

State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of March 24, 1977

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Pursuant to the call of the Acting Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 2133 of the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, California, on March 24, 1977. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Berger Benson at 2:10 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Berger Benson Acting Chairman
E. C. Fullerton Member
Sid McCausland Member, vice Roy M. Bell

Senator John F. Dunlap Joint Interim Committee
Assemblyman Barry Keene " " "

ABSENT: Senator Dennis Carpenter Joint Interim Committee
Senator John A. Nejedly " " "

WCB Staff

Chester M. Hart Executive Officer
Alvin G. Rutsch Assistant Executive Officer
John Wentzel Field Agent
John Schmidt Land Agent
Alma Koyasako Secretary
Bella Applebaum Accountant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Muri Fritschle City of Anderson
Harry Smith Shasta County
Lee Wallinder Dept. of F&G, Student Intern
Chuck Nolan Dept. of Fish & Game
D. H. McKillop Dept. of Water Resources
Lin Patton State Lands Div.
Jerold Krieger Office of Attorney General
Robert P. McHugh Alturas
Les Edgerton Fish & Game Commission
William D. Whipple Lake County Parks Dept.
D. W. Moore State Lands Division
Joe Sheehan Dept. of Fish & Game
Bill Schafer Dept. of Fish & Game
Mike Wanner Dept. of F&G, Student Intern
Bill Collins Sierra Club
Barbara Weisbart Wildlife Conservation Board
Jim Tennant County of San Diego

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Orville Ball	Lake Cuyamaca Recreation & Park Dist.
Jeff Shellito	Legislative Analyst Office
Kenneth S. Copeland	Lake Cuyamaca Recreation & Park Dist.
Willis Fletcher	Lake Cuyamaca Recreation & Park Dist.
Patricia Gayman	San Diego County
Betty Sims	San Diego County
Chris Jarvi	Los Angeles County

2. Election of Chairman

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON,
THAT BERGER BENSON BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WILDLIFE CON-
SERVATION BOARD.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND,
THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
THE DECEMBER 1, 1976, MEETING.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Status of Wildlife Restoration Fund

Mr. Chester Hart, the Executive Officer, reported on the Wildlife Restora-
tion Fund status as follows:

Unallocated balance at beginning of 12/1/76 meeting . . .	\$1,533,504.33
Less allocations	-618,000.00
Total available as of March 24, 1977, meeting	\$ 915,504.33

5. Procedures for Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects

Mr. Hart advised that this is a proposal for staff to change Board proce-
dures for application for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

Pursuant to Section 5099.12 of the Public Resources Code, the Board receives
an allocation of Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies apportioned
to California. To actually obtain these funds, which normally are provided
on a reimbursement basis, WCB projects eligible under this program must be
submitted to the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation through the State
Liaison Officer (Director of Parks and Recreation).

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The application procedure for LWCF projects is involved and lengthy, usually taking approximately 2 to 4 months. Any final commitment by the State to undertake a project before federal approval makes the project ineligible unless retroactivity is granted by BOR, which is done only a limited basis for unusual circumstances.

Usual WCB procedures have been for the Board to include in its resolution approving a project, an authorization for staff to apply for LWCF funds. Thus, the lengthy processing time under LWCF procedures falls after the WCB meeting. This increasingly is creating problems, particularly where only short-term options for purchase of lands can be obtained and the option is expiring before federal approval. Some problems with development projects also occur, mainly with expediting projects for construction during favorable weather periods.

A procedural change is desirable, whereby the Board would authorize the Executive Officer to make early application for proposed WCB projects to establish eligibility under the LWCF program. When staff has determined that a proposed project evidently has met established criteria for both the WCB and LWCF programs and would be scheduled for Board consideration at a future meeting, the LWCF application could be initiated at that time. This would enable processing of the application to be well under way, or perhaps completed in some cases, by the time the Board considers the project at a scheduled meeting.

This procedure would not in any way commit the WCB to undertake a project but only establish federal eligibility. Commitments to proceed with a given project would be made only after formal approval by the Board in the usual manner. If the Board did not approve the project, the application would be withdrawn.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board authorize staff to make pre-application to determine eligibility of projects under the LWCF program as proposed.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, AS A JOINT MOTION, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD HEREBY AUTHORIZES STAFF TO MAKE APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY FOR MATCHING FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUNDS FOR ANY PROJECT AS SOON AS STAFF DETERMINES THE PROJECT WILL MEET ESTABLISHED CRITERIA FOR BOTH THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME FOR FEDERAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESSES.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Legislative Analyst Recommendations - WCB Budget for 1977-78

Chairman Benson requested the Executive Officer's comments and suggested action with regard to the recommendations made by the Legislative Analyst relative to the WCB budget for 1977-78. Mr. Hart believed that this matter should be brought to the attention of the WCB and its legislative members at this time for whatever action is deemed desirable in view of the fact that the Senate Finance subcommittee budget hearings will begin next week. He reported that in the analysis of the Budget Bill, the legislative analyst has recommended that the WCB not receive its long-established annual funding of \$750,000 from horse racing revenues for the 1977-78 fiscal year. In view of this being a continuing appropriation, a new item in the Budget Bill or other legislation would be required to reappropriate the \$750,000 to the General Fund or elsewhere.

