

## Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

**15. Duck Stamp Expenditure Proposals for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (Consent)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Consider approving proposed duck stamp project expenditures from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account Fund for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)****Background**

Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code sections 3702-3705, the Commission must approve any projects funded by the State Duck Stamp Account in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund; the funds shall be used for projects or endowments to protect, preserve, restore, enhance, and develop migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat, evaluate habitat projects, and conduct waterfowl resource assessments and other waterfowl-related research.

The Department annually requests and reviews proposals for projects that meet the statutory goals of this dedicated account, which are reviewed by the Department's Duck Stamp Advisory Committee and then submitted by the Department to the Commission as a list of recommended projects. Exhibits 1 and 2 contain an overview and summary of the proposed projects for consideration and approved for funding in FY 2026-27.

For FY 2026-27, authorized expenditures from this fund are \$2,268,000. After deducting the required administrative overhead costs (limited to 6%, per Fish and Game Code Section 3701, or \$136,080), and the mandated amount portioned to Canada (\$2.25 per stamp/validation per Section 3704, or approximately \$140,717, calculated based on the 2026 license year duck stamp validations), a total of \$1,991,203 is available for new and ongoing projects (Exhibit 2).

The Department proposes funding eight new projects totaling \$1,543,610. A total of 15 projects are recommended, including continued authorization for ongoing projects. Combined, the new and ongoing projects in California total \$1,991,203 (Exhibit 2).

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Approve this proposed FY 2026-27 funding from the Duck Stamp Account as recommended by the Department.

**Department:** Approve the projects identified in Exhibit 2 for funding from the Duck Stamp Account in FY 2026-27.

**Exhibits**

1. [Department memo, received June 4, 2026](#)
2. [Department summary of recommendations for FY 2026-27 California Duck Stamp Account expenditures](#)

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 12 through 17 on the consent calendar.

# MEMORANDUM

Signed original on file,  
received June 4, 2026

Date: May 19, 2026

To: Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

**Subject: Agenda Item for the June 17 2026, Fish and Game Commission Meeting Duck Stamp Proposals for Fiscal Year 2026-27**

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code § 3702-3705, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) submits the attached summary of proposed projects to the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for consideration and approval for funding from the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27. These projects were reviewed by the Department and the Duck Stamp Advisory Committee.

The Account's estimated beginning balance will be \$3,242,000 on July 1, 2026, which includes the estimated revenue of \$1,580,000 from the sale of duck stamp validations during FY 2025-26. The Department proposes to spend revenues to accomplish the goals established for the Duck Stamp Dedicated Account as authorized.

For FY 2026-27, the anticipated spending authority from this fund is \$2,268,000. After deducting the allowable administrative overhead cost (limited to 6% per §3701 or \$136,080), a total of \$2,131,920 is available for new and ongoing projects. The mandated amount portioned to Canada (§3704) is approximately \$140,864, based on the number of stamp/validations sold during the 2025 license year @ \$2.25 per stamp/validation.

The Department is proposing eight new projects for funding totaling \$1,543,610. The attached list includes all projects recommended, including ongoing projects (approved in past years) for continued authorization. The new and ongoing projects in California total \$1,991,203. This figure includes contingency funding to allow for emergencies (inflation, drought or other) or project costs that differ from the original estimates; increasing as of late because of supply chain and inflation causes.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
May 19, 2026  
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As always, the Department appreciates the Commission's consideration of our proposal and requests its approval for funding of the attached projects.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Scott Gardner, Chief, Wildlife Branch, at (916) 801-6257.

Attachment

ec: **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Chad Dibble, Deputy Director  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Scott Gardner, Chief  
Wildlife Branch

Mario Klip, Game Program Manager  
Wildlife Branch

Cali Roth, Upland and Waterfowl Unit Supervisor  
Wildlife Branch

Melanie Weaver, Waterfowl Coordinator  
Wildlife Branch

Dan Reagan, Deputy Director  
Fiscal Services Division

Nicole Nelson, Chief  
Budget Branch

FILE: D, DD-WFD

**Summary of Department Recommendations**  
**FY 2026-27 California Duck Stamp**  
(project costs rounded to nearest dollar)

**Canada Habitat Project**

**Wetland and Upland Conservation – Alberta/Saskatchewan, Canada ..... \$140,717**

Establish a conservation easement and or restore wetlands associated with key breeding uplands in Alberta or Saskatchewan for pintail. Specific project parameters are still in development with the landowner. This project will also be matched by North America Wetland Conservation Act dollars.

**Ongoing Projects - California**

**Duck Banding (pintail and mallards) – California Waterfowl Association ..... \$85,000**

This is a cooperative project to maintain sufficient banded samples of pintail and mallards to assess harvest and survival rates, as well as inputs for the Western Mallard Model (provide adaptive regulatory approach for establishing hunting frameworks in the Pacific Flyway).

**Tule Greater White-fronted Goose Population Monitoring ..... \$30,000**

This project will continue population estimation, habitat use, and distribution by purchasing and marking birds with radio transmitters.

**Department of Fish and Wildlife – Internal Expenditures ..... \$156,000**

This funding provides the match for the Pittman Robertson Act appropriation for the Waterfowl Unit in the Wildlife Branch as well as region staff participating in waterfowl monitoring.

**Department of Fish and Wildlife – Duck Stamp Administration ..... \$5,000**

This funding provides for the delivery of physical stamps to purchasers, as required under Fish and Game Code, and other administrative charges related to ALDS.

**Department of Fish and Wildlife – Contingency Fund ..... \$171,593**

This funding provides the ability to cover emergencies (drought related or otherwise) and or cost overruns on new and existing projects caused supply shortages.

**New Projects – California**

**Honey Lake and Willow Creek Wildlife areas ..... \$138,750**

Cover water related costs to irrigate 250 acres of summer wetlands and 200 acres of early fall wetlands. Reduced budgets combined with increased pumping and water costs has reduced available habitat at these key areas in northeastern California. This is a 3-year commitment.

**Shasta Valley Wildlife Area ..... \$129,658**

Enhance 249 acres of wetland habitat by replacing water control structures and ditch cleaning.

<b>Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge .....</b>	<b>\$111,986</b>
Enhance 900 wetland acres by refurbishing a pump.	
<b>Modoc National Wildlife Refuge-Field 93.....</b>	<b>\$229,760</b>
Enhance 262 wetland and 79 upland acres by replacing water control structures.	
<b>Gray Lodge Wildlife Area-Field 93.....</b>	<b>\$192,909</b>
Enhance 645 wetland acres by replacing water control structures, refurbishing levees, ditch cleaning, swales, grading, and seeding of native grasses.	
<b>Sutter National Wildlife Refuge Tracts 10 &amp; 12 .....</b>	<b>\$280,993</b>
Enhance 140 wetland and 4 upland acres by topographic survey/design, recontouring, swales, enhance upland topography, and seeding of native grasses.	
<b>Grizzly Island Wildlife Area-Goodyear Slough .....</b>	<b>\$154,336</b>
Enhance 244 wetland acres by replacing water control structures, ditch work, swales, refurbishing levees, and invasive species removal.	
<b>Los Banos Wildlife Area-Mud Slough Unit .....</b>	<b>\$305,218</b>
Enhance 198 wetland acres by replacing a lift pump and water control structures, and installing a weed boom.	
<b>San Jacinto Wildlife Area .....</b>	<b>\$191,198*</b>
Create 38 acres of brood rearing units by building levees, swales, potholes, islands, pipeline system and planting tule clumps.	
<i>*This capital outlay project is on the Department's Five-Year Infrastructure Plan and is currently planned to be funded in FY 2028-29.</i>	