

County of Santa Cruz Fish and Game Advisory Commission
GRANT APPLICATION 2015

1. Project name

Scott Creek Informational & Interpretive Kiosk

2. Amount of funding requested

\$2,000

For each of the following sections, give a brief description:

3. Project Description

This project will provide important signage at the main entry to the beach at Scott Creek. Beachgoers will understand how their activities may affect the environment and will be encouraged to make the best possible choices.

4. Project objectives and goals

The objective of the project is to create a healthier beach and to better protect special species that make Scott Creek their home part or all of the year, including the ESA-listed (threatened) Western Snowy Plover. Project goals include: 1) to provide visually compelling and easily understood information about species protection, and in particular how dogs (especially off leash dogs) are harmful to the resident Snowy Plovers; 2) to offer directions to other nearby beaches where dogs owners can safely take their dogs; 3) to provide key information about the sensitive beach ecosystems, including why it is important to fish populations to not breach lagoons; and 4) educate members of the public about park rules.

5. Background and history of the problem

Currently signage is scattered throughout the site, and some of the most important information is offered where it is not easily visible. In addition, many signs are weathered and difficult to read. No information is given about dogs being harmful to wildlife.



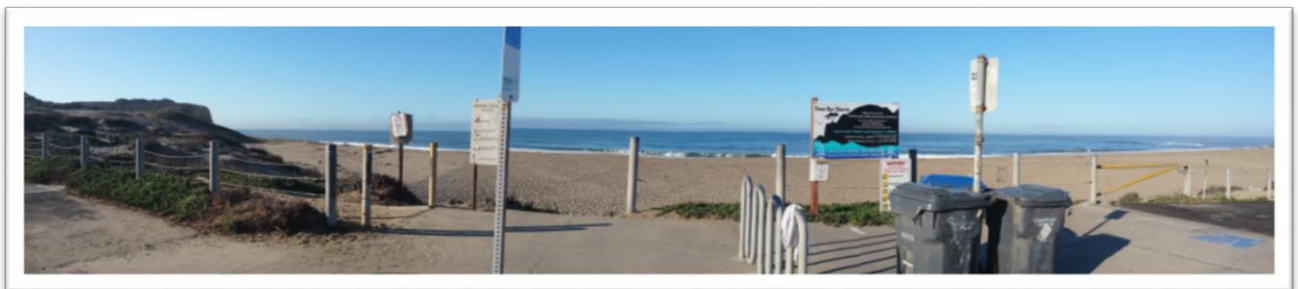
Two examples of the current state of signage at Scott Creek.

The County Parks Department has managed this site for many years in cooperation with other local public agencies, educational and research institutions, etc. The Department annually adjusts and maintains the protective fencing to protect the Snowy Plover's nesting sites in the dunes in accordance to recommendations from a consulting wildlife biologist. In their stewardship capacity Parks Staff have become aware of several problems on this beach:

First, many visitors regularly bring dogs to the beach and let them run off leash, which disturbs the nesting or resting plovers. If they are nesting, a dog chasing them from their nesting site allows for crows or gulls to scavenge their eggs in their absence.

Frequently winter visitors will unthinkingly breach the lagoon, unknowingly creating environmental havoc for resident fish populations.

This wild remote beach is often treated as a place without regular rules, which encourages a situation that is problematic for wildlife and the environment.



Proposed location for new kiosk – slightly left of center, in lieu of other miscellaneous signage.

6. How will the project be accomplished (design specifications or plans, if applicable)

The County Parks Department will provide all of the key information needed by beachgoers in one clearly identifiable and aesthetically appropriate spot (see photo above). The informational kiosk will be located strategically in a central area near the main access to the beach (please see map included). The kiosk will be stocked and maintained with clear and accurate information regarding those things mentioned above, as well as any timely notices regarding particular hazards (such as mussel quarantines, etc.).

We have provided photos examples of two other Parks kiosks below to show the general design, and a previous bid for a more weatherproof version that we may use is attached.



7. Budget (include sufficient detail to explain use of grant monies). Specify if there are any sources of other funds committed to the proposed project.

Item	Funds Requested	Match Contribution	Total Amount
Kiosk (Belson Outdoors)	\$1543.00		
Concrete	\$42.00		
New signage (4+)	\$415.00		
Staff Labor (27hrs@\$39)		\$1053.00	
TOTAL AMOUNTS	\$2000		\$3053.00

8. Timeline for completion

Total time for completion under six months: one to two months to order kiosk and plan for installation; one month to install after delivery; two to four months to finalize, order and print new signage and/or literature, and to assemble final kiosk display.

9. Background or history of your organization

The Board of Supervisors created the Parks and Recreation Department In February 1979 from the former Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services division of the Community Resources Agency. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining County parks, open space and cultural resources, and for developing facilities and administering programs to promote public enjoyment of those resources.

The Mission of the County of Santa Cruz Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well-designed and maintained parks, and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community.

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