



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

September 4, 2025, 6:30 PM

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	6:30	6:40	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Consent Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">July Meeting Minutes
4			Public Comment for Items Not on The Agenda
5	6:40	7:10	Presentation from Sean Cochran on Expansion of Low Flow Closure Ordinance
6	7:10	7:40	Discussion of Proposed Changes to Wildfire Hardening Standards
7	7:40	8:10	Public Grants Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accept Reports from Previous Grant CycleReview Budget for 2025-26 Grant CycleApprove Request for Proposals
8	8:10	8:20	Approve 2025 Workplan
9	8:20	8:30	Staff Reports Commissioner Reports and Announcements
10		8:30	Adjourn

Public Comment

None

Items of Interest:

[Defensible Space, Zone Zero, and the New Fire Hazard Severity Zones – Los Angeles Audubon Society](#)

[Bill Text – SB-616 Community Hardening Commission: wildfire mitigation program.](#)

[The San Lorenzo River water level was high in July. Is that normal? – Lookout Santa Cruz](#)

[Breakthrough in mass starfish die-off – Lookout Santa Cruz](#)

[UCSC acquires 414 acres in major land deal – Lookout Santa Cruz](#)

[CDFW News | CDFW Cannabis Restoration Grant Program Funds Conservation Activities for Coho Salmon at Hatchery in Santa Cruz County](#)

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: 274 269 945 217 8

Passcode: dn9WD3Ew

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 6:30 pm so that we can start at 6:30 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:25 pm. Cameras are optional for members of the public.

If you have questions, contact Sean Abbey at sean.abbey@santacruzcountyca.gov.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

Jenni Gomez, Chair, will lead the meeting. Chair Gomez 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 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.



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>



Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:31 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Kevin Butler	P
II	Brian Woodward	P	David Somerton	P
III	Liz Alter	P	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	Brooke Sampson	E	Daniela Suarez	P
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Joanne Brown	R

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- NONE

5. **PRESENTATION ON HIGHWAY 17 WILDLIFE CORRIDOR FINDINGS:** Commissioners received a presentation from the Land Trust that provided a 1-year update on the Highway 17 Wildlife crossing at Laurel Curve. This report was previously presented at the Rio Theater, and a recording can be found here:

https://youtu.be/l5AXgc_6_wA?si=0hHarkuj3TukbXb

- The Land Trust provided information on their efforts to reconnect the Santa Cruz Mountain Range with the Gabilan Mountain Range:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/716de4f1100044779354ea8a3c8aff9f/>

6. **INTRODUCTION TO THE FWAC:** Staff introduced the three new commissioners to the FWAC and provided key information on the role of the FWAC, governing rules, and how meetings are run.

7. **SIGNIFICANT TREE ORDINANCE EXPANSION DISCUSSION:** Commissioners provided an update on the status of the letter and response from Supervisors. No Supervisors responded to requests to agendize the item. Commissioners Jankovitz, Gomez, and Somerton will again contact their supervisors and reference the May 20th Supervisors agenda where the letter was sent.
8. **APPROVE 2025 WORKPLAN:** Commissioners again reviewed the Workplan and chose to do additional refining before approving the plan. Commissioners Brown and Alter will work to align their work plan items and Commissioners Berry, Jankovitz, and Suarez will work to align their items. Commissioner Woodward has selected the Invasive Species workplan item and will update it as needed.
9. **STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- **Staff Reports:**
 - NONE
 - **Commissioner Reports:**
 - **Com Somerton:** White sharks observed in Monterey Bay and noted concern about vessel strikes by tour vessels.
 - **Com Jankovitz:**
 - (1) New CEQA exemptions for development were signed into law and suggests a possible future agenda item.
 - (2) The start of the recreational salmon season was very successful, roughly 10-30k fish caught, but closed the season in only 2 days.
 - **Com Berry:**
 - (1) City of Santa Cruz finalized water use rules that should improve the flows available to fish
 - (2) Expanded Juvenile steelhead monitoring going on in the San Lorenzo River Watershed
 - (3) Pond turtle study on Loch Lomond noted that turtles are largely observed on Wednesday when the area is closed to the public
 - (4) San Lorenzo Lagoon is filling because the culvert bypass is in operation.
10. **ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn:** Jankovitz, **Second:** Somerton
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm

2025 GRANT REPORT

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FISH & WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION



Figure 1. PIT antenna installation (right) and checking system performance on streambank (left).

