Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

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A

Project title: Assessing the demography of a threatened Golden Eagle population in California

Organization/Individual applying: BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Address: 1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE

BOISE, IDAHO 83725-1135

Telephone: (208) 426-4420 Fax:

E-mail: OSP@BOISESTATE.EDU

Name and title of contact person: CARA GREENLEE, DIRECTOR OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS

One sentence summary of proposal: This project uses non-invasive genetic sampling of molted feathers to estimate survival & population size of golden eagles in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area of California.

Requested grant: $4,245.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Adam Musser, PreAward Research Administrator

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

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

ELLA CHRISTIANSEN
ELLA CHRISTIANSEN (07/25/2025 16:53:04 MDT)

Signed on 07/25/2025

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2) Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Proposal

Assessing the demography of a threatened Golden Eagle population in California

The Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) in California is home to one of the densest reported populations of golden eagles in the world. The area, which includes parts of both Contra Costa and Alameda County, also supports large numbers of wind turbines that have altered the landscape and have killed many birds, including golden eagles. Wind energy is a significant resource in California, thus mitigating the impacts it has on wildlife is crucial to support the continued development of sustainable renewable energy.

Golden eagles are of high conservation concern, and a heavily managed species. In the APWRA, the golden eagle population has been a subject of intensive monitoring for several decades. Recent work has included surveying for occupied golden eagle territories, monitoring productivity and reproductive success at nests, and providing estimates of numbers of breeding pairs. This information already has been important for making informed management decisions to limit disturbances of wind turbines on these eagles.

Despite the extensive monitoring that has occurred recently, two central problems to understanding and managing this eagle population are estimating rates of adult survival and estimating the true size of this population. Calculating longevity and death rates of eagles can be difficult since doing this requires monitoring large numbers of individuals and implementing techniques such as telemetry to track individuals, and because it can be expensive and time consuming. Similarly, reliable estimates of true population size are challenging to generate, especially for species like eagles with a prolonged sub-adult stage. However, estimates of these parameters can provide crucial insight into the stability and resilience of populations and thus can underpin future conservation and management efforts.

The goal of this project is to provide estimates of survival rates of territorial eagles, and to understand the true population size of the eagles in this population. We will use a non-invasive approach to estimate these parameters. These methods involve the collection of molted (i.e. naturally shed) feathers at nests, territories, and roosts, extraction of DNA from those feathers, and characterization of that DNA to provide unique genetic IDs to identify individuals. There have been several recent examples showing that these types of non-invasively collected data can then be used to estimate population size, turnover, and survival of populations. These approaches rely on the fact that adult eagles return to the same site to breed year after year, and non-breeders tend to congregate in large numbers at certain sites. In both cases, these birds naturally shed feathers which can be used for the foundation of the non-invasive analyses we propose.

Over the past 10 years, ~11,000 molted golden eagle feathers have been collected at known nest and roost sites of golden eagles in the APWRA. Our lab and statistical analyses will rely on these feathers. It is not possible or necessary to analyze all 11,000 feathers, so we have implemented a subsampling approach that lets us estimate demography by only analyzing some of these feathers. To estimate turnover and survival rates we will target ~1000 feathers collected from ~40 eagle territories, each visited annually over a 5 – 8 year period. DNA will be extracted from each feather and genotyped, providing unique genetic IDs. These genetic IDs will be compared across years and territories, allowing us to track individuals and ultimately use a classical mark-recapture analysis to estimate turnover and survival rates. Doing this will also allow us to calculate some APWRA-specific metrics unique to this population, for example, a comparison of turnover and survival at nests that are far from vs. close to wind turbines.

To estimate the size of the non-breeding portion of the population, we will use a similar approach. Feathers have been collected at shared roost sites in the APWRA, areas occupied by non-breeding individuals. One of these roost sites was visited quarterly across a year, and feathers found during each visit were collected. We will use genetic methods to extract DNA from ~700 feathers that were collected at this site and identify (genetically)

individuals present. We will then use another mark-recapture analysis to estimate detection rates across these visits and use these data to estimate the total size of this group.

Benefits to wildlife of Contra Costa County:
The results from this project will directly benefit the wildlife of Contra Costa County by providing information on golden eagle demography in the APWRA, and how that demography may be impacted by wind turbines. This detailed insight can be used by management organizations to more directly conserve and manage the golden eagle population in the APWRA. A more targeted approach to management of these eagles may also have a trickle-down effect on other wildlife, including raptors and birds who can be disturbed similarly by wind turbines.

Requirements of Fish and Game Code:
This project falls under section 13103 (i) of Fish and Game Code: Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department.

3) Project Schedule

Feathers for this project have been legally collected for the past ~10 years. We started to design and gain experience in laboratory analysis in 2024. Currently, DNA has been extracted from ~600 of the 1700 targeted feathers from territories and roosts. We will begin genetically identifying these samples this year. All lab work, including DNA extractions and genetic analyses are expected to be complete by August 2026. Lab supplies will be needed continuously throughout the duration of this time. Following completion of lab work, analyses on data collected will be conducted.

4) Project Budget (itemized)

Item	Units needed	Cost per Unit	Total Cost	Description of item
Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (250 samples)	2	$946	$1892	DNA extraction kit containing reagents and supplies needed to extract DNA from samples.
Envelopes (250 pk)	3	$34	$102	Needed for storage of samples.
Razor Blades	8	$12	$96	Needed for isolating individual samples.
Pipette tips	4	$180	$720	Needed for extracting DNA from samples.
Taxes & Shipping (estimated)	n/a	n/a	$190	n/a
Indirect Costs	n/a	n/a	$1245	Indirect costs are based on University negotiated rates with the cognizant federal authority and are applied at a rate of 41.5%.
Total (Estimated)			**$4245**	

5) Annual Budget of applying organization

For this proposal, the annual budget reflects the total funding requested, including both direct and indirect costs, and totals $4,245.

6) Applying organization, Board of Directors, officers, and affiliated organizations

Boise State University is a public research university located in Boise, Idaho. As a state institution of higher education, Boise State University does not have a traditional Board of Directors. Oversight and governance are provided by the **Idaho State Board of Education**, which serves as the university's governing body.

A full list of current board members can be found on the Idaho State Board of Education website: https://boardofed.idaho.gov/board-facts/board-members/

Boise State University is not formally affiliated with any other organizations for the purposes of this application.

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

Boise State University (BSU) is a public research focused university. BSU is a leader in innovative and collaborative research. The Department of Biological Sciences at BSU promotes research in multiple biological fields, including significant involvement in raptor research.

Participating Individuals:

Hannah Rudd, MS Biology Graduate Student, Boise State University. She will perform lab work associated with the project and conduct analyses on data.

Stephanie Hudon, Ph.D. Research Associate Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Boise State University. She manages the genetic sequencing lab at BSU and works with the Genetics and Infectious Disease Lab at BSU. She has been involved in several research projects using genetic techniques to study wildlife.

Todd Katzner, Ph.D. Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey and Boise State University Affiliate Faculty. Currently, his research is directed at understanding the impacts of renewable energy infrastructure on avian species.

8) Individuals responsible for performing and overseeing project

Hannah Rudd: Responsible for data collection and entry, sample preparation, DNA extraction, and genetic analyses of samples.

Stephanie Hudon: Responsible for overseeing lab protocols, reviewing data quality, and supervising progress of project and deliverables.

Todd Katzner: Responsible for overseeing lab protocols, reviewing data quality, and supervising progress of project and deliverables.

9) Permits

We possess valid and current scientific collection permits to perform this work. All feathers collected for this project were collected under appropriate permits and laws.

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Project title: Developing a Grazing Management Framework at Marsh Creek SP

Organization/Individual applying: CA State Parks - Diablo Range District

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

Address: 96 Mitchell Canyon Road, Clayton, CA 94517

Telephone: 510-220-3608 Fax:

E-mail: christina.lew@parks.ca.gov

Name and title of contact person: Christina McLain, Environmental Scientist

One sentence summary of proposal: Assessing current grazing practices, infrastructure, and vegetation conditions to develop a conservation-oriented framework for a grazing management plan at Marsh Creek State Park.

Requested grant: $25,800

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Christina McLain, Environmental Scientist

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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*):

Signed on 8/1/2025

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Project Description

Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP) contains over 3,000 acres of oak savannah, vernal pools, and grasslands which support sensitive species such as California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), San Joaquin spearscale (*Atriplex joanquiniana*), crownscale (*Atriplex coronata var. coronata*), and big tarplant (*Blepharizonia plumosa spp. plumosa*).

Livestock grazing has historically played a role in shaping this landscape, and studies in California have shown that grazing can be an effective tool for benefitting many of the sensitive species and ecosystems in the park. However, State Parks lacks critical information about ongoing and historic grazing management practices at MCSP and how these practices relate to the spatial distribution of sensitive resources throughout the Park. Additionally, the lack of a formal grazing management plan has led to inconsistent oversight and limited integration of grazing with habitat or cultural resource objectives. Impacts such as soil compaction, invasive species spread, lack of regeneration of blue oaks, and trampling of sensitive areas have been observed.

This proposal requests funding for consultants to improve State Parks' understanding of current and historic grazing management practices, location and condition of grazing infrastructure, and current vegetation conditions at MCSP. This information will be integrated into a pasture-based framework of vegetation management alternatives that will improve State Parks' understanding of management alternatives, special-management areas, and long-term needs to sustain an effective conservation-oriented grazing program. This information will fill a critical gap in the State Parks' current understanding of their grazing program and will provide a foundation for improved monitoring, communication with the grazing lessee, and long-term planning. It will provide the basis for future development of a comprehensive grazing management plan by State Parks, which will describe adaptive grazing strategies to support sensitive species and other management goals at MCSP.

