:labird@birdrescue.org)

**ALASKA WILDLIFE  
RESPONSE CENTER**

651 E 100th Avenue #C  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
P 907.562.1326  
E [alaska@birdrescue.org](mailto:alaska@birdrescue.org)

**BIRD HELPLINE**

P 401.285.0895

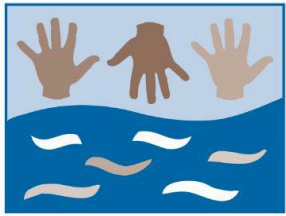
**SPILL EMERGENCY LINE**

P 888.447.1743

**BIRDRESCUE.ORG**

*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.*





# KIDS for the BAY

A Project of Earth Island Institute  
1771 Alcatraz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703  
[kidsforthebay.org](http://kidsforthebay.org)  
Mandi Billinge, Executive Director/Founder

June 23, 2026

Maureen Parkes  
Staff for Fish and Wildlife Committee  
Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Maureen,

KIDS for the BAY has completed all activities and expenditures of grant funds for the grant awarded in 2025 to support our Watershed Action Program (WAP) in under-resourced schools in Contra Costa County. Thanks to funding from the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee (CCCFW), students, teachers, and parent/guardian chaperones have enjoyed exploring, learning about and cleaning up local creek, bay and delta habitats.

I hope you will enjoy reading our program highlights. I have enclosed our final narrative report, along with the following attachments:

- The receipts spreadsheet (invoice) and a combined pdf document with the field trip bus invoices for the 2025-2026 school year
- A photo document of watershed lessons, field trips and Action Project highlights.

If you have any questions about the enclosed report, photo document or invoices, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for supporting engaging, hands-on learning experiences at local watershed habitats for our KIDS for the BAY students, teachers and families, and the improvement of wildlife habitats in Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

Mandi Billinge  
Executive Director / Founder

# KIDS for the BAY

Final Report to Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee  
June 2026

KIDS for the BAY is pleased to share the following highlights from our Watershed Action Program (WAP) in Contra Costa County schools during the 2025-2026 school year. The program engaged **297 students, their family members, and eleven teachers** from under-resourced schools how to care for and learn from their local watershed. Students cleaned up trash pollution from their school neighborhoods and from wildlife habitats, and prevented this pollution from entering the watershed through storm drains. Students also learned about the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, and helped to improve the health of fish and wildlife habitats in Contra Costa County through a variety of Environmental Action Projects.

Our young Environmentalists accomplished the following projects:

- **Two hundred ninety-seven KftB student leaders** created and shared informational posters, videos and environmental pledges at special presentation events to teach their families and school communities about the importance of protecting the local watershed and the San Francisco Bay to keep these environments clean and healthy. They also made and distributed green pesticides, and led safe bay and delta fish cooking presentations to teach their families and peer students how to reduce intake of toxins and protect their health.
- KftB students cleaned up **87.5 gallons of trash from their local watershed environments, including school campuses and neighborhoods, local parks, creek, bay and delta habitats.**
- KftB student environmentalists **completed 664 environmental stewardship hours**, cleaning up and protecting the environment we all share, and educating others about protecting the environment.

## Participating Schools in the 2025-2026 School Year

| School Name                       | City       | Teacher Name/<br>Grade Level            | Number of<br>Students | Action<br>Project                  | Field Trip Location |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lupine Hills Elementary<br>School | Hercules   | Olivia Benavidez<br><i>Fifth Grade</i>  | 26                    | Waste<br>Reduction<br>Assembly     | Keller Beach        |
|                                   |            | Jennifer Inglish<br><i>Fifth Grade</i>  | 30                    |                                    |                     |
| Harding Elementary<br>School      | El Cerrito | Sarah Chang<br><i>Fifth Grade</i>       | 29                    | Creek<br>Restoration               | Berkeley Marina     |
|                                   |            | Matthew Jones<br><i>Fifth Grade</i>     | 30                    | Ocean<br>Acidification             |                     |
| Foothill Elementary<br>School     | Pittsburg  | Andrea Llamas<br><i>Fifth Grade</i>     | 26                    | Safe Delta<br>Cooking &<br>Fishing | Martinez Marina     |
|                                   |            | Rosa Mana-Ramirez<br><i>Fifth Grade</i> | 30                    |                                    |                     |

|                           |           |                                                  |    |                              |                              |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Belshaw Elementary School | Antioch   | James Andrews<br><i>Third Grade</i>              | 35 | Safe Delta Cooking & Fishing | Big Break Regional Shoreline |
|                           |           | Aimee Macomber<br><i>Third Grade</i>             | 35 |                              |                              |
| Dover Elementary School   | San Pablo | Anne McCarthy<br><i>Third &amp; Fourth Grade</i> | 15 | Walking Field Trip           | Keller Beach                 |
|                           |           | Imelda Lopez<br><i>Third Grade</i>               | 20 |                              |                              |
|                           |           | Lorena Melero<br><i>Third Grade</i>              | 21 |                              |                              |

## Highlights from Watershed Lessons

### *Watershed Scavenger Hunt*

After engaging in hands-on, hands-on learning experiences in the classroom to help them understand what a watershed is and how watersheds connect land and resources, students at Foothill Elementary in Pittsburg couldn't wait to explore the watershed environment on their school campus. They participated in a scavenger hunt to discover biotic and abiotic elements of their local watershed. Using their senses, observation skills and curiosity, students worked together to explore and record observations about their surroundings. "We found worms, ants and butterflies! We think our watershed is healthy because animals have a place to live and grow," said Santiago. They showed an increased awareness of the watershed environment, including the presence of storm drains and potential signs of pollution. After gathering evidence about the health of the watershed environment, students shared their findings. "Our watershed is both healthy and unhealthy, as it has a lot of plastic pollution, but also lots of trees and insects, which are signs the watershed is healthy," said Neymar.

### *Bay and Estuary Studies*

Belshaw Elementary students were now ready to apply their theoretical understanding of our local watershed to build three-dimensional models of the San Francisco Bay estuary watershed. The young scientists carefully constructed model representations of real-life bridges and islands with clay. After adding their clay landmarks to their models, one student from each group assumed the role of Zoologist and placed small, model animals into the appropriate estuary habitats. "This is a sea star, and it lives in the Pacific Ocean!" said Justice. After completing their models, students poured yellow-dyed freshwater into the rivers and blue-dyed saltwater into the ocean, and observed how the different types of water mixed together. This activity helped students discover the brackish water composition of the San Francisco Bay estuary. "What is the special name we use for water that is a mix of saltwater and freshwater?" asked KftB Educator Libby Kirk. "Brackish water!" responded the class. "In our model, the brackish water started to form right by the Richmond Bridge," observed Harmony.

Students added drops of red food dye, representing pollution, into each of their models. The young Environmentalists gently shook their tubs from side to side to simulate real-life winds and tides. "The pollution is spreading around the bay so quickly!" observed Camilo. "Our animals can't escape from the pollution!" said Emiliano. "The color of the water changed from yellow, green, and blue to all brown," shared Ligsar. When Ms. Libby asked the class, "Do you think this happens in real life? Does pollution move around or does it stay in one place?" Amanda answered, "In real life, pollution can move around the whole watershed!"

### *Reducing Trash and Waste in the Watershed*

Focusing specifically on non-point source pollution, including trash pollution and oil from automobile traffic, students at Harding Elementary in El Cerrito studied the path of stormwater through their watershed. The young Environmentalists examined the critical role the storm drain system plays in transporting stormwater and pollutants. They learned how the system operates by channeling rain and contaminants from streets, to creeks, the bay and subsequently to the vast Pacific Ocean. "Storm drains are helpful when our streets flood, but they also carry trash and other types of pollution!" said Daniela. The students discovered that, unlike the sanitary sewer system, water in the storm drain system does not get cleaned at a treatment

center before entering our natural waterways. All the young Environmentalists agreed that preventing pollution from entering the watershed environment at the source is a much better option than cleaning it up after the fact.

“Why is pollution harmful?” asked Ms. Libby. “We shouldn’t litter because trash pollution can get into the storm drains when it rains, and that polluted water ends up in the bay!” Kayla noted. “Sometimes animals think plastic is food, and they eat it. Eating plastic can make the animals sick, and they might die,” shared Fantasia. “Plastic pollution also breaks down into microplastics! Because they are small, microplastics can get into our bodies really easily. It’s important to learn about sad things like plastic pollution. If we don’t know about a problem, how can we ever find a solution?” said London.

### *School Campus Trash Cleanup*

After discussing the problem of plastic pollution and investigating its harmful impacts on wildlife, the young Environmentalists from Dover Elementary in San Pablo capitalized on their motivation to take immediate action to protect watershed health and biodiversity by participating in a local watershed cleanup. The young Environmentalists made initial predictions of the types and amounts of pollution they would encounter. “I think we will find a lot of trash on the schoolyard because everyone eats their lunch and the snack wrappers blow away in the wind,” predicted Christina. Students worked in groups to catalog and collect the litter they found. With buckets and tongs in hand, the young Environmentalists raced across the park in all directions, calling out exciting trash finds, or pointing out trash hotspots. “There is so much trash all over the soccer field! I even found trash inside the soccer goals!” observed Max. “The storm drains are caked with plastic. I see chip bags and wrappers down there! We need to clean up litter before it gets into the storm drain, or else it will travel to other habitats and pollute our water!” said Nyla. They were proud to decrease the amount of trash pollution entering our aquatic ecosystems. “I’m so shocked we found 178 pieces of trash and collected all of that in a short amount of time!” said Ava.

### *Investigating Bay Organisms and Adaptations*

After learning about the importance of waste reduction and taking action to clean up the watershed, students couldn’t wait to learn more about the organisms and ecosystems that depend on a clean and healthy San Francisco Bay. To warm up their investigation skills, the young scientists at Belshaw Elementary in Antioch explored samples of bull kelp rehydrated in water and dried nori seaweed. “The sliminess of the kelp reminds me of aloe vera,” said Princess. “I can’t tear the kelp, but the nori feels really fragile,” observed Tae. “The nori seaweed smells like salt, and it looks like green paper,” observed Valentina. “The bull kelp smells like the ocean!” said Camilo. Students deepened their understanding of bull kelp anatomy and adaptations by doing some fun Ploga (play-yoga) movements to represent seaweed adaptations, including holdfast, floats and blades.

Students at Foothill Elementary in Pittsburg used their senses and observational skills to investigate real striped bass fish and Dungeness crab specimens from the San Francisco Bay. “The striped bass have camouflage and good defense! They have sharp dorsal fins,” observed Sayde. The class made complex connections between how bay organisms’ unique adaptations can determine their place in the food web and their relationships with other organisms. “Striped bass are predators because they have sharp teeth for catching and eating prey. They are also prey, because they have defensive adaptations like spiky dorsal fins!” said Sukhpreet. “I think people are part of food webs, too, because we eat fish from the San Francisco Bay!” said Natalia.

### *Assessing Watershed Health*

Direct engagement with the environment and participation in hands-on science activities in the classroom and in the outdoors gave the young Environmentalists at Belshaw Elementary in Antioch the skillset to translate their observations into meaningful evaluations. As watershed detectives, students explored their school campus once again, categorizing features of the environment as healthy, unhealthy, or both, and making arguments to support their claims. “I think the trees that are all around us are indicators of a healthy watershed. Trees can provide a habitat for other animals to live,” said Vanessa. “The plastic bottles and chip wrappers that we found are all indicators of an unhealthy watershed!” said Maynor. After sharing their observations, the class agreed that the large amounts of plastic trash pollution on their school campus was the most prominent indicator of poor watershed health.

Back in the classroom, Ms. Libby asked the Belshaw Elementary students to work in their table groups to brainstorm actions to reduce the amount of plastic trash pollution in their watershed and address its harmful impacts. “We can reduce the amount of plastic water bottles that we use by bringing reusable water bottles to school!” said Amanda. “I think we should throw away

our snack wrappers properly. We need to make sure they go into the trash instead of on the ground,” said Jayshon. We can boycott plastic because plastic pollution hurts fish and other wildlife!” added Justice.

### **Highlights from Environmental Action Projects**

Environmental Action Projects provide students and teachers with the opportunity to become leaders in their schools and families and have a positive impact on the health of their watershed.

#### *Safe Bay-Delta Fishing and Cooking: Pittsburg Students Serve Up Science*

Is the fish we catch from the San Francisco Bay-Delta safe to eat? Students from Foothill Elementary in Pittsburg led a Safe Bay-Delta Fishing and Cooking Demonstration for their families to address the problem of toxic bioaccumulation in bay food webs. In a cooking show-style presentation, students cooked rockfish tostadas and taught their families how to safely choose and prepare fish caught from the bay-delta to limit the intake of toxins. “When pollution gets into a food chain, it travels up the food chain. The concentration of toxins increases as it goes up the food chain. Since we humans are at the top of food chains, it is really important we are aware of which fish are safe to eat!” said Mia. This demonstration is especially relevant for students and families in Pittsburg, a community where the delta is a source of food for many families. “I think the parents liked our presentation a lot. I’m glad we got to teach them what we’ve learned,” said Natalia. [Read the Full Story on our Blog Page!](#)

#### *Schoolwide Waste Reduction Assembly*

After a few weeks of diligent rehearsals, young Environmental Leaders at Lupine Hills in Hercules couldn’t wait to perform a Waste Reduction Assembly to educate their peers, parents/guardians, and younger students about plastic pollution and waste reduction! “I’m really excited, but also a little bit nervous,” Simran shared. News Anchor Colin kicked off the assembly with a loud and confident voice that caught the audience’s attention. The audience was eager to learn about how waste reduction can keep their watershed healthy. Zoe, playing a sea turtle, taught the audience how plastic pollution can be mistaken for food by marine animals. Holding up a plastic bag mistaken for a jelly fish she exclaimed, “Plastic bags don’t taste very good, that’s for sure.” Next, the young Environmentalists taught the audience about the 5 R’s (Refuse, Reuse, Reduce, Rot, and Recycle). Students provided helpful tools and waste-reduction practices to prevent pollution from entering our environment at the source. Julissa held up her poster depicting the waste-reduction method, Rot, and said, “*Rot* means compost. When you put food scraps into the compost instead of the trash, they rot and become rich soil to grow new foods, which also reduces landfill and ocean waste.”

Students reflected on their performance. “This assembly wasn’t only for us. It’s good that we can be leaders and show the little kids how to keep the environment clean and safe, and how to care for the Earth,” said Vihan. Colin’s Mom shared, “My son is a natural born actor and this program has given him an outlet to shine. He’s playing the News Anchor, and he’s so excited he has a big speaking part. We practiced all week and he even wanted to get a suit to wear for the role. He’s such a comedian, and you can tell he loves to perform. He has really enjoyed his KIDS for the BAY program, he comes home and tells me all about what he is learning.” The Waste Reduction Assembly not only gives students the opportunity to spread environmental awareness, but allows our young Environmentalists to practice their speaking skills, build their confidence, and become Environmental Leaders in their communities.

#### *Healthy Atmosphere, Healthy Ocean: Studying the Impacts of Ocean Acidification*

Students at Piedmont Elementary School in Oakland completed an Ocean Acidification Action Project to learn about the impacts of acidification on marine organisms, and how to prevent ocean acidification by conserving energy and reducing carbon dioxide pollution. Through applied, hands-on science, the young Environmentalists discovered firsthand the importance of keeping our oceans healthy, and the consequences of our reliance on energy from fossil fuels. This Action Project empowered our young scientists to take action to protect the delicate balance of the marine food web and make behavior changes to reduce their carbon footprints. To begin, our Oakland Environmentalists launched into important discussions about what our ocean and marine food webs provide for us, and the many ways humans and wildlife depend on the ocean for survival. “Salmon migrate to freshwaters to breed, and then return to the ocean. Our impact on the ocean would affect the salmon population, which would affect woodland creatures, like bears. If we keep our oceans healthy, we also keep other ecosystems healthy,” said Amiyah.

Students learned that CO<sub>2</sub> can be absorbed into the ocean, making it more acidic. “When the ocean is more acidic, it dissolves calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>), the special material that organisms need to build their shells,” explained Ms. Neda. “Can you think of any marine animals that have a hard shell?” Remembering what she had learned about animal adaptations in her previous

KftB lesson, Tia replied, “Crabs and other animals need shells for shelter and protection!” “If CO<sub>2</sub> pollution changes what the ocean is like, animals can’t build their shells, and this makes it harder for them to survive,” concluded Cristiyonna. Students examined a diagram depicting food chain relationships between bay/ocean organisms, including plankton, oysters, red rock crabs and pacific halibut. “Which animals in this food chain will be affected by ocean acidification?” asked Ms. Neda. “The red rock crab, the dungeness crab, the limpet and the oysters,” Liya shared. “What would happen if these organisms disappeared from our food chain?” asked Ms. Neda. “It’s a chain reaction. If something is wrong with the crabs and snails, it will affect the whole food chain,” shared Brielle.

Students built a Tiny Ocean to observe the process of ocean acidification with their own eyes! First, students observed a diagram depicting the pH scale and discussed the difference between an acid and a base. Next, students took turns adding drops of Bromothymol blue to a plastic cup with a pipette. “If it turns yellow, it’s acidic and if it turns blue, it’s basic,” explained Orlando. Students added baking soda to a small paper cup taped to the rim of the larger, plastic cup containing the bromothymol solution. Before proceeding to the next step of the experiment, students predicted what would happen. “I think mixing vinegar and baking soda will make carbon dioxide,” predicted De’Niyah. “If the water turns yellow, it means there is too much acid in our Tiny Ocean!” suggested Lily.

Students carefully poured vinegar into the small paper cup, where it mixed with the baking soda and began to emit carbon dioxide gas. “Our water has tiny specks of green on the surface,” said Liya. “I wonder if our water will turn green faster if we swirl the solution,” pondered Karl. He tested this hypothesis by gently swirling the contents in the plastic cup. “We were right! At first, there were a few green spots on the surface of the water, but after we swirled the cup, the whole solution turned green!” said Karl. “Where is the change taking place?” asked Ms. Neda. “The surface, sides and edges,” observed Clover. “The surface and the top layers of the ocean will get acidic first!” concluded De’Niyah.

In this exciting, hands-on experiment, our young Environmentalists learned about the importance of reducing carbon dioxide pollution to keep our fish and wildlife healthy, and observed the rippling impacts that ocean acidification can have on entire marine food webs and the communities and ecosystems that depend on them. [Read the Full Story on Our Blog Page!](#)

## **Highlights from Field Trips**

### *Bird Watching at Big Break Regional Shoreline*

Students from Belshaw Elementary School in Antioch couldn’t wait to investigate the local wildlife at Big Break Regional Shoreline! Students used binoculars and KftB Bird Guides to identify and observe the bird species that live, hunt and reproduce in this special delta habitat. Our young scientists carefully looked for characteristics such as unique markings, beak shape, wing shape, and feet color, to help them identify local birds. “We saw a Caspian Tern!” exclaimed Samantha. “We saw Clark’s grebes, great egrets, and black-necked stilts!” added Niyati. Tay spotted a large heron wading in the marshy shallows of the San Joaquin River. “That’s a great blue heron! I think he is hunting for fish!” he exclaimed.

### *Investigating Plankton at Martinez Marina*

Students at Foothill Elementary in Pittsburg explored and cleaned up the delta habitat at Martinez Marina. After learning that they would be using field microscopes to study and observe plankton like scientists, students shared what they learned about plankton in their previous KftB lessons. “There are different kinds of plankton. Some plankton make their own food using photosynthesis!” shared Max. “I know there are some plankton that eat other organisms,” added Brayden. Plankton make oxygen that we breathe. All wildlife need plankton to survive,” said Sofia. Students examined slides containing a few drops of water from a sample collected from the Carquinez Strait. “I see a bunch of tiny little animals moving around. It’s amazing that one drop of water can hold so much life!” exclaimed Khalil. Using their observational skills, the young scientists made notes in their field journals and sketched the different types of phytoplankton and zooplankton they found. They were thrilled to meet the special microorganisms that make up the foundations of the ecosystems we depend on! “I see a barnacle nauplius!” said Andrea. “We found two barnacle nauplii and a crab larva! These plankton are the larval stage of adult organisms!” said Sebastian. “Most of the plankton we found were zooplankton,” concluded Ricardo.

### *Discovering the Rocky Shore Habitat at Keller Beach*

Students from Dover Elementary couldn’t wait to explore the intertidal rocky shoreline habitat at Keller Beach. The young Environmentalists predicted the types of organisms they would find in this special habitat. “I think we will see crabs and barnacles,” said Aiden. “I think I will find lots of blue mussels,” shared Cristiano. “I think we will see seagulls, seaweed and

humans!” shared Maria. KftB students reviewed the different organisms they might encounter on the rocky shore. “Mussels are bivalves, which means they have two halves!” Omar said. Students learned that oysters, mussels, clams and snails produce pearls as a defense mechanism against irritants that get into their shells.

Students used their rock radars to identify rocks small enough to lift. They discovered a variety of rocky shore organisms, including green shore crabs, bent-nosed clams and beach hoppers. “I have never held a crab! It is so tickly,” exclaimed Joan. “I see something! Look, it’s so small. I think it’s a beach hopper,” observed Bleslie. Students discussed the unique adaptations that rocky shore organisms use to help them survive in this special aquatic habitat. “Crabs shed their exoskeletons to help them grow! The exoskeletons look paler than the living crabs,” observed Cruz. There were lots of different types of seaweed growing on the rocks. The sea lettuce is really slippery!” said Lionel. “I found green and purple shore crabs, and lots of crab exoskeletons!” remarked Jimena. After carefully handling and investigating the rocky shore organisms, the young Environmentalists returned the organisms safely back to the exact place they were found. They discussed the unique adaptations that rocky shore organisms use to help them survive in this special aquatic habitat. “Crabs shed their exoskeletons to help them grow! The exoskeletons look paler than the living crabs,” observed Joseph. “The mussels have adapted to hold on tight to the rocks when the strong tides come,” said Nathan, gesturing towards the part of the shore where he had discovered a bed of blue mussels.

## Outcomes

The 2025-2026 WAP in El Cerrito, Hercules, Antioch and Pittsburg had the following outcomes:

- **Two hundred ninety-seven students** increased their knowledge of watershed science in the classroom and in the field and became stewards of their local watershed
- **Two hundred ninety-seven parents/family members** increased their understanding of their watershed environment and learned how to reduce stormwater pollution through take-home interviews and making environmental pledges with their student Environmentalists
- **Eleven partner teachers** increased their confidence in using the local watershed as an educational resource and in empowering students to become environmental stewards
- The WAP was integrated into the curricula and culture of **four partner schools** and engaged school principals, teachers, students, and their families in environmental science education and stewardship.

This program met two requirements of California Fish and Game Code Section 13103:

- *Section 13103a.* The WAP planned curriculum provided 241 students with an opportunity to learn about the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation.
- *Section 13103e.* Through trash cleanups on field trips and Environmental Action and stewardship projects, eight classes of students improved the health of fish and wildlife habitats in Contra Costa County.





# KIDS for the BAY

Everyone Is an Environmentalist!

## Watershed Action Program

Contra Costa County Fish &  
Wildlife Commission





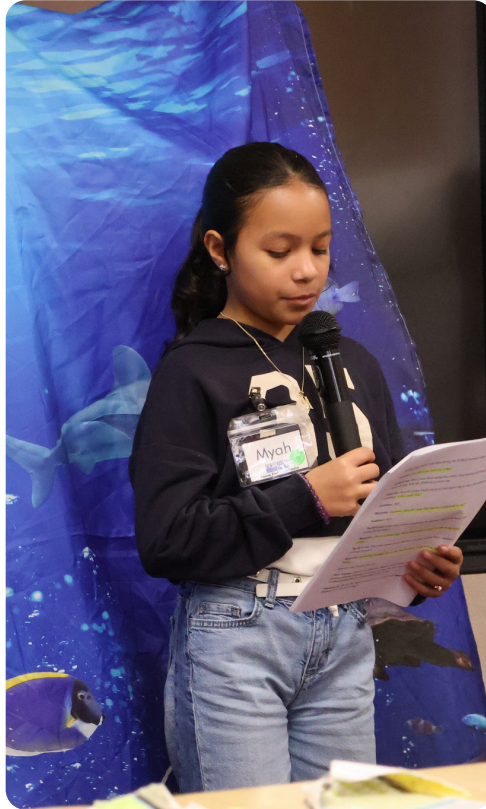


# KIDS for the BAY

Everyone Is an Environmentalist!

## Watershed Action Program

Contra Costa County Fish &  
Wildlife Commission





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: **KIDS for the BAY, a Project of Earth Island Institute**

Name of Project: **Watershed Action Program**

Contact Name Phone and Email if there are questions about this: **Mandi Billinge, [mandi@kidsforthebay.org](mailto:mandi@kidsforthebay.org)**

Date Submitted: June 23, 2026

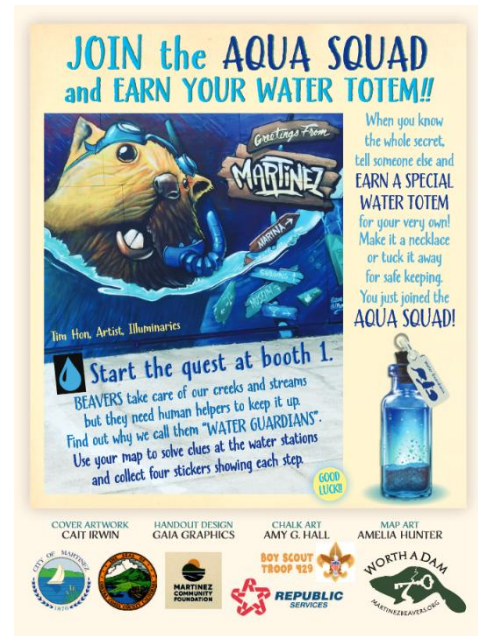
[illegible]

not to exceed 8,400

## SUMMARY OF 2026 AQUA SQUAD GRANT

The 2026 beaver festival was a busy, dynamic powerhouse of a day with more than one thousand visitors and forty booths. New Exhibits included the California Wolf Foundation, Bay Quest and the San Francisco Maritime Museum. Attendees including local families who look forward to the event every year and those who drove over from the East Bay, San Mateo or Pittsburg and Marin. There were even a few visitors from out of state – a teacher from Tennessee and a beaver nonprofit in Oregon – who wanted to get ideas for educating about beavers in their own communities.

The “Aqua Squad” theme was popular among adults and children and kids were eager to start their quest. - many holding the map in front of them to trace their steps directly. After speaking with the participating exhibitors we felt the addition of “clue signs” would help children better understand the ideas and make learning easier. Four concepts were selected rather than the original six because that seemed a more realistic goal for kids to tackle. Remaining grant money was used to purchase signs even though they were not part of the original request. The signs had the added benefit of indirectly educating adults as well, as folks passing by couldn’t help but ‘fill in’ the missing word and learn how beavers help water.



