

Department of Conservation and Development

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Contra Costa County



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May 23, 2025

Dear Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Applicants:

The Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee is pleased to announce that completed funding applications are now being accepted for consideration for the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (Fund). All application materials and guidelines are attached. **Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 1, 2025 (a postmark of August 1, 2025, does not satisfy the submission deadline).** Proposals may be emailed or mailed. Any applications that are received after the due date or without a signature will not be considered. Staff will acknowledge receipt of each grant application. If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt contact Maureen Parkes at 925-655-2909 prior to the deadline. The recommendations of the Fish and Wildlife Committee will be forwarded to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, which maintains final decision-making authority for expenditures from the Fund.

The Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund is entirely supported by fine revenues resulting from violations of the Fish and Game Code and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations in Contra Costa County (County). **Projects awarded from the Fund must benefit the fish and wildlife resources of the County and must meet the requirements of Section 13103 of the Fish and Game Code (attached). If your project is eligible under Section 13103 (d), (h), (i), or (m) please send a copy of your draft proposal to Maureen Parkes at maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us by June 27, 2025. Maureen Parkes will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to confirm the project's eligibility to receive funds. See Instructions for more details.** All applications that satisfy the requirements listed in the funding application instructions will be considered.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee strongly encourages applications related to:

- improving habitat
- scientific research
- public education
- threatened and endangered species
- resolving human/wildlife interaction issues

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

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

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

The Committee expects to recommend awards to several applicants. However, it is possible that a particularly excellent proposal will be recommended to receive a large portion of the total available funds. Generally, the Committee will only recommend one project per organization. During the 2025 grant cycle a total of \$80,910.50 was awarded to 12 projects. The awards ranged from \$582 to \$19,449.66. Available funds vary from year to year and the Fish and Wildlife Committee cannot commit to multi-year or recurring funding. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision on the grant awards and successful applicants may anticipate receiving notification by January 2026. Project expenditures eligible for reimbursement must be made subsequent to Board of Supervisors approval of grant funding.

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

***Exception For Non-Profit Organizations That Can Demonstrate Financial Hardship:** Private, non-profit entities that can demonstrate that providing Fish and Wildlife Propagation grant funding on a cost reimbursement basis will create a financial hardship and be detrimental to the operation of the program will be eligible to receive up to ½ of the grant amount after the grant is awarded. The remaining amount of the grant will be disbursed after the entity has submitted information including invoices and receipts documenting how the initial disbursement was spent. Within a year of initial notification of the grant funding award (January 2027), or within one month of project completion, whichever comes sooner, the entity will be required to submit information including invoices and receipts documenting how the second disbursement was spent, and provide a final project report documenting the results of the project.

***Exception For Small Projects Under \$1,000:** Grant funding may be disbursed to private, non-profit entities prior to the beginning of the project if the award is under \$1,000 and the entity has provided documentation that the project could only be initiated with advance funding. Within a year of grant funding, or within one month of project completion, whichever comes sooner, recipients must submit a final project report which includes invoices and receipts documenting how funds were spent and the results of the project.

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

Sincerely,

Maureen Parkes
Fish and Wildlife Committee Staff

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

If your proposal is eligible under Section 13103 (d), (h), (i)*, or (m), a copy of your draft proposal must be sent to the attention of Maureen Parkes at maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us or at the address listed on Page 2 and received by **June 27, 2025**. Staff will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to confirm the project's eligibility to receive funds.

*If your project is eligible under Section 13103 (i), and a scientific collection permit is required and issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, this will indicate that the project is eligible to receive Fish and Wildlife Propagation funds. Please send the scientific collection permit along with your grant application by the August 1, 2025 - 5:00 P.M. grant submission deadline. Scientific collection permits are not included in the grant application page limit.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee wishes to be acknowledged for its financial support of the project. FWC or staff review may be required prior to printing any written materials that receive funding. Please refer to the guidelines listed below:

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

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

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

- 3) Project schedule - The project must be completed within a year from the date you receive notification of funding (by January 2026).
- 4) Project budget (itemized). The Fish and Wildlife Committee generally does not recommend funding for operating costs and overhead. Examples for these include staff salaries, health insurance, and operation costs such as electricity to run an office. If an hourly rate is listed, overhead costs need to be itemized separately. The Committee generally recommends funding material expenses (e.g. purchase of equipment and materials).
- 5) Annual budget for the applying organization (not itemized).
- 6) Statement describing the applying organization, listing the Board of Directors and officers of the organization, and listing all affiliated organizations.
- 7) Statement describing the qualifications of the sponsoring organization and participating individuals for completing the project.
- 8) List of individuals responsible for performing project and of individuals responsible for overseeing project.
- 9) Statement describing the status of permit approvals necessary to perform project (if applicable).
- 10) Request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship or an exception for a small project under \$1,000. (This request does not count toward your page limit and is only required if requesting an exception.)