Critically, a formal grazing management plan would enable State Parks to establish a long-term lease with the grazing operator, which is a key requirement for pursuing restoration funding through programs like the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under such a lease, the grazing operator would be eligible to apply for EQIP funding on public lands, supporting conservation practices and infrastructure improvements like restoring degraded stock ponds to enhance habitat for special status species, promoting regeneration of blue oaks, and protecting sensitive vernal pool habitat.

This project meets the following requirements of CA Fish and Game Code Section 13103:

- Improvements 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.

- Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department.

Tasks, Timeline, and Budget

1) **Conduct a Site Visit and Interview with Current Grazing Operator (Months 1-2)**

a. *Description***:** The consultant will conduct a site visit to MCSP with the rancher and State Parks' staff. Interview rancher about current and historical grazing on the property – stocking practices, timing of grazing, distribution of livestock, infrastructure condition and needs, natural resource issues, weed management, use of special habitat areas (e.g., vernal pools), resulting vegetation conditions.

b. *Rationale***:** Establishing this dialog and documenting this information will greatly improve State Parks' ability to manage sensitive resources at MCSP. By understanding ongoing grazing practices and constraints to the operation, State Parks will be better positioned to adapt grazing practices to optimize habitat conditions. It is also an opportunity to address issues raised by the grazing operator.

c. Estimated Cost: $2260

2) **Grazing Infrastructure Survey (Months 3-6)**

a. *Description:* The consultant will perform a livestock infrastructure survey to assess condition, function and location of infrastructure (fences, watering facilities, corrals, etc).

b. *Rationale:* State Parks currently lacks a map of livestock infrastructure in MCSP. Mapping the location and conditions of livestock infrastructure would help inform management decisions, highlight management units with natural resources that need specific management (e.g., vernal pools, sensitive species, etc), and improve their ability to plan for long-term management and agricultural opportunities in Contra Costa County.

c. Estimated Cost: $7500

3) **Develop Residual Dry Matter (RDM) Monitoring Protocol and Train State Parks Staff in RDM Monitoring (Months 7-8)**

a. *Description:* The consultant will: 1) provide an on-site training of State Parks Staff to conduct residual dry matter (RDM) monitoring at MCSP. 2) Develop an RDM monitoring protocol, including locations of RDM sample points (these will be sited in the field during the livestock infrastructure surveys in Task 3). 3) Analyze and provide *brief* feedback on RDM data collected by State Parks Staff.

b. Rationale: RDM serves as an indicator of the combined effects of forage production during the previous growing season (driven mainly by weather and site topography), consumption and traffic by grazing animals, mulch present on the soil, and the soil seed-bank. The amount and distribution of RDM on the ranch relates to aspects of rangeland health and to habitat quality for sensitive or rare species that are or may be present. Adequate levels of RDM protect the soil from erosion and influence species composition and forage production in the subsequent year. Monitoring RDM annually will provide an overall understanding year-to-year of livestock distribution on the ranch in relation to the grazing operation and physical factors that will help inform adaptive management decisions to achieve biological objectives.

c. *Estimated Cost: $6820*

4) Brief Report Detailing a Pasture-by-Pasture Assessment of Conservation Priorities and Management Alternatives (Months 9-12)

a. *Description:* The consultant will perform a pasture-by-pasture assessment based on available natural resource surveys, conversations with state park staff, and on-site observations. The report will discuss pasture conditions, current grazing management, known special resources, and other vegetation management considerations.

b. *Rationale:* The report will help identify what natural resources (special status species, pest plants, etc) and general rangeland conditions are in each pasture. This site-specific information will help guide livestock management decisions, including both timing and intensity of grazing, in each pasture to ultimately optimize the benefits and minimize the impacts of grazing. Given that there are no set biological goals and objectives associated with a grazing management plan for MCSP, the recommendations for each pasture will be based on what the rangeland consultants believe to be optimal for the existing habitat/conditions.

c. *Estimated Cost: $6220*

5) Contract Administration and Project Implementation

a. *Description:* State Parks staff will oversee the contracting process, manage the consultant agreement, coordinate site access, and review and approve deliverables to ensure project objectives and timelines are met.

b. *Estimated Cost: $3000*

Total Estimated Cost: $25,800

Qualifications

The Diablo Range District is part of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and is responsible for the stewardship of 21 State Park units spanning from Sacramento County to San Benito County. In alignment with the Department's mission—to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California—the district works to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its most valued natural and cultural resources, and support opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

Christina Lew McLain, Environmental Scientist with the Diablo Range District, will serve as the Project Manager and brings over 6 years of experience managing natural resource projects, including habitat restoration, invasive species control, and grant-funded field operations. She has successfully overseen multi-agency collaborations, managed budgets, and ensured timely completion of deliverables in compliance with CEQA, permitting, and reporting requirements.

Annual Budget for the Applying Organization

The annual budget for the Diablo Range District's Natural Resource Program is approximately $400,000.

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Project title: Tracking Western Pond Turtle Upland Traversal with GPS Loggers

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

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

Address: 2001 Clayton Rd., Suite 200

Concord, CA 94520

Telephone: (925) 690-4145 Fax:

E-mail: bweise@ccrcd.org

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

One sentence summary of proposal: CCRCD seeks funds to purchase GPS loggers to track Western Pond Turtle upland habitat traversal and dispersal to inform habitat management strategies.

Requested grant: $19,196.00

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

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

_____ Signed on _____

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Description of the Project for Which Funding is Requested:
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) seeks funding from the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to purchase GPS loggers and other monitoring equipment to track the upland habitat movement of Western Pond Turtles that will allow CCRCD to build capacity and join the Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative which includes researchers from the East Bay Regional Park District, Sonoma State University, New Mexico State University, Swaim Biological, Incorporated, Oakland Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, and others that are researching these species to derive management considerations for their upland and aquatic habitats across Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Western Pond Turtles (WPT) – representing both *Actinemys pallida* (Southwestern) and *Actinemys marmorata* (Northwestern) – are experiencing rapid declines across their range due to climate change, habitat fragmentation, and urban encroachment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed federal protections for both species under the Endangered Species Act, highlighting the urgency for proactive conservation measures. In the San Francisco Bay Area, particularly Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, the two species may potentially intergrade and hybridize, forming a biologically unique population segment that remains critically understudied.

Very little is known about WPT nesting behavior or upland habitat use within Contra Costa county. It is known that upland habitat is critical for nesting, with adult females traveling hundreds of meters from aquatic sites to lay eggs, and hatchlings often remaining in terrestrial environments for many months, however, conservation and restoration efforts typically focus on aquatic habitats, leaving a significant blind spot in our understanding and protection of essential life stages.

To address these urgent knowledge gaps, the Alameda County Resource Conservation District has formed the Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative. This group has initiated foundational research in Alameda County's urban creeks and livestock ponds, tracking turtle movement (GPS), nesting behavior (GPS and VHF), population dynamics, health, and genetics. This work has already yielded rare and valuable insights including identifying nesting hot spots and the location of over 40 nests (important for habitat management practices), confirming overland journeys of several miles by males, local population dynamics, disease prevalence (e.g., shell fungal disease), genetic diversity across the WPT range, and finally trialing the use of scent dogs to detect turtle nests.

In July 2025, the East Contra Contra County Habitat Conservancy (ECCHC) applied for a Natural Community Conservation Planning Local Assistance Grant Program (LAG Grant) in partnership with CCRCD and subcontractors Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) and biological consulting group Swaim Biological, Incorporated for $49,400. If funded, this proposed project would expand the efforts by the Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative into Contra Costa County and will include four ecologically important, yet data-deficient ponds located in the Morgan Territory and Clayton Ranch properties owned and managed by the East Bay Regional Park District.

Through the LAG Grant, CCRCD will have staff time covered which will allow us to get into the field and learn from experts and research how to shape a Western Pond Turtle Conservation Program for the benefit of the species, similar potentially to the successful Contra Costa Voluntary Local Program which has improved rangeland conditions for both livestock and listed California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and Alameda whipsnake. Unfortunately due to grant budget limits, the LAG Grant is really only able to provide staff time for Contra Costa RCD Staff, Alameda County RCD Staff, and Swaim Biological Incorporated, relying on existing GPS loggers that Alameda County RCD has.

With Fish and Wildlife Propagation Funding, CCRCD would purchase GPS Loggers and other monitoring equipment like waders, nets, bait, sterilization equipment, wader and more, expanding capacity of CCRCD to participate in this effort. CCRCD has prepared a budget below based on 12 GPS Loggers, three per identified pond in the LAG Grant. CCRCD's proposed grant budget is scalable, with partial awards reducing the total number of loggers purchased. If the LAG Grant is not awarded, CCRCD, ACRCD, and the ECCHCP will continue to seek grant funding to cover staff time and expand this project into Contra Costa County. CCRCD would use unrestricted funds to cover staff time in these cases and continue to seek staff funding to fully fund the program.

This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 of the Fish and Game Code Section (e) improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, section (g) purchase and maintenance of supplies, and section (i) scientific fish and wildlife research. Swaim Biological, Incorporated holds the scientific research permit for this project (CDFW SCP-2672) and all GPS monitoring would be performed under their supervision.

