



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency - Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY - Call 711 <http://www.scceh.org>

AGENDA

September 7, 2023, 7:00 PM

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

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.

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:10	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Minutes
4			Public comment for items not on the agenda
5	7:10	7:15	Workplan Public Comment Approvals
6	7:15	7:20	Discuss 2022-2023 Grant Status Reports
7	7:20	7:25	Approval Of 2023-24 Grant RFP, Review Budget
8	7:25	7:45	Summary Of Inter-Commission Coordination Meeting
9	7:45	8:00	Invasive Species Letter Follow Up
10	8:00	8:15	Significant Tree Ordinance Letter Follow Up
11	8:15	8:30	Discuss Support for Fish Descending Device Requirement
12	8:30	8:40	Approve Creation of FWAC iNaturalist Account
13	8:40	9:00	Staff Reports Commissioner Reports and Announcements
14		9:00	Adjourn

Public Comment

NONE

Items of Interest:

[CDFW News | New CDFW Policy Recognizes Ecological Value of Beavers in California](#)

[Fish and Wildlife Closes Nearshore Groundfish Fishery in Mendocino, San Francisco and Central Management Areas \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

[Otter 841 continues to evade capture in Santa Cruz : NPR](#)

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 275 823 529 41

Passcode: EVacZj

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Click on 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 7:00 pm so that we can start at 7:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:50 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:

Chris Berry, Chair, will lead the meeting. Chair Berry 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.



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:02 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Samuel Adelson	P
II	VACANT		David Somerton	P
III	Liz Alter	P	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	VACANT		VACANT	
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Jen Michelsen	P

P = Present R = Remote E = Excused A = Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Somerton, **Second:** Alter,
- **All Ayes:** Minutes approved

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- **Jean Brocklebank:** Comment letter attached regarding 16.90 & 16.92
- **Cpt Schindler (CDFW):** Recently gained a K-9 officer trained in both detection and protection. Able to do detection of people, fire arms, deer, bear, abalone and several other species.
 - **Questions from Commissioners**
 - Com Jankovitz: Has there been an increase in rockfish violations with the recent changes allowing for deep water fishing? *There has not been a significant increase in citations as it can be hard to determine if a fish was caught in deep water.*
 - (1) This led to a discussion regarding the use of a descender for deep water fishing, which is not a required piece of equipment in CA. **At next meeting**, consider a letter on requiring a descender when deep water fishing, like what is in Oregon law.
 - Com Berry: Any stream bed alteration citations? *No significant items to report, but there might be a few settlements to fund the grants program.*

5. **INVASIVE SPECIES LETTER FOLLOW UP:**

- Com Berry: Connected with Sup Koenig about the Invasive Species letter and it seems it was too broad. Sup Koenig recommends a more distilled version that includes priority species. The Invasive Species sub-committee will reconvene over the summer to form ideas for a new letter.
- Com Gomez: For the priority species, consider including the various values of removal, such as fire protection, disease control, erosion control.

- Com Michelsen: Recommend finding ways to remove barriers for restoration projects, such as making invasive plant removals an option for mitigation projects.
- Com Jankovitz: Recommend focusing on emerging invasive species, such as Arundo, to prevent problems from getting out of control. Also try to base some programs on incentives to remove species.
- Brocklebank: Commissioners should not worry about how funding of these projects should be completed. Projects should work with nature and not against it. Suggests a list of 5 plant and animal species that the BOS could ban the sale of.

6. DISCUSS INTER-COMMISSION COORDINATION (ICC):

- Com Berry: Reached out to COE and WAC about a meeting to discuss the topics of Significant Tree Ordinance (STO), the 30x30 initiative, Section 16.92, and building housing in areas that are out of harm's way.
- Com Gomez: Recommends including the CAAP, as that is where the COE is focusing and there are changes to the STO proposed there.
- Com Michelsen: Recommends that unhoused populations be considered as a topic.
- Commissioners Berry and Gomez offer to represent FWAC on the ICC
 - **Motion to approve these representatives:** Alter, **Second:** Michelsen,
 - **All Ayes:** Com Berry and Gomez will represent FWAC at ICC meetings.