In Fall 2024, California Trout collaborated with partners to site and install a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag antenna to track salmonid migrations in Branciforte Creek, a key tributary of the San Lorenzo River watershed. In October, CalTrout staff teamed with partners from Santa Cruz County, the City of Santa Cruz, Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project, local landowners to install a system that detects fish moving through Branciforte Creek. The antenna is sited on private property immediately upstream of the flood control channel, which may hinder migrations of critically endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead.

During this pilot study, sixteen total steelhead were detected between December 2024 and March 2025 at the site. Of those, thirteen fish were tagged as juveniles in June 2024 in San Lorenzo Lagoon; two fish were tagged in San Lorenzo Lagoon at an unknown date; and one fish was tagged in Laguna Creek Lagoon in June 2024. Most (n=12) of the detected steelhead migrated during December 2024. Sufficient streamflow allowed steelhead passage through the flood control channel in lower Branciforte Creek from December through at least March 6, 2025, when the last fish was detected. CalTrout plans to work with Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project and local landowners to run the PIT antenna system for another season to gather and share more data.

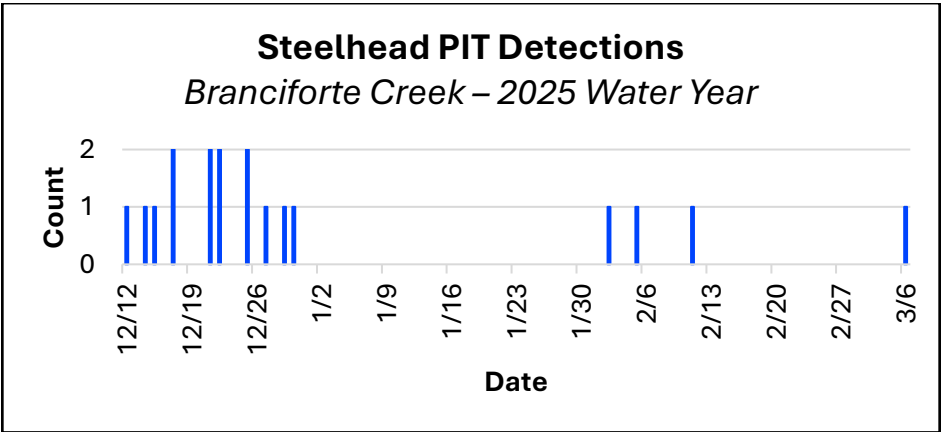


Figure 2. PIT tagged steelhead detected in Branciforte Creek by Date.

Grant Report to the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission
Coastal Watershed Council

2025

Thanks to the support of the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, from July 2024 to June 2025, the Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) River Stewards program engaged 32 unique individuals experiencing homelessness for a total of 424 volunteers hours improving the lower San Lorenzo River ecosystem. Throughout this period, River Steward members learned riparian stewardship, interpersonal skills, and job skills. Members also expressed a sense of pride in helping care for the river and the Santa Cruz community. During this period, River Stewards exceeded our goal to remove 1,000 square feet of highly invasive species by removing 1,741 square feet of Acacia (*Acacia sp.*), Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*), Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), and Ice Plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*). River Stewards also removed 2,190 square feet of less invasive non-native species, including Periwinkle (*Vinca major*), Wild Radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), Black Mustard (*Rhaphospermum nigrum*), Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Kikuya Grass (*Cenchrus clandestinus*), and Italian Thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*). In addition, CWC presented this project and its success at the Salmonoid Restoration Conference and the California Society for Ecological Restoration conference. Overall, this grant has significantly decreased the presence of invasive species along the lower, leveed river, allowing native plant species to thrive. Within 4 months of removing invasive Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) in one location, we have observed three native species take its place: California bulrush (*Schoenoplectus californicus*), Western Goldenrod (*Euthamia occidentalis*), and Tall flatsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*) reflecting the improvements to the river's biodiversity thanks to this grant and the work of the River Stewards.



