



**San Diego County  
Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission**

5510 Overland Ave, Suite 270, Sycamore Conference Room  
San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 565-3600  
[www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org)

**FWAC Minutes**

DATE: December 11, 2025  
TIME: **11:30 a.m.**  
PLACE: **Department of Parks and Recreation  
5510 Overland Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sycamore Conference Room  
San Diego, CA 92123**

Commissioner	Present	Absent	Late	District	Supervisor
Mark Kukuchek	x			1	Aguirre
Janeen Reed	x			1	Aguirre
Ed Stovin	x			2	Anderson
Andy Paluczak	x			2	Anderson
Tashi MacMillen	x			3	Lawson-Remer
Wayne Kotow		x		3	Lawson-Remer
Matthew Craig	x			4	Montgomery-Steppe
Samantha Guzzardo	x			4	Montgomery-Steppe
Jim Conrad	x			5	Desmond
Steve Turigliatto	x			5	Desmond

## **Call to Order**

**A. Introduction-** The Commissioners introduced themselves and the following guest were present: Jesus Amial-DPR, John Dewitt-OSA, Sean Howarter-Socal Jr. Bass anglers, Ron Parker- Sr. Anglers of Escondido, Jim McIssac- Sr. anglers of Escondido, Denny Jung-OSA, Manuel Ontiverdos-OSA, Debbie Patenaude- SD Anglers Foundation, Dwayne Patenaude- SD Anglers Foundation, Louis Aumedia- F.I.S.H, Wyatt Harvin-SDIC Boy Scouts, Tom Lowery-Friends of San Diego Lakes, Sarah Hutmacher-SDRPF, Chris Stanley-Carlton Hills Fishing and Marine Conservation Club

**B. Approval of Minutes** –A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2025 Meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Kukuchek, seconded by Commissioner Craig, passed unanimously with 9 Ayes.

**C. Public Comment** - on any subject matter within Commission jurisdiction, but not on the agenda (No discussion or action may be taken by the Commission.)-No Public comment

**D. Chairperson's Report**-No report

### **E. Administrative Items**

1. Funds available and any funding status – A total of \$21,795 is available for this round of grant funding.
2. Updated business cards – All Commissioners received their new business cards at the meeting
3. Name Plates for new Commissioners – Nameplates for Commissioners needing them are on order and will be provided at a later date.

### **F. Old Business**

1. Commissioners look for new opportunities- As evidenced by the increased number of new grant requests the Commission has been successful in bringing in new grantees.

### **G. New Business**

1. Review and approve the meeting calendar for Calendar Year 2026
  - Attachment 1- A motion was made to approve the proposed calendar for next year. Motion made by Commissioner Kukuchek, Seconded by Commissioner Paluczak, passed unanimously with 9 Ayes.
2. Update Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Bylaws
  - Attachment 2- A motion was made to approve the revised bylaws. Motion made by Commissioner Kukuchek, Seconded by Commissioner Reed, passed unanimously with 9 Ayes.
3. Grant Applications for Round 2 of Fiscal Year 2025-26
  - Attachment 3- Each of the grant Applications was presented by a representative from the grantee organization and questions were taken and answered from the Commissioners. Grant 25/26-10 was not presented as no representative from the organization was present at the meeting.

### **H. Commissioner's Corner**

Another friendly reminder for all commissioners to continue contacting their community members and colleagues to encourage grant applications.

Commissioner Stovin is still encouraging grant applications from the boy Scouts for individual Eagle scout projects.

Commissioner Turigliatto stated that the NWTF Turkey Tuneup will be held on February 21 of next year.

I. **Adjourn**-The meeting adjourned at 1:33PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation

Cell: (619) 385-7538 | [Jesus.Amial@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jesus.Amial@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Web Page:

<https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/AboutUs/fwac.html>

The next meeting is Jan 8, 2026, at 11:30 am.

ATTACHMENT 1

2026 Dates	Activity
January 8	Meeting
<b>February</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
June 1	<i>Grant Applications Due</i>
June 11	Meeting
July 9	Meeting
<b>August</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
December 1	<i>Grant Applications Due</i>
December 10	Meeting



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 Fax (858) 467-9697  
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## Bylaws

*June 19, 2019 — Refer to FWAC Fact Sheet: Change in meeting time to 11:30 a.m.*

### PURPOSE

The San Diego County Administrative Code creates and establishes the San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission to advise the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Administrative Officer and County Departments on procedures, programs and issues pertaining to fish and wildlife as defined in Section 286.8, Duties and Responsibilities. The Commission is responsible for the disbursement of the State Fish and Game Fines and Forfeitures moneys returned pursuant to provisions of Sections 13101 and 13103 of the State Fish and Game Code, in a manner consistent with that Code.

