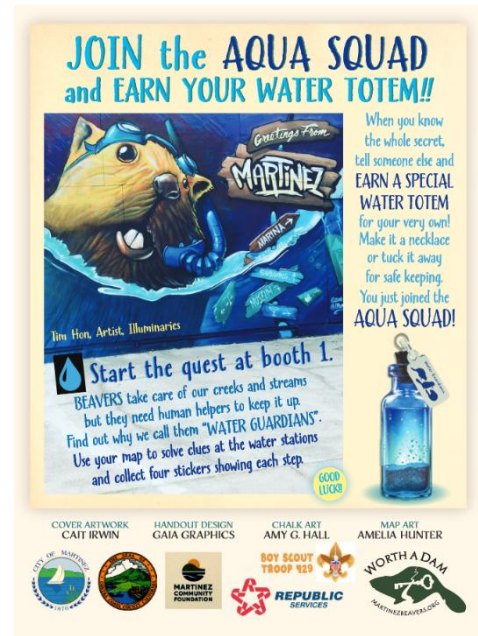


SUMMARY OF 2026 AQUA SQUAD GRANT

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.ⁱ 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.

ⁱ 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.

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