



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 FAX: (831) 454-3128

AGENDA

Sept 2, 2021, 7:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a video conference -see link and call-in information on next page.

Please contact Sean Abbey sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us if you have questions.

| Agenda Item # | Start Time | End Time | Description |
|---------------|------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Call to Order |
| 2 | | | Roll Call |
| 3 | | | Guest Introductions |
| 4 | | | Approval of Minutes |
| 5 | | | Public Comments |
| 6 | 7:15 | 7:45 | Public Grants Program: Review summary reports from 2020-21 recipients, Review and approve 2021-22 funding amount; Review and approve Request for Proposals |
| 7 | 7:45 | 8:15 | Discuss the following Question: Should the commission support homeless housing projects as a way of protecting riparian corridors from the impacts of homeless encampments. |
| 8 | 8:15 | 8:30 | Review subcommittee options, possible sign ups, updates from subcommittees with assigned commissioners |
| 9 | 8:30 | 8:40 | Discuss November agenda |
| 10 | 8:40 | 9:00 | Staff Reports |
| 11 | | | News: Access to Cotoni-Coast Dairies approved |
| 12 | | | Review Correspondence Commissioner Reports and Announcements |
| | | 9:00 | Adjourn |

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Please see Fish and Game commission for regulatory announcements

<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/2021-New-and-Proposed>

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This online meeting is available to anyone with a telephone. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting, please contact Sean Abbey at (831) 454-2386 or TDD number (454-2123) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.

Commissioner and Public Participation Information and Guidelines

The meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission will take place on a video conferencing system, Microsoft Teams, with a call-in option. If you have questions, please contact Sean Abbey at sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 916-318-9542,,897529275#](tel:+19163189542897529275) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 897 529 275#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Click on the Microsoft Teams icon. If you are asked to join in the Teams with an application, click on “No thanks” and open in the browser. You should not need to download the application to join the meeting.

Commissioners are expected to join with a video camera. Public attendees may choose to have their cameras on or off.

Please join the meeting a few minutes BEFORE 7:00 pm so that we can start at 7:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:50 pm. Feel free to chat and say hello before 7:00 pm.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

All meeting attendees should keep their microphones on mute unless they are speaking.

David Somerton, Vice Chair, will lead the meeting. Vice Chair Somerton will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.

Sean Abbey, staff, will assist with roll call, note taking, and tracking who wants to speak. Please allow time for staff to make notes about any decisions. Sean will monitor both email and text messages during the meeting.

There will be a public comment period for each item and the Chair will invite the public to participate at the appropriate time.

During a discussion, if 2 or more people speak at the same time, please defer to the person who speaks first. In any moment where we have some confusion due to multiple people wanting to speak, please pause and let the Vice Chair take the lead. The Vice Chair will call on someone to speak.

If you are having trouble joining the conversation, you can send a message to Sean (email sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us) and he will call on people who want to comment.



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Meeting Minutes May 6, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:01 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**
Present: Commissioners Berry, Crawford, Baron, Somerton, Alter, Jankovitz, Gómez, Michelsen
Excused: Wise, Buchwald
Absent: none
3. **GUEST INTRODUCTIONS:** Grace Blakeslee, Regional Transportation Commission, Jodi McGraw, Jodi McGraw Consulting, Steve Schindler, CDFW
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Alter made a motion to approve the minutes with a deletion of sentences left in from the February minutes; Commissioner Somerton seconded the motion. All aye, the minutes were approved. Staff will correct and re-post minutes.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** None.
6. **Presentation and Discussion: Regional Conservation Investment Strategy.** Grace Blakeslee and Jodi McGraw gave a presentation providing background information and the current status of the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS). The RCIS is intended to provide guidance for general conservation actions and project mitigation in Santa Cruz County. Discussion included suggestion to add Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) and Water Supply Watersheds. Questions were asked about how RCIS in other areas have been implemented and how to address cumulative habitat loss.
7. **Discussed unhoued encampments in riparian areas.** There is a growing concern about encampments in riparian areas, especially in and close to urban areas. Environmental impacts from encampments include human waste, garbage, and a threat of fires. Captain Schindler provided an example from Santa Clara about using a coordinated task force to reduce encampments in riparian areas. Santa Cruz County has just one warden currently and a Task Force effort would be implemented along with local agencies such as cities, County and Caltrans. The commission will consider sending a letter to the Board voicing support for enhanced efforts to reduce encampments in riparian areas.
8. **Discuss subcommittees for Work Plan.** Commissioners will form subcommittees for Work Plan topics and report back in September. A subcommittee for the Expanding the Significant Tree Ordinance can meet with Rich Sampson, CalFire over the summer.
9. **Discuss September Agenda/Staff Report on Fish and Game Propagation Fund.** At the September meeting, the commission typically reviews and approves the Public Grants Program Request for Proposals; staff reported that revenue has been high this year, due to efforts of the District Attorney to wrap up some older violations. Continue discussion about encampments in riparian areas discussion.
10. **Staff and Commissioner Reports and Announcements.** Kristen Kittleson reported that the Steelhead and Coho Salmon Distribution Map has been updated and is available online: <http://sceeh.com/steelhead.aspx>. The RCD is making a short video about the 2019 Upper Zayante Stream Enhancement Project. Sean Abbey, Water Resources Water Quality Specialist, will be acting as the administrative staff for the commission June 15, 2021, through January 15, 2022.
11. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.