### MEMBERSHIP AND SELECTION

The Commission shall consist of ten (10) members demonstrating interest and expertise in fish and wildlife issues, environmental issues, or wildlife management issues. Each Supervisor shall nominate two (2) members, who shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The members shall serve during their terms at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors and any member may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors or by any member's failure to meet the regularly scheduled meeting attendance requirements.

### EXCLUSIONS

- (1) An employee of the County shall not serve on the Commission.
- (2) An employee of a State agency with responsibilities directly related to fish and wildlife habitat or game management within the County region shall not serve on the Commission.
- (3) No person shall be appointed to the Commission if by reason of such employment a conflict of interest could arise. Appointment by the court of an attorney to represent an individual shall not be considered a conflict of interest.

## **TERMS OF OFFICE**

Members shall serve a term of office concurrent with the term of office of their nominating Supervisor. The terms shall expire on the date of expiration of the term of the nominating member of the Board of Supervisors or at such time as said member of the Board of Supervisors ceases to hold office, whichever first occurs. Any member whose term has expired hereunder shall continue to discharge the duties as a member until a successor has been appointed and qualified. Any member who submits his or her intent to resign may continue to discharge the duties as a member until a successor has been appointed and qualified. The reelection of a member of the Board of Supervisors for a succeeding term shall not automatically extend the term of any Commission member.

## **VACANCIES**

A vacancy shall occur on the happening of any of the following events before the expiration of the term:

- (1) The death of the incumbent.
- (2) The resignation of the incumbent.
- (3) Unexcused absences from more than one-third of the regularly scheduled meetings in any 12-month period or any three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings.
- (4) Or for any reason specified in Government Code Section 1770.

When a vacancy occurs as the result of missing one-third of the regularly scheduled meetings in one 12-month period or three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, both the member and the nominating Supervisor shall be notified by the Commission Chairperson. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with Section 286.1 of the County Administrative Code. Vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term of the member being replaced.

## **ORGANIZATION**

- (1) Officers. The Commission shall annually select from its membership a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. The officers shall serve for a calendar year. The Chairpersons shall preside at meetings, sign correspondence on behalf of the Commission and other duties. The Vice Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson if the Chairperson is not present.
- (2) Rules. The Commission shall prepare and adopt the necessary rules and regulations for the conduct of its business, including regularly updated by-laws, goals and grant guidelines.
- (3) Quorum. A majority of members currently appointed to the Commission shall constitute a quorum. A majority of members in attendance shall be required to carry any motion or approval.

- (4) Minutes. The Commission shall keep written minutes of its meetings, a copy of which shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and the Department of ~~Agriculture, Weights and Measures~~Parks and Recreation. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary, or a member appointed by the Chairperson if the Secretary is not present, to keep the minutes and file them with the Department of ~~Agriculture, Weights and Measures~~Parks and Recreation.
- (5) Meetings. The Commission shall establish a regular meeting schedule and shall give public notice of the time and place of meetings in compliance with the requirements of the Brown Act. All meetings of the Commission shall be open and public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meetings of the Commission.

The Commission shall meet no less than two times per year. Unless otherwise noted. ~~These~~ meetings shall be held on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. If there is a holiday on the scheduled meeting date, the meeting shall be held on the following Thursday. Meetings will be held in January, July and other months as the Commission deems necessary. County Staff shall be present at all meetings where County funds are being recommended for disbursement.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES**

- (1) Ad Hoc Committees. The Commission may appoint committees for the purpose of carrying out the functions and duties of the Commission. Any committee appointed shall consist of not fewer than three members, including at least one Commission member. The actions and recommendations of committees shall not be deemed the action of the Commission or its members.
- (2) Volunteer and Consultant Services. The Commission shall engage the services of volunteer workers and consultants without salary as it may find necessary from time to time. Service of an individual as a volunteer worker or as a consultant shall not be considered as service for or employment by the County.

#### **COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES**

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation. Commission members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in performing their duties, including mileage reimbursement in accordance with Administrative Code Section 472 and 484, et seq.

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (1) To develop such criteria, guidelines and evaluation processes as deemed necessary for the distribution of State Fines and Forfeitures moneys in an equitable and regional manner within the parameters set forth by the Fish and Game Code. Programs, and/or projects funded under this program shall demonstrate a benefit to the fish and wildlife of the County of San Diego.