3. Project Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Enter into agreement with Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development	■	■										
Purchase GPS Loggers after entering into agreement		■	■	■								
Attach GPS Loggers and collect data with Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative				■	■	■	■	■	■			
Submit final billing to Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee					■							

4. Project Budget (Itemized)

Item	**Units**	**Unit Cost**	**Total**
GPS Trackers	12	$1,500	$18,000
Trap Nets	25	$20	$500
Misc. Monitoring Equipment (Pens, Field Binders, Labels, Sterilization Equipment, etc.)	12	$8	$96
Full Chest Waders	3	$200	$600
Total			**$19,196**
CDFW Local Assistance Grant (LAG) (Match)			
Staff Time (Contra Costa RCD, Alameda County RCD, Swaim Biological, Incorporated)			**$49,400**

5. Annual Budget for Applying Organization

	General Operations	Fund Development	Program	Total
Income	$422,151	$6,550	$3,580,732	$4,009,434
Expenses	$456,744	$272,034	$2,753,649	$3,482,429
Net Income	$(34,592)	$(265,484)	$827,082	$527,005

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

CCRCD Board of Directors
Renee Fernandez-Lipp – Board President, Manager of Governance, Vegetation Management Program, PG&E
Walter Pease – Board Member, Retired City of Pittsburg Public Works
Igor Skaredoff – Board Member, Retired Shell chemist, East Bay Regional Parks Planning Committee
Bethallyn Black – Board Member, Horticulture Professor at DVC
Lorena Castillo – Board Member, Executive Director, Groundwork Richmond

7. Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization
The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) was first incorporated in 1941 and has a rich history of providing natural resource conservation services to farmers and ranchers. The Agriculture Conservation Program works to achieve voluntary conservation on farms, ranches, school gardens, and urban farms. CCRCD has facilitated the restoration of livestock ponds under the Voluntary Local Program since 2015, resulting in 24 restored ponds and 5 miles of livestock water pipelines installed for the benefit of livestock, ranches, and wildlife on private and public lands throughout Contra Costa county.

8. List of Individuals Responsible for performing project
Ben Weise, Agriculture Program Director, will manage the grant and oversee the procurement of the GPS Loggers. Genna Fudin, Agriculture Conservation Coordinator, will work closely with Alameda County RCD Staff and Swaim Biological, Incorporated staff to attach and manage the loggers on western pond turtles. Farley Connelly, Biologist (Alameda County RCD) will work and mentor Genna Fudin and Swaim Biological, Incorporated will assist with monitoring the turtles and analyzing the results.

9. Statement describing the status of permit approvals necessary to perform project:
All turtle trapping, marking, and GPS deployment activities associated with this project will be conducted in compliance with applicable California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulations. Swaim Biological, Incorporated holds a valid Scientific Collecting Permits (SCPs) issued by CDFW (SCP-2672), authorizing them to capture, handle, mark (e.g., PIT tagging and shell notching), and attach GPS and VHF telemetry units to WPTs. Turtle capture and handling will be conducted using CDFW-approved methods (e.g., baited hoop traps and hand capture), with strict adherence to animal welfare protocols outlined in their SCPs. All GPS attachment techniques have been previously reviewed and approved through CDFW permitting and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocols. Data collected through this work will be reported to CDFW in accordance with permit conditions, and nest or capture locations will be submitted to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). If additional permits are required, CCRCD will coordinate with the appropriate agencies and landowners (e.g., EBRPD, ECCHC) to obtain written approval prior to project start.

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Project title: Wildlfie Intensive Care Unit

Organization/Individual applying: Lindsay WIldlife Experience

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

Address: 1931 1st Ave

Walnut Creek CA 94597

Telephone: (925) 627-2953 Fax:

E-mail: pflowers@lindsaywildlife.org

Name and title of contact person: Peter Flowers RVT - Hospital and Rehabilitation Manager

One sentence summary of proposal: Provide regulated heat and oxygen for wildlife cases in need of intensive care.

Requested grant: $24,390.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Peter Flowers RVT - Hospital & Rehabilitation Manager

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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*):

Signed on 7/30/25

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Organization Background:
The Lindsay Wildlife Experience's (LWE) mission is "to connect people with wildlife to inspire respect and responsibility for the world we share." Our mission began more than 60 years ago when Walnut Creek resident Alexander Lindsay shared his passion for the natural world with the community. LWE has been an established nonprofit organization since 1955 and is accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM).

LWE's Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital rescues, rehabilitates, and releases California native wildlife. We work in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. On average, the hospital receives more than 5,000 animals per year from across the San Francisco Bay Area, including many threatened and endangered species. Included in the hospital's mission is to educate the public to prevent human/wildlife interaction issues and actively participate in wildlife research to gain knowledge and adapt to an ever-changing world. The hospital teaches veterinary students from multiple universities and offers summer internships to many aspiring college students looking for experience in wildlife rehabilitation.

LWE is also a wildlife museum that strengthens the connection between people and the natural world utilizing both its non-releasable live animal collection and its natural history collection – both of which focus on native California wildlife. Today, LWE is home to over 60 live animal ambassadors, all of whom couldn't survive in the wild, and aid the museum in educating visitors about their species and their native California habitats. Our museum serves over 100,000 visitors annually and over 4,000 local students through onsite field trips.

Project Overview:
Lindsay Wildlife Experience (LWE) requests $24,390 to provide the hospital with an intensive care unit to supply regulated oxygen and heat therapy for injured and debilitated wildlife. On an annual basis LWE hospital receives a large percentage of animals that are the victim of human-wildlife interactions that result in severe trauma. These injuries can include window strikes, vehicle collisions, toxins, pets, and falls from tree trimming. Many times, these injuries require supplemental oxygen and warmth to support recovery. This unit will expand out capacity to provide needed therapy for injured wildlife brought to the hospital and increase their odds for recovery.

This project directly aligns with Fish & Game Code Section 13103 (b) in line with our normal duties and responsibilities of providing temporary emergency treatment of injured and orphaned wildlife. Many of the animals we receive have extensive injuries due in most part to human and wildlife interaction, including cat and dog interactions, automobile injuries and trapping. Having the essential environment to be able to properly provide the essential space needed is a cornerstone to the very foundation to the mission to care for and release healthy and healed animals back to the wild.

Project Schedule:

This project would begin upon receipt of funding notice. The equipment has already been identified and vendor has been contacted for estimate of equipment.
The work can be completed within 30 days of order placement.

Product Budget:
A budget for direct project expenses is below. The budget does not include LWE operating costs or overhead such as staff time and benefits as these costs will be covered under the regular operating costs of the museums.

Company	Description	Price
Snyder Mfg Co.	ICU Standard hinge location is left & right 46 3/4" wide model Sitting on counter top	$21,812.65 with discount
	Crate charge	$89.00
	Freight	$560.00
	Tax	$2017.68
	Total	$24,390.33

Annual Budget of Organization: $3,800,000

Project Managers:
LWE project managers will include Peter Flowers RVT Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Manager who will select and oversee the ordering and installation to ensure that it will meet the needs of the hospital.

FY 25-26 Board of Officers and Directors

Statutory (Voting) Members - Officers

Carl Taibl, President
CFO, Community Initiatives Laboratories

Dyann Blaine, Secretary
Asst General Counsel, Patterson Energy

Scott Rhoades, Treasurer
Senior Vice President, Charles Schwab & Co. (retired)

Murray Ross – Vice President

Statutory (Voting) Members - Directors

Kathy Hemmenway
Executive Director, Walnut Creek Downtown Association

Yulanda Smith
Marketing Consultant

Doug Griffith
CFO/Controller for Independent Construction Co.

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Anne M. Partman
Environmental Supervisor, Marathon Petroleum

Don Pryor
Controller, Joybound People & Pets

Valerie Wayne

Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

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Project title: Training a new workforce to improve riparian habitat in Contra Costa County

Organization/Individual applying: California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)

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

Address: 1442-A Walnut St. #462, Berkeley, CA 94709

Telephone: (510) 843-3902 Fax: (510) 217-3500

E-mail: aswanson@cal-ipc.org

Name and title of contact person: Amanda Swanson, Grants and Contracts Manager

One sentence summary of proposal: Arundo removal and workforce training for long-term invasive plant management in Contra Costa County

Requested grant: $16,606.00

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Amanda Swanson, Grants and Contracts Manager

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

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

Doug Johnson

Doug Johnson, Executive Director

Signed on 7/31/2025

Clear Form

2) Project Description

Project need and description: Arundo (*Arundo donax*) is a highly invasive perennial plant that establishes in riparian habitats. Notorious for its impacts on wildlife and ecosystems, it grows quickly, outcompetes native vegetation, and reduces available habitat for animals. The Alhambra Creek Watershed contains several stands of Arundo that have largely been unmanaged, in contrast to the nearby Walnut Creek Watershed where work has been ongoing for nearly 10 years with exceptional success. More trained crews are needed locally to tackle this difficult weed. This project will train Pittsburg Civicorps crews on Arundo's impacts, removal techniques, and best management practices (BMPs) for addressing invasive plants. We will organize one classroom training followed by two field days to cut and remove Arundo, with third-party herbicide treatment. Partners will participate directly in the training and indirectly, as beneficiaries.

