

Alameda Fish and Game Commission Grant



Prince, resident Turkey Vulture, doing a program

Alameda Fish and Game Commission awarded Sulphur Creek Nature Center \$10,000 in the spring of 2022. The grant continues to make a great impact on our center, as it supports the overall care for the resident animals. Our center has felt the financial impact in goods and services, as the cost of food continues to rise every year. The grant has helped Sulphur Creek offset the cost of food, veterinary services, and has helped with upgrading our animal enclosures.

Sulphur Creek Nature Center is an oasis tucked into the Hayward Hills, featuring local wildlife on display. The resident animals are non-releasable due to their injuries, and though they cannot return to their natural habitats they serve the Alameda County community by being wildlife ambassadors for their species. Sulphur Creek Nature Center is currently open a few days per week, the public can visit the park for free, and see the ambassadors on display. More than half of the grant has gone to purchasing food for the animals we care for at our center. We have been able to purchase chicks, mice, quail, rats, and insects throughout the year. With the many raptors and mammals under our care, our center goes through several hundred pounds of meat in a month. Food cost is one of the biggest expenses our center faces.

This grant has also aided our center through veterinary expenses this year. Many of our resident animals need additional veterinary care depending on age, unforeseen illness, or unexpected injuries that may occur. Having the grant's support this year has helped cover cost for our resident foxes, coyote, snakes, and many more. With this we have been able to obtain the needed antibiotics, pain meds, flea meds, and vitamins our animals need. Medical costs have added up quickly; this grant has helped reduce the burden of medical bills, and improve the quality of life for many of our senior or ill resident wildlife.

This year Sulphur Creek has also been awarded funds to for cage maintenance and enrichment supplies. We have been able to upgrade parts of our enclosures by providing new platforms, swings, and perches to our enclosures. Sulphur Creek has also invested a portion of this grant to toys and treats needed to keep our animals stimulated. Lastly, we were able to purchase a portable camera which has allowed us to monitor our animals. This has been an excellent learning tool for staff, as we are able to see behavior from our animals that we may normally not be previewed too. We have also been utilizing the video footage from this camera as a form of training. All the supplies we have acquired due to this grant have truly enriched the lives of our animals.



Lastly, a small portion of the grant went to toward our education programs. We were able to purchase an interactive nature display for our museum. This display is for young children, so it allows them to interact in our museum and keep them engaged. We will use the last remaining funds to purchase biofacts needed for our school programs. We have on site field trips at Sulphur Creek with interacting labs, that help kids engage and learn more about nature. Our center has performed about 200 programs this year, reaching out to around 3,000 people. This grant has allowed us to improve our education collection, as well as expand our museum.

Thank you again to the Alameda Fish and Game Commission for all of your support to our facility. It allows us to do our part in supporting the Alameda County community. More information about our organization can be found at www.haywardrec.org/sulphurcreek



Topaz, resident Grey Fox, in her enclosure