

## **SAN DIEGO COUNTY FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Second Semi-Annual Report**

The San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission was established to advise the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Administrative Officer and County Departments on procedures, programs and issues pertaining to fish and wildlife. Additionally, the Commission is responsible for disbursing funds obtained through State Fish and Game fines and forfeitures that have been returned to the County. The Commission comprises ten members (two from each supervisorial district) appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and is staffed by the County Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures.

The Commission is required to produce semi-annual reports no later than 60 days after their funding meetings. The last funding meeting was held on January 8, 2009.

#### **Grant Funding**

During the second half of the 2008/2009 grant cycle, the Commission received seven grant applications totaling \$34,225. \$18,696, was available for funding. 5 projects were funded for a total disbursement of \$18,625.

**Attachment A** lists the grants received and amounts funded. **Attachment B** consists of the minutes of the second funding meeting for the 2008/2009 funding cycle, held on January 8, 2009, and details the decision-making process.

#### **Significant Accomplishments**

- A. Continued coordination meetings with federal, State and local agencies and non-governmental organizations regarding fish and wildlife related issues.
- B. Participated in the National Hunting and Fishing Day event held at Lake Murray on September 27, 2008 with an information booth highlighting the Commission's mission and accomplishments.
- C. Worked with California Department of Fish and Game to review their proposed management plans for San Diego County properties.

#### **Concerns**

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission is committed to protecting, perpetuating, and promoting the biologically and fiscally prudent use of wildlife resources in San Diego County. Building on strategies outlined in the County's Strategic Plan, and the initiatives of improving opportunities for youth, protecting the environment and safe and livable communities, the Commission worked in concert these goals in the dissemination of funds. In its advisory role, the Commission would like to encourage the Board of Supervisors to take appropriate actions as needed to enhance County ordinances and policies and to influence municipal, State and federal policy, legislation and regulation to:

- Promote sound, science-based conservation of natural resources;
- Promote volunteerism, and both allow and encourage the use of volunteers in wildlife conservation and habitat restoration projects;
- Prevent the loss of and promote the increase of wildlife related and wildlife dependent recreational opportunities for residents of and visitors to San Diego County;
- Participate in community outreach events such as the "Day at the Docks" and "National Hunting & Fishing Day";
- Pursue an education and outreach program regarding the need to follow established hunting and fishing regulations that targets those ethnic communities that are disproportionately represented among those receiving violation citations; and
- Aggressively pursue appropriate and consistent application of Fish and Game codes and regulations by the Courts in San Diego County with full accounting of fine monies collected.

In particular, the Commission would like the Board of Supervisors to encourage County staff to routinely include the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission in an active way regarding all County matters relating to procedures, programs, ordinances and issues pertaining to fish and wildlife. As an example, we would like the opportunity to participate as a contributing member of the MSCP East County Plan Steering Committee, rather than just as an "interested party".

ATTACHMENT A

San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

Grant Requests and Funding

FY	Grant _Id	R o u n d	Project_Name	Funds Requested	Funds Granted	Organization	Contact	Description
2008-09	3	2	Oceanside Senior Anglers 2009 Kids Sponsored Fishing Trips	\$6,000	\$3,000	Oceanside Senior Anglers	Fred Kaczmarek	Fishing trips for kids ages 7 - 15 during summer vacations.
2008-09	4	2	Evaluating the depth distribution and temperature preferences of the white sea bass	\$6,000	\$3,000	Pfleger Institute of Environmental Research, PIER	Chugey Sepulveda, PhD	Purchase of 15 long-life archival tags at \$400 per tag
2008-09	5	2	Friends of Rollo Youth Marine Awareness	\$10,000	\$400	Friends of Rollo	John Rowe	Sponsor 333 disadvantaged youth for half and three-quarter day marine awareness fishing trips
2008-09	6	2	Honey Springs Facility (well restoration)	<del>\$550</del> \$7,325	\$7,325	San Diego County Wildlife Federation	Robert Smith	Restore electrical power to well pump, repair well's electrical system and pipes between well and existing cistern; all damaged in recent fires
2008-09	7	2	Crystal Pier Kids	\$4,900	\$4,900	On the Water Radio-Dialed in Guide Service	Ron Baker	Provide prizes, hot dog lunch, insurance, flyers, banners, wildlife identification boards and miscellaneous sundries
Total				\$34,225	\$18,625			

