

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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

Minutes, May 1, 1997

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Rec'd NHD

JUN 25 1997

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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PETE WILSON, Governor



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

May 1, 1997

Pursuant to the call of Chairperson Douglas McGeoghegan, the Wildlife Conservation Board met at the State Capitol, Room 113, Sacramento, California on May 1, 1997. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Introductions were made at this time.

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
Jacqueline Schafer, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Jack O'Connell
Ross Sargent, Vice, Senator Jack O'Connell
Assemblywoman Debra Bowen
Senator Pat Johnston
Senator Mike Thompson
Assemblyman Mike Machado
Assembly - Vacant position

Absent:

Staff present:

W. John Schmidt, Executive Director
Georgia Lipphardt, Assistant Executive Director
Jim Sarro, Assistant Executive Director
Scott Clemons, Riparian Program Manager
Marilyn Cundiff, Wetlands Program Manager
Peter Perrine, Field Agent
John Donnelly, Associate Land Agent
Frank Giordano, Senior Land Agent
Jerry Heminger, Senior Land Agent
Debra Townsend, Senior Land Agent
Jan Beeding, Office Technician
Sylvia Martinez-Allison, Executive Secretary
Terri Muzik, Staff Services Analyst

Others Present:

Dave Patterson, California Waterfowl Association
Bud Thrapp, Department of Water Resources
John Anderson, Dept. Of Fish and Game, Region 5
John Lauwerijssen
Teresa Malone, San Joaquin River Parkway
Frank Creager, San Joaquin River Parkway
Ed Sauls, The Sauls Company
Garrett Thelander, Emerald Properties
Kate Anderton, Save-The-Redwoods League
Don Koch, Dept. Of Fish and Game, Region 1
Jack Tingstrom, Mayor, City of Ventura
Ron Calkins, City of Ventura-Public Works Dept.
Lorrain Friant
Gregory House
Nancy Vierra, Dept. Of Fish and Game
Frances Ostrom
John Wallace
Chet Vogt
Corey Brown, Trust for Public Land
Steve Randall, Truckee Park and Recreation

2. Funding Status as of May 1, 1997 (Informational)

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisition	\$ 300,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(6,000.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$ 294,000.00

Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$ 980,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(322,168.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$ 657,832.00

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	(670,888.93)
Unallocated Balance	\$ 79,111.07

(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	(75,288,696.91)
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	\$ 3,230,803.09

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

Governor's Budget	\$10,047,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(4,900,147.34)
Unallocated Balance	\$ 5,146,852.66

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

Governor's Budget	\$7,354,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(5,800,764.02)
Unallocated Balance	\$1,553,235.98

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

Governor's Budget	\$8,703,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(8,207,691.01)
Unallocated Balance	\$ 495,308.99

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	\$1,318,443.07
<u>CA Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u>	\$3,230,803.09
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u>	\$7,195,397.63

3. PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 4, 5, & 7 - 10)

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Consent Calendar originally consisted of Item Numbers 4 - 10 but that Item Number 6 had been withdrawn from the agenda prior to today's meeting and would not be part of the consent calendar. Mr. Schmidt then recommended approval of items 4, 5, & 7 - 10 as a consent calendar.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE WCB APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 4, 5 & 7 - 10 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

Approval of the minutes of February 13, 1997, 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 MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WCB MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 1997 BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

*5. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It is recommended that the following totals be recovered and that the projects be closed.

\$ 811,450.31 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund,
\$ 44.71 to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,
\$ 13,731.60 to the Habitat Conservation Fund,
\$ 28,130.87 to the CA Wildlife, Coastal and Parkland Fund of 1988
\$ 0.00 to the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund

Wildlife Restoration Fund

Bend Bridge Public Access, Tehama County

Allocation	\$310,000.00
Expended	<u>-310,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Donner Lake Fishing Access, Nevada County

Allocation	\$ 80,500.00
Expended	<u>- 0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 80,500.00

Vallejo Fishing Pier Removal, Solano County

Allocation	\$500,000.00
Expended	<u>-246,374.37</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$253,625.63

Vallejo Fishing Pier, Solano County

Allocation	\$500,000.00
Expended	<u>- 22,675.32</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$477,324.68

TOTAL WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND RECOVERIES \$811,450.31

Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund

East Fork Broken Kettle Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 21,773.00
Expended	<u>21,773.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Jordan Creek Habitat Enhancement #2, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 4,767.00
Expended	<u>-4,767.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Scott River Riparian Fencing and Planting Project, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 19,800.00
Expended	<u>-19,755.29</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 44.71

Wilson Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 35,700.00
Expended	<u>-35,700.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

**TOTAL FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
FUND RECOVERIES \$44.71**

Habitat Conservation Fund (Prop. 117)

Bodie Bowl, Mono County

Allocation	\$500,000.00
Expended	<u>-500,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Otay Mountain (North) Ecological Reserve, San Diego County

Allocation	\$1,895,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,894,814.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 185.50

Palos Verdes Peninsula Ecological Reserve, Los Angeles County

Allocation	\$2,208,034.62
Expended	<u>-2,206,754.62</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,280.00

Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, (Salmon Falls Unit, Exp. #2), El Dorado County

Allocation	\$ 95,000.00
Expended	<u>-92,593.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,407.00

Redwood Creek Habitat Enhancement, Marin County

Allocation	\$ 12,889.00
Expended	<u>-12,889.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Rowdy Creek Habitat Enhancement #2, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 30,221.00
Expended	<u>-30,221.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan, Los Angeles/Ventura Counties

Allocation	\$100,000.00
Expended	<u>- 96,180.40</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,819.60

Santa Rosa Plateau, Exp. #3, Riverside County

Allocation	\$ 90,975.32
Expended	<u>- 84,935.82</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 6,039.50

Wilson Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 26,785.00
Expended	<u>-26,785.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

TOTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND RECOVERIES \$13,731.60

CA Wildlife, Coastal and Parkland Fund of 1988

Bodega Bay Monarch Butterfly Grove, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$255,000.00
Expended	<u>-254,124.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 876.00

Cedar Roughs Wildlife Area, Napa County

Allocation	\$ 667,480.00
Expended	<u>-658,841.02</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 8,638.98

Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Area, Exp. #8, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$ 52,000.00
Expended	<u>-50,884.11</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,115.89

Otay Mountain (North) Ecological Reserve, San Diego County

Allocation	\$1,000,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,000,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Palos Verdes Peninsula Ecological Reserve, Los Angeles County

Allocation	\$1,193,965.38
Expended	<u>-1,193,965.38</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Project Planning Sec. 5907(c)(10)-San Pablo Bay & Coastal Wetlands, Sonoma County

Portion of Allocation	\$ 17,500.00
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San Francisco Bay Wildlife Area (North Bay), Sulphur Creek Unit/Oro Loma Marsh
Restoration, Alameda County

Allocation	\$ 500,000.00
Expended	-500,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

TOTAL CA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARKLAND FUND OF 1988

RECOVERIES \$28,130.87

Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, Exp. #3, Riverside County

Allocation	\$219,024.68
Expended	-219,024.68
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

TOTAL WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND \$0.00

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE WCB RECOVER FUNDS FOR THE PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 5 - 8 OF THESE MINUTES AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$811,450.31 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, \$44.71 TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, \$13,731.60 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND; \$28,130.87 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARKLAND FUND OF 1988 AND \$-0- TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

***6. Finnon Lake Fishing Access, El Dorado County (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$-0-**

To consider a change in scope of the Wildlife Conservation Board's August 10, 1995 authorization to transfer the Finnon Lake Fishing Access to the County of El Dorado at less than fair market value provided the property continues to be used for recreational and open space purposes. With El Dorado County's concurrence, it is now proposed to make this transfer to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department, subject to the same terms and conditions.

At the request of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department, this item was withdrawn from Board consideration.

***7. Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area (Rush Creek Unit), Marin County \$5,000.00**

This proposal was to consider a grant to Marin Audubon Society for a cooperative project involving the Society, the Marin County Open Space District, The Marin County Flood Control District and the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to enhance the Rush Creek wetlands. The Rush Creek Unit, owned by the Department, is located in Novato just southeast of the Marin County Airport and east of Highway 101 in Marin County.

The 194± acre Rush Creek Unit is separated from Cemetery Marsh, which is owned by the Marin County Open Space District, by a narrow 30 foot wide low land area. These marshes currently have separate drainage networks that only interact hydrologically during high tidal and flood discharge conditions. Both marshes are managed jointly by Sonoma-Marín Mosquito Abatement District and Marin County Flood Control District.

Rush Creek and Cemetery Marsh are hydraulically connected to San Pablo Bay through Black John Slough and the Petaluma River. Currently, the Rush Creek Marsh area is managed as a flood water detention facility for the Novato area. This is accomplished by a series of tide gates and slide gates that limit the amount of incoming tidal flow, but allow the detention storage and subsequent discharge of runoff at low tides. The result of the flood control management structures is that by late summer and fall the Rush Creek wetlands do not receive sufficient water, become hyper-saline and stagnant, and large portions of the marsh dry-out.

As a result of two development projects, one on the Petaluma River and one on Rush Creek, the Water Quality Control Board imposed two fines for water quality violations. These fines were made available for a water quality and wetland enhancement project at the Rush Creek Marsh. An Enhancement Plan prepared for Marin County identified a number of beneficial water quality and water control management strategies for Rush Creek Marsh that could be partially implemented using the fine monies.