River Stewards participants from the Downtown Streets Team remove highly invasive Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) (left) and help to sow native seeds (right)



**Final Report to Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory
Commission for its grant:
*Resolving Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Santa Cruz County***

July 25, 2025

Original Funding Requests and Project Description

International Bird Rescue was awarded a \$7500 grant on 2/11/25 from the Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission and the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of offsetting a small portion of the necessary costs of essential clinic and medical supplies, medicine, food, and utilities to provide stable clinic and rehabilitation environments for birds admitted from Santa Cruz County to our San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center. As the following report demonstrates, grant funds were expended for this purpose.

Program Results

As the "referral hospital" for over a dozen Northern California Counties, we annually treat ~1,750 of the most challenging cases that are beyond the capacity or skills of other regional wildlife centers and clinics, and receive hundreds of birds from other local rescues and rehabilitation centers and from the general public for treatment at our Wildlife Center, including from Native Animal Rescue of Santa Cruz County. We typically received ~300 birds annually from Santa Cruz County (second only to Los Angeles County). Locations of rescue include Santa Cruz, Aptos, Capitola, Watsonville, Pajaro Dunes, Davenport, Ben Lomond, and Soquel. The patients we treat are critical to riparian conservation. They are the living, natural, native resources that habitat conservation and other activities seeks to support. Our research shows that rehabilitated animals achieve successful, long-term outcomes, including (but not limited to) completing average life expectancies, producing and rearing offspring, and serving as nutrition for other animals. Each of these outcomes is an important component of a healthy, balanced ecosystem.

In our last fiscal year (FY24: 10/1/23-9/30/24), we admitted a total of 3,076 wild, native, aquatic birds for care, representing 86 unique species. The average length of care for all patients was 19.67 days. During this same period, Santa Cruz County intakes totaled 422 patients, more than double that of the prior year (FY23). The average length of care for these patients was 27.32 days.

In our current FY25-to date (10/1/24-7/15/25), Santa Cruz County intakes total 135 patients, including 49 Brown Pelicans, as this species faces its third such crises in the last four years. Other wildlife experts suspect the trend is linked to an outbreak of domoic acid and saxitoxin. The average length of care for these patients is 22 days.

Notable media includes:

Lookout Santa Cruz: <https://lookout.co/young-pelicans-are-turning-up-starving-in-santa-cruz-county-scientists-are-working-to-understand-why/story>


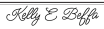


CBS News: <https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/international-bird-rescue-fairfield-brown-pelicans-starving/>



KQED: <https://www.kqed.org/science/1996948/californias-pelicans-are-once-again-starving-this-year-its-the-babies>



Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Grant funds supported essential clinic and medical supplies, medicine, food, and utilities to provide stable clinic and rehabilitation environments for birds admitted from Santa Cruz County to our San Francisco Bay-Delta Wildlife Center. No funds were used for personnel or capital expenses. Grant funds supported the following receipts and invoices:

Category	Vendor	Date	Amount	Grant Supported
7810 Utilities/Electric	PG&E	03/17/2025	\$4,226.11	\$4,226.11
6741 Animal Food	McRoberts	04/30/2025	\$3,199.18	\$3,199.18
7642 Medicine/Medical Supplies	Midwest Veterinary Supply	04/17/2025	\$84.26	\$74.71
		TOTALS	\$7,509.55	\$7,500.00

 PG&E www.pgandemyEnergy	ACCOUNT NUMBER 357743516-2		ACCOUNT TYPE Residential						
	DATE OF BIRTH 03/17/2025		ACCOUNT STATUS Active						
Service For: INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE CENTER 4339 CORDELLA RD FURNFIELD, CA 94504									
Questions about your bill? Business inquiries available: Monday, 7am to 5pm 1-800-468-4743 www.pgandemyEnergy		Your Account Summary Amount Due on Previous Statement \$1,444.72 Payments Received Since Last Statement \$100.00 Current PG&E Electric Delivery Charges \$2,345.43 MCE Electric Generation Charges 1,880.09							
Ways To Pay www.pgandemyEnergy		Total Amount Due by 04/03/2025 \$4,226.11							
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>  kellybuffa@pgandemyEnergy Mar 19, 2025 </div> <div> 4607810 11410425 (PG&E) </div> </div>									
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> Electric Monthly Billing History  </div> <div> Daily Usage Comparison <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Jan 2025</th> <th>Feb 2025</th> <th>Mar 2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Electric kWh / Day</td> <td>Electric kWh / Day</td> <td>Electric kWh / Day</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> </div>				Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Electric kWh / Day	Electric kWh / Day	Electric kWh / Day
Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025							
Electric kWh / Day	Electric kWh / Day	Electric kWh / Day							
Important Messages Your charges on this page are supplemented by delivery charges from PG&E and generation or procurement charges from energy provider other than PG&E. These two charges are not different services and are not applicable charges.									
Please return this portion with your payments, no staples or paper clips. Do not fold. Thanks you.									
999103517243516100004022613.000004026133									
	Account Number 357743516-2	Due Date 04/03/2025	Total Amount Due \$4,226.11						
Amount Enclosed \$		Amount Enclosed \$							
INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE CENTER 4339 CORDELLA RD FURNFIELD, CALIFORNIA									
PG&E BOX 997000 SACRAMENTO, CA 95894-7000									