7. BEAVER REINTRODUCTION FOLLOW UP:

- Com Berry: Webinar from the State on beaver reintroduction was interesting and seemed to imply that much work is already being done to create beaver management criteria. Spoke with State Parks, and they were supportive in concept of a Waddell creek relocation.
- Com Alter: Did not hear back from Beaver expert at CSUMB prior to meeting.
- Mark Strudley (*Pajaro Flood Management*): AB 64 is in suspense now. There appears to be an issue with financing through the state budget.
- Brocklebank: Sufficient action has been taken by FWAC for now.

8. 2023 WORKPLAN APPROVAL: The Workplan in the agenda only includes items, but not the summaries of support:

- **Motion to Approve Workplan:** Gomez, **Second:** Somerton,
- **All Ayes:** Workplan approved.

9. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Staff Reports:**
 - CAAP report: No items since previous meeting
 - Board of Sups have adopted a resolution recognizing tobacco product waste as a public health and environmental threat. Sups Cummings and Koenig have started an ad hoc committee to advance policies, including drafting an ordinance that would prohibit the sale of plastic filtered tobacco products within the County of Santa Cruz jurisdiction for the Board to consider by January 2025 unless extended.
 - Propose a FWAC iNaturalist account. Up to four commissioners sharing the account and would allow for the creation of research projects, such as invasive plants on public property. Staff suggest commissioners consider if they should be on the account.
 - (1) Will include an item on the next agenda to have commissioners sign up
- **Commissioner Reports:**
 - Com Somerton: There was an [article in the Sentinel](#) about Salmon Recovery documentary based in Santa Cruz County.

- Gomez: Bonny Doon ecological reserve looks beautiful after the rains.
- Jankovitz: The Supreme Court rolled back the protections in the Clean Water Act, though it seems that California may not be as impacted. Will get more details and report back.
- Com Berry: Endangered Species Act is 50 years old in December. The City of Santa Cruz water admin building will have displays with several local endangered species.

**10. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn: Berry, Second: Somerton
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.**

Oral Communications
FWAC
June 1, 2023
by Jean Brocklebank and Michael Lewis

This is an update. At the May 4th meeting during Public Comments, we spoke of County Code Sections 16.90 and 16.92 which codified a “decade of environment” and asked for support from the FWAC to **renew** this section of code this coming year. We hope you have had a chance to review [the language of 16.92](#).

In preparing for the same message to the Commission on the Environment at its May 24th meeting, we had a **pleasant surprise**, discovering that in the year 2010, County Code 16.90 was re-codified as 16.92 **without a decade sunset**. So 16.92 is therefore currently County law and provides the overarching environmental policies of the County, called Environmental Principles and Policies to Guide County Government.

We attended the Commission on the Environment meeting in person. We were able to see first hand the reactions of commissioners as I spoke. There were several new members. Every single commissioner listened carefully, grabbed pens to take notes! A few minutes into our prepared remarks I said I would send a pdf of our comments to staff. Commissioners set their pens aside and listened attentively to every word of our statement.

We asked the COE to place 16.92 on their next meeting agenda (July 26). We also suggested the Inter-Commission Coordination Working Group could discuss the topic at a joint study session on 16.92 before the July 26 meeting.

This commission will be the perfect commission to embrace 16.92, because their first listed purpose, found in their enabling legislation, is to "Advise the Board of Supervisors and make recommendations on ways to improve and protect the environment to ensure the long-term environmental sustainability of the County."

In the last decade the COE seemed to have focused solely on climate change, ignoring the mechanical destruction of the environment and biodiversity addressed in County Code 16.92. We asked them to recognize that a sole focus on climate change fails to address the right here, right now problem of mechanical destruction of the environment that sustains us all, including the non-human beings with whom we share life.



County of Santa Cruz
Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

2023 Work Plan

Public Grants Program

Monitor - Fish and Game Propagation Fund balance

Action – Decide on fund amount and suggested request level for PGP in 2023

Provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues

Learn - about what community considers important fish and wildlife topics.

Action – Be responsive to issues as they arise, report back to Board of Supervisors

Coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning *(Public Comment)*

Lead Commissioner: Berry

Learn - current status and research; impacts of CZU fire.

Monitor - low-flow fishing closure status and fishing regulation changes.

Monitor - progress for new coho salmon conservation hatchery.

Action – communicate with CDFW about fishing regulations.

