



**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: July 7, 2020 - 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 \$3,175 for projects upon adoption of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program (Fund 011) budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.
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-Recorder.

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 2020/2021 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
September 10, 2019

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 (\$3,175) will be included in the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program budget request for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

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.

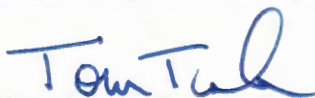
FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The source of revenue is the Fish and Wildlife Fund (011), 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 2020/2021 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 \$3,175 for projects upon adoption of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program (Fund 011) budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.
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-Recorder.

Attachment A

Tulare County Fish and Wildlife Commission Approved Projects FY 2020/2021

Applicant: (not listed in any order)	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
1. <u>River Ridge Institute</u> – Gary Adest Request was withdrawn This allocation goes toward the direct overhead costs of this Trout in the Classroom project. Last year these classes exposed 500 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	\$0	\$0
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	\$1,250	\$0
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	\$0
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	\$1,200	\$750
5. <u>SCICON Raptor Center</u> – Tracy Delperdang 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	\$400
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	\$400

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) 684-3350

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

Project Title: Fish and Wildlife Projects FY 2020/2021

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 July 7, 2020, 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 2020/2021. 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

3:30 p.m. – May 11, 20

Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, CA

Minutes

Commission Members:

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

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present:

Christopher Greer, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, Tulare County

Others Present by Teleconference:

Lieutenant Doug Barnhart, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Law Enforcement Division

Louise Culver/Dan Turner, Critter Creek Wildlife Station

Bud Darwin, Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Sneha Kumar, Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Tracy Delperdang, SCICON/Wild Ones Wildlife Rehabilitation

Jerry Dunlap, President, Southern Tulare County Sportsman's Association

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Richard Jones.

Public Comment:

None.

Minutes:

Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from May 29, 2019, and seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

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. The organization is advertising a vacant position. The current academy was canceled under the state of emergency brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. There were 128 Fish & Game cases in 2019, compared to 127 in 2018.

2. **Christopher Greer, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Tulare County** – Mr. Greer reported there is \$3,714.44 in the fund to date. There is an additional \$86.73 from Friends of Tulare County, specifically allotted to DFW. A total of \$3,801.17 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. Greer 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 originally requested allocation of \$1,000 toward direct overhead costs of a Trout in the Classroom project at River Ridge Institute. Mr. Adest graciously withdrew his request after reviewing the available funds with TCFWC.

Bud Darwin, Sneha Kumar/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 Turner, Critter Creek Wildlife Station – Mr. Turner requested \$1,200 for purchase of food for large raptors at the Station.

Tracy Delperdang, SCICON – Tracy Delperdang requested \$500 to assist in upkeep of the SCICON 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 \$750.00 to rent a boat slip at Kaweah Lake to keep a patrol boat on the lake for the March 1 to September 1, 2021.

Jerry Dunlap, Southern Tulare County Sportsman's Association – STCSA requests \$5,000 to feed the animals used for the Jr. Pheasant Hunt and Rolling for Ringnecks, as well as a public release program, pen maintenance and upgrades.

Application only/Kaweah Fly Fishers/Trout in the Classroom – KFF requests \$1250 to help fund Trout in the Classroom.

DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION:

The Commission retired to Executive Session to discuss how to best apportion available funds. The Commission agreed to hold \$626.17 over until next year as a safeguard against low revenues in 2021. 2020/2019 has been a very unusual year, heavily impacted by the global pandemic known as Covid-19 or coronavirus. Those

effects continue to play out with many unknown factors to the health of communities and their economics. Although traditionally the Commission has honored each request as possible, the decision was made to deny requests associated with Trout in the Classroom for this year, choosing to help those organizations who continue to support wildlife in-house.

Rich Jones opened the teleconference to share the results with everyone. He 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:

	Funds Available, DFW	\$3,714.44
	Funds available through Friends of Tulare Co	\$86.73
Organization	Proposal Amount	Amount Distributed
River Ridge Institute	0.00	0.00
Kaweah Fly Fishers	1,250.00	0.00
SRT	3,000.00	0.00
Critter Creek	1,200.00	750.00
SCICON	500.00	400.00
WOWR	500.00	400.00
DFW	750.00	375.00
Sportsman's Assn.	5,000.00	1,250.00
		<hr/>
Total disbursed 2020/2021		\$3,175.00
Carried forward to 2020		DFW \$539.44
		FOTC \$ 86.73

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Luallen
 Commission Member
 District 3