 <p>McRoberts SALES CO., INC. PO BOX 489 RUSSIGN, IN 33575-0489 USA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page: 1 / 1</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Sales Invoice</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">PS007678 Date : April 30, 2025</p>																		
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Sell To : INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Ship To : INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE - SF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KELLY NESBITT 4369 CORDELLA ROAD FAIRFIELD, CA 94534</td> <td>CENTER KELLY BEFFA 4369 CORDELLA ROAD FAIRFIELD, CA 94534</td> </tr> </table>		Sell To : INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE	Ship To : INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE - SF	KELLY NESBITT 4369 CORDELLA ROAD FAIRFIELD, CA 94534	CENTER KELLY BEFFA 4369 CORDELLA ROAD FAIRFIELD, CA 94534														
Sell To : INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE	Ship To : INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE - SF																		
KELLY NESBITT 4369 CORDELLA ROAD FAIRFIELD, CA 94534	CENTER KELLY BEFFA 4369 CORDELLA ROAD FAIRFIELD, CA 94534																		
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th>Purchase Order No.</th> <th>Customer No.</th> <th>Salesperson</th> <th>Payment Terms</th> <th>Freight Company</th> <th>Reg. Ship Date</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>01815</td> <td>CELESTE BONNER</td> <td>N20</td> <td>CHALLENGER</td> <td>April 30, 2025</td> </tr> </table>		Purchase Order No.	Customer No.	Salesperson	Payment Terms	Freight Company	Reg. Ship Date		01815	CELESTE BONNER	N20	CHALLENGER	April 30, 2025						
Purchase Order No.	Customer No.	Salesperson	Payment Terms	Freight Company	Reg. Ship Date														
	01815	CELESTE BONNER	N20	CHALLENGER	April 30, 2025														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Case</th> <th>Case Size</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Lot #</th> <th>QTY</th> <th>Unit Price</th> <th>Total Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A2</td> <td>1516 60</td> <td>Q2F PACIFIC HERBING 5-6</td> <td>28409</td> <td>18</td> <td>1461.49</td> <td>1.05 2,444.46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Case	Case Size	Description	Lot #	QTY	Unit Price	Total Price	A2	1516 60	Q2F PACIFIC HERBING 5-6	28409	18	1461.49	1.05 2,444.46
Case	Case Size	Description	Lot #	QTY	Unit Price	Total Price													
A2	1516 60	Q2F PACIFIC HERBING 5-6	28409	18	1461.49	1.05 2,444.46													
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">  Kelly & Beffa BOOKSIGN May 19, 2025 40027041 </div>																			
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"> ADDITIONAL INVOICE INFORMATION SUBMITTANT NAME: NBN TRUST ACH: 061002104 ACCOUNT: 100018837003 BANI </td> <td style="width: 30%; vertical-align: top;"> Subtotal: 2,444.46 Freight: 0.00 Handling & Other: 0.00 Tax: 0.04 Total: 3,199.15 </td> </tr> </table>						ADDITIONAL INVOICE INFORMATION SUBMITTANT NAME: NBN TRUST ACH: 061002104 ACCOUNT: 100018837003 BANI	Subtotal: 2,444.46 Freight: 0.00 Handling & Other: 0.00 Tax: 0.04 Total: 3,199.15												
ADDITIONAL INVOICE INFORMATION SUBMITTANT NAME: NBN TRUST ACH: 061002104 ACCOUNT: 100018837003 BANI	Subtotal: 2,444.46 Freight: 0.00 Handling & Other: 0.00 Tax: 0.04 Total: 3,199.15																		
<p>For invoice payment e-mail: pay@mcrobertsales.com or call 815-646-2361</p> <p>Thank you for your business!</p>																			