Arundo removal will benefit the fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County by increasing stream flow and improving riparian vegetation structure. By pairing classroom with on-site training, Civicorps crew members will become familiar with all aspects of this invasive plant, its removal, and the larger value of the Alhambra Creek Watershed. This project will develop a new local workforce for wildlife enhancement through Arundo removal while supporting underserved members of the community by creating additional training and environmental job pathway opportunities.

Collaborations with the local community

Listed below are several local organizations that will be involved in this project, either directly or indirectly, as beneficiaries and the benefits they will receive.

- Friends of San Ramon Creek (FOSRC) – Site-specific Arundo removal instruction; guidance to partners on permitting; in-kind materials.
- Contra Costa County Integrated Pest Management Program - Input on IPM instruction.
- Friends of Alhambra Creek (FOAC) – Permit / permit exemption application through the Alhambra Creek Watershed Council; herbicide applicator if needed; site selection; beneficiary and a future local driver of Arundo control projects, using FOSRC's program as a model.
- Contra Costa Resource Conservation District - Trained contractors and training resources.
- Contra Costa Public Works - Trained contractors and training resources.

This project will help establish a long-term local partnership with Civicorps, where partners can work with Civicorps to accomplish the first biomass removal phase of longer-term Arundo management.

Section 13103 (a): Education relating to scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation

Funds requested will support the creation of formal training instruction modules for Civicorps. Cal-IPC will create and execute a training module to teach Civicorps about (1) regional watershed ecology, (2) impacts of invasive plants with an emphasis on Arundo, (3) BMPs for managing invasive plants with an emphasis on Arundo control, (4) the benefits of invasive plant management to local plants and wildlife, and (5) wildlife and sensitive resource considerations during control work. Instruction will center around how invasive plant removal benefits fish and wildlife, so Corpsmembers understand the intent and larger context of their work.

The teaching materials developed (slides with notes and training agenda) will be shared free of charge with local partners to be used for future trainings in Contra Costa County.

Section 13103 (e): Benefits to fish and wildlife of Contra Costa County

Arundo has several negative effects on riparian habitats. Fish and wildlife species, such as steelhead trout, river otter, beaver, and green heron, exist in riparian habitats and are largely dependent on native woody vegetation structure. Willows, native riparian trees that support many bird species, are outcompeted by Arundo, and riparian birds suffer if native-dominated nesting and foraging habitat is displaced. When growing along a creek bank, the shallow roots of Arundo are undercut by streamflow, facilitating erosion

and increasing sediment load. Larger stands can alter stream flow and cause flooding. Arundo also uses more water than native vegetation. The removal of Arundo throughout the watershed will repair streamside habitat and prevent further future degradation of habitat quality.

Fish and Wildlife Committee acknowledgements

To promote the project and acknowledge Contra Costa County's Fish and Wildlife Committee support, we will publish one article in our newsletter, the *Dispatch,* following completion of the project. We will also create two social media posts about the project highlighting the Fish and Wildlife Committee's contribution. Social media posts will be shared on Cal-IPC's social media platforms including X, Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Additionally, we will acknowledge the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee on all training materials such as handouts and slide presentations.

3) Project Schedule

	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Activity	**J**	**F**	**M**	**A**	**M**	**J**	**J**	**A**	**S**	**O**	**N**	**D**
Finalize subcontract with Civicorps												
Development of training curriculum												
Training-field/classroom												
2-3 days of field work post-training												
Social Media posts (x2)												
Dispatch Article												
Quarterly invoices												
Final invoice and final project report												

4) Project Budget

Personnel	Qty	Rate	Total	Notes
Science Program Manager	10 hrs	$125	$1,250	Oversight, field training
Conservation Specialist	60 hrs	$90	$5,400	Curriculum development, partner meetings, coordinating and planning, classroom and field training delivery
Grants & Contracts Manager	10 hrs	$90	$900	Invoicing, contracting, social media
Civicorps	2.5 days	$3,572	$8,930	Classroom and field training for up to ten Corpsmembers and one Supervisor
Travel – mileage	180 mi	$0.70	$126	1 round trip to Civicorps Pittsburg for classroom training, 2 round trips to Martinez for field days
		Grand Total	**$16,606**	

Additional in-kind services and goods provided include: a qualified applicator and materials to apply herbicide (FOAC), a dumpster for Arundo if needed (FOAC), site-specific Arundo removal instruction (FOSRC), materials (plywood, ropes) to remove Arundo (FOSRC). Total estimated in-kind: $2000.

5) Total Annual Budget: $5,950,000 in 2025, Of this, $4,850,000 goes to subcontractors for various projects, most significantly the Invasive Spartina Project which works to protect San Francisco Bay tidal marshes.

6) Applying Organization

Cal-IPC is a non-profit established to protect California's lands and waters from ecologically damaging invasive plants through science, education and policy. Protecting biological diversity is key to our mission. We coordinate regional partnerships, design science-based tools and projects to remove invasive plants, train volunteers and professionals, and advocate for sound public policy and funding.

Board of Directors

Name	***Affiliation***
Stephanie Ponce, ***President***	CA Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways
Michael Kwong, ***Secretary***	CA DWR
Matt Major, ***Treasurer***	Orange County Parks
Alys Arenas, ***Secretary***	CDFW
Doug Gibson	Wetl. Scientist, unaffiliated
Jason Giessow	Dendra, Inc.
Sarah Godfrey	Map the Point Consulting
Alan Kaufmann	Laguna Canyon Foundation
Drew Kerr	Invasive Spartina Project
Metha Klock	Pepperwood Preserve

Name	***Affiliation***
Tanya Meyer	Yolo County RCD
LeeAnne Mila	El Dorado Co. Dept. of Ag.
Tom Reyes	CNPS
Scott Oneto	UCCE - UCANR
Lauren Quon	USFS
Lana Nguyen	California State Parks
Marcos Trinidad	TreePeople
Justin Valliere	UC Davis
Hannah Wallis	Ecologist, unaffiliated

7) Sponsoring Organizations and Individuals

Cal-IPC is a statewide nonprofit with a proven track record in project execution. This project will be successful because of our ongoing relationship with Civicorps, our association with listed partners, our experience with invasive plants and their impacts, and our expertise in culturally relevant programming.

Jutta Burger, PhD, Science Program Director, has over 30 yrs experience working with invasive plants and California ecosystems, has a qualified applicator license, and is a member of FOAC.

Constance Taylor, Conservation Specialist, has been creating and leading Civicorps trainings since 2021. She brings over a decade of experience in public outreach and ecological education.

Amanda Swanson, PhD, Grants and Contracts Manager, has extensive experience with invasive plants and grants management and currently leads Cal-IPC's social media presence.

8) Individuals Responsible for Performing and Overseeing Project

Name and Position	***Role in Project***
Jutta Burger, PhD, Science Program Director	Overseeing and performing project
Constance Taylor, M.S., Conservation Specialist	Performing project
Amanda Swanson, PhD, Grants and Contracts Manager	Overseeing and performing project

9) Permit approvals – CDFW SAA application for Arundo removal in progress through FOAC and the Alhambra Creek Watershed Council, with FOSRC guidance.

10) Request for Exemption – N/A

Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

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Project title: Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center

Organization/Individual applying: Cal State East Bay, Concord Center

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

Address: 4700 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Concord, CA 94521

Telephone: 530-848-9516 Fax:

E-mail: kate.shade@csueastbay.edu

Name and title of contact person: Kate Shade, Assistant Professor, Nursing

One sentence summary of proposal: This project involves removal of invasive plant species and planting, protecting, and promoting native plants to support pollinator habitat.

Requested grant: $7,456.92

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Kate Shade, Assist. Prof. & Kathy Cutting, Campus Support Coord.

☑ 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*):

Kate Shade

Signed on July 18, 2025

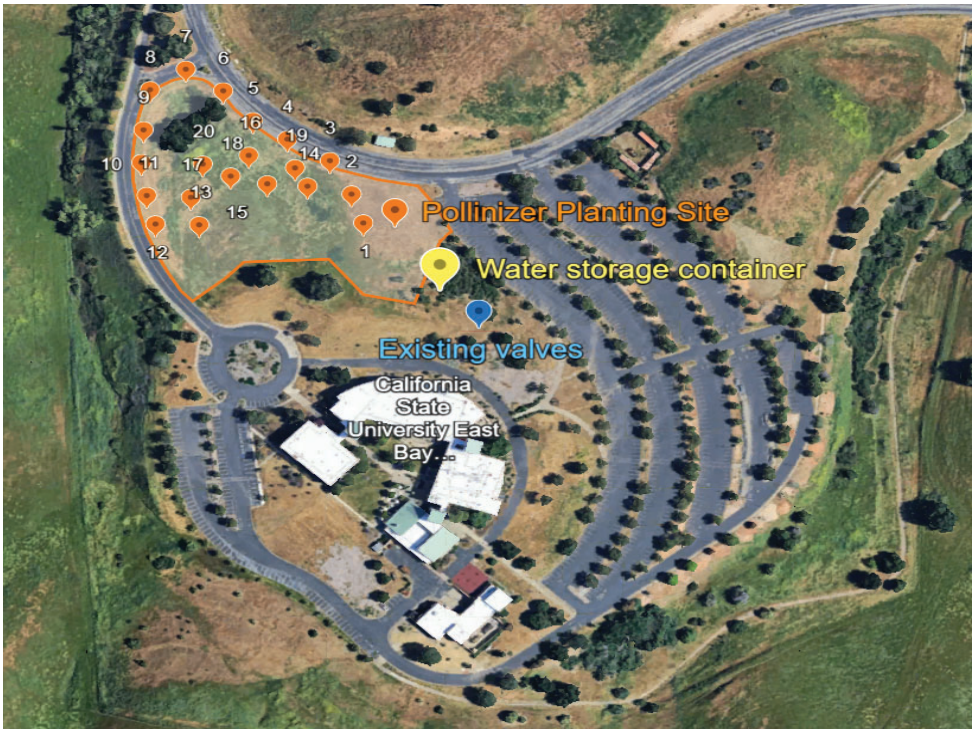
Clear Form

Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center

Description of the project: This project will establish native plant hedgerows and patches to provide habitat for pollinators on approximately 3 acres. The specific location is a large meadow at the entrance to the Cal State East Bay Concord Center. The space is bordered to the north and northwest by Campus Drive. To the south of the space is a ridge with two large valley oak trees. At the highest point, above the project location, the ridge offers views of Suisun Bay, the Delta, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, and Mount Diablo. This project is part of a larger initiative funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to increase green infrastructure and promote land and water stewardship at the 324 acres of open space at the Concord Center.

This project is designed to improve wildlife habitat. As such, it meets the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, as described in the California Fish and Game Code Section 13103 (e). The funds will be used to purchase tools and equipment needed to prepare the 3-acre site; an irrigation system to maximize the likelihood of project success, and about 400 native plants. Plants that are native to the East Bay will be selected based on their low-water needs, size at maturity, attractiveness to pollinators, and availability. A grant from the U.S. EPA is funding the labor for this project, with Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) as a subcontractor on the grant. See the project map, preliminary plant list, and budget below.

Project location:



Project schedule:
In early 2026, working with the CCRCD, the water storage container will be installed on the hillside on a level area covered with gravel. Drip lines will be run to 20 plots. Plants will be purchased, as available, and maintained in a protected area until ready to plant. Plot areas will be marked and cleared for planting. Plants will be selected based on a mix of perennials and annuals, shrubs, and a few trees, with an estimated 20 plants per plot. Small, caged plants will be marked with brightly colored flags. Plants will be watered once a week for several months, depending on rainfall. Signage will be posted to read 'Habitat Restoration in Progress.' In spring and summer, invasive plant species, primarily purple vetch, black mustard, Italian thistle, and yellow starthistle, will be removed from the area. Depending on the weather, plant health, and soil conditions, plants will be deep-watered once a month for the remainder of the year.

Preliminary plant list:
Narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), Showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Pacific aster (*Symphyotricum chilense*); California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*); Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*); California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*); California wildrose (*Rosa californica*); Bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*); Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*); Gumplant (*Grindelia hirsutula*); Bolander's sunflower (*Helianthus bolanderi*); Sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*); Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)

Project budget:

Item	**Rationale**	**Quantity**	**Cost**	**Source**
Native plants	A mix of plants to provide a long bloom period for pollinators	20 plants x 20 plots = 400 plants	Avg $10/ plant x 400 = $4,000 +tax	The Watershed Nursery and Native Here Nursery
Colored flags	Marking plants is essential for inventory and maintenance	400 landscape flags	4 100 packs @ $9.97 ea. = $39.88 +tax	Home Depot
Hoe	To clear non-native invasive plants from planting area	5 hoes	$32.94 ea x 5 = $164.70 +tax	Home Depot
Utility cart	To transport tools and plants within project area	1 cart	$149 each +tax	Home Depot
Root Slayer	Shovels for extracting invasives/planting	2 shovels	2 @ $51.35 ea. = $102.70 +tax	Home Depot
Signage	18"h x 12"w aluminum signs'Habitat restoration in progress' incl. QR codes	10 signs and 10 redwood posts to mount signs	$24.69/ sign = $246.88; posts $10 ea. =$100 =	Signs.com; Bay Area Redwood

	with information		$346 +tax	
Irrigation Supplies	An intermediate bulk container (IBC) tank to facilitate gravity watering through drip lines is needed to establish new native plants	275 gallon IBC tank, 2,000' drip lines, 500" solid tubing, connectors, tees	$399 tank $87 gravel $1500 drip lines and parts = $1,986 + delivery fee $150	Home Depot, Imperial Sprinkler Systems
TOTAL			$6,788.28 + 668.64 tax =$7,456.92	

Cal State East Bay's annual budget: $240.7 million in the 2024/2025 budget.

About Cal State East Bay: The applying organization is a public university with a main campus in Hayward. The Concord Center is located on 384 acres in the foothills of Mount Diablo. The department of nursing faculty and students hold classes in Concord, including outdoor workdays. The department belongs to the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments—an effort to educate and prepare nurses to address the health impacts of climate change.

Individuals responsible for project implementation and oversight:
Kathy Cutting, Field Station Coordinator for CSUEB, and program coordinator for the EPA grant. She is responsible for maintaining the Ecocultural Garden and coordinating use by students, faculty and community members. Kathy has a BS in Geography and Environmental Studies from CSUEB and has worked for 8 years on many projects to promote land stewardship at the Cal State East Bay Concord Center. In 2019, she was certified as a University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) California Naturalist.

Kate Shade, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and primary investigator for the EPA grant that funds the Ecocultural Garden. She is responsible for overseeing grants, managing budgets, and coordinating research activities. Kate has a PhD in nursing from University of California at San Francisco and over 35 years of experience working in community/public and mental health programs.

Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

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Project title: Marsh Creek Steelhead Trout Spawning and Breeding Habitat Enhancement

Organization/Individual applying: Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

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

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

Telephone: 925-269-9190 Fax: n/a

E-mail: clim@ccrcd.org

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

One sentence summary of proposal: The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, proposes to restore Steelhead trout spawning habitat in Marsh Creek by adding gravel, engaging volunteers, monitoring redds, and fostering long-term community stewardship through education and signage.

Requested grant: $19,622 (with $13,366 match)

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

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

Signed on 7/21/2025

2. Project Description - How will this project benefit Fish & Wildlife of Contra Costa County?

Steelhead trout are remarkable fish that migrate from Contra Costa County's freshwater creeks to the Pacific Ocean and return multiple times to spawn. Once abundant, their numbers have declined due to barriers to migration, flood control channelization, and the loss of complex riparian habitat. Today, they are listed as threatened in California, making habitat restoration efforts critical to their survival. One key limiting factor is the availability of suitable spawning substrate—gravel and cobble ranging from 1 to 8 inches in diameter—that provides the structure Steelhead need to build "redds," or fish nests, for egg deposition.

As part of the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for the "Lower Marsh Creek Stream Corridor Restoration Program," led by the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, it describes the historical state of Marsh Creek and the flood control focused improvements made due to floods in the 1950s:

"Similarly, these flood control improvements have eliminated nearly all the riparian and floodplain habitat that once flourished along the margins of Marsh Creek. Habitat in the stream channel itself has been further impacted by the loss of natural complexity associated with a meandering stream channel. Prior to the flood control improvements, the channel form was highly variable with pools, gravel riffles, gentle bars, and steep cut-banks..." (May 2019)

One recommended program element is "Installation of Instream Habitat Features":

"This activity could include installation of either large woody debris (LWD) and/or rock features (e.g., rock barbs) below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) to improve degraded aquatic conditions by providing high flow and predation refugia, sorting sediment, and restoring pool and riffle characteristics. Augmentation of gravel could occur concurrently or in isolation and would enhance spawning opportunities for Chinook salmon and steelhead."

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD), in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, proposes to restore spawning opportunities by placing 40 cubic yards of appropriately sized gravel at two priority sites of Marsh Creek in East Contra Costa County. This material will be spread to a depth of six inches, creating approximately 1,000 linear feet of improved habitat. By addressing this key ecological need, the project will support Steelhead in completing their full life cycle and help reestablish a self-sustaining population in the watershed.

The project also emphasizes community engagement and education. CCRCD will host four volunteer workdays where at least 50 local residents, including youth and families, will participate in gravel placement and habitat improvement. Another metric for success is five returning community volunteers throughout the workdays. The outreach will rely on current email lists of the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed, and the CCRCD. These hands-on opportunities will deepen public understanding of Steelhead ecology, the challenges they face, and the role local communities can play in recovery efforts.

Following installation, CCRCD and the Council will conduct at least two monitoring days in the winter to evaluate success by surveying for the presence of Steelhead redds in the enhanced reaches. Monitoring results will inform future adaptive management and help determine the feasibility of expanding gravel augmentation to other reaches of Marsh Creek, with additional funding. This pilot project, if successful, will serve as an example for low-cost, community-supported Steelhead restoration efforts across Contra Costa County.

Then, to foster continued stewardship of Steelhead trout in Marsh Creek, the partners will also work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and leverage their free signage related to harmful fish poaching. This

starting point will support the group in starting a signage program that, in the future, and with additional funding, to be able to design and install educational signage at strategic points on the creek. These signs will build awareness and share the stories of interconnectedness, ecosystem services, and cultural significance that trout bring to our local watersheds.

How does this project meet the requirements of Section 13103? This project meets California Fish and Game Code Section 13103 (e).