The selected plan involves converting two existing tide gates to adjustable combination slide/flap gates to increase the tidal prism within the marsh during the dry months. The gates would be opened in late summer-early fall and operated with the flap gate closed during the rainy season. This would allow for flood discharge in the winter, but limit tidal in-flow and maximize flood water storage. The Rush Creek Marsh will then benefit from the increased water availability during summer and fall. Costs for the tide gate conversions, one 36" tide gate and one 60" tide gate, are estimated to be \$67,000.00. The

bulk of the project funding will come from Water Quality fines imposed on two development projects. The total proposed project funding sources are:

Rush Creek Project Fine	\$39,000.00
Petaluma River Project Fine	13,000.00
Marin County Open Space	5,000.00
Marin County Flood Control	5,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>5,000.00</u>
	\$67,000.00

The Marin County Audubon Society has agreed to manage the conversion contract at no additional cost to the project. The project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, as minor alternation of existing structures and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended the Board approve the grant for the tide gate conversions as proposed; allocate \$5,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 (Riparian); 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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE GRANT FOR THE TIDE GATE CONVERSIONS AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$5,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 (RIPARIAN); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*8. Terwer Creek Riparian Restoration, Del Norte County \$9,994.00

This proposal was to fund a cooperative project to restore approximately 1,300 feet of stream bank (both sides of the creek), and to plant up to 2 acres of riparian habitat on Terwer Creek, approximately one mile upstream from the stream's confluence with the Klamath River, near the town of Klamath. Terwer Creek enters the Klamath River near its mouth and supports populations of Chinook and Coho salmon and cutthroat trout, and drains a watershed that has seen heavy logging operations in the past. The creek runs through forested lands containing Douglas fir and Redwood, which are owned and managed by Simpson Timber Company.

The proposed project involves a partnership between the landowner, the California Conservation Corps (CCC), the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Department of Fish and Game (Department). In 1995, the Department and CCC completed two successful efforts to improve habitat for anadromous fish on upstream sections of this stream. The current project is designed to restore a riparian corridor that will contribute woody debris

to the stream, provide edge cover, and eventually provide a canopy cover. As banks become well vegetated, the channel configuration will change by a reduction in braiding, the channel will deepen, and lower water temperatures will result, all of which will benefit anadromous fish. In addition to these expected fishery benefits, this project will provide riparian habitat that is needed by many native birds and other riparian-dependent wildlife species.

Under the direction of the Department, the CCC will install erosion protection structures (willow tree deflectors and willow post baffles) at selected locations to stabilize approximately 1,300 feet of stream channel. Approximately 1,000 locally obtained willow cuttings and 400 alder seedlings will be planted along the stream, providing nearly 2 acres of new habitat. This innovative project is expected to lead the way to many other similar riparian restoration efforts in this region.

The Department has reviewed this proposed project and recommends it for funding by the Board. It is categorically exempt under Article 19, Section 15304 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, qualifying as a Class 4 (d) [minor alteration to land to improve habitat for fish] and Section 15301, Class 1 (i) [maintenance of stream flows and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources].

In addition to the efforts of the Department and CCC, Simpson Timber Company has agreed to allow access to appropriate staff from the Department, the CCC and the Board for the period of construction and follow-up plant maintenance. Following the completion of the improvements, they will continue to allow access to these agencies for a five year period to conduct post-project maintenance and monitoring. If the proposed project is approved, this agreement will be recorded in Del Norte County.

Continuing the cooperative theme, this project will also be supported by cost-share funding and in-kind supplies and labor, including volunteer laborers to be supplied by the Department. The proposed estimated cost for this project is summarized as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Project management and labor	\$10,880.00
Materials and supplies	1,450.00
Operating expenses	<u>718.00</u>
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$13,048.00</u>

Project funding will be shared as follows:

WCB - \$9,994.00

CCC - \$3,054.00

<u>TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE</u>	<u>\$13,048.00</u>
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Staff recommended that the Board approve the Interagency Agreement with the California Conservation Corps and approve the funding as proposed; allocate \$9,994.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [Proposition 117 (Section 2786 (e)(f) - riparian/aquatic]; 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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS AND APPROVE THE FUNDING AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$9,994.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND [PROPOSITION 117 (SECTION 2786 (E)(F) - RIPARIAN/AQUATIC]; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*9. Authorization to Sell Department of Fish and Game-Owned Property \$20,000.00
Fresno and Siskiyou Counties

This proposal was to consider the sale, exchange or transfer of four properties, owned and recommended for disposal by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). These properties are described below, together with potential disposal options for each.

1. Curry Mountain Public Access, Fresno County: 98± acres located eight miles west of Coalinga off of Highway 198. This property was acquired to provide public access and parking to public lands on Curry Mountain. Public use of this access created excess trash cleanup and fence repairs for DFG personnel. Preliminary discussions with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have indicated that BLM would be interested in acquiring this property. They would agree to maintain public access over the land. The parking area and the fence, although owned by the State, are currently maintained by BLM, together with an information board which is also located on the site.

The types of actions most appropriate for this property, in order of preference, are as follows: a) an exchange with BLM for property that would fill in DFG ownership at another location or sensitive property in need of a higher level of protection; b) transfer to BLM or another agency at no cost to maintain as public access; or c) sell to a private buyer with a deed restriction to maintain public access and the parking area.

2. Indian Tom Lake, Siskiyou County: 59± acres of land bisected by State Highway 161, and lying east of State Highway 97, near the town of Dorris. The wildlife area was acquired from the State Lands Commission in the 1950's

for the purpose of providing waterfowl hunter access. However, it no longer provides good quality wildlife habitat. Since the parcel is bisected by State Highway 161, only the southern portion of the parcel provides access to Indian Tom Lake. The federal government has now acquired parcels surrounding the lake and has developed better public access, including a parking lot and other public facilities, immediately to the west of the wildlife area. With public access provided by the improved federal parcels, State ownership of this parcel is no longer deemed necessary.