Riparian Corridor Protection and Enhancement *(Public Comment)*

Lead Commissioner: Jankovitz

Monitor - progress on County efforts to develop a Riparian Enhancement Program

Monitor - how local agencies are dealing with homeless living in riparian areas.

Action – support riparian corridor enhancement when appropriate

Action – communicate importance of protecting riparian from homeless encampments for wildlife and water quality benefits.

Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) *(Public Comment)*

Includes conservation for wildlife, fish, riparian, oak woodlands, idea of strategic plan for fish and wildlife

Lead Commissioner: Michelsen

Learn - about RCIS process

Action – Discuss and comment to RCD/RTC on draft RCIS.

Action – Participate in public meetings.

Action – Consider letter to BOS re: RCIS comments

Monitor - development of final plan.



County of Santa Cruz
Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Expand Significant Tree Ordinance outside Coastal Zone [*\(Public Comment\)*](#)

Lead Commissioner: Gomez

Action – invite Rich Sampson to present on wildfire safety at March 2022 meeting and discuss Calfire perspective on expanding Significant Tree Ordinance.

Wildlife Corridors and Open Space Conservation and Management

[*\(Public Comment\)*](#)

Lead Commissioner: Alter

Monitor - Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods public access process.

Learn - about Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods forestry management.

Learn - about how conservation easements are being used in County.

Learn - about how much open space is in the County.

Learn - about how to support wildlife corridors.

Marine Protection [*\(Public Comment\)*](#)

Lead Commissioners: Somerton

Learn - about new and ongoing marine protection issues.

what community considers important fish and wildlife topics.

Learn - about local juvenile great white sharks.

Action - take action when appropriate to support Marine Protection.

Monitor - new legislation and actions.

Vision Santa Cruz Wild [*\(Public Comment\)*](#)

Lead Commissioners: Adelson

Action – Create a strategic plan for habitat and wildlife.

Action – develop ways to education county residents about local fish and wildlife issues.

Learn - County General plan update is related to this item



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



WORK PLAN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning

Coho salmon and steelhead trout are perhaps the greatest examples of our County's special biodiversity. In addition to having their own inherent value, healthy local populations of these fish are indicators of properly functioning watersheds and marine ecosystems that have broad value for our County in terms of recreation, water quality and supply, aesthetics and other ecosystem services. Recovery of these species is of paramount importance to our community and the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission strongly supports any actions that can be taken toward that goal. For more information on priority actions please refer to the respective recovery plans. They can be found at the following links:

Central California Coast Coho:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-evolutionarily-significant-unit-central-california-coast-coho>

Central California Coast Steelhead:

https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/2016-multispecies-recovery_plan-vol4.pdf

South Central California Steelhead:

<https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/17275>



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Riparian Corridor Protection and Enhancement

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding riparian corridor protection and enhancement. Considering the vulnerability of our County's wildlife, fishes, and natural habitat, it is critical to consider riparian corridors as being paramount for environmental functionality. Riparian corridors support a suite of native fish and wildlife species throughout the County, and increase the functions and value of the ecosystem. Riparian degradation has been observed at an increasingly alarming rate by the Commission in many forms including illegal dumping, unhoused population impacts, property owners disregarding riparian setback ordinances, invasive species colonization, and active removal of native riparian vegetation. All illicit activity in the riparian corridor has a cumulative effect on the health and status of our County's fish, wildlife and natural habitat

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by supporting riparian corridor enhancement when appropriate. It is encouraged to support progression on County efforts to developing a Riparian Enhancement Program.

By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife.



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Expand Significant Tree Ordinance outside Coastal Zone

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding expansion of the significant tree ordinance. Our forests provide valuable services such as preventing erosion of top soil, reducing the risk of landslides, protecting against flood hazards, counteracting water and air borne pollutants, and sequestering carbon. In addition large trees are more fire resistant than the vegetation that typically replaces one after it is removed. The preservation of significant trees and forest communities on private and public property is necessary to protect habitat for fish, birds, insects and mammals, many of which are threatened or endangered.

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by expanding the scope of the ordinance to include these important ecosystem services, not just the scenic value of the trees.

By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife, and their habitats.



