

**Department of
Conservation and
Development**

30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Phone: [1-855-323-2626](tel:1-855-323-2626)

**Contra
Costa
County**



John Kopchik
Director

Jason Crapo
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Deputy Director

May 25, 2026

Dear Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Applicants:

The Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee is pleased to announce that funding applications are now being accepted for consideration for the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (Fund). All application materials and guidelines are attached. **Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026 (a postmark of July 27, 2026 does not satisfy the submission deadline).** Proposals may be emailed or mailed. Any applications that are received after the due date or without a signature will not be considered. Staff will acknowledge receipt of each grant application. If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt, contact Maureen Parkes at (925) 655-2909 prior to the deadline. The recommendations of the Fish and Wildlife Committee will be forwarded to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, which maintains final decision-making authority for expenditures from the Fund.

The Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund is entirely supported by fine revenues resulting from violations of the Fish and Game Code and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations in Contra Costa County (County). **Projects awarded from the Fund must benefit the fish and wildlife resources of the County and must meet the requirements of Section 13103 of the Fish and Game Code (attached).** If your project is eligible under Section 13103 (d), (h), (i), or (m) please send a copy of your draft proposal to Maureen Parkes at maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us by June 25, 2026. Maureen Parkes will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to confirm the project's eligibility to receive funds. See Instructions for more details. All applications that satisfy the requirements listed in the funding application instructions will be considered.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee strongly encourages applications related to:

- Improving habitat
- Scientific research
- Public education
- Threatened and endangered species
- Resolving human / wildlife interaction issues

In addition to the above areas of interest, the Fish and Wildlife Committee wishes to fund one or more projects that increase collaboration with law enforcement agencies and community cultural organizations related to enforcement issues and education focusing on communities that may be unaware of local fish and game laws. Projects that provide multilingual signage and educational materials are encouraged.

Note on Preferred Projects: The Fish and Wildlife Committee considers grant awards for prospective expenditures from non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies. The Committee generally recommends funding projects that avoid operating costs and overhead – such as staff salaries, benefits, or utilities – and that minimize expenses dedicated to management of awarded projects. ~~Recommendations for funding will be given to service-oriented and educational projects, or those involving the direct purchase of goods and materials that do not require installation or labor on public land or facilities.~~

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Note on construction and related projects: 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>

The Committee expects to recommend awards to several applicants. However, it is possible that a particularly excellent proposal will be recommended to receive a large portion of the total available funds. Generally, the Committee will only recommend one project per organization. During the 2026 grant cycle a total of \$148,500.08 was awarded to 15 projects. The awards ranged from \$895 to \$24,390. Available funds vary from year to year and the Fish and Wildlife Committee cannot commit to multi-year or recurring funding. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision on the grant awards and successful applicants may anticipate receiving notification by January 2027. ~~Project expenditures eligible for reimbursement must be made subsequent to Board of~~

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~~Supervisors approval of grant funding.~~ Only expenditures incurred after approval by the Board of Supervisors are eligible for reimbursement. In rare cases where an earlier expenditure is essential for the project to proceed, the applicant may request approval for that specific expense in their grant application; however, such approval is not guaranteed, and applicants assume all risk if they proceed without it.

New Requirement Effective 2026: All grantees must enter into a formal grant contract (“contract”) with Contra Costa County prior to receiving any Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund disbursements. The contract will outline project responsibilities, reporting requirements, reimbursement procedures, and other conditions of funding. Applicants approved for award will receive the contract along with their notice of award. The contract must be executed before any project expenditures become eligible for reimbursement.

The grant award funds will be disbursed on a cost reimbursement basis. (See below for exception.) Within 18 months of contract execution, or within one month of project completion, whichever comes sooner, recipients must submit a final project report which includes invoices and receipts documenting how funds were spent and the results of the project. Grant awardees may request a budget modification to address any proposed changes to the project costs. This request must be made in writing prior to incurring the unapproved expenses. Unapproved expenses will not be reimbursable. Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grants will be disbursed after receipt and approval of the final project report. Details will be outlined in the draft contract that is sent to all successful applicants.

***Exception For Organizations That Can Demonstrate Financial Hardship:** Entities may request in their original grant application to receive one advance payment of 50% of the grant award. These entities must demonstrate that providing Fish and Wildlife Propagation grant funding on a cost reimbursement basis at the completion of the project will create a financial hardship and be detrimental to the operation of the program. These entities will be eligible to receive up to 50% of the grant amount upon execution of the contract with the County. The remaining amount of the grant will be disbursed after the entity has submitted a final report including invoices and receipts documenting how the initial disbursement was spent. All reporting and invoicing must be completed within 18 months of contract execution, or within one month of project completion, whichever comes sooner.

