



**Contra
Costa
County**

To: Board of Supervisors
From: John Kopchik, Director, Conservation & Development Department
Date: June 7, 2016

Subject: Authorization to Release Funds from the County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to Host the 16th Annual Fall Forum

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Fish and Wildlife Committee to host the 16th annual Fall Forum event for law enforcement agencies to discuss fish and wildlife conservation and enforcement of fish and wildlife regulations in Contra Costa County.
2. AUTHORIZE and REQUEST the Auditor-Controller to release an amount not to exceed \$2,000 from the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund for costs associated with hosting the 16th annual Fall Forum.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No impact to the General Fund. A portion of the fines collected from violations of fish and game regulations in the County is deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (Fund), which as of May 24, 2016 has a current available balance of \$244,741. State law defines how money in this fund may be spent. The Board of Supervisors is responsible for authorizing specific expenditures. The recommended expenditure is for the purpose of education and outreach on wildlife protection issues, which is consistent with the criteria for expenditures established by the State Law. Donations of items and time have also been obtained to help defray the cost of the Fall Forum.

☒ APPROVE ☐ OTHER
☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR ☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **06/07/2016** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor
Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor
Mary N. Piepho, District III Supervisor
Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor
Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: June 7, 2016

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: June McHuen, Deputy

Contact: Maureen Parkes (925)
674-7831

cc:

BACKGROUND:

A specific component of the Fish and Wildlife Committee's (Committee) charge is to advise the Board of Supervisors on issues related to the enforcement of regulations protecting fish and wildlife. Since 1997, the Committee has received quarterly reports with summary and detailed information on the issuance and prosecution

BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

of citations for offenses such as poaching, fishing without a license, and illegal disposals. The Committee has participated in a number of discussions with law enforcement agencies on the challenges and needs for protecting wildlife resources from illegal activities. The annual Fall Forum event has become a successful means for improving coordination of enforcement issues and providing information on the valuable fish and wildlife resources in the County. The first Forum was held in 1999. Participants have indicated these events have been helpful in providing a forum to identify opportunities for cooperatively improving the regulatory process to protect fish and wildlife. Participants see the value in the grants funded by the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund which depends on proper enforcement of regulations for wildlife protection.

The Committee believes the annual Forum is a prudent use of funds that have been dedicated to protection of wildlife resources and recommends that the Forum be held again this year. Should the Board provide its authorization, the Committee intends to hold the event on Thursday, September 22, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Martinez Sportsmen's Club in Martinez. Invited attendees would include representatives of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Superior Court, Public Defender's Office, and the East Bay Regional Park District Police. Board of Supervisors' participation would be most welcome. The event will be an open public meeting of the Committee subject to the Brown Act and Better Government Ordinance. Approximately 50 - 90 people have attended past Forums. Any interested individuals are welcome to attend. There is no charge to attend and enjoy the volunteer-cooked meal. Each year a guest speaker is invited to speak about the valuable natural resources in the County. There will be poster presentations given by recipients of grants from the Fund. San Francisco Estuary Institute staff will provide a feature presentation regarding the Lower Walnut Creek Historical Ecology Study.

On April 20, 2016, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that no more than \$2,000 from the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund be used to cover any expenses that are not covered through material donations. This expenditure is consistent with Fish and Game Code Section 13103 (a), which provides that the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund may be spent on public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation. Although the Sportsmen's Club is allowing the Committee to use their facility at no cost, there is a required \$205 cleaning fee. All food preparation will be done by volunteers.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The Fall Forum would not be held or would be reduced in scope to require no expenditure.

ATTACHMENTS

AB 114 Form