

# Sulphur Creek Nature Center

## Alameda County Fish and Game Commission Grant 2019



Animal Caretaker releasing a peregrine falcon

Sulphur Creek Nature Center provides treatment and care for over 600 native wild animals that are injured, orphaned, or sick each year. Having upgraded and proper equipment is vital to what we do. In the spring of 2019, Alameda County Fish and Wildlife Commission awarded Sulphur Creek Nature Center with a \$10,000 grant to help with wildlife resources. The grant is essential in helping our nature center feed and care for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife.

The first part of the grant went to upgrading some of Sulphur Creek's equipment. Sulphur Creek was able to purchase new bins for most of our breeding colony last year, and this year we were able to attain the rest of the bins. Our original breeding bins were over twenty-seven years old and were wearing out and breaking down. Breeding mice and rats helps bring down the cost of our food supplies and is helpful to our animal care budget. The new bins provide more space and room for the rodents, which improves the quality of life for our colony.



New Mice & Rat Breeding Bins



Rat Breeding Bin

Program with our resident screech owl



The Second part of the grant went towards equipment for our ambassador animals. We were able to purchase supplies and materials to fix or upgrade our falconry equipment and carriers. The resident raptors at Sulphur Creek are a key component to our programs by educating the public about wildlife. Money from the grant went into purchasing materials needed for raptor carriers. These carriers are in constant use for educational programs or transporting raptors to vet visits. New falconry equipment (bracelets, jesses, grommets, swivels, etc.) are also needed to help transport our resident raptors to programs, veterinarian appointments, or for enrichment walks around the park. Thanks to the grant, Sulphur Creek was also able to attain new falconry equipment for our raptors.

With this grant, we were also able to order more educational bio facts, such as skeleton and skull replicas, in addition to other animal artifacts that aide in teaching kids about wildlife. By purchasing more skull replicas, we were able to develop a new educational hands-on lab. Tactile learning is an important and more meaningful way for students to learn, so these new bio-facts added a dimension to our program that would not be there had it not been for this grant.



Skull replica during our wildlife camp

Lastly, this grant was able to provide food to many of our permanent resident animals and the over 600 wild patients that come to our hospital. Sulphur Creek was able to purchase feeder chicks, smelt, and one years' worth of mealworms. 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.

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



This peregrine falcon stayed under our care for a month while it recovered from its injuries