***Exception For Small Project Under \$1,000:** Grant funding may be disbursed to private, non-profit entities prior to the beginning of the project if the award is under \$1,000 and the entity has provided documentation that the project could only be initiated with advance funding. Within a year of grant funding, or within one month of project completion,

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~~whichever comes sooner, recipients must submit a final project report which includes invoices and receipts documenting how funds were spent and the results of the project.~~

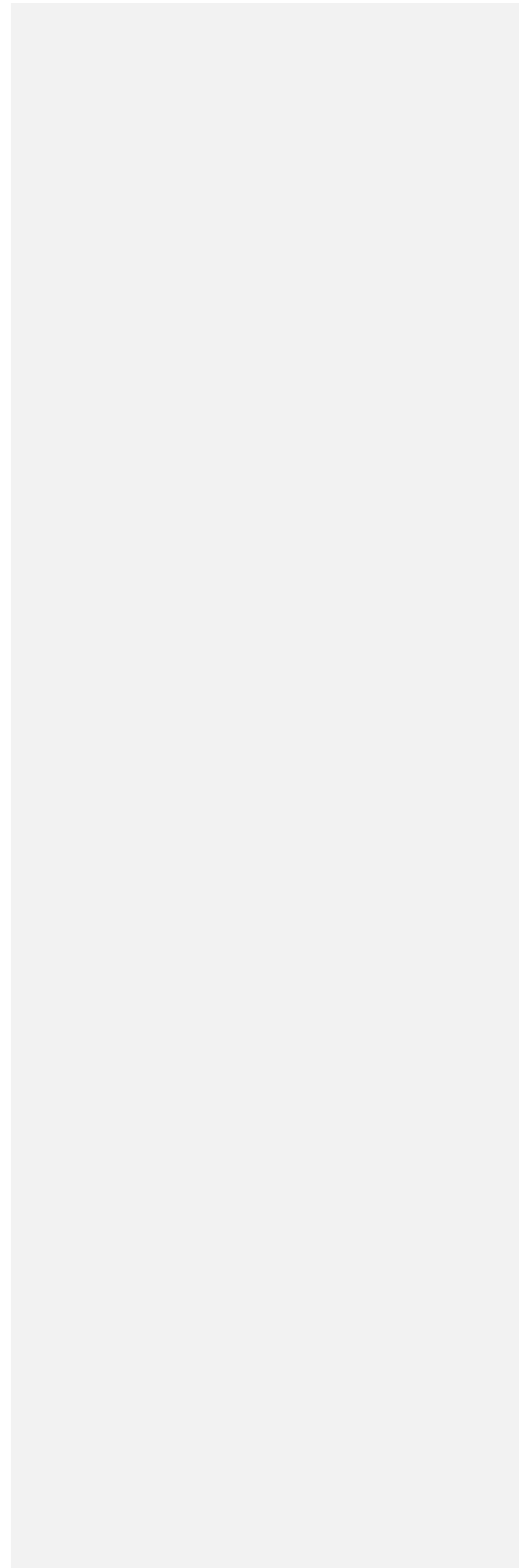
The Committee appreciates your interest in this opportunity to improve the fish and wildlife resources in Contra Costa County. Should you have any questions about the Fish and Wildlife Committee or this funding program, please contact me at (925) 655-2909 or maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us.

Sincerely,

Maureen Parkes

Fish and Wildlife Committee Staff

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INSTRUCTIONS

What Must Be Included in Your Proposal (not to exceed 4 pages):

- 1) Signed Application Cover Page – See attached.
(PDFs and e-signatures are acceptable)
- 2) Description of the project for which funding is requested. Please include an explanation of:
 - how this project will benefit the fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County
 - how this project meets the requirements of Section 13103 of the Fish & Game Code (attached) which defines the eligibility requirements for projects requesting funding from the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. Indicate which letter(s) of the Section 13103 is/are satisfied.

If your proposal is eligible under Section 13103 (d), (h), (i)*, or (m), a copy of your draft proposal must be sent to the attention of Maureen Parkes at maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us or at the address listed on Page 3 and received by **June 25, 2026**. Staff will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to confirm the project's eligibility to receive funds.

*If your project is eligible under Section 13103 (i), and a scientific collection permit is required and issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, this will indicate that the project is eligible to receive Fish and Wildlife Propagation funds. Please send the scientific collection permit along with your grant application by the July 27, 2026 - 5:00 P.M. grant submission deadline. Scientific collection permits are not included in the grant application page limit.

~~The Fish and Wildlife Committee should be acknowledged for its financial support of the project. Review by FWC or staff is required prior to printing any written materials that are produced as a result of this funding. Please refer to the guidelines listed below:~~

~~• Grant recipients agree to obtain advance written approval from the FWC of any communication/written material that may reasonably be understood to represent the views of the FWC and to provide the FWC with reasonable opportunity to review, comment and approve the communication/written material.~~

~~Grant recipients may use the following standard language in making attributions for funding by the FWC:~~

~~• Attribution for full grant funding: "This (research, publication, project, web site, report, etc.) was funded by the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee."~~

~~• Attribution for partial grant funding: "This (research, publication, project, web site, report, etc.) is funded in part by the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee."~~

- 3) Project schedule - The project must be completed within 18 months from the date the grant contract is executed.
- 4) Project budget (itemized). The Fish and Wildlife Committee generally does not

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recommend funding for operating costs and overhead. Examples of these include staff salaries, health insurance, and operation costs such as electricity to run an office. If an hourly rate for staff is listed, overhead costs need to be itemized separately. The Committee generally recommends funding one-time material expenses (e.g. purchase of equipment and materials).

