



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

5510 Overland Ave, 2nd Floor, Sycamore Conference Room
San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 565-3600
www.sdparks.org

FWAC Minutes

DATE: July 10, 2025

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: **Department of Parks and Recreation**
5510 Overland Ave, 2nd Floor, Sycamore Conference Room
San Diego, CA 92123

Commissioner	Present	Absent	Late	District	Supervisor
Mark Kukuchek	x			1	Aguire
Janeen Reed	x			1	Aguire
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. **Introductions**- The Commissioners introduced themselves and the following guests were present: Jesus Amial-DPR.
- B. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2025 meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Paluczak passed with 8 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 \$43,000 is available for the year with \$3,000 reserved for administrative expenses.

F. Old Business

No Items

G. New Business

1. Standardizing Grant Reporting for Recipients- Draft template Status Reports from Commissioner MacMillien.

Goal- To formalize report structure for status tracking of grant funding recipients pursuant to Section 2 of Duties and Responsibilities FWAC Bylaws, "...monitor project/program progress, completion and evaluation... and Part 10 of the Grant Application Form- Mandatory Reporting.

Timeline- Per Part 10, "All grantees must submit written regular progress reports to the Commission every six months until the completion of the grant. Receipts for tangibles must be submitted with each interim report. A final report is due 60 days from the completion of the project".

Proposed Outline for Reporting:

Project Title

Organization and Contact Information, include phone, email and name

Project Description, include grant amount awarded

Milestones Completed

Milestones Remaining

Challenges to Completing Milestones (If Applicable)

Funding Utilized

Funding Remaining

Summary of Future Actions (Interim Report) or Project Summary (Final Report)

Additional Information (If Applicable)

2. Grant Applications for Round 1 of Fiscal Year 2025-26. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed each of the five grant proposals prior to voting for grant awards.

Commissioner voted on each grant individually with the following results:

Grant 25/26-1 approved for an award of \$4,000. Motion Made by Commissioner Kukuchek, Seconded by Commissioner Reed Passed with 8 Ayes.

Grant 25/26-2 approved for an award of \$3,000. Motion Made by Commissioner Paluczak, Seconded by Commissioner Turigliatto Passed with 8 Ayes.

Grant 25/26-3 approved for an award of \$4,405. Motion Made by Commissioner Guzzardo, Seconded by Commissioner Stovin Passed with 7 Ayes and 1 no.

Grant 25/26-4 approved for an award of \$2,800. Motion Made by Commissioner Kukuchek, Seconded by Commissioner Conrad Passed with 8 Ayes.

Grant 25/26-5 approved for an award of \$7,000. Motion Made by Commissioner Conrad, Seconded

by Commissioner Paluczak Passed with 7 Ayes and Commissioner Kotow recusing.

Grant App #	Project Name / Organization	Project Description	Grant Amount awarded
25/26-1	Kiwanis of Escondido Childrens Fishing Experience / Kiwanis Club of Escondido	Twice each year Lake Dixon of Escondido hosts a 2- or 3-day Trout Derby. At each derby event the Kiwanis Club of Escondido - Hidden Valley Kiwanis constructs two (2) 20ft x 10ft x 6ft deep netted ponds and stocks them with 300-500 lbs of trout (approximately 1-2 lbs each) at a cost of \$5.00 per pound (\$1500 - \$3000) per event. With the assistance of the Sr. Anglers of Escondido, we invite all children within the North San Diego County under the age of 8 to participate in what we refer to as the "Children's Fishing Experience" The Sr. Anglers of Escondido provide all the fishing gear (or they may use their own) and the expertise. The Kiwanis Club of Escondido - Hidden Valley provides construction materials, nets and fish in support of the effort. Kiwanis has been hosting this activity for approximately 26 years. Between the April 2024 and November Trout Derby we hosted over 310 children. Typically, this event serves 150 - 200 children each event.	\$4,000
25/26-2	Kids Saltwater Fishing Event / San Diego Anglers Foundation	Our Foundation specializes in getting kids (and wounded warriors) out on the ocean on the charter boat fleet out of Seaforth Sportfishing. We concentrate on fishing off the coast of La Jolla, but we also educate the kids about the marine life that is available to see off La Jolla, California. Numerous species of birds, marine mammals such as California sea lions, harbor seals, sometimes we see common dolphins on the way up along with the occasional grey whale. Many of these kids have never been on the ocean before and we take the time to answer all their questions on what they will be seeing. We then educate them on the wonderful sport of inshore saltwater fishing for Calico Bass, Sand Bass, Barracuda, Mackerel, Pacific Bonita, and if we are lucky, the California Yellowtail. As the fish are caught, and sometimes released, we educate the kids on each species and how it fits into the giant kelp beds off La Jolla. We are very happy if we keep the kids so interested that they stay off their cell phones all morning long. On the way in, the kids lucky enough to catch something to eat, we educate them of the proper way to prepare their fish for their family. We also inform them that they can get their families to buy tickets on these open party fishing boats whenever they want.	\$3,000

