



Agenda Date: 2/8/2005
Agenda Placement: 6C

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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

RECOMMENDATION

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission requests the following actions:

1. Consideration and approval of the following three (3) grant proposals:
 - a. \$2,400 for McCormick Sanctuary, Inc.; dba Acorn Soupe for the Environmental Education and Youth Stewardship Expansion Project;
 - b. \$2,220 for the Land Trust of Napa County for exotic plant removal on Foote and Archer Taylor Preserves; and
 - c. \$28,500 for the Land Trust of Napa County for acquisition of the Bandettini property located within the Robert Louis Stevenson State Park; and
2. Approval of Budget Transfer No. 63 transferring \$4,620 within the Wildlife Conservation Commission budget. (4/5 vote required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At their November 15, 2004 meeting, the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission reviewed grant proposals from organizations requesting funding from the Wildlife Conservation Commission budget. The Commission unanimously approved three grant proposals for a total amount of \$33,120. On September 21, 2004, the Board of Supervisors approved a request from the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission for \$12,000 in grant applications. Due to this previous action, a budget transfer of \$4,620 is necessary within the Wildlife Conservation Commission budget to provide sufficient appropriation authority for the recommended grants to McCormick Sanctuary, Inc. and the Land Trust of Napa County.

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:	The grant proposals provide for projects that enhance wildlife conservation through specific fund intended for that purpose. The budget transfer of \$4,620 will provide sufficient appropriation authority for the recommended grants to McCormick Sanctuary, Inc. and the Land Trust of Napa County by transferring available funding for land acquisitions, which is not anticipated to be expended, 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

The Acorn Soupe proposal is **not a project** as defined in Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines, which define a project as an action which has the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change. Accordingly, no additional CEQA review is required at this time.

The Land Trust exotic plant removal proposal is categorically exempt from the CEQA Guidelines pursuant to Section 15333 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects).

The Land Trust proposal of acquisition of the Bandettini property is categorically exempt from the CEQA Guidelines pursuant to Section 15316 (Acquisition of land for parks).

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On September 21, 2004 the Board of Supervisors approved the recommendation from the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission (WCC) of providing \$12,000 in grants. The WCC is recommending the Board approve \$33,120 in this grant cycle.

The 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 provide the following enhancements:

1. Request from the McCormick Sanctuary, Inc.; dba Acorn Soupe for the Environmental Education and Youth Stewardship Expansion Project. The Expansion Project will target advancing the habitats of diverse fish, wildlife and plant resources in Napa County by (1) placing more youth in "on-the-ground restoration" projects and (2) increasing outreach to Latino (Spanish-speaking) children. (Recommended grant amount: \$2,400).
2. Request from the Land Trust of Napa County to assist in the removal of exotic plants (namely yellow star

thistle, periwinkle and English ivy) and replanting of native plants in the Foote and Archer Taylor Preserves. (Recommended grant amount: \$2,220).

3. Request from the Land Trust of Napa County to assist in the acquisition of the Bandettini property located within the Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. The Bandettini property is one of four privately held inholdings that fragment the state park's landscape and trail system. A segment of the main hiking and bicycling trail that leads to the summit of Mt. St. Helena passes through this property. Approval of the grant would assist in the property becoming part of Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. (Recommended grant amount: \$28,500).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Michael Stoltz