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Wildlife Corridors and Open Space Conservation and Management

As a member of the Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding wildlife corridors and open space conservation and management. Maintaining habitat and connectivity between habitats is fundamental to conserving wildlife populations, particularly in areas like Santa Cruz County that have extensive urban-wildland interfaces, and an abundance of sensitive species (Figure 1). The mountains of Santa Cruz represent a mosaic of different habitats that host native biodiversity including mountain lions, mule deer, bobcats, foxes, Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders, red-legged frogs, tiger salamanders, coho salmon, steelhead trout, marbled murrelets and many others. The ecological integrity of these systems can be compromised by human infrastructure and activities. Roads and highways, in particular, represent both barriers to wildlife that effectively shrink the amount of habitat available to them, as well as an important source of mortality for many species. Likewise, human activities in open spaces including hiking, mountain biking, and both legal and illegal harvest of plants, animals and fungi, can degrade sensitive habitat over time if not kept in check.

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, we highly recommend that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by 1) continuing to support the construction and maintenance of wildlife corridors, such as the wildlife crossing tunnel on Hwy 17 at Laurel Grade built in collaboration with CalTrans; 2) promoting the protection of open space wherever possible including balancing habitat protection with public recreation and sustainable timber harvest, such as in the Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods public access process; and 3) working with organizations such as the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and Sempervirens Fund to identify additional parcels of land for conservation easements and protection to prioritize contiguous tracts of habitat across the County.

While the focus of our Advisory Commission is on promoting the health of fish and wildlife populations, properly managed open spaces contribute to other important County goals including mitigating the effects of climate change and storm runoff. By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, will be supporting the wildlife populations and open spaces that make Santa Cruz County unique.



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Marine Protection

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding Marine Protection. Considering the vulnerability of the marine habitat within Santa Cruz county, it is critical to consider human impacts on iconic keystone species, such as white sharks. This is especially true within the near-shore area of the Capitola bight, which is a critical habitat of juvenile white sharks that is often impacted by boating activities. Based on examination of dead white sharks it has been determined that vessel strikes result in a significant source of their mortality. As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by establishing maximum vessel speed limits within a designated area of the Capitola bight to reduce the likelihood of vessel strikes, similar to the current vessel speed limit within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to reduce the number of whale strikes. By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife.



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Vision Santa Cruz Wild

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding Vision Santa Cruz County, which promotes "a healthy, safe and more affordable community that is culturally diverse, economically inclusive and environmentally vibrant." Considering the vulnerability of Santa Cruz County's fish and wildlife, it is critical to consider that every aspect of Vision Santa Cruz County's Operational Plan (Health & Safety, Housing, Transportation, Sustainability, Economy, and Operations), if navigated sensitively, can support a healthier and more resilient natural ecosystem.

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by prioritizing the connections between a healthy human community and a healthy local natural ecosystem. Decisions that favor a healthy environment often also favor a healthy human community. To share some examples: Greenspaces support physical and mental health for humans, and if they are landscaped with native plant species greenspaces can also support healthy ecosystem function. Minimizing air pollution by using electric public transportation vehicles results in cleaner air for humans as well as animals like amphibians which only thrive in especially clean air. Sustainable, environment-focused development is becoming more favorable through an economic lens, including cost savings from the conservation of energy and water. As you navigate Vision Santa Cruz, it is strongly advised that you focus on the ways your programs might impact our County's fish and wildlife and how those impacts can be minimized.

By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision-making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife.

GRANT REPORT - SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FISH & WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION



California Trout, Inc. is on track to install our salmonid tracking project site on Branciforte Creek this November using granted funds from the Santa Cruz County Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission. We have completed landowner outreach along Branciforte Creek, secured site access permission, measured project site features to prepare for equipment installation, prepared for equipment purchase and delivery with our vendor, and discussed the relevance of our project with the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC). To date, we have spent \$26.21 on equipment, and we plan to spend the \$4,443.27 of remaining funds on more cost-effective equipment than that listed in our proposal budget by December 2023.