Format:

- Your proposal packet, including cover sheet and any attachments must not exceed four single-sided pages or two double-sided pages, 8.5 by 11 inches in size. Electronic submittals are preferred. Please use 11 point font or larger and ½ inch margins or larger on your pages. *If you submit more than 3 pages plus required cover sheet, your proposal may be disqualified without review.*
- If your project is eligible under Section 13103 (d), (h), (i), or (m) a copy of your draft proposal must be sent to the attention of Maureen Parkes at maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us and received by **June 27, 2025**. (See exception for Section 13103 (i) on Page 1.)
- Do not attach an additional cover letter, brochures, posters, publications, CDs, DVDs, large maps or yellow-sticky paper (e.g. Post-It™).
- Your complete application packet including signature must **arrive by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 1, 2025 (Pacific Daylight Time)** to be considered for funding. (Please note: A postmark of August 1, 2025 does not satisfy the submission deadline. If submitted after the deadline, your proposal will be disqualified).*

Your complete application should be:

Emailed: maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us

or

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

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

Final Checklist Before You Submit Your Proposal:

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

- Signed Cover page (your proposal will be disqualified if it does not have your original signature on the cover page).
- 3 pages or less on your project description (any extra attachments such as a map and an organization budget will be counted as one of the three page limit.)
- If your project qualifies under Section 13013 (i) and you have been issued a scientific collection permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife please include it. (This is not a part of the page limit listed above.)
- Request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship or an exception for a small project under \$1,000. (This is not a part of the page limit listed above and is only required if requesting an exception).

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

California Fish and Game Code Section 13103.

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

- (a) Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.
- (b) Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.
- (c) Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence.
- (d) Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing fish or wildlife which are to be released upon approval of the department pursuant to Sections 6400 and 6401 onto land or into waters of local, state, or federal agencies or onto land or into waters open to the public.
- (e) Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.
- (f) Construction, maintenance, and operation of public hatchery facilities.
- (g) Purchase and maintain materials, supplies, or equipment for either the department's ownership and use or the department's use in the normal performance of the department's responsibilities.
- (h) Predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife following certification in writing by the department that the proposed actions will significantly benefit a particular wildlife species.
- (i) Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department. ★
- (j) Reasonable administrative costs, excluding the costs of audits required by Section 13104, for secretarial service, travel, and postage by the county fish and wildlife commission when authorized by the county board of supervisors. For purposes of this subdivision, "reasonable cost" means an amount which does not exceed 3 percent of the average amount received by the fund during the previous three-year period, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000) annually, whichever is greater, excluding any funds carried over from a previous fiscal year.
- (k) Contributions to a secret witness program for the purpose of facilitating enforcement of this code and regulations adopted pursuant to this code.
- (l) Costs incurred by the district attorney or city attorney in investigating and prosecuting civil and criminal actions for violations of this code, as approved by the department.
- (m) Costs incurred by a county counsel in investigating and prosecuting an action for civil penalties, injunctive relief, or civil penalties and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 5650.1 resulting from unlicensed cannabis cultivation.
- (n) Other expenditures, approved by the department, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.

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

California Fish and Game Code Section 711.2. (a)

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

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

Office Use Only:

Project title:

Organization/Individual applying:

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

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Name and title of contact person:

One sentence summary of proposal:

Requested grant:

Proposal prepared by (name & title):