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Status Reports from the 2020-21 FWAC Grant recipients:

Contents have been lightly edited for clarity, but original reports are available on request

1. Santa Cruz Bird Club: Breeding Bird Atlas

- **Submitted by:** Alex Rinkert

Thank you for your continued support of the Breeding Bird Atlas in 2021. The grant awarded to this project allowed us to conduct bird surveys in the CZU burn area and hire a field technician to document rare breeding birds in Santa Cruz County.

This summer I conducted bird surveys at over 200 locations within and near the CZU burn area to document the immediate impacts on breeding birds. Many birds are now significantly less abundant following the fire, while a few (e.g., Lazuli Bunting) experienced population growth. A report summarizing preliminary results of these surveys will be available in October 2021.

Due to an insufficient number of applicants, I consolidated the planned internships into a field technician position. I hired Logan Southall, a Cabrillo College biology student, to document rare breeding birds in Santa Cruz County. Logan spent over 100 hours documenting breeding activity by Purple Martin, Vaux's Swift, American Kestrel, and other birds which greatly improved our understanding of their populations in the county. We are grateful for the continued support from the committee, which has moved us one step closer to publishing the Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Cruz County. We look forward to sharing more project results with you this fall.

2. O'Neil Sea Odyssey: Bus Transportation Scholarship

- **Submitted by:** Rachel Kippen

Due to our working directly with public schools who are in the partial reopening process right now, and due to needing to rehire and train crew, implement our new protocols, etc, we are continuing virtual programming through the spring semester and will open with students again in the fall semester. We will recruit, hire, and train our fall staff over the summer and we are very excited to reopen in the fall! The boat, owned by O'Neill Yacht Charters, will also likely get back on the water in the summer so that they can iron out all the kinks and do their public sails and we will feel confident to welcome our students back in the fall semester of this year.

Due to the conditions described above, we will not have used the funds the September meeting. A second final report on exactly who was served by the funds, how many students, etc by the bus scholarship, can be provided once the fall session has been completed, likely by December 2021.

3. Coastal Watershed Council: After School Programs

- **Submitted by:** Laurie Egan

With support from the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, the Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) engaged 21 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students at Bay View Elementary in a virtual after-school program and two campus-based programs. Gault Elementary school elected to not engage students in after-school program during the pandemic, so CWC focused its attention on providing additional programming at Bay View Elementary. Using a service-learning model, students engaged in five phases of progressive learning:

- 1) investigating local environmental issues and watershed concepts,
- 2) planning and preparing for an action project,
- 3) implementing their action project,
- 4) reflecting on their experience and
- 5) celebrating their accomplishments and what they learned.

Students investigated what is a watershed and how it functions, the impacts of stormwater runoff on the river and salmonids, the life cycle of salmonids, the ecosystem services provided by native plants, and the connection between the San Lorenzo River and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary as the migration corridor for salmonids. To help improve salmonid habitat, students conducted stewardship action projects. Virtual program students elected to create Public Service Announcements teaching their family and neighbors about conserving water to protect steelhead trout. The campus-based students planted native plants in the school's life lab to help reduce stormwater runoff. At the completion of the program, it was clear that students had an increased knowledge, ability, self-efficacy, and commitment to identify and improve environmental conditions affecting the San Lorenzo River and anadromous fish species habitat.

