

County of Santa Clara
Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



24-5490

DATE: May 7, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Curtis Boone, Acting Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Fish and Game Commission funding recommendation for Flycasters
Conservation and Education Foundation

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Request for Appropriation Modification No. 199 - \$9,000 transferring funds and increasing estimated expenditure appropriations in the Fish and Game Commission budget, relating to request from Flycasters Conservation and Education Foundation for funding the Classroom Aquarium Education Program. (4/5 Vote) (LA-1)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee (HLUET) considered the recommendation on March 18, 2024 (Item No. 13), and forwarded it to the Board of Supervisors as part of the Consent Calendar.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are sufficient monies in the Fish and Game Commission Fines and Forfeitures Fund managed by the Office of the Clerk of the Board. Approval of this funding request will not impact the General Fund.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND

Under County Ordinance Code Section A33-80, the Fish and Game Commission “shall investigate all requests for the expending of the moneys in the County fish and game propagation fund and shall make written recommendations to the Board of Supervisors appertaining thereto. Requests may be initiated by members of the Commission or by any member of the public. Any investigation shall be for the purpose of determining whether the expenditure is in the interest of propagation and conservation of fish and game within the County. The Board of Supervisors may provide by resolution for the expenditure of funds by the Commission for specified purposes. The Commission shall investigate and shall make written recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on all other fish and game matters within the County which are declared by state law to be within the authority of the Board of Supervisors.”

Pursuant to the California Fish and Game Code, Section 13100, funds deposited in a county fish and wildlife propagation fund shall be expended for the protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors. In addition, Fish and Game Code Section 13103 states that expenditures from the fish and wildlife propagation fund for any county may be made only for certain purposes, including:

- (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.

The Flycasters Conservation and Education Foundation (Flycasters) is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to become a Bay Area leader in educating youth about the life cycle of salmonid species and how to preserve them and their habitats. Flycasters sponsors the “Trout in the Classroom” program, also referred to as Classroom Aquarium Education Program (CAEP), in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in the Santa Clara County region.

At the February 26, 2024 Fish and Game Commission meeting, Mike Culcasi, Director, Flycasters, provided a presentation requesting \$9,000 for the Classroom Aquarium Education Program. The Fish and Game Commission reviewed the request and approved funding in the amount of \$9,000 and forwarded the request to the Board of Supervisors through HLUET.

Discussion during the presentation included inquiries relating to environmental nonprofits to supplement funding for the project, and offering funding with a request for Mr. Culcasi to return with a report the following year relating to an evaluation of the program.

The attached documents provide an overview of the organization and the funding request from Flycasters.

The Clerk of the Board serves as the ex-officio secretary of the Fish and Game Commission, and this recommendation is forwarded on behalf of the Commission.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on children and youth.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action would support the Board of Supervisors’ Natural Resources and the Environment priority area by supporting an educational program promoting stewardship of the local watershed and aquatic ecosystems.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The County would lose an opportunity to utilize funding from the Fish and Game Commission Fines and Forfeitures Fund to support the effort relating to fish and wildlife conservation.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board will notify the Fish and Game Commission and Mr. Culcasi of action taken by the Board of Supervisors, and ensure that funds are properly disbursed.

ATTACHMENTS:

- F85 # 199 Transfer of Funds for Flycasters Conservation and Education Program
- 2024 Santa Clara County Fish and Game Commission Funding Request
- Flycasters signed W-9 Form
- Flycasters Levine Act Contract Form Signed