



**Agricultural Commissioner
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: September 10, 2019 - **REVISED**

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Tom Tucker PHONE: 684-3350				

SUBJECT: Consideration of projects recommended by the County Fish and Wildlife Commission

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve \$4,560 for projects upon adoption of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program (Fund 011) budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.
2. Adopt the Categorical Exemption prepared pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for projects recommended by the County Fish and Wildlife Commission.
3. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

SUMMARY:

The Agricultural Commissioner assists the Fish and Wildlife Commission with budget requests. The Tulare County Board of Supervisors reviews the recommended projects prior to the start of the fiscal year for which they are recommended. His review of recommended projects prior to the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 final budget will afford the Board of Supervisors an opportunity to evaluate and approve, or disprove, the projects the Fish and Wildlife Commission has submitted. Early approval will allow for the continuation of ongoing projects without interruption.

As specified in the Fish and Game Code Section 13103, Fish and Wildlife Project Fund may be expended solely for projects related to the protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife. Such projects may include: temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife; breeding,

SUBJECT: Consideration of projects recommended by the County Fish and Wildlife
DATE: Commission
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raising, or purchasing fish or wildlife to be released into public areas; improvement of fish and wildlife habitat; predator control actions for the benefit of fish and wildlife. Funds for these projects (\$4,560) will be included in the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program budget request for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

The projects are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 because the proposed activities are intended to protect natural resources and the environment, and Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed activities in question may have a significant impact on the environment. Attachment A describes the proposed activities which include youth education, wildlife rehabilitation, and the rearing of wildlife.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The source of revenue is the Fish and Wildlife Fund (001), which is derived from Fish and Wildlife fines and forfeitures imposed by the court system. No Net County Cost.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life Initiative to promote public health and welfare educational opportunities, natural resource management and continued improvement of environmental quality. This request to approve projects recommended by our local Fish and Wildlife Commission will ensure timely continuance of a long-standing program of providing greater recreational and cultural opportunities by promoting protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Tom Tucker
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s)

Attachment A – Exhibit of Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Fish and Wildlife Projects

Attachment B – Notice of Exemption, California Environmental Quality Act

Attachment C – Secretary's minutes of meeting

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION OF)
PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE) Resolution No. _____
COUNTY FISH AND WILDLIFE) Agreement No. _____
COMMISSION)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

- That the Board of Supervisors:
1. Approved \$4,560 for projects upon adoption of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program (Fund 011) budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.
 2. Adopted the categorical Exemption prepared pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for projects recommended by the County Fish and Wildlife Commission.
 3. Authorized the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

Attachment A
 Tulare County Fish and Wildlife Commission
 Approved Projects
 FY 2019/2020

Applicant: (listed in no particular order)	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
1. <u>River Ridge Institute</u> – Gary Adest This allocation goes toward the direct overhead costs of this Trout in the Classroom project. Last year these classes exposed 450 Tulare County elementary students to watersheds and the conservation of river and land habitats of the Tule River. P.O. Box 879, Springville, CA 93265 Balch Park Road, Springville, CA 93265, 559-539-0207	\$1,000	\$250
2. <u>Kaweah Flyfishers</u> – George Pilling This allocation will offset the costs of this Trout in the Classroom project. The Kaweah Flyfishers partner with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to expose students to activities where they take on the role of stewards of local watersheds in Tulare county. 1535 S. Grant St., Visalia, CA 93278, 559-901-6676	\$3,000	\$550
3. <u>Sequoia Riverlands Trust</u> – Bud Darwin This allocation will go towards program and transportation costs of this Trout in the Classroom program. The object of the project is to recruit and train local high school students so they can facilitate the program of teaching K-8 students. 427 S. Garden St., Visalia, CA 93277, 559-738-0211	\$3,000	\$660
4. <u>Critter Creek Wildlife Station</u> – Louise Culver This allocation will go towards the purchase of large and medium rats to feed large raptors kept at Critter Creek permanently. 36710 Sand Creek Rd., Squaw Valley, CA 93675, 559-338-2415	\$1,500	\$1,000
5. <u>SCICON Raptor Center</u> – Clemmie Gill School of Science... This allocation will go towards expenses for the upkeep of the SCICON Raptor Center as well as foodstuff and medications. Raptor shows will educate students and the public about the critical importance of these birds and their protection within the ecosystem. P.O. Box 339, Springville, CA 93265, 559-539-4006, 45400 Blue Ridge Drive, Springville, CA 93265	\$500	\$500
6. <u>Wild Ones Wildlife Rehabilitation</u> – Tracy Delperdang This allocation will go towards expenses that include caging materials, foodstuffs, medications, veterinary care, and training costs to care for and rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife, including mammals, reptiles, and birds as well as educational outreach. 45400 Blue Ridge Drive, Springville, CA 93265, 559-284-2798	\$500	\$500