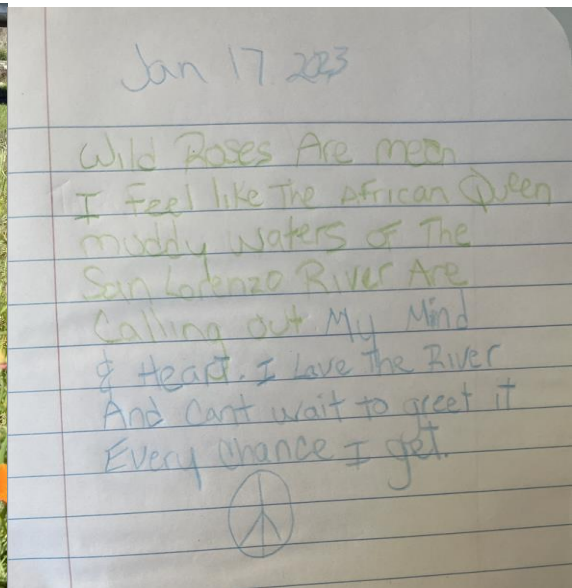
We plan to coordinate passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag antenna projects that track salmonid migrations in the San Lorenzo River watershed with partners. SWFSC staff recently shared that challenges in maintaining the SWFSC PIT antenna at the Felton Diversion Dam may warrant reconsideration of their work at current and new potential sites. In September, we will coordinate with the County and City of Santa Cruz, the SWFSC, local non-profits, and resource agencies to discuss how remaining grant funds and other leveraged funding sources, can strategically support coordinated fish tracking efforts in the San Lorenzo River watershed following winter storm damages from flooding. As California Trout prepares to track salmonid migrations along Branciforte Creek, we intend for this pilot study to build on salmonid tracking work in the watershed by our institutional partners (objectives 2-3) while informing salmonid management and restoration efforts (objective 6).

**County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission
2023 Coastal Watershed Council Project Report**



With support from the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, the Coastal Watershed Council (CWC), Downtown Streets Team (DST) and ecologist Jane Mio engaged 25 unique individuals experiencing homelessness in the stewardship of native habitat along the lower San Lorenzo River. During this time, river stewards completed 32 hours of habitat enhancement, removing 1,296 square feet of highly invasive ivy from lower San Lorenzo River, and planting 75 native plants comprising 3 species including yarrow, lizard tail, and purple needle grass. River stewards tended to these plantings and increased their chance of survivorship by weeding non-native species, mulching, increasing growth margins, and watering. Participants also removed over 32 gallons of litter per shift.

Through this program CWC’s River Ecologist Kaiya Giuliano-Monroy and Jane Mio have fostered a love for the lower San Lorenzo River and an understanding of how to care for the unique river system. During this time, the river stewards were introduced to concepts such as biodiversity, bird nesting behavior, bird identification, native plant identification, native plant care, native plant medicinal properties, native plant specific fauna food source benefits, and the general ecology of the lower San Lorenzo River. They have been taught these concepts by hands-on habitat enhancement on the river habitats and have refined their skills in leadership, teamwork, and attention to detail within this program.



Native Animal Rescue
1855 17th Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
August 28, 2023

Native Animal Rescue is grateful to have received a grant from the Santa Cruz County Fish & Wildlife Advisory Committee. Here are the ways we used the grant.

Our needs every year encompass four areas: Food Costs, Medication & Vet Services, Wildlife Supplies, and Enclosure Repairs. Without funding in these areas, we could not provide adequate care to the county's distressed wildlife.

In the spring and summer we take in hundreds of orphaned birds and mammals which require specialized formulas. Adult birds eat seeds and mealworms. Many animals get their nutritional requirements from cat food. Seabirds require fish. Raptors require meat, most of which is in the form of purchased frozen mice and rats.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Hillary Stern as our vet who donates her time and expertise. We do have to pay for x-rays, medications, vaccines and wormers. We regularly order and administer Clavimox, an antibiotic given to injured animals, especially animals that are brought in cat-caught.

Many supplies are needed to run our center: Paper towels, toilet paper, transport boxes, detergent, bleach, cleanser, dish & hand soap and gloves to list the most important.

With the storms of January 2023, many enclosures were damaged. A giant tree fell onto our state-of-the-art Raptor Enclosure in Watsonville. We were able to get the enclosure repaired, thank goodness. Our Deer Enclosure on acres of forest property in Boulder Creek was also severely damaged. Many volunteers worked to remove debris over several weekends.

The total number of animals received in 2022 was 2,974. Our 2023 number to date is 2,212.

Santa Cruz County FWAC FY2022 Grant Report

Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout Project

Because of post-CZU fire conditions in the Big Creek (tributary to Scott Creek) watershed, the MBSTP Kingfisher Flat Hatchery (KFH) facility now has a substantially increased risk of flooding, debris flows, and intake blockage throughout the year, and particularly during spawning season. These conditions could compromise broodstock spawning & egg incubation capabilities at the hatchery. KFH is a critical component of local recovery efforts for endangered Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon, so maintaining security of the facility and water flow is of extreme importance.

