



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Planning and Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: October 14, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: <Insert Date>
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Lisa Plowman
Contact: Andrew Rasura
SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Commission Grant Award

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Director of Planning and Development to award a grant to the Regents of the University of California Santa Barbara. (Attachment 1);
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0010827 to increase appropriations by \$40,000 in the Planning and Development Fish and Wildlife Fund for services and supplies funded by the release of restricted fund balance (4/5 Vote Required) (Attachment 2); and
- c) Determine that the award of Fish and Wildlife Commission Grant funds is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15306 and 15333(d)(4) (Attachment 3).

Summary Text:

The County Fish and Wildlife Commission reviewed the attached grant request at their April 24, 2025 meeting, and recommends that the Board approve funding for the "Bringing Back Burrowing Owls: Revised" project, with the total requested amount being \$40,000.

Discussion:

This grant is a permissible expenditure pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 13103. County Resolution 75-207 authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Commission to advise your Board on fish and wildlife matters and make recommendations to your Board on proposals from individuals and organizations for the expenditures of fish and wildlife fine revenues.

In their April 24, 2025 meeting, the Fish and Wildlife Commission discussed the merits of this proposal. The grant for consideration has satisfied statutory requirements. Below is a summary of the proposed grants; full grant application material is provided in Attachment 1.

Project	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount	Project Description
Bringing Back Burrowing Owls: Revised	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	The project proposes to evaluate and enhance habitat in support of overwintering and, potentially, breeding Burrowing Owls (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) in Santa Barbara County. Additional resources provided by UCSB and landowners for access support.

Background:

The County Fish and Wildlife Commission, established by Resolution 75-207 and amended by Resolution 16-12, is comprised of nine members: five appointed by the Board of Supervisors, three considered qualified in fish and game matters and nominated by specific organizations, and one commercial fisher. State law limits how revenues from Fish and Wildlife fines may be expended. Under State law, funds can be expended only for specific purposes, including, but not limited to, temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budget: No.

The \$18,000.00 appropriation for Fish and Wildlife Grants in the FY 2025-26 budget has been fully expended on previously approved grant requests. Therefore, the Department of Planning and Development requests a budget revision to increase this appropriation by \$40,000.00 to fund the current grant award.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
General Fund		
State	40,000	40,000
Federal		
Fees		
[Other Source]		
Total		40,000

This expenditure is fully funded by Fish and Wildlife fine revenues. Fish and Wildlife fine revenues are maintained in the Fish and Wildlife Special Revenue Fund, #0041. Annual revenues to the fund range from \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00, and the Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$688,522.80. Administrative support costs, including the preparation of this report, are offset by funding from the Fish and Wildlife Fund. If awarded a Fish and Wildlife project grant, no future funding commitment is required for maintenance or operational costs related to these projects.

Staffing Impacts:

No additional staffing is needed to implement and manage this grant.

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board shall email the minute order of the hearing to the Planning and Development Department, Hearing Support, David Villalobos.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Grant Application Form

Attachment 2 – Budget Revision Request 0010827

Attachment 3 – CEQA Notices of Exemption

Contact Information:

David Villalobos

Administrative Office Professional Expert, Administration Division, Planning and Development Department

Dvillalo@countyofsb.org