



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 9/10/2019

Agenda Placement: 6E

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Morrison - Director
Planning, Building and Environmental Services

REPORT BY: Brian Bordona, Dep Dir of Plan Bldg & Env - (707) 259-5935

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

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services requests the following:

1. Approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign the following grant agreements for the term July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 for proposals of \$5,001 or greater for a total of \$34,000:
 - a. \$7,000 with Napa-Solano Audubon to fund 50% of an Environmental Education Coordinator for the 2019/2020 school year;
 - b. \$7,000 with Audubon Canyon Ranch to fund monitoring of heron and egret nesting sites in Napa County;
 - c. \$8,000 with Land Trust of Napa County to partially fund the purchase of a Utility Task Vehicle to be used for stewardship and conservation easement monitoring programs;
 - d. \$12,000 with Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to fund facilitation of the Napa Youth Stewardship Council, an extracurricular environmental leadership club for up to 20 Napa County high school youth.
2. Approval of the three following grant proposals totaling \$15,000, not requiring grant agreements:
 - a. \$4,200 with Friends of the Napa River to fund a citizen science data program that will collect scientifically-defensible data on dry-season streamflow in the Napa River;
 - b. \$4,500 with International Bird Rescue to fund the rescue and rehabilitation of 40 or more aquatic birds annually from Napa County; and
 - c. \$1,300 with Meghan Walla-Murphy to fund the purchase of equipment related to the development of a black bear website, maps, and community science program; and
 - d. \$5,000 with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to fund the purchase of two depth finders to improve game warden patrol abilities on the Napa River, Lake Berryessa, and the sloughs of the Napa/Sonoma Marsh.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission (WCC) held a regular meeting on July 8, 2019 to conduct annual grant application review and to develop funding recommendations. The WCC reviewed grant proposals from various groups and organizations requesting funding from the WCC budget and recommended approval of eight (8) grant proposals for a total amount of \$49,000. Funding for WCC grants is provided by Department of Fish and Wildlife court fines and settlements, as well as local fines and settlements, that are intended for this specific purpose.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Budget Unit 21200 (Wildlife Conservation): For Fiscal Year 2019-2020, \$50,000 was budgeted for grant expenditures. Funding for grants is provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife court fines/settlements, and local fines/settlements that are intended for this specific use.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Wildlife Conservation Commission grants support wildlife conservation and other related projects, consistent with State guidelines. Funding for grants is provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife court fines/settlements, and local fines/settlements that are intended for this specific purpose.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	No impacts beyond Fiscal Year 2019-2020.
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 2020 and provide recommendations to the Board.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposals are not projects as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The WCC receives funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife 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 WCC conducts four regular meetings annually, with one meeting dedicated to conducting an annual grant funding review. On July 8, 2019, the WCC held a regular meeting to conduct their annual grant review and to develop their funding recommendations. The WCC reviewed grant proposals from eight (8) organizations requesting a total of \$70,455 from the WCC budget. However, due to the WCC's limited budget of \$50,000, requests were reduced so that grants could be recommended to all organizations.

The recommended grants totaling \$49,000 would provide for the following projects:

1. \$7,000 with Napa-Solano Audubon to fund 50% of an Environmental Education Coordinator for the 2019/2020 school year;
2. \$7,000 with Audubon Canyon Ranch to fund monitoring of heron and egret nesting sites in Napa County;
3. \$8,000 with Land Trust of Napa County to partially fund the purchase of a Utility Task Vehicle to be used for stewardship and conservation easement monitoring programs;
4. \$12,000 with Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to fund facilitation of the Napa Youth Stewardship Council, an extracurricular environmental leadership club for up to 20 Napa County high school youth;
5. \$5,000 with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to contribute toward the purchase of three depth finders to improve game warden patrol abilities on the Napa River, Lake Berryessa, and the sloughs within the Napa/Sonoma Marsh. Note, the WCC recommended \$6,000 of funding for DFW, which was less than the original DFW request. Upon consideration by DFW, they have elected to reduce their request to \$5,000 given that they will no longer have the ability to purchase three depth finders given the WCC's recommendation to fund less than the original request;
6. \$4,200 with Friends of the Napa River to fund a citizen science data program that will collect quality-controlled scientifically-defensible data on dry-season streamflow in the Napa River;
7. \$4,500 with International Bird Rescue to fund the rescue and rehabilitation of 40 or more aquatic birds annually from Napa County; and
8. \$1,300 with Meghan Walla-Murphy to fund the purchase of equipment related to development of a black bear website, maps, and community science program.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Leigh Sharp