



**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

Department Name: Planning and Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: November 7, 2017
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn Russell, PhD. 805.568.2085
Director
Contact Info: Steve Mason, 805.568.2070
SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Commission Report and Grant Awards

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Receive and file a report for revised grant evaluation and outreach processes.
- b) Approve and authorize the Director of Planning and Development to award grants to local non-profit groups as recommended by the County Fish and Wildlife Commission (Attachment 1).
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b) (3) and 15378 (b) (4) of the State Guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (Attachment 2).

Summary Text: This report provides a summary of changes that have been made to the grant process used by the County Fish and Wildlife Commission. It also includes a request for funding of grant projects.

Report on Fish and Wildlife Grant Process Changes:

At their April 19, 2016 hearing, the Board of Supervisors considered three grant applications for the CalTIP Rewards Committee, the Debra Takayama Memorial Junior Pheasant Hunt, and the At-Sea Educational Adventures for Special Needs People. The Board approved the applications for the CalTIP Rewards Committee and the At-Sea Educational Adventures for Special Needs People grant applications. However, the Board did not approve the application for the Debra Takayama Memorial Junior Pheasant Hunt, due to concerns regarding whether the proposal meets the strict educational

requirements of the Fish and Game Code, as well as the perception that the Fish and Wildlife Commission is approving grant applications from a small pool of organizations each year.

The Board requested additional information pertaining to the grant application evaluation process. Subsequently, a subcommittee of Fish and Wildlife Commission members was formed to begin reviewing this issue, and their recommendation was forwarded to the full Commission. The Commission then discussed their evaluation process at their July 28, 2016, November 17, 2016, and January 26, 2017 hearings. The Commission chose to revise their standards used to evaluate and prioritize grant applications. Below are the standards that the Commission approved at their January 26, 2017 hearing:

Priority #1

- Projects/activities that have force multipliers such as matching funds and/or volunteer labor/equipment services.
- Projects/activities with ongoing positive effects versus similar projects/activities with one-time benefit.
- Worthy/qualifying ongoing projects/activities that can be expanded by funds from the Fish and Wildlife propagation fund.
- Projects/activities where time/environmental conditions are of the essence.

Priority #2

- Projects/activities that significantly reduce the opportunity to grant money to other worthy projects/activities due to their high cost relative to available funds.
- Projects/activities with one-time benefit vs. long-term benefit of similar projects.
- Projects/activities where time/environmental conditions are less of a significant variable or consideration.
- Grant proposals that are effective in non-adjointing counties.

Priority #3 (will not be funded)

- Incomplete grant applications.
- Grant proposals that do not fully meet Fish and Game Code Section 13100-13104.
- Projects/activities with little or no positive effects on Fish and Wildlife conservation and/or overall population and environmental/habitat health.

The Board also requested information regarding how additional outreach could be done to attract a larger and more diverse group of grant applicants. Staff engaged with the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the issue was discussed at their April 28, 2016, July 28, 2016, November 17, 2016, January 26, 2017, and July 27, 2017 hearings. As part of this process, the Commission reviewed Planning and Development's existing Master Distribution List, which contains lists of various public agencies, interest groups, neighborhood organizations and other interested parties. The Commission selected a wide variety of organizations from this list, with some additional organizations known to the Commission, and has asked staff to periodically notice these groups of the grant application process.

Additionally, the Commission has devoted some time to the development of a web page at www.sbfishandwildlife.com, in order promote the general business of the Commission, as well as

information regarding how previous grant awardees have utilized funds to protect, conserve, propagate, preserve, and provide education pertaining to fish and wildlife.

On the April 19, 2016 Board of Supervisors hearing, Planning and Development was directed to provide additional information pertaining to the Fish and Wildlife's grant application and evaluation process. The Commission evaluated their process and has made changes which address outreach and funding prioritization.

Background:

The County Fish and Wildlife Commission, established by Resolution 75-207 and recently amended by Resolution 16-12, is comprised of nine members: five appointed by the Board of Supervisors, three from local sportsmen's associations 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, facilitating enforcement of the code and education (Fish & Game Code § 13103). In their April 27, 2017 meeting, the Fish and Wildlife Commission discussed the merits of each proposal and the organization that was requesting funding. Each request was fully supported by the Fish and Wildlife Commission as shown in Attachment 3. The three grants for consideration have satisfied statutory requirements. Below is a summary of the proposed grants; full grant applications materials are provided in Attachment 1.

| Name of Organization Requesting Grant | Amount Requested | Project Description |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Santa Barbara Sport Fishing Club | \$1,900 | <p>This program is used as an incentive for the Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy, giving minors an opportunity to earn a rewarding experience through hard work and a commitment to change their lives for the better. It is an education program which includes teaching aides such as a fishing boat, rods and reels, fishing licenses, misc. food and water.</p> <p>The curriculum is to include the importance of protecting our ocean resources, the importance of obtaining a fishing license and what license fees are used for, species limits and how they are determined by fishery biologists, the identification of non-game species such as whales, dolphins, and sea lions, as well as the importance of being stewards of fish and wildlife resources.</p> |
| Chimineas Ranch Foundation | \$7,500 | <p>This project consists of the installation of 3 wildlife water troughs supplied by a new 5,000 gallon water tank. The water line and an access road are located near the project area so off road access will be unnecessary. The project will then be further extended via the placement of additional pipeline and other trough placements in what is known as the "Chicken Water Flats" area of Saltos Canyon. The project is located within the Cuyama Valley hydrologic area and will benefit deer, tule elk, upland game and several bat species.</p> |
| Cachuma Resource Conservation | \$5,000 | <p>This project proposes to protect and conserve wild Southern California Steelhead populations and restore damaged habitat by removing two substantial barriers and one moderate impediment to</p> |

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| District | | steelhead migration in San Jose Creek. An obsolete dam and two road crossings which preclude steelhead migration will be removed and replaced with two bridges to restore steelhead migratory opportunities while assuring landowners reliable access which does not impair steelhead migration. |
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The County Fish and Wildlife Commission recommends that the Board approves funding the grant requests found in Attachment 1. The total requested amount is \$14,400, and is fully funded by restricted Fish and Wildlife fine revenues. These grants provide funding for a variety of community based educational programs that focus on fish and wildlife and other expenditures authorized by Fish and Game Code Section 13103.

Performance Measure: N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Budgeted: Yes

Fish and Wildlife fine revenue is held in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, #0041. Annual revenues to the fund range from \$6,000 to \$10,000, and the Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$76,000. Funding for the proposed grant expenditures is fully offset by fine revenue and is budgeted in the Administration & Support Budget Program on page D-286 of the 2015-17 budget. Administrative support costs, including the preparation of this report, are offset by funding from the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

None

Attachments:

1. Grant Application Forms
2. CEQA Exemption
3. Grant Application Prioritization and Definitions/Guidelines for Priority Rating

Authored by:

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cc: