



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency – Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY - Call 711 <http://www.scceh.org>



2026 NOTICE OF AVAILABLE GRANT FUNDING

The Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) 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 \$10,000 available** for this year's grants program. All requested amounts will be considered.

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

- Benefits native fish and wildlife and habitat.
- Education programs for school age children related to fish and wildlife
- Scientific research conducted by qualified individuals (*requires CDFW approval*)
- Support of California Fish and Wildlife related law enforcement.

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

- Are highly rated by Commissioner Score Sheet metrics (Appendix 1)
- Complies with [Fish and Game Code 13103](#) (Appendix 2)
- Proposals may include funding for labor costs.

SCORING PROCESS: Each proposal will be scored by all commissioners. Commissioner scores will then be averaged, and the proposals will be ranked by the average points scored. Starting with the highest ranked proposals, the commission will decide to fully fund, partially fund or not fund each proposal.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Individuals, organizations, and agencies can apply using the application forms on this webpage: [Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission \(scceh.org\)](http://www.scceh.org). Please note, individuals should have an affiliation with an organization to receive funding.
2. Additional documentation can be included with the application forms; however, the document length should be kept to 8 pages or less. We encourage concise grant proposals, but budget information is required.
3. Application forms must be received by Friday, October 23, 2026, as an electronic file to FWAC@santacruzcountyca.gov. Hardcopy applications will be accepted, but electronic applications are preferred.
4. Grant applications will be reviewed by the FWAC at their November 5, 2026, meeting. The meeting will be at 6:30pm and applicants are encouraged to attend and summarize their proposal in a short presentation (not to exceed 5 minutes in length).
5. Final selection is scheduled for the December 3, 2026, FWAC meeting

Appendix 1:
Commissioner Score Sheet

PROPOSAL		TOTAL SCORE	
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Annual Work Plan Goal: Habitat Restoration

3 points

Proposal's primary goal is related to riparian conservation	3 points	
There are proposal components related to riparian conservation	1-2 point	
Proposal does not address riparian conservation	0 points	
SCORE 1		

Benefits native species and habitats through a project, education, or enforcement:

12 points

Proposal provides a clear benefit to native species and habitats through a project, education, or enforcement	8-12 points	
Proposal provides some benefit to native species and habitats	4-7 points	
Proposal provides limited benefit to native species and habitats	1-3 points	
Proposal does not benefit native species or habitats	0 points	
SCORE 2		

Cost Effectiveness:

3 points

Proposal is a good value and provides a good cost/benefit ratio	3 points	
Proposal provides moderate cost/benefit ratio	1-2 point	
Proposal has a high cost for the benefits and/or does not have funding for the complete project secured:	0 points	
SCORE 3		

Benefit to the Santa Cruz Community:

2 points

Proposal will benefit a Santa Cruz County community or habitat	1-2 point	
Proposal will not benefit a Santa Cruz County community or habitat	0 points	
SCORE 4		

Expected Project Success:

3 points

Applicant has a record of successful projects, or a new applicant presents a solid foundation for success	3 points	
Applicant has a mixed record for success on past projects or a new applicant does not provide evidence for potential success	1-2 point	
Applicant has had multiple unsuccessful projects or has failed to provide an update on the past year's project	0 points	
SCORE 5		

Appendix 2:
FISH AND GAME CODE: SECTION 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.