

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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L	Lindsay Wildlife Experience	non-profit	The Bear Den	(a) public education	Countywide	\$20,000.00	\$16,670.00	This is a request for funds to create an intentionally designed habitat and conservation interactive exhibit around three bear specimens. Funds are requested for: - graphic design for all signage, graphics, and exhibit layout; -all exhibit signage, graphics, and exhibit title -3D interactives and displays <u>Project Schedule:</u> The project would begin upon receipt of funding notice and be completed by December 2025.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education. The Bear Den exhibit will support local and global conservation efforts by providing an engaging, interactive space that educates visitors about Grizzly, Black, and Polar Bears, and will focus on the importance of dwindling habitats, regional extinction, and the impact of climate change. Partial funding is recommended for all exhibit signage, graphics, exhibit titles, and 3D interactives and displays; and may not be used for graphic design related to signage, graphics, and exhibit layout as outlined in the grant application.
					Total	\$112,065.26	\$80,910.50		
		Total Available Funds as of August 14, 2024				\$544,359.80			
					Remainder	\$432,294.54	\$463,449.30		

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