



October 31, 2023

Ms Nalini Pillay

Clerk for County of Santa Clara Fish and Game Commission

70 West Hedding Street

San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Ms Pillay:

**Subject: Funding proposal for Flycasters Conservation and Education Foundation for the CDFW's Classroom Aquarium Education Program or "Trout in the Classroom."**

We are writing to you to request funding for supporting "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). You may have already heard about this exciting program, but if you haven't, please read on. Over 400 schools are currently benefitting from this program in other Bay Area locales. The Flycasters Conservation and Education Foundation is now sponsoring 35 classes for this exciting education program for Santa Clara County. Our goal is to substantially expand this program to more schools throughout Santa Clara County over the next two years.

**Program Description:**

CAEP is a community-based program which allows students to experience firsthand the delicate balance needed for animals to survive in aquatic ecosystems through a classroom experience of hatching fish eggs and coordinated activities. Students experience first-hand the value of aquatic environments, the balance that must be met to maintain and preserve California's fisheries and aquatic habitats, and how their personal actions affect these valuable resources.

In this program, teachers and their students set up an aquarium in the classroom, receive fish eggs under a special CDFW permit, and observe the fish as they hatch and develop. This is a hands-on, interdisciplinary project for grades K-6 and provides guidance for compliance with NGSS standards.

**Key CAEP program benefits:**

- 1- Provides a positive learning program for classrooms on the value of aquatic ecosystems through the hatching and release of trout.
- 2- Helps students learn about their local watershed and how human activities affect the quality of water in local streams, lakes and the bay.

- 3- Helps to grow the next generation of stewards for conservation of habitat and clean water for all species of salmonids.

**Funding Request:**

In order to implement the CAEP program in new classes a one-time set up cost of approximately \$450 per system is needed. The system cost includes aquarium, chilling system, temperature controller and appropriate aquarium supplies. Additionally, the schools require that we carry liability insurance and storage facilities to house the finished aquarium systems.

Our goal is to establish an additional 20 new schools over the next two years. Our budget for this period would be  $\$450 \times 20 = \$9,000$ . We have club funds of \$3000 to help us get started but need a larger amount of funding to sustain this program for many more Santa Clara County schools. This is a second time proposal to the Santa Clara County Fish and Game Commission for CAEP.

**Previous Funding by Commission:**

Flycasters Education Foundation received prior funding from Santa Clara County Fish and Game Commission in 2022 when \$7,000 funding was provided. This funding helped us expand the program for an additional 15 schools in the 2022/2023 school year.

**Fund Coding and Compliance:**

Thank you for your interest in this exciting program. We look forward to hearing from you. We are enclosing a copy of our 501c3 tax letter. 501c3 Tax ID 77-0283713

The funding coding for this education grant proposal is: 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."

Sincerely,

Ken Imatani

President of the Flycasters Conservation and Education Foundation

Please respond to:

(Signature)

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Menlo Park, CA 94025  
650-400-0161

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Attachments: 501(C)3 Letter for Flycasters Conservation and Education Foundation;  
2022/ 2023 Final report summary for Flycasters Trout in the Classroom program