These clue signs turned out to be very helpful in nudging children into understanding the four terms. All participants earned the stickers and came back for their totems. While we had originally planned to add beaver charms to the water bottles, this turned out to be too costly. It was actually cheaper to create custom jewelry tags with images of beavers and the words “Water guardians” directly onto it.<sup>i</sup> In the end sixty-five children joined the “Aqua Squad” by completing the activity this year. More than one child remembered that there was a quiz at the end and asked in advance to take it. In all there were sixty post-tests taken with two thirds of the responders answering everything correctly. Children seemed to easily grasp the idea that better water helped people, vegetables and animals. When mistakes were made it was usually because they did not understand that it also helped the *rain*. It was especially meaningful to watch the more attentive parents help their children reason out the answers to the test: “Does better water help birds?” And to hear several children at the end exclaim proudly “Better water from beavers helps EVERYTHING!”! Afterwards most children made their totems into necklaces and could be seen proudly wearing them out of the park.



Meanwhile the chalk artist worked in the center of the festival carefully leaving the last beaver for the most crowded afternoon hours. Children and adults watched and asked questions. For this event there was at least one display of living wildlife in every row, with the fish tank, bats, birds, bees and snakes all visible in the park. The day had a magical, friendly feeling as if the best aspects of people were gathered together in one spot to create a giant community of nature and an appreciation of urban wildlife.

The grant from the Fish and Wildlife Committee made these things possible and we are grateful for your support as we educate tomorrows leaders about the importance of beavers.

Heidi Perryman, Ph.D.  
President & Founder  
Worth A Dam  
*A Project of Inquiring Systems Inc.*

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<sup>i</sup> Side note: The beaver silhouettes on the jewelry tags were made from actual photos of the Martinez beavers taken hears ago. These familiar silhouettes have proven extremely useful and have been part of many activities over the years.

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Beavers dams improve water.  
What does better water help?



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



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: Worth A Dam

Name of Project: Water Guardians/Aqua Squad

Contact Name Phone and Email if there are questions about this: Heidi Perryman 925 228 3190

| 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/Invoice | Original Grant Request       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1                               | Activity map and description                                      | Alpha Graphics  | 5/29/2026                      | Activity description and map brochures                                | \$394.28                        | Brochures 350                |
| 2                               | Clue Yard signs                                                   | Vista Print     | 1/16/2026                      | Clue signs for 4 exhibitors                                           | \$131.65                        | Not originally requested     |
| 3                               | Necklace findings & cord                                          | Amazon          | 1/20/2026                      | Cord & findings for water necklaces                                   | \$23.00                         | Cord 15                      |
| 4                               | Rat tail Cord                                                     | Amazon          | 2/5/2026                       | More cord for water neckaces                                          | \$8.77                          | Not originally requested     |
| 5                               | Water guardian jewelry tags                                       | Finding box     | 7/14/2025                      | Water Guardian tags for bottle charms                                 | \$98.76                         | Replacing beaver charms 100  |
| 6                               | Water bottle totems                                               | Amazon          | 1/17/2026                      | Water bottle totems                                                   | \$34.54                         | Glass bottle charms 100      |
| 7                               | Pastels for chalk artist                                          | Amazon          | 5/15/2026                      | Pastels for chalk artist                                              | \$85.71                         | Chalk pastels 100            |
| 8                               | Clue cards and stickers                                           | Moo             | 1/18/2026                      | 50 cards, 4 X 90 stickers                                             | \$94.26                         | Water attributes card X 6 70 |
| 9                               | More clue cards                                                   | Moo             | 11/19/2025                     | 50 cards                                                              | \$32.94                         | Small stickerbooks X 5 65    |
| 10                              | Aqua Squad flag                                                   | Personalization | 5/25/2026                      | Aqua Squad flag to mark activity start                                | \$48.82                         | Not originally Requested     |
|                                 |                                                                   |                 |                                |                                                                       | \$952.73                        |                              |
| TOTAL                           |                                                                   |                 |                                |                                                                       |                                 | \$895.00                     |

## Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center

Final Report for the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee

June 2026

Cal State East Bay was awarded a grant from the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to establish pollinator habitat in three acres of open space at the Concord Center. The acreage is visible from the two roads leading to the parking areas on the campus, and was densely populated with non-native invasive grasses, wild mustard, vetch, and various thistles. As a result of this project, this space now has twenty irrigated pollinator patches planted with California native trees, shrubs, and plants, including toyon, oak, California poppy, sage, buckwheat, and milkweed. The patches are protected with signs that read “Habitat Restoration in Progress,” and through a shared vision for garden maintenance that will protect pollinators. As a result of this project, weed abatement policies were adjusted to reduce loss of habitat, additional habitat has been established, and there have already been several observations of healthy monarch eggs, larvae, and adult butterflies, as well as many other pollinators.

The photos below show some of the pollinator patches and monarch sightings.



Two of the twenty pollinator patches are shown in this photo. Visible are temporary drip irrigation lines, flags marking protected areas and plants, and natives that will thrive at the Concord Center. Plants include coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Pacific aster (*Symphyotricum chilense*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*), and narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*).





Another of the twenty irrigated native pollinator patches in the project area. In the distance, five more patches are visible, three along the roadway.





Another of the twenty newly planted pollinator patches.





A monarch egg observed on narrowleaf milkweed in one of the new pollinator patches, 5/26/26.



An early instar monarch caterpillar observed on narrowleaf milkweed in one of the new pollinator patches, 5/26/26.



A late instar monarch caterpillar observed on narrowleaf milkweed in one of the new pollinator patches, 5/26/26.





Preparing for a planting day; visible are the water cube, several tools, and some of the plants purchased with grant funds.





Transporting tools and plants in a cart, purchased with grant funds, making it easier to plant and tend the pollinator patches.





One of the “Habitat Restoration in Progress” signs, which also features the wording in Chochochenyo, the language of the Ohlone Tribe.

This table MUST be completed with your grant reimbursement request.  
Please submit as an Excel spreadsheet.

Grantee Name: Cal State East Bay  
Name of Project: Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center  
Contact Name Phone and Email if there are questions about this: Kate Shade, kate.shade@csueastbay.edu, 530-848-9516

| Page number that the 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/Invoice | Total Amount of Receipt/Invoice for reimbursement from the Grant |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10                                  | Intermediate Bulk Container Tank for \$399                        | Home Depot                | 2.5.2026/ #WN48271739          |                                                                       | \$421.33                        | \$421.33                                                         |
| 11                                  | Native plants for \$4,000                                         | Watershed Nursery         | 2.11.2026/ #48809              |                                                                       | \$2,562.27                      | \$2,562.27                                                       |
| 12                                  | Drip lines, tubing, connectors, tees for \$1500                   | Drip Depot                | 2.11.2026/ #1930947            |                                                                       | \$871.70                        | \$871.70                                                         |
| 13                                  | Native plants for \$4,000                                         | Watershed Nursery         | 2.17.2026/ #49027              |                                                                       | \$1,435.22                      | \$1,435.22                                                       |
| 14-15                               | Colored flags for \$40                                            | Home Depot                | 2.19.2026/ #WK16430498         | Colored flags                                                         | \$336.68                        | \$39.88                                                          |
| 14-15                               | Utility cart for \$155                                            | Home Depot                | 2.19.2026/ #WK16430498         | Utility cart                                                          | \$336.68                        | \$149.00                                                         |
| 14-15                               | 5 hoes for \$170                                                  | Home Depot                | 2.19.2026/ #WK16430498         | 3 hoes                                                                | \$336.68                        | \$89.91                                                          |
| 14-15                               | 2 shovels for \$105                                               | Home Depot                | 2.19.2026/ #WK16430498         | 1 shovel                                                              | \$336.68                        | \$27.98                                                          |
| 14-15                               | Tax                                                               | Home Depot                | 2.19.2026/ #WK16430498         | Tax                                                                   | \$336.68                        | \$29.91                                                          |
| 16-17                               | Signage, 10 signs for \$247                                       | Signs.com                 | 2.26.2026/ #15194133           |                                                                       | \$276.37                        | \$276.37                                                         |
| 18                                  | Drip lines, tubing, connectors, tees for \$1500                   | Ewing Irrigation Products | 2.24.2026/ #022595762          |                                                                       | \$141.43                        | \$141.43                                                         |
| 19                                  | Irrigation supplies                                               | Outdoor Supply Hardware   | 3.19.2026/ #049279             |                                                                       | \$23.21                         | \$23.21                                                          |
| 20                                  | Utility cart for \$155                                            | Home Depot                | 3.17.2026/ #WN51954393         | Utility cart                                                          | \$217.27                        | \$149.00                                                         |
| 20                                  | Drip lines, tubing, connectors, tees for \$1500                   | Home Depot                | 3.17.2026/ #WN51954394         | Rainbird, Dryconn coupling, connectors                                | \$217.27                        | \$48.97                                                          |
| 20                                  | Tax                                                               | Home Depot                | 3.17.2026/ #WN51954395         | Tax                                                                   | \$217.27                        | \$19.30                                                          |
| 21-23                               | Irrigation supplies                                               | Heritage Landscape Supply | 5.27.2026/ #27219352           | Maintenance kit                                                       | \$830.65                        | \$830.65                                                         |
| 24                                  | 2 shovels for \$105                                               | Ace Hardware (Rockridge)  | 5.31.2026/ #7620578            | Root slayer                                                           | \$66.44                         | \$66.44                                                          |
| 25                                  | 3 shovels for \$105                                               | Ace Hardware (Grand Lake) | 5.31.2026/ #7620579            | Root slayer                                                           | \$60.63                         | \$60.63                                                          |
| TOTAL                               |                                                                   |                           |                                |                                                                       |                                 | \$7,243.20                                                       |
|                                     |                                                                   |                           |                                |                                                                       |                                 | Grant Amount \$7465.92                                           |





## **Things That Creep Final Report**

### **Contra Costa County 2025 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant**

Things That Creep created and printed the first pocket guide to the Reptiles of the San Francisco Bay Area. It was created by a dedicated team of passionate volunteers over the course of a year - over 20 people including biologists, citizen scientists, wildlife educators, photographers, illustrators, and designers contributed their time to bring this project to life.

This full-color guide showcases the incredible reptile biodiversity of the Bay Area with photographs of 30 species across six double-sided panels. Use of photos were generously donated by 15 different photographers and carefully chosen to exhibit each species in a way that helps the reader with identification. Together, we've created an accessible, visually engaging, and scientifically accurate resource that highlights every reptile species native to the Bay Area.

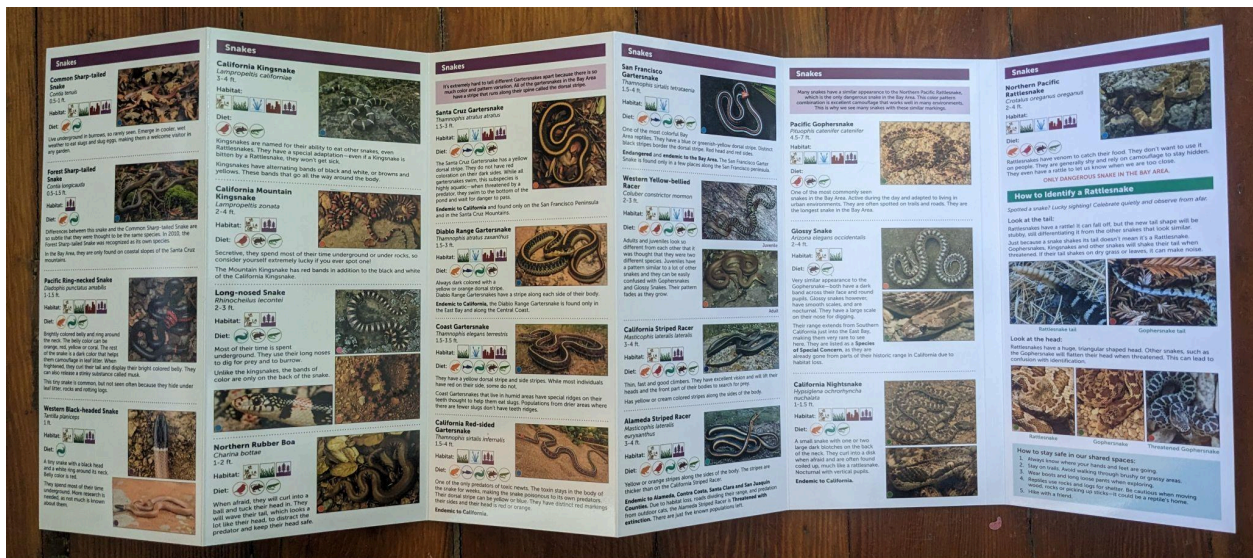
With support from the Contra Costa County 2025 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant, and community donations, 2,000 guides were printed and are being distributed for free to public schools and students in Contra Costa County. Designed to complement classroom learning, this durable guide helps students and families explore local wildlife in their own backyards. By learning to recognize and appreciate these amazing animals, we take the first steps toward protecting the reptiles that share our environment.

Additionally, the guide addresses human-wildlife interactions by providing information on safe and respectful ways to engage with reptiles, helping to mitigate conflicts and promote coexistence. One panel focused solely on the Northern Pacific Rattlesnake, which is the only

snake in the Bay Area that is dangerous to humans. It includes information on how to tell this snake apart from similar snakes, and how to stay safe in our shared outdoor spaces.

As previously approved by the Fish and Wildlife Committee on October 15, 2025, through a project modification and extension request, the project scope was revised from printing 3,000 four-panel guides to printing 2,000 six-panel guides due to increased printing costs and a change in vendors. After extensive research, we partnered with Waterford Press, a publisher that specializes in durable, nature-focused pocket guides. Due to changes in vendor and guide format, our final product will be a six-panel, full-color guide — more comprehensive than originally scoped — with a print run of 2,000 copies at a cost of \$8,470. An additional \$1,270 was required to print the 2,000 copies. To cover this extra cost, we printed an additional 500 copies to sell, with all proceeds from these additional copies going to fund the additional \$1,270 that wasn't covered by this grant. Given these developments, this project took us longer and cost more than expected.

These pocket guides are currently being distributed with the help of John Iwawaki, the Science & Engineering Coordinator of West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD). He is facilitating the distribution of 1,500 of the guides to 3rd-12th grade students at (WCCUSD) public schools. Of the remaining 500, 175 were distributed this past spring Richmond public school students. The last 325 will be distributed this fall to Richmond public school students to complement our existing Neighborhood Snakes program. This multi-media curriculum introduces students to the most common snakes in the Bay Area. This pocket guide is an educational tool that extends learning about local reptile species beyond the classroom.





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: Things That Creep  
Name of Project: Pocket Guide to Bay Area Reptiles  
Contact Name Phone and Email if there are questions about this: Audra Barrios (510) 776-0132, hello@thingsthatcreep.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/Invoice | Total Amount of Receipt/Invoice for reimbursement from the Grant |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                               | Printing of pocket guides                                         | Simon & Schuster LLC | 4/9/2026                       | Guide to Reptiles of the                                              | \$9,850.00                      | \$7,200.00                                                       |
|                                 |                                                                   |                      |                                |                                                                       |                                 |                                                                  |
|                                 |                                                                   |                      |                                |                                                                       |                                 |                                                                  |
|                                 |                                                                   |                      |                                |                                                                       |                                 |                                                                  |
|                                 |                                                                   |                      |                                |                                                                       |                                 |                                                                  |

TOTAL

\$7,200.00

Subtract Early Disbursement of Funds Due to Financial Hardship

\$3,600.00

Remainder to be Reimbursed

\$3,600.00

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

July 1, 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](mailto:Maureen.Parkes@dcd.cccounty.us)

**Subject: Mira Vista Field Restoration Project Mid-Term Report and Expenses to Date**

Dear Ms. Parkes:

We are requesting reimbursement of \$2,840.81 in grant-funded project expenses incurred to date. These expenditures consist of tools and materials necessary in order for us to proceed with the grant project. As you may know, with restoration work timing can be critical and it was imperative this spring to act quickly on the control of invasive weeds (which were copious). The items purchased were necessary to work on weed control and included a mower, cordless trimmers, hand tools, vinegar, cardboard sheet mulch materials, tape and flagging needed to identify “no mow” areas of native plants and grasses for the School District’s mower operator doing fire prevention mowing, and refreshments for volunteer weeding events.

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”, in particular an area which we now call “Poppy Hill”
- 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
- installing Habitat Restoration Area signs
- replenishing the supply of doggie poop bags at each of the entrances to the site

We also coordinated with and identified areas of native plants and grasses to be protected for the School District’s mower operator.

All of the above has been accomplished by our volunteers using tools and supplies provided for in the grant award. Attached please find a current complete log of expenditures and supporting documentation.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions or require additional information. We are including a brief mid-term report for your information.



Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee, by Adèle Ho

Att: Log of expenditures  
Invoice backup  
Mid-Term report

Cc: Juliana Gonzales, Executive Director, The Watershed Project



# Mira Vista Field Restoration

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## Mid-Term Progress Report, 6/30/26



Grant Award date: November 4, 2025

Grant Amount: \$11,940

Accomplishments so far:

**Identified focus area(s) for restoration work:**

- Invasive Oxalis
- Northwest corner of site
- "Poppy Hill"

**Outreach and organizing volunteers** for weekly Wednesday Weeding, which began January 21<sup>st</sup> and is continuing weekly



## Sheet Mulched areas of Invasive Oxalis



**Weekly weeding and mowing by volunteers in focus areas**

**Hosted additional Volunteer Work Days** in February, March, May and June for sheet mulching and weeding of non-natives.

**Flagged “No Mow” areas** and coordinated with School District fire prevention mowing in April and May

**Posted public outreach notices** addressing:

Spring Wildflowers visible at the Field

Great Blue Herons hunting in the field (and presumably nesting nearby)





Cover page; receipts start on Page 1

Reimbursement Request #: 1R  
Date: 7/1/2026

| Page number that receipt is on. | Description of service/item                                                                         | 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/Invoice | Total Amount of Receipt/Invoice for reimbursement from the Grant |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 | 1 - Restoration tools, equipment and materials Total Grant amount                                   | \$ 4,960.00                       |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |                                                                  |
|                                 | Individual line items used to date:                                                                 |                                   |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |                                                                  |
| 1                               | Trimmers & extra batteries                                                                          | \$ 1,200.00                       | Amazon                      | 2/27/26<br>111-2514129-3239427    | SnapFresh 12V Cordless Grass Shear, Makita XMU04ZX cordless trimmer, Makita BL1840BDC1 18V LXT Lithium battery and charger, Gtongoko 120 Pack Galvanized Landscape Staples | \$ 266.20                       | \$ 266.20                                                        |
| 2                               | hand mower, battery operated                                                                        | \$ 1,800.00                       | ACE Hardware, Pinole        | 1/28/2026 67179688<br>67179778    | EGO Power+ 800 Series LM2135SP 21 in. 56V Battery Self-Propelled Lawn Mower Kit (Battery & Charger) w/ 7.5 AH BATTERY                                                      | \$ 825.77                       | \$ 825.77                                                        |
| 3                               | tiller rental (using hand pickaxe allocation)                                                       | \$ 360.00                         | Home Depot                  | 1/30/26 290201                    | MANTIS XP TILLER                                                                                                                                                           | \$ 57.16                        | \$ 57.16                                                         |
| 4                               | flagging tape and flags                                                                             | \$ 250.00                         | Zoro                        | 7/01/26. WB3718913374             | Flagging Tape - Blue 12 rolls, Flagging Tape - Pink 6 rolls, Marking Flags 12 packs of 100                                                                                 | \$ 220.52                       | \$ 220.52                                                        |
| 5                               | 30% vinegar                                                                                         |                                   | PASTIME ACE HARDWARE        | 1/13/2026                         | 1028424 CLN VINEGAR LQD 128OZ                                                                                                                                              | \$ 24.24                        | \$ 24.24                                                         |
| 6                               | 30% vinegar                                                                                         |                                   | Home Depot                  | 3/6/2026                          | Harris Vinegar Concentrated-30 128 oz, Qty: 2                                                                                                                              | \$ 43.83                        | \$ 43.83                                                         |
| 6                               | 30% vinegar                                                                                         |                                   | Home Depot                  | 3/13/2026                         | Harris Vinegar Concentrated-30 128 oz                                                                                                                                      | \$ 21.82                        | \$ 21.82                                                         |
| 6                               | 30% vinegar                                                                                         |                                   | ACE Hardware, Pleasant Hill | 3/24/2026                         | CLN VINEGAR LQD 128OZ                                                                                                                                                      | \$ 27.30                        | \$ 27.30                                                         |
| 6                               | 30% vinegar                                                                                         |                                   | Home Depot                  | 4/5/2026                          | (2 purchased, but only 1 was for this project)                                                                                                                             | \$ 21.78                        | \$ 21.78                                                         |
|                                 | Total 30% vinegar (using backpack sprayer allocation)                                               | \$ 300.00                         |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 | \$ 138.97                                                        |
| 7                               | cardboard roll and staples for sheet mulching (using hand pickaxe and backpack sprayer allocations) |                                   | Home Depot                  | 2/15/26<br>WN49011451             | Agfabric 50 Pcs Landscape Staples, Ram Board 38 in W x 100 ft                                                                                                              | \$ 405.00                       | \$ 405.00                                                        |
| 8                               | Utility Knife (2) for cutting sheet mulch sheets (using backpack sprayer allocation)                |                                   | Amazon                      | 2/27/26 111-<br>4755784-5644222   | enport K104-O Harvest Utility Knife, Qty:                                                                                                                                  | \$ 62.26                        | \$ 62.26                                                         |
| 9                               | Habitat Restoration Area signs (19)                                                                 |                                   | Amazon                      | 2/18/26 / 112-6229160-<br>4893805 | No Spray Zone Habitat Restoration In Progress Sign Wildflower Yard Sign                                                                                                    | \$ 306.31                       | \$ 306.31                                                        |
| 10-11                           | "No Dig Zone" sticker for on habitat restoration signs                                              |                                   | Sticker Mule                | 3/2/2026 R051477145               | Rectangle Stickers, 7"x1", Qty: 20                                                                                                                                         | \$ 33.71                        | \$ 33.71                                                         |
|                                 | Total Habitat Restoration Signs                                                                     | \$ 300.00                         |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 | \$ 340.02                                                        |
|                                 | 3 - Bulletin Board and Signage, poop bags Total Grant amount                                        | \$ 4,260.00                       |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |                                                                  |
| 12                              | doggie poopie bags                                                                                  |                                   | Zero Waste USA              | 15/26 114-7060674-3322664         | MuttMitt Singles Dog Waste bags, Qty: 2                                                                                                                                    | \$ 314.20                       | \$ 314.20                                                        |
| 13                              | doggie poopie bags                                                                                  |                                   | MuttMitt                    | 12/26. 111-5773167-8128217        | MuttMitt Singles Dog Waste bags                                                                                                                                            | \$ 148.83                       | \$ 148.83                                                        |
|                                 | Total Doggie Poopie Bags line item allowance and expenditures to date                               | \$ 710.00                         |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 | \$ 463.03                                                        |
|                                 | 7 - Public Outreach, Volunteer Appreciation Event Total Grant Amount                                | \$ 200.00                         |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |                                                                  |
| 14                              | food & beverage                                                                                     |                                   | Trader Joe's                | 4/15/2026.                        | grapes, sauv blanc, pinot noir, crackers, havarti, smoked gouda                                                                                                            | \$ 34.09                        | \$ 34.09                                                         |
| 14                              | food & beverage                                                                                     |                                   | Trader Joe's                | 5/12/2026. 32946                  | pinot noir, sauv blanc, crackers, cookies, havarti, smoked gouda                                                                                                           | \$ 27.79                        | \$ 27.79                                                         |
|                                 | Total food & beverage line item allowance and expenditures to date                                  | \$ 100.00                         |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 | \$ 61.88                                                         |
|                                 |                                                                                                     |                                   |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |                                                                  |
|                                 |                                                                                                     |                                   |                             |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |                                                                  |

|       |    |          |
|-------|----|----------|
| TOTAL | \$ | 2,840.81 |
|-------|----|----------|





# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-3571

**Agenda Date:** 8/19/2026

**Agenda #:** 7.

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Fish and Wildlife Committee

Subject: Consideration of 2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Applications