[illegible]

International Bird Rescue
4369 Cordelia Rd.
Fairfield, CA 94534

Phil Kohlmetz, Grants Coordinator
E: grants@birdrescue.org
P: 707-207-0380 x100 or 707-704-0350



NATIVE ANIMAL RESCUE

Native Animal Rescue

1855 17th Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-462-0726
1855nar@gmail.com

9th August 2025

Sean Abbey

County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency
1080 Emeline Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Sean,

Native Animal Rescue would like to again thank the Santa Cruz County Fish & Wildlife Commission for their decades of support for Native Animal Rescue (NAR).

The majority of the \$3,000 grant from the Santa Cruz Fish & Wildlife Commission went towards the food costs for our animal patients. In 2024, food costs were \$23,906 and we allocated 10%, \$2,391 of these costs to be paid for by the grant. Medications & medical care provided by veterinarian, Dr. Hillary Stern, and vaccines purchased elsewhere totaled \$2,952 in 2024. We allocated 10%, \$295 of these costs to the grant. Lastly, we have been building up our educational presentation program, and used the remainder of the grant, \$314 on educational supplies. ($\$2,391 + \$295 + \$314 = \$3,000$)

In 2024 we received and cared for 2,995 animals at our facility. This year, we have already received 2,205.

Sincerely,

Eve Egan, Executive Director



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency – Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

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



Public Grants Program Budget Discussion

August 26, 2025

This table shows the revenue and expenditures from the Fish and Game trust fund in fiscal year 2025-26 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 2024-25		\$35,470
	PGP Grant allocations	- \$18,500
	CDFW Fines	+ \$4,000
	Interest on trust fund	+ \$300
	Judgement Settlements	+ \$13,000
Expected end of 2024-25		\$34,270

For the fiscal year 2025-26, the **budget approved for the PGP was \$20,000**. Assuming similar revenue in 2025-26, the reserve would be reduced to around \$32,000.



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>



2025-26 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 \$20,000 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 3:00 PM Friday, October 24, 2025, 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 6, 2025, 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 4, 2025, FWAC meeting

Appendix 1:
Commissioner Score Sheet

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

Annual Work Plan Goal: Riparian Conservation 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.



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

GRANT INFORMATION: APPLICANT

*This information **will not** be included in public documents.*

Project Name: _____ Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Organization: _____
If applicable

Email Address: _____ Phone _____

Mail Address: _____
Street Address *Apartment/Unit #*

City *State* *ZIP Code*

To receive grant funds, applicants must be registered as vendors with Santa Cruz County. If you have received a grant in the past, you should have a Santa Cruz County Vendor Identification #

Vendor ID #: _____

Is your Vendor ID mail address the same as the one listed above? YES ☐ NO ☐

If you do not have a Vendor ID, or your mailing address has changed, you will need to attach a completed W-9 form to your application. If you are unsure about your Vendor ID information, please contact County General Services at GSDSupportingDocs@santacruzcounty.us.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT: If your grant application is approved, you will be required to write a summary report stating how the funds were expended and the success of the project. The report should be roughly ½ - 1 page in length and is due by August 15th after funding is approved. If the grantee does not plan to request funding in the following year, a progress report may be completed within a year of receiving the funds.

For each section, provide a brief written response.

Background of the issue being addressed

Project Goals

Project Logistics: how will the project be completed?

Project Completion Timeline

Applicants Background.



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>



2025 Work Plan

Public Grants Program

Monitor - Fish and Game Propagation Fund balance

Action – Decide on fund amount and suggested request level for PGP in 2025

Monitor ongoing changes to regulations related to Fish and Wildlife

Learn - about what changes are occurring at the state and federal level.

Action – Engage with relevant stakeholders to discuss regulatory changes

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

Utilize iNaturalist account for public outreach

Learn – about the distribution of various species of interest.

