



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>

AGENDA

May 22, 2024, 6:00 PM

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	6:00	6:05	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3	6:05	7:00	2024 Pelican Crisis Response: Commissioners Will Consider Whether to Recommend Emergency Grants Requests to Board of Supervisors
4		7:00	Adjourn

Public Comment

None

Items of Interest:

[Why are so many pelicans turning up sick or dead in Santa Cruz County? \(lookout.co\)](https://www.lookout.co)
[Sick Brown Pelicans Are Turning Up Along the Coast – and We Don't Know Why | KQED](https://www.kqed.org)
[California animal rescue treating over 100 starving pelicans \(ksbw.com\)](https://www.ksbw.com)

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

Commissioners meet in person at the **Solarium Conference Room, 1060 Emeline Avenue**. Members of the public can join in person but are encouraged to join virtually using the link below.

PLEASE NOTE: The meeting room is on the second floor, above the Water Quality Lab entrance. The door must remain locked after hours, but staff will be able to provide access to all attendees as they arrive.

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 249 437 282 363

Passcode: L29QSu

Dial in by phone

[+1 831-454-2222,792584444#](tel:+18314542222792584444) United States, Salinas

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 792 584 444#

Click the “Click here to join the meeting” link above. If you are asked to join 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.

Please join the meeting a few minutes BEFORE 6:00 pm so that we can start at 6:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 5:55 pm. Cameras are optional for members of the public.

If you have questions, please contact Sean Abbey at sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

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

Sean Abbey, staff liaison, 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 email 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.



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701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 TDD/TTY -Call 711 www.scceh.com
EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us

GRANT INFORMATION: PROPOSAL

This information will be included in public documents

Project Name: Pelican Crisis Response

Date: 5/14/24

Applicant name or Organization: Native Animal Rescue

Project Description:

Native Animal Rescue took into care 200 weak, starving pelicans from April 18 through May 12th. These birds were kept warm, hydrated with Pedialyte, then given Ensure until their bodies were able to eat fish. Every few days, many of the pelicans that have transitioned to eating fish, can be transported up to International Bird Rescue in Fairfield, CA for continued care.

Funding Requested **2210**

ITEMIZED BUDGET ITEMS	Requested Funds	Matching Funds	Total Amount
U-Haul Van Rental to Transport Pelicans x 2	400		400
Gas to Transport Pelicans (5 trips)	440		440
Sardines Fed to the Pelicans (280 lbs)	980		980
Ensure Given First 24 Hours of Intake	350		350
TOTAL AMOUNTS	2210		2210

Each item description should be sufficient to clearly define the full item. In addition to funds being requested, note any matching funds committed to the proposed project.

For each section, provide a brief written response.

Background of the issue being addressed

Beginning on April 18th, Native Animal Rescue began responding to calls about Brown Pelicans that were weak and not flying away when approached by dogs or people.

Project Goals

Native Animal Rescue is rescuing and caring for as many of these starving Brown Pelicans as possible. With the goal of stabilizing them, and then transporting them to International Bird Rescue where they are cared for until they can be released back to the wild.

Project Logistics: how will the project be completed?

Native Animal Rescue will continue rescuing and stabilizing pelicans that are starving as long as this problem continues.

Project Completion Timeline

Undetermined

Applicants Background.

Native Animal Rescue (NAR) is a 501c3 non-profit, and the licensed wildlife center in Santa Cruz County since 1980. NAR handles close to 3,000 injured, sick and orphaned wild animals a year.



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GRANT INFORMATION: **PROPOSAL**

*This information **will** be included in public documents*

Project Name: 2024 Santa Cruz County Pelican Crisis

Date: 05/14/24

Applicant name or Organization: International Bird Rescue

Project Description:

We respectfully request emergency grant support for a portion of the costs of necessary food, clinic and medical supplies to provide a stable and supportive rehabilitation environment for over 100 native, wild, California Brown Pelicans rescued by Native Animal Rescue in Santa Cruz County and transferred to us for life-saving care.

Funding Requested	\$6,350.00
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ITEMIZED BUDGET ITEMS	Requested Funds	Matching Funds	Total Amount
Food and medicine for 87 Santa Cruz County			
California Brown Pelicans			
(above our normal intakes of 23)			
@ \$50/day/patient			
for 21 days of care	\$6,350.00	\$85,000.00	\$91,350.00
TOTAL AMOUNTS	\$6,350.00	\$85,000.00	\$91,350.00

Each item description should be sufficient to clearly define the full item. In addition to funds being requested, note any matching funds committed to the proposed project.

For each section, provide a brief written response.

Background of the issue being addressed

As the referral facility for Santa Cruz County aquatic birds, we normally accept over 300 no-cost transfers, of which an average of 23 are California Brown Pelicans. In less than 30 days, we have received 110 California Brown Pelicans from Santa Cruz County (5x of normal), with more expected. We have already incurred over \$39,000 in food and medicine expenses for these Santa Cruz County patients. That number is likely to more than double. Emergency funds are needed to keep our crisis response sustainable.

Project Goals

Continue to provide Santa Cruz County nonprofits and the public with effective, efficient, ethical, humane, and immediate solutions to the latest California Brown Pelican Crisis. Successfully rehabilitate Santa Cruz County California Brown Pelicans to the point of release back to the wild at species-appropriate locations that have adequate food resources.

Project Logistics: how will the project be completed?

With our expert, professional, field-leading protocols and care (Rescue, Triage, Medical Intervention, Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Release), and with the financial support of those who share our values, we expect our success rate will be extraordinarily high. Each California Brown Pelican patient is expected to need ~21-28 days to rehabilitate before they can be successfully released back to the wild. We continue to work with CDFW scientists, biologists, and others to identify the cause of the crisis. However, our primary role is to provide acute care that leads to lifesaving results.

Project Completion Timeline

4/1/24 - 9/30/24

Applicants Background.

We are a regional and global conservation organization. We were founded in 1971 right here in the Bay Area in response to a massive oil spill that covered 50 miles of coastline on all sides of San Francisco Bay, effecting between 7,000 and 15,000 birds. Since then, we have become a global leader in addressing natural and man-made disasters affecting marine wildlife, such as oil spills, debris, and climate change. We've pioneered life-saving techniques to address ongoing, daily impacts on aquatic birds.



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Public Grants Program Budget Discussion

May 22, 2024

This table shows the revenue and expenditures from the Fish and Game trust fund in fiscal year 2023-24 and how much money is currently available in reserve. The reserve is used when the amount of revenue collected that year is less than the amount expended by the Public Grants Program (PGP).

Fiscal Year	Expenditures and Revenue	Reserve Fund Total
Start of 2023-24		\$57,482
	PGP Grant allocations	- \$16,000
	CDFW Fines	+ \$2,344
	Case 23CV01366 judgement	+ \$3,000
	Interest on trust fund	+ \$1,414
	IBR Emergency Grant Request	- \$6,350
	NAR Emergency Grant Request	- \$2,210
If Grants approved		\$39,680
	Case 23CV01791 judgement	+ \$1,000 (pending deposit)
	Case 20CV00152 judgement	+ \$10,000 (pending deposit)

For the fiscal year 2024-25, the budget approved for the PGP was \$20,000, which is greater than in previous years. Assuming similar revenue in 2024-25, and deposit of case's above, the reserve would be reduced to around \$34,000.