25/26-3	Assessing Habitat for the Reintroduction of Threatened California Red-Legged Frogs / San Diego Natural History Museum	<p>Once abundant throughout California, including San Diego County, as an important part of our local biodiversity, the California Red-Legged Frog disappeared in the 1970s from our native aquatic fauna within the county. Beginning in 2020, the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM or Museum) and partner organizations have reintroduced the species to the county via yearly stocking of frog eggs to build up multiple generations of new frogs. Excitingly, just this year, we've documented the first wild breeding at our other recovery site in Riverside County. We also detected strong breeding calls in San Diego, but no breeding yet. With the knowledge that our work can be successful, we aim to improve habitat conditions in a variety of ways at our San Diego County site to further encourage natural breeding and self-sufficiency. Our team plans to enhance the pond with aquatic vegetation to facilitate frog egg laying and protective cover, however we don't know 1) how water levels and temperatures fluctuate for planting 2) where invasive bullfrogs are hiding, and 3) how Red-Legged Frogs use the current habitat and where they move. We seek funds for equipment purchases to help us restore habitat and make the best decisions about habitat management at our San Diego County site and help us choose future frog reintroduction sites within the county. As a long-term goal, this project will be successful when frogs in San Diego County begin breeding on their own and become self-sustaining.</p>	\$4,405
25/26-4	Mataguay Waterway Improvement 2025-26 / 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 upkeep of the lake, silt pond, and inland waterways. We hope to start to work on the upper lake and its upkeep. This will improve the quality of life for those animals and help promote healthy biodiversity. The upper lake flows through the creeks and into the lower lake. Its health is key to ensuring the health of all wildlife downstream. Continual upkeep and monitoring will ensure a rich biodiversity of wildlife.</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>	\$2,800
25/26-5	Taking San Diego Youth Fishing / Captain Rollos Kids at Sea	<p>Requesting Funding assistance on 4 half-day fishing trips. Each trip will be for 25-30 youth in the San Diego area. The youth would be supervised by their perspective community groups. The trips would include the San Diego based sportfishing boat, a hot meal for each child and rental tackle.</p> <p>Captain Rollos Kids at Sea anticipate four trips including meals and tackle for 30-35 kids per trip would be \$14,000. We are requesting funds to provide half of that amount (\$7000). Captain Rollos Kids at Sea would match that amount to complete the funding for these trips.</p>	\$7,000
		Total Awarded	\$21,205

H. Commissioner's Corner

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

Commissioners Stovin Has contacted various girl scout groups to encourage their grant application. He has also had some issues with downloading items from the FWAC website. DPR staff took an action item to research the website to make downloading more user friendly.

I. Adjourn- Meeting adjourned at 12:00 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

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Web Page:

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

The next meeting is December 11, 2025, at 11:30 am.