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

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

Signed on _____

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
A	Boise State University	school	Assessing the demography of a threatened Golden Eagle population in California	(i) scientific research *CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i)	Countywide	\$4,245.00	\$4,245.00	This is a request for funds for a project that uses non-invasive genetic sampling of molted feathers to estimate survival and population size of golden eagles in the Altamont Pass Wind Area of California. Grant funds will be used for Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit, envelopes, razor blades, pipette tips and indirect costs. <u>Project Schedule:</u> 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.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (i) scientific research. The study will provide valuable data on golden eagle demography within the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) and assess how wind turbines may affect these populations. The findings will directly benefit Contra Costa County by supporting informed management decisions that enhance the conservation of golden eagles within the region. Improved management practices may also benefit other wildlife including other raptors and bird species that experience similar disturbances from wind turbines. Full funding is recommended for laboratory supplies, including Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kits, envelopes, razor blades, pipette tips, and indirect costs.
B	CA State Parks - Diablo Range District	government	Developing a Grazing Management Framework at Marsh Creek SP	(e) habitat improvement (i) scientific research *CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (e) and (i)	East County	\$25,800.00	\$0.00	This is a request for funds to assess current grazing practices, infrastructure, and vegetation conditions to develop a conservation-oriented framework for a grazing management plan at Marsh Creek State Park. Grant funds will be used for a consultant, contract administration and project implementation. <u>Project Schedule:</u> A start date was not provided. Estimated duration of project is one year.	Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the request was for funding to pay a consultant, contract administration, and project implementation, and the Committee prefers to fund material expenses.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
C	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	government	Tracking Western Pond Turtle Upland Traversal with GPS Loggers	(i) scientific research *CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (i)	East County	\$19,196.00	\$19,196.00	This is a request for funds to track Western Pond Turtle upland habitat traversal and dispersal to inform habitat management strategies. Grant funds will be used to purchase GPS trackers, trap nets, miscellaneous monitoring equipment and full chest waders. <u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - September 2026	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(i) scientific research. The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) seeks to build capacity and join the Western Pond Turtle Research Collaborative, a regional group of researchers from multiple organizations studying Western Pond Turtles to develop management considerations for their upland and aquatic habitats across Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The project will track upland habitat movement and dispersal of Western Pond Turtles in Contra Costa County. Full funding is recommended for GPS trackers, trap nets, miscellaneous monitoring equipment, and full chest waders.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
D	Lindsay Wildlife Experience	non-profit	Wildlife Intensive Care Unit	(b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.	Countywide	\$24,390.00	\$24,390.00	This is a request for funds to purchase an intensive care unit to supply regulated oxygen and heat therapy for injured and debilitated wildlife. <u>Project Schedule::</u> The project can begin upon receipt of funding notice and be completed within 30 days of order placement.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(b) temporary emergency treatment of injured and orphaned wildlife. The intensive care unit will provide needed therapy for injured wildlife brought to the hospital and increase their odds for recovery. Full funding is recommended for the purchase of the intensive care unit.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
E	California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)	non-profit	Training a new workforce to improve riparian habitat in Contra Costa County	(a) education (e) habitat improvement	Central County	\$16,606.00	\$0.00	This is a request for funds to train Pittsburg Civicorps crews on Arundo donax’s impacts, removal techniques, and best management practices (BMPs) for controlling invasive plants, in order to build local capacity to address this invasive species within the Alhambra Creek Watershed. Grant funds will cover wages for the science program manager (oversight, field training), conservation specialist (curriculum development, partner meetings, coordinating and planning, classroom and field training delivery), grants & contracts manager (invoicing, contracting, social media), and Civicorps crews (classroom and field training for up to ten Corpsmembers and one supervisor), as well as travel mileage (one round trip to Civicorps Pittsburg for classroom training and two round trips to Martinez for field days). <u>Project Schedule:</u> February 2026 - December 2026	Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the request was for funding to cover staff wages, training, and travel expenses, and the Committee prefers to fund material expenses.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
F	Cal State East Bay, Concord Center	school	Establishing Pollinator Habitat at Cal State East Bay Concord Center	(e) habitat improvement	Central County	\$7,456.92	\$7,456.92	This is a request for funds to establish native plant hedgerows and patches to provide pollinator habitat on approximately three acres within a large meadow at the entrance to the Cal State East Bay Concord Center. Grant funds will be used to purchase native plants, colored flags, hoes, a utility cart, two root slayers, and signage. <u>Proposed Schedule:</u> Project will start in early 2026. An end date was not provided.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The project will establish native plant hedgerows and patches across approximately three acres at the Cal State East Bay Concord Center to provide pollinator habitat. 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. Full funding is recommended for native plants, colored flags, hoes, a utility cart, two root slayers, and signage.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