The acreage consists of two alkali sinks with dune uplands vegetated with greasewood and rabbit brush. Wildlife values are very limited on this property and it is highly improbable that any deterioration of existing values would occur with the land being transferred into private ownership. Disposal of this parcel would eliminate ongoing maintenance problems (fences), and potential liability associated with ownership of the land by the State.

It would be preferable to sell or enter into an exchange with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or BLM. Adjacent private lands are grazed and a transfer to the private sector is an alternative course of action. DFG does not feel it is necessary to reserve an easement for public access.

3. Mud Lake Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County: 39± acres located northeast of the town of Dorris, off of Picard Road and State Highway 97. The parcel was accepted as a donation from Siskiyou County in 1982. The parcel is a "sink" in a juniper-sage habitat type that provides seasonal wetlands that maintain standing water in very wet years. The parcel does provide some wetland values for wildlife, but the lack of permanent water makes these values transitory at best. Because it is surrounded by private lands and does not have a reliable source of water, management options are extremely limited. As lots in the surrounding subdivision are built, significant liability in terms of ownership of this parcel may be incurred. Issues such as mosquito abatement, water quality and discharge of firearms may become an issue.

Due to the very low habitat values, coupled with existing and potential liabilities, DFG has recommended disposal of this parcel. The property will be offered to public agencies first, and then to the private sector. DFG has indicated that it will not be necessary to reserve an easement for public access.

4. Spannus Gulch Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County: 132± acres located near the north shore of Copco Lake. The site is hillside volcanic rock with scattered juniper, oak trees, and some shrubs. Although the parcel serves as deer winter range for deer migrating from Oregon, there is essentially no public use of the parcel due to its remote location and its steep rugged terrain. This is a disjunct parcel far from other DFG lands with no legal, public access.

BLM administers lands adjacent to this parcel so it may be feasible to enter into an exchange with the federal government. The alternative will be to offer the parcel to the private sector, reserving a conservation easement to protect the deer migration trail.

In 1992, the passage of SB 906 amended Section 1348 of the Fish and Game Code, providing the Wildlife Conservation Board with the authority to lease, sell, exchange or otherwise transfer real properties. As a result of the Board's authority, lands that are or could become a liability, have recurring management difficulties, or no longer retain the biological values for which they were acquired may be transferred to obtain a higher wildlife benefit from the State's investment.

If approved, staff will pursue the disposal of the above described areas and provide the Board with a report at the conclusion. The State's share of the processing costs are estimated to be \$20,000, which includes appraisals, survey, advertising, title, escrow and Department of General Services review costs. The proposed sales are exempt from CEQA under Class 12 of Categorical Exemptions as a transfer of government property for which the use has not changed since the time of purchase by the public agency.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the disposals as proposed; allocate \$20,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for costs of the sale; 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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE DISPOSALS AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$20,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR COSTS OF THE SALE; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

***10. Samoa Public Access, Humboldt County \$21,114.00**

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with the County of Humboldt Public Works Department, to improve the existing sewage disposal system at the Samoa Public Access area. This access site is located on the southeast portion of the North Spit, on Humboldt Bay. In 1964, the Wildlife Conservation Board acquired a 12.95 acre portion of the old Humboldt Bay Life Boat Station to provide for this public boat access to the mouth of Humboldt Bay and the nearby ocean waters.

The existing facilities consist of a two-lane concrete boat launching ramp, a paved parking area, a public restroom and rock rip rap, which provides slope protection from wave action. The facilities are maintained by the Humboldt County Public Works Department under a three-way Operation and Maintenance Agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Department of Boating and Waterways that expires in 2002. The site is one of the primary sport and recreational access sites on Humboldt Bay, and is a very popular destination point for anglers and clambers from all over the State. The County's 1994 estimate of public use of these facilities, which includes camping and sightseeing, was 45,000 user days (the most recent estimate available).

Currently, all wastewater generated at the facility's restroom flows into storage tanks which are then pumped and hauled to an approved sewage treatment plant. This method is very costly in the long run, and somewhat wasteful if an onsite method is available. The development of intermittent sand filter (ISF) technology in wastewater pre-treatment has resulted in acceptable effluent quality to allow onsite disposal. The wastewater, having received primary treatment in a septic tank, is pumped onto a bed of specified sand media. The wastewater is dispersed into a drain rock layer on top of the sand bed by means of pressure distribution. Applied in doses, the wastewater moves downward in unsaturated flow through the media. Biological treatment occurs on the surface of the sand particles. The treated wastewater is collected at the bottom of the sand filter and discharged by gravity to a sub-surface drainfield. Sand filter technology has been used to treat potable water to modern drinking water standards of purity since the early part of this century and has been applied to wastewater treatment since the 1960's, using various designs. The current design of sand filters is a maturation and further refinement of the technology to produce cleaner effluent in a package which is easier to manufacture or build, and is more accessible for maintenance and repair than previous designs. It is currently widely used and accepted in Oregon, Washington and in such areas of California as Stinson Beach, the town of Paradise, and Sonoma County.