The analyst's position evidently is based on the fact that the Wildlife Restoration Fund had an unallocated balance of \$915,504 on December 1, 1976, and that other funding is available, primarily from special bond acts, to finance major projects of the Board. He concludes that the Board has sufficient funds available for 1977-78 projects and does not need the continuing annual appropriation, so that the \$750,000 can be reappropriated. This conclusion was reached without any consultation with, or information from, the WCB or its staff.

The Executive Officer considered that the following points more accurately summarize the financial position of the WCB:

1. The continuing appropriation of \$750,000 annually is the only assured funding for the WCB program, and its loss would be disastrous to the program. This level of funding has not been increased since 1955, although development, land acquisition and other costs have increased approximately four-fold.
2. The net effect on the WCB program actually would be a loss of \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000, because the \$750,000 is used largely for matching fund projects under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. Without these State funds for matching purposes, the federal funds could not be obtained.
3. A balance of \$915,504 in the WRF on December 1, only five months into the fiscal year, is not of particular significance, nor is it excessive for WCB program purposes. For example, in the two meetings held through December 1 in the 1976-77 fiscal year, the Board allocated \$935,500 from the WRF for project purposes. This agenda includes \$264,400 in proposed WRF projects, which will reduce the fund balance to \$651,104, and a planned fourth meeting will further reduce the balance by the end of the fiscal year.

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Mr. Hart explained that this sort of expenditure cycle is going to be normal for the Board in the future if it obtains the maximum amount of federal matching funds, because the federal fiscal year has changed to an October-September period. By the time the Land and Water Conservation Fund monies become available and the WCB knows what its allocation will be and makes final applications for Board approved projects, it would probably be December or January. Therefore, the WRF balance will remain relatively high until about this time of year.

4. The 1974 and 1976 Bond Acts were represented to the voters as providing additional funding to meet increased needs, particularly for land acquisition for park, recreational and wildlife purposes. To now delete the normal funding for the WCB program on the basis that these bond act funds are available would be contrary to representations made for passage of the Bond Act and would be breaking faith with the voters. It was his recommendation that the Board take a position in support of the continued funding as it has in the past.

Mr. McCausland commented that the Department of Finance is traditionally disinclined to continuing appropriations, but in this case feels the appropriation is a good use of those funds, particularly because of the leverage it provides in access to federal funds.

IT WAS MOVED BY SENATOR DUNLAP, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, AS A JOINT MOTION, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AND THE LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GO ON RECORD AS REGISTERING ITS OPPOSITION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST WITH REGARD TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND APPROPRIATION AND DIRECTING STAFF TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONVEY THAT INFORMATION TO THE FISCAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES, AND FURTHER PROVIDE BACK-UP DATA AS NECESSARY.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND PROJECTS

Emergency Improvements - Fishing Access Projects

Mr. Hart prefaced his presentations on the next two projects with the general statement that the drought and resulting low water conditions have caused them to become almost inoperable. Local maintaining agencies have requested WCB modification of two WCB projects. Improvements to these projects are needed to keep them usable for intended public access purposes under conditions that exist at present and may continue for an appreciable period of time.

The Department of Navigation and Ocean Development does not have available funding for correction of such problems at existing WCB projects. Also, it has been determined that the improvements actually do not fall within the maintenance responsibilities of the local agencies so that staff is requesting WCB funding for them.

7. Anderson Fishing Access Improvements, Shasta County \$22,600.00

The Anderson Fishing Access, constructed in 1957 on a two-acre parcel acquired by the Board, was one of the first of the WCB inland angling access projects on the Sacramento River.

The Board acquired an additional 230 acres of river frontage lands adjacent to this parcel in 1966 and 1969 for fishing access and preservation of wildlife habitat. The entire area and developments are operated and maintained by the City of Anderson, under a cooperative agreement with the State.

The project offers a variety of recreational opportunities for boat and shore fishing access, nature study, hiking, photography, bird watching, and swimming. The City has acquired adjacent land also and developed facilities for general and organized recreational activities.

The ramp was not constructed for launching during low flows such as are being experienced along the Sacramento River, so that launching of boats now is difficult, and at times impossible. The City has requested extension of the lower end of the boat ramp so as to keep this popular access usable. Upgrading the existing unpaved parking area is also considered desirable so as to better utilize the limited parking space. The city engineer has submitted a cost estimate of these improvements as follows:

Grading and paving	\$11,000
Concrete ramp extension	7,800
Subtotal	\$18,800
Contingencies	1,900
A&E	1,900
Total Estimated Cost	\$22,600

The ramp extension and parking lot paving has no significant environmental impact and is categorically exempt from the provisions of the Environmental Quality Act under Class I: Existing Facilities, and Class II: Replacement or Reconstruction.

The City has indicated that if approved by the Board, they would complete the plans for the work, obtain permits as required, bid the project out for construction and supervise the work. The City has also indicated that if approved, they would agree to an extension of the cooperative agreement for operation and maintenance of the facility for a 25-year term.

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Preliminary coordination of the proposed work with the State Lands Division, the Department of Fish and Game, Water Quality Control Board, and U. S. Corps of Engineers has revealed no problems in obtaining the approval of agencies having jurisdiction in these matters.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve the proposed improvements to the Anderson Fishing Access, allocate \$22,600 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned, including authorization to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds in reimbursement of 50% of project costs.

Mr. Hart reported that Mr. Murl Fritschle, City Manager of the City of Anderson, was present to answer any questions that the Board might have and further indicated that letters of support for this improvement were received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association and Senator Ray Johnson representing that area.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN KEENE, SECONDED BY SENATOR DUNLAP, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT ANDERSON FISHING ACCESS, SHASTA COUNTY, AND ALLOCATE THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ANDERSON FISHING ACCESS, SHASTA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$22,600 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING PROCESSING AS A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT AS APPROPRIATE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Clear Lake Highlands Fishing Access Improvements, Lake County \$23,000.00

Lake County has requested improvements to the WCB ramp at Clear Lake Highlands to keep the facility in use during low water conditions in the lake. The proposal is to extend the concrete ramp and excavate a channel to deep water. The facility presently is barely usable, and will become unusable if the water level declines further as appears probable.

The Clear Lake Highlands ramp, parking area and fishing pier were developed by the Board in 1958. The project has been adequate to serve the public needs without problems until the current two-year drought and resultant low lake levels.

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The County Public Works Department has made soundings of the lake bottom in the vicinity of the ramp, and estimates that a channel approximately 240 feet long with an average depth of 3.5 feet would be sufficient to assure continued access. A 30-foot wide channel is required for this two-lane ramp. The ramp itself would be extended 30 feet to about a 4-foot lower elevation.

The ramp gets heavy use, being the only free public boat access on the south end and east side of the lake. Some 94,500 visitor days of use was reported at this installation last year. A proposed expansion of the facility consisting of another lane on the ramp, a restroom, and additional parking has been coordinated with the Department of Navigation and Ocean Development, but funds for this expansion are not expected to be budgeted by that agency before the 1978-79 fiscal year.

The cost of the ramp extension and channel excavation is estimated by the county engineer at \$23,000. This includes depositing the excavated material on county property upland from the site. If the material is found to be suitable, savings will be realized by depositing some of the material adjacent to the ramp, also on county property, as foundation for the future expansion work. The cost breakdown is as follows:

Excavation	\$13,000
Concrete ramp Extension	5,000
Channel buoy markers	800
Subtotal	\$18,800
Contingencies	2,000
Engineering	2,200
Total Estimated Cost	\$23,000

The County considers this work would be exempt as an Emergency Project under Section 15071 (b) of the State Guidelines for CEQA, and intends to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

The County has indicated their support of this proposal, and has agreed that, if approved by the WCB, they will extend the lease of the project lands to the State for an additional ten year term, and extend the cooperative agreement for operation and maintenance for a like term.

The proposed work has been coordinated with the Department of Fish and Game, State Lands Division, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and Regional Water Quality Control Board for the necessary permits and approvals. It is expected that approvals from these agencies will be received so that the work can be completed by early summer.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the Clear Lake Highlands Fishing Access Improvements as proposed, allocate \$23,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned, including authorization to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds for reimbursement of 50% of

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project costs. He noted that Mr. William Whipple from the Public Works Department in Lake County was present to respond to any questions that the Board might have.

IT WAS MOVED BY SENATOR DUNLAP, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN KEENE, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT CLEAR LAKE HIGHLANDS FISHING ACCESS, LAKE COUNTY, AND ALLOCATE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CLEAR LAKE HIGHLANDS FISHING ACCESS, LAKE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$23,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING PROCESSING AS A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT AS APPROPRIATE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Napa River (Yountville Crossroad) Wildlife Area, Napa County \$62,500.00

This 73 acre area of prime riparian habitat on the Napa River has been acquired, as authorized by the WCB at its April 28, 1976, meeting. The Fish and Game Commission, on October 8, 1976, designated the area an ecological reserve. The Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation approved the acquisition as eligible for matching Land and Water Conservation Funds due to the area's natural values and related recreational potential.

To enable public use, Napa County and the Department of Fish and Game have prepared development plans. A small, paved parking lot will be located adjacent to the county road on the southwesterly side of the river in an area that is presently cleared. A trail system will connect the parking area with a pedestrian bridge to be constructed across the river, with the trail continuing in a loop on the north side of the river. Boundary fencing for the area would be completed, as well as fencing to restrict vehicles to the parking lot.

Preliminary design plans have been prepared by Napa County and reviewed by staff. The County will also provide final design plans as well as carry out construction of the project, and by resolution has agreed to operate and maintain the completed facilities. The Department of Fish and Game will participate in actual trail location to insure compatibility with wildlife requirements.

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Cost estimates are as follows:

Access road and parking	\$7,000
Pedestrian bridge	28,000
Fencing	2,000
Trails	13,000
Subtotal	\$50,000
Contingencies	5,000
A&E	7,500
Total Estimated Cost	\$62,500

The Department of Fish and Game has acted as lead agency for CEQA requirements and has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A negative declaration was filed and approved.

It was staff recommendation that the Board, with consideration of the negative declaration, approve this project, allocate \$62,500.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for development and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as proposed, including applying for Land and Water Conservation Fund reimbursement.

Mr. McCausland commented on the appropriateness of a negative declaration on a project of this type where no sanitation facilities are provided. Mr. Hart responded that there were pros and cons on the inclusion of sanitary facilities, but it was concluded that the more facilities provided, the more use the area might get, and consequently the more impact you would get from too much human use of the area. He agreed that there is a potential for an adverse impact from lack of sanitation facilities, but that corrective action could be taken without undue delay if this does occur.

Senator Dunlap commented on the philosophy of the County with regard to the restrooms. This area is in close proximity of the wine country and draws numbers of wine tasters. Restroom facilities attract people in and of themselves, and there was concern that the area might be considered a stop-over place to finish off the bottle of wine as opposed to a place to enjoy for its natural area value. This is the County's concern. He believed it appropriate to proceed with the project on that basis with the idea that if a problem develops, some facilities would be necessary.

IT WAS MOVED BY SENATOR DUNLAP, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN KEENE, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENTS AT NAPA RIVER (YOUNTVILLE CROSSROAD) WILDLIFE AREA, NAPA COUNTY, ALLOCATE THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR, AND PROCEED AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENTS AT NAPA RIVER (YOUNTVILLE CROSSROAD) WILDLIFE AREA, NAPA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$62,500 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING PROCESSING AS A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT AS APPROPRIATE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
(Senator Dunlap was excused at this time.)

10. Lake Cuyamaca North Shore Improvements, San Diego County \$100,000.00

In 1966, the WCB, in cooperation with the Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District, developed the 110 acre Lake Cuyamaca project. The sum of \$219,500 was allocated by the Board for the construction of a water retention dam in the Helix Water District's Cuyamaca Reservoir basin, and water transfer pumping facilities to maintain a year-round recreation lake. The WCB development also included a boat loading dock, parking areas, and a restroom. This project restored a small, permanent lake to Cuyamaca, which was being drained essentially dry each year for water conservation purposes.

The District has a long-term water management contract with Helix, and receives supplemental make-up water from wells since acquired from the Cuyamaca Mutual Water Company so as to maintain the lake near its 925 acre foot capacity with minimum water level fluctuations.

The recreation program administered by the District consists of year-round fishing for warmwater species (bass, redear sunfish, channel catfish) and planted trout. The District is contractually linked with the Department of Fish and Game in a cooperative trout stocking program.

Duck hunting is permitted in the late fall and early winter months. Other recreational activities include picnicking, boating, hiking, nature study, and sightseeing.

The District has reported a steady growth in public use, averaging over 86,000 visitor days annually. In 1975, the count was 138,000 visitor days of use. The existing public use facilities, all located in one area on the south side of the lake, are often inadequate to meet the public needs.

To handle the overflow, the District has permitted public access to the lake from their undeveloped land on the north shore. Because of the frequent use of the north shore access, the District has requested that appropriate access, parking, and sanitary facilities be developed there.

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The Department has evaluated this proposal and recommends approval of the planned expansion. Earlier water quality problems causing some fish kills in the summers of 1973 and 1974 have been largely remedied through a water quality monitoring program, algae control, and the installation of aeration devices. No fish die-off has occurred since 1974 and reports on angler use and angler success during the past year indicate a large harvest of stocked trout as well as good fishing for other species.

Preliminary plans for the proposed development as submitted by the District indicate a short access road from State Highway 79, two small parking areas, a water supply line, a restroom and fishing float. The cost estimate for these facilities as submitted by the District, is as follows:

Earthwork	\$4,500
Base rock	4,400
Paving	15,000
Restroom	20,800
Water supply	13,600
Sewage holding tank	12,000
Fishing float	16,600
Subtotal	\$86,900
Contingencies	8,700
A&E	4,400

Total Estimated Cost \$100,000

The District has, by resolution, agreed to extend the lease of District lands to the State, and the term of the cooperative agreement for operation and maintenance of the project for 25 years from this date, if the expansion is approved and funds are allocated. The District also has agreed to handle construction of the improvements by contract with the State.

A Negative Declaration filed by the lead agency, the District, for compliance with CEQA has been circulated by the State and local clearinghouses and a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources.

Staff has reviewed this proposal with District representatives, and has verified conditions by on-site visits and discussions with the Department. It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board, with consideration of the Negative Declaration, approve the project expansion as proposed, allocate \$100,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for its construction, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned, including authorization to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds for the project.

Mr. Hart advised that Senator John Stull has written a letter in support of this proposal and that representatives from the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District were present to respond to any questions the Board might have.

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Chairman Benson asked Mr. Kenneth Copeland, Chairman of the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation and Park District, for any comments he may have.

Mr. Copeland, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the District, extended the appreciation of all the people in the District to the Wildlife Conservation Board for its previous participation in the development of the recreation and fishing program at Lake Cuyamaca. The District is now ready, he declared, to participate in the expansion of the angler and access facilities on the presently undeveloped north shore. This is a much-needed, second phase development which was included in the original plan for the lake. He introduced Mr. Willis Fletcher, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and Mr. Orville Ball, planning and management consultant for the project.

Mr. Hart pointed out that the District has put up substantial funding for the project for the purchase of lands and wells and other development, and this was corroborated by Mr. Fletcher, who indicated they formerly leased the lands and facilities which they now own.

Assemblyman Keene recommended approval of the proposal as presented by the Executive Officer.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, APPROVE THE LAKE CUYAMACA NORTH SHORE IMPROVEMENTS, SAN DIEGO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$100,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING PROCESSING AS A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT AS APPROPRIATE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Battle Creek Fishing Access, Shasta County

\$56,300.00

Several years ago the WCB acquired from the federal government a 3.85 acre parcel of land on Battle Creek, one of the finest salmon-steelhead streams in the Sacramento River system. This land was acquired for \$750, one-half the appraised value, with the stipulation that the land be used continuously and in perpetuity for recreational purposes.

This parcel adjoins a county road only at a location where vehicular entry and exit is hazardous due to a road curve and bridge which was not evident until the property was surveyed after purchase. Negotiations were started with the adjacent landowner in an attempt to acquire a small parcel that would provide a safe access way.

After much negotiation, the owner has agreed to sell the property to the State at the appraised value. The 0.83 acre parcel is valued at \$2,470. Development will consist of a short access road, parking, drainage, and slope protection features, fencing, and sanitary facilities. After development, Shasta County will operate the area, open and free to the public.

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The Department of Fish and Game engineering section has prepared development plans and a cost estimate that have been reviewed by staff. The cost is as follows:

Clearing, filling and grading	\$ 6,500
Access road and parking, base and paving	16,300
Drainage and slope protection	10,700
Fencing and gates	4,000
Sanitary facilities	5,500
Signs, striping, asphalt dikes, wheel stops	5,000
Subtotal	<u>\$48,000</u>
Contingency	4,800
Land purchase, appraisal, closing costs, etc.	<u>3,500</u>

Total Estimated Cost \$56,300

A Negative Declaration has been filed in compliance with CEQA regulations.

The Department of Fish and Game has endorsed this project, noting that Battle Creek is an exceptional steelhead stream, but with very limited public access.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board, with consideration of the Negative Declaration, approve the project as proposed, allocate \$56,300 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for land acquisition and development, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned, including authorization to apply for 50% reimbursement from LWCF.

Mr. Hart noted that Senator Ray Johnson has written a letter of support for the proposal and also that Mr. Harry Smith from the Shasta County Public Works Department was present to answer any questions regarding county participation.

Assemblyman Keene recommended approval of the project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, APPROVE THE BATTLE CREEK FISHING ACCESS, SHASTA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$56,300 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING PROCESSING AS A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT AS APPROPRIATE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

1970 RECREATION AND FISH & WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT BOND ACT PROJECT

California Aqueduct Fishing Access

The WCB was given responsibility for providing fishing access to the California Aqueduct by legislation enacted in 1968, and was subsequently provided funding for this purpose from the 1970 Bond Act.

With the projects included in this agenda, the WCB will have completed this fishing access program substantially as originally planned, and will have utilized the remaining 1970 Bond Act funds available for this purpose. A total of 18 projects of this type will have been provided in Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Kings, Kern, and Los Angeles counties with the cooperation of the Department of Water Resources, and with operation and maintenance by local government.

The only deviation of significance from the original plan was that San Bernardino County declined to participate, so that no projects of this type have been developed in that county. However, DWR's later opening of the aqueduct right-of-way for bicycling and other public use has made it possible for the public to fish in the aqueduct in San Bernardino County.

Completion of this program as originally planned would not preclude WCB development of additional sites as may prove desirable in the future. It is anticipated that such additional projects would be limited, and possibly could be financed from the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

12. Aqueduct Fishing Access, Los Angeles County Funding Augmentation
77th Street East Fishing Access
Longview Road Fishing Access \$13,514.68

At its meeting of August 20, 1974, the Board allocated funds for 77th Street and Longview Road fishing access sites, the first two of five such areas requested by the County of Los Angeles. Plans and cost estimates for the two projects were completed by the Department of Water Resources in April, 1974. The facilities were not completed by DWR until Oct. 1975, however, about one and one-half years later, and both labor and materials costs rose sharply during that time. The result was an overexpenditure of funds of \$8,493.73 in constructing the 77th Street site and \$5,020.95 for the Longview site. Total overexpenditure is \$13,514.68.

Staff recommended that \$13,514.68 be allocated from available 1970 Bond Funds to reimburse DWR for the overexpenditure.

Mr. Fullerton questioned whether this is a normal overrun and asked if it was not the usual practice for another agency to discuss such overruns before incurring the additional costs. Mr. Hart explained that this is the first overrun that has been experienced with the Department of Water Resources, to the best of his knowledge, in the construction

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of 15 fishing access areas on the California Aqueduct. There were some strikes that delayed deliveries and some salary increases for State employees which caused the costs to escalate. It was not known that there was an overrun until after the Department had balanced the books. The claim was made about a year ago and at that time the Department was requested to reconsider the bill, to see if there was not some other way to handle it other than to have the Board allocate additional funds. Mr. Hart was informed by the Department that it was at the state now where they could not back up in their accounting to handle it in another manner.

Assemblyman Keene recommended the allocation of the necessary funds.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ALLOCATE \$13,514.68 FROM THE 1970 FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT BOND ACT FUNDS BUDGETED FOR AQUEDUCT FISHING ACCESS DEVELOPMENT TO COVER THE OVEREXPENDITURES AT 77TH STREET AND LONGVIEW ROAD FISHING ACCESS SITES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Quartz Hill (Godde Hill Road) Fishing Access, Location Change
Avenue S Fishing Access
Munz Ranch Road Fishing Access
(Los Angeles County)

On April 28, 1976, the Board approved the Godde Hill Road Project and allocated \$33,200 for development. Los Angeles County subsequently requested a location change to 70th Street West, a distance of about one mile. This requested site change has caused the development of the project to be delayed a year, but Los Angeles County is committed to the change and has budgeted funds for county road improvement to the new location.

The new site conditions and year's delay in construction will cause an increase in project costs. However, staff considers the new site acceptable.

The County of Los Angeles also has proposed construction of two additional fishing accesses on the California Aqueduct to complete the original planning for five developed sites in Antelope Valley.

Avenue S is located westerly of the Highway 14 freeway, within three miles of Palmdale. Access to the site is excellent with heavy usage expected by fishermen from Palmdale, nearby small towns and travelers moving through the area.

Munz Ranch Road is 12 - 15 miles west of Lancaster and will serve people on the westerly end of the Antelope Valley as well as those from the Lake Hughes area.

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The Department of Fish and Game has reported that striped bass have been recovered all the way to Lake Silverwood. Stripers should enter the catch picture at both of the proposed locations. Other game and non-game fish have become established in the Aqueduct and plants of channel catfish may be made occasionally to bolster the natural fish populations. Present information indicates there will be sufficient transport of water in this stretch of the Aqueduct to maintain adequate water quality conditions for the fishery, despite reduced deliveries to southern California resulting from drought conditions.

Development will include paved walkways along the Aqueduct, fencing, parking, sanitary facilities, trash cans and signs. Safety devices will again be furnished and installed by the Department of Water Resources. Construction will be handled by DWR's Southern Field Division. An encroachment permit from DWR will provide the necessary proprietary interest. Environmental assessments have indicated there will be no significant adverse effects caused from project construction or operation. The projects are not subject to CEQA regulations.

Because of drought condition, DWR's design section has assumed additional duties which has slowed project planning. Preliminary plans have been prepared and appear satisfactory, but final plans and cost estimates have not been completed. We have been assured, however, that this information will be completed and furnished as soon as possible.

Funds remaining unallocated from the 1970 Bond Act for California Aqueduct fishing access projects total \$86,485.32, according to staff calculations. These funds must be encumbered prior to the end of this fiscal year. This amount, if added to the \$33,200 previously allocated by the Board for the Quartz Hill access would bring the total to \$119,685.32 for development of these three sites, or an average of approximately \$39,895 per site. Although cost estimates have not been finalized, experience from previous projects of this type indicates this should provide adequate funding.

Under the circumstances, particularly to avoid further delay in construction and resulting cost escalation, staff feels the best procedure would be to allocate the remaining funds for development of the two additional sites and for augmentation of the Quartz Hill site allocation as may be needed. If cost estimates exceed this available funding, scope of development will be reduced. If surplus funds remain after project completion, these will revert for reappropriation.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve change of location of the Quartz Hill access project from Godde Hill Road to 70th Street West, approve the Avenue S and Munz Ranch Road Fishing Access projects, allocate the balance of approximately \$86,485 in 1970 Bond Act funds available for development of these three projects, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

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Mr. Hart noted that Mr. Chris Jarvi from the Los Angeles County Parks Department was present to respond to any questions the Board might raise and also stated that Assemblyman Chimbole had indicated he would want to speak on behalf of the proposals.

Chairman Benson asked how the costs for these projects compared with the final cost figures in the development of the projects wherein overruns were experienced, and it was learned that the final costs for those two projects were \$32,000 each.

Assemblyman Keene recommended approval of the location change and allocation of funds as proposed by the Executive Officer.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION OF THE QUARTZ HILL AQUEDUCT ACCESS PROJECT FROM GODDE HILL ROAD TO 70TH STREET WEST AND APPROVE THE AVENUE S AND MUNZ RANCH ROAD FISHING ACCESS PROJECTS; ALLOCATE \$86,485 REMAINING IN THE 1970 FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT BOND ACT FUNDS BUDGETED FOR AQUEDUCT FISHING ACCESS PROJECTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE THREE PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Assemblyman Chimbole did later appear and acknowledge the action taken by the Board.)

1974 RECREATION BOND ACT PROJECTS

14. Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Project \$920,000.00
San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego County

This proposal is to acquire approximately 268.31± acres of land at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego County. Public acquisition of this lagoon has been given a high priority recommendation by the Department of Fish and Game. WCB participation in the acquisition has been requested by the County of San Diego, as well as by the San Elijo Alliance, a local citizens group that has been working for several years to protect the natural values of the lagoon.

San Elijo Lagoon consists of approximately 530 acres of coastal wetlands located about 15 miles north of the City of San Diego, between the unincorporated communities of Cardiff-by-the-Sea and Solana Beach. The property proposed for acquisition includes approximately 200 acres of wetlands and an adjoining area of floodplain and uplands of about 68 acres. This parcel takes in most of the central basin of the lagoon, between the Santa Fe Railroad and Interstate 5 freeway, and includes nearly 40 percent of the total lagoon wetlands area.

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The mouth of the lagoon is open to the sea and to tidal action at intervals. The lagoon also floods from freshwater runoff fed primarily from Escondido Creek. These conditions provide a combination of salt and freshwater marsh habitats for a wide variety of wildlife species. In addition to supporting a sizeable resident population of wildlife, the lagoon provides important seasonal habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

San Diego County has planned a regional park for the lagoon and generally surrounding area, with emphasis on preserving and enhancing its estuarine wetland ecosystem. When the County accepted the master plan for the regional park prepared by its consultants, the Board of Supervisors set as a goal for planning and budgeting purposes that approximately 800 acres be under public ownership and control. The County has already acquired much of the east basin of the lagoon, and has indicated willingness to enter into a cooperative agreement to manage the property acquired by WCB as a wildlife area within the regional park.

Fair market value of the property proposed for purchase has been approved by the Department of General Services as \$910,000. WCB purchase at this price will also result in settlement of litigation between the property owner and the State Lands Commission. To ensure WCB proprietary interest in the entire parcel, staff of the State Lands Commission has indicated willingness to recommend long-term lease to WCB of any part of the parcel claimed by the State Lands Commission as sovereign lands.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements.

Funding for the proposed purchase is available from 1974 Bond Act monies in the WCB's coastal wetlands acquisition project.

Mr. Hart stated that Senator Stull and the San Elijo Alliance have written letters urging support of the project. He noted further that Mr. Jim Tennant from San Diego County was present and available to answer any questions the Board might have.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this parcel substantially as proposed, allocate \$920,000 for the purchase and related costs from 1974 Bond Act funds available for such purposes, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned, including applications for a State Lands Commission lease and for matching Land and Water Conservation Funds.

Assemblyman Keene indicated his support of this proposal and recommended its approval.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SAN ELIJO LAGOON PROJECT, SAN DIEGO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$920,000 FOR ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED FROM THE 1974 STATE BEACH, PARK,

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RECREATIONAL, AND HISTORICAL FACILITIES BOND ACT FUNDS BUDGETED IN THE 1975-76 FISCAL YEAR FOR COASTAL WETLANDS ACQUISITION PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING PROCESSING AS A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT AS APPROPRIATE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Deer Winter Range Acquisition \$410,000.00
Bass Hill Wildlife Area, Lassen County

This proposal is to acquire approximately 1,878± acres of private land in Lassen County for protection of the Bass Hill deer winter range as recommended by the Department of Fish and Game. Purchase is proposed under the 1974 Bond Act Project approved for deer winter range acquisitions.

Bass Hill is located approximately 5 miles southeast of Susanville near State Highway 395, at the westerly end of a small, low elevation range (around 4,500 feet maximum) about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide at the widest point. This range generally is critical winter habitat for deer that spend the remainder of the year at higher elevations on primarily U. S. National Forest lands to the west. The parcels proposed for purchase are heavily vegetated with bitter brush, which provides excellent winter food and cover for deer.

This locale is on the edge of Honey Lake Valley, with adjacent lands either farmed or utilized as both dry and irrigated pastures for livestock grazing. The general area also is seeing a significant amount of land splitting, and development mostly for residential purposes. Indications are that the present growth trend will continue which will further interfere with deer migration and use, as well as destroy more of the remaining range. This 1,878± acre proposal, when added to the existing BLM ownership which adjoins it, will give a total protected area of wildlife habitat of more than 5,877± acres.

Staff has obtained options to purchase three key ownerships at the appraised fair market values as follows:

1.	1,438.9± acres	\$246,000.00
2.	394.0± acres	140,000.00
3.	45.0± acres	17,000.00
	1,877.9± acres	\$403,000.00

These properties are listed as high priority deer range acquisitions by the Department of Fish and Game. In addition to protecting critical

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winter range for over 2,000 migratory and resident Rocky Mountain mule deer, these parcels will serve as habitat protection for a large variety of wildlife including California quail, chukar partridge, rabbits, and mourning doves.

This property also has significant potential for public recreational uses. Such potential uses include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and nature observation by individuals and organized groups.

It is planned that the overall property will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game on a cooperative basis with BLM. No development is considered necessary. BLM is also exchanging lands to add to the public ownership there and indicated willingness to manage the livestock to enhance the wildlife habitat.

The proposed acquisitions are within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the purchase of the total 1,878[±] acres substantially as proposed, allocate \$410,000.00 for the purchase and related costs from the 1974 Bond Act funds available for such purposes and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned, including applying for matching Land and Water Conservation Funds.

Letters of support have been received from Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association, Senator Ray Johnson, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Assemblyman Keene recommended approval of the land acquisition.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE BASS HILL WILDLIFE AREA, LASSEN COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$410,000 FOR ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED FROM THE 1974 STATE BEACH, PARK, RECREATIONAL AND HISTORICAL FACILITIES BOND ACT FUNDS BUDGETED IN THE 1975-76 FISCAL YEAR FOR DEER WINTER RANGE ACQUISITION PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING PROCESSING AS A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT AS APPROPRIATE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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16. Resolution Honoring Mr. Joseph Russ, III

Chairman Benson noted that he had before him a suggested resolution honoring Past WCB Chairman Joe Russ, which the Chairman believed to be very appropriate, should the Board move its adoption.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN KEENE, AS A JOINT MOTION, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION HONORING JOE RUSS, III.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution Honoring
Joseph Russ, III

WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph Russ's term as President of the Fish and Game Commission and Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board expired on January 15, 1977; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russ, as an agriculturalist and sportsman, has filled a unique need and position on the Board; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge his second term as Chairman of the Board; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Interim Committee, and the Board staff, convey to Mr. Russ our appreciation for his guidance and leadership during his terms as Chairman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our very best wishes for his future endeavors and for his continued good health; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished Mr. Russ.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chester M. Hart

Chester M. Hart
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on March 24, 1977, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$38,565,136.26. This total includes \$5,670,306.09 reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Accelerated Public Works Program completed in 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Anadromous Fish Act Program, and the Pittman-Robertson Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act. Projects funded under the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund, the Bagley Conservation Fund, and the 1974 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act will be included in this statement after completion of these programs.

a.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$10,251,304.24
b.	Fish Habitat Development and Improvement Projects	4,091,596.79
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$2,225,619.19
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	243,013.03
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	439,503.32
	4. Marine Habitat	345,779.36
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	837,681.89
c.	Fishing Access Projects	11,850,477.15
	1. Coastal and Bay Access	1,173,477.56
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	3,295,507.20
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	2,817,753.25
	4. Piers	4,563,739.14
d.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e.	Game Habitat Development and Improvement Projects	11,292,504.47
	1. Wildlife Areas	10,854,055.35
	2. Miscellaneous Game Habitat Development	438,449.12
f.	Hunting Access	472,436.81
g.	Miscellaneous Projects	401,422.31
s.	Special Project Allocations	58,500.00
	Total Allocated to Projects	\$38,565,136.26

STATUS OF FUNDS Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance at beginning of 3/24/77 meeting	\$ 915,504.33
Plus interest on surplus money, July/Dec. 1976	+124,522.66
Plus miscellaneous revenue, Jan. 1977	+ 7,060.00
Less allocations	-264,400.00
Unallocated balance after 3/24/77 meeting	\$782,686.99