G	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	government	Marsh Creek Steelhead Trout Spawning and Breeding Habitat Enhancement	(e) habitat improvement	East County	\$19,622.00	\$0.00	This is a request for funds by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, in partnership with the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, to restore Steelhead trout spawning habitat in Marsh Creek through gravel addition, volunteer engagement, redd monitoring, and fostering long-term community stewardship via education and signage. Grant funds will be used to purchase gravel, rubber boots, work gloves, 5-gallon buckets, rakes, bobcat rental, gravel delivery, streambed alteration permit, waste discharge permit, and a biological monitor contractor. <u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - February 2027	Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the applicant did not provide enough detail or planning to fully support project implementation. The Committee encourages them to consider providing additional details in a future grant application, such as more information on project locations, permits, technical planning, and site conditions, to help clarify and strengthen their proposal.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
H	International Bird Rescue	non-profit	Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Contra Costa County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife	(a) public education (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife. (c) temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence. (i) scientific research * CDFW confirmed in 2023 that IBR projects are additionally eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (c) and (i)	Countywide	\$20,719.92	\$20,719.92	This is a request for funds to replace obsolete and inoperable equipment and materials essential for rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife in Contra Costa, including herons, egrets, and “Birds of Conservation Concern” such as California Gull, Western Gull, Western Grebe, and Brandt’s Cormorant in the Coastal California Bird Conservation Region. Grant funds will be used to purchase the following items: Bovie MI-750 LED Surgical Light; Bovie MI-550 Exam Station Lights; Raypak 106 105,000 BTU Propane Gas Warm Water Pool Heater; Disinfectant Station; OSHA-compliant Fortress Aluminum 4-Riser Stair Systems; Brinsea TLC-50 Advance Series II ICU/Recovery Incubators; Vitamix Commercial-grade Blenders with Trian Containers; Welch Allyn Veterinary 3.5V Ophthalmoscope; and a Frigidaire 28” Freezer Refrigerator. <u>Project Schedule:</u> This project can begin within 30 days of grant approval, and be completed within nine months.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education, (b) temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife, and (c) temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence, and (i) scientific research. This project will enhance the welfare of injured and orphaned aquatic birds in Contra Costa County by providing rehabilitation for them and will promote biodiversity by returning rehabilitated birds to their natural habitats. Full funding is recommended for a Bovie MI-750 LED Surgical Light; two Bovie MI-550 Exam Station Lights; Raypak 106 105,000 BTU Propane Gas Warm Water Pool Heater; Disinfectant Station; two OSHA-compliant Fortress Aluminum 4-Riser Stair Systems; two Brinsea TLC-50 Advance Series II ICU/Recovery Incubators; two Vitamix Commercial-grade Blenders with Trian Containers; Welch Allyn Veterinary 3.5V Ophthalmoscope; and a Frigidaire 28” Freezer Refrigerator.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
I	John Muir Land Trust	non-profit	Pacheco Marsh Outdoor Education	(a) public education	Central County	\$14,636.00	\$7,886.00	This is a request for funds 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. Grant funds will be used for bus transportation, binoculars, spotting scope, miscellaneous supplies, and a stewardship manager. <u>Project Schedule:</u> Planning: Winter - Spring 2026 Programming: Spring - Summer 2026	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education. The project fosters environmental awareness and stewardship among youth and provides meaningful outdoor learning experiences for local students, helping them understand wetland ecology, native species, and habitat restoration at Pacheco Marsh. Partial funding is recommended and may only be used for bus transportation, binoculars, a spotting scope, and miscellaneous supplies, and may not be used to fund a stewardship manager.
J	Save Mount Diablo	non-profit	Tracking Kestrel Re-Population on Mount Diablo, Year 2	(e) habitat improvement (i) scientific research (n) other expenditures, approved by the department **CDFW confirmed in 2025 that this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Sections 13103 (e), (i) and (n).	Countywide	\$5,680.24	\$5,680.24	This is a request for funds to continue the project that began in 2025 with a grant from the CCC Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to expand nest box location and data gathering for kestrels. In 2026, SMD proposes 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. Grant funds will be used for two research interns, additional WiFi bluetooth trail cameras for Curry Canyon, Schwendel Ranch and Youngs Canyon, lithium batteries, SD cards and materials for nest boxes. <u>Project Schedule:</u> A schedule was not provided.	This project meets the requirements of Sections 13103(e) habitat improvement, (i) scientific research and (n) other expenditures, approved by the department. Building on prior success, the project will expand nest box installation and data collection to support kestrel population recovery and evaluate potential impacts of avian influenza. Full funding is recommended for two research interns, additional WiFi Bluetooth trail cameras for Curry Canyon, Schwendel Ranch and Youngs Canyon, lithium batteries, SD cards, and materials for nest boxes.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
K	KIDS for the BAY	non-profit	Watershed Action Program	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	West County 66% East County 34 %	\$8,400.00	\$8,400.00	This is a request for funds to support their Watershed Action Program to engage eight elementary school classes, including 200 students, their teachers and families, in under resourced schools in Contra Costa County, in hands-on watershed education and stewardship. Grant funds will be used for field trip bus transportation. <u>Project Schedule:</u> Funds will be used during the 2025–2026 school year and spent by May 2026.	The project meets the requirements of Section 13103 (a) public education and (e) habitat improvement. Students will discover wildlife in unique aquatic environments, explore and investigate like scientists, and make personal connections with nature. Students will learn about their local watershed and wildlife through hands-on activities that encourage curiosity, environmental awareness, and responsible actions in their daily lives. Full funding is recommended for field trip bus transportation.

