



May 31, 2022

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
Committee

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee

Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Chris R. Holden, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Approval of an Unanticipated Cost Funding Request from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Pursuant to Provision 3 of Item 9840-001-0001, Finance is transmitting the attached unanticipated cost funding request submitted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife on April 27, 2022. This request is for the payment of \$1,018,000 associated with emergency operations costs for the Wildlife Waystation.

The Department initiated an emergency operation in August 2019 to care for and rehouse approximately 496 exotic animals from the Wildlife Waystation, after the board of the facility, which housed hundreds of animals—including lions, tigers, bears, and chimpanzees—for 43 years, voted to shut it down. To date, the Department has successfully found new homes for 476 of the animals, and still have 20 other animals at the Wildlife Waystation. The Department pursued cost recovery by billing the facility and the owner for costs arising from the time the facility surrendered its permit and by entering into an agreement with a foundation to receive reimbursements associated with donations. No cost recoveries have materialized through the Department's efforts at this point, but to the extent the Department is able to recover costs, those costs are expected to be returned to the state General Fund.

The Department requests funding to pay these emergency operations costs. Finance has reviewed the proposal and concurs with the request. Funding for this unanticipated cost request will be provided from Item 9840-001-0001, Augmentations for Contingencies or Emergencies, in the amount of \$1,018,000, no sooner than 30 days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please call Krystal Acierito, Principal Program Budget Analyst, at (916) 324-0043.

KEELY MARTIN BOSLER

Director

By:



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Chief Deputy Director

Attachment

cc: Honorable Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Honorable Vince Fong, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
Subcommittee No. 2  
Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst (3)  
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
Christopher W. Woods, Senate President pro Tempore's Office (2)  
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus, Office of Policy  
and Budget  
Paul Dress, Caucus Co-Chief of Staff, Assembly Republican Leader's Office  
Katja Townsend, Capitol Director, Assembly Republican Leader's Office  
Jason Sisney, Assembly Speaker's Office (2)  
Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, Natural Resources Agency  
Bryan Cash, Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance, Natural Resources  
Agency  
Charlton H. Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Valerie Termini, Chief Deputy Director, Business Operations, Department of Fish and  
Wildlife  
Dan Reagan, Deputy Director, Fiscal Services Division, Department of Fish and  
Wildlife

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
UNANTICIPATED COST FUNDING REQUEST  
DF-580 (REV 04/11)

Department of Finance  
915 – L Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**I. APPROPRIATION/FUND TO BE ADJUSTED**

DEPARTMENT: Fish and Wildlife	ITEM NUMBER: 3600-001-0001	
FUND: General Fund	AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED: \$1,018,000	FISCAL YEAR: 2021-22

**II. JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST (Please provide the following information: reason for expense and basis of determination that the expense is needed.)** DOF may not approve requests for: (a) capital outlay funding, (b) prior year expenses, (c) expenses related to legislation enacted without an appropriation, (d) startup costs of programs not yet authorized by the Legislature, (e) costs that could have been included in May Revision, and (f) costs that the Administration has the discretion to incur or not incur. (Use attachments if additional space is needed.)

On August 11, 2019, the Wildlife Waystation voted to shut down its facility after 43 years of operation, which housed hundreds of animals including lions, tigers, bears and chimpanzees. To safeguard animal welfare and promote public safety, the Department initiated an emergency operation to care for and rehouse approximately 496 exotic animals located in this wildlife sanctuary.

**III. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION**

Is this an emergency request for funding unanticipated costs? (An emergency request is for expenses incurred in response to conditions of disaster or extreme peril that threaten the immediate health or safety of persons or property in this state.)

NO

YES (If yes, please provide reason for expense and basis for determining this an emergency. Use attachments if additional space is needed.)

**IV. PROVIDE A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF ALL LEGALLY PERMISSIBLE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO AVOID ADDITIONAL COSTS, (e.g., reduce spending, etc.) (Add attachments if additional space is needed.)**

The Department has pursued cost recovery through billing the facility and the owner for costs arising from the time the facility surrendered its permit and anticipates litigation with the Attorney General if invoices are not timely paid. The Department also entered into an agreement with a foundation to receive donations the foundation may raise for reimbursing the Department's efforts. No cost recoveries have materialized through the Department's efforts.

**V. WAS THIS NEED FOR FUNDING PREVIOUSLY DENIED IN A LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE ACTION? (Use attachments if additional space is needed.)**


NO

YES (when and why?)

**VI. MONTH AND YEAR WHEN SPENDING AUTHORITY TO OBLIGATE FUNDS (not make cash payment) WILL BE NEEDED.**

Month: June Year: 2022

**VII. REQUESTING DEPARTMENT**

Approved By:  Title: Deputy Director, Fiscal Services Div. Date: 5/23/2022

**VIII. AGENCY SECRETARY (IF APPROPRIATE)**

Approved By:  Date: 5/23/2022

**IX. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Notice to Legislature: 5/31/2022