7.	<u>California Department of Fish and Wildlife</u> –Lt. Doug Barnhart	\$699.50	\$0
	This allocation will go towards the cost of a slip rental at the Kaweah Marina. It provides easy access for wardens to engage in their enforcement activities rather than waiting in line at the busy launch access points when they could be interacting with the public. 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, 559-243-4005		
8.	<u>Southern Tulare County Sportsman’s Association</u> – Jerry Dunlap	\$5,000	\$1,100
	This allocation will go toward the expenses of providing feed for the Jr. Pheasant Hunt and Rolling for Ringnecks, as well as a public release program, pin maintenance, and upgrades. 1028 North Highland Dr., Porterville, CA 93258, 559560-6011 pheasants for the general public near Success Lake, Porterville. 877 N. 2 nd St., Porterville, CA 93257, 559-920-7981		
	Totals	\$15,199.50	\$4,560

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, California 93291

Lead Agency: Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, Ca 93277
Attn: hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Applicant(s): County of Tulare Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
4437 S. Laspina St.
Tulare, CA 93274
(559) 684-3397

<i>Date filed with County Clerk</i>

Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Projects FY 2019/2020

Project Location - Specific: Various locations within Tulare County, CA

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: N/A

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Tulare County Board of Supervisors, on September 10, 2019, approved a disbursement by the Tulare County Fish and Wildlife Commission which will be included in the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program budget request for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. The funding will include various projects consistent with Fish and Game Code Section 13103, Fish and Game Project. Section 13103 stipulates that may be expended solely for projects related to the protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife such as temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife; breeding, raising, or purchasing fish or wildlife to be released onto public areas; improvement of fish and wildlife habitat; predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife. As such, the funds will result in a public benefit by providing the services noted above.

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- General Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061 (b)(3) Common Sense exemption
- Categorical Exemption Section 15307 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with CEQA Guidelines [California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6] Section 15307 where the proposed activities are actions by a regulatory agency to protect natural resources and Section 15061 (b)(3) that there is no possibility that the proposed grant activity may have a significant effect on the environment. Thus, Sections 15061 (b)(3) Section 15307 are applicable and appropriate for this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency

Project Planner/Representative: Tom Tucker, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer **Area Code/Telephone:** 559-623-0691

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke P.E.

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: N/A

Tulare County Fish and Wildlife Commission

3:00 p.m. – May 29, 2019
Exeter City Hall, Exeter, CA

Minutes

Commission Members:

Present: Richard Jones, District 1; Jeff Nelson, District 2; Donna Luallen, District 3; Rex Clark, District 4; Jim Crew, District 5

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present:

Tom Tucker, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner
Lieutenant Doug Barnhart, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Law Enforcement Division
Gary Adest, River Ridge Institute
Louise Culver/Dan Culver, Critter Creek Wildlife Station
Bud Darwin, Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Jerry Dunlap, President, Southern Tulare County Sportsman's Association

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Richard Jones.

Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from May 21, 2018, and seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

None.

Public Comment:

None.

New Business:

1. **Lieutenant Doug Barnhart, California Department of Fish and Wildlife** – Lt. Barnhart advised the Commission the DFW workforce consists of himself and 2 others for the Tulare/Kings and part of Western Fresno Counties. He had anticipated 4 new recruits from the last academy of whom 3 were to join his

department but 2 did not complete field training. He has one new trained recruit for this year. Another academy is currently in process. A current department bulletin is advertising 3 positions which potentially could be filled from employees in other parts of the State. There were 127 Fish & Game cases in 2018, up from 2017.

