



November 2, 2022

California Coastal Commission
Whale's Tail Grant

Dear Grants Review Panel:

The Reel Guppy Outdoor Program is a partner with the County of Ventura Children and Family Services. The method of understanding with Reel Guppies and the County is our children and youth living in out-of-home-care (foster care) and their caregivers can participate in the program at no cost.

The County of Ventura supports the Reel Guppy Outdoor program in their quest for the Whale's Tail Grant. Programs such as the Reel Guppy is an integral part to healing the trauma our children and youth have experienced.

For many of our foster children and youth, they have never had the opportunity to fish or learn about a tide pool. They love catching a memory and many look forward to the next time they can fish with the Reel Guppy Program. Recently when Kevin and his team learned the story about a 17-year old youth, they made special arrangements for him to participate on a boat trip! The experience this youth had made such an impact on him. He felt important because Kevin and his team paid him attention, taught him about fishing and provided encouragement. Today, the boost to this youth's confidence remains, and he loves to fish!

Ventura County Children and Family Services depends on the Reel Guppy Program. Many of our children, youth and families would never have this type of experience otherwise. We look forward to participating with the Reel Guppy Program for long time to come.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 665-7645.

Sincerely,

Jaci A. Johnson

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