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925) 655-2909

### Recommendations

**CONSIDER the 16 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund applications submitted by July 27, 2026.** Consider inviting one or more organizations to the following meeting if the Committee has further questions on their grant proposals.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2027

| Letter | Organization                  | Type of Org | Project Title                                                        | Type of Project            | Location of Project | Requested<br>Funding Amount | Recommended<br>Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | FWC Rationale for<br>Recommendation |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A      | Mt. View<br>Sanitary District | government  | Beaver Coexistence<br>and Habitat<br>Improvement at<br>Moorhen Marsh | (e) habitat<br>improvement | Central County      | \$8,680.00                  |                               | <p>This is a request for funds to implement non-lethal beaver coexistence measures and improve wetland habitat at Moorhen Marsh in Martinez. Grant funds are requested for the purchase of materials for pond levelers, tree protection, fencing, and other infrastructure improvements that reduce conflicts between beavers and wastewater facilities while enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>March 2027 -August 2028</p> |                                     |

| Letter | Organization                   | Type of Org      | Project Title                               | Type of Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Location of Project | Requested<br>Funding Amount | Recommended<br>Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | FWC Rationale for<br>Recommendation |
|--------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B      | Contra Costa<br>Water District | special district | Pond MC-3 Habitat<br>Enhancement<br>Project | <p>(e) habitat improvement</p> <p>(n) Other expenditures, approved by the department, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.</p> <p>*CDFW confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (e) and (n)</p> | East County         | \$31,002.00                 |                               | <p>This is a request for funds to reconstruct Pond MC-3 in the Los Vaqueros Watershed to improve breeding habitat for California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders. Grant funds are requested for materials and equipment necessary to reconstruct the pond, improve water retention, and establish native wetland vegetation to enhance habitat for these sensitive species.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>July 2027 - October 2027</p> |                                     |



| Letter | Organization | Type of Org | Project Title                           | Type of Project      | Location of Project | Requested<br>Funding Amount | Recommended<br>Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | FWC Rationale for<br>Recommendation |
|--------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| C      | Worth a Dam  | non-profit  | Beaver Ponds Make<br>Pollinator Parties | (a) public education | Central County      | \$928.00                    |                               | <p>This is a request for funds to provide an educational activity about the ecological relationship between beavers and pollinators at the 2027 Martinez Beaver Festival. Grant funds are requested for educational materials and supplies, including activity handouts, signs, maps, badges, and art supplies to support an interactive learning experience for children and families. Educational materials will also be made available to school teachers on a limited basis for classroom use.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>Date to be determined</p> |                                     |

| Letter | Organization                                                                 | Type of Org | Project Title             | Type of Project                                 | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| D      | Golden Gate Bird Alliance on Behalf of Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour | non-profit  | Bringing Back the Natives | (a) public education<br>(e) habitat improvement | Countywide          | \$3,272.00               |                            | <p>This is a request for funds to support the 2027 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour by providing educational materials that promote native plant gardening and wildlife habitat. Grant funds are requested for the purchase of tour signs, keystone species signs, sign legs, and volunteer t-shirts for use during the 2027 Garden Tour, with durable materials retained for future tours.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>To be determined</p> |                                  |

| Letter | Organization     | Type of Org | Project Title                | Type of Project                                 | Location of Project                | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| E      | KIDS for the BAY | non-profit  | Watershed Education Programs | (a) public education<br>(e) habitat improvement | West County 50%<br>East County 50% | \$8,400.00               |                            | <p>This is a request for funds to support the Watershed Action Program by providing field trip transportation for elementary students, teachers, and families to participate in hands-on watershed education and stewardship activities at creek, bay, and Delta habitats. Grant funds are requested for bus transportation for outdoor field trips serving twelve elementary school classes in Contra Costa County schools located in low-income communities.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>2026–2027 school year</p> |                                  |



| Letter | Organization              | Type of Org | Project Title                                                                                                                                                                          | Type of Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| F      | International Bird Rescue | non-profit  | Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human / Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife in 2027 | (a) public education<br>(b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.<br>(c) temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence.<br>(i) scientific research *<br><br>CDFW confirmed in 2023 that IBR projects are additionally eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (c) and (i) | Countywide          | \$15,153.54              |                            | This is a request for funds to support wildlife rehabilitation through the temporary emergency treatment and care of injured and orphaned wildlife in Contra Costa County. Grant funds are requested for materials, equipment, and technology that support wildlife rehabilitation, including facility improvements, equipment replacement, and technology upgrades.<br><br><u>Project Schedule:</u><br>This project can begin within 30 days of contract execution and be completed within 9 months. |                                  |

| Letter | Organization                                               | Type of Org | Project Title                                       | Type of Project         | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| G      | Walnut Creek Watershed Council / Friends of Concord Creeks | non-profit  | Rock Perimeter for Hillcrest Park Native Plant Area | (e) habitat improvement | Central County      | \$1,034.00               |                            | <p>This is a request for funds to improve the Hillcrest Park Native Plant Area along Holbrook Channel and the Via Delta de Anza Trail by installing a rock perimeter that protects native vegetation, provides habitat for western fence lizards, and enhances public awareness of the restoration area. Grant funds are requested for the purchase of rocks and delivery services to create a boundary around the native plant area and provide habitat features for western fence lizards.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>March 2027 – April 2027</p> |                                  |

| Letter | Organization                        | Type of Org | Project Title                         | Type of Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| H      | East Bay Municipal Utility District | government  | Pinole Creek Water Quality Assessment | (i) scientific research<br><br>(n) other expenditures, approved by the department, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife<br><br>*CDFW confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i) and (n) | West County         | \$13,292.00              |                            | This is a request for funds to establish baseline water quality information for Pinole Creek to identify pollutants affecting aquatic habitat and naturally reproducing California Central Coast steelhead. Grant funds are requested for sample preparation, field measurements, and laboratory analysis of water samples collected at three sites on Pinole Creek and one reference site to evaluate nutrients, bacteria, metals, and organic contaminants that may be affecting aquatic habitat.<br><br><u>Project Schedule:</u><br>June 2027 – December 2027 |                                  |



| Letter | Organization             | Type of Org | Project Title                                                             | Type of Project                                 | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| I      | Canyon Elementary School | school      | San Leandro Creek Watershed Education & Trout Habitat Stewardship Program | (a) public education<br>(e) habitat improvement | Central County      | \$9,000.00               |                            | <p>This is a request for funds to launch the foundational phase of a long-term watershed education and trout habitat stewardship program focused on protecting rainbow trout habitat in San Leandro Creek. Grant funds are requested for the purchase of one-time equipment and materials for watershed monitoring, aquatic discovery, habitat stewardship, watershed investigation, and fish and wildlife conservation education.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>Within 18 months of grant agreement execution.</p> <p>***The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship.***</p> |                                  |

| Letter | Organization             | Type of Org | Project Title                                          | Type of Project                                        | Location of Project | Requested<br>Funding Amount | Recommended<br>Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | FWC Rationale for<br>Recommendation |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| J      | The Watershed<br>Project | non-profit  | Wildcat Creek eDNA<br>Testing and Visual<br>Assessment | (a) public education<br><br>(e) habitat<br>improvement | West County         | \$16,123.00                 |                               | <p>This is a request for funds to conduct eDNA testing and visual habitat assessments throughout Wildcat Creek to identify organisms present in different sections of the creek, assess fish communities and habitat conditions, and support future fish passage and habitat restoration efforts. Grant funds are requested for eDNA sampling, laboratory analysis and sample identification, visual assessment and water quality monitoring equipment, replacement monitoring equipment and maintenance items, calibration supplies, field and safety equipment, permit renewal, GIS and communication services, and educational materials.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>February 2027 – January 2028</p> |                                     |

| Letter | Organization                | Type of Org | Project Title                                                     | Type of Project                                        | Location of Project | Requested<br>Funding Amount | Recommended<br>Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | FWC Rationale for<br>Recommendation |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| K      | Friends of Orinda<br>Creeks | non-profit  | Water Quality<br>Analysis and<br>Monitoring of San<br>Pablo Creek | (a) public education<br><br>(e) habitat<br>improvement | Central County      | \$5,000.00                  |                               | <p>This is a request for funds to evaluate water quality and ecological conditions in the San Pablo Creek watershed to support the proposed reintroduction of native rainbow trout above San Pablo Reservoir and provide information needed to seek authorization from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Grant funds are requested for the purchase of water quality monitoring equipment and water quality sampling analysis to characterize stream conditions and identify factors affecting trout habitat.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>Quarterly water quality monitoring upon grant agreement execution.</p> |                                     |



| Letter | Organization                         | Type of Org | Project Title                                                | Type of Project                                                                                                          | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| L      | John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited | non-profit  | Wildcat Creek Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Suitability Study | (i) scientific research<br><br>*CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i) | West County         | \$6,717.60               |                            | <p>This is a request for funds to continue water quality monitoring and fish passage assessments in Upper Wildcat Creek to support restoration of resident rainbow trout and future steelhead access. Continuous HOBO logger data will also contribute to a broader study of urban creek conditions by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Grant funds are requested for the purchase of monitoring equipment, replacement expendable items, calibration supplies, and field equipment needed to continue water quality monitoring and fish passage assessments.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>March 2027 – September 2028</p> <p>***The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship.***</p> |                                  |

| Letter | Organization         | Type of Org | Project Title                                             | Type of Project      | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| M      | John Muir Land Trust | non-profit  | Exploring Tidal Wetlands: Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education | (a) public education | Central County      | \$7,128.99               |                            | <p>This is a request for funds to expand the Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education Program by providing free field trips that introduce Contra Costa County youth to restored tidal wetland habitat and fish and wildlife conservation. Grant funds are requested for bus transportation for five educational field trips and the purchase of a rechargeable digital microscope to enhance hands-on environmental education at Pacheco Marsh.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>Spring and Fall 2027</p> |                                  |

| Letter | Organization                                | Type of Org | Project Title                                        | Type of Project                                                                                                          | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| N      | Contra Costa Resource Conservation District | government  | Assessing Water Quality Impacts from Invasive Azolla | (i) scientific research<br><br>*CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i) | Countywide          | \$6,800.00               |                            | <p>This is a request for funds to assess the effects of invasive Azolla on water quality in livestock ponds, including impacts to invertebrate species richness and potential effects on threatened and endangered species through changes to aquatic food webs. Grant funds are requested for the purchase of sampling supplies, laboratory analysis, and shipping needed to collect and analyze water quality and plant tissue samples.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>March 2027 – December 2027</p> |                                  |

| Letter | Organization                                         | Type of Org | Project Title                                         | Type of Project            | Location of Project | Requested<br>Funding Amount | Recommended<br>Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | FWC Rationale for<br>Recommendation |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| O      | Contra Costa<br>Resource<br>Conservation<br>District | government  | Shadehouse<br>Operation for<br>Habitat<br>Enhancement | (e) habitat<br>improvement | Countywide          | \$4,678.06                  |                               | <p>This is a request for funds to increase the production of locally adapted native plants for habitat restoration projects in Contra Costa County. Grant funds are requested for the construction of a shadehouse and the purchase of propagation materials needed to grow native plants for restoration sites and community habitat projects.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>Winter 2027 – Spring 2028</p> |                                     |



| Letter | Organization                                | Type of Org | Project Title                                                               | Type of Project         | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
|--------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| P      | Contra Costa Resource Conservation District | government  | Marsh Creek Steelhead Trout Spawning and Breeding Habitat Enhancement Pilot | (e) habitat improvement | East County         | \$19,695.00              |                            | <p>This is a request for funds to restore steelhead trout spawning habitat in Marsh Creek in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council by adding spawning substrate at two demonstration sites to improve breeding conditions. Grant funds are requested for the purchase of river rock, project materials, rock delivery, permitting, and biological monitoring to implement and evaluate the habitat enhancement pilot.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>February 2027 – February 2028</p> |                                  |

2027 Grant Funding Summary

|                       | Requested    | Recommended  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Totals                | \$156,904.19 | \$0.00       |
| Total Available Funds | \$452,604.76 |              |
| Balances              | \$295,700.57 | \$452,604.76 |

| Subtotals By Region | Requested Funding Amount | Percentage of Total Amount Requested | Recommended Funding Amount | Percentage of Total Amount Recommended for Approval |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| East                | \$54,897.00              | 34.99%                               |                            |                                                     |
| West                | \$49,012.60              | 31.24%                               |                            |                                                     |
| Central             | \$23,090.99              | 14.72%                               |                            |                                                     |
| Countywide          | \$29,903.60              | 19.06%                               |                            |                                                     |
| TOTAL               | \$156,904.19             | 100.00%                              |                            |                                                     |

|                                                                    |                          |                                      |                            | Percentage of Total Amount Recommended for Approval |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Subtotals by Region                                                | Requested Funding Amount | Percentage of Total Amount Requested | Recommended Funding Amount |                                                     |
| East                                                               | \$54,897.00              | 34.99%                               | \$0.00                     |                                                     |
| West                                                               | \$49,012.60              | 31.24%                               | \$0.00                     |                                                     |
| Central                                                            | \$23,090.99              | 14.72%                               | \$0.00                     |                                                     |
| Countywide                                                         | \$29,903.60              | 19.06%                               | \$0.00                     |                                                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                       | <b>\$156,904.19</b>      | <b>100.00%</b>                       | <b>\$0.00</b>              |                                                     |
| <b>East County</b>                                                 | <b>Requested</b>         | <b>Recommended</b>                   |                            |                                                     |
| B-CCWD                                                             | \$31,002.00              |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| E-KIDS for ther BAY                                                | \$4,200.00               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| P-CCRCD-Marsh Creek Steelhead Trout                                | \$19,695.00              |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                       | <b>\$54,897.00</b>       |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| <b>West County</b>                                                 | <b>Requested</b>         | <b>Recommended</b>                   |                            |                                                     |
| A-Mt. View Sanitary District                                       | \$8,680.00               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| E-KIDS for ther BAY                                                | \$4,200.00               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| H-EBMUD                                                            | \$13,292.00              |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| J-The Watershed Project                                            | \$16,123.00              |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| L-John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited                             | \$6,717.60               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                       | <b>\$49,012.60</b>       |                                      | <b>\$0.00</b>              |                                                     |
| <b>Central County</b>                                              | <b>Requested</b>         | <b>Recommended</b>                   |                            |                                                     |
| C-Worth a Dam                                                      | \$928.00                 |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| G-WCWC/Friends of Concord Creeks                                   | \$1,034.00               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| I-Canyon Elementary School                                         | \$9,000.00               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| K-Friends of Orinda Creeks                                         | \$5,000.00               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| M-John Muir Land Trust                                             | \$7,128.99               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                       | <b>\$23,090.99</b>       |                                      | <b>\$0.00</b>              |                                                     |
| <b>Countywide</b>                                                  | <b>Requested</b>         | <b>Recommended</b>                   |                            |                                                     |
| D-Golden Gate Bird Alliance on Behalf of Bringing Back the Natives | \$3,272.00               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| F-International Bird Rescue                                        | \$15,153.54              |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| N-CCRCD- Azolla                                                    | \$6,800.00               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| O-CCRCD-Shadehouse                                                 | \$4,678.06               |                                      |                            |                                                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                       | <b>\$29,903.60</b>       |                                      | <b>\$0.00</b>              |                                                     |

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

Office Use Only

A

Project Title: Beaver Coexistence and Habitat Improvement at Moorhen Marsh

Organization/Individual applying: Mt. View Sanitary District

Organization type: please check one –

government

☒

non-profit

☐

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: 3800 Arthur Road, Martinez, CA 94553

Telephone: 925-812-7047

Email: kpickett@mvsd.org

Name and title of contact person: Kyle Pickett, Grants & Contracts Manager OBO  
Lilia Corona, General Manager

One sentence summary of proposal:

MVSD will implement mitigation measures to enhance beaver coexistence.

Requested grant amount:

\$8,680

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Kyle Pickett, Grants & Contracts Administrator

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

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

Lilia Corona

Date

7/8/2026



## **Project: Beaver Coexistence and Habitat Improvement at Moorhen Marsh**

2) North American beavers are critical ecosystem engineers within Moorhen Marsh, helping maintain a wetland habitat which benefits fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Increasing conflicts between beavers and wastewater infrastructure have created a challenging tension between wildlife conservation and essential public infrastructure.

MVSD is a publicly owned treatment works that processes wastewater for the city of Martinez and unincorporated Contra Costa County. MVSD's treated wastewater is discharged into Moorhen Marsh, which provides nutrient polishing that helps prevent harmful algal blooms in the wider San Francisco Bay estuary. Moorhen Marsh is a sanctuary for local wetland species, including the western pond turtle, North American river otter, mink, and dozens of species of birds. Moorhen Marsh also supports the Wetlands Education Program, a public education program which uses the local ecosystem as a living laboratory to teach students about wetland wildlife.



Beavers are critical species in this ecosystem, to the point of becoming cultural fixtures. Roughly half of MVSD's ratepayers are located in the city of Martinez, home to an annual Beaver Festival. Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife (CCCFW) has demonstrated its own commitment to beaver conservation through consistent backing of educational outreach about the specific importance of the beaver's role in local ecosystems. This recognition is well-deserved, as beavers increase habitat complexity, water retention, and support native wildlife.

Beavers are nevertheless challenging to manage. While the California Department of Fish and Wildlife lists beavers as a keystone species, they are also among the Department's most frequently reported sources of human-wildlife conflicts. For the past four years, beavers have downed trees, dammed culverts, and burrowed into the levees at Moorhen Marsh. Beaver activity has expanded in recent years. In July 2026, a second culvert was found to be dammed next to the culvert that has historically been most impacted by beaver activity. Burrows have caused large sinkholes which have required ongoing gravel fills. An initial environmental assessment report from The Wildlife Project consultancy in December 2025 recommended measures up to and including translocation and depredation permits.

MVSD intends to use this opportunity to implement the principles of the California beaver coexistence strategy, which emphasizes non-lethal conflict management techniques when feasible. MVSD's coexistence strategy also mirrors the community support for the species and the importance assigned to beavers by previous CCCFW policies and grants.

Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) requests \$8,680 for habitat improvements that will allow beaver communities to thrive and will help resolve human-wildlife interaction issues. MVSD will install fence-and-pipe pond levelers to ensure its marsh has uninterrupted water flow as well as use latex paint, cayenne pepper, hog panels, and fencing to protect tree trunks and prevent burrowing. By making the wetland habitat more resilient against beaver damage, MVSD will protect both beavers and the fish and wildlife species that benefit from their dams, directly satisfying Fish and Game Code Section 13103(e).

The project will see the installation of two fence-and-pipe pond levelers at Moorhen Marsh culvert outflows. These devices allow water to flow below beaver dams, bypassing obstructions. The installations will be

supplemented with tree protection measures. A combination of latex paint and cayenne pepper will be used to deter gnawing, which in conjunction with hog panel installation will be used to protect approximately 30-50 trees. Wire fencing will be installed to prevent burrowing into the marsh's levees, particularly at vulnerable points. Gravel will be used to stabilize newly discovered burrows while the newly installed coexistence infrastructure redirects beaver activity away from vulnerable levee sections. When completed, the project will reduce human-wildlife conflict while maintaining the ecological benefits that beavers provide to Moorhen Marsh.

### 3) Project Schedule

| Date                  | Project Task                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 2027            | Project kickoff meeting                                                                                                    |
|                       | Place order for pond leveler equipment, latex paint, cayenne pepper, hog panels, and fencing                               |
| Q2 2027 - Q3 2027     | Installation of pond leveler equipment, painting of trees, installation of hog panels and fencing                          |
| Q4 2027 – August 2028 | Monitor beaver activity, inspect coexistence infrastructure, and work with the Beaver Help Desk to mitigate further damage |
| August 2028           | Final project report                                                                                                       |

### 4) Project Budget

| Project Expenses                     | Quantity (if applicable) | Funds Requested |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| HDPE corrugated pipe (for levelers)  | 7                        | \$800           |
| Couplers                             | 4                        | \$100           |
| Galvanized hog panels and staples    | 75                       | \$3,000         |
| T-Posts                              | 48                       | \$500           |
| Concrete blocks                      | 20                       | \$60            |
| Bailing wire                         | 3                        | \$30            |
| Latex paint 5 gal                    | 2                        | \$150           |
| Cayenne pepper powder 25 lbs         | 1                        | \$80            |
| Paintbrushes 12 pack                 | 1                        | \$10            |
| Wire 14-gauge 2x4" mesh fence, 48-in | 3                        | \$250           |
| Gravel, assorted sizes               |                          | \$2,000         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                      |                          | <b>\$6,980</b>  |
| Tax, transport, handling             |                          | \$1,700         |
| <b>Total</b>                         |                          | <b>\$8,680</b>  |

5) The MVSD Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Annual Budget appropriates funds for anticipated expenditures of \$11.87 million for all District funds with total revenue projections of \$12.4 million with Fiscal Year-end June 30, 2027. The FY26-27 O&M budget projects expenditures of \$10.5 million and reflects a 7% increase in expenditure from the prior year. Sewer Service Charges and other miscellaneous charges and fees fully support operations and maintenance expenditures.

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

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

7) Mt. View Sanitary District is a well-established public utility which has provided sanitation services to Contra Costa County residents since 1923. The District has managed Moorhen Marsh since 1974, stewarding the wetlands' wildlife habitat and ensuring a thriving ecosystem for local fish and wildlife species.

**Lilia Corona, MPA, CSDM**, has led MVSD's overall operations as **General Manager** for six years. Corona has been at MVSD since 2009, when she started as the District Chemist. She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from California State University, East Bay and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

**Chris Elliott** is the **MVSD District Engineer**. Elliott holds an active PE license in Civil Engineering and has overseen many of the projects undertaken by MVSD, including the final phase of levee repairs undertaken from 2017-18. Elliott will lead engineering design for project elements requiring professional engineering review.

**Scott Biocic**, Grade V Wastewater Plant Operator, is the **Operations Manager** for **MVSD**. In that role, Biocic leads the beaver management strategy at MVSD.

**Stacey Ambrose, Deputy General Manager** for MVSD, is a 20-year wastewater veteran and leads MVSD's operations, environmental compliance, and public outreach functions.

**Kyle Pickett** is the **Grants & Contracts Administrator** for MVSD. Pickett previously managed the grants and contracts programs for a transportation tech startup prior to joining the district and oversees grant applications and implementation for MVSD.

**David Krawitz-Greenspan** is the **Co-Founder** of Wet Meadows. Krawitz-Greenspan has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and offers beaver conflict mitigation and habitat restoration services to MVSD through the state's Beaver Help Desk.

8) Mt. View Sanitary District's Deputy General Manager, Stacey Ambrose, and Public Outreach & Administrative Services Supervisor, Robin Mitchell, are responsible for overseeing Moorhen Marsh. Grants & Contracts Administrator Kyle Pickett will serve as project manager for the grant, while Scott Biocic will oversee the operations team. Wet Meadows will provide specialized beaver support as a state contractor through California's Beaver Help Desk program.

9) No permits are expected for the beaver coexistence project in Moorhen Marsh, as similar beaver management devices have qualified for CEQA exemptions.

10) No exception is requested.

**Contra Costa County**  
**2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund**  
**Application Cover Page**

Office Use Only

B

Project Title: Pond MC-3 Habitat Enhancement Project

Organization/Individual applying: Contra Costa Water District

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☐

school

☐

other (explain)

☒

special district

Address: 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94520

Telephone: 925-688-8064

Email: kkelley@ccwater.com

Name and title of contact person: Katie Kelley, Grants Specialist

One sentence summary of proposal: The proposed project includes reconstruction of Pond MC-3, located in the Los Vaqueros Watershed, to improve breeding success for California Red-Legged Frogs and California Tiger Salamanders.

Requested grant amount: \$ 31,002.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Katie Kelley, Grants Specialist

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

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

*Katie Kelley*

Date 7/13/2026



# 1 Project Description

Since the planning of the original construction of Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) Los Vaqueros Reservoir that was completed in 1997, CCWD has remained committed to mitigating all environmental impacts to less than significant levels. The Los Vaqueros Watershed protects nearly 20,000 acres of wildlife habitat in eastern Contra Costa County and a portion of Alameda County. The unique property is home to many protected species, including the Alameda whipsnake, California Tiger Salamander, California Red-Legged Frog and the San Joaquin Kit Fox.

As part of these mitigation efforts, CCWD is obligated to maintain a total of 85 stock ponds and semi-permanent and alkali marshes within the Watershed. These maintained ponds include 48 non-key stock ponds, 18 key stock ponds, 13 semi-permanent wetlands, 5 alkali marshes, and the Mortero Wetlands Complex, many of which provide critical habitat for various sensitive species, including the California Red-Legged Frogs and California Tiger Salamanders. While CCWD meets compliance for these species on an annual basis as required by the Resource Management Plan and the Habitat Management Plan, CCWD has identified several ponds that could benefit from habitat enhancement to improve reproduction of the California Red-Legged Frogs and California Tiger Salamanders. One of these ponds, Pond MC-3, is located within CCWD's Los Vaqueros Habitat Management Unit, also known as the Deer Valley East Management Unit, in Brentwood approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the intersection between Vineyards Parkway and Concord Avenue. The proposed project includes reconstruction of Pond MC-3 to improve breeding success for California Red-Legged Frogs and California Tiger Salamanders. Pond MC-3 will be reconstructed to hold water through mid-July to allow tadpoles to metamorphose and dry out naturally in the fall (mid-August-December) to kill predators like bullfrogs and predatory fish. Pond MC-3 will be recontoured through the means of a dozer and excavator to provide an adequate depth of water for suitable breeding grounds. Bentonite will be added to the bed and bank of the pond to sustain an adequate depth of water for breeding and finished off with the planting of native wetland plants and trees to provide adequate cover for the species. The pond will be monitored in perpetuity for breeding success.

The project meets Section 13103 of the Fish & Game Code under item (n): Other expenditures, approved by the department, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.

## 2 Project Schedule

The proposed project does not require engineered design. CCWD staff will direct reconstruction of the pond using internal standards. It is anticipated that reconstruction could occur in 2026 or 2027 depending on when an agreement is executed. The project will take place over a two-week period in either year between July 1 and October 31 if the pond is dry and between September 1 and October 31

if the pond is wet, per CCWD's Los Vaqueros Watershed and Conservation Lands Pond Routine Maintenance Agreement (Agreement No. EPIMS-CCA-31285-R3).

### 3 Project Budget

The project budget consists of material and equipment costs as itemized in Table 1. The total anticipated budget for the project is approximately \$31,002.

**Table 1: Itemized Project Budget**

| Budget Item Description         | Computation |          | Quantity Type | Total Cost |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|------------|
|                                 | \$/Unit     | Quantity |               |            |
| Materials                       |             |          |               |            |
| Bentonite                       | \$30        | 30       | bags          | \$900      |
| 4” to 6” rock                   | \$6         | 125      | square feet   | \$750      |
| TP-1 plantings                  | \$36        | 10       | each          | \$360      |
| 20’ x 20’ culvert, 16 gauge     | \$880       | 2        | sections      | \$1,760    |
| Materials Subtotal              |             |          |               | \$3,770    |
| Equipment                       |             |          |               |            |
| Bulldozer D8                    | \$426       | 32       | hours         | \$13,632   |
| Excavator Long Reach 50 ft      | \$300       | 32       | hours         | \$9,600    |
| Mobilization and demobilization | \$2,000     | 2        | each          | \$4,000    |
| Equipment Subtotal              |             |          |               | \$27,232   |
| Total                           |             |          |               | \$31,002   |

### 4 CCWD Annual Budget

CCWD's budget for Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 totals \$516,583,339. The proposed capital budget invests in improvements that strengthen CCWD's water infrastructure reliability in alignment with the 2027 Capital Improvement Program.

### 5 Organization Statement

CCWD is a special district that provides water supply to approximately 520,000 people in central and eastern Contra Costa County. As a special district, CCWD is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors. These Directors are as follows:

- Patt Young, Director Division 1
- Daniel Fitzpatrick, Director Division 2
- Ernesto Avila, Director Division 3
- Antonion Martinez, Director Division 4

- Constance Holdaway, Director Division 5

## 6 Project Staff

The project will be implemented by the following CCWD staff. John Howard will serve as the project manager and will be supported by Jeff Chavez in managing the field operations.

- John Howard (Watershed Superintendent & Wildlife Biologist)
- Colton Rogers (Watershed Resource Specialist & Wildlife Biologist)
- Jonathan Cordaway (Assistant Watershed Resource Specialist & Service Approved Monitor)
- Marco Siragusa (Assistant Watershed Resource Specialist & Service Approved Monitor)
- Cody Erikson (Senior Planner)
- Jeff Chavez (Field Crew Leader)
- Brian Dominquez (Equipment Operator)
- Mike Brooks (Field Utility Worker)
- Tony Papini (Grounds Maintenance Assistant)

## 7 Qualifications Statement

CCWD as an organization has managed the Los Vaqueros Watershed and Conservation lands, inclusive of the 85 stock ponds and semi-permanent and alkali marshes, for the last several decades. In particular, John Howard, the proposed project manager, has worked in the Los Vaqueros Watershed for over 29 years and has implemented or managed approximately 100 pond maintenance and improvement projects during this time. Additional qualifications for John Howard and other key staff are provided below.

- All personnel associated with the project are Sensitive Species Trained annually.
- John Howard and Colton Rogers are USFWS permitted with a 10(A) 1(a) for California Red-Legged Frog and California Tiger Salamander and approved CDFW biologists.
- Jonathan Cordaway and Marco Siragusa are approved by USFWS and CDFW for species monitoring for the Los Vaqueros Watershed and Conservation Lands.

## 8 Permit Approvals

CCWD conducts regular pond maintenance per CCWD's Los Vaqueros Watershed and Conservation Lands Pond Routine Maintenance Agreement (Agreement No. EPIMS-CCA-31285-R3). CCWD also has an Incidental Take Permit (Permit No. 2081-2011-002-03) and an authorized Species Relocation Plan. No other permit approvals are necessary to perform the project.

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

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C

Project Title: Beaver Ponds Make Pollinator Parties

Organization/Individual applying: Worth A Dam

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: 1205 Castro Street Martinez California 94553

Telephone: 9252283190

Email: hdshnrkr@comcast.net

Name and title of contact person: Heidi Perryman

One sentence summary of proposal: Educational activity about beaver benefit to pollinators at Martinez Beaver Festival.