3. Project Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
TASKS	2026										2027			
Meetings														
Planning														
Gravel deliveries														
Workdays to disperse gravel														
Monitoring														
Determine sign locations and permissions														
Install signs														
Invoicing and reporting														

Note: some monitoring (orange) will occur outside the grant period

4. Project Budget (itemized)

SUPPLIES	Units	Cost per unit ($)	Total	Total match
Gravel (various sizes)	2	4600	9200	
Rubber boots	4	25	100	
Work gloves	25	10	250	
5 gallon buckets	25	6	150	
Rakes	4	35	140	

OTHER				
Bobcat rental	4	400	1600	
Gravel delivery	8	125	1000	
Streambed Alteration Permit	1	1882	1882	
Waste Discharge Permit	1	1300	1300	
Biological monitor (contractor)	2	2000	4000	

MATCH (in-kind)				
CCRCD staff	72	80.30		5782
Marsh Creek Watershed Council	168	34.79		5845
Workday volunteers	50	34.79		1740

total supplies	9840
total other	9782
total match	13366
total project	32988
total ask of Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee	19622

5. Annual Budget

	General Operations	Fund Development	Program	Total
Income	$422,151	$6,550	$3,580,732	$4,009,434
Expenses	$456,744	$272,034	$2,753,649	$3,482,429
Net Income	$(34,592)	$(265,484)	$827,082	$527,005

6. STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE APPLYING ORGANIZATION

The CCRCD is a non-regulatory, special district of the state of California. The organization's mission is to facilitate the conservation and stewardship of the natural resources of Contra Costa County. The CCRCD accomplishes this work primarily through voluntary partnership with landowners, farmers, ranchers, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies. This represents one of the organization's primary value propositions: we work directly with community to listen to their needs and co-create a vision for their community that is founded on the best available science.

CCRCD Board of Directors:

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

Bethallyn Black – Board Vice President. Emeritus Horticulture Professor at Diablo Valley College

Igor Skaredoff – Retired Shell Chemist
Walter Pease –Retired City of Pittsburg Public Works
Lorena Castillo – Co-Executive Director, Groundwork Richmond

7. ORGANIZATION QUALIFICATIONS

CCRCD is well suited to oversee this project from the planning to implementation and monitoring phases of the project. The CCRCD has been providing natural-resources-related assistance to Contra Costa County for nearly 85 years. The organization works throughout Contra Costa County and has led projects including the Pinole Fish Passage Improvement Project, the Marsh Creek Restoration Planning, livestock pond restorations, coordinating the Contra Costa Watershed Forum, and supporting grassroots creek/watershed groups. The CCRCD currently works on over 35 different grants and contracts and maintains all the necessary systems to be able to track staff time, receivables, and expenses for every project.

8. INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PERFORMING AND OVERSEEING THE PROJECT

Chris Lim is the Executive Director of the CCRCD and is responsible for project oversight. Chris has over 25 years of experience in the environmental field, creating win-win partnerships to restore species from the top to the bottom of the watersheds, as well as working within all three sectors: nonprofit, public, and private. He has a BA in Integrative Biology with an emphasis in Marine Biology and Oceanography and a minor in Geography from the University of California at Berkeley and a Masters of Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco. He is currently an Ex Officio member of the Delta National Heritage Area Advisory Committee.

Ivette Rivero, a Watershed Conservation Coordinator with CCRCD, has a strong background in community outreach, ecological project management, and environmental monitoring. She has led public engagement programs, coordinated habitat horticulture projects, and trained interns in sustainable land stewardship. Fluent in both English and Spanish, Ivette has supported diverse communities by connecting them with vital resources and guiding outreach initiatives. Her academic training in fish and conservation biology, coupled with hands-on field experience, informs her work in fish redd monitoring and habitat restoration.

David Sondergeld is a retired Corporate Exec that in corporate life for 40 years ran volunteer events focusing on cleanups, helping the homeless, projects with parks and the environment as well as individuals with special needs. Privately, David has lived a life of volunteering starting as a youth Volunteer for kids with Autism at the age of 6. He has branched out close to 60 years volunteering with City, State and National Parks, he has run coastal cleanups for more than 35 years with many of awards from the coastal commission and local government. David ran Special Olympics Soccer for Northern California for 15 years. He served on national volunteer boards including the USHGPA and AYSO. David Founded the Bay Area Paragliding Association, Kids First Education Council, and is a founding board member, presently as chairman, for the Marsh Creek Watershed Council.

9. Project Permitting:

We are anticipating working within the stretches of Marsh Creek owned by the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (CCCFCD). The CCRCD has a strong relationship with the CCCFCD and the Marsh Creek Watershed Council has one of the CCCFCD's senior engineers as one of its Associate Board Members. Therefore, we envision continuing to partner with the CCCFCD for permission to access their property, help in planning and implementing this creek enhancement project.

We anticipate the need to obtain a Streambed Alteration Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and a Waste Discharge Requirement Permit from the State Water Board. The CCRCD has applied for these permit numerous times for other projects and is familiar with the process.

Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

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

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: 707-723-4245 Fax:

E-mail: alex.domeyko@birdrescue.org

Name and title of contact person: Alex Domeyko, Director of Development and Partnerships

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: **$20,719.92**

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Alex Domeyko, Director of Development and Partnerships

☑ 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*):

Alex Domeyko
box SIGN 4KQQR6V8-1385K93K

Signed on Jul 29, 2025

Clear Form

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 2026

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 ~ 200 wild, injured birds to us annually, 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

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
$5,169.13	Bovie MI-750 LED Surgical Light	Replacement of the fully-non-repairable surgical light in our Surgery Suite to support patient outcomes for birds rescued and/or referred from Contra Costa County (the manufacturer of our current unit no longer repairs nor makes replacement parts for our unit, due to its age)	MFI Medical
$4,422.96	Two Bovie MI-550 Exam Station Lights	Replacement of two fully-non-repairable Exam Station lights (the manufacturer of our current units no longer repairs nor makes replacement parts for our units, due to their age)	MFI Medical
$2,052.52	Raypak 106 105,000 BTU Propane Gas Warm Water Pool Heater	Replacement of the fully-non-repairable above-ground, warm water pool heater to support aquatic bird patients rescued and/or referred from Contra Costa County, as they re-establish their waterproofing: necessary for release back to the wild at species-appropriate locations	Doheny's
$2,145.83	Disinfectant Station	Disinfection is critical for dishes, habitat enclosures, gavage tubes for feeding, floors, and for reusable medical supplies due to HPAI (aka Bird Flu); e.g., mallards rescued from Contra Costa County are asymptomatic carriers of Bird Flu	Midwest Veterinary Supply
$2,320.40	Two OSHA-compliant Fortress Aluminum 4-Riser Stairs Systems	Replacement of two sets of dilapidated, non-OSHA-compliant wooden stairs for rehabilitation pools housing aquatic bird patients rescued and/or referred from Contra Costa County, to improve health, safety, and working conditions	Home Depot
$2,022.10	Two Brinsea TLC-50 Advance Series II ICU/Recovery Incubators	Replacement of two fully-depreciated and non-operable incubators used for newly hatched chicks and sick, injured or orphaned birds from Contra Costa County	Chewy
$1,021.00	Two Vitamix Commercial-grade Blender with Trian Containers	Replacement of two fully-non-repairable and non-operational industrial-grade animal food preparation blenders, necessary for animal nutrition while patients are in care and undergoing rehabilitation	KaTom
$1,030.00	Welch Allyn Veterinary 3.5V Ophthalmoscope	Replacement of aged, poor-functioning equipment to improve patient diagnostics and outcomes	Rhino Medical Supply
$535.98	Frigidaire 28" Freezer Refrigerator	Replacement of rusted, damaged refrigerator that stores medicines for patient intake, with new, Energy Star unit	Home Depot
$20,719.92	**TOTAL**		

5. Annual Budget

We operate two specialty wildlife hospitals in California and an emergency response center in Alaska on a balanced $3.75 million annual budget. Annual expenses for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center which serves Contra Costa County are $754K: $440K for specially-trained, necessary, professional veterinary and rehabilitation personnel, $124K for utilities to provide clean water and stable wildlife rehabilitation habitat, $87K for food, clinical, and medical supplies directly related to animal care, and $103K for facilities, equipment, insurance, and transportation. **This funding request focuses on necessary material that our staff will use more than once to effectively and efficiently ensure our continued ability to care for native wildlife referred to us from Contra Costa residents, agencies, and organizations.** The Committee's previous support continues to be recognized on our website: https://birdrescue.org.

6. Organizational Overview, Board of Directors, Affiliations

For over 50 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 160,000 birds. **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 referral partners. Our Board of Directors includes:

- Carmine Dulisse, Chair; President, PCCI, Inc.
- Tim Hayes, Vice Chair and Treasurer; Region Manager, Marathon Pipeline
- Martha Joseph, Secretary; Journalist *(retired)*
- Toni Arkoosh Pinsky, Immediate Past Chair; Community Leader
- Dr. Christine Bee; Group Leaders, Merck
- Nick Bockanic; Director of Brand Marketing, Universal Pictures
- Charong Chow; Senior marketing Manager, B2B Content, Adobe
- Maria Hartley; Global Technical Lead, Chevron Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Zach Hutton; Partner, Paul Hastings, LLP
- Dr. Paul Krause; Principal, Ramboll
- Tanmay Mathur; Supply Chain Executive
- Anjul Patney; Principal Research Scientist, NVIDIA
- Shah Selbe; Founder, Conservify
- Andy Sullivan; Communications Lead, Procter & Gamble
- Dave Wittrock; Price Wittrock CPA *(retired)*
- JD Bergeron; Chief Executive Officer, International Bird Rescue

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 two dozen other counties in California, national regulators, and international partners.