- 100% of students who completed the post-survey accurately identified at least two actions they personally had taken during the program that improved salmonid habitat. Student responses included saving water, sharing what they've learned with others, planting a plant, learning about pollution, and learning how plants keep rivers healthy.
- 100% of students who completed the post-survey students expressed a commitment (interest, motivation, attitude) to continue to participate in stewardship activities that support the overall health of the San Lorenzo River and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary following their participation in the program.

4. Marine Life Studies: Waterproof Marine Mammal Guides

- **Submitted by:** Peggy Stap

Due to COVID we were unable to get the brochure printed until the end of September/beginning of October 2021. Paper prices have gone up, but we are holding the same price they quoted me back in 2020, which is reflected in the grant proposal I provided. Waterproof Marine Mammal Guides will be back from the printers in October and additional updates can be provided at that time.

5. UCCR Web of Life Field School: Salamander Monitoring Project

- **Submitted by:** Heather Butler

Funding from the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Commission allowed the UCCR Web of Life Field (WOLF) School to maintain its long-term ecological redwood Salamander Monitoring Project for 2020-2021. Originally written to support one staff person for 20 weeks to visit study sites, collect data on the presence of absence of salamanders under labeled cover boards, collate and enter data, and prepare study sites for when students are again able to participate in this study, the funding was able to support more than 24 weeks. Data was collected and added to our long-term study. The study site was maintained and salamanders were detected in varying numbers throughout the length of the study.

Currently, the data is being sent to our supervising scientist, and will be added to the larger body of his work. Because of the funding you made available, K-12th grade students will be able to resume taking data for this Salamander Project as soon as they return to Outdoor School this fall, and there will not be a large break in the study data. This will help scientists and students continue making correlations over the long term about forest health and the resilience and complexity of the redwood community at our study sites. WOLF School and our students truly appreciate the support of the Commission in maintaining the Salamander Monitoring Project.

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission
Budget and Public Grants Program Update

June 3, 2021

The following table shows the current year (2020-2021) budget:

| Fiscal Year | Anticipated Revenue | Actual Revenue | Current Reserve | Budgeted and Approved for Grant Program | Expended from Grant Program |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2021-22 | \$8,000 | \$42,500 | \$12,808 | \$18,000 | \$13,810 |

Definition of terms:

Fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30 of the following year

Anticipated Revenue is the amount of revenue (fines and judgements) expected

Actual Revenue is the actual amount received by the Fish and Game Propagation Fund

Reserve is the amount of funding in reserve, which carries over from year to year. Spending in excess of revenue reduces the reserve.

Budgeted for the Grant Program – expected spending for the Public Grants Program

Expended from the Grant Program – actual amount expended to date.

Recommendation for 2020-2021

Environmental Health recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission conduct the Public Grants Program at the level of \$16,000. The additional \$2,000 will be expended for the Watershed Hallway Display approved in 2017.



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2021-22 NOTICE OF AVAILABLE GRANT FUNDING

The Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission is soliciting applications for its Public Grants Program. Grants are funded by fines and settlements collected for violations of California Fish and Game laws within Santa Cruz County.

There is a total of \$16,000 available for this year's grants program. Awards are usually limited to \$1,000 to \$2,000 each, but larger requests will be considered.

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

- Benefits native fish and wildlife and habitats.
- Education programs for school age children related to fish and wildlife
- Support of California Fish and Game related law enforcement.

SELECTION CRITERIA: The highest consideration will be given to projects which:

- Complies with Fish and Game Code 13103
- Benefits native, local wildlife species and habitats
- Provide a low cost/high benefit
- Proposals may include funding for labor costs.

SCORE SHEET – The commission will be scoring each proposal, based on the score sheet on the following page. Each proposal will be scored by all commissioners; scores will be added and the proposals will be ranked. Starting with the highest ranked proposals, commission will decide to fully fund, partially fund or not fund each proposal.