Requested grant amount: \$ 928.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Heidi Perryman President

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

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

Heidi Perryman

Date July 19 2026



## BEAVER PONDS MAKE POLLINATOR PARTIES

*"That which is not good for the hive cannot be good for the bee"*

*Marcus Aurelius*

Sometimes decisions get made that are good for a single purpose while ignoring the health of the larger community or ecosystem on which it depends. America once used DDT to control pests without understanding its carcinogenic properties or the way it affected wildlife. An example today might be the farmer who traps beavers on his land because the pond threatens his crops, while overlooking new research from the UK documenting the way that these beaver ponds actually increase the pollinators that fertilize the very crops he is seeking to protect<sup>i</sup>. Some of these pollinators, like the hoverfly, not only fertilize while seeking nectar, but also consume harmful insects. Pollinators in turn become food for birds, mammals and even bats<sup>ii</sup>. In their important paper "*Beaver wetlands create a buzz and a flutter for pollinators*"<sup>iii</sup> the authors document how beaver ponds increase the abundance and diversity of both hoverflies and butterflies at beaver ponds when compared to manmade ponds. Since beaver ponds were so beneficial to pollinators they concluded that beavers should be incorporated into farming landscapes.

It is estimated that around 80% of our current foods and flowers depend on pollination for their reproduction, and biotic reproduction (performed by insects or mammals) is far more effective than wind or water. Children are generally aware of the role of bees in the pollination story, but they are less aware of the role that butterflies, hoverflies, bats<sup>iv</sup> and even diurnal moths play in the story. This activity was designed to educate them about pollinators generally and highlight the role that beavers play in boosting their population, making them important to plant and animal diversity on a broad scale.

This activity will introduce children to 6 important pollinators that benefit from beaver ponds. Participants will be attendees of the 2027 beaver festival. In order to broaden our educational outreach, for the first time the activity will also be available to school teachers on a limited basis. (The thinking behind this is that educating teachers on how to approach this topic will have a trickle down effect for more children). The activity will illustrate the way in which beaver ponds create "pollinator parties" that benefit a host of plants and insect eaters. Children will be invited to learn how beavers create changes to the habitat that benefits nectar eaters and given 3 tools to

begin their quest: A sticker sheet with various pollinators, a card featuring 6 flowers they often visit, and a map indicating participating exhibits. These exhibits will be chosen for their relevance to the subject matter and willingness to participate. (For example, Audubon might be selected to represent the hummingbird.) Their booth will feature a pollinator sign showing the pollinator and something about their plant preferences - such as "Humming birds have no sense of smell and can only see red flowers". When the child has collected all 6 clues, they can use those hints to match the pollinator stickers to the 6 plants on their flower card and return to the beginning to collect their prize.

The Worth A Dam booth will distribute starting materials and explain how beaver ponds enrich the conditions that benefit pollinators. Pollinator signs clue will be distributed to pre-trained exhibitors by members of the scout troop 429 who have participated with us in the past. When children have completed the stickers-card matching, they can return to the starting booth to collect their prize – a "Pollinator party badge" to take with them and remind them of what they learned. They will also be invited to take a short post test for a chance to win a small beaver kit puppet. Exhibitors will also be encouraged to provide feedback on this activity and what might have been changed to make it easier or more effective.

Meanwhile, artist Amy G. Hall will be creating a chalk mural 10 foot square in the plaza with chalk the day before and day of the festival – showing beaver ponds and the pollinators they influence.. Amy is an award-winning graphic artist from Napa with a special interest in beavers. Last year her artwork at the festival was awarded by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership for outstanding creative visual instruction. Her presence at the festival creates an ideal showcase for educating on a broader scale. Everyone attending learns the lesson, not just the children. She loves and is loved at the festival and has agreed to do this two-day piece without fee provided Worth A Dam pays for needed materials. This will be her eighth year chalking for the festival and we have found that the unfolding central mural really serves to focus attendees on the changes beavers and their pond create.

*Responsible parties:*

Project oversight and planning: Heidi Perryman

Stickers and Pollinator Cards: Leslie Mills

Map distribution: Cheryl Reynolds

Pollinator Party Art: Amy G Hall

Pollinator signs: Scout troop 429

Exhibitors: to be chosen beforehand from participating exhibits.

Post-test collection: Jon Ridler

*Project Budget (itemized):*

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

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Pollinator Sticker sheet x 100 | 180        |
| Flower Card X 100              | 40         |
| Pollinator Clue signs X 6      | 150        |
| Activity outline & map x 500   | 350        |
| Artist Pastels X6              | 100        |
| Pollinator Party Badge         | 108        |
|                                | <b>928</b> |

**Beaver Ponds Make Pollinator Parties** meets requirements for **13103(a)** by providing a specific curriculum of supervised learning in a unique community setting where children can learn alongside parents, peers and siblings. By learning about the effect beaver ponds have on pollinators they can better understand their contribution to the ecosystem and how they influence both flora and fauna. A better understanding of the full cast of pollinator characters makes them better keepers of their own gardens and playgrounds. Understanding that a hoverfly is not a stinging bee can make them better advocates for pollinators in their own lives as well. While they are busy solving this puzzle in real time, Amy's mural will reinforce what they have learned, illustrating an answer that is unfolding 'under their feet', showing all present how ponds help pollinators do the job that keeps us all going.

The dynamic learning activity at the festival has become a central feature of the event and been replicated by other festivals nation wide. We just learned that last year's Aqua Squad project is being replicated in Oregon this year. These learning activities remain a favorite part of a magical day and we are grateful for the support of the fish and wildlife commission that has made this possible in the past.

---

<sup>i</sup> Cook, P., Law, A., Pattison, Z., & Willby, N. J. (2025). Beaver wetlands create a buzz and a flutter for pollinators. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 62, 3288–3299. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.70193>

<sup>ii</sup> Browning, E. (2025). Direct and indirect impacts of beaver ecosystem engineering have mixed effects on bats across feeding guilds. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 94, 2358–2361. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.70144>

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

Office Use Only

D

Project Title: Bringing Back the Natives

Organization/Individual applying: Golden Gate Bird Alliance on Behalf of Bringing Back the Natives  
Garden Tour

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: 2150 Allston Way, Suite 210, Berkeley, CA 94704

Telephone: 510-843-2222

Email: gphillips@goldengatebirds.org

Name and title of contact person: Glenn Phillips, Executive Director, Golden Gate Bird Alliance

One sentence summary of proposal:

Requesting funding to purchase the following materials: large Tour signs, keystone species signs, legs for the signs, and t-shirts for use at the twenty-six Contra Costa gardens expected to be showcased on the 2027 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

Requested grant amount: \$ 3,272.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Glenn Phillips, Executive Director

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

Glenn Phillips

Date 7/21/2026



## Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

*“By planting native plants we can create life,  
and by planting with non-natives we can prevent it”*

Dr. Doug Tallamy

*“The biodiversity crisis has come to our backyards. In less than a single human lifetime, 2.9 billion breeding adult birds have been lost from the United States and Canada, across every ecosystem and including familiar birds. To put it another way, we’ve lost a more than a quarter of our birdlife since 1970. Scientists have identified habitat loss as the biggest overall driver of bird declines.” American Bird Conservancy*

*“The vast majority of ornamental plants in the U.S. in general, and California in particular, are non-native in origin. Returning native plants to residential landscapes is essential to restoring basic function in our ecosystems. This is what Kathy Kramer has been doing for 22 years! The length of time Kathy has been educating the public about native plants is not just a measure of her commitment, but of her forward thinking as well. Kathy was way ahead of the curve in recognizing the ecological importance of California native plants. By organizing the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour she has exposed more than 20,000 Californians to the potential of native plant landscaping. The native plant garden tour she coordinates has received wide acclaim, garnering local, state and federal awards.*

*There is urgency in the type of education Kathy Kramer excels in. The biodiversity crisis is real and accelerating. North America has already lost 3 billion breeding birds and we have good evidence of insect declines nearly everywhere. The U.N. predicts that one million species will go extinct in the next 18 years. These losses are not an option if we humans wish to continue happily on this planet, for it is plant and animal diversity that creates the stable and productive ecosystems on which we depend. It is my view that we can successfully address the biodiversity crisis at the grassroots level. Every property owner must improve the ecological integrity of landscapes under his or her control by adding native plants. That is, we all must accept our responsibility toward good earth stewardship because we all depend entirely on quality ecosystems. This is the future of conservation and Kathy Kramer is leading the way.” Dr. Doug Tallamy*

The Golden Gate Chapter of the Audubon Society and the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour are requesting \$3,272 to purchase materials for use in the 2027 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, and in future Tours.

This year’s event, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which took place in May of 2026, was the largest since the Tour’s inception, having increased in size by 40% from the previous year; from 51 gardens to 72, and 155 volunteers to 289. Funding is sought to purchase the additional signs and t-shirts needed for the new Contra Costa gardens, and also to replace old and faded signs, some of which were printed decades ago.

The goals of the Tour are to encourage homeowners to garden with native plants in order to create habitat for wildlife where they live and work; to reduce the amount of

water used in the landscape; and to eliminate pesticide use, thus protecting pollinators affected by garden chemicals, and water quality for aquatic species such as frogs, trout and salmon.

This project has direct benefits to wildlife as it improves habitat in urban areas by educating, inspiring, and providing the resources that help Contra Costa County residents protect species whose numbers are in decline by creating ecologically diverse gardens that are home to wild animals, birds, plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

The Tour is a popular and well-attended event; to date 246,609 garden visits have been made since the Tour's inception in 2005. In the 2027 Tour we will pass a quarter of a million garden visits.

This project fulfills sections (a) and (e) of the California Fish and Game Code Section 13103.

The award-winning Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is a free, self-drive event. Homeowners and volunteers are on hand at every garden to answer questions. Forty-nine talks and presentations were given in 2026, on topics such as how to garden with native plants; control insects and weeds without the use of synthetic pesticides; garden for birds, bees and butterflies; attract beneficial insects; and remove a lawn and put in a wildlife habitat garden.

On the weekend of May 2 and 3, 2026 twenty-six water-conserving, pesticide-free native plant gardens located in El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, Pinole, Richmond, San Pablo, Clayton, Concord, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, and Walnut Creek were open to the public. During the 2026 Tour 3,491 visits were made to these Contra Costa County native plant gardens.

In order to be included on the Tour the:

- Garden must contain a 70% or more native plants.
- Gardener must use organic and /or natural techniques for pest control rather than synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- Gardener must be knowledgeable about, and a good ambassador for chemical-free gardening, gardening with native plants, and gardening for wildlife, and enjoy sharing this information with the public.

“Keystone species” are must-have California native plants that are essential to our ecosystems, as 96% of all baby birds must have caterpillars—thousands and thousands of them—while in the nest, and many thousands more after they leave it. (Baby birds do not eat seeds, or berries, or sugar water—they require caterpillars.) However, butterflies and moths can only lay their eggs on a very few species of plants—usually local native plants. “Keystone species”—so called because they hold the ecosystem together—are native plants on which high numbers of butterfly and moth species can lay their eggs. Keystone species are necessary to the caterpillars that enable our terrestrial birds to reproduce, as well as all of our specialist native bees. For more information on the

importance of caterpillars to ecological health, read this brief [charming article](#) by Dr. Doug Tallamy, or watch [this](#) fascinating talk.

The Tour has developed 8 ½ x 11" color signs for 40 keystone species—from oaks to groundcovers; we are seeking funding to print and laminate 160 of these signs so they can be displayed in host gardens during in the 2027 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, and used in future years.

In 2023 the Golden Gate Bird Alliance became the fiscal sponsor of the Garden Tour. The Tour's annual budget is \$80,000. The Alliance's officers are: Christina Tarr, President; Mary Wand, Vice President; Christine Okon, Secretary; and Derek Heins, Treasurer. Directors are Cathy Bleier, John Callaway, Blake Edgar, Angelika Geiger, Kenneth Hillan, Rachel Lawrence, Jeff Manker, Steve Powell, and Laurie Sample.

The Tour is implemented by Ms. Kramer, who founded and has coordinated the Tour since its inception in 2005. For forty years Ms. Kramer has been developing programs that educate Bay Area residents about local environmental issues.

Prior to starting the garden tour Ms. Kramer founded and was Executive Director of the Aquatic Outreach Institute (later renamed The Watershed Project). Programs developed under Ms. Kramer's oversight include the teacher-training workshops *Kids in Creeks* and *Kids in Gardens*. She also developed a number of successful community-based programs, which resulted in the formation of SPAWNERS, the Friends of Sausal Creek, and the Friends of San Leandro Creek. Ms. Kramer has also created and managed both Community Stewardship and Teacher Action Grants programs, which are, or were, run by the Clean Water Programs in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

Ms. Kramer herself, and the programs she has developed, have received local, state, and national awards.

Funds received from the Commission would be used to purchase the following materials for use in Contra Costa gardens for the 2027 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour and beyond. Prices include shipping.

| Item                                                                                                                             | Cost    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 15 large "Tour" signs, and 15 large "Why Garden with Natives: Because Life Depends on it!" signs (includes shipping) \$21 / sign | \$637   |
| 108 T-shirts for Contra Costa hosts and volunteers (\$12.50 ea)                                                                  | \$1,350 |
| Print 160 keystone species signs                                                                                                 | \$1,035 |
| 18" metal sign legs \$250 for use on the keystone species signs                                                                  | \$250   |
| Total                                                                                                                            | \$3,272 |

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

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Project Title: Watershed Education Programs

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

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

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

Telephone: (510) 734-3835

Email: [mandi@kidsforthebay.org](mailto:mandi@kidsforthebay.org)

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

One sentence summary of proposal:

KIDS for the BAY is requesting funding to support our Watershed Action Program to engage twelve elementary school classes, including 300 students, their teachers and families, in under-resourced schools in Contra Costa County, in hands-on watershed education and stewardship.

Requested grant amount:

8,400.00

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

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

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

Mandi J. Billinge

Date 7/22/2026

*Mandi J. Billinge*



## **KIDS for the BAY**

### Watershed Action Program

#### **2. Project Description**

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

Students will become environmental leaders at school and at home by taking action for their environment, making behavior changes and teaching their families and school communities how to protect their local watershed and wildlife. Students will collect and analyze data to assess the health of their local watershed. Each class will work together to select and complete an Environmental Action Project in their community to improve human, fish and wildlife health through hands-on learning, leadership and stewardship. Twelve teachers will increase their confidence in using the local watershed as an educational resource, and empowering students to become environmentalists. Teachers will develop their skills in teaching hands-on environmental science and stewardship. Grade level teams of teachers will continue teaching KftB programs in future years through our follow-up teacher support Blue Watershed Classrooms program.

Watershed Action Program (WAP) objectives for the 2026-2027 school year in Contra Costa County schools:

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

The WAP for each class will include:

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

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

- Trash cleanup projects to improve the safety and cleanliness of local aquatic habitats
- Track the brands of plastic trash removed from local habitats and school neighborhoods and write letters to address corporate responsibility for plastic pollution
- Create environmentally friendly pesticides to replace toxic pesticides for school gardens
- Teach family members and peer students how to safely prepare and cook fish from the San Francisco Bay - delta to reduce the intake of toxins
- Study the ecological impacts of ocean acidification and take action by reducing carbon footprints
- Create, present and display environmental posters to educate others about environmental problems impacting local habitats and solutions
- Adopt, monitor, clean up, and restore local urban creeks and bay shorelines with planting projects.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The WAP addresses improvement of fish and wildlife habitat by:

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

**3. Project Schedule**

KftB will use the funds received to support the WAP in partner schools in the 2026-2027 school year. The funds will be used by May 2027, less than a year from the date the grant is announced, if this grant application is successful.

**4. Project Budget**

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

| Expenses                                         | Amount         |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Field trip bus transportation: 8 buses * \$1,050 | \$8,400        |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>\$8,400</b> |

**5. Annual Organizational Budget**

The current annual organizational budget for KIDS for the BAY is \$744,300.

**6. Organization Description Statement**

KIDS for the BAY (KftB) has provided vital environmental education programs to under-resourced elementary schools in low-income communities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties for the past 34 years. KftB in-depth, multiple-visit programs provide professional development for teachers and academic enrichment for students, turning the local watershed into a living laboratory for learning and environmental stewardship. Students find joy in connecting with nature, get excited about learning hands-on environmental science, and become inspired scientists and Environmentalists. KftB students learn that everyone has the right to live in a clean and healthy environment, including wildlife and people. Students are empowered to become leaders in their communities. Teachers learn alongside their students and receive the training, tools and resources needed to use the local watershed environment as a key educational resource.

KftB partners primarily with low-income, under-resourced elementary schools in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties where more than 69% of our school students are low-income students and more than 78% are students of color. Approximately 45% of students are English Language Learners. KftB teaching strategies, including English Language Learner support, and culturally responsive classroom management techniques focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion, ensure equitable access to learning for all students. Students with special educational needs are included in our programs. KftB programs address environmental health and justice issues that affect the communities we partner with, for example: curbing the ecological impacts of toxic pesticides and making natural, non-toxic pesticide alternatives, and addressing corporate responsibility for plastic pollution. KftB hands-on activities in the outdoors engage all students. Students are excited to connect with nature, engage in meaningful learning experiences and protect the local watershed environment.

KftB is a project of Earth Island Institute, our 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

#### KftB ADVISORY BOARD 2026-2027

| <b>Advisory Board Member</b>                                                                                       | <b>Affiliation</b>                                          | <b>KftB Role</b>                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Leilani Alo<br><a href="mailto:lanisf70@gmail.com">lanisf70@gmail.com</a>                                          | Senior Philanthropy and Nonprofit Consultant                | Advisory Board President             |
| Kimberly Aguilar<br><a href="mailto:kimberly.c.aguilar@gmail.com">kimberly.c.aguilar@gmail.com</a>                 | Spanish Bilingual Elementary School Teacher, OUSD           | Education Advisor                    |
| Kate Gallagher<br><a href="mailto:kate.gal56@gmail.com">kate.gal56@gmail.com</a>                                   | Retired Teacher/Science Education Consultant, OUSD          | Education Advisor                    |
| Elizabeth Meyer<br><a href="mailto:elizmeyer510@gmail.com">elizmeyer510@gmail.com</a>                              | Director of Institutional Giving at Cal Performances        | Development Advisor                  |
| Jenny Park<br><a href="mailto:jennypark@gmail.com">jennypark@gmail.com</a>                                         | Executive Director, Climate One                             | Communications & Development Advisor |
| Jocelyn Pierre-Antoine<br><a href="mailto:jpierreantoine@alamedaunified.org">jpierreantoine@alamedaunified.org</a> | Elementary School Teacher, Alameda Unified School District  | Education Advisor                    |
| Sheela Shankar<br><a href="mailto:boomshivshankara@gmail.com">boomshivshankara@gmail.com</a>                       | Nonprofit Development, Communications and Events Consultant | Development Advisor                  |
| Clifford Thompson, D.Ed<br><a href="mailto:clifford.thompson@wccusd.net">clifford.thompson@wccusd.net</a>          | Fifth Grade Teacher, WCCUSD, Board Member, OUSD             | Education Advisor                    |

#### **7. Qualifications Statement**

KIDS for the BAY is now celebrating our **thirty-fourth year** of providing engaging, hands-on environmental education programs to schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since 1992, **119,397 student Environmentalists** have graduated from our programs and **4,701 partner teachers** have increased their confidence in teaching hands-on environmental science both in the classroom and in the outdoors as a result of KIDS for the BAY's programs. Our students have significantly improved their local watershed environments through education and action. Since 1992, KftB students have:

- Cleaned up **47,785 gallons of trash** from school neighborhoods and local creek and bay habitats
- Planted **20,300 native plants** in creek and bay habitats
- Removed **35,830 invasive plants** from creek and bay habitats
- Become **leaders in their families and in their school communities**, and taught others how to protect, clean up and restore local watershed environments, through student-led schoolwide assemblies, class presentations to families, and educational posters and videos created and shared by our young environmentalists.

#### **Mandi Billinge, Executive Director/Founder**

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

#### **8. Individuals Responsible**

KftB Staff Overseeing Project:

**Mandi Billinge, Executive Director/Founder**

**Libby Kirk, Program Manager/Environmental Educator**

KftB Staff Performing Project:

**Neda Ibrahim, Lead Program Coordinator/Environmental Educator**

**Additional Program Coordinators:** Aliya Schwartz, Isabel Cabrera, Natalie Velasquez

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

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

**Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page**

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Project Title: **Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife in 2027**

Organization/Individual applying: **International Bird Rescue**

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: 4369 Cordelia Road, Fairfield, CA 94534

Telephone: 707-704-0350

Email: grants@birdrescue.org

Name and title of contact person: **Phil Kohlmetz, Grants Coordinator**

One sentence summary of proposal:

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

Requested grant amount: **\$15,153.54**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): **Phil Kohlmetz, Grants Coordinator**

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

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



Date 7/24/26





**Grant Proposal to the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee:  
Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra  
Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured  
and Orphaned Wildlife in 2027**

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

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

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

Our San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center in Fairfield admits 1,750 local aquatic birds annually. We function as a regional "referral hospital:" the place of last resort, treating the most challenging cases that are beyond the capacity or skills of other regional wildlife centers and clinics, including our partners at Lindsay Wildlife Experience, and others. Contra Costa County residents and local Animal Control officers typically transfer ~ 280 wild, injured birds to us annually, **a number that has been increasing each of the last three years**, collected from dense urban areas, and from the local shores and waterways of San Pablo Bay, Alhambra Creek, and others. Our [research shows that rehabilitated animals achieve successful, long-term outcomes, including \(but not limited to\) completing average life expectancies, producing and rearing their own offspring](#), and serving as nutrition for other animals: all important outcomes of a healthy, balanced ecosystem.

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

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

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

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

**3. Project Schedule**

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

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

| Cost        | Item                                 | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Anticipated Vendor                  |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$4,577.00  | Aviary Netting and Hardware Cloth    | Replacement of damaged, worn, and broken material to re-establish predator-proofing in outdoor rehabilitation habitat enclosures for Contra Costa County patients, while simultaneously protecting recovering patients from heavy-duty, hard surfaces; includes ¼" hardware cloth, knotless ¼" netting, and associated hardware; does not include labor for installation (will be performed by staff)                                                                                                                               | Grainger, Home Depot                |
| \$2,800.00  | Caging and Enclosure Repair Supplies | Purchase of supplies including pressure-treated lumber and PVC piping to be used by IBR staff to repair damaged and currently inoperable, unusable, or broken small bird caging and pools; does not include labor for repair (will be performed by staff)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Grainger, Home Depot                |
| \$3,107.48  | Clinic Computers for RaptorMed       | Replacement of 4 clinic laptops and 4 towers and monitors with refurbished models capable of running current versions of RaptorMed patient tracking software: supports Contra Costa County patient medical outcomes, data management, and research; does not include labor for installation (will be performed by staff)                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Best Buy, Lenovo, PCI Liquidators   |
| \$3,000.00  | Replacement Beam in Pelican Aviary   | Replacement of a failing structural beam necessary for architectural integrity, and which also serves as a perch for Contra Costa patients re-establishing their flight ability during rehabilitation, prior to release                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Tri-City Fence Company              |
| \$1,669.06  | BirdCam and necessary infrastructure | Replacement and upgrade of 5 cameras and necessary network infrastructure (wiring, networks switch and mounting hardware), and retirement of inoperable and obsolete units, for our popular BirdCams adding zooming and tracking features for the Pelican Aviary, duckling boxes, incubators, and outside pools, plus eliminating downtime, providing the public with a better experience viewing live Contra Costa County patients undergoing rehabilitation; does not include labor for installation (will be performed by staff) | Reolink, eufy, microtik, True Cable |
| \$15,153.54 | <b>TOTAL</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                     |

## 5. Annual Budget, Program Budget, and the Financial Context of our Funding Request

Consistent with State of CA Fish and Game Code, and with Contra Costa County written and verbal (unwritten) guidelines, **our funding request focuses on necessary, physical material that our 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.**

Our overall annual organizational budget is ~3.88 million for all programs and services, 16% of which is service provided to Contra Costa County people and wildlife, at a value of \$620,172. Facilities, vehicles, and equipment is budgeted at \$215,400, and 16% of that figure is \$34,465. **Our grant request of \$15,153.54 is \$19,311 less than the already-narrowed portion of Facilities, vehicles, and equipment expenses 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 \$851,493, 16% of which is service provided to Contra Costa County, valued at \$136,239. 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 \$509,750 we have a figure remaining of \$341,740 of *program-specific expenses that are necessary and are not part of our general operations or other programs*. Sixteen percent (16%) of \$341,740 is \$54,675 of *Contra Costa County program-specific expenses that are necessary and are not part of our general operations*. **Our grant request of \$15,153.54 is \$39,521 less than the already-narrowed portion of Contra Costa County program-specific, non-personnel, necessary expenses, 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: A) Excluding personnel costs, B) Using specific, to-the-penny, estimates, C) Keeping requests in line with prior year requests and awards, D) Keeping to strict, short page limits, and providing additional info whenever it is requested, E) Focusing on necessary, tangible items specific to Contra Costa County patient load, F) Involve the direct purchase of goods and materials, G) Respect for the Committee’s decision-making process.

Our application: 1) Presumes all of the aforementioned financial and Committee considerations, 2) Is presented in rank-order of importance, 3) Is intended to help the Committee realign itself with its 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 4) Provides context for overall program and for organizational expenses in consideration of Contra Costa County’s 16% cost share.

We approach other funders inside and outside of Contra Costa County to “back-fill” expenses that the Committee rejects or declines to consider. We have 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. 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 County.

## **6. Organizational Overview, Board of Directors, Affiliations**

For 55 years, we have been resolving human/wildlife interactions, advancing biodiversity, and conducting scientific research to benefit the people, wildlife, agencies, and organizations of Contra Costa County. Since 1971, we have responded to over 250 oil spills and wildlife emergencies, caring for more than 250,000 patients. **We specialize in emergency preparedness and response, day-to-day aquatic bird care, public education, and scientific research. We are a founding partner in California's Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) and a member of the Global Oiled Wildlife Response System. Other partners include CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Coast Guard, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and dozens of Audubon Society chapters, local Animal Control agencies, California counties, and partners.** Our Board of Directors and their biographies can be found at: <https://www.birdrescue.org/about/board-of-directors/>

## **7. Organization Qualifications**

**We have an exemplary track record of completing projects on time and on budget, and of completing grant requirements, reimbursements, and reports that meet strict standards for Contra Costa County as well as for other California counties, national regulators, and international partners.** We pursue our mission to inspire people to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis through three interrelated programs: 1) Avian Rehabilitation and Research, 2) Wildlife Emergency Preparedness and Response, and 3) Conservation and Education.

## **8. Personnel**

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

## **9. Permits**

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

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page



Project Title: Rock Perimeter for Hillcrest Park Native Plant Area

Organization/Individual applying: Walnut Creek Watershed Council (WCWC)

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: PO Box 3076, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Telephone: (925) 323 7809

Email: fareed.nabkel@gmail.com

Name and title of contact person: Fareed Nabkel, Board member of WCWC

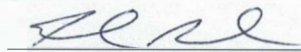
One sentence summary of proposal: We propose to improve our Adopt a Spot along Holbrook Channel with strategically placed rocks to demarcate the area, provide habitat for western fence lizards, and protect the native plants.