Grant Applications and Fish and Wildlife Committee Recommendations 2026

	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
L	Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee The Watershed Project	non-profit	Mira Vista Field Restoration Project	(e) habitat improvement	West County	\$12,740.00	\$11,960.00	This is a request for funds from the Mira Vista Field Stewardship Committee, in partnership with The Watershed Project, to restore Mira Vista Field, an 8-acre site in urban West County, to native serpentine grassland. Grant funds will be used for restoration tools, updated plans, and public outreach to enhance ongoing efforts and provide nature study opportunities for local students. Items to be purchased include hand tools, string trimmers, mowers, stakes, flagging, exclusion fencing, “habitat restoration area” signs, bobcat rental, refurbishing a bulletin board, installing entrance signage, website hosting, printing postcard handouts and an updated restoration guide, as well as food and beverages for a public outreach and volunteer appreciation event. <u>Project Schedule:</u> The project would be completed within one year of grant approval.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The project will restore neighborhood serpentine grassland open space, including localized seeps and springs, protect native plant species and wildlife, and improve wildfire resilience in an area adjoining a high-risk zone. The project provides educational opportunities for schoolchildren, educates the public about the importance of wildland spaces within urbanized areas, and promotes community connections and involvement. Partial funding is recommended as outlined in their expanded budget, provided on August 21, 2025, which includes hand tools, string trimmers, mowers, stakes, flagging, exclusion fencing, “habitat restoration area” signs, bobcat rental, refurbishing a bulletin board, installing entrance signage, website hosting, printing postcard handouts, an updated restoration guide, and food and beverages for a public outreach and volunteer appreciation event; and may not be used for sign design.

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
M	Marine Science Institute	non-profit	2026 Delta Discovery Voyage Program	(a) public education	Central County 48% East County 52%	\$5,096.00	\$0.00	This is a request for funds to support the 2026 Delta Discovery Voyage program, which provides hands-on, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) - aligned science education to approximately 3,700 Contra Costa County 5th graders aboard MSI's research vessel. The program fosters student understanding of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta ecosystem, promotes environmental stewardship, and supports local teachers with curriculum and resources. Grant funds will be used for supplies (buckets, fish keys, vinyl posters, otter trawl net, hand nets, net plankton, and vials), vessel and vehicle fuel, and marina fees. <u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - May 2026 **MSI requests that if the final approval of this grant takes place in 2026, that they may be reimbursed retroactively to allow them to purchase supplies in December, before the voyages begin in January.	Although a valuable project, the Committee does not recommend funding because the grant applicant has already received multiple grants to support the operation of this program. The Committee prefers not to provide funding for ongoing program expenses in order to avoid creating dependence on grant funds.

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
N	Mt. View Sanitary District	government	Moorhen Marsh & the MVSD Wetlands Education Program	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	Central County	\$53,769.00	\$9,461.00	This is a request for funds for a water circulation improvement project in Moorhen Marsh and a wetlands educational program. Grant funds will be used for wetlands student booklets, animal specimens (otter, beaver, mallard, muskrat), field trip supplies (dip nets, water quality testing, etc.), stainless steel LTC fine bubble aeration discs with compressors, solar generator and power station, and aeration supplies (tubing, cables, etc.) <u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - December 2026	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education and Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The Wetlands Education Program provides hands-on experiences for Contra Costa County elementary students, including exploring Moorhen Marsh, dip-netting aquatic animals, touring MVSD’s treatment plant to learn about water treatment and pollution prevention, observing wildlife, and studying ethically sourced animal specimens. Partial funding is recommended for wetlands student booklets, animal specimens (otter, beaver, mallard, muskrat), and field trip supplies such as dip nets and water quality testing equipment; and may not be used for the water circulation improvement project, including stainless steel LTC fine bubble aeration discs with compressors, the solar generator and power station, or aeration supplies (tubing, cables, etc.).