- (2) To disburse these funds in accordance with applicable State guidelines, including provisions of the Fish and Game Code, and monitor project/program progress, completion and evaluation in accordance with established guidelines.
- (3) To develop recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, Chief Administrative Officer, and County Departments as appropriate regarding regionally significant fish and wildlife issues within the County, such as but not limited to habitat control, environmental hazards, effects of planning or recreational use on wildlife and its habitat, and wildlife/game management. Recommendations shall reflect Commission expertise and research which substantiates the Commission's position/recommendation.
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- (6) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Commission by the Board of Supervisors.

## **REPORTS**

The Commission shall make available to the Board of Supervisors its findings and recommendations on fish and wildlife issues, and submit a written semi-annual report of its activities to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days of each semi-annual funding meeting.

## **STAFF ASSISTANCE**

The Chief Administrative Officer shall ensure the provision of the necessary staff and assistance to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Department of ~~Agriculture, Weights and Measures~~ Parks and Recreation shall provide a staff person to facilitate the work of the Commission. Expenses related to staffing the Commission shall not exceed \$3,000 per fiscal year and shall be reported to the Commission on a monthly basis.

## **GRANT FUNDING CONSIDERATION**

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**ATTACHMENT 3**

FWAC Grants FY 25-26 Round 2					
Grant App #	Project Name	Organization	Project Description	Project Start Date	Amount Proposed
25/26-6	2026 SoCal Jr. Bass Anglers Youth Fishing Initiative	SoCal Jr. Bass Anglers	<p>My name is Sean Howarter. I have the privilege of Directing the SoCal Jr. Bass Anglers in San Diego County. We have over 40 youth anglers along with many others, (boaters and families), in the fishing community that are involved in some form or another.</p> <p>Our Club Charter stands on the premise of developing young men and women into amazing character driven human beings that not only thrive out on the water but in society as well. Youth anglers, elementary through High School, get an opportunity to experience the tournament fishing world through our club that has been in existence nearly 20 years. We are unique in that the tournament experience is facilitated through relationships with our local bassing community that give of their time and resources to captain these anglers on their private bass boats.</p> <p>We conduct 6 club tournaments annually at a cost of \$2500 per event. Costs associated with each tournament come from permits (state and local), insurance, launch and fishing at each city lake, food, awards and memberships.</p>	2/1/2026	\$7,500
25/26-7	Sr. Anglers of Escondido Youth Day	Sr. Anglers of Escondido	<p>Youth Day events which began in 2006 and happened each year until 2019. Youth Day was a coordinated outside event between the Escondido Union School District (EUSD), the Escondido YMCA, the City of Escondido Rangers, the Friends of Daily Ranch, and sponsored by the Sr. Anglers of Escondido (SAE). When COVID shutdown prohibited the use to the activities, and schools were instructed to limit outside activities, the program closed. With the Loss of the YMCA during that period, it was some time before we got the Escondido Boys and Girls Club (B&amp;GC), the EUSD, the City of Escondido Rangers, and SAE on board to recreate the experience. Youth Day involves 25 5th and 6th grade children chosen by EUSD and B&amp;GC to participate in an all day experience at Lake Dixon Escondido. All children will experience fishing on the lake, and a hike learning the ecosystems that make this lake beneficial to the cities of Escondido and Valley Center. Each tour will be supported by Sr. Anglers, Rangers, Naturalists, Rangers, and Councilers. The all day event will include games and crafts with an all american lunch provided</p>	1/12/2025	\$1,000
25/26-8	Trout Stock San Diego City Lakes	Friends of the San Diego Lakes	Its been decades since we have had true trout stocking within the San Diego City lakes.	11/17/2025	\$22,000