Action – Create projects to inform work to support Fish and Wildlife

Coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning ~~(Approved Statement)~~

Lead Commissioner: Berry

Learn – current status and research

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 ~~(Approved Statement)~~

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.



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>



Aquatic Habitat Conservation

Lead Commissioner: Suarez

Monitor: protection and restoration of wetlands, lakes, rivers, water bodies in District 4

Monitor: the pollution that may affect aquatic habitats

Learn: about water quality for fish and wildlife

Aquatic Habitat Conservation (Approved Statement)

Lead Commissioners: Berry, Jankovitz, Suarez

Monitor - the pollution that may affect aquatic habitats, protection and restoration of wetlands, lakes and rivers, progress for new coho salmon conservation hatchery, status of the low-flow fishing closure and fishing regulation changes and County efforts to develop a Riparian Enhancement Program and how local agencies are dealing with homeless living in riparian areas.

Learn - about water quality for fish and wildlife, current status, and current research about coho and steelhead

Action - communicate importance of protecting riparian corridors for fish and wildlife as well as other beneficial uses of water such as recreation and water supply and support riparian corridor enhancement when appropriate

Open Space Conservation and Management (Approved Statement)

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.

Reducing Wildlife/Vehicle Collisions (Approved Statement)

Lead Commissioner: Brown

Monitor – Locations where wildlife/vehicle collisions occur most frequently.

Learn – about the benefits and feasibility of the following methods to reduce collisions:

1. Wildlife crossings to meet the needs of different sizes of animals.
2. RADS (Roadside Animal Detection Systems) to warn drivers of the presence of wildlife
3. Signage to notify drivers of areas with a high frequency of collisions

Monitor – funding opportunities to help pay for/maintain wildlife crossings and signage.



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>



Expand Significant Tree Ordinance outside Coastal Zone (Approved Statement)

Lead Commissioner: Gomez

Monitor – progress of the letters to the Board requesting expansion.

Action - work with the Planning Dept, if requested.

Action – write new letters, as needed.

Marine Protection (Approved Statement)

Lead Commissioners: Somerton

Learn - about new and ongoing marine protection issues

Learn - what community considers important fish and wildlife topics

Learn - about the human impact on inter-tidal communities

Action - take action when appropriate to support Marine Protection

Monitor - new legislation and actions

Measure Q Implementation (Approved Statement)

Lead Commissioner: Sampson

Learn – Understand the goals of Measure Q the funding allocation structure

Monitor - creation of Citizen Oversight Advisory Board

Monitor - Ability to utilize Measure Q funding for added resources

Action – Prepare FWAC Approved Statement that may be used to support Measure Q project approvals

Invasive Species (Approved Statement)

Lead Commissioner: Woodward

Learn - Identify species of concern, their status, and current and potential distribution

Action – Prioritize existing and potential species for monitoring and management

Action - Lend support to agency and non-profit efforts to monitor and control invasive species

Action – Promote and support public education to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Vision Santa Cruz Wild (Approved Statement)

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



~~Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)~~ ~~(Approved Statement)~~

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

~~Lead Commissioner:~~

~~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.

DRAFT



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>



WORK PLAN APPROVED STATEMENTS:

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



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



Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)

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 the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS).

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

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.

DRAFT



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>



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



Aquatic Habitat Conservation

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 related to aquatic habitat conservation. Considering the vulnerability of our County's wildlife, fishes, and natural habitat, it is critical to consider aquatic habitats and associated riparian habitat as being paramount for environmental functionality and our County's quality of life. These resources support a suite of native fish and wildlife species throughout the County and increase the functions and value of the ecosystem. Degradation of these resources has been observed at an increasingly alarming rate by the Commission in many forms including illegal dumping, poaching, unhoused population impacts, property owners disregard for riparian setback ordinances, invasive species colonization, illegal water diversions and active removal of native riparian vegetation. All illicit activity surrounding aquatic habitat has a cumulative effect on the health and status of our County's fish, wildlife and natural habitat - most notably contributing to the extirpation of special-status species such as coho salmon, steelhead trout, Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, California red-legged frog and other rare species.

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 protection of aquatic habitat, associated resources such as riparian corridors and the fish and wildlife that utilize these resources. Furthermore, we encourage you to support progress on County efforts to develop a Riparian Enhancement Program and increase both enforcement and incentive actions which may lead to better protection for these resources.

