



**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: March 3, 2026
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, Director, Planning and Development
Contact: Andrew Rasura, Deputy Director, Planning and Development
SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Commission Grant Awards

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 grants to Los Padres Forest Association, International Bird Rescue, Fish Reef Project, and Reel Guppy Outdoors, Inc. (Attachment 1);
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0010958 to increase appropriations by \$88,511 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 15333, 15301, 15304, and 15322 (Attachment 3).

Summary Text:

The County Fish and Wildlife Commission reviewed the attached grant requests at its November 20, 2025 meeting, and recommends that the Board approve funding for the "Red Rock Trail Restoration," "Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in Santa Barbara County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife," "Goleta Kelp Reef Improvement Project – Monitoring Program," and "Oceans of Opportunity" projects, with the total requested amount being \$88,511. The requested allocation of funds is fully funded by fine revenue.

Discussion:

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

In its November 20, 2025 meeting, the Fish and Wildlife Commission discussed the merits of these four proposed grants and determined the proposed grants satisfied statutory requirements.

The “Goleta Kelp Reef Improvements Project – Monitoring Program” project was submitted under Fish and Game Code Section 13013, subsection (i) which requires projects eligible for funding to be scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, and approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Following the November 20, 2025 action by the County Fish and Wildlife Commission, the project was submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff for review. California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff noted that the project referenced in the application “was installed in March 2024 and permitted in part by Coastal Development Permit De Minimis Waiver 9-23-0202-W.” Based on its review, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife found that the monitoring program described in the waiver meets the scientific research requirements of Fish and Game Code Section 13103, subsection (i). Its response letter is included as Attachment 4.

Below is a summary of the proposed grants; full grant application material is provided in Attachment 1.

Project	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount	Project Description
Red Rock Trail Restoration	\$18,181.00	\$18,181.00	Restore 28W06 Gibraltar Trail/5N18.4 Red Rock in the Santa Ynez Recreation area of the Los Padres National Forest which will improve and protect riparian wildlife along 3 miles of the Santa Ynez River between the Red Rock Day Use Area and Gibraltar Dam. The project is also supported with approximately \$27,832 worth of Los Padres Forest Association volunteer hours.
Ethically and Effectively Resolving Human/Wildlife Interaction Issues in SB County Through Temporary Emergency Treatment and Care of Injured	\$18,330.00	\$18,330.00	The objective of the program is to rescue and admit approximately 80 native wild aquatic birds from Santa Barbara County annually. Other funding sources include \$10,000 from the State of California Oiled Wildlife Care Network Individual Oiled Bird

and Orphaned Wildlife			Fund and approximately \$30,325 from other local Southern California donors.
Goleta Kelp Reef Improvement Project – Monitoring Program	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	Defrays costs incurred by the Fish Reef Project for monitoring the effectiveness of artificial reefs (sea caves) in establishing giant kelp reef communities in Goleta Bay. Other funding sources include \$15,000 from the Santa Barbara Foundation, \$10,000 from donors, and \$10,000 from the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund.
Oceans of Opportunity	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	Oceans of Opportunity is a dynamic, hands-on introduction to California’s diverse marine ecosystems—including pier-side, ocean, lake, river, and tide pool environments. The program promotes responsible angling, conservation ethics, sustainable fishing practices, and environmental stewardship. It also addresses anti-littering behaviors, coastal clean-up, and California fishing regulations. Our goal is to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and personal connection needed to responsibly enjoy and protect our waters and beaches. The project is also supported by \$3,000 of general donations.

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 appropriation for Fish and Wildlife Grants in the FY 2025-26 budget has been fully expended on previously approved grant requests.

Accordingly, the Department of Planning and Development requests a budget revision to increase this appropriation by \$88,511, to be funded by a corresponding decrease in fund balance. This adjustment will enable the County to award the current pending grants.

The purpose of this fund is to support projects that promote the protection, conservation, propagation, preservation, or education related to fish and wildlife, whether located within or outside the County.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
Fees	88,511	88,511
Total	88,511	88,511

This expenditure is fully funded by revenues from Fish and Wildlife fines, which are deposited into the Fish and Wildlife Special Revenue Fund (#0041).

Annual revenues to the fund typically range from \$5,000 to \$8,000, and the current fund balance is approximately \$694,523.

Administrative support costs, including the preparation of this report, are also covered by the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

If a Fish and Wildlife project grant is awarded, no future County funding commitment will be required for maintenance or ongoing operational costs associated with the project.

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 Forms
- Attachment 2 – Budget Revision Request 0010958
- Attachment 3 – CEQA Notices of Exemption
- Attachment 4 – California Department of Fish and Wildlife Review Letter

Contact Information:

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