ATTACHMENT B

MINUTES

January 8, 2009

Meeting held at:  
Agriculture, Weights and Measures  
5555 Overland Avenue, Suite 3101  
San Diego, California 902124

COMMISSIONERS ATTENDANCE	DISTRICT	
Jack Bransford, Vice-Chair	1	Present
	1	Vacant
Bruce Campbell, Secretary	2	Present
Florence Sloane	2	Present
Teresa Barth	3	Present
	3	Vacant
D'erdra Smothers, Ph.D	4	Present
Jim Dodd	4	Absent
Jim Conrad, Chair	5	Present
Steve Turigliatto	5	Present

A. A quorum of Commissioners being present, Chairman Conrad called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. Introductions

The Commissioners introduced themselves. Other introductions are as follows:

Colleen Carr, Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures  
Robert Atkins, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures  
Ron Baker, On the Water Radio - Dialed in Guide Service  
Robert Smith, San Diego County Wildlife Federation  
Mike Shane, Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute  
Scott Tremore, On the Water Radio - Dialed in Guide Service

C. Approval of minutes of the meeting from December 11, 2008. Accepted with the following amendments:

Ron Wade was added under Introductions. Under New Business, item 3 was changed to read: Commissioner Conrad agreed to serve as Chairman, with Commissioner Bransford as Vice-Chair. Under New Business, item 4, Ron Wade was inserted next to District 3 (Slater-Price). Under New Business, Commissioner's Corner, was changed to read Jack Bransford & Jim Conrad...on the Steering Committee. On the Chairman's Report, paragraph 2, line 5 was changed to read: The origin of the draft within the County

government is unknown. Commissioner Sloane stated she did not vote on the approval of the minutes, and should be shown as abstaining.

Motion made by Commissioner Sloane to approve minutes as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Turigliatto. Call for the vote: Motion approved unanimously.

D. 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 comments made.

E. Chairman's Report (Conrad)  
Chairman Conrad had no report at this time.

F. Administrative Items--The Commission will discuss, and may take action on, administrative items related to the Commission.

Old Business:

1. Monthly Meeting with CDFG (Conrad)  
Next joint CDFA/FWAC meeting will be January 22, 2009. Commissioner Conrad will attend the next meeting representing FWAC. Bob Atkins, Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures, said he would like to attend a CDFG meeting sometime in the future.

Retain this item for next agenda Yes  No

2. Fisheries restoration issues (Conrad)  
Tabled until next meeting.

Retain this item for next agenda Yes  No

3. Invitation to Dan Richards (Dodd).  
Tabled until next meeting.

Retain this item for next agenda Yes  No

4. Review previously funded grants (Smothers).  
Commissioner Smothers presented a summary report for FWAC grant funding from 2002-2008. This will be used as historical information to see what type of projects FWAC has funded and how much money was given to funded projects.

Retain this item for next agenda Yes  No

5. 2008 Attendance Review (Conrad).  
Bob Atkins stated Agriculture, Weights and Measures is still looking for another venue. Commissioner Conrad stated this is working for now.

Retain this item for next agenda Yes  No

6. Draft Semiannual Report (Conrad).

Commissioner Conrad asked that the following changes be made to the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Second Semi-Annual Report:

**Significant Accomplishments**

Paragraph B will be replaced with the following:

Participated in the National Hunting and Fishing Day event held at Lake Murray on September 27, 2008 with an information booth highlighting the Fish and Wildlife's Advisory Commission's mission and accomplishments.

**Concerns**

The last paragraph will be replaced with the following:

In particular, the Commission would like the Board of Supervisors to encourage County staff to routinely include the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission in an active way regarding all County matters relating to procedures, programs, ordinances and issues pertaining to fish and wildlife. As an example, we would like the opportunity to participate as a contributing member of the MSCP East County Plan Steering Committee., rather than just as an "interested party".

Retain this item for next agenda Yes  No

7. Financial Review (Conrad)

Financial statement provided current through December 31, 2008.

Retain this item for next agenda Yes  No

8. Revised Grant Request – San Diego County Wildlife Federation (Conrad).

Commissioner Conrad stated an updated bid on electrical work expenses and the need to cover the cistern by putting in a poly tank to decrease liability, contributed to the grant request increase from \$550.00 to \$7,325.00.