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
O	The Watershed Project	non-profit	Steelhead Trout Protection Research Project	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	West County	\$13,405.00	\$12,205.00	This is a request for funds from The Watershed Project (TWP). They will partner with the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU), who also submitted an application (see below) on a 2026 Fish Barrier Assessment in Wildcat Creek, identifying barriers that limit trout migration and steelhead access to lower watershed habitat. TWP will lead work in the lower watershed, monitoring water temperature and connectivity, conducting trash cleanups, and providing public education. Grant funds for this application will support fish barrier assessment, lab fees, water connectivity, WQ monitoring, trash cleanup items, trash monitoring items, public education materials, safety items, accounting services, and liability insurance. <u>Project Schedule:</u> February 2026 - January 2027	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education and Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The project led by The Watershed Project in partnership with the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited will monitor water temperature and connectivity, assess fish barriers, conduct trash cleanups, and provide public education in the lower watershed of Wildcat Creek. Partial funding is recommended for fish barrier assessment, lab fees, water connectivity monitoring, water quality monitoring, trash cleanup and monitoring items, public education materials, and safety items, as listed in the grant application and supplemented with the additional itemized breakdown of water connectivity and WQ monitoring provided on August 29, 2025; and may not be used for accounting services or liability insurance.

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
P	John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited	non-profit	Upper Wildcat Creek Habitat and Fish Passage Barrier Study	(e) habitat improvement	West County	\$5,755.00	\$5,755.00	This is a request for funds from the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited (JMTU). They will partner with The Watershed Project (TWP), who also submitted an application (see above) on a 2026 Fish Barrier Assessment in Wildcat Creek, identifying barriers that limit trout migration and steelhead access to upper watershed habitat. JMTU will lead work in the upper watershed, conducting fish passage evaluations and monitoring water temperature and dissolved oxygen, while collaborating with TWP to standardize methods, equipment, training, and data documentation. Grant funds will support barrier assessment work and water quality monitoring in the upper watershed and will be used to purchase Onset DO Sensor Caps, Onset DO Sensor Batteries, a Spherical Crown Densiometer, a laser level, a staff gauge, and measuring tapes. <u>Project Schedule:</u> March/April 2026 - December 2026 **The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(e) habitat improvement. The project, led by the John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited in partnership with The Watershed Project, will provide direct benefits to anadromous fish species by improving understanding of spawning and rearing conditions and identifying necessary interventions to support fish passage improvements. Short-term benefits include restoring the range of the upper Wildcat resident trout population, while longer-term benefits aim to restore historic steelhead runs. Full funding is recommended for Onset DO Sensor Caps, Onset DO Sensor Batteries, a Spherical Crown Densiometer, a laser level, a staff gauge, and measuring tapes. The Committee also recommends approval of the applicant's request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship.

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
Q	Wildcat Canyon Community School	school	Habitat Restoration and Ecological Education for Future Generations	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	West County	\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00	This is a request for funds to continue restoring native habitat on their 91-acre campus and expand a native ecosystem teaching garden. Building on 2023 restoration work funded by a previous Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant, this project will add resilient native trees and wildflowers, protected from gophers and deer. Students from preschool to 8th grade will engage in hands-on restoration and outdoor learning. Grant funds will be used for native trees, native wildflower seeds, gopher cages, welded wire fencing, t-posts and plant labeling materials. <u>Project Schedule:</u> January 2026 - December 2026 **The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education and (e) habitat improvement. The project will continue the restoration of native wildlife habitat on the 91-acre Wildcat Canyon Community School campus, which borders Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and supports diverse wildlife including deer, coyotes, rabbits, and hawks. The project will engage students and community volunteers in restoring disturbed hillsides and creating a native ecosystem teaching garden, fostering environmental stewardship and understanding of the benefits of native plants. Full funding is recommended for native trees, native wildflower seeds, gopher cages, welded wire fencing, t-posts, and plant labeling materials. The Committee also recommends approval of the applicant's request for an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship.

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
R	Worth a Dam	non-profit	The Water Guardians/Aqua Squad	(a) public education	Central County	\$895.00	\$895.00	This is a request for funds to support an educational activity that teaches children about the critical role beavers play in maintaining healthy waterways. Through interactive exhibits, children learn how beaver dams improve water quality, reduce erosion, and recharge groundwater. Participants collect stickers at four stations to earn a beaver-themed necklace and complete a quiz to reinforce learning. The program includes a large chalk mural illustrating beaver benefits, created by a local artist. Grant funds will be used for materials to support the activity and artist supplies which include water attributes cards, small sticker books, location map festival brochures, attribute graphics, mini glass bottles w/eye and cork, beaver charms, cotton waxed cord and chalk pastels. <u>Project Schedule:</u> The event date is to be determined.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education. The activity teaches children about the vital role of beavers in maintaining healthy waterways. Through interactive exhibits, participants learn how beaver dams improve water quality, reduce erosion, and recharge groundwater showing the importance of species that instinctively protect this critical resource. The project encourages environmental awareness and stewardship in a creative, hands-on way. Full funding is recommended for materials and artist supplies, including water attribute cards, small sticker books, location map festival brochures, attribute graphics, mini glass bottles with eye and cork, beaver charms, cotton waxed cord, and chalk pastels.

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
S	Sierra Club Delta Group of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter	non-profit	Marsh Creek Stewards: Education, Engagement, and Habitat Action	(a) public education (d) Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing fish (n) other expenditures, approved by the department * *CDFW has confirmed this project is eligible to receive funds under FGC Section 13103 (a), (d) and (n)	East County	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	This is a request for funds for a locally focused pilot project to improve native Chinook salmon survival and success in Marsh Creek through habitat restoration, classroom salmon-rearing programs, educational signage, and volunteer creek monitoring. Grant funds will be used for aquarium kits, signage, cleanup gear, youth waders, printed materials, engagement tools, and interns. <u>Project Schedule:</u> Project will begin upon funding approval. Full completion by January 2027. **The applicant requests an exception to the grant funding cost reimbursement requirement due to financial hardship. Please refer to the grant application for the applicant's statement of financial hardship. This application was received approximately one hour after the deadline due to laptop issues.	The application was withdrawn.

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	Organization	Type of Org	Project Title	Type of Project	Location of Project	Requested Funding Amount	Recommended Funding Amount	Staff Summary of Request	FWC Rationale for Recommendation
T	Earth Team	non-profit	Water Quality Monitoring in Contra Costa Watersheds	(a) public education (e) habitat improvement	East County 50% West County 50%	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	This is a request for funds to acquire dedicated water quality monitoring equipment to support Earth Teams' ongoing high school internship programs across multiple Contra Costa County watersheds. 56 paid interns at Antioch, Pittsburg, Richmond, and Pinole high schools will conduct water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate surveys, invasive species removal, and native plant restoration at sites in 2025-26. Grant funds will be used to purchase water quality equipment and supplies including: YSI EcoSense meters, Vernier Go Direct sensors, calibration solutions, backup probes and cases. <u>Project Schedule:</u> September 2025 - May 2026 This application was originally received prior to the deadline. The applicant explained that formatting and PDF conversion issues caused the application to exceed the page limit, so they resubmitted a revised version the following business day to comply with requirements.	This project meets the requirements of Section 13103(a) public education and (e) habitat improvement. The project will engage high school interns in hands-on research, data collection, and native vegetation work at sites across multiple Contra Costa County watersheds. Acquiring dedicated equipment will support fieldwork and reduce logistical challenges. Full funding is recommended to purchase water quality equipment and supplies, including YSI EcoSense handheld meters, Vernier Go Direct sensors, calibration solutions, backup probes, and cases, as further detailed in their supplemental Spending Plan provided on September 8, 2025.
					Total	\$281,662.08	\$148,500.08		
		Total Available Funds as of August 13, 2025				\$579,995.18			
					Remainder	\$298,333.10	\$431,495.10		

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Subtotals By Region	Requested Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Requested	Recommended Funding Amount	Percentage of Total Amount Recommended for Approval
East	\$85,623.92	30.40%	\$27,052.00	18.22%
West	\$45,194.00	16.05%	\$40,714.00	27.42%
Central	\$95,809.00	34.02%	\$25,698.92	17.31%
Countywide	\$55,035.16	19.54%	\$55,035.16	37.06%
TOTAL	\$281,662.08	100.00%	\$148,500.08	100.00%