The County of Humboldt has passed a resolution in favor of this project and has agreed to extend the existing Operation and Maintenance Agreement by 20 years to the year 2022. The County has also contributed to the project design and environmental permit costs in the amount of \$3,100.00, and is contributing the costs for non-technical construction inspection.

Costs estimates for this proposal which have been reviewed by staff, are as follows:

Construction of filtration system and disposal field	\$15,500.00
Perimeter fencing	3,500.00
Construction Inspection	2,000.00
Project Design and Permits	<u>3,100.00</u>

<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS</u>	<u>\$24,100.00</u>
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Proposed Funding:

County Contribution	\$ 3,100.00
State Contribution	<u>21,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL FUNDING</u>	<u>\$24,000.00</u>

The County of Humboldt has completed a Negative Declaration and filed a Notice of Determination as required by CEQA. In addition the County has obtained the necessary Coastal Development permit from the County Planning Commission, an administrative permit from the California Coastal Commission, and the validated sewage disposal system permit from the County Health Department.

This project qualifies under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) grant program and, if approved will be eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement of State projects costs. Staff will apply for reimbursement under this program. The net cost to the State after reimbursement will be \$5,250.00 for the installation of the system, plus \$114.00 for Department of General Services review costs, or a total of \$5,364.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for the installation of the sand filtration system and subsurface disposal field as proposed; allocate \$21,114.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; 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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE SAND FILTRATION SYSTEM AND SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL FIELD AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$21,114.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Ventura Fishing Pier, Ventura County \$250,000.00

Mr. Schmidt explained that this proposal was to consider a request to do a cooperative project with the City of Ventura to restore the outer 425 feet of the Ventura Pier which was destroyed by severe storm waves on December 13, 1995. Assuming the City is successful in raising the \$3,300,000 that this project is estimated to cost, they propose to fully restore the pier to it's historic 1,958 foot length and return it to the very popular public access project that it has been for years. Not only has this pier provided the public with the opportunity to enjoy the ocean environment from the pier vantage point, but one

of its primary uses is for sportfishing, a use which attracts thousand of fishing enthusiasts each year.

The old Ventura Pier, first constructed in 1872 is situated on the Ventura State Beach, adjacent to State Highway 101, near downtown Ventura. It is located about 66 miles northwest of Los Angeles and 26 miles southeast of Santa Barbara. The pier, which is of wood construction, has been partially reconstructed several times. On May 15, 1991 the Board allocated \$500,000 toward a \$3,395,000 cooperative project to do a major pier renovation, which included funding from the Coastal Conservancy, the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the city, private donations and the Board.

Due to the recent extent, and frequency, of pier damage, the City authorized an engineering feasibility study to examine specific repair, restoration, and/or replacement alternatives, and to develop cost estimates for these alternatives. The study included an investigation of the general physical condition and capacity of the outer section of the existing pier (between Bents 22-60); it examined specific restoration alternatives conceptually designed to provide a low maintenance municipal pier which would serve the uses desired by the City; and it presented findings, data, recommendations, estimates, and specific repair or replacement alternatives in a written report that the City used in developing repair options. Based on this study, and following a public discussion, the Ventura City Council approved a project with the following elements:

- 1) Rebuild the existing portion of the pier to its 1993 structural capacity.
- 2) Strengthen the most vulnerable part of the existing portion of the pier (Bents 22-60) with additional cross-bracing.
- 3) Rebuild the outer 425 feet of the pier using steel piles with a 40 foot wide wooden deck. It is felt that the steel piles will add strength over the wood piles that were used in the previous construction.
- 4) In an effort to avoid future wave damage, the reconstruction design will include a gradual raising of the deck by 4.2 feet, from the end of the remainder of the pier to the end of the 425 portion to be rebuilt. It is felt that the proposed new elevation will place the pier's end above any future storm created wave action.

The overall restoration plan is proposed to be done in two basis phases. First, the City proposes to strengthen the existing pier, as referenced above, beginning in early summer, 1997. The second phase, will include the reconstruction of the outer end. The City proposes to begin this phase in the fall of 1997, although it could even be started concurrently with the first phase. If funding is not immediately available to reconstruct the full 425 feet at one time, the City still proposes to rebuild as much as funding will allow and finish the remainder when funding becomes available.

The City has submitted a resolution agreeing to the WCB matching fund condition and to entering into the necessary agreements to receive WCB funding. They will also be responsible for administering all construction activities and to the long-term operation and maintenance of this project. In addition, the City will be responsible for filing any CEQA documents required and for obtaining all necessary permits.

Prior to the last proposal being presented to the Board, the Department of Fish and Game completed a fisheries evaluation of the pier location to assist the Board in considering the proposed funding. As is typical with most of the projects developed under the Board's very successful fishing pier program, especially those in populated areas, angling on the Ventura Pier was then expected to be heavy year round. This has proven to be true during the short time the pier was open. Major species one can expect to catch are most likely to be Pacific mackerel, white croaker, jacksmelt, California halibut and several surf perch species. This species composition is representative of other southern California piers.