9. Grant Discussions and Awards (Conrad)

FY	Grant Id	Round	Project Name	Funds Requested	Funds Granted	Organization	Contact	Description
2008-09	3	2	Oceanside Senior Anglers 2009 Kids Sponsored Fishing Trips	\$6,000	\$3,000	Oceanside Senior Anglers	Fred Kaczmarek	Fishing trips for kids ages 7 - 15 during summer vacations.
2008-09	4	2	Evaluating the depth distribution and temperature preferences of the white sea bass	\$6,000	\$3,000	Pfleger Institute of Environmental Research, PIER	Chugey Sepulveda, PhD	Purchase of 15 long-life archival tags at \$400 per tag
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Commissioner Campbell moved to fund the project 2008-09-3 at \$3,000; 2008-09-4 at \$3,000; 2008-09-5 at \$400; 2008-09-6 at \$7325; and 2008-09-7 at \$4900 in order. Commissioner Turigliatto seconded, passed unanimously.

Retain this item for next agenda Yes  No

New Business:

1. Grant Status Report and Request for Extension – Grant #2006/07-02 (Conrad). Commissioner Conrad reported that trouble getting permits help up the spending of the grant funds; Opened for discussion.

Commissioner Barth moved to accept the extension request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Smothers. Passed unanimously.

Retain this item for next agenda      Yes       No

2. Brown Act Amendment (Conrad).

A handout was provided with the updated information.

Retain this item for next agenda      Yes       No

3. Proposed County Draft Regulation on Shooting Clubs and Ranges (Conrad)

Motion made by Commissioner Sloane for Commissioner Conrad and Commissioner Bransford review the current proposed ordinance and prepare a draft letter to be concurred upon by email with other commissioners; Seconded by Campbell – passed by majority (6/7) (Barth-abstained)

Retain this item for next agenda      Yes       No

4. Final Report for Grant #2005-05 Determining the Potential for Predation on Acoustically Instrumented White Sea Bass and Other Fishes (Shane)

Mike Shane, Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, presented the final report on grant #2005-05. The scope of work that was funded by the San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Commission in October of 2005, was to investigate the acoustic properties of VEMCO 69kHz ultrasonic coded transmitters (UCT's). The fundamental purpose for this investigation was to determine if UCTs could be heard by marine mammals that might prey on organisms that have these devices implanted or attached to them by scientists. The final report encompasses the initial investigation funded by the Commission as well as a second, more thorough, investigation that incorporated the VEMCO UCTs and a second manufacture's UCTs along with an additional frequency (83kHz). In summary, UCTs and other pingers have the potential to be detected by marine mammals. To prevent impact on tracking studies, it will be important to re-engineer pingers to prevent detection by marine mammals before individuals learn to use pings as a cue. If a small number of predators or prey begin to target instrumented animals successfully using acoustic cues, others are likely to imitate their strategy quickly. Although the learning process has not been studied, there is good evidence that marine mammals can learn to associate noise with an outcome, such as access to fish. Use of intense tonal sources may discourage marine mammals for a time, but once established, depredations on food sources with an acoustic signal are extremely difficult to eliminate and often cause substantial economic damage.

A written report was provided.

Retain this item for next agenda      Yes       No

G. Commissioner's Corner –

Commissioner Smothers is concerned FWAC should seek grantees in other focus areas; looking at using other categories on the grant evaluation sheet.

Commissioner Bransford attended meeting with Commissioner Conrad regarding the interaction between rock climbers and golden eagles. He was pleased with the cooperation shown between the land trustee and the hiking group.

Commissioner Campbell reported the sighting of Trout in Agua Tibia Creek was false as reported by DFG.

Commissioner Barth reported she must leave early (6:40pm) from the next meeting. She asked Bob Atkins if the FWAC is on the chopping block due to the economy. Atkins said he doesn't know where changes in funding will take us but doesn't see a threat to the Commission.

Commissioner Conrad reported attending a meeting with rock climbers who are at odds with Cleveland National Forrest Representatives regarding the Golden Eagles; collaboration went well.

H. Meeting adjourned 7:48 pm. Motion by Conrad, seconded by Sloane.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

No new agenda items.

Note: Commission agendas, including any revisions, are posted on the front door of the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures, 5555 Overland Avenue, Building 3, San Diego, California, 92123

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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