

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

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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):

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
Subtotal		\$6,980
Tax, transport, handling		\$1,700
Total		\$8,680

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**

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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

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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):*

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.

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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

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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):

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 protectⁱ. 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 batsⁱⁱ. In their important paper "*Beaver wetlands create a buzz and a flutter for pollinators*"ⁱⁱⁱ 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^{iv} 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
	928

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.

ⁱ 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>

ⁱⁱ 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>

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2027 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
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D

Project Title:

Organization/Individual applying:

Organization type: please check one –

government

non-profit

school

other (explain)

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Name and title of contact person:

One sentence summary of proposal:

Requested grant amount:

Proposal prepared by (name & title):

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

Glenn Phillips

Date _____

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 22nd 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

Office Use Only

E

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

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
Total	\$8,400

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

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

7. Qualifications Statement

KIDS for the BAY is now celebrating our **thirty-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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F

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	TOTAL		

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

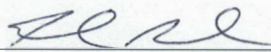
One sentence summary of proposal: We propose to improve our Adopt a Spot along Holbrook Channel with strategically placed rocks to demarcate the area, provide habitat for western fence lizards, and protect the native plants.

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

Office Use Only

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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.

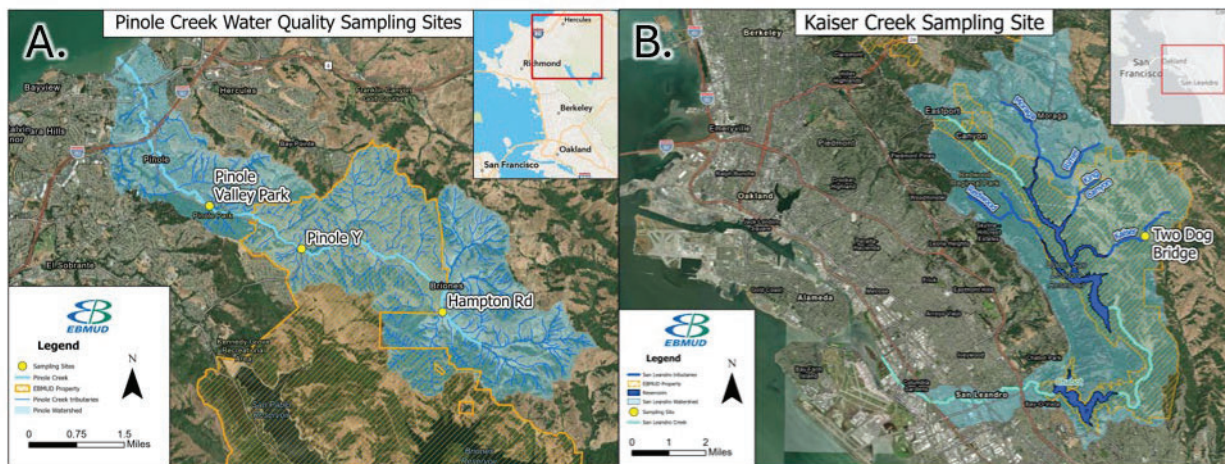


Figure 1. Pinole Creek Water Sampling Sites (A) and Kaiser Creek Two Dog Bridge Reference Site (B).

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.