As noted above, the cost estimate to complete the pier project, including strengthening the existing pier and extending it by 425 feet is \$3,300,000. This estimate, which has been reviewed by staff, is as follows:

Cost Estimate

Mobilization/Demobilization	\$139,000.00
Furnish & Install Timber Replacement Piles (existing pier)	80,000.00
Repair Existing Damage	56,000.00
Brace Every Other Bent (Bents 22-60)	433,200.00
Remove Bents 21-22	10,000.00
Furnish & Install Steel Pipe Piles	1,072,020.00
Furnish & Install Decking	567,540.00
Utilities & Lighting	63,060.00
Handrails (Materials & Installation)	47,295.00
Amenities (inc. benches, fish cleaning station, etc.)	<u>15,765.00</u>
Sub-Total	\$2,483,880.00
Contingencies	496,778.00
Design	99,355.00
Engineering	124,194.00
Construction Administration	<u>99,355.00</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST **\$3,303,562.00**

Rounded **\$3,300,000.00**

Fortunately the City had the pier insured and was able to recover a portion of their loss (\$2,006,931) which they proposes to use in this rebuilding effort. Therefore, funding is currently proposed as follows:

City of Ventura	\$2,006,931.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>250,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:</u>	<u>\$2,256,931.00</u>

As described above, the City proposes to begin the project and build as much as possible with funding available this year, and complete the overall project as additional funding is made available. They are currently seeking additional funding in an effort to complete the project in one contract.

Staff recommended that the Board, in consideration of the City of Ventura filing appropriate CEQA documentation, approve the Ventura Fishing Pier project as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt introduced Mayor Jack Tingstrom from the City of Ventura and Ron Calkins, Director of Public Works from the City of Ventura who were in the audience. He also indicated that letters of support were received from the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau, The Ventura County Special Olympics, Ventura County Board of Supervisors, The Beach Erosion Authority and from Senator O'Connell.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked for comments from the Legislative advisors. Senator O'Connell spoke in support of the project and encouraged the Board to provide the proposed funding. Mr. McGeoghegan then asked whether an estimate existed indicating the number of people who use the pier throughout the course of a year. Mr. Tingstrom indicated that he did not have the exact numbers but noted it is very important to the area in terms of recreational and economic benefits. Mr. Schmidt indicated that the WCB's involvement would be as a result of the fishing opportunities it provides. Mr. McGeoghegan asked whether this was one of the city piers in California where a fishing license is not required. Mr. Tingstrom and Miss Schafer both indicated that that was correct.

Mr. McGeoghegan then asked if there was any further discussion. None forthcoming, Miss Schafer offered to make a motion.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE CITY OF VENTURA FILING APPROPRIATE CEQA DOCUMENTATION, APPROVE THE VENTURA FISHING PIER PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$250,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION

FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that since the agenda was prepared, the City of Ventura had filed the appropriate CEQA documents. Mr. McGeoghegan then indicated that the contingency in the motion would be removed.

12. Donner Lake Fishing Access, Nevada County \$131,327.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District to provide a barrier-free fishing dock on Donner Lake. The site is located midway on the north shore of Donner Lake, adjacent to Donner Pass Road, at Shoreline Park. An abandoned portion of old Highway 40 is located on the site and will provide parking for about eight cars and an access point for the project. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt explained the project.

This proposal consists of the development of a parking lot, pathway, and floating dock with a gangway that will serve all anglers including those that are physically disabled. There are currently no fishing piers or docks on the north shore of Lake Tahoe or in the Truckee area that provide fishing access for physically disabled persons.

This project was previously approved by the Board in May, 1995 but the District's contract expired and the funds reverted before the District was able to start construction. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency requested changes in the design and construction of the dock for environmental reasons, which initially delayed the start of construction. Inclement weather conditions caused further delays, all of which resulted in the District not having enough time left in the environmental "window" to complete the work prior to the contract and fund expiration. Additionally, required design changes resulted in increased costs for the project installation.

The Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District Board of Directors has passed a resolution in favor of this project and has provided the State with a 25 year free lease to the property and will provide the operation and management of the project area during this time period. They have also agreed to fund a portion of this project as well as administer the construction project, which will be accomplished through a combination of competitive bidding and work that the District will perform. The project will provide good fishing opportunities and is being supported by the Department of Fish and Game.

Cost estimates for this proposal which have been reviewed by staff are as follows:

Site Preparation, including cleaning, grading & drainage controls	\$19,484.00
Trail and ramp, including AC sidewalk, concrete flatwork and handrails	46,600.00
Parking lot, including paving & oil trap	28,636.00
Fishing float, gangway & installation	36,493.00
Signs, engineering, permits	10,000.00
Contingencies	<u>10,000.00</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST \$151,213.00

<u>WCB contribution</u>	<u>\$131,213.00</u>
<u>District contribution</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>

An additional \$114.00 will be needed for General Services review costs for the project. The District has prepared and completed a Negative Declaration for this project and has filed a Notice of Determination as required by CEQA.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. McGeoghegan introduced Assemblywoman Debra Bowen who joined the meeting at this time. Also, Senator O'Connell left the meeting and his representative, Gavin Payne, remained to cover the meeting for him.