We were founded in 1971 in response to a massive oil spill that covered 50 miles of coastline in San Francisco Bay, affecting between 7,000 and 15,000 birds. Since then, we have become a *global leader* in addressing man-made disasters affecting marine wildlife (such as oil spills and debris), and in pioneering life-saving techniques to address ongoing/daily negative human impacts on wildlife. **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 Dept. 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
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education

Organization/Individual applying: John Muir Land Trust

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

Address: 924 Main St., 2nd floor

Martinez, CA 94553

Telephone: (925) 228-5460 Fax:

E-mail: amelia@jmlt.org

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

One sentence summary of proposal: This proposal requests funding to support school field trips to Pacheco Marsh, where students will engage in hands-on learning about wetland ecology, native species, and the importance of conservation

Requested grant: $14,636

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

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

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

Amelia Flack

Signed on 8/1/2025

Clear Form


John Muir Land Trust: 2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Request
Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education

John Muir Land Trust is requesting $14,636 to support school field trips to Pacheco Marsh, a restored tidal wetland in Contra Costa County. Grant funds will be used to cover transportation costs, educational materials such as binoculars and other teaching tools, and staffing expenses associated with delivering the program. These field trips will connect students from Contra Costa County schools and non-profit organizations, including public schools like Las Juntas Elementary, and will serving students from underserved communities, at one of the county's most ecologically significant tidal marsh habitats. We plan to host at least three and up to five field trips during Spring and Summer 2026.

During the field trips, elementary students will engage in immersive, nature-based educational programming led by the John Muir Land Trust stewardship team. Activities will include guided walks through the marsh, wildlife observation, hands-on learning about marsh ecology, and discussions about wetlands restoration, habitat conservation, local species, and more. Students may also participate in stewardship activities such as native plant propagation and care and/or removal of invasive plants.

Pacheco Marsh supports a rare and ecologically rich tidal marsh habitat. Students will learn about native plant communities and animal species that rely on this habitat for survival. The site also provides an excellent opportunity to observe firsthand the value of restored wetland systems for climate resilience. The project directly supports the long-term conservation of Conta Costa County's natural resources by fostering ecological literacy and instilling an ethic of stewardship in the next generation. By providing equitable access to hands-on environmental learning, the project offers Contra Costa County youth awareness and knowledge needed to support fish and wildlife conservation in their own communities.

The project meets the eligibility criteria under Section 13103 (a) of the California Fish and Game Code, directly supporting public education relating to, and fostering public awareness and appreciation for, fish and wildlife conservation. Programming will consist of an immersive day-long field trip at Pacheco Marsh discovering the ecology of the Bay Delta and marsh habitat. Through activities and real-world experiences at Pacheco Marsh, students gain a deeper understanding of local ecosystems and their role in protecting them. These field trips encourage environmental stewardship that extends beyond the outdoor classroom and into the broader community.

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

John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) is a nonprofit land conservation organization dedicated to permanently protecting and caring for the open spaces and natural resources of the East Bay. Since its founding in 1989, JMLT has preserved over 4,500 acres of land, ensuring that future generations have access to nature. Through stewardship, restoration, and community engagement, JMLT connects people with nature and promotes environmental education across Contra Costa County and beyond. In Spring 2025, JMLT officially opened Pacheco Marsh for public access. Located approximately 1.5 miles from Martinez, Pacheco Marsh hosts trails and an outdoor classroom where students explore and learn about the history of the region and the importance of restoring and caring for Pacheco Marsh and similar shoreline

environments throughout the Bay Delta. The stunning contrast of —thriving habitat surrounded by a stark industrial backdrop. The towers of oil refineries can be seen in the distance while tankers pass underneath the parallel spans of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge to the north. The entire history of the shoreline can be experienced in this one remarkable place.

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

John Muir Land Trust Board of Directors 2025

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

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

John Muir Land Trust Leadership Team 2025

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

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

Project Team

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

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

Project Schedule:

Activity	***Timeframe***
Planning *- Coordinate with stewardship team to finalize program logistics* *- Conduct outreach to local schools and begin to schedule field trips* *- Order and organize teaching materials and supplies* *- Schedule busses*	Winter – Spring 2026
Programming *- Host field trips at Pacheco Marsh* *- Lead students in hands-on learning about wetland ecology and conservation* *- Document lessons learned and student participation*	Spring – Summer 2026

Reporting *- Review participation numbers, school engagement, and program highlights* *- Compile notes and assess program effectiveness* *- Complete and submit final report to Conta Costa County*	Fall 2026

Project Budget

Funding Activity	*Funding Required*	*Funding Requested*
Binoculars - 30 pair (will be reused for future educational programming)	**$3,290.85**	**$3,000**
Spotting Scope	**$384.07**	**$350**
Transport – 1 bus serves 45	**$7,560**	**$4,536**
Misc. supplies	**$800**	
Stewardship Manager – approximately 50 hours dedicated specifically to Pacheco Marsh education over the grant period	**$7,500**	**$6,750**
	$19,534.92	**$14,636**

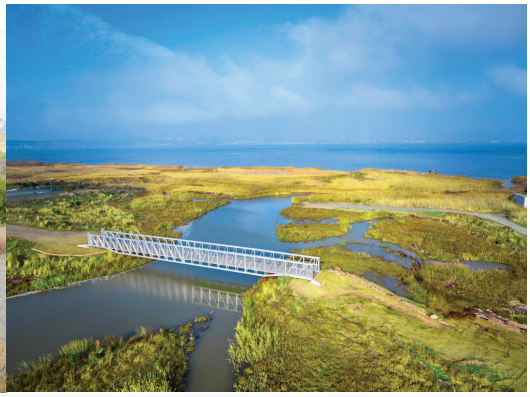
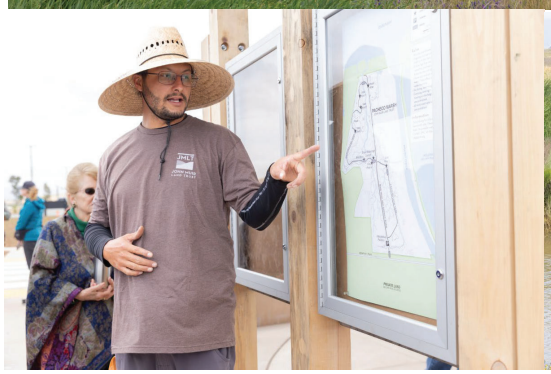
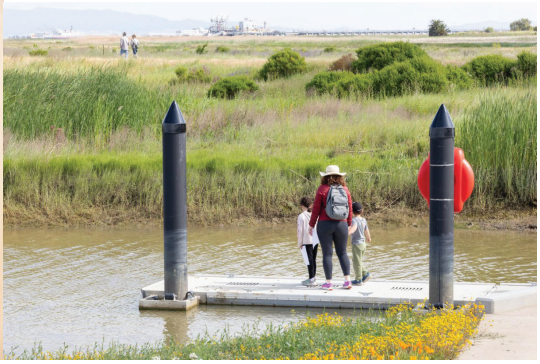
Organization Budget: 2023* Expenses and Reductions to Assets

Program Services

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

Supporting Services

Management and General	$ 432,536
Fundraising and Development	$ 705,648

*2023 is the most recent year with complete financial information available. More detailed information can be found at https://jmlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-JMLT-Financials.pdf

Contra Costa County
2026 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund
Application Cover Page

Office Use Only:

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Project title: Tracking Kestrel Re-Population on Mount Diablo, Year 2

Organization/Individual applying: Save Mount Diablo

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

Address: 201 N. Civic Drive, Suite 190, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Telephone: (925) 945-3535 Fax:

E-mail: kferriere@savemountdiablo.org

Name and title of contact person: Karen Ferriere, Development Director

One sentence summary of proposal: Save Mount Diablo seeks to continue and expand the kestrel re-population project it began with more cameras and nest boxes last year, in order to better evaluate methods for ultimate project success.

Requested grant: $5,680.24

Proposal prepared by (name & title): Marsha Mather-Thrift, Grant Writer/Consultant

☑ 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*):

Karen Ferriere

Signed on 7/28/25

Clear Form

CONTRA COSTA FISH AND WILDLIFE - PROPOSAL FROM SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Save Mount Diablo has protected more than 120,000 acres on Mount Diablo and it is now working to protect the entire 200-mile Diablo Range, stretching south to Kern County, to ensure protection of habitat and wildlife corridors. Corridors will be even more essential in the years to come, as climate change continues to adversely impact habitat. Save Mount Diablo is engaged in advocacy, advancing partnerships, accepting acquisitions in northern counties which can eventually become parks, and approaching ranchers to interest them in conservation easements.

The American Kestrel's population in coastal California has declined by 69% since the 1960's as well as elsewhere in California. Scientists aren't sure why, but there are multiple possible reasons, including loss of nesting habitat. To counter this, Save Mount Diablo has been working to expand American Kestrel populations on the mountain by providing nest boxes for shelter as well as boxes that enable fledging in appropriate habitat. Areas near grasslands are essential to American Kestrel prey hunting.

Save Mount Diablo has been tracking population growth, and working with Lindsay Wildlife Museum to release re-habilitated American Kestrels on the mountain. In 2025, Save Mount Diablo, with a grant from Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, initiated a program to expand nest box location and data gathering. In 2026, we propose to further expand the nest box area, in three new and/or expanded sites, to support more population expansion, to further evaluate overall nest box usage and best locations for boxes, and to also evaluate for possible impacts of avian influenza.

