



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: June 9, 2026  
Placement: Administrative Agenda  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from: <Insert Date>  
Vote Required: 4/5

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**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 Award

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: N/A

**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 Blue Ocean Productions. (Attachment 1);
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0011054 to increase appropriations by \$29,000 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 Section 15738(b)(5) (Attachment 3).

**Summary Text:**

The County Fish and Wildlife Commission reviewed the attached grant request at its March 26, 2026 meeting, and recommends that the Board approve funding for the "Harvest to Heal: Santa Barbara Urchin Divers and Scientists Unite to Restore Kelp" project, with the total requested amount being \$29,000. 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 March 26, 2026 meeting, the Fish and Wildlife Commission discussed the merits of this proposed grant and determined the proposed grant satisfies statutory requirements.

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

Project	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount	Project Description
Harvest to Heal: Santa Barbara Urchin Divers and Scientists Unite to Restore Kelp	\$29,000.00	\$29,000.00	This project will produce an educational documentary film, titled Harvest to Heal, focused on the restoration of kelp forests off the coast of Santa Barbara. The project is also supported with approximately \$36,500 by Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara.

**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 \$29,000, to be funded by a corresponding decrease in fund balance. This adjustment will enable the County to award the current pending grants. There is no impact to the General Fund. 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	\$29,000	\$29,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>

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 \$665,128.56.

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 Form

Attachment 2 – Budget Revision Request 0011054

Attachment 3 – CEQA Notice of Exemption

**Contact Information:**

David Villalobos

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

[Dvillalo@countyofsb.org](mailto:Dvillalo@countyofsb.org)