Requested grant amount: \$ 1,034.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Fareed Nabkel, Board member of WCWC

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

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



Date 7-24-2026

## 2) Description of the project for which funding is requested

Our native plant area, designated by the City of Concord as part of their Adopt-a-Spot program, is located along Holbrook Channel and the Via Delta de Anza Trail in Hillcrest Community Park, Concord, CA. Over the past two and a half years, we have planted and cared for sedges, elderberry bushes, and other native vegetation there. The adjoining trail is popular with local residents.

A border of small boulders will provide western fence lizards with their preferred spot for basking in the sun. We plan to include three stacks of rocks to create elevated lookout spots and safe hiding places. In this way, the rock border fits with Section 13103(e), improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.

At present, it is difficult for passersby to know where the native plant area begins and ends. City staff have told us they plan to install a sign with information about the Adopt-a-Spot; in the meantime, the border will create a special sense of place distinguished from the non-native, mostly invasive vegetation in other areas. Because it will show which plants are natives, this border can be seen as fulfilling an educational purpose (Section 13103(a)).

Also, the rock border will have a third purpose: it will prevent future inadvertent mowing of the sedges by the City's contract maintenance workers. Left unmowed, the native plants will gain the upper hand against the non-native vegetation, thus improving the wildlife habitat (Section 13103(e)).

## 3) Project schedule

March 2027: Rock placement will be finalized and reviewed with Concord staff.

April 2027: Procurement and placement are anticipated to proceed in April.

## 4) Project budget

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Rocks - 4,200 lbs | \$784  |
| Rocks - Delivery  | \$250  |
| Rocks - Total     | \$1034 |



## 5) Annual budget for the applying organization

The 2026-2027 budget for the Walnut Creek Watershed Council is approximately \$200,000.

Friends of Concord Creeks relies solely on donations with typical expenditures totaling ~\$300.

## 6) Statement describing the applying organization

The Walnut Creek Watershed Council is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) organization that supports a healthy and sustainable Walnut Creek Watershed. The Council's mission is to support community efforts, scientific studies, public education, and restoration projects that protect and enhance beneficial uses and resources in the entire watershed. The Council encourages sharing information and promotes collaboration among the stakeholders.

The Council is composed of creek stewardship groups from different parts of the Walnut Creek Watershed, with one representative from each group serving on the Council's Board of Directors.

|               |                   |                                              |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Bob Simmons   | Council President |                                              |
| Lesley Hunt   | Board Member      | representing Friends of the Creeks           |
| Dick Heron    | Board Member      | representing Friends of San Ramon Creek      |
| Ron Hufft     | Board Member      | representing Lafayette Creeks Committee      |
| Alan Bade     | Board Member      | representing Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks |
| Fareed Nabkel | Board Member      | representing Friends of Concord Creeks       |
| Don MacGregor | Board Member      | representing Friends of Tice Creek           |

## 7) Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization and participating individuals

The Walnut Creek Watershed Council began in 2011 and since then has been engaging the public and implementing and facilitating fish and wildlife enhancement and restoration projects throughout the watershed. Friends of Concord Creeks (FCC) joined the Council in 2022 and, among other projects, has maintained the project area for the past two and a half years. FCC members will be responsible for the planning and implementation of this project and will leverage backyard landscaping experience to place the boundary rocks.

## 8) List of responsible individuals

Fareed Nabkel, founder and chair of FCC and member of the Council board

Emily Wheeler, volunteer with FCC

Michael Purcell, volunteer with FCC

## 9) Statement describing the status of permit approvals

The City of Concord is the landowner for the native plant area, which is part of the City's Adopt-A-Spot program. City staff support setting up a hardscaped perimeter for the native plant area. They have allowed the placement of other large rocks in and near the area and will provide final guidance on placement of the border.

**Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page**

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Project Title: Pinole Creek Water Quality Assessment

Organization/Individual applying: East Bay Municipal Utility District

Organization type: please check one –

government

☒

non-profit

☐

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: 375 11th St., Oakland, CA 94607

Telephone: 209 263 6369

Email: michael.beakes@ebmud.com

Name and title of contact person: Michael Beakes, Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife

One sentence summary of proposal: The project will establish baseline water quality information for a watershed supporting a naturally reproducing steelhead population.

Requested grant amount: \$ 13,292.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Bert Mulchaey, Supervising Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist

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

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

 for CCC

Date 07/24/2026

## Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant

Proposal by the East Bay Municipal Utility District

### Pinole Creek Water Quality Assessment

#### Project Description

Pinole Creek supports a naturally reproducing population of ESA-listed California Central Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), one of the few remaining anadromous salmonid populations in western Contra Costa County. Recent fish and habitat surveys failed to detect any fish in upper Pinole Creek for the first time in over 30 years of monitoring, but did document excessive algal growth, cattail encroachment into riffle habitats, elevated conductivity (800–1,500  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ). These survey results may be the result of water quality impairment affecting creek habitats due to land-use changes in the upper watershed. This study will evaluate nutrients, bacteria, metals, and organic contaminants and determine if land-use activities and related pollutants are affecting aquatic habitat quality in Pinole Creek.

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is requesting \$13,292 from the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to support a new water quality assessment of Pinole Creek. Grant funds will cover sample preparation, field measurements, and laboratory analysis of water samples collected at three sites on Pinole Creek and one reference site (Figure 1A, B). EBMUD will be responsible for project management, equipment, transportation, sample collection, data management, lab personnel costs and reporting services at no cost to the grant program.

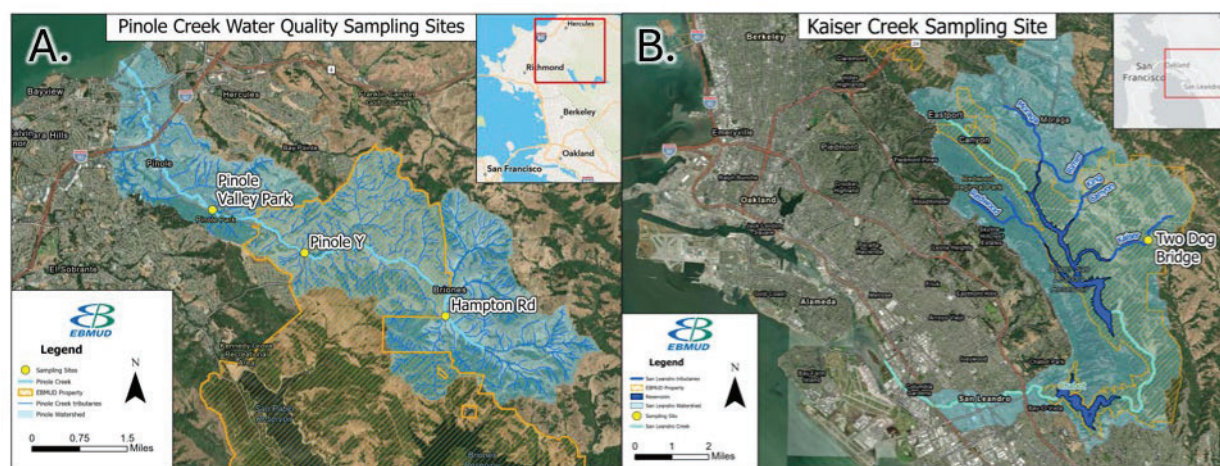


Figure 1. Pinole Creek Water Sampling Sites (A) and Kaiser Creek Two Dog Bridge Reference Site (B).

#### Benefits to Fish and Wildlife Resources

Pinole Creek drains approximately 15 square miles and supports important aquatic and riparian habitats in Contra Costa County. EBMUD owns and manages approximately 3,300 acres in the middle portion of the watershed, including some of the highest quality habitat available to *O. mykiss*. The project will establish baseline water quality information at three locations within the Pinole Creek watershed. Monitoring results will help identify nutrient enrichment, bacterial contamination, and other stressors impacting aquatic habitats while informing fisheries management, potential restoration actions, and education programs in the upper watershed.

## Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant

Proposal by the East Bay Municipal Utility District

### Eligibility Under Fish and Game Code Section 13103

The project qualifies under Fish and Game Code Sections 13103(i) and 13103(n) as scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by a government agency that will generate information to protect and conserve fish and wildlife resources in Contra Costa County.

### Project Schedule

Water quality sampling is planned for summer and fall of 2027 with sample processing in the EBMUD laboratory at SD-1 in Oakland (Table 1). Summer and fall are targeted to determine potential water quality conditions that may be exacerbating adverse effects of low flow and elevated temperatures on *O. mykiss* during these seasons.

Table 1. Project task and schedule

| Task                                        | Schedule                 |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Project initiation and sampling preparation | June – July 2027         |
| Water quality sampling and processing       | July – October 2027      |
| Data review and submission of final report  | November – December 2027 |

### Project Budget

A detailed budget for lab testing costs is provided in Table 2. EBMUD will be responsible for project management, equipment, transportation, sample collection, data management, lab personnel costs and reporting services at no cost to the grant program. No reimbursement is requested for salaries, employee benefits, overhead, vehicles, equipment purchases, or administrative costs.

Table 2. Lab testing costs for water quality samples

| Item Description                                                 | Cost Estimate |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sample Kit Preparation                                           | \$91.29       |
| Water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, turbidity | \$30.03       |
| Nitrate as N, Nitrite as N                                       | \$54.60       |
| Ammonia as N                                                     | \$60.06       |
| Total Nitrogen                                                   | \$60.06       |
| Orthophosphate as P                                              | \$27.30       |
| Total Phosphorus                                                 | \$84.08       |
| Total Coliform, E. coli                                          | \$34.84       |
| Total Recoverable Metals Scan                                    | \$169.37      |
| Dissolved Metals                                                 | \$181.38      |
| Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Scan                             | \$299.10      |
| Semi-Volatile Organic Compound (SVOC) Scan                       | \$569.37      |
| Total sample costs                                               | \$1,661.48    |
| Total project costs: four samples each summer and fall           | \$13,291.84   |

### EBMUD Annual Budget

EBMUD's water system annual operating budget is approximately \$479 million dollars for fiscal year 2027.



## **Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant**

Proposal by the East Bay Municipal Utility District

### **EBMUD Description**

EBMUD is a local water utility, providing drinking water and wastewater services in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. EBMUD's mission statement states EBMUD's commitment to protection of the environment and providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services for its customers. EBMUD is governed by a seven-member board of directors. Current board members are Joey D. Smith, Luz Gomez, Marguerite Young, Andy Katz, Jim Oddie, Valerie D. Lewis and April Chan. The General Manager is Clifford Chan.

### **EBMUD Personnel Qualifications**

EBMUD biologists will be responsible for administration of the study and grant, Water Quality Inspectors, trained in QA/QC procedures will collect the samples and take them to EBMUD's SD-1 laboratory in Oakland where EBMUD Lab Technicians will complete the testing. Michael Beakes, Fisheries and Wildlife Division Manager, will be responsible for project management; Mitchell Allan, Water Distribution Supervisor with over 25 years at EBMUD, will be responsible for sample collection and Kristi Lorensen, Senior Chemist with over 20 years at EBMUD, will be responsible for laboratory testing.

### **Permit Status**

The proposed project does not require any permits from regulatory agencies since only water samples and water quality data will be collected.

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

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Project Title: SAN LEANDRO CREEK WATERSHED  
EDUCATION & TROUT HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Organization/Individual applying: CANYON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☐

school

☒

other (explain)

☐

Address: 187, PINETHURST ROAD, CANYON CA 94516

Telephone: (925) 376-4671

Email: jvaldez@canyon.k12.ca.us

Name and title of contact person: JULIE VALDEZ, SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL

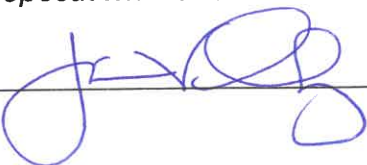
One sentence summary of proposal: Canyon School requests funding to launch a watershed education and stewardship program centered on protecting rainbow trout habitat in San Leandro creek.

Requested grant amount: \$9,000.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): JULIE VALDEZ, SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL

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

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



Date 7/19/2026

# Canyon Elementary School District

## San Leandro Creek Watershed Education & Trout Habitat Stewardship Program

*Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund — 2027 Grant Cycle*

### 1. Project Description

---

Canyon Elementary School District (CESD) requests funding to launch the foundational phase of a long-term watershed education and stewardship program centered on protecting rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) habitat in San Leandro Creek. The creek runs directly alongside the Canyon school campus and is one of the East Bay's last remaining trout-bearing waterways, flowing from Upper San Leandro Reservoir to San Francisco Bay.

**Benefit to the fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County.** Rainbow trout are an indicator species — the condition of their habitat reflects the health of the entire watershed, from headwaters to the Bay. This project delivers direct benefit in two ways. First, students and habitat-restoration partners will improve and monitor riparian conditions along the creek, addressing erosion, sedimentation, and streambank vegetation that affect trout survival. Second, the project builds durable public awareness of trout and creek protection through student-created, multilingual interpretive signage and online resources reaching families, recreational creek users, and the wider community beyond the grant period. Native rainbow trout have been repeatedly documented in this watershed by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), academic researchers, and community scientists.

**Eligibility under Section 13103 of the Fish & Game Code.** The project satisfies subsection (a) — public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, delivered through a planned NGSS-aligned curriculum and educational aids including literature and illustration — and subsection (e) — improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, through student stewardship that addresses creekside soil erosion and sediment impacts affecting rainbow trout habitat in San Leandro Creek. Consistent with the definition of “wildlife” under Section 711.2(a), the project protects fish and the related ecological community and habitat upon which they depend.

**Overall Goal.** Launch the foundational phase of a long-term watershed education and stewardship program that protects rainbow trout habitat in San Leandro Creek and builds lasting environmental stewardship among all Canyon K–8 students.

#### Objectives:

- Protect and improve rainbow trout habitat along the on-campus reach of San Leandro Creek, where creekside soil erosion is among the concerns affecting water quality and trout habitat. Students will study changing conditions across the creek and watershed and participate in age-appropriate stewardship activities, informed by the guidance of a habitat-restoration expert from the community who is donating their time and expertise to the project — directly benefiting the creek's fish and wildlife while creating a living outdoor classroom accessible to students of all abilities.
- Deliver an integrated environmental science curriculum for all Canyon K–8 students focused on protecting and improving rainbow trout habitat and connecting inland watershed health to coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Embed age-appropriate participatory science — water-quality testing, macroinvertebrate sampling, and riparian habitat monitoring using community science tools — and share findings through public education, including student-created multilingual signage directing the public to online resources on rainbow trout and creek protection.

### 2. Project Schedule

---

The project will be completed within 18 months of the grant agreement's execution.

- **Year-Long Teaching Artist Residency:** A professional teaching artist integrates trout ecology, watershed storytelling, illustration, field sketching, and interpretive signage design across the school year.
- **NGSS-Aligned Science Instruction:** All students receive Next Generation Science Standards-aligned instruction covering trout life cycles, watershed dynamics, climate impacts, erosion, sedimentation, and riparian biodiversity.
- **Creek Investigations & Data Collection:** Students conduct creek-based investigations year-round, with deeper data collection led by upper grades (approx. 4–8) in winter and early spring when trout activity is most observable. Data is uploaded to platforms such as iNaturalist and Water Reporter.

- **Student Design & Communication Work:** Students produce vector-ready art, diagrams, signage, and QR-linked digital guides, developing accessibility-aware, ADA-informed design skills.

### 3. Project Budget (Itemized)

Grant funds are requested exclusively for one-time material and equipment expenses that directly support student investigation, habitat monitoring, and public education, consistent with the Committee's funding preferences. **No grant funds will be used for staff salaries, benefits, or overhead.** All personnel time — district leadership, classroom teachers, instructional support staff, school support staff, and a habitat-restoration expert from the community who is contributing guidance and expertise to the project — is contributed in-kind. The year-long teaching artist residency is separately funded through an application to the Ventures Foundation and is not charged to this Fund. The total requested is \$9,000.

| Investment                                                              | Estimated Budget |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Fish & Wildlife Watershed Monitoring Field Systems                      | \$2,600          |
| Canyon Creek Aquatic Discovery Station                                  | \$2,050          |
| Fish & Wildlife Stewardship Learning Stations                           | \$1,800          |
| Watershed Processes Investigation System                                | \$700            |
| Fish & Wildlife Conservation Education Resources & Student Publications | \$650            |
| Tax, Shipping, Handling & Quote Variance Buffer                         | \$1,200          |
| <b>Estimated Total</b>                                                  | <b>\$9,000</b>   |

**Investment detail.** Each investment area comprises one-time equipment and materials supporting student study and stewardship of San Leandro Creek watershed habitat.

#### Fish & Wildlife Watershed Monitoring Field Systems

- Students study San Leandro Creek watershed conditions — cold-water habitat, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, nutrients, and macroinvertebrates — to understand what rainbow trout and stream wildlife require. Includes water-quality monitoring kits, sampling nets, collection and identification tools, binoculars, magnifiers, temperature loggers, and field equipment.

#### Canyon Creek Aquatic Discovery Station

- Students examine aquatic insects, trout eggs, algae, sediment, and other specimens using a shared stereo microscope with image capture, supporting classroom study and public education. Includes prepared freshwater ecology slides and station accessories.

#### Fish & Wildlife Stewardship Learning Stations

- Four to six permanent outdoor interpretive signs (aluminum/HPL) with student-created graphics and QR codes, turning the campus into a public education resource on watershed protection, trout habitat, creekside soil erosion, sediment, and student stewardship.

#### Watershed Processes Investigation System

- Students model erosion, runoff, infiltration, streamflow, and sediment transport to understand how these processes affect creek habitat and fish populations, including how creekside erosion can influence water quality and trout habitat. Includes a stream table, investigation materials, and monitoring tools.

#### Fish & Wildlife Conservation Education Resources & Student Publications

- Field guides (watershed, fish, macroinvertebrate, native plant), teacher instructional resources, and printing of student-created guides and brochures that build conservation literacy and support communication with families and the community.

#### Tax, Shipping, Handling & Quote Variance Buffer

- A dedicated cushion for sales tax, shipping, handling, and quote changes, ensuring eligible approved costs remain covered under the reimbursement model.

### 4. Annual Budget for the Applying Organization (Not Itemized)

Canyon Elementary School District's total annual operating budget is approximately \$1,567,940 for the current fiscal year.

### 5. Organization, Board of Directors, and Affiliated Organizations

Canyon Elementary School District is a small, rural public school district in the unincorporated Canyon community, in the East Bay hills between Oakland and Moraga. Established in 1918, the District operates a single K–8 school at 187 Pinehurst Road, Canyon, CA 94516, serving approximately 72 students who live

within or adjacent to the San Leandro Creek watershed. The creek is a defining feature of the community's environmental and cultural identity.

The District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Trustees and led by Principal/Superintendent Julie Valdez. It is a public local education agency under the oversight of the Contra Costa County Office of Education.

**Board of Trustees:** Esperanza Surls (President); Ken Hogarty (Vice President); Anne Gomez (Clerk); Tera Ajioka (Member); Ann Allen (Member).

**Affiliated organizations:** Contra Costa County Office of Education (oversight agency); Canyon Education Fund; and the Canyon Association to Support the School.

## 6. Qualifications of the Sponsoring Organization and Participating Individuals

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Canyon ESD is well suited to carry out this project due to its long-standing emphasis on experiential, outdoor, and interdisciplinary learning. Environmental education, sustained creek studies, and project-based instruction are core to the school's instructional model, and the campus's location directly on San Leandro Creek enables repeated, scaffolded engagement over the full year rather than one-time field trips.

Because all programming occurs during the school day, participation does not depend on family resources, transportation, or extracurricular availability. Small class sizes and instructional support staff allow for differentiated instruction, ensuring students with disabilities, emerging academic skills, or limited prior outdoor experience are fully included.

The project will be delivered by Canyon teaching and support staff under the leadership of Principal/Superintendent Julie Valdez, with oversight from the School Board. The residency component will be led by a professional teaching artist; the District is in discussion with scientific illustrator Jane Kim of InkDwell Studios, whose work documenting species and migrations aligns closely with the project's goals.

## 7. Individuals Responsible for Performing and Overseeing the Project

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All approximately 72 Canyon K–8 students will participate through grade-appropriate instruction, with a cohort of 8th-grade students serving as Creek Steward Leaders. Students represent a mix of income levels and racial and ethnic backgrounds, including students eligible for free/reduced-price meals and students with IEPs or 504 plans. Key personnel:

- **Superintendent/Principal (Project Director):** Overall leadership and coordination — planning, partner and agency coordination, permitting oversight as needed, budget management, and reporting.
- **Classroom Teachers (3, K–8 multi-grade):** Deliver NGSS-aligned instruction, prepare students for field studies, and guide investigations and data collection.
- **Instructional Support Staff (4):** Provide differentiated support during instruction, outdoor learning, and data collection to ensure accessibility and inclusion.
- **School Support Staff (5):** Assist with logistics, supervision, scheduling, campus coordination, and safety during field studies and public events.
- **Habitat-Restoration Expert (1, in-kind):** A habitat-restoration expert from the community who contributes guidance and technical expertise to the project, informing student stewardship activities along the creek with attention to creekside soil erosion and sediment impacts on trout habitat. Time and expertise donated in-kind.
- **Teaching Artist (1):** Supports hands-on environmental learning, creative interpretation, and development of educational materials. Funded separately via the Ventures Foundation.
- **Parent & Community Volunteers (~30):** Assist with supervision and student engagement under the direction of school staff.

## 8. Status of Permit Approvals

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No permits are required for the project as currently planned. As the program develops, the District plans to reach out to the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to build stronger relationships around land stewardship and creek protection.



# Canyon Elementary School District

## Request for Exception to the Reimbursement Process — Financial Hardship

### *Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund — 2027 Grant Cycle*

Canyon Elementary School District (CESD) respectfully requests an exception to the standard reimbursement process, asking that 50% of the awarded grant be advanced at the start of the project. This request is made because the District's very small size and unusual funding structure make it difficult to carry project costs and await reimbursement without straining resources dedicated to student instruction.

### **An exceptionally small district and school**

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CESD is among the smallest public school districts in California. Established in 1918 (originally as Valle Vista School and renamed Canyon School in 1921), it operates a single three-room schoolhouse serving approximately 72 students in multi-grade K–8 classrooms, in the unincorporated community of Canyon in the East Bay hills. The District has no separate schools, no central office staff of any scale, and a single administrator who serves as both Principal and Superintendent. With a total annual operating budget of approximately \$1,567,940 and a very small staff, the District has no discretionary reserve from which to float the full cost of a grant-funded project for an extended period while awaiting reimbursement.

### **A property-tax base that rarely turns over**

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Canyon is a small, secluded community almost entirely surrounded by watershed land owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Beginning in the mid-20th century, to protect the San Leandro Creek watershed and reservoir from contamination, EBMUD and Contra Costa County restricted new development in Canyon, including a long-standing moratorium tied to septic and sewer limitations. As a result, the community's housing stock is very small and tightly held: homes are nestled along narrow private roads in the redwoods, and properties change hands only rarely.

Because California property is generally reassessed only upon sale or new construction, this combination — a tiny number of parcels, a development moratorium, and infrequent turnover — means the District's local property-tax base grows very slowly and provides limited, relatively fixed revenue. The District cannot rely on rising local tax receipts or new construction to expand its resources, and it has little cushion to absorb up-front project costs. Even modest one-time expenditures represent a meaningful share of available operating funds.

### **Why an advance is needed**

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The project requires the up-front purchase of equipment and materials — field monitoring systems, a microscope station, interpretive signage, and educational resources — from vendors who require payment at the time of order. Under a full reimbursement model, the District would need to pay these costs in advance and wait for repayment, drawing down funds that are otherwise committed to day-to-day instruction for its students. For a district of Canyon's size and revenue structure, carrying these costs would place real strain on the classroom.

A 50% advance at the start of the project would allow CESD to place initial equipment and materials orders without diverting funds from core instruction, while the District completes the remaining purchases and submits invoices, receipts, and its final report for the balance in the normal way. This partial advance would make the project feasible for a very small district while keeping the great majority of grant administration within the standard reimbursement structure.

*The District is grateful for the Committee's consideration of this request and is happy to provide any additional financial documentation that would assist in its review.*

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

Office Use Only

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Project Title: Wildcat Creek eDNA Testing and Visual Assessment

Organization/Individual applying: The Watershed Project

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

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

Telephone: 510-665-3430

Email: [satoko@thewatershedproject.org](mailto:satoko@thewatershedproject.org)

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

One sentence summary of proposal: TWP proposes eDNA testing along the entire length of Wildcat Creek, paired with a visual assessment using the SWAP protocol, to identify which organisms exist in each area of the creek.

Requested grant amount:

\$ 16,123.00

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

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

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

Juliana Gonzalez

Date 7/27/26

## Proposal to Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife July 2026

**Description:** The Watershed Project (TWP) proposes eDNA testing along the entire length of Wildcat Creek, paired with a visual assessment using the SWAMP (Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program) protocol. TWP has collected water quality data for nine years and, in 2026, began a fish barrier assessment with the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU) to restore steelhead and improve the waterway, including visually inspecting aquatic organisms and salmonids.

The eDNA testing will identify which organisms exist in each section of the creek and reveal how barriers interrupt migratory fish and fish communities—valuable supplemental data for the existing barrier assessment, which examines lakes, underground reaches, dams, and other obstructions affecting fish migration and aquatic life.

This project partners with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to determine sampling sites and share data and findings. EBRPD's annual surveys, including electrofishing, cover only the upper creek, not the lower reach. Target sites include potential fish barriers such as Lake Anza, Jewel Lake, the FoodMaxx parking lot (the creek's only underground segment), the fish passage currently under re-design, and the crossing at the creek's mouth. Tributaries—critical refuges for trout escaping high winter flows and summer heat—also show some barriers to access, so eDNA testing will assess how fish communities there differ from the mainstem.

TWP will continue collecting water quality data: baseline parameters (temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, pH, turbidity, nitrate), continuous water temperature, flow video in the lower creek, benthic macroinvertebrate data, and first-flush samples. SWAMP visual assessments will measure water depth and temperature, top bank height, tree canopy coverage, and surrounding land use at sites aligned with eDNA sampling locations—helping prioritize restoration efforts. We will collect data via iPads, combining it with GIS mapping to share with municipalities and partners.

**The Watershed Project respectfully requests \$16,123 from the Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Committee to support Wildcat Creek eDNA testing and visual assessment.** Funds will support purchasing equipment to take eDNA tests, lab analysis fees, water temperature loggers, water quality monitoring equipment, visual assessment equipment, an iPad, waders, sun protections, a GIS license, and educational materials for public events. We will measure fish species richness, native fish vs. invasive fish, rainbow trout and steelhead, and habitat concerns.

TWP will share results with EBRPD and JMTU to prioritize barrier removal or improvement, and will submit eDNA and assessment data to the California Fish Passage Assessment Database.

TWP is also involved in the lower Wildcat Creek fish passage redesign, with construction (silt excavation) running June–November 2026; we'll sample water above and below the passage to assess its function. In 2025–2026, three Water Quality Apprentices trained in water quality monitoring, BMI surveys, first-flush monitoring, and fish barrier assessment—experience transferable to early careers. eDNA testing offers hands-on learning for youth and volunteers, including nearby residents who contribute community insights through visual inspections.

***Benefit to Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife:*** This project will identify fish community composition, species richness, and the presence of steelhead throughout Wildcat Creek, while pinpointing current barriers to steelhead migration and habitat. This data will directly inform future fish barrier removal plans and protect this endangered species. TWP will also share findings with the community to educate residents and strengthen support for steelhead conservation.