Staff recommended the Board approve funding for the construction of this barrier-free fishing dock as proposed; allocate \$131,327.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Miss Schafer asked if the Park and Recreation District would be handling the operating and maintenance of the project. Mr. Schmidt indicated that they would do the operation and maintenance under a 25 year agreement.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked if there were any questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DONNER LAKE BARRIER-FREE FISHING DOCK AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$131,327.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Wetland Habitat Restoration, (Elworthy Brothers), \$40,386.00
Merced County

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for a partnership project to restore approximately 280 acres of seasonal wetlands and provide critical nesting and brood habitat to support breeding waterfowl and other wetland dependent species. Ms. Marilyn Cundiff explained the project

The Elworthy Brothers' wetland project is located on private land, approximately three miles southwest of the Volta State Wildlife Area, and eight miles from the Los Banos Wildlife Area. In addition, the project is adjacent to the 312-acre wetland complex managed by Tri-Valley Growers in Merced County, and is within the western portion of the Grasslands Ecological Area.

While contributing to the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture goal of restoring wetland habitat on private land, the purpose of this project is to (1) promote increased production and diversity of waterfowl food plants, and (2) provide long-term wetland habitat for breeding waterfowl and their broods. Under the proposed plan, approximately 280 acres of seasonal wetlands will be restored and/or enhanced. Specifically, by reconstructing and relocating approximately one mile of levee, and constructing approximately 14,200 feet of swales to improve the distribution and drainage of water in several individual brood ponds, the goals of this project will be achieved.

Many of the existing water control devices are remnants of structures that were constructed by Miller and Lux approximately 75 years ago, and have fallen into disrepair. As such, part of the proposed restoration effort will include the replacement of water control structures in 16 different locations.

To address the critical needs of breeding waterfowl and their broods, approximately ten percent of the wetlands will be managed as semi-permanent wetlands, nesting habitat and brood ponds. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a detailed management plan, the nesting habitat and brood ponds will be managed to benefit young broods each year from February 1 through July 15, throughout the 20-year life of this project. In addition, approximately 15 acres of winter habitat for migrating waterfowl and other wetland dependent species will be developed by constructing swales and flooding areas in the north pond during the winter. Approximately one half of the wetland area will be disced to reduce the invasion of Baltic rush, tule, and cattails. In addition, controlled grazing will be utilized as a management tool to control and maintain plant vigor. Planned livestock grazing will increase the stability and diversity of the vegetation, critical for nesting waterfowl.

The project will benefit a diversity of waterfowl such as mallards, gadwall, cinnamon teal, northern pintail, and other wetland dependent species. Habitat conditions for upland

nesting waterfowl and brood habitat for mallards and other local breeding waterfowl will be improved and increased. More invertebrates will be available for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other water birds, especially during the critical breeding and egg-laying period. Species such as white faced ibis and curlews will benefit through sustained management of habitat under the project. Wintering sandhill cranes may benefit from isolated sections of the project. The long-term management of habitat will also benefit pheasants and a diversity of wildlife, including passerine birds, reptiles, amphibians, coyotes, foxes, skunks, mink, and others.

Cost estimates to accomplish this restoration project have been developed by CWA and reviewed and approved by staff are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
Levee Construction	\$11,107.00
Water Control Structures	13,180.00
Culverts and Ditch work	4,020.00
Low lift pump	13,000.00
PVC pipeline & hardware	4,693.00
Discing/seeding Ponds	4,000.00
Project Design	3,000.00
Project Monitoring & Control	2,260.00
Contingencies	<u>5,126.00</u>

<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:</u>	<u>\$60,386.00</u>
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Funding is proposed to come from the following project partners:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$40,386.00
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	5,000.00
Elworthy Brothers (cash)	11,000.00
Elworthy Brothers (in-kind)	<u>4,000.00</u>

<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:</u>	<u>\$60,386.00</u>
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In addition to the landowners contribution of \$15,000 in cash and services, the family has agreed to manage and maintain the property for 20-years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of a detailed management plan. If, at anytime during the 20-year life of the project, the landowner is not able to manage and maintain the project pursuant to the agreement, they will refund to the State of California, an amortized amount of the grant agreement.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. This project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15304, as it is a minor alteration to land that will restore and enhance wetland habitat.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that a letter of support had been received from the California Waterfowl Association. Mr. Schmidt also pointed out that Mr. Chet Vogt, a lessee of the property was present and available to answer questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$40,386.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund as made available for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked Mr. Vogt what, in addition to grazing, the anticipated extent of the agricultural activity would be on the property. Mr. Vogt indicated it would be primarily grazing but that it was controlled under the Waterbank Program in cooperation with the NRCS and only occurred for a very short period of time in the summer. Mr. McGeoghegan asked whether it was under an existing 10 year water bank lease or contract. Mr. Vogt indicated that it was and that there was quite a bit of time left on the contract. Mr. McGeoghegan and Mr. Vogt then discussed the carrying capacity of the land.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked for questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$40,386.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND AS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Wetland and Riparian Habitat Restoration, (Wilmarth) \$211,499.00
Colusa County

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA), to restore approximately 80 acres of wetland habitat, approximately 206 acres of upland and riparian habitat and to prepare approximately 100 acres of commercial crop ground, primarily for rice and other cereal grain crops. The Arbuckle 4-H Club will help with the riparian restoration efforts and the construction, monitoring and maintenance of wood duck nest boxes. Ms. Marilyn Cundiff explained the project.