25/26-9	Nature Explorers Program	County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation	<p>The Nature Explorers Program is offered through the Spring Valley and Lakeside REC Clubs through curriculum-based program designed to expose youth to local wildlife areas throughout San Diego County and California, with the goal of increasing knowledge and awareness of nature, biodiversity and sustainability. This program encourages outdoor participation, nature exploration and historical discovery. Nature Explorers Program provides participants opportunities including but not limited to: follow a trail, play in a safe place, camp under the stars, explore bays and beaches, how to recycle and leave no trace, plant a tree, and sustainable fishing.</p> <p>Nature Explorers Program staff and hired guides are trained in interpretive skills, experiential learning, group dynamics, leadership techniques, and knowledge to lead youth safely and ethically in wilderness areas. Staff are trained to make decisions with confidence and are versatile enough to guide a variety of nature excursions. They are certified in Wilderness Advanced First Aid and are able to provide commercial transportation for smaller local excursions. They have the technical and academic expertise to deliver the highest quality experiences by interpreting wildlife area ecology and history, as well as managing group dynamics. During wildlife area activities, staff focus on identifying learning opportunities for youth by using the curriculum and lesson plans.</p> <p>County of San Diego will use this grant to expand offerings in the Nature Explorers Program. With \$4,000, the Spring Valley and Lakeside REC Clubs will be able to offer 8 outdoor adventure activities in 2026, with 4 events provided at each location. This offering will provide 120 youth the opportunity to gain hands-on experience outdoors, with having 15 participants attending each offering. County of San Diego will use \$500 for each event to use on various program supplies and equipment, entrance and parking passes, and food for participants. In order to promote participation, each event include outdoor education and recreation activities. Participants will engage in activities that promote active hobbies and encourage healthy lifestyles such as hiking, camping, rock climbing, fishing, kayaking, surfing, or mountain biking.</p>	3/1/2026	\$4,000
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25/26-10	Taking Kids Fishing	Captain Rollos Kids at Sea	Our organization is entirely focused on introducing youth to a Saltwater fishing experience. Many of our youth in California have never been on an ocean fishing adventure. They have not experienced catching a fish, or observing the marine life such as seals, dolphins and whales. Our organization has been introducing kids to the ocean since 1999, and we have had over 150,000 kids go out on a Captain Rollo's sponsored fishing trip. We focus on underprivileged children as a primary goal. We also have many children from various schools and youth organization's that we service. We are proposing three trips in total for this grant. Typically, a trip in San Diego costs us approximately \$3500 per trip. This includes the cost of the boat, a lunch for each child and their rental tackle. We are requesting a \$7000 grant so that we may co-sponsor four trips. The cost of four trips is \$14,000, our organization would pay half and partner with Sand Diego Fish and Wildlife for the other half.	4/1/2025	\$7,000
25/26-11	Wounded Warriors Saltwater Fishing Events	San Diego Anglers Foundation	Our Foundation specializes in getting kids and wounded warriors out on the ocean on the charter boats. These trips, as we have quickly discovered are much needed in the wounded warrior world. We get our warriors from Project Wounded Warrior (San Diego chapter), Freedom Station Temporary Housing project. Our local PTSD branch called the Aspire Center, the VA hospital and the Vet Center. We were told by Balboa Naval hospital in the past that the most requested event by wounded warriors is to go fishing! We use our expertise to take 45 warriors at a time on our local charter fishing fleet boats (New Seaforth, Mission Belle, Liberty, San Diego) to take them on a wonderful day on the water. CDFW also provides a Free Annual group license to take them fishing. It is very satisfying to hear the guys and gals said they they have had the best fishing day of their lives or they caught their biggest fish ever! We even pick up the galley food bill for everyone on board and pay to have their fish cleaned.		\$3,000
25/26-12	2026 U.S. Kayak Qualifier Tournament	Fishing Initiative for Stewardship & Habitat (F.I.S.H.)	The San Diego Bay Kayak Tournament (US Angling sanctioned) is designed not only as a recreational and competitive event but also as a platform to highlight the importance of healthy aquatic habitats for wildlife survival. By engaging anglers, conservation partners, and the public, the tournament will promote stewardship of San Diego Bay's diverse ecosystems, including eelgrass beds, tidal marshes, and near shore habitats that support fish, birds, and marine mammals.  Tournament rules emphasize responsible recreation, including mandatory catch-and-release practices, eco-friendly gear guidelines, and restrictions on fishing in sensitive areas. These measures safeguard existing habitats from degradation while modeling sustainable	1/15/2026	\$5,000