TO APPLY:

1. Individuals, organizations, and agencies can request an application form from Sean Abbey at sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us.
2. Individuals should have an affiliation with a non-profit organization to receive funding.
3. Describe the project fully in 8 pages or less, including budget and any attachments. We encourage concise grant proposals, but project budget information must be included.
4. Proposals must be received by 3:00 PM Thursday, October 21, 2021 as an electronic file to Sean Abbey or a hardcopy to address above. Please submit the application as a WORD or compatible file so we can remove the cover sheet before posting it to the public. We prefer applications as electronic files.
5. Grant applications will be reviewed by the Commission at their November 4, 2021 meeting at 7:00 p.m. Applicants are invited to attend and will have the opportunity to summarize their proposal in a short presentation (not to exceed 3 minutes in length). Final selection is scheduled for December 2, 2021.

Score Sheet

Proposal Score for _____ Total Score _____

Benefits native local fish and wildlife species or their habitats through a project, education or enforcement: 12 points

The project provides a **clear benefit** to native fish and wildlife or provides education for an important fish or wildlife topic: 8-12 points

The project provides **some benefits** to native fish and wildlife: 4-7 points

The project provides **limited benefits** to native fish and wildlife: 1-3 points

The project **does not benefit** native fish and wildlife: 0 points

Score: _____

Cost Effectiveness – 3 points

This project is a good value and provides a good cost/benefit ratio: 3 points

This project provides moderate cost/benefit ratio: 1-2 point

This project has a high cost for the benefits and/or does not have funding for the complete project secured : 0 points

Score: _____

Benefit to the Santa Cruz Community – 2 points

The project will benefit the Santa Cruz County community or habitat: 1-2 point

The project will not benefit the Santa Cruz community or habitat: 0 points

Score: _____

Expected Project Success – 3 points

The project proponent has a record of successful projects or a new project proponent presents a solid foundation for success: 3 points

The project proponent has a mixed record for success on past projects or does not provide evidence for potential success: 1-2 point

The project proponent failed to provide an update on the past year's funding or does not present a solid foundation for potential success: 0 points

Score: _____

FISH AND GAME CODE

13103. Expenditures from the fish and wildlife propagation fund of any county may be made only for the following purposes:

(a) Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.

(b) Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.

(c) Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence.

(d) Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing fish or wildlife which are to be released upon approval of the department pursuant to Sections 6400 and 6401 onto land or into waters of local, state, or federal agencies or onto land or into waters open to the public.

(e) Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.

(f) Construction, maintenance, and operation of public hatchery facilities.

(g) Purchase and maintain materials, supplies, or equipment for either the department's ownership and use or the department's use in the normal performance of the department's responsibilities.

(h) Predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife following certification in writing by the department that the proposed actions will significantly benefit a particular wildlife species.

(i) Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department.

(j) Reasonable administrative costs, excluding the costs of audits required by Section 13104, for secretarial service, travel, and postage by the county fish and wildlife commission when authorized by the county board of supervisors. For purposes of this subdivision, "reasonable cost" means an amount which does not exceed 3 percent of the average amount received by the fund during the previous three-year period, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000) annually, whichever is greater, excluding any funds carried over from a previous fiscal year.

(k) Contributions to a secret witness program for the purpose of facilitating enforcement of this code and regulations adopted pursuant to this code.

(l) Costs incurred by the district attorney or city attorney in investigating and prosecuting civil and criminal actions for violations of this code, as approved by the department.

(m) Other expenditures, approved by the department, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.



Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Board Order

168 West Alisal Street,
1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831.755.5066
www.co.monterey.ca.us

A motion was made by Supervisor Chris Lopez, seconded by Supervisor Mary L. Adams to:

- a. Approve the recommendation of the Monterey County Fish and Game Advisory Commission to provide funding from the Propagation Grant Fund Program, under an emergency basis, for the Monterey Bay Salmon Trout Project (MBSTP); and
- b. Approve and authorize a distribution from the Fish and Game Propagation Fund 006 for Fiscal Year 2020-21, in the amount of \$14,000, to MBSTP for emergency repairs to the Kingfisher Flat Hatchery and associated infrastructure.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 8th day of June 2021, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Phillips, Lopez, Askew and Adams
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
(Government Code 54953)

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting June 8, 2021.

Dated: May 14, 2021
File ID: 21-470
Agenda Item No.: 68

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California


Julian Lorenzana, Deputy