

Sulphur Creek Nature Center
Alameda Fish and Game Commission Grant Report



Sage, the coyote, lived at Sulphur Creek for 18 years.

Alameda Fish and Game Commission awarded Sulphur Creek Nature Center \$10,000 in the spring of 2021. The grant is making a great impact on our center, as it supports the overall care for the resident animals. As we all work through another year of COVID, the financial impact of our reduced revenue is greatly felt; with the help of this grant we have been able to maintain a well-stocked food supply, keep up with veterinary services, and expand on our education tools.

Sulphur Creek Nature Center's resident animals are non-releasable due to their injuries. Even though they cannot return to their natural habitats they serve the community by being wildlife ambassadors for their species through our virtual and in person group programs and park displays. 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, and insects throughout the year. It is important to offer a variety of food options to all of our animals as it helps them with their nutritional needs.

This grant has also supported our center through helping with some veterinary expenses this year. Many of our resident animals have been here for decades, and as senior animals they have been needing additional veterinary care. Sulphur Creek Nature Center does not have any veterinarians on staff, but we have volunteer vets that work closely with our animals. The Alameda Fish and Game Commission Grant has financially helped our center keep up with the influx of medical expenses. This year has been hard on our staff and community as our two

coyotes needed a lot of additional care as they were approaching the end of their life. With the help of this grant we were able to afford all of the medication, lab work, x rays, and procedures needed to help maintain a good quality of life. We also used remaining funds for lab work, and medications for other resident animals. 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.

A portion of the funds from the Alameda Fish and Game Grant have gone to improving our virtual programming by funding our bio facts needed for the programs. Our Center has performed 215 programs this year, reaching out to 3,500 people. This grant has allowed us to slowly increase and improve our collection of bio facts, which were a big hit virtually. These tools will also help our future programs as we move to in-person programs.



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 obtained at www.haywardrec.org/sulphurcreek



On average our center goes through 15lb of food a week for our resident raptors