## Proposal to Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife July 2026

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

### 3. and 4. Project Schedule and Budget

| Project                                   | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>eDNA Test</b>                          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Plan and Training, Sampling, Lab analysis |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| HOB0 logger and WQ data collection        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| BMI Survey                                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Visual Assessment</b>                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Plan and Training, Assessment Activity    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Data Sharing</b>                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Share HOB0 data                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Upload WQ data to CEDEN, TWP website      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Report</b>                             |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Report Writing                            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

| Item                                                                                | Cost    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>eDNA Test</b>                                                                    |         |
| Laboratory Fee (qPCR test and Metabarcoding test, sampling training)                | \$7,580 |
| Sampling equipment (Brushless cordless drill, battery, charger, carry bag)          | \$460   |
| Decontamination sanitizer                                                           | \$90    |
| Sample shipping fee                                                                 | \$150   |
| <b>Visual Assessment</b>                                                            |         |
| Measuring stick (depth) and laser (distance)                                        | \$250   |
| Tree Canopy Densitometer                                                            | \$200   |
| i-pad and water proof protection cover                                              | \$650   |
| GIS license                                                                         | \$1,200 |
| Cell phone plan (Location identification, photos, internet tethering)               | \$288   |
| <b>Water Connectivity, WQ Monitoring</b>                                            |         |
| Calibration standards for Wildcat Creek (pH, Conductivity, Nitrate, Turbidity)      | \$1,350 |
| Replace meters (HOB0 loggers, parts, modules), batteries, and any maintenance items | \$2,000 |
| <b>Permit</b>                                                                       |         |
| CDFW Scientific Collection Permit Renewal fee for BMI survey                        | \$385   |
| <b>Lab Fees</b>                                                                     |         |
| Price to preserve and ID 2 BMI samples                                              | \$700   |
| <b>Public Education Materials</b>                                                   |         |
| Education materials for public events (posters, flyers, stationery, and more)       | \$450   |
| <b>Safety Items</b>                                                                 |         |
| Gloves                                                                              | \$50    |

## Proposal to Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife July 2026

|                                                     |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Waders (4)                                          | \$250    |
| San protection items for interns and volunteers (5) | \$70     |
| Total Cost                                          | \$16,123 |

**5. Annual budget for the applying organization (not itemized).** The Watershed Project's organizational budget for FY2026-2027 (July 1-June 30) is \$2,399,000.

**6. Statement describing the applying organization, listing the Board of Directors and officers of the organization, and listing all affiliated organizations.** TWP is based in Richmond, CA, and our mission is to inspire San Francisco Bay communities to understand, appreciate, and protect our local watersheds. TWP's goals include increasing awareness and stewardship of natural resources and building healthier habitats in the Bay Area. TWP's Board of Directors are Nahal Ghoghaie-Ipakchi, Independent Consultant on climate planning; Matteo Clark-Hurley, City of El Cerrito; Heidi Nutters, Principal Program Manager at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership; and Rei Scampavia, WRA Environmental Associates Plant Biologist. Our partners for the proposed work include East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD).

**7. Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization and participating individuals for completing the project.** TWP has won many awards over the last 25 years, including a proclamation celebrating TWP 30 years in 2026 from Contra Costa County, the 2023 Outstanding Contra Costa Watershed Protection Award, the 2021 Leadership in Sustainability Award from Sustainable Contra Costa, and the 2019 Contra Costa County Watershed Leadership Award. TWP has engaged more than 32,000 community members in creek and wetlands restoration efforts, and fostered the work of over 40 grassroots community creek groups. Our actions have helped to educate thousands of community members, and helped to improve Contra Costa County water quality and to enhance habitat for native fish and wildlife.

Satoko Mills oversees TWP's creek and oyster monitoring programs. She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Nihon University and has experience as a water quality analyst at an environmental laboratory. Mira Radosevich assists in fieldwork and data entry work for eDNA and visual assessment. She holds a B.S. in Nursing from Duke University and has worked with TWP and JMTU for 4 years on water quality monitoring and fish barrier assessment. Ed Culver, a fisheries biologist with the EBRPD, will assist with permitting and determining eDNA monitoring sites.

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

Satoko Mills (Environmental Monitoring Manager) will coordinate the eDNA testing and all monitoring programs: purchasing equipment, volunteer coordination, data analysis, grant management, reporting, and partnership building. Anne Bremirez (Program Director) will oversee the overall program and provide supervision.

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

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

**10. Request for an exception to the grant funding reimbursement process due to financial hardship, if applicable. N/A**



Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

Office Use Only

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Project Title: Water Quality Analysis and Monitoring of San Pablo Creek

Organization/Individual applying: Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC)

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: P.O. Box 883, Orinda, CA 94563

Telephone: (510) 919-4765 (Michael Bowen)  
(925) 254-4029 (Kathleen Mead)

Email: MEBowen@sbcglobal.net  
kathleenmead@comcast.net

Name and title of contact person: Michael Bowen, President

One sentence summary of proposal: To support water quality analysis and obtain monitoring equipment in order to characterize the ecological condition of the San Pablo Creek watershed for the reintroduction of

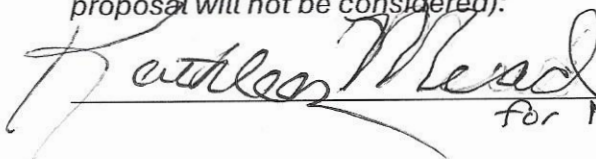
Rainbow Trout

Requested grant amount: \$ 5,000.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Kathleen Mead, Board Member

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

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

  
for Michael Bowen

Date 07/26/26

## 2) **Description of the project for which funding is requested.**

Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC) requests funding for water quality analysis and monitoring equipment in order to better characterize the ecological condition of San Pablo Creek above San Pablo Reservoir, and to do so in support of our goal to reintroduce native Onchorynchus mykiss (rainbow trout) back to the San Pablo Creek watershed above San Pablo Reservoir. FOC is partnering with the Natural Resources Division of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to seek authorization from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to proceed with the reintroduction. However, before reintroduction occurs, additional information about water quality and habitat characterization is needed. Funding would be used to purchase water quality equipment, specifically a YSI Pro30 Conductivity Meter and 4m cable with Salinity, Conductivity, total dissolved solids, and temperature sensors. Any additional funding, at the level the committee deems appropriate, would support laboratory testing of water samples to analyze parameters that cannot be detected by the probe. Collection of samples would be conducted by trained FOC volunteers.

Restoring our local creeks to healthy and diverse aquatic and riparian habitats faces the challenge of a shortage of information on the parameters related to healthy stream habitats. FOC has conducted extensive testing in partnership with The Watershed Project and will continue to do so in the future. To better understand and prioritize potential problem areas to target, FOC needs to understand sources of elevated potential pollutants affecting the water quality of San Pablo Creek and to track changes in those characteristics through time. For example, although the overall water quality of middle to upper San Pablo Creek appears to be fairly good, from testing conducted by The Watershed Project and FOC, testing shows that Lauterwasser Creek, a major tributary, is a source of high specific conductivity. Preliminary testing has identified potential sources as either homeowner garden care and/or an upstream spring. To understand the source and seasonal changes in the specific conductivity, additional testing and monitoring is required on Lauterwasser Creek. This includes important parameters such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, acidity and alkalinity, and the presence of certain pollutants.

In addition to supporting FOC's other ongoing programs, the importance of fulfilling these information needs has been highlighted in communications coordinated by FOC with technical biological staff from DFW and EBMUD. FOC has had a goal of restoring a resident population of rainbow trout to their historical habitat in San Pablo Creek upstream of San Pablo Reservoir. To be successful this program not only needs information on existing habitat quality, but also on relevant water quality parameters moving forward. These informational needs can be fulfilled by a testing and monitoring program that collects the relevant information from appropriate locations along our local creek channels at appropriate time intervals. FOC needs to acquire water quality funding to conduct further water quality analysis and equipment to use in monitoring the creek conditions and resources. FOC, using the proposed equipment and water analysis, will collect water quality information from numerous sites in the San Pablo and Lauterwasser Creek drainages. FOC intends to train student and adult volunteers in the use of monitoring equipment for field data collection. In addition to fulfilling our needs for the data to be collected, this training will provide valuable educational experience for the volunteers and increase their awareness of our urban creek issues.

- o An explanation of how this project will benefit the fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County.

Protection and enhancement of the San Pablo Creek watershed is our primary goal. However, a key objective for FOC is the reintroduction of native rainbow trout to the watershed. With updated information on the status of our watershed environmental resources and issues, FOC, and the community as a whole, will be better positioned to secure DFW approval for the EBMUD-FOC reintroduction program. Reintroduction of this population will increase resilience of the species in an era of climate change by providing an additional source population within a reliably perennial creek. In addition, drawing attention to this iconic species through its reintroduction to a demonstrably healthy watershed will further increase awareness and concern for the rich fish and wildlife resources of Contra Costa County. This information put Contra Costa County in a position to prioritize problem areas for action towards the goal of preserving and restoring healthy creek environments and their associated fish and wildlife resources. We will have information to use not only for prioritizing FOC's independent activities, but also to use in discussions with the City of Orinda and other organizations such as DFW and EBMUD for protecting and restoring fish and wildlife habitats and populations.

- o An explanation of how this project meets the requirements of Section 13103 of the Fish & Game Code.



Most specifically, this program meets the requirements of Subsections (a) and (e) of Section 13103 of the Fish & Game Code. Regarding Subsection (a), the monitoring and mapping program will greatly expand FOC's ongoing public education and nature study programs by involving more students, teachers and adults from the community in the collection and presentation of relevant program information and help educate them about the resource management relevance of the information collected. Program results will also aid FOC in informing government agencies, organizations, and individuals about the issues facing our stream environments, and the prioritized actions that need their support or involvement to improve the stream environments and their fish and wildlife populations.

Regarding Subsection (e), program results will be utilized to prioritize FOC's endeavors to improve in-stream and riparian habitats and resources, including those related to landowner and public drainage issues, controllable sources of pollutants, erosion control, removal of non-native riparian vegetation and cultivating and planting native vegetation, removal of debris, and removal of barriers to upstream and downstream passage of fish and wildlife, among others. Some of these require the convincing and cooperation of government agencies and other organizations or individuals for their successful implementation, an area where credible program information definitely comes into play.

### **3) Project schedule.**

Upon receipt of funding for the needed equipment, FOC will immediately acquire the equipment and begin monitoring water quality parameters at a number of fixed sampling stations in San Pablo Creek and Lauterwasser Creek on a regular sampling schedule basis, at least quarterly. The water quality field testing equipment will be used in connection with each of the water quality sampling events, as well as in connection with mapping other stream and riparian habitat parameters (e.g., barriers, debris, pollution input sources, streambank slope and stability, biological resources, etc.). Mid-term and final reports will be submitted per Fish and Wildlife Committee requirements.

### **4) Project budget (itemized).**

Requested funds for the habitat monitoring and mapping program will be used only for the purchase of equipment and water quality analyte analysis. All labor to conduct the program field work will be performed by volunteers without pay. All other operating costs and expenses related to the monitoring and mapping program will be covered by FOC's funds from memberships and donations. The items to be purchased include:

#### **Water Quality Monitoring Equipment**

|                                                                                                    |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| YSI Pro30 Conductivity Meter, with Salinity, Conductivity, total dissolved solids, and temperature | \$ 842         |
| ProSeries Conductivity Sensor with 4 Meter Cable                                                   | \$ 498         |
| Water Quality Sampling Analysis                                                                    | <u>\$3,660</u> |
| Total Funding Requested                                                                            | \$5,000        |

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Additional Funding Needed | <u>\$2000</u> |
| Total Funding for project | \$7000        |

### **5) Annual budget for the applying organization (NOT itemized).**

As a volunteer organization, FOC relies on member dues and donations to fund its activities. Its annual total income and budget, for all its programs, has averaged around \$4,200 in recent years. FOC collects no fees for any of the numerous educational, clean-up, and other services it provides to the community through its various programs.

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

FOC is a non-profit all volunteer organization with the mission to conserve, restore and help educate the public about the values of and threats to the creeks in Orinda. Since its founding, the programs that FOC has undertaken have become more complex and comprehensive. In order to continue our mission through public education and activities, FOC sponsors school educational programs regarding trout, creek clean-ups where students and adults remove trash and invasive non-native plants, planting native riparian species and supports individual projects of sponsored volunteers such as Boy and Girl Scouts, all of which helps increase awareness of creek issues in our community. We



also participate in the Fourth of July parade, have an informational booth in the park after the parade, and work closely with the educational activities of Orinda Friends of the Nature Area (previously the Wagner Ranch Nature Area) such as the annual Wagner Ranch Wildlife Festival, and sponsor informational workshops for homeowner, and submit relevant articles concerning creek issues to locally distributed newspapers, distribute the FOC brochure with information about Orinda's creeks, FOC's programs, and a membership application, distribute the very informative "Caring for our Creeks – Creekside Property Owner's Manual" booklet to Orinda residents, and maintain a FOC website at [www.orindacreeks.org](http://www.orindacreeks.org), and at [restoresanpablocreek.org](http://restoresanpablocreek.org) through which visitors can access more information about creek issues, how they may contribute to our mission, and how to contact us.

**Members and Officers of FOC's Board of Directors are:**

Michael Bowen, President  
Bruce McGurk, Secretary  
Reg Barrett  
Maria Brandl  
Bianca Garthe  
David Hop, Treasurer  
Tom MacKinnon

Kathleen Mead  
Tom Morehouse  
Bob Stoops  
Suzanne Uhland  
Evie Napolitan-Ito, Student  
representative

**Additional Resources are:**

Brian Waters  
Toris Jaeger  
Lisa Hales  
Cinda MacKinnon  
Leesa Evans

Regarding affiliated organizations, within the community FOC was established under the umbrella of the Orinda Parks & Recreation Foundation. The tax ID number is 51-0172525. FOC is also affiliated with EBMUD, with whom we partner on creek enhancement efforts, The Watershed Project, who mentors and assists us in water quality monitoring, and the Urban Creeks Council, with whom we share information regarding urban creek issues, community and educational resources, programs, and related activities.

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

With its mission to conserve, restore and help educate the public about the values of and threats to the creeks in Orinda, FOC's members perform various evaluations, restoration, and community educational activities. Along with the technical leads for the monitoring program listed in 7) below, FOC's Board and membership includes many individuals with formal and informal environmental and educational training and experience, including those with expertise in biology, restoration ecology, hydrology, geology, surface water quality, native and non-native invasive plants, engineering, education, and the production and presentation of information. Additionally, for the monitoring program they will be augmented by volunteers from school groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, and volunteers from the community as a whole.

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

The principal technical leads responsible for performing and overseeing the project will be:

Michael Bowman, President  
Kathleen Mead, M.S. Forest Ecology  
Brian Waters, Certified Fisheries Scientist. M.S. Fisheries Biology  
Reg Barrett, Certified Wildlife Biologist. Ph.D. Zoology

These Technical Leads, who each have project management experience in addition to their technical skills and experience, will be augmented in completing the program by other members of FOC with relevant experience as described in 6) above.

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

No permits are required for the conduct of the activities that will be performed utilizing the monitoring equipment. Any resource management activities (e.g., capturing or planting of fish, restoration within a stream that may require a Streambed Alteration Permit, riparian vegetation management, etc.) that result from decision making utilizing program information that require permits will be conducted within all requisite permit requirements for that activity at that time.

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

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Project Title: Wildcat Creek Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Suitability Study

Organization/Individual applying: John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: 5622 OAK GROVE AVE., OAKLAND 94618

Telephone: 510 220-6898

Email: info@johnmuintu.org

Name and title of contact person: Roger Wachtler President

One sentence summary of proposal: Equipment for water monitoring and passage assessment

Requested grant amount: \$6,717.60

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Eliza Breder Conservation Coordinator

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  


Date 7-20-26



## **2027 Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund**

### **Upper Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Passage Assessment: Phase II**

#### **Project Description**

The John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited requests funding to continue and expand the Upper Wildcat Creek Water Quality and Fish Passage Assessment, building directly on the County-funded 2026 Wildcat Creek Habitat and Fish Passage Study. The 2026 grant supported the purchase of essential monitoring and fish passage assessment equipment, , fish passage barrier identification, and continued maintenance of HOBO data loggers.. This 2027 proposal represents the next phase of that work: continued water quality monitoring, continued fish passage assessment in Upper Wildcat Creek, and continued submission of data to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) and the California Fish Passage Assessment Database.

Monitoring conducted at six stations in Upper Wildcat Creek indicates that water quality is generally favorable for cold-water fish; Recent 2026 electrofishing also documented resident trout at two monitoring stations in Tilden Park, confirming that a remnant resident rainbow trout population persists in the upper watershed. We also have recently observed a native rainbow trout at the Rifle Range pool indicating that resident rainbow trout may exist in deep pools in Wildcat Canyon. The conservation issue is habitat connectivity. Although portions of Upper Wildcat Creek provide suitable cold-water habitat as demonstrated by continued monitoring, fish passage barriers restrict resident trout movement and limit access to available habitat. The resident trout population suffered severely during the 2014–2017 drought, demonstrating the importance of reconnecting shaded, cold-water refugia and tributary habitat so trout can move through the upper watershed during changing seasonal and drought conditions. This project is coordinated with The Watershed Project, which is conducting complementary work in Lower Wildcat Creek, and with the East Bay Regional Park District, which provides research authorization, site access, and stewardship coordination.

#### **Benefit to Fish and Wildlife of Contra Costa County**

The project will directly benefit fish and wildlife resources in Contra Costa County by improving the scientific basis for habitat restoration and fish passage improvements in Wildcat Creek. This project satisfies subsection 13103 (i) of Fish and Game Code Section for scientific research.

#### **Project Goals and Objectives**

The overall short-term goal is to restore a healthy, resilient population of resident rainbow trout throughout Upper Wildcat Creek. The long-term goal is to support restoration of anadromous steelhead access from San Francisco Bay into the Wildcat Creek watershed. Additionally, we are contributing our continuous Hobo logger data to a greater study on the effects of global warming on urban creeks by Lisa Hunt of the SF water quality board.

##### **The specific objectives for the 2027 project are:**

1. Continue monthly water quality monitoring at established Upper Wildcat Creek monitoring stations.
2. Maintain and calibrate HOBO dissolved oxygen and temperature loggers and related field equipment.
5. Continue fish passage assessment in Upper Wildcat Creek using established CDFW and California Fish Passage Forum methods.
7. Submit water quality data to CEDEN and fish passage barrier data to the California Fish Passage Assessment Database.

8. Coordinate methods, calibration, and data management with The Watershed Project to ensure consistency between upper and lower Wildcat Creek monitoring.
9. Prepare a final report summarizing monitoring results, fish passage assessment findings, data submissions, project outcomes, and recommended next steps for restoration prioritization.

### Methods and Work Plan

The project will continue monthly water quality monitoring and fish passage assessments in Upper Wildcat Creek using the technical methods established during the 2026 grant period. Trained JMTU volunteers will collect field measurements, deploy data loggers where appropriate, document habitat conditions, and evaluate fish passage barriers using protocols consistent with state fish passage guidance. Data quality will be supported through training, equipment calibration, and review by experienced project leads, with results entered into CEDEN and the California Fish Passage Assessment Database for use by agencies, researchers, watershed partners, and restoration funders.

### Project Schedule

The project will be completed within 18 months of execution of the grant agreement.

- Mar 2027–Aug 2028: Continue monthly water quality monitoring & maintain HOBO loggers
- April 2027–December 2027: Continue Upper Wildcat Creek fish passage assessment
- Semi-annually: Submit water quality data to CEDEN + Fish Passage barrier data to CPAD
- Ongoing: Coordinate results with The Watershed Project and EBRPD
- August–September 2028: Prepare final report, invoices, receipts, and project results

### Project Budget

The requested funds will support one-time project materials, monitoring equipment, calibration supplies, and field equipment needed to continue water quality monitoring and fish passage assessment. The budget avoids operating costs and overhead and is focused on direct project implementation. The chapter has limited unrestricted funds and relies heavily on volunteer labor and small grants to conduct conservation work. In past grants, we have received funding for sampling equipment and sensors, including equipment used to monitoring DO and Temperature on a continuous basis (Onset DO/Temp sensor and data logger), as well as monitoring equipment used during the monthly spot sampling (eg Oakton DO/Temperature sampler). In this application the majority of equipment and materials are needed to replace expendable items (eg batteries) or supplied required for quality control (eg calibration).

| Material Description and Purpose                                                        | # of Units | Unit Cost  | Materials Expense |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| U26-001 Hobo Logger (w 12% sales tax)                                                   | 1.00       | \$1,696.50 | \$1,696.50        |
| Onset Hobo DO sensor caps                                                               | 12.00      | \$137.13   | \$1,645.56        |
| Onset Hobo DO batteries                                                                 | 4.00       | \$319.00   | \$1,276.00        |
| Oakton fluids calibration standards                                                     | 2.00       | \$81.29    | \$162.58          |
| Oakton Fluids 1413 conductivity                                                         | 2.00       | \$50.17    | \$100.34          |
| YSI cap & membrane kits                                                                 | 2.00       | \$101.31   | \$202.62          |
| waders                                                                                  | 2.00       | \$392.00   | \$784.00          |
| wading boots                                                                            | 2.00       | \$275.00   | \$550.00          |
| Misc (Signage, notebooks, Uniforms, Zipties, Business cards, office supplies, printing) | 1.00       | \$300.00   | \$300.00          |
| <b>Materials Total</b>                                                                  |            |            | <b>\$6,717.60</b> |

### **Statement Describing Organization, Board of Directors, and Affiliated Organizations**

The John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and local chapter of Trout Unlimited National and Trout Unlimited California. The chapter encompasses Alameda County, Contra Costa County, and a portion of Solano County, with approximately 900 Trout Unlimited members in the chapter area. The principal office of Trout Unlimited is 2550 9th Street, Suite 104, Berkeley, CA 94710. The John Muir Chapter Board of Directors includes Roger Wachtler, President; Richard Unger, Treasurer; Peter Mangarella, Secretary; Mira Radosevich, Conservation Chair; Mary Tealdi; Steven Cochrane; Craig Martz; Zach Spotts, and Eliza Breder. Project partners include The Watershed Project and the East Bay Regional Park District. The project also supports broader coordination with the Wildcat San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council and other watershed stakeholders.

### **Qualification of Individuals Responsible for Study**

Roger Wachtler, President of the John Muir Chapter, leads the Wildcat Creek habitat monitoring work and is responsible for deployment and maintenance of HOBO data loggers and dissolved oxygen/temperature sensors. Mary Tealdi leads field crews conducting monthly spot measurements of dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, and conductivity. Mira Radosevich, Chapter Conservation Chair, assists with field sampling, coordination, and consistency between upper and lower watershed monitoring methods. Craig Martz, a board member and former California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff member, leads the fish passage assessment work. Peter Mangarella, Chapter Secretary, assists with reporting and grant documentation. Eliza Breder, volunteer and board member, is a PhD Candidate at UC Berkeley in Environmental Planning and former Hydrologist. The Watershed Project provides technical assistance with training, calibration, data entry, and consistency between Upper and Lower Wildcat Creek monitoring. The East Bay Regional Park District provides research authorization, site access, stewardship coordination, and fisheries oversight.

### **Permit Status**

All work in Upper Wildcat Creek is conducted under East Bay Regional Park District research authorization. The original EBRPD research permit was issued for the ongoing Wildcat Creek study and has been extended to support continued monitoring and assessment work. JMTU will coordinate with EBRPD to maintain necessary research authorization for all field activities during the 2027 grant period and will request a new permit for a three year period. No construction, demolition, installation, or contracted public works activities are proposed as part of this grant request. The project consists of monitoring, field assessment, data documentation, volunteer coordination, and reporting.

### **Request for Exception to Cost Reimbursement Due to Financial Hardship**

The John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited requests consideration for an advance payment of 50% of the grant award due to financial hardship. The chapter is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization with limited unrestricted operating funds. Annual chapter funds must support general operations as well as conservation activities across the chapter area. Because this project requires purchase of monitoring equipment, replacement supplies, and field materials before final reimbursement, waiting until project completion for full reimbursement would create a financial burden and could delay implementation. The remaining grant funds would be requested following submission of required invoices, receipts, and the final project report.

# Contra Costa County 2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Application Cover Page

Office Use Only

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Project Title: Exploring Tidal Wetlands: Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education

Organization/Individual applying: John Muir Land Trust

Organization type: please check one –

government

☐

non-profit

☒

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: 924 Main St. Martinez, CA 94553

Telephone: (925) 228-5460

Email: amelia@jmlt.org

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

One sentence summary of proposal: Maintain & expand participatory conservation education at Pacheco Marsh.

Requested grant amount: \$ 7,128.99

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

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

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

*Amelia Flack*

Date 7/27/2026

Signed by:

*Amelia Flack*

94573886D98E4F4...

7/27/2026



**John Muir Land Trust: 2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Request**  
***Exploring Tidal Wetlands: Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education Year 2***

John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) is requesting \$7,128.99 to support school field trips to Pacheco Marsh (PM), a restored tidal wetland in Contra Costa County. JMLT's PM education program provides Contra Costa kids with immersive and participatory experiences that allow them to explore one of our region's most significant wetland habitats. If awarded, these funds will be used to cover the cost of bus rental for 5 educational field trips, and the cost of a microscope, which will enhance the experience for the school-aged participants. These field trips, which are always free, connect students from Contra Costa County public schools and non-profit service organizations, including students from underserved communities, with one of the county's most ecologically significant tidal marsh habitats. These five trips will take place throughout 2027, with events concentrated in Spring and Fall. Each trip follows a planned curriculum, designed and led by JMLT's stewardship team, and is planned with care to spark curiosity, build scientific observation skills, and cultivate meaningful and lifelong appreciation for environmental stewardship.

In 2026, support from the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund funded bus rentals for two field trips to Pacheco marsh so far, with a third trip planned for the fall. These trips would not have been possible without this funding, and the support from CCCFW removed the financial barrier that typically prevents schools and youth-serving organizations from participating in these kinds of outdoor education opportunities. Approximately 45 students and youth participated/will participate in each event. During the first visit on May 15, 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Las Juntas Elementary School were introduced to the marsh ecosystem through guided exploration. They traveled through time as they learned how the Pacheco Marsh landscape has changed from Indigenous stewardship through the Spanish era, periods of industrial use, and today's restoration and public access efforts. As they walked, students used butterfly nets and binoculars to observe insects and birds, learned how to identify native plants, learned about endemic species like pickleweed and the harvest mouse, and explored the ecological landscape that makes tidal wetlands like that at Pacheco Marsh so important for the environmental health of our region. The experience ended with a low-stakes wildlife-themed art competition and other activities that encouraged students to reflect on what they had learned. One student commented "this was the best fieldtrip ever!". The trip on July 23, during which approximately 45 youth participants ages 6-16 associated with the Monument Crisis Center, followed a similar curriculum, with slightly less walking.

Building on the program success this year, we are again requesting support to expand the field trips to five in 2027. This will allow us to host at least 225 Contra Costa youth to participate in environmental conservation education at PM. Many participating youth come from communities with limited resources and limited access to parks, open spaces, and environmental education opportunities. We are not requesting any overhead or staff costs and any funding awarded will go directly to program costs.