- 5) Annual budget for the applying organization (not itemized).
- 6) Statement describing the applying organization, listing the Board of Directors and officers of the organization, and listing all affiliated organizations.
- 7) Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization and participating individuals for completing the project.
- 8) List of individuals responsible for performing the project and of individuals responsible for overseeing project.
- 9) Statement describing the status of permit approvals necessary to perform project (if applicable).
- 10) Request for an exception to the grant funding reimbursement process due to financial hardship, if applicable. This request does not count toward your page limit and is only required if requesting an exception. Details of the reimbursement process and the exception that may be granted are described in the attached letter.

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Format:

- Your proposal packet, including cover sheet and any attachments must not exceed four single-sided pages or two double-sided pages, 8.5 by 11 inches in size. Electronic submittals are preferred. Please use 11 point font or larger and ½ inch margins or larger on your pages. If you submit more than 3 pages plus required cover sheet, your proposal may be disqualified without review.
- If your project is eligible under Section 13103 (d), (h), (i), or (m) a copy of your draft proposal must be sent to the attention of Maureen Parkes at maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us and received by June 25, 2026. (See exception for Section 13103 (i) on Page 1.)
- Do not attach an additional cover letter, brochures, posters, publications, CDs, DVDs, large maps or yellow-sticky paper (e.g. Post-It™).
- Your complete application packet including signature must arrive by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026 (Pacific Daylight Time) to be considered for funding. (Please note: A postmark of July 27, 2026 does not satisfy the submission deadline. If submitted after the deadline, your proposal will be disqualified).*

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Your complete application should be:

Emailed: maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us

or

Mailed or Hand Delivered: Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Committee
c/o Contra Costa County Dept. of Conservation and
Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553-4601
Attn: Maureen Parkes

*Staff will acknowledge receipt of each grant application. If you do not receive an email confirmation of receipt, contact Maureen Parkes prior to the deadline by calling (925) 655-2909.

Final Checklist Before You Submit Your Proposal:

Please note that your proposal will not be considered if you provide more materials than required below:

- Signed Cover page (your proposal will be disqualified if it does not have your original signature on the cover page).
- 3 pages or less on your project description (any extra attachments such as a map and an organization budget will be counted as one of the three page limit.)
- If your project qualifies under Section 13013 (i) and you have been issued a scientific collection permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife please include it. (This is not a part of the page limit listed above.)
- Request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. (This is not a part of the page limit listed above and is only required if requesting an exception).

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If you have questions regarding the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant process, please contact Maureen Parkes: maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us / (925) 655-2909.

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California Fish and Game Code Section 13103

Expenditures from the fish and wildlife propagation fund of any county may be made only for the following purposes:

- 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.
- b) Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.
- c) Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence.
- d) Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing fish or wildlife which are to be released upon approval of the department pursuant to Sections 6400 and 6401 onto land or into waters of local, state, or federal agencies or onto land or into waters open to the public.
- e) Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.
- f) Construction, maintenance, and operation of public hatchery facilities.
- g) Purchase and maintain materials, supplies, or equipment for either the department's ownership and use or the department's use in the normal performance of the department's responsibilities.
- h) Predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife following certification in writing by the department that the proposed actions will significantly benefit a particular wildlife species.
- i) Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or government agencies, if approved by the department. *
- j) Reasonable administrative costs, excluding the costs of audits required by Section 13104, for secretarial service, travel, and postage by the county fish and wildlife commission when authorized by the county board of supervisors. For purposes of this subdivision "reasonable cost" means an amount which does not exceed 3 percent of the average amount received by the fund during the previous three-year period, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000) annually, whichever is greater, excluding any funds carried over from a previous fiscal year.

* A scientific collection permit, if required and issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, indicates that the project is eligible to receive Fish and Wildlife Propagation funds.

- k) Contributions to a secret witness program for the purpose of facilitating enforcement of this code and regulations adopted pursuant to this code.
- l) Costs incurred by the district attorney or city attorney in investigating and prosecuting civil and criminal actions for violations of this code, as approved by the department.
- m) Costs incurred by a county counsel in investigating and prosecuting an action for civil penalties, injunctive relief, or civil penalties and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 5650.1 resulting from unlicensed cannabis cultivation.
- n) Other expenditures, approved by the department, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.

California Fish and Game Code Section 711.2. (a)

“For purposes of this code, unless the context otherwise requires, “wildlife” means and includes all wild animals, birds, plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and related ecological communities, including the habitat upon which the wildlife depends for continued viability...”

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

Office Use Only:

Project title:

Organization/Individual applying:

(Organization type: please check one – government, non-profit, school, other (explain))

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Name and title of contact person:

One sentence summary of proposal:

Requested grant:

Proposal prepared by (name & title):

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*):

Signed on _____

Clear Form