2. **Tom Tucker, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Tulare County** – Mr. Tucker reported there is \$5,561.09 in the fund to date. Revenue for 2018-2019 was \$3,192.73, compared to \$2,890 in 2017-2018. There is an additional \$795.79 from Friends of Tulare County, specifically allotted to DFW. A total of \$6,356.88 is available for disbursement. The applications for this cycle were provided to the Board for use in this meeting. The Commission will make recommendations for the use of those funds, which Mr. Tucker will take before the Board of Supervisors for approval.

3. **Requests for Project Funding (See Attachment A to the Agenda)** –

Gary Adest, River Ridge Ranch/River Ridge Institute, Trout in the Classroom – River Ridge Institute requested allocation of \$1,000 toward direct overhead costs of a Trout in the Classroom project at River Ridge Institute. Mr. Adest spoke about training high school students to do most of the teaching. This was done last year and proved very successful for the TIC students and the high school students. Nate Nelson, Superintendent of Schools for Porterville Unified School District, and Tim Hire, the new Superintendent of Schools for Tulare County, visited River Ridge to review the program, each of whom responded very positively to the program.

Application only/Sequoia Riverlands Trust – SRT requested \$3000 to train local high school students to teach in Trout in the Classroom in conjunction with River Ridge Institute.

Louise Culver/Dan Culver, Critter Creek Wildlife Station – Mr. and Ms. Culver requested \$1,500 for purchase of food for large raptors at the center. This year has been exceptional for numbers of baby owls and hawks. CCWS's major source of food has been through Zacky Farms which declared bankruptcy and has gone out of business.

Tracy Delperdang, SCICON – Tracy Delperdang (absent due to illness) requested \$500 to assist in upkeep of the Raptor Center as well as medical and supportive feeding supplies.

Tracy Delperdang, Wild Ones Wildlife Rehabilitation - Ms. Delperdang requested \$500 for veterinary supplies, outreach education and permits.

Department of Fish & Wildlife – Doug Barnhart requested \$699.50 to rent a boat slip at Kaweah Lake to keep a patrol boat on the lake for the March 1 to September 1, 2020.

Southern Tulare County Sportsman's Association -

Application only/Kaweah Fly Fishers/Trout in the Classroom - The Kaweah Fly Fishers application was not available to the Board for today's meeting but Bud Darwin had a copy on his phone, which he shared with the group verbally. As a long-time partner with TIC and this Board, the request was acknowledged and included in consideration. There were equipment needs and costs associated with training students to take on the role of stewards of local watersheds with River Ridge Institute. They were requesting \$3,000.

DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION:

The Commission agreed to hold \$1,000 over until next year as a safeguard against low revenues in 2020. In light of funds available, it was determined 22% of the petitioners' requests would be proposed with the exceptions of SCICON and WOWR, which would be funded in full as smaller requests. FTC would be asked to fund the boat slip for the DFW on Kaweah Lake with additional support from individuals within the Commission. Rich Jones called for any questions; no questions were offered from the Commission members or the public in attendance.

Jeff Nelson moved to approve the following distributions as presented by Richard Jones, seconded by Jim Crew and approved unanimously:

Organization	Proposal Amount	Funds Available, DFW	\$5,561.09
		Amount to be Distributed	
River Ridge Institute	1,000.00	250.00	
Kaweah Fly Fishers	3,000.00	550.00	
SRT	3,000.00	660.00	
Critter Creek	1,500.00	1,000.00	
SCICON	500.00	500.00	
WOWR	500.00	500.00	
DFW	699.50	0.00	
Sportsman's Assn.	5,000.00	1,100.00	
		<hr/>	
Total disbursed 2019/2020		\$4,560.00	
Carried forward to 2020			\$1,001.09

Funds available through Friends of Tulare County **\$795.79**

The Commission is recommending satisfaction of the boat slip rental (\$699.50) be paid through Friends of Tulare County.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Luallen
Commission Member
District 3