The site also provides an excellent opportunity to observe firsthand the value of restored wetland systems for climate resilience. The project directly supports the long-term conservation of Contra Costa County's natural resources by fostering ecological literacy and instilling an ethic of stewardship in the next generation. By providing equitable access to hands-on environmental learning, the project offers Contra Costa County youth awareness and knowledge needed to support fish and wildlife conservation in their own communities.



In addition to transportation costs, we are requesting funding to purchase a Rechargeable Microscope with Digital Display, which will deepen the educational experience for students across all fieldtrips, beyond the grant period. Earlier this year, thanks to CCCFW, we invested in 20 binoculars and 1 spotting scope, which have become invaluable tracking tools for birdwatching and wildlife observation - the use of the binoculars greatly enhances educational experience for our youth participants and allows them to experience the marsh while developing careful observation skills. A microscope is the next natural addition to our fieldtrip toolkit. Students will be able to use it to examine insects, plant structures, feathers, seeds, and more while never leaving the marsh. The rechargeable feature is important as there is no power at PM, and the digital display means that multiple youth can interact with the microscope at any given time. By being able to explore details that otherwise cannot be seen, youth participants will be able to practice scientific conservation techniques that are commonly used in conservation and science research.

The project meets the eligibility criteria under Section 13103 (d) of the California Fish and Game Code, directly supporting public education relating to, and fostering public awareness and appreciation for, fish and wildlife conservation. The program combines scientific inquiry with hands-on exploration, which allows students to engage with the concepts they are learning rather than just observing. Through activities and real-world experiences at Pacheco Marsh, students gain a deeper understanding of local ecosystems and their role in protecting them. These field trips encourage environmental stewardship that extends beyond the outdoor classroom and into the broader community.

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

John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) is a nonprofit land conservation organization dedicated to permanently protecting and caring for the open spaces and natural resources of the East Bay. Since its founding in 1989, JMLT has preserved over 4,000 acres of land, ensuring that future generations have access to nature. Through stewardship, restoration, and community engagement, JMLT connects people with nature and promotes environmental education across Contra Costa County and beyond. In Spring 2025, JMLT officially opened Pacheco Marsh for public access. Located approximately 1.5 miles from Martinez, Pacheco Marsh hosts trails and an outdoor classroom where students explore and learn about the history of the region and the importance of restoring and caring for Pacheco Marsh and similar shoreline environments throughout the Bay Delta. The stunning contrast of thriving habitat surrounded by a stark industrial backdrop. The towers of oil refineries can be seen in the distance while tankers pass underneath the parallel spans of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge to the north. The entire history of the shoreline can be experienced in this one remarkable place.

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

#### **John Muir Land Trust Board of Directors 2026**

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

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

#### **John Muir Land Trust Leadership Team 2026**

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

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

### Project Team

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

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

### Project Schedule: calendar year 2027

| Funding Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Timeframe                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Planning including coordination with stewardship/JMLT team to prepare curriculum and finalize visit logistics, outreach to local schools and youth-serving organizations to schedule field trips, ordering and preparing teaching materials and supplies, and scheduling transportation | Planning is ongoing but will be concentrated in Winter 2027 (to prepare for Spring visits), and Summer 2027 (to prepare for Fall visits) |
| Programming including hosting visits at Pacheco Marsh, leading students in hands-on participatory learning about wetland conservation, wildlife, biology, and conservation, and documenting lessons learned and student participation                                                   | Programming will be scheduled for Spring and Fall 2027                                                                                   |
| Reporting including reviewing participation numbers, engagement, successes and failures, gathering notes and assess program effectiveness, and completing and submitting final report to CCCFW                                                                                          | Winter 2027                                                                                                                              |

### Project Budget

| Funding Activity                                                                                                                               | Funding Required | Funding requested |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Transport: 1 bus serves 45 – we are requesting 1 bus for each trip (45x5) = transportation for 225 participants</i>                         | \$6,500          | \$6,500           |
| USB-C Rechargeable Binocular Compound Microscope 2,5000X Magnification with 7" Digital Display Camera Head                                     | \$628.99         | \$628.99          |
| Misc, supplies for direct programming                                                                                                          | \$1,600          | \$0               |
| Staff time – Stewardship Manager – approximately 100 hours dedicated specifically to Pacheco Marsh education programming over the grant period | \$15,000         | \$0               |

### Organization Budget: 2023\* Expenses and Reductions to Assets

#### Program Services

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

#### Supporting Services

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

Photos included on this request are from 2026 Pacheco Marsh programming, made possible by the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund

Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

Office Use Only

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Project Title: Assessing Water Quality Impacts from Invasive Azolla

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

Organization type: please check one

government



non profit



school



other (explain)



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

Telephone: 925-690-4145

Email: bweise@ccrcd.org

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

One sentence summary of proposal: CCRCD seeks funds to assess water quality impacts from invasive aquatic weeds in livestock ponds that can impact threatened and endangered species through food chain alterations and impacts to invertebrates.

Requested grant amount: \$6,800.00

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

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

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



Date 7/26/26

### **Description of the Project for Which Funding is Requested:**

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) seeks funding from the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to conduct water quality monitoring of selected livestock ponds in Contra Costa County rangelands to assess impacts to invertebrate species richness and associated impacts to the food chain (including amphibians) as a result of the presence of *Azolla spp.* CCRCD is partnering with the East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, and Dr. Pieter Johnson's lab out of the University of Colorado, Boulder to collect necessary data for this work to inform longer-term *Azolla* management in artificial stocks ponds for the benefit of Contra Costa fish and wildlife.

Artificial stock ponds are among the most important freshwater habitats in Contra Costa County. Originally constructed for livestock, they now support diverse aquatic communities and provide essential breeding habitat for the federally threatened California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*, CRLF), California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*, CTS), and numerous other aquatic species. Maintaining the ecological health of these ponds is critical for both agriculture and freshwater biodiversity conservation.

One potentially important but understudied stressor in these wetlands is the invasive mosquito fern (*Azolla caroliniana*). Because invasive *A. caroliniana* and native *A. filiculoides* can only be distinguished genetically, this invasion has largely gone unnoticed despite *Azolla spp.* coverage increasing. Dense *Azolla spp.* mats reduce light penetration, lower dissolved oxygen, and alter water temperatures, yet their effects on nutrient availability and primary productivity remain poorly understood.

Preliminary analyses of the Johnson Lab's long-term dataset found that complete *Azolla spp.* coverage was associated with a 105% increase in chytrid fungus prevalence and a 120% increase in malformations in Pacific Chorus Frogs (*Pseudacris regilla*). Additionally, *Azolla spp.* was associated with a 43% reduction in CRLF abundance.

Through this project, CCRCD and researchers from Dr. Johnson's lab will collect water quality samples from 10 ponds in Briones Regional Park, Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve, and EBMUD properties that are both invaded and uninvaded by *Azolla spp.* During each visit, *Azolla spp.* tissue will be collected and preserved in coin envelopes containing silica gel desiccant. Samples collected during the first and last visits will undergo Sanger sequencing to distinguish invasive *Azolla caroliniana* from native *A. filiculoides*. Water samples will also be collected during every visit for analysis of total phosphorus (TP) and total nitrogen (TN). In addition, three 1-L water samples will be filtered through 0.7-µm glass fiber filters (GFFs) for chlorophyll-a analysis at the University of Colorado Boulder. Nutrient samples will be frozen in the field and shipped overnight to the analytical laboratory.

Total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TN), and chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) are key indicators of nutrient availability and primary productivity and provide valuable insight into how invasive *Azolla* alters freshwater wetland ecosystems. By comparing these metrics between *Azolla*-invaded and uninvaded ponds, this project will quantify how *Azolla* is associated with changes in nutrient availability and primary productivity, improving our understanding of its effects on water quality, food-web dynamics, and overall habitat quality. These data will provide the first assessment of how *Azolla* influences nutrient cycling and primary productivity in Contra Costa County wetlands, helping land managers better understand the ecological consequences of invasion and prioritize wetlands for monitoring, restoration, and conservation of the fish and

wildlife communities that depend on them, including the listed California Red-legged Frog and California Tiger Salamander.

This project is eligible under Section 130103 of Fish and Game Code under section (i) scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or government agencies. While this project will be research focused, the focus of the research on water quality will not require significant permits beyond already-in-hand scientific research collection permits with the partner government organizations, the East Bay Regional Park District and the East Bay Municipal Utilities District. There will be no handling of any threatened or endangered species related to this project as only water samples and invasive plant vegetation will be collected.

### 3. Project Schedule (2027)

|                                           | J<br>a<br>n | F<br>e<br>b | M<br>a<br>r | A<br>p<br>r | M<br>a<br>y | J<br>u<br>n | J<br>u<br>l | A<br>u<br>g | S<br>e<br>p | O<br>c<br>t | N<br>o<br>v | D<br>e<br>c |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Water Quality Sampling (5 Samples)        |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Plant Tissue Sampling                     |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Laboratory Analysis                       |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Data Analysis, Interpretation             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Final Fish and Wildlife Committee Billing |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |

### 4. Project Budget (Itemized)

| Item                                                                 | Units | Unit Cost | Total          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|----------------|
| Sampling Supplies (coin envelopes, silica gel beads, filters, pumps) | 1     | \$500     | \$500          |
| Laboratory Sampling (TN, TP, Sanger Sequencing)                      | 15    | \$6,000   | \$6000         |
| Priority Overnight Shipping                                          | 2     | \$150     | \$300          |
| Total                                                                |       |           | <b>\$6,800</b> |

### 5. Annual Budget for Applying Organization

|                 | GEN OPS      | Fund Development | Education  | Program      | Total        |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Income</b>   |              |                  |            |              |              |
| Total Income    | 426,812.58   | 14,000.00        | 7,500.00   | 2,255,505.61 | 2,703,818.19 |
| <b>Expenses</b> |              |                  |            |              |              |
| Total Expenses  | 572,023.98   | 215,383.07       | 16,759.84  | 2,288,737.89 | 3,092,904.78 |
| Net Income      | (145,211.40) | (201,383.07)     | (9,259.84) | (33,232.28)  | (389,086.59) |

(Net income due to accrual accounting and several deferred revenue projects)



## **6. Statement describing the applying organization:**

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

### CCRCD Board of Directors

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

**Bethallyn Black, Vice President** – Emeritus Horticulture Professor, Diablo Valley College

**Walter Pease** – Retired City of Pittsburg Public Works

**Martin Steinpress** – Instructor and retired hydrogeologist

**Soumya Suresh** – Biologist, environmental consultant

## **7. Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization**

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) was first incorporated in 1941 and has a rich history of providing natural resource conservation services to farmers and ranchers. The Agriculture Conservation Program works to achieve voluntary conservation on farms, ranches, school gardens, and urban farms. CCRCD has facilitated the restoration of livestock ponds under the Voluntary Local Program since 2015, resulting in 28 restored ponds and 5 miles of livestock water pipelines installed for the benefit of livestock, ranches, and wildlife on private and public lands throughout Contra Costa county.

## **8. List of Individuals Responsible for performing project**

Ben Weise, Agriculture Program Director, will manage the grant and contracting. Genna Fudin, Agriculture Conservation Coordinator, will work closely with the Johnson Lab to collect water samples and tissues. The Johnson Lab will perform analysis of results.

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

This project has been developed in partnership and with the support of East Bay Regional Park District and the East Bay Municipal Utilities District. As necessary, CCRCD Staff will negotiate with both agencies to acquire access or scientific collection permits for this work. No additional permitting is required to assess and collect small water quality samples from livestock ponds.

# Contra Costa County 2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Application Cover Page

Office Use Only

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Project Title: Shadehouse Operation for Habitat Enhancement

Organization/Individual applying: Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

Organization type: please check one –

government

☒

non-profit

☐

school

☐

other (explain)

☐

Address: 2001 Clayton Rd, Concord CA 94520

Telephone: (908) 451 6040

Email: agelfand@ccrcd.org

Name and title of contact person: Adam Gelfand, Habitat Restoration Manager

One sentence summary of proposal: The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District requests funds to build a shade house, increasing regional capacity for growing out local ecotypes and enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife.

Requested grant amount: \$4,678.06

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Adam Gelfand, Habitat Restoration Manager

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

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



Date 7/27/26

### **Project Description:**

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) restores diverse ecosystems including wetlands, riparian corridors, woodlands, chaparral, and urban areas. With our expanding restoration program, increased plantings per year, and increasing scale of projects, there is a need for a CCRCD-managed propagation space. As such, the CCRCD requests funds to build a shadehouse (a structure that suspends a shade cloth, protecting young plants from 50% of the sun's radiation) for the propagation of native plants to be planted across our restoration project sites. In partnership with the Rodeo Citizens Association (RCA), this shadehouse would be installed at the Laurel Court Community Garden in Rodeo, serving the long-term restoration needs of CCRCD as well as the RCA. The RCA, as the landowner of the Laurel Court Community Garden, has agreed to allow placing a shadehouse on the property for native plant growth and community education.

Sourcing seed hyper-locally ensures plants are adapted to specific environmental conditions, supports regional wildlife, and preserves genetic diversity. Locally-adapted plants, as compared to non-local native plants, provide superior habitat for local native wildlife because they have evolved with specific environmental conditions, are more likely to survive, and thus best serve the needs and life cycles of native wildlife. Nurseries often lack or have limited offerings of Contra Costa local ecotypes. Planting non-local genetic variants of a species can weaken or dilute the gene pools of local ecotypes. Using well-adapted local stock increases outplanting success and reduces waste. The majority of extant local nurseries providing source-identified native ecotypes serve regions west of the Oakland hills. Currently, there is a lack of native nurseries east of the Oakland hills. As an entity focusing on restoring Contra Costa lands, the CCRCD is in a unique position to increase regional capacity to amplify local ecotypes, outplant them in CCRCD restoration projects, and funnel surplus plants to partners and community members free of cost. Plants grown in the shadehouse would not be sold; the goal is rather to enhance the quality of the CCRCD's restoration efforts and donate excess nursery stock to support the creation of new habitat throughout the region.

The 20' by 14' shadehouse and accompanying supplies will provide us with 280 sq ft. of growing space, supporting approximately 4,600 plants annually (two growth cycles of 2,300 plants each) for at least seven restoration sites. Plants grown will include ecologically significant species such as blue elderberry, coast live oak, and arroyo willow, for example. Blue elderberry hosts the endangered valley elderberry longhorn beetle, coast live oak provides habitat for acorn woodpeckers, and arroyo willow provides riparian shade – lowering the temperature of creeks to the benefit of Steelhead trout. Each of these species is indelibly woven into food webs that are primarily supported by robust native plant communities. Shadehouse success will be evaluated based on the percentage of germinated seedlings that survive to transplanting, with a target survival rate of at least 70%. Sites that will benefit from our shadehouse operations include the Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh, Little Franks Tract, the Laurel Court Community Garden, several mitigation sites, and various pollinator gardens and riparian woodlands throughout the county, amounting to a total of approximately 24 acres. The proposed model of shadehouse is projected to last up to 15 years before needing to replace the shade cloth.

This proposal falls under category e) “improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.” Grant funds would provide a growing space, increasing the CCRCD's capacity to plant native plants across our actively managed restoration sites. Native plants are the building blocks of healthy habitats, many of which have been disrupted by local development, pollution, and invasive species. Plant communities established as a result of this shadehouse will enhance at least 24 acres of habitat for Contra Costa's fish, wildlife, and pollinators. Preserving the connection between local plants and wildlife is essential to the persistence of Contra Costa fish and wildlife.



Example of a shadehouse structure.  
Photo courtesy of [Bootstrap Farmer](#).

**Project Schedule:**

Winter 2027: Purchase shadehouse materials, lay weedcloth and gravel foundation

Spring 2027: Assemble shadehouse structure and build irrigation system

Summer 2027: Purchase and set up potting materials, pots, plug flat trays, substrate

Fall 2027: Collect seed, germinate in pre-existing greenhouse, transfer to shadehouse at appropriate growth stage

Winter 2028: Begin transplanting

Spring 2028: Evaluate plant survival rates, determine and address causes of mortality

**Itemized Cost List:**

| Budget Item                     | Unit Cost  | Quantity | Total       |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| <b><i>Shadehouse Build</i></b>  |            |          |             |
| Shadehouse Kit                  | \$2,092.99 | 1        | \$1,802.986 |
| Gravel (cu yd)                  | \$112.99   | 3        | \$338.97    |
| Landscape fabric                | \$67.98    | 1        | \$67.98     |
| Industrial zippers              | \$10.56    | 2        | \$21.12     |
| Industrial thread               | \$39.98    | 1        | \$39.98     |
| Nursery benchtops               | \$24.49    | 10       | \$244.90    |
| Lumber (2x4) for frames         | \$9.58     | 10       | \$95.80     |
| Cinderblocks                    | \$3.10     | 64       | \$198.40    |
| Irrigation materials            | \$800.00   | 1        | \$800.00    |
| <b><i>Seed Propagation</i></b>  |            |          |             |
| 128-cavity plug trays - 50 pack | \$114.45   | 1        | \$114.45    |
| D16 pots - 50 pack              | \$29.99    | 4        | \$119.96    |
| D11 pots - 50 pack              | \$27.99    | 4        | \$111.96    |
| SB35 bandpots - 98 pack         | \$40.99    | 1        | \$40.99     |
| Labeling grease pencil          | \$2.00     | 4        | \$8.00      |
| Plant stake labels              | \$24.00    | 1        | \$24.00     |
| <b><i>Substrate</i></b>         |            |          |             |
| Perlite (8 cu ft)               | \$73.98    | 1        | \$73.98     |
| Vermiculite (8 cu ft)           | \$107.00   | 1        | \$107.00    |
| Coconut Coir (7.5 cu ft)        | \$17.33    | 3        | \$51.99     |
| <b><i>Tax (9.75%)</i></b>       |            |          | \$415.59    |
| GRAND TOTAL                     |            |          | \$4,678.06  |

**Annual Budget: CCRCD FY 2026-2027 Budget**

|                          | <b><u>Gen Ops</u></b> | <b><u>Fund Development</u></b> | <b><u>Education</u></b> | <b><u>Program</u></b> | <b><u>Total</u></b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>Income</u></b>     | \$426,812.58          | \$14,000.00                    | \$7,500.00              | \$2,255,505.61        | \$2,703,818.19      |
| <b><u>Expenses</u></b>   | \$572,023.90          | \$215,383.07                   | \$16,759.84             | \$2,288,737.89        | \$3,092,904.78      |
| <b><u>Net Income</u></b> | (\$145,211.40)        | (\$201,383.07)                 | (\$9,259.84)            | (\$33,232.28)         | (\$389,086.59)      |

*(Net income due to accrual accounting and several deferred revenue projects.)*

**Statement Describing the Applying Organization:**

The CCRCD is a non-regulatory special district of the state of California. Our mission is to facilitate the conservation of natural resources in Contra Costa County. The CCRCD accomplishes this by partnering with farmers, ranchers, nonprofits, businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies. The organization works throughout Contra Costa County and has championed projects including the Pinole Fish Passage Improvement Project, livestock pond restorations, the Unhoused Creek Stewards Pilot Project, the Contra Costa Watershed Forum, and supporting grassroots watershed groups.

**CCRCD Board of Directors**

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

Bethallyn Black, Vice President – Emeritus Horticulture Professor, Diablo Valley College

Walter Pease – Retired, City of Pittsburg Public Works

Martin Steinpress – Instructor and retired hydrogeologist

Soumya Suresh – Biologist, environmental consultant

**Organization Qualifications:**

The CCRCD was first incorporated in 1941 and has a rich history of providing resource conservation services to farmers, ranchers, government agencies, and the general public. The Habitat Restoration Program focuses on restoring Contra Costa's landscapes and long-term maintenance of restoration projects, ensuring that habitats remain functional and beneficial to native wildlife. Across our public and working lands, the restoration team has maintained hundreds of acres of restored habitat, executed invasive species removal, and planted thousands of native plants.

**Individuals Responsible for Performing and Overseeing the Project:**

Jules Mackey is a Habitat Restoration Program Coordinator at the CCRCD and has a BS in Environmental Science and Management from UC Davis. Jules has over 5 years of restoration experience and coordinates the CCRCD restoration team's work throughout the county.

Molly Clemons is a Habitat Restoration Technician at the CCRCD, where she helps steward restoration sites throughout the county. She holds a BS in Environmental Science at Sonoma State University. She has experience in garden maintenance working at St. Mary's College.

Elena Rich is a Habitat Restoration Technician at the CCRCD. Elena holds a BS in Environmental Science and Management from UC Davis. She has experience working at the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden nursery propagating native plants and conducting nursery maintenance.

Adam Gelfand is the Habitat Restoration Program Manager at the CCRCD. Adam holds a BA in Environmental Studies and a MA in Conservation Biology from Columbia University. In addition, Adam has four years of experience growing out plants from seed in greenhouse and shadehouse settings.



Contra Costa County  
2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund  
Application Cover Page

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Project Title: Marsh Creek Steelhead Trout Spawning and Breeding Habitat Enhancement Pilot

Organization/Individual applying: Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

Organization type: please check one

government



non profit



school



other (explain)



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

Telephone: 925-269-9190

Email: clim@ccrcd.org

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

One sentence summary of proposal: The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, proposes to restore Steelhead trout spawning habitat in Marsh Creek by adding river rock, engaging volunteers, and monitoring redds.

Requested grant amount: \$19,695 (with \$14,624 in-kind match)

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

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

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



Date 7/27/26

## 2. Project Description: How will this project benefit the fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County?

Steelhead trout are remarkable fish that migrate from Contra Costa County's freshwater creeks to the Pacific Ocean and return to local creeks to breed and spawn. Unlike most Pacific salmon, Steelhead can repeat this life cycle multiple times. Despite once being abundant, their numbers have declined due to barriers to migration, flood control channelization, and the loss of complex riparian habitat. Currently, Steelhead utilizing the Marsh Creek watershed are federally protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, making habitat restoration efforts critical to their recovery. One key limiting factor is the availability of suitable spawning substrate, including rounded river rock that provides the structure Steelhead need to build "redds," or fish nests, for egg deposition. The Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development's *Lower Marsh Creek Stream Corridor Restoration Program* identifies historical flood control improvements following the 1950s floods as a primary cause of habitat degradation in Marsh Creek. Channelization eliminated much of the creek's natural riparian and floodplain habitat and reduced the channel complexity that once included pools, gravel riffles, bars, and other features important for native fish reproduction. To address these impacts, the restoration program specifically recommends installation of instream habitat features, including large woody debris, rock features, and **spawning substrate augmentation** to restore pool and riffle characteristics, improve aquatic habitat, and enhance spawning opportunities for Chinook salmon and Steelhead.

Spawning substrate augmentation is a well-established salmonid restoration practice used throughout Northern California. Studies on the Lower American and Mokelumne rivers documented increased spawning use and improvements in intergravel flow, dissolved oxygen, and other habitat conditions following placement of clean, appropriately sized river rock (Merz and Setka 2004; Zeug et al. 2014). Similar projects have been implemented and monitored on Clear Creek and the Trinity, Sacramento, American, and Stanislaus rivers (Gaeuman 2013).

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD), in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council (MCWC), proposes a pilot project to restore spawning opportunities by placing rounded river rock at two demonstration sites along Marsh Creek. The sites were selected to build upon existing restoration investments, support volunteer participation and long-term monitoring, and evaluate the effectiveness of spawning substrate augmentation for future application elsewhere in the watershed.

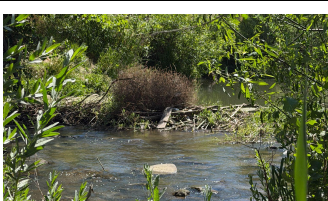
The first site is located at Oakley Creekside Park, which lies along an important migratory corridor between the Marsh Creek watershed and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The second site is located at Three Creeks Parkway in Brentwood, upstream of the Marsh Creek fish ladder, where it will enhance spawning habitat for returning Steelhead farther into the watershed. Steelhead have been observed spawning at both locations, demonstrating that adult fish already use these reaches for reproduction. In addition, observations by UC Davis graduate students during the past year indicate that both sites support an adequate aquatic insect supply to provide food for newly emerged fry. Together, these observations suggest that the sites already provide important elements of spawning and early rearing habitat, while the availability of suitable spawning substrate remains a condition the pilot project can improve.

Spawning river rock will be placed in targeted areas within existing riffles at an average depth of approximately six inches, where suitable flow conditions allow water to circulate through the substrate and oxygenate developing eggs. Across the two sites, this treatment will create approximately 1,000 linear feet of enhanced

spawning habitat. By improving breeding habitat at these two locations, the project will support Steelhead reproduction and contribute to the broader recovery efforts in the Marsh Creek watershed.

The project also emphasizes community engagement and education. CCRCD will host four volunteer workdays where at least 50 local residents, including youth and families, will participate in spawning substrate placement and habitat improvement. CCRCD will also seek to engage at least ten volunteers who participate in more than one workday, strengthening continued community stewardship. The outreach will rely on current email lists of the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed, and the CCRCD. Each workday will include a short educational component on Steelhead ecology, spawning habitat, the challenges they face, and the role local communities can play in recovery efforts.

Before installation, CCRCD and MCWC will document baseline site conditions through fixed photo points and observations of existing substrate. Following installation, CCRCD and the Council will conduct at least two winter monitoring days to document substrate stability and survey the enhanced reaches for Steelhead redds. Monitoring results will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot, guide future adaptive management, and help determine the feasibility of expanding gravel augmentation to other reaches of Marsh Creek with additional funding. This pilot project, if successful, will serve as an example for low-cost, community-supported Steelhead restoration efforts across Contra Costa County.

|                                                                                   |                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Site 1: Oakley Creekside Park, downstream of the Laurel Road bridge |  | Site 2: Three Creeks Parkway, near Central Boulevard along Marsh Creek |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

#### References:

Gaeuman, D. 2013. *Monitoring the Effectiveness of Gravel Augmentations for Salmonid Habitat Improvement Downstream from Dams*. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Merz, J. E., and J. D. Setka. 2004. "Evaluation of a Spawning Habitat Enhancement Site for Chinook Salmon in a Regulated California River." *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 24: 397–407.

Zeug, S. C., K. Sellheim, C. Watry, B. Rook, J. Hannon, J. Zimmerman, D. Cox, and J. Merz. 2014. "Gravel Augmentation Increases Spawning Utilization by Anadromous Salmonids: A Case Study from California, USA." *River Research and Applications* 30: 707–718.

**How does this project meet the requirements of Section 13103?** This project meets California Fish and Game Code section 13103(e) because it improves fish habitat through gravel and rock placement, an activity expressly identified in the statute.

