

Sulphur Creek Nature Center

Alameda County Fish and Game Commission Grant 2018



Great-Horned Owl Release

Sulphur Creek Nature Center provides treatment and care for over 600 native wild animals that are injured, orphaned, or sick each year. In the spring of 2018, Alameda County Fish and Wildlife Commission awarded Sulphur Creek Nature Center with a \$10,000 grant to help with wildlife resources. This grant was essential in helping our nature center feed and maintain sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife.

With the first part of the grant, we were able to attain a large dog scale, which allows us to weigh larger wildlife more accurately. This scale was extremely beneficial in helping us to evaluate geese, turkeys, coyote or bobcats that came into our rehabilitation hospital. Due to their large size it is sometimes difficult to weigh them with a normal pediatric scale. This tool was also instrumental when doing the coyote and eagle exam this year. Since this scale is battery operated, staff was able to take the scale out to the animal enclosure and weigh them on site. Having to contain and weigh the resident animals in their enclosure has helped to dramatically reduce the stress of their annual exam.



Weighing resident coyote



Weighing a Canada Goose in our wildlife hospital

The second part of the grant went to upgrading some of Sulphur Creek's equipment. Sulphur Creek was able to attain new bins for most of the breeding colony and new display cases for our resident bats. The old breeding bins were over twenty-seven years old and breaking down with chips and cracks. Breeding mice and rats has helped bring down the food cost and helped to expand our animal care budget. After ten years, Sulphur Creek was also able to upgrade the educational bat display cases that have started to fall apart. Our specially designed acrylic cases will allow the public to have an up-close look at the bats, without any worries of accidental contact during the program. We use our special collection of live bats for many of our programs to educate the public. As a result, the grant was able to provide new equipment that was in much need of an upgrade.



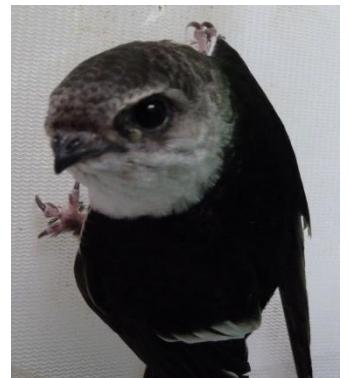
Educational bat display case

Lastly, this grant was able to provide food to many of our permanent resident animals and 600 wild patients in our hospital. Sulphur Creek was able to purchase one-years' worth of feeder chicks, smelt, and mealworms to feed to the animals. Countless opossums, skunks, hawks, bats, songbirds and more have directly benefitted from this grant. Their recovery and release is the ultimate goal and with this grant, we were able to release many healthy and thriving animals back into the wild.



Young barn owls like these can stay in our care for over 3 months, eating at least 10 mice per day.

A young swift may stay up to 2 months eating about 30lbs worth of mealworms.



We would like to thank the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission for such a generous grant to help our facility do our best to help the wildlife of Alameda County. More information about our organization can be obtained at www.haywardrec.org/sulphurcreek.