25/26-13	Hookup Baits GROM Academy Program	Hookup Baits, Inc.	<p>The Hookup Baits GROM Academy Program is designed to support and inspire the next generation of young anglers. A GROM is simply a young, up-and-coming angler-typically ages 8-17-who shows enthusiasm for fishing, willingness to learn, and positive sportsmanship on and off the water.</p> <p>Our program provides these youth anglers with mentorship, fishing education, product support, and opportunities to grow within the fishing community. GROMs learn proper handling of fish, conservation ethics, rigging and tackle skills, and how to represent themselves and the sport in a positive manner. Many go on to become skilled, respectful anglers who contribute to a healthier fishing culture.</p> <p>Supporting the Hookup Baits GROM Academy Program means investing directly in the future of fishing. Your support helps us provide gear, educational materials, youth events, and hands-on guidance that builds confidence, responsibility, and love for the outdoors. By empowering GROMs today, we help ensure a stronger, more respectful, and conservation-</p>		\$5,000
25/26-14	Mataguay Waterway Improvement 2025-26	San Diego-Imperial Council Scouting America	<p>In this grant cycle, we are focusing on Lake Dan Henry and some needed repairs to keep it clean and help improve the life of fish and other animals that utilize the lake. Over the past year, Lake Dan Henry has experienced its largest algae bloom to date, preventing youth from fishing, canoeing, rowing and other activities vital to their aquatic education. The excess of algae negatively affects wildlife, and particularly the fish. To negate these effects, we plan on investing in/designing a lake rake that can be pulled by cable across the whole lake to remove the algae.</p> <p>This summer was rough on the waterway of Matagual Creek. Several trees have fallen and damaged existing infrastructure. There are many shifters and strainers that need to be removed, but a power pole that delivers power to our nearby ranges has fallen into the entrance of Lake Dan Henry. We plan on using part of the grant money to rent an auger and replace the pole. This prevents it from being a hazard and contaminating the waterway. The last project for which we would use this funding is to repair a retaining wall that has fallen partially into the lake. It has caused a tripping hazard in front of the boat house, and if not repaired, it will allow debris to continue to fall into the lake. To repair it, a Mini excavator will be required. We would use funding to rent the equipment and to reposition the retaining wall so it will be the most effective. We believe these repairs will help improve the lake and the lives of the wildlife that use it.</p>	1/3/2026	\$3,850

25/26-15	San Diego River Park Foundation	Wildlife-Friendly Fencing at Eagle Peak Ranch Pond	<p>Upper Temescal Creek is protected habitat as part of the San Diego River Park Foundation's 450+ acre Eagle Peak Ranch Preserve. It is an essential wildlife corridor, with downstream sections of the creek on the preserve assessed to be a "reference creek" for how a healthy stream should function. However, this freshwater lifeline for the San Diego River watershed's wildlife is threatened. At the headwaters of the creek, habitat disturbance and trampling of the creekbed by regular unauthorized cattle grazing have been identified as a significant threat to this creek. While grazing is not permitted on the property, cattle belonging to adjacent landowners cross into the preserve as there is no access control at the property boundaries. The cattle eat vegetation, disrupt the sediment and introduce bacteria that create poorer habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>We are seeking a grant to install ~1,500 feet of wildlife-friendly fencing to protect a 3 acre pond on Temescal Creek. Fencing design will allow wildlife to access the creek habitat while excluding unwanted cattle trespass. Fencing nearest gathering areas and recreational trail will be more attractive lodgpole fence and will include interpretive sign. FWAC funds will be matched by a local family foundation.</p>	1/1/2026	\$4,646
25/26-16	2026 Anglers4Kids Program	Oceanside Senior Anglers	<p>OSA provides saltwater sport fishing trips for local San Diego North County youth groups during the summer. We seek groups like, but not limited to Boys and Girls Clubs, Boys and Girls Scouts and recreational programs. We especially seek, but are not limited to organizations that serve low income youths. Our goal is to provide kids an otherwise not affordable, safe, fun fishing experience where they learn proper boat procedures, ocean safety, fish and game regulations and enhance their exposure to oceanic ecology and respect for our natural resources. Oceanside Senior Anglers volunteers supervise and provide hands-on instruction. Many of them, like myself, have spent a lifetime learning, using and respecting our local fishery. By exposing kids to the pleasure of sport fishing, we seek to share our appreciation of the marine environment, the value of conservation plus the great joy that nature presents. Our over twenty year history of these on-the-water experiences have given our community over one thousand youths that have received lifetime benefits from a single day on the ocean. The program is extremely fiscally efficient. Our trips over the past several years have been aboard the Sea Star out of Oceanside Sea Center in Oceanside. Captain Joe Cacciola has discounted his charter prices for our program so we have been able to include greater numbers of kids to participate.</p>	1/15/2026	\$7,500

25/26-17	Carlton Hills Fishing and Marine Conservation Club	Carlton Hills School	<p>The Carlton Hills Fishing and Marine Conservation Club provides hands-on outdoor education for students in the Santee School District, focusing on responsible fishing, marine habitat preservation, and wildlife awareness. The club engages 4th–8th grade students in field-based experiences, including the annual Lake Cuyamaca Kids’ Derby and Captain Rollo’s Kids at Sea trips, which provide opportunities to learn about local marine ecosystems, conservation ethics, and sustainable fishing practices. The school will also have its 29th annual 4th grade fishing trip to Lake Cuyamaca in May 2026.</p> <p>Through partnerships with local organizations such as Hookup Baits and Lake Cuyamaca, students learn about native fish species, aquatic food webs, and responsible angling techniques. The program also includes classroom lessons on ocean stewardship and waste reduction, linking to California Science and Environmental Education Standards.</p>	1/15/2026	\$3,950
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$74,446</b>