

4. Approve \$2,000 for projects upon adoption of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program (Fund 011) budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. Authorize the approved funding allocations as follows: Critter Creek Wildlife Station, \$1,500; SCICON Raptor Center, \$250; Wild Ones Wildlife Rehabilitation, \$250. Find that the projects described in this agenda item and the attachments hereto are exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as actions taken by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources pursuant to Class 7, 14 CCR § 15307. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer or designee, to file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and the State Office of Planning and Research.



# Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

## COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three

EDDIE VALERO  
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** July 30, 2024 - REVISED

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Christopher Greer PHONE: 5596843371

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of projects recommended by the County Fish and Wildlife Commission

### **REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve \$2,000 for projects upon adoption of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program (Fund 011) budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.
2. Authorize the approved funding allocations as follows: Critter Creek Wildlife Station, \$1,500; SCICON Raptor Center, \$250; Wild Ones Wildlife Rehabilitation, \$250.
3. Find that the projects described in this agenda item and the attachments hereto are exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as actions taken by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources pursuant to Class 7, 14 CCR § 15307.
4. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer or designee, to file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and the State Office of Planning and Research.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Agricultural Commissioner assists the Fish and Wildlife Commission with budget requests and prepares the annual report of the proposed projects to be funded by the Fish and Wildlife Project Fund. The Tulare County Board of Supervisors review the recommended projects prior to the adoption of the budget, and either approve, or disprove the projects the Fish and Wildlife Commission has submitted. Early approval allows for the continuation of ongoing projects without interruption.

As specified in the Fish and Game Code Section 13103, Fish and Wildlife Project Fund may be expended solely for projects related to the protection, conservation, propagation,

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of projects recommended by the County Fish and Wildlife Commission

**DATE:** July 30, 2024- REVISED

and preservation of fish and wildlife. Such projects may include temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife; breeding, raising, or purchasing fish or wildlife to be released into public areas; improvement of fish and wildlife habitat; predator control actions for the benefit of fish and wildlife. Funds for these projects (\$2,000) are included in the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program budget request for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

The projects are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 because the proposed activities are intended to protect natural resources and the environment. Attachment A describes the proposed activities which include youth education, wildlife rehabilitation, and the rearing of wildlife.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The source of revenue is the Fish and Wildlife Fund (011), which is derived from Fish and Wildlife fines and forfeitures imposed by the court system. No Net County Cost.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality-of-Life Initiative to promote public health and welfare educational opportunities, natural resource management and continued improvement of environmental quality. This request to approve projects recommended by our local Fish and Wildlife Commission will ensure timely continuance of a long-standing program of providing greater recreational and cultural opportunities by promoting protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**



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/s/Christopher P. Greer  
Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: Attachment A – Exhibit of Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Fish and Wildlife Projects  
Attachment B – Notice of Exemption, California Environmental Quality Act  
Attachment C – Secretary's minutes of meeting

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF Consideration of  
projects recommended by the County  
Fish and Wildlife Commission

)  
) Resolution No. 2024-0704  
)  
)  
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR VALERO, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR  
TOWNSEND, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD JULY 30, 2024, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: SUPERVISORS MICARI, VANDER POEL, SHUKLIAN, VALERO AND  
TOWNSEND  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE



ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY:   
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

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3. Found that the projects described in this agenda item and the attachments hereto are exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as actions taken by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources pursuant to Class 7, 14 CCR § 15307.
4. Authorized the Environmental Assessment Officer or designee, to file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and the State Office of Planning and Research.

Attachment A  
Tulare County Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Requested Project Funding  
FY 2024/2025

Applicant: (not listed in any order)	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
1. <u>Critter Creek Wildlife Station</u> – Louise Culver This allocation will go towards the repairs for Barn Owl flight, Quad enclosures, and opossum pre-release enclosure that are needed for USDA certification and continued operations. 36710 Sand Creek Rd., Squaw Valley, CA 93675 (559-338-2415)	\$3,000	<b>\$1,500</b>
2. <u>SCICON Raptor Center</u> – Diane Shew This allocation will go towards expenses for the upkeep of the SCICON Raptor Center as well as foodstuff and medications. Raptor shows will educate students and the public about the critical importance of these birds and their protection within the ecosystem. PO Box 339 41569 Bear Creek Road, Springville, CA 93265 (559-539-2642)	\$500	<b>\$250</b>
3. <u>Wild Ones Wildlife Rehabilitation</u> – Jim Crew This allocation will go towards expenses that include caging materials, foodstuffs, medications, veterinary care, and training costs to care for and rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife, including mammals, reptiles, and birds as well as educational outreach. 19252 Campbell Creek Drive, Springville CA 93265 (559-539-2310)	\$500	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

### Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Tulare County Clerk  
Room 105, Courthouse  
221 South Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93291

Lead Agency: County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency  
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000  
Attn: [gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov) and [jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov)

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer  
4437 S Laspina Street Ste A  
Tulare Ca 93274 559-684-3350

Project Title: Fish & Wildlife Projects FY2024/2025  
Project Location - Specific: Various locations within Tulare County, CA  
Project Location- Section, Township, Range: N/A  
Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** . The Tulare County Board of Supervisors, on July 30, 2024, approved a disbursement by the Tulare County Fish and Wildlife Commission that will be included in the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Program budget request for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. The funding will include various projects consistent with Fish and Game Code Section 13103, Fish and Game Project. Section 13103 stipulates that may be expended solely for projects related to the protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife such as temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife; breeding, raising, or purchasing fish or wildlife to be released onto public areas; improvement of fish and wildlife habitat; and predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife. As such, the funds will result in a public benefit by providing the services noted above.

#### Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 Class 7 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions:

**Reasons why project is exempt:** This action is consistent with CEQA Guidelines [California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6] Section 15307 Class 7 because this Project consists of actions taken by a regulatory agency as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. . Thus, Section 15307 Class 7 is applicable and appropriate for this project.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Tulare County Resource Management Agency

**Project Planner/Representative:** Tom Tucker, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer **Telephone:** (559) 684-3371

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Chief Environmental Planner  
Gary A. Mills

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Environmental Assessment Officer  
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

☒ Signed by Lead Agency Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tulare County Fish and Wildlife Commission

3:30 June 12, 2024

Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, CA

## Minutes

### Commission Members:

Present: Richard Jones, District 1; Jeff Nelson, District 2; Fred Naylor, District3; Kevin Day, District 4.

Absent: Jim Crew, District 5

### Quorum Present? Yes

**Others Present:** Tom Tucker, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, Tulare County; Christopher Greer Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, Tulare County

### Others Present:

Representatives of Critter Creek Louise Culver and Dan Turner

### Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 3:30 by Richard Jones.

### Public Comment: none

**Minutes:** Motion made by Jeff Nelson and seconded by Kevin Day to approve minutes from May 8,2023.

### Old Business: none

### New Business:

#### 1. Report for Lieutenant Doug Barnhart, California Department of Fish and Wildlife given by Christopher Greer.

A new officer has been added and a new canine unit with a dog capable of detecting firearms, drugs, animals etc. There is a vacant position in Kings County. The ongoing misdemeanor diversion program continues to limit fines collected.

#### 2. Tom Tucker, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Tulare County deferred to Christopher Greer.

Mr. Greer reported there is \$2356.34 available for distributions. Including \$84.76 from Friends of Tulare County.

Tom Tucker informed the board that Tulare County Board of Supervisors be recommended the current board of directors be renewed for 2025. This was moved by Richard Jones and seconded by Jeff Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 3. Requests for Project Funding (see attachment A to the Agenda)

4. **Louise Culver, Critter Creek Wildlife Station** – Ms. Culver requested \$3,000 to go toward repairs of enclosures. Also, discussed collecting and storage of culled chicks from poultry ranches and providing them for Scicon.

**Diane Shew, Scicon Raptor Center** – requested \$500 to assist in the upkeep of the Scicon Raptor Center as well as medical and supportive feeding supplies.

**James Crew, Wild Ones Wildlife Rehabilitation** – requested \$500 to go toward expenses that include caging materials, foodstuff, medications, veterinary care, and training costs to care for orphaned wildlife.

### **DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION:**

The Commission retired to Executive Session to discuss how to best apportion the funds available. The Commission agreed to distribute \$2000.00

Rich Jones asked if there were any other requests for funds. There were no further request or questions

Jeff Nelson moved to approve the following distribution as presented by Richard Jones, seconded by Fred Naylor and approved unanimously.

**Funds Available DFW \$ 2,356.34**

**Including Funds available through Friends of Tulare Co \$84.70**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Proposed Amount</b>	<b>Amount Distributed</b>
Critter Creek	\$3,000	\$1,500
Scicon	\$500	\$250
WOWR	\$500	\$250
<b>Total disbursed 2024/25</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Carried forward to 2025</b>		<b>DFW \$356.34</b>
		<b>FOTC \$84.76</b>
<b>Total carried forward</b>		<b>\$441.10</b>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Naylor, Secretary

District 3 Commission Member