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.

Please find below several links for additional background on these issues:

Central California Coast Coho:

[Recovery Plan for the Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Central California Coast Coho Salmon | NOAA Fisheries](#)

Central California Coast Steelhead:

[Final Coastal Multispecies Recovery Plan Volume IV: Central California Coast Steelhead](#)

South Central California Steelhead:

[South-Central California steelhead recovery plan](#)

San Lorenzo River Riparian Conservation Program:

https://www.slvwd.com/sites/g/files/vyhli1176/f/uploads/san_lorenzo_river_riparian_conservation_program_report_final_may_2018_.pdf

Santa Cruz County Stream Care Guide:

https://cdi.santacruzcountyca.gov/Portals/19/pdfs/Streamcare_Guide.pdf



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>



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 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. 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) 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 2) 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
(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY – Call 711 <http://www.scceh.org>



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 intertidal communities, which are especially vulnerable in rocky habitats near urban centers. Although we recognize the importance of access to these areas at low tides both for educational enjoyment and the sport harvest of mussels, seaweeds and other edible seafood, many of the popular rocky intertidal areas are being “loved to death” by human disturbance. 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 posting signs at the entrances to the most popular areas outlining the best practices for reducing impact and utilizing volunteer shoreline stewards from various non-profit organizations at extreme low tides to help visitors learn how to enjoy, but not destroy, the intertidal community. 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
(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY – Call 711 <http://www.scceh.org>



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.



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>



Measure Q Implementation

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 Measure Q (The Water and Wildfire Protection Act) funding recommendations.

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 funding projects that equitably address the health and habitat of local fish and wildlife populations throughout Santa Cruz County when considering eligible conservation, restoration, and stewardship projects including groundwater recharge, restoring vital habitats and controlling invasive species, building wildlife infrastructure, trail restoration, floodplains and wetlands, forest management, culverts, litter removal, and creating defensible space along roadways and trails. Under Measure Q, priority is to be given to multi-benefit projects that address critical environmental needs, like climate resiliency and adaptation, habitat protection, water conservation, extreme weather and natural disasters, and pollution reduction.

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. Thank you.



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>



Reducing Wildlife/Vehicle Collisions

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 wildlife crossings on roads in Santa Cruz County. 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 other species. The ecological integrity of these systems can be compromised by human infrastructure and activities. Roads and highways 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. According to the 2424 “roadkill report” from the Road Ecology Center, UC Davis, “More than 48,000 deer, thousands of Pacific newts, close to 100 mountain lions and many thousands of other animals are killed each year by vehicles on California roads”. State Road 17 is listed in the state’s top hot spots where wildlife/vehicle collisions are the highest. 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. Monitoring roadway locations within the county where wildlife/vehicle collisions occur most frequently
2. Researching the benefits and feasibility of the following methods to reduce collisions:
 - Wildlife crossings to meet the needs of different sizes of animals
 - RADS (Roadside Animal Detection Systems) to warn drivers of the presence of wildlife
 - Signage to notify drivers of areas with a high frequency of wildlife/vehicle collisions
3. Monitoring funding opportunities to help pay for/maintain wildlife crossings and signage
4. Researching how to support wildlife corridors

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 by providing safe wildlife crossings, thus helping to avoid wildlife/vehicle collisions.



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>



Invasive Species

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 invasive species.

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the ecological health and resilience of Santa Cruz County. They compete with native plants and animals, disrupt ecosystem processes, and increase the risk of wildfire and other hazards. Santa Cruz County has already been affected by a number of invasive plant and animal species, including the recently introduced invasive shothole borer (ISHB) which kills our riparian tree species, and a number of plant species, like French broom, which invade our forests and grasslands. These invasive species compromise habitat quality for native fish and wildlife and have an economic impact as they are costly to manage or eradicate and can have serious impacts on water resources, agriculture, and recreation.

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) supporting early detection, rapid response, and long-term monitoring programs to control invasive pests, pathogens, and plants; 2) allocating resources and fostering partnerships with the Agricultural Commissioner, partner agencies and non-profits to expand coordinated invasive species management efforts; and 3) promoting public education to prevent the spread of invasive species.

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.