### 3. Project Schedule

|                             | Feb  | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb  |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| TASKS                       | 2027 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2028 |
| Meetings                    |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| Planning                    |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| Gravel deliveries           |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| Workdays to disperse gravel |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| Monitoring                  |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| Invoicing and reporting     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |

### 4. Project Budget (itemized)

| SUPPLIES                   | Units | Cost per unit (\$) | Total | Total match |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------------|
| River rock (various sizes) | 2     | 5000               | 10000 |             |
| Rubber boots               | 6     | 25                 | 150   |             |
| Work gloves                | 25    | 10                 | 250   |             |
| 5 gallon buckets           | 25    | 6                  | 150   |             |
| Rakes                      | 4     | 35                 | 140   |             |

| OTHER                           |   |      |      |  |
|---------------------------------|---|------|------|--|
| River rock delivery             | 8 | 250  | 2000 |  |
| Streambed Alteration Permit     | 1 | 1882 | 1882 |  |
| 401 permit                      | 1 | 1123 | 1123 |  |
| Biological monitor (contractor) | 2 | 2000 | 4000 |  |

| MATCH (in-kind)               |     |       |  |      |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------|--|------|
| CCRCD staff                   | 80  | 84.32 |  | 6746 |
| Marsh Creek Watershed Council | 168 | 36.14 |  | 6072 |
| Workday volunteers            | 50  | 36.14 |  | 1807 |

|                                                       |                |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
|                                                       | total supplies | 10690 |
|                                                       | total other    | 9005  |
|                                                       | total match    | 14624 |
|                                                       | total project  | 34319 |
| total ask of Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee |                | 19695 |

### 5. Organization Budget (FY 2026 – 2027)

|                | GEN OPS      | Fund Development | Education  | Program      | Total        |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Income         |              |                  |            |              |              |
| Total Income   | 426,812.58   | 14,000.00        | 7,500.00   | 2,255,505.61 | 2,703,818.19 |
| Expenses       |              |                  |            |              |              |
| Total Expenses | 572,023.98   | 215,383.07       | 16,759.84  | 2,288,737.89 | 3,092,904.78 |
| Net Income     | (145,211.40) | (201,383.07)     | (9,259.84) | (33,232.28)  | (389,086.59) |

(Net income due to accrual accounting and several deferred revenue projects)

### 6. DESCRIBING THE APPLYING ORGANIZATION

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) is a non-regulatory special district of the State of California. Its mission is to facilitate the conservation and stewardship of Contra Costa County's natural resources.

#### CCRCD Board of Directors

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

**Bethallyn Black, Vice President** – Emeritus Horticulture Professor, Diablo Valley College

**Walter Pease**–Retired City of Pittsburg Public Works

**Martin Steinpress** – Instructor and retired hydrogeologist

**Soumya Suresh** – Biologist, environmental consultant

### 7. ORGANIZATION QUALIFICATIONS

CCRCD is well suited to oversee the project from planning through implementation and monitoring. For 85 years, CCRCD has provided natural-resource support throughout the county, primarily through

voluntary partnerships. CCRCD currently manages nearly 30 grants and contracts and maintains the systems needed to track staff time, receivables, and expenses for each project.

### 8. INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PERFORMING AND OVERSEEING THE PROJECT

**Chris Lim, Executive Director**, is responsible for project oversight. Chris has more than 25 years of experience creating partnerships that restore species throughout watersheds and has worked in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors. He holds a B.A. in Integrative Biology, with an emphasis in Marine Biology and Oceanography and a minor in Geography, from the UC, Berkeley, and a Master of Nonprofit Administration from the USF.

#### Ivette Rivero, Watershed Conservation

**Coordinator**, has a strong background in community outreach, project management, and environmental monitoring. She has led public engagement programs, coordinated habitat horticulture projects, and trained interns in sustainable land stewardship. Fluent in English and Spanish, Ivette connects diverse communities with vital resources and guides outreach initiatives.

#### David Sondergeld, Marsh Creek Watershed

**Council Chair**, is a retired corporate executive with nearly 60 years of volunteer experience. Over a 40-year career, he organized volunteer events supporting cleanups, parks, environmental projects, people experiencing homelessness, and individuals with special needs. He has led coastal cleanups for more than 35 years, receiving recognition from the California Coastal Commission and local governments.

### 9. PROJECT PERMITTING

The project is anticipated to occur within reaches of Marsh Creek owned by the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (CCCFCDD). CCRCD has a strong working relationship with CCCFCDD, and a CCCFCDD senior engineer serves as an associate board member of the Marsh Creek Watershed Council. CCRCD and the Council will continue coordinating with CCCFCDD regarding property access, project planning and implementation.

CCRCD anticipates obtaining a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW and water-quality authorization from the State Water Resources Control Board or appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board. CCRCD has obtained these authorizations for other projects and is familiar with the permitting process.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                           | Type of Org | Project Title                                                                  | Type of Project                                                                                                                                             | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---|----------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A | Boise State University                 | school      | Assessing the demography of a threatened Golden Eagle population in California | (i) scientific research<br><br>*CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i)                                    | Countywide          | \$4,245.00               | \$4,245.00                 | <p>This is a request for funds for a project that uses non-invasive genetic sampling of molted feathers to estimate survival and population size of golden eagles in the Atlatomont Pass Wind Area of California. Grant funds will be used for Qiagen DNeasy Blood &amp; Tissue Kit, envelopes, razor blades, pipette tips and indirect costs.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u> All lab work, including DNA extractions and genetic analyses are expected to be complete by August 2026. Lab supplies will be needed continuously throughout the duration of this time. Following completion of lab work, analyses on data collected will be conducted.</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (i) scientific research. The study will provide valuable data on golden eagle demography within the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) and assess how wind turbines may affect these populations. The findings will directly benefit Contra Costa County by supporting informed management decisions that enhance the conservation of golden eagles within the region. Improved management practices may also benefit other wildlife including other raptors and bird species that experience similar disturbances from wind turbines. Full funding is recommended for laboratory supplies, including Qiagen DNeasy Blood &amp; Tissue Kits, envelopes, razor blades, pipette tips, and indirect costs.</p> |
| B | CA State Parks - Diablo Range District | government  | Developing a Grazing Management Framework at Marsh Creek SP                    | (e) habitat improvement<br>(i) scientific research<br><br>*CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (e) and (i) | East County         | \$25,800.00              | \$0.00                     | <p>This is a request for funds to assess current grazing practices, infrastructure, and vegetation conditions to develop a conservation-oriented framework for a grazing management plan at Marsh Creek State Park. Grant funds will be used for a consultant, contract administration and project implementation.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>A start date was not provided.<br/>Estimated duration of project is one year.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the request was for funding to pay a consultant, contract administration, and project implementation, and the Committee prefers to fund material expenses.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                                | Type of Org | Project Title                                                  | Type of Project                                                                                                          | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---|---------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| C | Contra Costa Resource Conservation District | government  | Tracking Western Pond Turtle Upland Traversal with GPS Loggers | (i) scientific research<br><br>*CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i) | East County         | \$19,196.00              | \$19,196.00                | <p>This is a request for funds to track Western Pond Turtle upland habitat traversal and dispersal to inform habitat management strategies. Grant funds will be used to purchase GPS trackers, trap nets, miscellaneous monitoring equipment and full chest waders.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>January 2026 - September 2026</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(i) scientific research. The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) seeks to build capacity and join the Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative, a regional group of researchers from multiple organizations studying Western Pond Turtles to develop management considerations for their upland and aquatic habitats across Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The project will track upland habitat movement and dispersal of Western Pond Turtles in Contra Costa County. Full funding is recommended for GPS trackers, trap nets, miscellaneous monitoring equipment, and full chest waders.</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                | Type of Org | Project Title                | Type of Project                                                             | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| D | Lindsay Wildlife Experience | non-profit  | Wildlife Intensive Care Unit | (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife. | Countywide          | \$24,390.00              | \$24,390.00                | <p>This is a request for funds to purchase an intensive care unit to supply regulated oxygen and heat therapy for injured and debilitated wildlife.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule::</u> The project can begin upon receipt of funding notice and be completed within 30 days of order placement.</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(b) temporary emergency treatment of injured and orphaned wildlife. The intensive care unit will provide needed therapy for injured wildlife brought to the hospital and increase their odds for recovery. Full funding is recommended for the purchase of the intensive care unit.</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                                | Type of Org | Project Title                                                               | Type of Project                          | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---|---------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| E | California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) | non-profit  | Training a new workforce to improve riparian habitat in Contra Costa County | (a) education<br>(e) habitat improvement | Central County      | \$16,606.00              | \$0.00                     | <p>This is a request for funds to train Pittsburg Civicorps crews on Arundo donax's impacts, removal techniques, and best management practices (BMPs) for controlling invasive plants, in order to build local capacity to address this invasive species within the Alhambra Creek Watershed. Grant funds will cover wages for the science program manager (oversight, field training), conservation specialist (curriculum development, partner meetings, coordinating and planning, classroom and field training delivery), grants &amp; contracts manager (invoicing, contracting, social media), and Civicorps crews (classroom and field training for up to ten Corpsmembers and one supervisor), as well as travel mileage (one round trip to Civicorps Pittsburg for classroom training and two round trips to Martinez for field days).</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>February 2026 - December 2026</p> | Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the request was for funding to cover staff wages, training, and travel expenses, and the Committee prefers to fund material expenses. |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                       | Type of Org | Project Title                                                        | Type of Project         | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| F | Cal State East Bay, Concord Center | school      | Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center | (e) habitat improvement | Central County      | \$7,456.92               | \$7,456.92                 | <p>This is a request for funds to establish native plant hedgerows and patches to provide pollinator habitat on approximately three acres within a large meadow at the entrance to the Cal State East Bay Concord Center. Grant funds will be used to purchase native plants, colored flags, hoes, a utility cart, two root slayers, and signage.</p> <p><u>Proposed Schedule:</u><br/>Project will start in early 2026.<br/>An end date was not provided.</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The project will establish native plant hedgerows and patches across approximately three acres at the Cal State East Bay Concord Center to provide pollinator habitat. Plants that are native to the East Bay will be selected based on their low-water needs, size at maturity, attractiveness to pollinators, and availability. Full funding is recommended for native plants, colored flags, hoes, a utility cart, two root slayers, and signage.</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                                | Type of Org | Project Title                                                         | Type of Project         | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---|---------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| G | Contra Costa Resource Conservation District | government  | Marsh Creek Steelhead Trout Spawning and Breeding Habitat Enhancement | (e) habitat improvement | East County         | \$19,622.00              | \$0.00                     | <p>This is a request for funds by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, to restore Steelhead trout spawning habitat in Marsh Creek through gravel addition, volunteer engagement, redd monitoring, and fostering long-term community stewardship via education and signage. Grant funds will be used to purchase gravel, rubber boots, work gloves, 5-gallon buckets, rakes, bobcat rental, gravel delivery, streambed alteration permit, waste discharge permit, and a biological monitor contractor.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>January 2026 - February 2027</p> | Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the applicant did not provide enough detail or planning to fully support project implementation. The Committee encourages them to consider providing additional details in a future grant application, such as more information on project locations, permits, technical planning, and site conditions, to help clarify and strengthen their proposal. |



Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization         | Type of Org | Project Title                                          | Type of Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I | John Muir Land Trust | non-profit  | Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education                        | (a) public education                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Central County      | \$14,636.00              | \$7,886.00                 | <p>This is a request for funds to support school field trips to Pacheco Marsh, where students will engage in hands-on learning about wetland ecology, native species, and the importance of conservation. Grant funds will be used for bus transportation, binoculars, spotting scope, miscellaneous supplies, and a stewardship manager.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>Planning: Winter - Spring 2026<br/>Programming: Spring - Summer 2026</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education. The project fosters environmental awareness and stewardship among youth and provides meaningful outdoor learning experiences for local students, helping them understand wetland ecology, native species, and habitat restoration at Pacheco Marsh. Partial funding is recommended and may only be used for bus transportation, binoculars, a spotting scope, and miscellaneous supplies, and may not be used to fund a stewardship manager.                                             |
| J | Save Mount Diablo    | non-profit  | Tracking Kestrel Re-Population on Mount Diablo, Year 2 | <p>(e) habitat improvement<br/>(i) scientific research<br/>(n) other expenditures, approved by the department</p> <p><b>**CDFW confirmed in 2025 that this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Sections 13103 (e), (i) and (n).</b></p> | Countywide          | \$5,680.24               | \$5,680.24                 | <p>This is a request for funds to continue the project that began in 2025 with a grant from the CCC Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to expand nest box location and data gathering for kestrels. In 2026, SMD proposes to further expand the nest box area, in three new and/or expanded sites, to support more population expansion, to further evaluate overall nest box usage and best locations for boxes, and to also evaluate for possible impacts of avian influenza. Grant funds will be used for two research interns, additional WiFi bluetooth trail cameras for Curry Canyon, Schwendel Ranch and Youngs Canyon, lithium batteries, SD cards and materials for nest boxes.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>A schedule was not provided.</p> | This project meets the requirements of Sections 13103(e) habitat improvement, (i) scientific research and (n) other expenditures, approved by the department. Building on prior success, the project will expand nest box installation and data collection to support kestrel population recovery and evaluate potential impacts of avian influenza. Full funding is recommended for two research interns, additional WiFi Bluetooth trail cameras for Curry Canyon, Schwendel Ranch and Youngs Canyon, lithium batteries, SD cards, and materials for nest boxes. |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization     | Type of Org | Project Title            | Type of Project                                 | Location of Project                       | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| K | KIDS for the BAY | non-profit  | Watershed Action Program | (a) public education<br>(e) habitat improvement | West County<br>66%<br>East County<br>34 % | \$8,400.00               | \$8,400.00                 | <p>This is a request for funds to support their Watershed Action Program to engage eight elementary school classes, including 200 students, their teachers and families, in under resourced schools in Contra Costa County, in hands-on watershed education and stewardship. Grant funds will be used for field trip bus transportation.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>Funds will be used during the 2025–2026 school year and spent by May 2026.</p> | <p>The project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education and (e) habitat improvement. Students will discover wildlife in unique aquatic environments, explore and investigate like scientists, and make personal connections with nature. Students will learn about their local watershed and wildlife through hands-on activities that encourage curiosity, environmental awareness, and responsible actions in their daily lives. Full funding is recommended for field trip bus transportation.</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                                                        | Type of Org | Project Title                        | Type of Project         | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| L | Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee<br><br>The Watershed Project | non-profit  | Mira Vista Field Restoration Project | (e) habitat improvement | West County         | \$12,740.00              | \$11,960.00                | <p>This is a request for funds from the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee, in partnership with The Watershed Project, to restore Mira Vista Field, an 8-acre site in urban West County, to native serpentine grassland. Grant funds will be used for restoration tools, updated plans, and public outreach to enhance ongoing efforts and provide nature study opportunities for local students. Items to be purchased include hand tools, string trimmers, mowers, stakes, flagging, exclusion fencing, “habitat restoration area” signs, bobcat rental, refurbishing a bulletin board, installing entrance signage, website hosting, printing postcard handouts and an updated restoration guide, as well as food and beverages for a public outreach and volunteer appreciation event.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>The project would be completed within one year of grant approval.</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The project will restore neighborhood serpentine grassland open space, including localized seeps and springs, protect native plant species and wildlife, and improve wildfire resilience in an area adjoining a high-risk zone. The project provides educational opportunities for schoolchildren, educates the public about the importance of wildland spaces within urbanized areas, and promotes community connections and involvement. Partial funding is recommended as outlined in their expanded budget, provided on August 21, 2025, which includes hand tools, string trimmers, mowers, stakes, flagging, exclusion fencing, “habitat restoration area” signs, bobcat rental, refurbishing a bulletin board, installing entrance signage, website hosting, printing postcard handouts, an updated restoration guide, and food and beverages for a public outreach and volunteer appreciation event; and may not be used for sign design.</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization             | Type of Org | Project Title                       | Type of Project      | Location of Project                   | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| M | Marine Science Institute | non-profit  | 2026 Delta Discovery Voyage Program | (a) public education | Central County 48%<br>East County 52% | \$5,096.00               | \$0.00                     | <p>This is a request for funds to support the 2026 Delta Discovery Voyage program, which provides hands-on, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) - aligned science education to approximately 3,700 Contra Costa County 5th graders aboard MSI's research vessel. The program fosters student understanding of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta ecosystem, promotes environmental stewardship, and supports local teachers with curriculum and resources. Grant funds will be used for supplies (buckets, fish keys, vinyl posters, otter trawl net, hand nets, net plankton, and vials), vessel and vehicle fuel, and marina fees.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>January 2026 - May 2026</p> <p><b>**MSI requests that if the final approval of this grant takes place in 2026, that they may be reimbursed retroactively to allow them to purchase supplies in December, before the voyages begin in January.</b></p> | Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the grant applicant has already received multiple grants to support the operation of this program. The Committee prefers not to provide funding for ongoing program expenses in order to avoid creating dependence on grant funds. |



Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization               | Type of Org | Project Title                                       | Type of Project                                 | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| N | Mt. View Sanitary District | government  | Moorhen Marsh & the MVSD Wetlands Education Program | (a) public education<br>(e) habitat improvement | Central County      | \$53,769.00              | \$9,461.00                 | <p>This is a request for funds for a water circulation improvement project in Moorhen Marsh and a wetlands educational program. Grant funds will be used for wetlands student booklets, animal specimens (otter, beaver, mallard, muskrat), field trip supplies (dip nets, water quality testing, etc.), stainless steel LTC fine bubble aeration discs with compressors, solar generator and power station, and aeration supplies (tubing, cables, etc.)</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>January 2026 - December 2026</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education and Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The Wetlands Education Program provides hands-on experiences for Contra Costa County elementary students, including exploring Moorhen Marsh, dip-netting aquatic animals, touring MVSD's treatment plant to learn about water treatment and pollution prevention, observing wildlife, and studying ethically sourced animal specimens. Partial funding is recommended for wetlands student booklets, animal specimens (otter, beaver, mallard, muskrat), and field trip supplies such as dip nets and water quality testing equipment; and may not be used for the water circulation improvement project, including stainless steel LTC fine bubble aeration discs with compressors, the solar generator and power station, or aeration supplies (tubing, cables, etc.).</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization          | Type of Org | Project Title                               | Type of Project                                 | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| O | The Watershed Project | non-profit  | Steelhead Trout Protection Research Project | (a) public education<br>(e) habitat improvement | West County         | \$13,405.00              | \$12,205.00                | <p>This is a request for funds from The Watershed Project (TWP). They will partner with the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU), who also submitted an application (see below) on a 2026 Fish Barrier Assessment in Wildcat Creek, identifying barriers that limit trout migration and steelhead access to lower watershed habitat. TWP will lead work in the lower watershed, monitoring water temperature and connectivity, conducting trash cleanups, and providing public education. Grant funds for this application will support fish barrier assessment, lab fees, water connectivity, WQ monitoring, trash cleanup items, trash monitoring items, public education materials, safety items, accounting services, and liability insurance.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>February 2026 - January 2027</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education and Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The project led by The Watershed Project in partnership with the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited will monitor water temperature and connectivity, assess fish barriers, conduct trash cleanups, and provide public education in the lower watershed of Wildcat Creek. Partial funding is recommended for fish barrier assessment, lab fees, water connectivity monitoring, water quality monitoring, trash cleanup and monitoring items, public education materials, and safety items, as listed in the grant application and supplemented with the additional itemized breakdown of water connectivity and WQ monitoring provided on August 29, 2025; and may not be used for accounting services or liability insurance.</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                         | Type of Org | Project Title                                              | Type of Project         | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| P | John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited | non-profit  | Upper Wildcat Creek Habitat and Fish Passage Barrier Study | (e) habitat improvement | West County         | \$5,755.00               | \$5,755.00                 | <p>This is a request for funds from the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU). They will partner with The Watershed Project (TWP), who also submitted an application (see above) on a 2026 Fish Barrier Assessment in Wildcat Creek, identifying barriers that limit trout migration and steelhead access to upper watershed habitat. JMTU will lead work in the upper watershed, conducting fish passage evaluations and monitoring water temperature and dissolved oxygen, while collaborating with TWP to standardize methods, equipment, training, and data documentation. Grant funds will support barrier assessment work and water quality monitoring in the upper watershed and will be used to purchase Onset DO Sensor Caps, Onset DO Sensor Batteries, a Spherical Crown Densimeter, a laser level, a staff gauge, and measuring tapes.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>March/April 2026 - December 2026</p> <p><b>**The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.</b></p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The project, led by the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited in partnership with The Watershed Project, will provide direct benefits to anadromous fish species by improving understanding of spawning and rearing conditions and identifying necessary interventions to support fish passage improvements. Short-term benefits include restoring the range of the upper Wildcat resident trout population, while longer-term benefits aim to restore historic steelhead runs. Full funding is recommended for Onset DO Sensor Caps, Onset DO Sensor Batteries, a Spherical Crown Densimeter, a laser level, a staff gauge, and measuring tapes.</p> <p>The Committee also recommends approval of the applicant's request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship.</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                    | Type of Org | Project Title                                                       | Type of Project                                 | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| Q | Wildcat Canyon Community School | school      | Habitat Restoration and Ecological Education for Future Generations | (a) public education<br>(e) habitat improvement | West County         | \$5,250.00               | \$5,250.00                 | <p>This is a request for funds to continue restoring native habitat on their 91-acre campus and expand a native ecosystem teaching garden. Building on 2023 restoration work funded by a previous Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant, this project will add resilient native trees and wildflowers, protected from gophers and deer. Students from preschool to 8th grade will engage in hands-on restoration and outdoor learning. Grant funds will be used for native trees, native wildflower seeds, gopher cages, welded wire fencing, t-posts and plant labeling materials.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>January 2026 - December 2026</p> <p><b>**The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.</b></p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education and (e) habitat improvement. The project will continue the restoration of native wildlife habitat on the 91-acre Wildcat Canyon Community School campus, which borders Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and supports diverse wildlife including deer, coyotes, rabbits, and hawks. The project will engage students and community volunteers in restoring disturbed hillsides and creating a native ecosystem teaching garden, fostering environmental stewardship and understanding of the benefits of native plants. Full funding is recommended for native trees, native wildflower seeds, gopher cages, welded wire fencing, t-posts, and plant labeling materials.</p> <p>The Committee also recommends approval of the applicant's request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship.</p> |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization | Type of Org | Project Title                  | Type of Project      | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| R | Worth a Dam  | non-profit  | The Water Guardians/Aqua Squad | (a) public education | Central County      | \$895.00                 | \$895.00                   | <p>This is a request for funds to support an educational activity that teaches children about the critical role beavers play in maintaining healthy waterways. Through interactive exhibits, children learn how beaver dams improve water quality, reduce erosion, and recharge groundwater. Participants collect stickers at four stations to earn a beaver-themed necklace and complete a quiz to reinforce learning. The program includes a large chalk mural illustrating beaver benefits, created by a local artist. Grant funds will be used for materials to support the activity and artist supplies which include water attributes cards, small sticker books, location map festival brochures, attribute graphics, mini glass bottles w/eye and cork, beaver charms, cotton waxed cord and chalk pastels.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>The event date is to be determined.</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education. The activity teaches children about the vital role of beavers in maintaining healthy waterways. Through interactive exhibits, participants learn how beaver dams improve water quality, reduce erosion, and recharge groundwater showing the importance of species that instinctively protect this critical resource. The project encourages environmental awareness and stewardship in a creative, hands-on way. Full funding is recommended for materials and artist supplies, including water attribute cards, small sticker books, location map festival brochures, attribute graphics, mini glass bottles with eye and cork, beaver charms, cotton waxed cord, and chalk pastels.</p> |



Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization                                                       | Type of Org | Project Title                                                               | Type of Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Location of Project | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | FWC Rationale for Recommendation |
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| S | Sierra Club<br>Delta Group of<br>the Sierra Club<br>SF Bay Chapter | non-profit  | Marsh Creek<br>Stewards:<br>Education,<br>Engagement, and<br>Habitat Action | <p>(a) public education<br/>(d) Breeding, raising,<br/>purchasing, or<br/>releasing fish<br/>(n) other<br/>expenditures,<br/>approved by the<br/>department *</p> <p>*CDFW has<br/>confirmed this<br/>project is eligible to<br/>receive funds under<br/>FGC Section 13103<br/>(a), (d) and (n)</p> | East County         | \$13,000.00              | \$0.00                     | <p>This is a request for funds for a locally<br/>focused pilot project to improve native<br/>Chinook salmon survival and success in Marsh<br/>Creek through habitat restoration, classroom<br/>salmon-rearing programs, educational<br/>signage, and volunteer creek monitoring.<br/>Grant funds will be used for aquarium kits,<br/>signage, cleanup gear, youth waders, printed<br/>materials, engagement tools, and interns.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>Project will begin upon funding approval.<br/>Full completion by January 2027.</p> <p><b>**The applicant requests an exception to the<br/>grant funding cost reimbursement<br/>requirement due to financial hardship. Please<br/>refer to the grant application for the<br/>applicant's statement of financial hardship.</b></p> <p>This application was received approximately<br/>one hour after the deadline due to laptop<br/>issues.</p> | The application was withdrawn.   |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

|   | Organization | Type of Org                                 | Project Title                                       | Type of Project                                 | Location of Project                | Requested Funding Amount | Recommended Funding Amount | Staff Summary of Request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | FWC Rationale for Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| T | Earth Team   | non-profit                                  | Water Quality Monitoring in Contra Costa Watersheds | (a) public education<br>(e) habitat improvement | East County 50%<br>West County 50% | \$5,000.00               | \$5,000.00                 | <p>This is a request for funds to acquire dedicated water quality monitoring equipment to support Earth Teams' ongoing high school internship programs across multiple Contra Costa County watersheds. 56 paid interns at Antioch, Pittsburg, Richmond, and Pinole high schools will conduct water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate surveys, invasive species removal, and native plant restoration at sites in 2025-26. Grant funds will be used to purchase water quality equipment and supplies including: YSI EcoSense meters, Vernier Go Direct sensors, calibration solutions, backup probes and cases.</p> <p><u>Project Schedule:</u><br/>September 2025 - May 2026</p> <p>This application was originally received prior to the deadline. The applicant explained that formatting and PDF conversion issues caused the application to exceed the page limit, so they resubmitted a revised version the following business day to comply with requirements.</p> | <p>This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education and (e) habitat improvement. The project will engage high school interns in hands-on research, data collection, and native vegetation work at sites across multiple Contra Costa County watersheds. Acquiring dedicated equipment will support fieldwork and reduce logistical challenges. Full funding is recommended to purchase water quality equipment and supplies, including YSI EcoSense handheld meters, Vernier Go Direct sensors, calibration solutions, backup probes, and cases, as further detailed in their supplemental Spending Plan provided on September 8, 2025.</p> |
|   |              |                                             |                                                     |                                                 | Total                              | \$281,662.08             | \$148,500.08               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|   |              | Total Available Funds as of August 13, 2025 |                                                     |                                                 |                                    | \$579,995.18             |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|   |              |                                             |                                                     |                                                 | Remainder                          | \$298,333.10             | \$431,495.10               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

| Subtotals By Region | Requested Funding Amount | Percentage of Total Amount Requested | Recommended Funding Amount | Percentage of Total Amount Recommended for Approval |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| East                | \$85,623.92              | 30.40%                               | \$27,052.00                | 18.22%                                              |
| West                | \$45,194.00              | 16.05%                               | \$40,714.00                | 27.42%                                              |
| Central             | \$95,809.00              | 34.02%                               | \$25,698.92                | 17.31%                                              |
| Countywide          | \$55,035.16              | 19.54%                               | \$55,035.16                | 37.06%                                              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>\$281,662.08</b>      | <b>100.00%</b>                       | <b>\$148,500.08</b>        | <b>100.00%</b>                                      |

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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



Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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



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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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