



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Parks



**Date:** August 15, 2016  
**Board Meeting Date:** September 20, 2016  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Marlene Finley, Parks Director

**Subject:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing funding to the Coastside Fishing Foundation for the 2016 Chinook Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project in the amount of \$10,000 from the Parks Department's California Department of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

**BACKGROUND:**

The San Mateo County Parks Department manages the expenditure of funds deposited by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF) under Fish and Game Code, Sections 13100-13104. One-half of all fines and forfeitures imposed or collected for fish and wildlife violations are deposited with the County Treasurer. These funds are to be expended for the protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife, under the direction of the County Board of Supervisors.

The Parks Department budgets as much as \$10,000 per year on projects meeting the criteria for the FWPFs use. The Board of Supervisors' approval is required for the use of FWPF funds.

In 2012, the Coastside Fishing Foundation (CFF) began working with CDFW on the Chinook Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project in an effort to enhance ocean salmon fishery. The CFF is in its fifth year of this project and has acclimated approximately 1,800,000 Chinook Smolt in the net pen that its volunteers assemble in the waters at Pillar Point Harbor. The process includes vaccination of the small, three to four inch fish, feeding and monitoring them, releasing them from the pen after about a week, and disassembling, cleaning and storing the pen until the next year. The CFF has found the expense per fish for this acclimation process is about \$0.10.

For 2015, 360,000 fin-clipped and wire coded, tagged Smolt were delivered for acclimation, which then had to be vaccinated and fed. With the net pen upkeep, the total expense for the Foundation was \$31,462. In 2015, the CFF made a request for funding from the FWPF that the Commission reviewed at its April 9, 2015 meeting and recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval. On June 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors authorized \$10,000 in funding to the CFF from the FWPF by Resolution No. 073833.

**DISCUSSION:**

The CFF has requested funding from the FWPF for its 2016 Chinook Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project. They received deliveries totaling 480,000 Smolt on May 11, 18 and 25 that have already been assimilated and released.

The Department intended to develop a competitive process for recommending projects for funding from the FWPF for this year, which has not yet occurred.

The County Parks and Recreation Commission considered the CFFs proposal at its August 4, 2016 meeting and voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of CFFs funding request for \$10,000 for the CFFs 2016 Smolt assimilation and release. The proposal meets the CDFW criteria for protection, conservation, and propagation, and CFF also offers an educational program for school classes to visit and watch the releases.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Approval of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community as the Smolt project supports environmental stewardship of our natural resources.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

These funds have been appropriated in the Parks Department's California Department of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund's FY 2016-17 Approved Recommended Budget. Approval of this resolution has no effect on Net County Cost.