



Agenda Date: 10/24/2006
Agenda Placement: 6E

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: Carly Aubrey, Planner III, 265-2325
SUBJECT: Wildlife Conservation Commission Budget Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning requests consideration and approval of the following six (6) grant proposals, as recommended by the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission:

1. \$1,967 for the California Department of Fish and Game for a deer decoy;
2. \$500 for the California Department of Fish and Game Volunteer Hunter Education Program for computer equipment;
3. \$2,700 for the California Native Plant Society for duck pond improvements and vegetation removal for fire protection in Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden in Skyline Park;
4. \$1,966 for the Land Trust of Napa County for exotic plant removal in Archer Taylor and Foote Botanical Preserves;
5. \$2,000 for McCormick Sanctuary, Inc.; dba Acorn Soupe, for their wildlife education program; and
6. \$2,868 for the Napa County Resource Conservation District for watershed videography equipment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At their October 2, 2006 meeting, the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission reviewed grant proposals from organizations requesting funding from the Commission budget and unanimously approved six grant proposals for a total amount of \$12,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Wildlife Conservation - 100%

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Grant funds for projects that enhance wildlife conservation are disbursed from a specific fund intended for that purpose.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	None.
Consequences if not approved:	Wildlife Conservation projects will not be undertaken.
Additional Information:	None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposals from the Department of Fish and Game, Acorn Soupe and Napa County Resource Conservation District are not projects as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

The proposals from the California Native Plant Society for enhancements to the Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden and the Land Trust exotic plant removal are categorically exempt from the CEQA Guidelines pursuant to Section 15333 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects).

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission (WCC) receives funds from California Department of Fish and Game fines earmarked for projects that aid in the preservation, propagation and protection of birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. The requested grants would provide for the following projects:

1. Request from California Department of Fish and Game for a deer decoy used to aid in the arrest of poachers (Recommended grant amount: \$1,966.19).
2. Request from Volunteer Hunter Education Program(California Department of Fish & Game) for computer equipment for use in hunter education programs (Recommended grant amount: \$500).
3. Request from California Native Plant Society - Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden for duck pond improvements and vegetation removal for fire protection (Recommended grant amount: \$2,700).
4. Request from Land Trust of Napa County for exotic plant removal in Archer Taylor and Foote Botanical Preserves (Recommended grant amount: \$1,965.75).
5. Request from McCormick Sanctuary, Inc.; dba Acorn Soupe, for their Wildlife Education Program that educates local youth on wildlife and their habitats and engages students in hands-on stewardship activities. (Recommended grant amount: \$2,000).
6. Request from Napa County Resource Conservation District for watershed videography equipment to incorporate video, including underwater video, into their educational programs, make available for viewing on websites and local cable channels and share with Napa County teachers, local agencies and organizations involved in watershed education efforts. (Recommended grant amount: \$2,868.06.)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey