

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

901 K STREET, SUITE 806  
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State of California  
 The Resources Agency  
 Department of Fish and Game  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

Minutes, February 13, 1997

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Rec'd NHD

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Minutes, February 13, 1997

It should be noted that due to technical difficulties with the recording system in the auditorium, there is no audio tape of this meeting. Therefore, these minutes were created from the notes of the Executive Secretary taken during the meeting.

Pursuant to the call of Chairperson Douglas McGeoghegan, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in State Office Building 8 (Auditorium), 714 P Street, Sacramento, California on February 13, 1997. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Introductions were made at this time. Mr. Schmidt explained that Miss Jacqueline Schafer would not be present but that Mr. Ryan Broddrick, Deputy Director, Department of Fish and Game would be sitting in for Miss Schafer. He further explained that since only one Deputy Director could represent a Director at a Board meeting, Mr. Broddrick is present to advise and will not take part in formal actions of the Board.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Douglas McGeoghegan, Chairperson  
President, Fish and Game Commission  
Theresa Parker, Chief Deputy Director,  
Vice, Craig Brown, Member  
Director, Department of Finance  
Ryan Broddrick, Deputy Director  
Vice, Jacqueline Schafer, Member  
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ross Sargent,  
Vice, Senator Pat Johnston  
Gavin Payne,  
Vice, Senator Jack O'Connell  
Assemblyman George House

Absent: Senator Mike Thompson  
Assemblyman Keith Olberg  
(Vacant Assembly position)  
Alternate: Senator Tom Hayden

Minutes of Meeting February 13, 1997  
Wildlife Conservation Board

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Staff Present: W. John Schmidt, Executive Director  
Georgia Lipphardt, Assistant Executive Director  
Jim Sarro, Assistant Executive Director/Chief Land Agent  
Scott Clemons, Riparian Program Manager  
Frank Giordano, Senior Land Agent  
John Donnelly, Associate Land Agent  
Jan Beeding, Office Technician  
Terri Muzik, Executive Secretary

Others Present: Bud Thrapp, Department of Water Resources  
Rich Coombs  
Glenn Cramer  
B. J. "Mac" McKinnis, Sacramento River Homeowners  
Charles Zell, Sacramento River Homeowners  
Carrie Shaw, Dept. of Fish and Game, Wildlife Mgmt. Division  
John Anderson, Dept. of Fish and Game, Region 5  
Brian Hunter, Department of Fish and Game, Region 5  
Maria Cipriani, Sonoma County Agr. Preservation and Open Space Dist.  
David Hansen, Sonoma County Agr. Preservation and Open Space Dist.  
John Gamper, California Farm Bureau  
Bob Treanor, Fish and Game Commission  
Kim Sorini-Wilson, U.S. Forest Service  
Wendy Philpott, U.S. Forest Service  
Brett Michelin, Staff - State Assembly - Assemblyman House  
Corey Brown, The Trust for Public Land  
Carl Wilcox, Dept. of Fish and Game, Region 3

2. Funding Status as of February 13, 1997

(Informational)

(a) 1996-97 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisition .....	\$300,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(3000.00)
Unallocated Balance .....	\$297,000.00
Governor's Budget - Minor Projects .....	\$980,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(322,054.00)
Unallocated Balance .....	\$657,946.00
Governor's Budget - Major Development .....	\$500,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(500,000.00)
Unallocated Balance .....	\$0.00

(b) 1995-96 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions .....	\$390,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(102,500.00)
Unallocated Balance .....	\$287,500.00

(c) 1994-95 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisition .....	\$750,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(662,054.93)
Unallocated Balance .....	\$87,945.07

(d) 1988-89 California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Direct appropriation to the Wildlife Conservation Board .....	\$81,300,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(75,200,207.68)
Less State Administrative Costs .....	(1,219,500.00)
Less Reverted Funds .....	(11,528,799.69)
Less amount made available for transfer to HCF .....	(1,561,000.00)
Plus Reappropriated Funds .....	11,528,799.69
Unallocated Balance .....	\$3,319,292.32



(e) 1996-97 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$10,047,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(585,000.00)
Unallocated Balance .....	\$9,462,000.00

(f) 1995-96 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$7,354,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(5,418,193.35)
Unallocated Balance .....	\$1,935,806.65

(g) 1994-95 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$8,703,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations .....	(8,239,859.08)
Unallocated Balance .....	\$463,140.92

**RECAP OF FUND BALANCES**

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u> .....	\$1,330,391.07
<u>CA Wildlife, Coastal &amp; Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u> .....	\$3,319,292.32
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u> .....	\$11,860,947.57

**\*3. CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 4 - 11)**

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Consent Calendar originally consisted of items 4 - 12 but at the request of Miss Schafer, item 12 was removed from consent. He further noted that item 13 had been removed from the agenda due to the flooding and that the project would be reviewed once water levels stabilized.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked if there were any questions or concerns on these items and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken:

MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE CONSENT CALENDAR CONSISTING OF ITEMS 4 - 11 BE APPROVED.

MOTION CARRIED.

**\*4. Approval of Minutes (CONSENT CALENDAR)**

Approval of the minutes of November 5, 1996, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board is recommended.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. PARKER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 1996 BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

**\*5. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)**

The following projects have previously been authorized by the Board, some of which have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It was recommended that the following balance be recovered and that the below noted projects be closed.

\$ 32,691.00 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund,  
\$ 32,659.86 to the Environmental License Plate Fund  
\$ 251,394.25 to the Habitat Conservation Fund,  
\$ 964.50 to the CA Wildlife, Coastal and Parkland Fund of 1988  
\$ 11,836.72 to the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund

**Wildlife Restoration Fund**

**Star Bend Fishing Access, Yolo Co.**

Allocated	\$125,000.00
Expended	<u>-92,309.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$32,691.00

**TOTAL WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND RECOVERIES ..... \$32,691.00**

**Environmental License Plate Fund**

**McClusky Slough Ecological Reserve, Monterey Co.**

Allocated	\$93,219.86
Amount Expended	-60,560.00
Balance for Recovery	\$32,659.86

**TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND RECOVERIES . . . . . \$32,659.86**

**Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund**

**Mettick Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino Co.**

Allocation	\$28,269.00
Expended	-28,269.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

**TOTAL FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT  
FUND RECOVERIES . . . . . \$ .00**

**Habitat Conservation Fund (Prop. 117)**

**Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Exp. #2, San Diego Co.**

Allocation	\$360,000.00
Expended	-352,322.89
Balance for Recovery	\$7,677.11

**Tulare Basin Wetland Restoration, (El Cinco & Los Alamos), Kern Co.**

Allocation	\$ 26,042.00
Expended	- 26,042.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

McClusky Slough Ecological Reserve, Monterey Co.

Allocation	\$256,780.14
Amount Expended	<u>-13,063.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$243,717.14

**TOTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND RECOVERIES ..... \$251,394.25**

**CA Wildlife, Coastal and Parkland Fund of 1988**

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Exp. #5, Madera County

Allocation	\$ 5,000.00
Expended	<u>- 4,355.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 644.50

Tuolumne River Riparian Habitat, Stanislaus County

Allocation	\$457,000.00
Expended	<u>-456,680.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 320.00

**TOTAL CA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARKLAND FUND OF 1988**  
**RECOVERIES ..... \$964.50**

**Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund**

Modesto Properties Wetland Enhancement , Merced Co.

Allocation	\$76,102.00
Expended	<u>- 64,265.28</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$11,836.72

**TOTAL INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND RECOVERIES ..... \$11,836.72**

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT  
WAS MOVED BY MS. PARKER THAT THE WCB RECOVER FUNDS FOR THE PROJECTS

LISTED ON PAGES 5 - 7 OF THESE MINUTES AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$32,691.00 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$32,659.86 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, \$251,394.25 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND; \$964.50 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARKLAND FUND OF 1988 AND \$11,386.72 TO THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

\*6. Special Project Planning Account (Informational only)  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

The Board has historically used a special project account to provide working funds for staff evaluation (appraisals, engineering, preliminary title reports, etc.) of proposed projects. Upon Board approval of a project, all expenditures incurred and recorded in the Special Project Planning Account are transferred to the Board approved project account which reduces the Special Project Planning Account expenditures. This procedure, therefore, acts as a revolving fund for the pre-project expenses.

Some appropriations now made to the Board do not include a specific budgeted planning line item appropriation necessary to begin a project without prior Board authorization. Pre-project costs are a necessary expenditure in most all capital outlay projects. The Special Project Account would be used for these costs.

The Board, at the May 6, 1986, meeting, authorized the Executive Director to use up to one (1) percent of a budgeted appropriation to set up and maintain an appropriate planning account with the provision it would be reported to the Board as an information item at the next meeting. Accordingly, the planning account has been set up as follows:

Wildlife Restoration Fund (96/97) . . . . . \$3,000.00

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. PARKER THAT THE WCB APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO PROVIDE WORKING FUNDS FOR STAFF EVALUATION AS PROPOSED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\*7. Wildlife Conservation Board's 50<sup>th</sup> Year Report \$3,500.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This item was to consider an allocation to update the 1992, Wildlife Conservation Board's 45<sup>th</sup> Year Report, to include acquisition and development projects completed over the past five years, for the Board's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report.

In 1974, the Board prepared a report entitled "A Summary of Wildlife Conservation Board Projects" which listed all the projects the Board had participated in to that time. This report, which contained a brief description of each project including costs, Board approval dates and managing agencies, is extremely valuable to Board staff, as well as other governmental and private organizations.

At the August 18, 1987 meeting, the Board approved funding to update the 1974 report and also approved a proposal to update the report every five years. On November 12, 1992, the Board approved funding to update the 1987 report.

The cost to print 300 copies of the report, which will contain approximately 300 pages, back-to-back, is estimated at \$3,500.00, if printed by the Department of Water Resources. This would include spiral binding and hard stock covers (no photos).

Because this is an extremely useful report, which will be distributed to Board members, members of the Legislature, and interested State agencies and private organizations, staff recommended that the Board approve the request to update the Summary of Wildlife Conservation Board Projects as proposed, allocate \$3,500.00 from the Wildlife Conservation Fund; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. PARKER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE REQUEST TO UPDATE THE SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD PROJECTS AS PROPOSED, ALLOCATE \$3,500.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\*8. Star Bend Fishing Access, Yuba County \$114.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider the request of Yuba County to install caretaker facilities at the Star Bend Fishing Access area. The Board purchased this 9± acre site for the Department of Fish and



Game (Department) in 1958 and approved funds for its development for fishing access in 1960. The County has operated and maintained the site under agreement with the Board since the original project was completed in 1962. In May, 1996, the Board approved funds to replace the deteriorating boat ramp and the new ramp construction was completed in October of 1996. The access site is located about four miles south of Marysville on the east bank of the Feather River in Yuba County. Historically the project has been a very popular fishing access site for anglers fishing for striped bass, salmon, shad and other warmwater species.

The County has requested approval to install caretaker facilities on the site and a caretaker to help prevent vandalism and make the site more secure for users. Over the years, numerous incidents of vandalism have taken place. The parking lot has been used for parties and damaged by fires set on the pavement. In addition, anglers who have left their vehicles in the parking lot while boating, have reported broken windows and theft of tires and other belongings from their vehicles. The County is willing to install the necessary utilities, cement pad and waste facilities on the property at their expense, as well as extend the Cooperative Agreement to maintain the facilities. The Department has reviewed the County's plans and supports the proposal to provide security on the site.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the County's request as proposed; allocate \$114.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for Department of General Services' Cooperative Agreement review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE COUNTY'S REQUEST AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$114.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES' COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT REVIEW COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- \*9. Loch Lomond Vernal Pool Ecological Reserve. \$5,000.00  
Expansion #2, Lake County (CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of a donation of a 1.4± acre parcel of land located adjacent to and north of the existing Loch Lomond Vernal Pool Ecological Reserve. Access is gained from an unimproved road that crosses the reserve on the northeast corner. The subject property, and the existing Ecological Reserve, are located on the west side of State Highway 175, at its junction with Loch Lomond Road, in the community of Loch Lomond. This community is located in the mountainous area about 18 miles south of Clear Lake. Loch Lomond has a resort type atmosphere, although the vicinity is in transition toward year-round residents due to the steady influx of retirees from the San Francisco Bay area.



The Wildlife Conservation Board staff, using Department of Fish and Game funds, initiated acquisition of the Loch Lomond Vernal Pool Ecological Reserve in 1987 with the purchase of 8.2± acres. With a 3.7± expansion approved by the Board in 1995, the reserve now totals 11.9± acres.

The Loch Lomond vernal pool provides the only known occurrence in the world of the Federally listed endangered Constance's coyote thistle. The best known population of the endangered many-flowered navarretia, known to exist in only three other locations, is also found at this Loch Lomond site. A population of few-flowered navarretia, also located on the property, is one of only five known populations. The Loch Lomond vernal pool is classified as a northern volcanic ash vernal pool. The subject land includes Coast Range Mixed Coniferous Forest similar to that found on the existing reserve. It was part of a Timber Harvest Plan which incorporates the south facing slope directly north of the pool, forming the northern portion of the immediate watershed. The Department, in its review comments to the California Department of Forestry, recommended that this particular area be deleted from the harvest plan due to its close proximity to the pool. This area, along with the area adjacent to the northeast corner of the vernal pool to the edge of Highway 175 has not been harvested.

The Department of Fish and Game recommends acceptance of this donation which would provide important hydrological protection to the vernal pool and reduce possible sedimentation and erosion impacts from future timber harvests. It would also provide a buffer for any proposed future development.

While this parcel has an estimated value of \$50,000.00, the owners have offered to donate it to the State at no cost. In fact, in order to obtain a 1996 tax credit, they have already transferred the property to the Lake County Land Trust, which has agreed to hold title pending action by the Board. An allocation of \$5,000.00 is necessary to cover the costs of the survey, title insurance, escrow and Department of General Services review charges. The donation is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of this donation as proposed; allocate a total of \$5,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [Prop. 117, Section 2786 (b/c)]; and further authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS 1.4 ACRE DONATION AT THE LOCH LOMOND VERNAL POOL ECOLOGICAL RESERVE AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$5,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND [PROP. 117, SECTION 2786 (b)(c)]; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\*10. Purrington Creek Riparian Restoration, Sonoma County \$12,186.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider a grant to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for a habitat restoration project affecting approximately 1,320 feet of bank along Purrington Creek in Sonoma County. This cooperative project, which is located on private land, will involve the CCC as project sponsor and contractor, the Department of Fish and Game (Department) as the on-site technical advisor, the landowner and the Board. Additional technical support will be available as necessary from the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Napa.

Purrington Creek is a tributary to Green Valley Creek, which is in turn, a tributary to the Russian River. The project area is located upstream from the Graton Road crossing, approximately five miles west of Sebastopol. This creek has provided good rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead. However, recent bank erosion resulting from uncontrolled surface drainage from an adjacent vineyard has resulted in loss of tree cover and increased sedimentation in the creek. These factors have reduced the habitat value of the stream for both fish and terrestrial wildlife species.

Under the direction of the Department, the CCC and the landowner will correct surface drainage problems by installing drains to redirect surface flows into the stream, repair bank erosion, reslope bank surfaces, and replant the bank slopes with locally obtained native riparian vegetation. The proposed project would restore six sites along the east bank of the creek, affecting 1,320± linear feet of stream, and totalling approximately 0.25 acres of riparian habitat. Work on the project is scheduled to occur in the summer and fall of 1997.

This project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program as it places major emphasis on riparian restoration, as opposed to instream habitat restoration. A healthy, relatively continuous tree canopy will help moderate instream temperatures while providing stability to the bank. In addition to the benefits for fish rearing, the restored tree canopy and understory vegetation will improve habitat for a large number of wildlife species which depend upon this habitat. This riparian enhancement project also presents an opportunity to cooperate with a private landowner in protecting the stream as a natural asset to his property, while providing an effective solution to the erosion problems which have threatened the adjacent vineyard operation.

Cost estimates for various project-related tasks and services were developed by CCC and the landowner, and have been reviewed and approved by the Department and staff, as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Project-related planning	\$600.00
Labor (CCC crew plus supervisor)	\$10,000.00*

Materials and Supplies	\$2,322.00*
Vineyard drains and installation	\$900.00
Bank sloping	\$1,000.00
Monitoring	<u>\$2,000.00*</u>
<b><u>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST</u></b>	<b><u>\$16,822.00</u></b>

\* WCB funding will be limited to participation in these project areas.

As noted earlier, this is a cooperative proposal with the following proposed funding breakdown:

California Conservation Corps (in-kind services)	\$2,600.00
Landowner (in-kind labor and materials)	\$2,150.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>\$12,072.00</u>
<b><u>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</u></b>	<b><u>\$16,822.00</u></b>

In addition to the proposed project cost, an additional \$114.00 will be required for project agreement review costs by Department of General Services, bringing the allocation necessary to complete this project to \$12,186.00.

To protect the State's investment, the landowner has entered into an agreement to manage and maintain his property in a way that will protect the restoration sites for ten years. A Memorandum of the Agreement will be recorded in Sonoma County.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal, and recommends it for funding by the Board. This project is exempt under CEQA Section 15034 as it is a minor alteration to land that will enhance riparian habitat.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$12,027.00 for the grant and \$114.00 for General Services' review costs, for a total allocation of \$12,186.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [(Prop. 117)/Aquatic-Riparian (Section 2786 (e)(f))]; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE PURRINGTON CREEK RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$12,027.00 FOR THE GRANT AND

\$114.00 FOR GENERAL SERVICES' REVIEW COSTS, FOR A TOTAL ALLOCATION OF \$12,186.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND [(PROP. 117)/AQUATIC-RIPARIAN (SECTION 2786 (e)(f)); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- \*11. Tamarack Meadow Riparian Restoration, Fresno County \$15,151.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider a grant to the US Forest Service to assist in a cooperative project to protect, restore and enhance riparian habitat in Tamarack Meadow, in Fresno County. This proposed project, which will involve the Sierra National Forest's Pineridge Ranger District and the Department of Fish and Game (Department), using Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program funds, will repair stream channel damage and revegetate the stream and portions of the meadow that have been damaged by unauthorized off-highway vehicle use of the area.

Tamarack Meadow is located on the Pineridge Ranger District at approximately 7,500 foot elevation, near the headwaters of South Fork Tamarack Creek, and is approximately 5 miles south of Huntington Lake and 5 miles east of Shaver Lake. The ten acre Tamarack Meadow area is a popular winter destination point for snowmobile enthusiasts. Pineridge Ranger District accommodates this recreational use by providing groomed snowmobile trails. Unfortunately, these trails have attracted illegal off-highway vehicle use during the non-winter months, resulting in severe damage to the sensitive creek and meadow habitats. In addition, under existing grazing allotments, livestock managers have been allowed to place salt blocks as close as 1/4 mile from the stream and meadow complex, creating further habitat damage from cattle.

Over the next two years the proposed restoration project would block four key trails to protect approximately 100 acres of forest/meadow/stream habitats from illegal off-highway vehicle use. Two gates, already installed by the Forest Service, are providing protection to a portion of the project. Four more gates will be installed as a part of this proposal. These gates will be open in winter months when snow is on the ground, but closed in summer months to protect this sensitive habitat.

Restoration and enhancement measures will include headcut and channel repairs, bank erosion protection along approximately 1 mile of the stream, and revegetation in the riparian zone and meadow areas with locally obtained native vegetation. Although not a part of the proposed project, Pineridge Ranger District also plans to require grazing lessees to place their salt blocks no closer than one mile from the stream. In addition, the Forest Service will monitor the results of this project over the next twenty years.



The combined effects of the proposed project and the change in salt block placement requirements are expected to protect, restore, and enhance riparian habitat in the Tamarack Meadow area. This proposal is consistent with the goals and objectives of the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program. Restoration and enhancement of the riparian habitat in this area will benefit many sensitive Sierra wildlife and plant species, including migratory birds, marten, Sierra Nevada red fox, Northern goshawk, mule deer, rainbow trout, and Yosemite Ivesia. The repairs to the stream will also improve fishing opportunities in this high mountain area.

The Department is highly supportive of this project and has recommended its approval for Off-Highway Vehicle Grant funds, as well as for funding by the Board. The project is exempt under CEQA Section 15034 as it is a minor alteration to land that will enhance riparian habitat.

Cost estimates for various project-related tasks and services were developed by the Forest Service and have been reviewed and approved by the Department and staff, as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Personnel costs	\$11,900.00
Vehicle expenses	450.00*
Revegetation/Restoration (Plants)	14,167.00*
4 Snow Gates w/Installation of blockades	12,400.00*
Posting of Project Site	300.00*
Project related Administration	<u>5,268.00</u>
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$44,485.00</u>

\*WCB funding will be limited to participation in these project areas.

As noted earlier, this proposal is a cooperative venture with funding proposed as follows:

US Forest Service	\$16,315.00
Department of Fish and Game OHV Grant	\$13,133.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>\$15,037.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING</u>	<u>\$44,485.00</u>

In addition to the proposed project costs, an additional \$114.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs bringing the allocation necessary to complete this project to \$15,151.00.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed, contingent upon approval of the Off-Highway Vehicle grant; allocate \$15,037.00 for the grant and \$114.00 for General Services' processing costs, for a total allocation of \$15,151.00 from the Habitat

Conservation Fund[ (Prop. 117)/Aquatic-Riparian (Section 2786 (e)(f)); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE TAMARACK MEADOW RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT AS PROPOSED, CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE GRANT; ALLOCATE \$15,037.00 FOR THE GRANT AND \$114.00 FOR GENERAL SERVICES' PROCESSING COSTS, FOR A TOTAL ALLOCATION OF \$15,151.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND[(PROP. 117)/AQUATIC-RIPARIAN (SECTION 2786 (e)(f)); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Expansion #6, Fresno County \$200,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation of \$200,000.00 for a grant to the San Joaquin River Conservancy to be applied toward the acquisition of a 168± acre parcel located along the San Joaquin River, in the City of Fresno. Funds for this purpose were appropriated in the 1995/96 Budget Act, with specific budget language directing the funds to the San Joaquin River, with the highest priority being the acquisition of lands that connect Woodward Park to the river. Furthermore, the budget language indicated that the Board "may allocate all or a portion of these funds to the San Joaquin River Conservancy to complete this acquisition". Mr. Schmidt introduced Mr. Jim Sarro who explained the project.

While fulfilling both portions of the budget provisions, this proposal will also provide for the preservation and restoration of riparian habitat along the San Joaquin River and add public lands to the proposed San Joaquin River Parkway. The subject property is located just east of Highway 41, north of Perrin Road, which provides access to the property.

In addition to the proposed grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Conservancy proposes to use grant funds from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Activities Program, and the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program to acquire the property at a total cost of \$5,452,525.00. It is currently proposed that the City of Fresno will operate and maintain the property under a contract with the Conservancy.

The San Joaquin River Conservancy was created to implement the adopted San Joaquin Parkway Plan for the protection of the river's resources and the scenic quality of the river. The acquisition of the subject property is a critical link in the chain that is proposed to become the San Joaquin River

Parkway. Implementation of the bi-county (Fresno & Madera) San Joaquin River Parkway Plan, and the protection of the subject property, is strongly supported at the state, regional, county and local levels.

Several State land acquisitions have already been completed since the completion of the Parkway Plan. The first purchase for the Department of Fish and Game's San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Program was the Milburn Unit, which was approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board at its November, 1988 meeting. Since that time, the Board has approved five expansions, bringing the total acquisitions under this program to 835± acres. In addition to this, the Board acquired the Lost Lake property along this river in 1957 which provides an additional 75 acres of habitat and public use area which will become a part of this parkway.

The diversity of habitat within this portion of the river floodway is high, and includes river channel, riparian woodlands, grasslands, oak woodlands, ponds and freshwater marsh habitats. Important wildlife resources on the property include numerous raptors (both breeding and roosting), including bald and golden eagles, great blue herons, egrets, breeding ducks, wintering Canada geese, mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, foxes and an occasional mountain lion. Many other migratory waterfowl and passerine birds make use of the subject property on a permanent and seasonal basis.

The proposed management of this area is to protect the existing riparian habitat along the river, providing habitat restoration as appropriate. The upland area will provide more public use opportunities, including the parkway trail. There is minimal public or private consumptive or nonconsumptive use of fish and wildlife resources on this property at the present time. The opportunity exists for a variety of educational experiences and other nonconsumptive uses on the property when it is placed in public ownership, including general wildlife observation, sightseeing, birding, photography, hiking and picnicking. Nature trails, if incorporated into the parkway plan and properly routed, could allow for greater wildlife diversity and enhanced recreational experiences.

Issuance of the proposed grant, as well as the acquisition, are exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. The owners have agreed to sell the property for the appraised fair market value of \$5,452,525.00. Therefore, the proposed grant represents only a small portion to the overall purchase price.

Mr. Schmidt explained the Board's presence in the area and the funding for the project. Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the issuance of a grant to the San Joaquin River Conservancy to be applied toward the acquisition of the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Expansion #6 property in Fresno County, as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [(P-117)/Aquatic-Riparian, (Section 2786 (e)(f)); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE PROJECT AS OUTLINED BY STAFF.

MOTION CARRIED.



13. Sacramento River Wildlife Area Riparian Restoration (Pine Creek Unit)  
Butte and Glenn Counties

This proposal was to consider a grant to the University Foundation for California State University, Chico (CSU) to implement a restoration plan to restore a minimum of 30 acres of riparian habitat at the Department of Fish and Game's (Department) Pine Creek Unit of the Sacramento River Wildlife Area. This proposal, together with the existing operation of this area, is a cooperative project involving CSU and the Department of Fish and Game. CSU currently manages the prune and almond orchards on the property under an agreement with the Department. The Department's long term management goals for the property include the gradual conversion of the orchards and the open field area to native riparian habitat.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, MR. SCHMIDT REPORTED THAT THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA DUE TO FLOODING AND WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME. STAFF FROM THE BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME NEED ADDITIONAL TIME TO EVALUATE THE PROJECT BEFORE BRINGING THE ITEM BACK TO THE BOARD.

14. Sequan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion # 2, \$260,000.00  
San Diego County

Mr. Schmidt explained that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 288± acres of land containing southern mixed chaparral vegetation located approximately two miles northeast of the community of Jamul in southwestern San Diego County. The unimproved property is situated between Sloan Canyon Road on the north and Lawson Valley Road to the south, roughly halfway between Interstate Highway 8 and State Route 94. Lawson Valley Road provides access to the property from the south. The subject is near the extreme western edge of the Cleveland National Forest, immediately adjacent to the recently Board acquired 718± acre Sequan Peak Ecological Reserve and approximately three miles east of the Department of Fish & Game's (Department) McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve, acquired by the Board in 1989. It lies immediately south of the Department's Sweetwater River Ecological Reserve, acquired by the Board in 1992. In fact, alternative access to the property could be provided through the Sweetwater River Ecological Reserve. Mr. Jim Sarro explained the project.

Assemblyman House joined the meeting at this time and was introduced by Mr. McGeoghegan.

The proposed acquisition area is included within a 1,555± acre section identified by the Department of Fish & Game as a Significant Natural Area (SNA). The Department nominated the area for acquisition in its Sequan Peak Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan. Sequan Peak is a 2,801 foot-tall conical-shaped mountain with an approximate six mile radius. The proposed acquisition area includes lands on the west side of the peak that run north to the Sweetwater River Ecological Reserve. The primary purpose of this acquisition would be habitat preservation for

42 species of rare, threatened, endangered or special concern status plants and animals. In particular, the Sequan Peak SNA contains the best example habitat for two plant species, the state-listed endangered *Dehesa nolina* and the state-listed rare Gander's butterweed. Additionally, the property is used as foraging territory by a number of raptors and birds of prey, including peregrine falcons, a state and federally-listed endangered species, Cooper's hawks, golden eagles, prairie falcons, turkey vultures and the common barn owl. The Sequan Peak lands are part of a large, important wildlife corridor linking McGinty Mountain, to the west, with the Cleveland National Forest, to the east. As noted, this corridor includes the Sweetwater River Ecological Reserve, which adjoins the subject on the north. Protection of the corridor would allow continued use by a number of large and small mammals that inhabit the area, including mountain lions, mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, squirrels and rabbits. The property supports several species of rare lizards as well, including the orange-throated whiptail, western whiptail and the San Diego horned lizard.

Lands on Sequan Peak were rated of "highest biological value" under the Habitat Evaluation Model developed for San Diego County's Multiple Species Conservation Plan. The subject acquisition would complement the Department's bioregional planning efforts and the County's open space preserve plans for Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub in southwestern San Diego County, presently being developed under the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCP). The property would be managed in conjunction with the management of the Department's Sequan Peak and Sweetwater River Ecological Reserves. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The landowner has agreed to sell the subject property for its appraised fair market value of \$950,000.00. The Department of Fish and Game has applied for an Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) grant and an Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Activities Program (ISTEA) grant from the Department of Transportation. If approved, these grants will provide up to \$700,000.00 (\$200,000.00 and \$500,000.00, respectively) in funds for the acquisition and processing costs. It is proposed that these grants funds will be placed directly into escrow by the grantors to be used toward this proposed purchase. The balance of the purchase price (\$250,000.00) and additional funding necessary to cover costs, which include escrow and title expenses, state administrative review and related costs, estimated at \$10,000.00, brings the total funding request to \$260,000.00.

Ms. Parker asked if an opportunity existed to acquire the in-holdings at Sequan Peak. Mr. Sarro responded that it would depend on funding availability and interest from the landowners but that it would be worth pursuing if funds were available. Mr. McGeoghegan asked if the landowners of the in-holdings have access easements. Mr. Sarro deferred the question to Ms. Georgia Lipphardt of the WCB staff who responded that there were currently no easements for access. Mr. McGeoghegan asked about the NCCP possibilities. Mr. Schmidt responded that the property was recommended for the NCCP program. Mr. Ross Sargent inquired if lack of access would affect property value and whether the in-holders might have an easement by necessity. Mr. Sarro

responded that since it appears the holdings are not from common ownership, no finding of necessity would likely apply and therefore the property value would not be affected.

Mr. Schmidt explained the funding and noted that John Anderson from Department of Fish and Game Region 5 was in the audience to answer questions if any arose.

Mr. Anderson explained the NCCP opportunities for the project.

Staff recommended the Board approve the acquisition as proposed, authorize the acceptance of the proposed EEMP and ISTEAs Grants for at least \$700,000.00, subject to their approval, for placement directly into escrow by the grantors; allocate \$260,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (NCCP) for the balance necessary to complete this purchase; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

MS. PARKER MOVED THE BOARD APPROVE THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND ALLOCATE \$260,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (NCCP), AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ACCEPT THE GRANTS AS DESCRIBED AND PROCEED AS OUTLINED IN THE PROPOSAL.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Land Exchange (Doyle, Bass Hill & Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area) \$10,000.00  
Lassen and Sierra Counties

Mr. Schmidt explained that this proposal was to consider a land exchange between the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) involving critical deer winter range located in Lassen and Sierra counties. Specifically, the proposed exchange involves the DFG transferring ownership of 3,950± acres of degraded deer habitat at the Doyle Wildlife Area for 3,950± acres of much higher quality deer habitat located near other DFG lands located in Lassen and Sierra Counties. The exchange will be beneficial to both agencies by improving manageability of the lands by consolidating ownerships. John Donnelly explained the project.

The properties proposed for transfer to the State (DFG) are located in three separate areas, each near or adjacent to existing State wildlife areas, thereby providing good management opportunities. These include a 335± acre area located in Honey Lake Valley, adjacent to the Doyle Wildlife Area and a 1,760± acre area, located approximately 5 miles southeast of Susanville, adjacent to the Bass Hill Wildlife Area. The third proposed transfer to the State includes 1,855± acres located in Sierra County, adjacent to the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area.

The properties, which would be placed in State ownership, provide critical winter range and migration corridors for blacktailed and Rocky Mountain mule deer, benefitting the Doyle, Loyalton-Truckee and Bass Hill deer herds. With heavy deer populations associated with these herds, protection of these properties for habitat is considered critical to DFG. A variety of other important species also occupy these sites, including California quail, mourning dove and cottontail rabbits, in addition to a wide variety of other wildlife species common to the area.

The BLM has been promoting and enabling improvements in OHV use on BLM lands adjacent to the Doyle WLA with funding from the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Green Sticker fund. They propose to incorporate the property being transferred to them into better managed OHV use. This proposed exchange will allow DFG and BLM to consolidate management resources and utilize personnel more efficiently. In addition, all of the properties included in this exchange proposal will be used for purposes for which they are more appropriate.

DFG and BLM have entered into an Agreement to Initiate a Land Exchange. The properties have been appraised, followed by the Department of General Services' approval of the values for an equal value (\$691,250) exchange. Therefore, no funds will change hands. However, it is estimated that \$10,000 will be needed for appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review costs. The exchange is exempt from CEQA under Class 7 of Categorical Exemptions (actions taken by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment) and under Class 13 (acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes).

Mr. McGeoghegan introduced Mr. Gavin Payne from Senator O'Connell's office who joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. McGeoghegan reiterated the exchange process and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Parker commented that this was an excellent project in that it showed the potential to share management responsibilities between State and Federal agencies.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the transfer of the 3,950± State owned acres to BLM as proposed; authorize the acceptance of the 3,950± BLM owned acres as outlined; allocate \$10,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to cover related project costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THE 3,950± STATE OWNED ACRES TO BLM AS PROPOSED AND AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE 3,950± BLM OWNED ACRES AS OUTLINED.

MOTION CARRIED.



16. Orr Lake Management Unit, Siskiyou County

\$500,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a grant to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for a multi-party acquisition project involving the USFS, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited and the Wildlife Conservation Board. This multi-species acquisition, located in northern Siskiyou County, will provide for the protection of  $4,487 \pm$  acres of interior wetlands and riparian habitat, critical deer winter range and habitat for threatened and endangered species. Mr. Frank Giordano explained the project.

Specifically, it is proposed that the Board allocate \$500,000.00 in the form of a grant to USFS, which would be placed directly into escrow and used toward the purchase of the entire  $4,487 \pm$  acres. The other partners to this purchase, as noted above, will jointly fund the remainder of the \$1,400,000.00 purchase price.

The subject property is located along Butte Creek, approximately 11 miles south of the town of Macdoel and 16 miles southeast of the Department of Fish and Game's Butte Valley Wildlife Area. It consists of approximately 1,100 acres of wetlands, including Orr Lake, six miles of riparian habitat, and  $3,387 \pm$  acres of timber and brush fields. Approximately 2,160 acres of this area is considered to be important deer winter range for the McCloud Flats deer herd. The deer winter range area is primarily the northern portion of the property around Orr Mountain.

A diverse assemblage of fish and wildlife species use the area. Resident species present include black-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, valley quail and blue grouse, with occasional use by mountain quail, Roosevelt elk and black bears. Numerous species of waterfowl and other water associated birds frequent the property, including ducks, geese, white pelicans, herons, grebes and osprey. In addition, two threatened and endangered species nest on the property; the threatened bald eagle and threatened sandhill crane.

Orr Lake supports a warmwater fishery which includes largemouth bass, green sunfish and brown bullheads. In addition, the Department currently stocks the lake with  $3,150 \pm$  pounds of rainbow and brown trout annually. The property is unique in that it offers both stream (Butte Creek) and lake fishing opportunities and as such is heavily fished by the public. However, due to liability concerns, the landowners could change the current fishing use at any time. With the diversity of habitats and fish and wildlife present, numerous potential public use opportunities exist on the area, including hunting, fishing, hiking, photography and bird watching.

When the property is purchased, the Department of Fish and Game and USFS will enter into a Management Agreement that will identify projects to enhance and manage the wildlife resources of the property. It is important to note that because of the property's value as an interior wetland, it has been included in the Klamath Basin focus area of the "Intermountain West Joint Venture" as an important area in implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. In addition, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, in recognition of the wildlife and public recreational values of the property, supports the proposed acquisition of the property by the USFS.

Mr. Schmidt explained the funding for the project and that there were several letters of support provided to staff.

Assemblyman House wanted to know the whether the land was privately-owned or if there was a plurality of owners. He also wanted to know if there was a willing seller on this project. Mr. McGeoghegan, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Giordano all assured him that this was a proposed transfer by a willing seller. Mr. Schmidt further explained that WCB gets involved in only willing seller transactions. The ownership was in a corporation name; probably a family corporation.

Mr. McGeoghegan pointed out that the agenda incorrectly listed the bald eagle as "endangered" when, in fact, it has now been down-listed to "threatened". Mr. Schmidt assured him this would be corrected in the minutes of the meeting.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board authorize the proposed grant to the U.S. Forest Service and entry into this multi-party acquisition as outlined; allocate \$500,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [Prop. 117/Section 2786(a)] to carry out the grant; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO ALLOCATE \$500,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND FOR THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Bank, Sonoma County

\$1,658,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this project had been carried over from the last meeting. He noted that Carl Wilcox (Department of Fish and Game, Region 3 staff) had worked very hard on this project since the last meeting in order to come to some agreement with the parties involved. Mr. Schmidt also noted that Mr. Cramer, the landowner, was in the audience and that Mr. Cramer has offered a reduction in the sales price in the form of a \$300,000.00 donation toward the project thereby reducing the amount before the Board to \$1,658,000.00. The donation is to be shared 50-50 by the funding partners to this transaction. This proposal was to consider accepting a matching grant of \$1,650,000.00 from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (District) and authorizing these funds, together with an additional allocation of \$1,650,000.00 to acquire 173.6± acres of land located in Sonoma County. It is proposed that the Board and the District hold title as "Tenants in Common" with each receiving a 50% undivided interest in the property. The purpose of the acquisition is to ensure the property's continued viability as high quality vernal pool endangered species habitat, through the establishment of a conservation bank. Jim Sarro explained the project.

Located on the western edge of, and just outside, the City of Santa Rosa, the property is bounded to the north and south respectively by Hall Road and Occidental Road, on the east by houses fronting Fulton Road, and on the west by other rural properties. Access to the site is off Occidental Road, about 1/4 mile south of the Fulton Road intersection. The adjacent land uses include rural residential development to the east and south and agriculture to the north and west.

This proposal is consistent with, and supports, ongoing efforts to protect important Laguna de Santa Rosa wetlands. In fact, the Wildlife Conservation Board staff, using Department of Fish and Game (Department) funds, initiated acquisition in this area in 1980 with the purchase of the first 75± acre parcel to protect seasonal vernal pools, valley oaks and endangered species. Beginning in 1989, and to date, the Board has authorized the acquisition of a total of 443± acres which actually lie within the Laguna at varied locations. The Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan (CAP) prepared by the Department of Fish and Game for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Area proposes to connect these parcels.

This proposed acquisition is important for protecting significant amounts of seasonal wetlands in the form of vernal pools which support both federal and state listed endangered Sebastopol meadowfoam and Burke's goldfields. Also found on the property is the vernal pool fairy shrimp, which is federally proposed for listing as an endangered species, as well as other sensitive species, including Lobb's buttercups, vernal pool mint and tiger salamanders. The seasonal wetlands are also important feeding and resting habitat for waterfowl and water associated birds. Valley oaks, a diminishing species on the Santa Rosa Plain, are also present. The property represents one of the largest and least disturbed examples of vernal pool habitat in the Santa Rosa Plain.

The Department highly recommends acquisition of the subject property for the purpose of protecting significant endangered species and wetland habitat, and it is the Central Coast Region's highest acquisition priority in Sonoma County. The property is a critical component of the Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pool Preservation Plan, a joint effort by State, Federal and local agencies, to provide for orderly development in the Santa Rosa Plain while assuring the protection of vernal pools and endangered species. The State's participation in the acquisition will be important in demonstrating to local agencies, and the community, the Department's commitment to solving the resource protection/development problems of the area.

Historically, the site has been used for agricultural purposes, primarily grazing. The extreme northern section and the bottomland area in the south have been graded, cultivated or at least disced in the past. More recently however, the owner has sought to develop it to a golf course. The Department and the District, in recognition of the site's high resource values, have negotiated to purchase the site. The Department is proposing to operate the site as a conservation bank and will be solely responsible for operation and day-to-day management. Revenues generated from the sale of mitigation credits will be used in part for stewardship of the property, and in part to preserve other wildlife habitat properties in Sonoma County.



A conceptual agreement proposed by staffs of the District and the Board, provides that at such time as the Board expends proceeds from the sale of mitigation credits in an amount equal to the District's investment in the purchase price of the subject property, the District shall convey its fee interest in the subject property to the State in exchange for a conservation easement over the property in perpetuity.

The appraised fair market value of the property, as approved by the Department of General Services is \$3,600,000.00. As noted earlier, the owner has agreed to sell to the State and the District for \$3,300,000.00. It is estimated that an additional \$8,000.00 will be needed for expenses which include title insurance and Department of General Services review costs. The District has agreed to be responsible for all escrow costs. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt again explained that the project was held over from the prior Board meeting to address the concerns of the Director of the Department of Fish and Game regarding the conservation bank. Ms. Schafer had expressed the possibility of a conditional approval of the project based on getting answers to the questions of who was to be the banker and what would happen if the land was purchased and federal entities do not approve the conservation bank. Mr. Schmidt indicated that the local resource conservation district is proposed to be the banker. He also recommended that the approval should be conditional on the federal entities signing an agreement relative to the conservation bank.

Assemblyman House asked if the Farm Bureau objection had been removed. Mr. Schmidt replied that they had withdrawn their objection. Mr. Schmidt acknowledged Mr. Cramer's donation and credited Mr. Cramer and his representative, Mr. Richard Coombs, together with Mr. Wilcox, in assisting with keeping the project together. Mr. McGeoghegan asked if anyone wished to speak on the project.

Mr. John Gamper of the California Farm Bureau thanked Mr. Wilcox for working with all the parties concerned to make the project happen. He also thanked the Board for working with the Farm Bureau. Mr. David Hanson of the Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District spoke in support of the project. He also praised Mr. Wilcox for the work he had done on the bank.

Mr. Broddrick commented on his understanding of the conditions of the agreement from the federal entities. Mr. Wilcox explained how the agreement was reached with the federal entities and that it appears to be supported by all the agencies involved in the project.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of a matching grant of \$1,650,000.00 from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and authorize these funds, together with an additional allocation of \$1,658,000.00 for acquisition of the subject property and related expenses, with allocation to be made as follows: \$97,000.00 from

the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988/P-70 [Section 5907(c)(10)] and \$1,561,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

MS. PARKER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ALLOCATE \$1,658,000.00 PER STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVE THIS PROJECT SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT BEING SIGNED BY THE FEDERAL AGENCIES RELATIVE TO THE CONSERVATION BANK.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Broddrick again commented on all the hard work that had been put in by staff, especially Mr. Wilcox, and thanked the parties for their efforts. He also commended Mr. Wilcox's work with all the parties in making land use planning on a regional basis a reality.

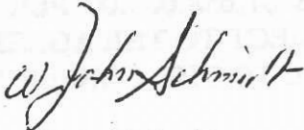
#### OTHER BUSINESS

18. Mr. Schmidt explained that this was the Board's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary years and asked the Board for input on their desires for a WCB 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. He suggested that it could be held in August of 1997 in conjunction with the August Board meeting. Mr. McGeoghegan asked staff to consider possible venues for holding the meeting and having the celebration follow the meeting. Mr. Brian Hunter, Department of Fish and Game Regional Manager, Region 3 offered to host the celebration at Grizzly Island Wildlife Area.
19. Mr. Schmidt also reported that he has had several inquiries about a WCB logo and was asked to bring it up for the Board to consider.

Mr. McGeoghegan said that he had some ideas of his own regarding a logo and asked staff to work up some ideas that could be discussed at the May Board meeting. Ms. Parker indicated that she felt a logo would be appropriate and felt that the Board's 50<sup>th</sup> year would be an appropriate time for the birth of a logo.

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. McGeoghegan thanked everyone for attending and participating and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



W. John Schmidt  
Executive Director

### PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on February 13, 1997, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$383,950,876.06. This total includes funds 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, the Pittman-Robertson Program, and the Estuarine Sanctuary Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act, the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund, the Bagley Conservation Fund, the State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1974, the General Fund, the Energy Resources Fund, the Environmental License Plate Fund, the State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Act of 1976, the 1984 Parklands Bond Act, the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Act, the California Wildlife Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988, California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

A. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects .....	\$ 16,006,219.06
B. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement .....	20,882,290.85
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .....	\$ 3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement .....	14,700,589.61
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams .....	547,719.86
4. Marine Habitat .....	646,619.07
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects .....	1,923,749.26
C. Fishing Access Projects .....	36,850,176.83
1. Coastal and Bay .....	\$ 2,973,174.92
2. River and Aqueduct Access .....	8,967,957.52
3. Lake and Reservoir Access .....	6,801,879.45
4. Piers .....	18,107,164.94
D. Game Farm Projects .....	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement .....	297,712,554.92
1. Wildlife Areas (General) .....	\$174,066,645.14
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ....	4,671,341.76
3. Wildlife Areas/Eco Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat) .....	113,721,648.49
4. Land Conservation Area .....	2,705.00
5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements .....	2,740,314.50
6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements ....	1,130,720.03
7. Other Wildlife Habitat Grants .....	1,379,180.00
F. Hunting Access Projects .....	484,898.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases) .....	10,228,639.29
H. Special Project Allocations .....	870,090.42
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects .....	757,615.63
J. Sales and/or exchanges .....	<u>11,496.00</u>
Total Allocated to Projects .....	\$383,950,876.06