



Agenda Date: 11/1/2005  
Agenda Placement: 6H

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning requests the following actions as recommended by the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission:

1. Consideration and approval of the following seven (7) grant proposals:
  - a. \$7,107 for the California Department of Fish and Game for a 40HP Honda 4-stroke outboard boat motor;
  - b. \$700 for the California Native Plant Society - Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden for three birdbaths, soil amendments and plant purchases;
  - c. \$850 for the Carolyn Parr Nature Center for stereomicroscope station;
  - d. \$1,500 for the Land Trust of Napa County for exotic plant removal in Archer Taylor Preserve and pond spillway repair in Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary;
  - e. \$2,000 for McCormick Sanctuary, Inc.; dba Acorn Soupe for their wildlife education program;
  - f. \$2,000 for Napa County Resource Conservation District for salmon monitoring in the Napa River; and
  - g. \$2,000 for the Wildlife Rescue Center of Napa County for a microscope kit, facility improvements and jackrabbit run.
2. Approval of Budget Transfer No. 17 transferring \$4,157 within the Wildlife Conservation Commission budget. (4/5 vote required)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At their August 22, 2005 meeting, the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission reviewed grant proposals from organizations requesting funding from the Wildlife Conservation Commission budget. The Commission unanimously approved seven grant proposals for a total amount of \$16,157.05.

**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. The budget transfer of \$4,157.05 will provide sufficient appropriation authority for the recommended grants by transferring available funding set aside for land acquisitions, which are not anticipated at this time, to the Special Department Expense appropriation line.
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, Carolyn Parr Nature Center, Acorn Soupe and the 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 Wildlife Rescue Center of Napa County for facility improvements are categorically exempt from the CEQA Guidelines pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities).

The Land Trust exotic plant removal and pond spillway proposals 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 the California Department of Fish and Game for a 40HP Honda 4-stroke outboard boat motor for boat patrols. (Recommended grant amount: \$7,107.05).
2. Request from the California Native Plant Society - Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden for three birdbaths, soil amendments and native plant purchases. (Recommended grant amount: \$700).
3. Request from the Carolyn Parr Nature Center for a stereomicroscope station for visitors to get in-depth views of Napa County's native flora and fauna. (Recommended grant amount: \$850).
4. Request from the Land Trust of Napa County to assist in the removal of exotic plants in the Archer Taylor Preserve and pond spillway repair in the Wantrup Wilderness Sanctuary. (Recommended grant amount:

\$500 for Archer Taylor, \$1,000 for Wantrup Wilderness).

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 salmon monitoring in the Napa River to identify population trends and estimate relative spawning success. (Recommended grant amount: \$2,000).
7. Request from Wildlife Rescue Center of Napa County for a microscope kit, facility improvements and construction of a jackrabbit run. (Recommended grant amount: \$2,000).

The Wildlife Conservation Commission (WCC) recommends that the Board approve funding for the proposed projects in the amount of \$16,157.05.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey