



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 7/10/2012

Agenda Placement: 7C

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John McDowell for Gitelman, Hillary - Director of Conservation, Development, & Planning
Wildlife Conservation

REPORT BY: KELLI FELKER, PLANNER II - 265-2325

SUBJECT: Wildlife Conservation Commission Budget Recommendations in Support of Grant Requests

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning requests the following actions regarding the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission grant recommendations:

1. Approval of and authorization for the Chairman to sign the following grant agreements for the term July 10, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for proposals \$5,001 or greater for a total of \$8,613:
 - a. \$8,613 for the Institute for Conservation Advocacy, Research, and Education (ICARE) for the continued removal of the Himalayan blackberry and other exotic plant species, and native plant restoration within Suscol Creek
2. Approval of the following grant proposal totaling \$2,810 not requiring a grant agreement:
 - a. \$2,810 for the Napa Valley State Parks Association (NVSPA, Bothe), with support from RCD to establish an environmental education summer camp at Bothe State Park to engage students; and
3. Approval of the following amended grant agreements extending the term through June 30, 2013 for those unable to fully utilize WCC grant funding within the 2011-2012 fiscal year:
 - a. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 7665, \$16,000 for the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to analyze steelhead and salmon otoliths and genetic samples to help determine origins of local salmonid populations and guide conservation and restoration activities;
 - b. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 7666, \$10,000 for Napa County Regional Parks & Open Space District (RPOSD) to 1) establish native habitat in the 5 acre entry meadow with a mix of native grasses, shrubs, and trees, 2) engage students and other community groups with the restoration effort, and 3) improve the native plant interpretive trail located in the meadow; and
 - c. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 7667, \$10,000 for the Land Trust of Napa County to develop, manufacture, and install illustrated ecological signage and trail markers for Land Trust property trail-heads and trails including: research for optimal signage locations/layout & production and implementation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission (WCC) held a regular meeting on May 21, 2012 to conduct their annual grant application review and funding recommendations. The WCC reviewed grant proposals from various groups and organizations requesting funding from the Commission budget and unanimously recommended approval of three grant proposals for a total amount of \$26,665. One of these agreements is before the Board today for approval. Additionally, the WCC reviewed the request to extend three grant agreements from the 2011-2012 fiscal year because the grantees were unable to fully expend funds and initiate their project. The funding for WCC grants is provided by Department of Fish and Game court fines and settlements, as well as local fines and settlements, that are intended for this specific purpose. Funding for the grant extension will be rolled over from the 2011-2012 budget.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Budget Unit 29800 (Wildlife Conservation): For Fiscal Year 2012-2013 \$50,000 was budgeted for grant expenditures. Funding for grants is provided by Department of Fish and Game court fines/settlements, and local fines/settlements that are intended for this specific purpose.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Wildlife Conservation Commission grants support wildlife conservation and other related projects, consistent with State guidelines. The funding for these grants is provided by Department of Fish and Game court fines and settlements, as well as local fines and settlements, that are intended for this specific purpose.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	No impacts beyond Fiscal Year 2012-2013
Consequences if not approved:	The proposed wildlife conservation projects would not be undertaken at this time and grant funds would not be expended until such time as the Wildlife Conservation Commission could consider grant applications again in 2013 and provide recommendations to the Board.
Additional Information:	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposals from the Napa Valley State Parks Association and the Friends of the Napa River are not conducting projects as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

The proposal from the Institute for Conservation Advocacy, Research, and Education is categorically exempt from the CEQA Guidelines pursuant to Section 15333-Class 33 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects).

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission (WCC) receives funds from California Department of Fish and Game fines and settlements, as well as local fines and settlements, that are earmarked for projects that aid in the preservation, propagation and protection of birds, mammals, fish and amphibians.

The Napa County WCC conducts four regular meetings annually, with one meeting dedicated to conducting an annual grant funding review. On May 21, 2012, the Napa County WCC held a regular meeting to conduct their annual grant funding review and recommendations. The WCC reviewed grant proposals from various groups and organizations requesting funding from the Commission budget and unanimously recommended approval of ten grant proposals for a total amount of \$26,665. The funding for these WCC grants is provided by Department of Fish and Game court fines and other settlements that are intended for this specific purpose.

The requested grants would provide for the following projects:

1. Request from the Napa Valley State Parks Association to establish an environmental education summer camp at Bothe State Park to engage student (Recommended grant amount: \$2,810).
2. Request from the Institute for Conservation Advocacy, Research, and Education (ICARE) for continued removal of the Himalayan blackberry and other exotic plant species, and restoration of native plants along Suscol Creek (Recommended grant amount: \$8,613).
3. Request from Friends of the Napa River (FONR), partnering with the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to continue support promoting Re-Oaking the Valley through environmental education, development of curriculum, classroom materials, classroom visits, lessons, and field trips about oak woodland restoration (Recommended grant amount: \$15,235). This agreement will be brought back for approval at a later date.

The Napa County WCC also reviewed the request to amend three grant agreements an additional fiscal year from 2011-2012 to June 30, 2013 for the following projects:

1. Amendment No. 1 of Funding Agreement No. 7665 for the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to analyze steelhead and salmon otoliths and genetic samples to help determine origins of local salmonid populations and guide conservation and restoration activities (Extension of grant funding: \$16,000);
2. Amendment No. 1 of Funding Agreement No. 7666 for Napa County Regional Parks & Open Space District (RPOSD) to 1) establish native habitat in the 5 acre entry meadow with a mix of native grasses, shrubs, and trees, 2) engage students and other community groups with the restoration effort, and 3) improve the native plant interpretive trail located in the meadow (Extension of grant funding: \$10,000);
3. Amendment No. 1 of Funding Agreement No. 7667 for the Land Trust of Napa County to develop, manufacture, and install illustrated ecological signage and trail markers for Land Trust property trail-heads and trails including: research for optimal signage locations/layout & production and implementation (Extension of grant funding: \$10,000).

Total amount of Grant funding requests: \$26,665.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan