



## ***Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission***

5510 Overland Ave, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 565-3600

### **FWAC MINUTES**

DATE: **January 9, 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 virtual			1	Open
Janeen Reed	X			1	Open
Ed Stovin	X			2	Anderson
Andy Paluczak	X		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. Introductions-** The Commissioners introduced themselves and the following guests were present:, Jesus Amial-DPR Jason Hemmens-DPR ,Chris Nejo-Pala Band of Mission Indians, Devin O' Dea-Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.
- B. Approval of Minutes –** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024 meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Conrad, seconded by Commissioner Stovin passed with 7 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 was made.

**D. Chairperson's Report**  
None

**E. Administrative Items**

1. Funds available and any funding status. The amount of Funds available to award for this round of grants is \$37,404. All Checks for the last round of grants have been cashed. DPR staff informed the Commission that \$3,000 a year will be allocated for administrative staff time and materials.
2. Form 700 Letters. This can now be accomplished electronically and all Commissioners will be sent a link to do this,
3. DPR staff will get funding procedures for our funds and provide to the Commissioners
4. DPR staff will contact organizations with past grant awards and open projects get updates.

**F. Old Business**

1. Spreadsheet of open grants and their statuses. DPR Staff is working with AWM Staff to complete the spreadsheet and will Update and present this status to the Commissioners by email. It was also decided to post some of this spreadsheet on the FWAC website.

**G. New Business**

1. Grant Applications for Round 2 of Fiscal Year 2024-25. A presentation was made by Chris Nejo for grant 03 and questions from Commissioners were answered regarding this grant Proposal. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed each of the four grant proposals prior to discussion and voting for grant awards. Each grant was voting on individually with the following results:

Grant 03 approved for an award of \$7,425. Motion Made by Commissioner Conrad, Seconded by Commissioner Stovin Passed with 7 Ayes.

Grant 04 approved for an award of \$7,500. Motion Made by Commissioner Reed, Seconded by Commissioner Turigliatto Passed with 7 Ayes.

Grant 05 approved for an award of \$6,000. Motion Made by Commissioner Turigliatto, Seconded by Commissioner Conrad Passed with 7 Ayes.

Grant 06 approved for an award of \$6,332. Motion Made by Commissioner Reed, Seconded by Commissioner Stovin Passed with 6 Ayes and Commissioner Conrad recusing.

**FWAC Grants FY 24-25 Round 2**

<b>Grant App # / Project Name / Organization</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Grant Amount Awarded</b>
24/25-03 - Reconnecting with the Marine Resources - Pala Band of Mission Indians	<p>Many Indigenous Nations, especially in California, have been largely from coastal areas making it difficult to maintain connections to the ocean and the resources it provides. Indigenous peoples have traditionally relied on coastal areas for subsistence, economic livelihood, and cultural spiritual values. Natural resources, such as fish and abalone, hold significant cultural importance.</p> <p>Pala's project aims to reconnect our community, particularly the youth, with the coast and the ocean. By enhancing tribal access to marine resources, we strive to preserve and revitalize our cultural heritage, support sustainable practices, and strengthen our community's bond with the ocean. This initiative will foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our coastal traditions and ensure their continuation for future generations.</p>	02/08/2025	\$7,425
24/25-04 - Oceanside Senior Anglers 2025 Sponsored Kids Trips - Oceanside Senior Anglers Angler for Kids	<p>OSA sponsors and facilitates fishing trips for local north county youth groups during the summer months. We seek groups such as but not limited to Boys and Girls Clubs, Recreation programs, Boys and Girl Scouts. We especially seek but are not limited to organizations that administer low income youths. Our goal is to offer an otherwise not affordable experience that will enhance their knowledge of fishing, oceanic ecology, and respect for our natural resources. Our on the water teachers are all Oceanside Senior Anglers, many of which such as myself have spent a lifetime learning using and respecting the local fishery. 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 water.</p> <p>For the last several years all of our trips have been aboard the Sea Star out of Oceanside Sea Center in Oceanside. Captain Joe on the Sea Star has embraced the program and significantly reduced his prices to allow us greater latitude in reaching greater numbers of Kids. A boat that charts for over \$2000 per day is available for our program for \$1500, all inclusive. We have enacted additional cost saving procedures by eliminating meals as kids preferred their own lunches.</p>	6/15/2025	\$7,500

Grant App # / Project Name / Organization	Project Description	Project Start Date	Grant Amount Awarded
24/25-05 - Mataguay Waterway Improvement 2025 - San Diego- Imperial Council, Scouting America	<p>The Mataguay Waterway Improvement is a multiphase project to repair and protect the inland waterways such as Matagual Creek that run through Mataguay Scout Ranch. The repairs will help prevent erosion and support wildlife, including one endangered species. This phase of the project will focus on completing unfinished work on the waterways. The work will be carried out by volunteers and youth under the guidance of our facilities manager.</p> <p>This phase will see us continue the cleaning of the lake, silt pond, and inland waterways. We hope to start to clear the outlet for the waterway and possibly install a flash board riser or similar device, which will allow the water levels to be manipulated and provide a better biodiversity. We also will add a large lake aerator that will help improve the oxygen levels for animals in the lake. This will improve the quality of life for those animals and help promote healthy biodiversity.</p> <p>The project will restore waterways that support fish, birds, mountain lions, deer, raccoons, bobcats, and coyotes. Our waterways are home to a federally endangered species. The clearing of the waterways will help bolster an already diverse community of wildlife.</p>	4/1/2025	\$6,000
24/25-06 - Trout at the River Studio - The San Diego River Park Foundation	<p>The Trout at the River Studio will educate students about wild rainbow trout in San Diego County. The primary focus are students from urban areas that have often never seen a wild trout, let alone visit inland riparian waterways. One tank and chiller will be bought to be used to raise trout from eggs to a size large enough to release at local waterways. The project is located at the new Grant Park in Mission Valley. It builds on the successful partnership Trout in the Classroom w/ San Diego Fly Fishers. A key part of this effort is to establish internet service at a remote part of Boulder Creek. the location does not currently have cell service. This will enable students to connect w/ real time monitoring equipment at Boulder Creek to learn about healthy streams trout require. A scientist who is at our Boulder Creek Field Station will Zoom in using this satellite service to show the students the creek in real-time and talk with them. A 75" SMART board will be located at the River Studio where the students are located. This will enable not only the group of students to see the scientist, video and streaming data, but also the scientist to see the students. A camera will be placed in the fish tank at the River Studio so when the students return to their class, they can check-in on "their fish" and the learning can continue. The San Diego Fly Fishers will help setup and maintain the fish tank in partnership with the SDRPF staff, interns and volunteers. More than 1000 students annually are projected to participated in Trout in the Center.</p>	2/1/2025	\$6,332
		Total Awarded	\$27,257

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

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

Commissioners Stovin discussed a recent USF&W notification that would require an incidental take permit for Desert Tortoises for groups conducting activities in Anza Borrego State Park. He has made public comment on the notification for the San Diego Offroad Coalition and encouraged the other Commissioners to get the word out on this issue. Commissioner Turigliatto announced two upcoming events for the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Youth Turkey hunt Signup at the Ramona VFW on March 1 and the Turkey Tune-up on February 22. Commissioner Kotow requested that DPR staff prepare new business cards for all commissioners and nameplates for the newly appointed Commissioners. He also requests all Commissioners to look to create a new logo for the FWAC that could be reproduced and printed on stickers that could be passed out to the public.

## **I. Adjourn-** Meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm

Note: Commission agendas, including any revisions, are posted

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 June 12, 2025, at 11:30 am.