All of our nest boxes are strategically placed, since the birds often prefer to nest in cavities they find. Mount Diablo's Land Programs Director, Sean Burke, who has extensive experience with wildlife restoration, has worked with Eagle Scouts to build our 2025 nest boxes, and scouted locations that are in open habitat and high enough off the ground to keep the birds safe, away from predators. He also ensures eastward facing placement to warm faster from the sun. Six locations now exist at Mangini Ranch and Curry Canyon Ranch, owned by Save Mount Diablo. Mangini is also an important education center for youth and adults who learn about the impacts humans have on bird and wildlife populations.

Through our data gathering, we can now count 126 American Kestrels thriving and surviving over the four and a half years that we have been working to build the population. In 2023 alone, we observed 24 birds inhabiting the nest boxes placed at the time. In the most recent release, in late 2023, Save Mount Diablo, Lindsay Wildlife and Wilton Rancheria, along with raptor rehabilitation specialist Sherrill Cook, took part in a release for seven American Kestrel fledglings. (We have done no releases in the last year.) Originally, we monitored 7 nest boxes closely out of 37 we had installed and of those 7, each fledged 4-5 birds annually. Last year, in late 2024, we received funding from Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, and began installing 12 new boxes with 12 cameras. We have now gathered the memory cards from the installed boxes and begun to sift through the thousands of images captured, utilizing our interns. We hope to have more data soon from this year's nesting activity. We do know that 10 of 12 boxes were successful in 2024.

Over the years, our cameras have captured images of important moments for American Kestrels raised in these boxes, including parents bringing an assortment of food (once including a king snake) and their first flights as they take off from atop the boxes. Many of the rehabilitated American Kestrels released in Curry Canyon this year needed care in the first place because of a lack of safe nesting locations generally in the East Bay. Local American Kestrels have been known to nest in metal tubes, which overheat in the summer. Population decline is due to many factors, including habitat loss, increased forest management with worries about wildfires, and loss of suitable cavities in woody snags, although the problem is compounded by multiple complex factors including pesticide use, loss of insect populations, and predation from other species, particularly Cooper's hawks. At a minimum, American Kestrels need grasslands to hunt, and Mount Diablo has an abundance of unpolluted undisturbed grasslands on the properties where we have been placing nest boxes, and where we now propose to expand the nest box area. We include properties we own, as well as nearby parks, like Mount Diablo State Park and East Bay Regional Parks.

With a second year grant, and installation of an additional 12 NEW nest boxes in 2026 that we will build, along with cameras and the equipment needed for them, we plan to gather much more data in this second grant year, utilizing thousands of images from the cameras, parsed by interns, to record valuable data on population success, food variety, seasonal fluctuations such as late fledging, chick growth, nesting materials, possible signs of avian flu, and more.

HOW PROJECT MEETS REQUIREMENTS OF CA FISH AND GAME CODE 13103: The department has determined that this project falls under Sections (e), (i), and (m) – including 1) improvement of habitat, 2) scientific fish and wildlife research, and 3) other expenditures, approved by the department for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.

RECOGNITION: We propose to recognize the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee, using the preferred language, in articles about American Kestrel research and monitoring that will be posted in our blog, as well as in print newsletters, and in media releases.

PROJECT BUDGET: **SMD AMERICAN KESTREL POPULATION EXPANSION BUDGET – 2nd Year**

ITEM	COST	NUMBER	TOTAL	NOTES
PERSONNEL				
Research Interns x 2, probably from Cal State East Bay	$15/hr	120 hours each	$3,600.00	Review slides and record data for summary reports
Subtotal Personnel			**$3,600.00**	
EQUIPMENT				
Additional WIFI Bluetooth Trail Cameras for Curry Canyon, Schwendel Ranch, and Youngs Canyon	89.99	12 cameras	$1,079.88	Monitoring next boxes
Lithium batteries		TBD	$ 400.00	For cameras
SD Cards	15.03 ea	12 cards	$ 180.36	For cameras
Materials for nest boxes	$35/each	12 boxes	$ 420.00	
Subtotal Equipment			**$2,080.24**	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET			**$5,680.24**	

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION BUDGET: $4,554,610

ORGANIZATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIST: For 50 years, Save Mount Diablo has pursued its mission to defend, preserve and restore land for the public to enjoy. Our focus is on creating healthy watersheds and healthy communities of plant and animal species in the densely populated East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area. We have built a successful track record in conserving open space in three northern California counties, growing to more than 120,000 protected acres. We are also now mounting a major capital campaign to expand our work in the entire 200-mile Diablo Range (currently only 25% protected) in order to protect crucial open space through conservation easements, acquisition of key parcels, and turning acquired lands over to parks and open space agencies. Our work consists of hands-on scientific research, restoration, and the sound maintenance and stewardship required to protect ever-more impacted California resources. We manage this with staff and scores of volunteers. Education is equally important to maintain these lands into the future, and so we host field trips and work days with local schools, enlist college interns, and engage community members, companies, and groups from nearby cities to take part in education and restoration work.

Board of Directors: Keith Alley, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus, UC Merced (ret), Steve Balling, Ph.D., Entomologist, Del Monte Foods (ret.), Jim Felton, SMD President, Senior Biomedical Scientist (ret.), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, John Gallagher Veterinarian (ret.), Liz Harvey-Roberts, Chief Development Officer, The Nature Conservancy (California Chapter), Claudia Hein, MS Professor of Chemistry, Diablo Valley College (ret.), Scott Hein, Ph.D., Founding Principal, Diablo Analytical, Inc.,

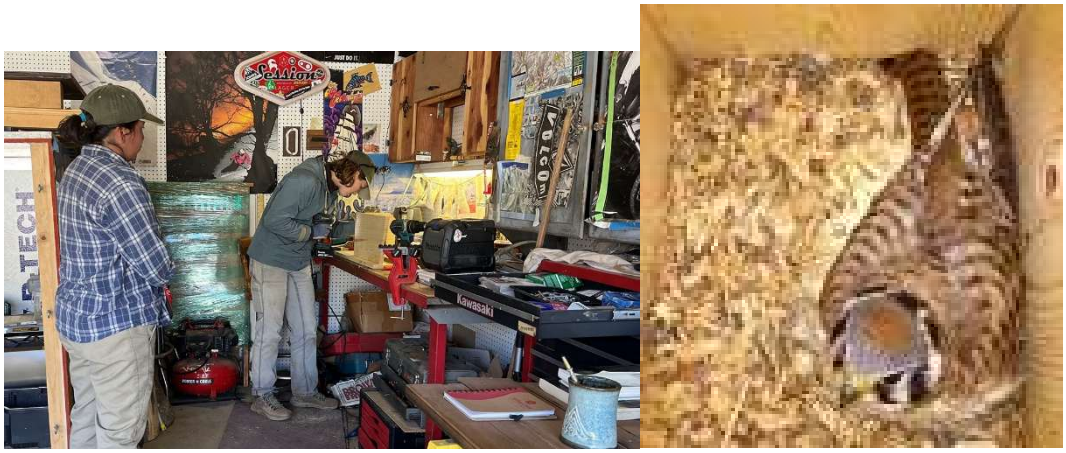
Giselle Jurkanin, J.D., SMD Vice President/Secretary Real Estate Development Attorney (ret), Shirley Langlois, Manager, Medical Economics and Statistics, Director of Competitive Intelligence (ret.), Bob Marx, Principle, Marx Associates, Inc. Owner, Summit Ranch Equine Center, LLC, Doug Matthew, MBA Transportation and Logistics (ret.), Amara Morrison, Attorney and General Counsel to various transportation organizations, Phil O'Loane, MHSA, Healthcare Executive, Former City Councilmembers, Robert Phelps, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History and Executive Director, California State University of the East Bay, Concord Campus (ret)., Malcolm Sproul, Ph.D., President Principle Biologist LSA Associates, Jeff Stone, J.D., Asset and Project Manager, Diamond Construction, Achilleus Tu, Educator, Pittsburgh School District. Jerome Holland, Vice President at Matson Logistics and overseeing strategic planning and business development, Maga Kisriev, Hood and Strong accountants for nonprofit clients including national and international private foundations, public charities, and associations.

ORGANIZATION: Save Mount Diablo partners with California and local Fish and Wildlife staff, as well as volunteer professional scientists, and it provides research grants to scientists and graduate students each year through its Mary Bowerman Science and Research program. We collaborate with graduate students at Cal State East Bay, where we teach a conservation class, and students from U.C. Berkeley.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT STAFF QUALIFICATIONS: Sean Burke - Land Programs Director. Sean spent 8 years as Park Ranger for the East Bay Regional Park District, focused on large infrastructure projects, and natural, cultural, and rangeland resource management, including rare plant and animal species rehabilitation. As a member of the Cherokee Tribe, Sean has an extremely strong stewardship connection to our wild lands and to the importance of communities in balance with nature. B.S. from the UC Santa Cruz.

Stewardship Manager Roxana Lucero – Roxana manages programmatic elements, events, outreach, and fieldwork. She also maintains the mapping program for SMD. She earned her B.S. from San Francisco State in environmental studies, natural resource management and conservation. She has worked with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Nature in the City, gaining more experience before joining SMD's staff.

STATUS OF PERMIT APPROVALS – No permits are needed for this project.



Volunteers building nest boxes and a kestrel enjoying one