MBSTP was awarded \$3,500 in funding by the Santa Cruz County Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission to support the purchase of equipment to protect incubation infrastructure for endangered (CCC) coho salmon at the KFH facility. 100% of these funds were applied to the purchase of a single 4-inch, 13hp engine driven utility pump. MBSTP purchased 100ft. of flexible utility hose to serve as a discharge for the pump as a match component for this project.

This pump will help MBSTP maintain incubation security for critically-endangered CCC coho salmon throughout poor environmental conditions in the Big Creek watershed (i.e. drought or flood). During intake blockage or low flow (drought) conditions, MBSTP can use this pump as an emergency backup water conveyance. During flood conditions, MBSTP can use this pump to protect critical infrastructure (i.e., the hatchery building and incubating eggs) by diverting floodwaters. Over the past 10 years, KFH has endured multiple wildfire, drought, and flood conditions- so this pump provides a meaningful 'safety net' during poor habitat conditions.

All MBSTP personnel would like to extend their deep gratitude to the Advisory Commission for their ongoing support of recovery of listed & endangered salmon in Santa Cruz County.

The County of Santa Cruz Water Resources Program has completed the Natural Resources Hallway Display. The display provides basic information about the County's natural resources and highlights some of the unique species and sensitive habitats. In 2017, this project received a \$2,000 allocation through the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission to assist with updating the original 2008 display. The project evolved over time and included the development of a strong photo collection and 4 new maps that show the County's natural resources, coho and steelhead distribution, water resources and human population density. County staff partnered with local resources agencies and local photographers to complete the display. The display will be hung on the fourth floor of the County Building, adjacent to the public permitting counter, where it can be seen by visitors and staff over the next 10 years.

Thanks to the commission for providing funding that supported the completion of this project.

Kristen Kittleson





County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-3154 TDD/TTY -Call 711 www.scceh.com

EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us

2023-24 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 \$16,000** 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
- Support of California Fish and Game 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 find application forms on the FWAC webpage: [Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission \(scceh.org\)](http://Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission (scceh.org)).
 - a. 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. Proposals must be received by 3:00 PM Thursday, October 26, 2023, as an electronic file to FWAC@santacruzcounty.us. Hardcopy applications will be accepted, but electronic applications are preferred.
4. Grant applications will be reviewed by the FWAC at their November 2, 2023, meeting. The meeting will be at 7pm and applicants are encouraged to attend and summarize their proposal in a short presentation (not to exceed 3 minutes in length).
5. Final selection is scheduled for the December 1, 2023, FWAC meeting

**Appendix 1:
Commissioner Score Sheet**

PROPOSAL		TOTAL SCORE	
-----------------	--	--------------------	--

Annual Work Plan Goal: Invasive Species Management **3 points**

Proposal's primary goal is related to invasive species	3 points	
There are components of the proposal related to invasive species	1-2 point	
Proposal does not address invasive species	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.



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-3154 TDD/TTY -Call 711 www.sceh.com

EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us

Public Grants Program Budget Discussion

August 28, 2023

This table shows the amount of money approved for the Public Grants Program (PGP) in the 2023-24 fiscal year and how much money is currently available in the reserve. The reserve is used when the amount of revenue collected that year is less than the amount distributed by the PGP.

Fiscal Year	Budget Approved for PGP	Trust Fund reserve total <i>(as of report date)</i>
2023-2024	\$16,000	\$57,482

Note: In recent years, the amount of revenue collected has been greater than the amount distributed by the PGP, which has resulted in a larger than normal amount saved in the reserve. It is recommended that future funding cycles request a larger budget for grants to reduce the amount saved in the reserve.

Definition of terms:

Reserve - amount of funding saved in the Fish and Game trust fund, which carries over from year to year.

Revenue - amount received by the Fish and Game Propagation Fund from fines and judgements in each fiscal year.

Budget approved for PGP - Amount approved for release. This is set as part of the budget for Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Department and is approved by the Board of Supervisors in June. Changes in the amount budgeted should be discussed in December or January, when the EH Department budget starts being created.