The 386-acre project site, located on the privately owned Wilmarth Ranch, lies within the Colusa Trough, approximately four miles east of Arbuckle on the north side of Tule Road. The 2047 Canal meanders from north to south along the east side of the project site. Sycamore Slough is located approximately 1,000 feet northeast of the 2047 Canal. The project site has been owned by the Wilmarth Family for several generations. Historically, portions of the ranch were used for irrigated cropland, but none of the area has been leveled. At one time, water was provided by a low lift pump from the 2047 Canal, a pump which has since been abandoned. During more recent times, the more level upland areas have been farmed to dryland crops such as safflower and wheat. Wild hay has been harvested from portions of the area that were accessible, and the lower portions of the area were flooded by overflow from the 2047 Canal during years of heavy runoff.

This project has been designed to take advantage of the existing site features and create a conjunctive use effort by which a complete breeding duck habitat complex will be created and low productive, dry farmed cropland will be converted to irrigated cropland. Specifically, approximately 100 acres will be converted from dryland to irrigated cropland, where crops such as rice, corn, or wheat may be produced. Pursuant to a detailed management plan, all irrigated lands will be flooded each year, during the fall and winter months. Irrigating the harvested grain fields will promote the use of waste grain by migrating waterfowl, produce invertebrates, and aid in the decomposition of crop residues. To promote nesting success, for crops other than rice, the harvest of wheat and other grain crops will be delayed until July 1 of each year to avoid the loss of nesting birds and protect their nests.

While the project is designed to improve agricultural productivity and allow for the production of higher yield crops, the wetland and wildlife aspects of the area will be enhanced. Specifically, $80 \pm$ acres of wetlands will be restored on those areas of the ranch that provide marginal farmland values. Areas of the ranch that contain poor soils and are difficult to drain for agricultural purposes, will be restored to seasonal wetlands. Annual spring and summer water will be provided from February 1 until July 15 on a minimum of 40 acres of brood ponds to attract local breeding waterfowl and support their broods and other wetland dependent wildlife.

Brood water created by the project will help the survival of hundreds of ducklings annually. Currently, the area surrounding the project site provides high quality nesting cover, but there is a critical shortage of brood habitat of any kind in the region. Spring and summer water created by the project will provide such habitat, which should attract mallards, cinnamon teal, wood ducks, and gadwall. Pheasants, American bitterns, and northern harriers are also common nesters in agricultural and riparian areas and will benefit from the availability of spring and summer water. In addition, the restored habitat will benefit shorebirds, and other wetland dependent wildlife. Wading birds and shorebirds such as great blue herons, snowy egrets, white-faced ibis, American avocets, black-necked stilts, and long-billed curlews will benefit from the proposed project. The

project will also provide habitat for greater sandhill cranes, a state-listed threatened species.

In addition to enhancing the agricultural and wetland aspects of the area, this project will also result in the restoration of approximately 2 miles of riparian habitat adjacent to the 2047 Canal. Specifically, valley oak, willow and cottonwood will be planted to restore the riparian area next to the wetland and upland areas. The restored riparian area will provide additional habitat for wood ducks, and create additional winter habitat and brood habitat for mallards.

A unique and exciting aspect of this project involves the Arbuckle 4-H Club. Under the supervision of the CWA's Wood Duck program staff, and the Arbuckle 4-H Club Leader, the club members will construct and install 50 wood duck nest boxes along the riparian zone of the project site. The 4-H members will be instructed on the construction and maintenance of the wood duck nest boxes, and will help with banding females nesting in the boxes. In addition, members will be taught how to monitor the nesting boxes and will be instructed on how to keep detailed records concerning nest successes and ducklings hatched. To facilitate the wood duck nesting projects, the Wilmarth family will be contributing \$12,500 (\$2,500 per year for five years) for the 4-H club members expenses associated with the construction and annual monitoring and maintenance of the wood duck boxes. Further, to enhance the quality of the 4-H project, members will help with the collection and planting of acorns and cuttings that will be used to restore the riparian areas.

To achieve the wildlife and agricultural benefits associated with this project, a well and pump will be installed, a tail-water return system will be provided for irrigation of the crops and brood ponds, and approximately 41 water control structures will be installed to control flooding and insure proper draining of the fields. The following cost estimates have been developed and reviewed by staff:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Land leveling, excavation and fill	\$114,183.00
Water Control Structures and pipes	28,940.00
Rice boxes, screw gates and seed	2,920.00
Levee preparation, well & pump, water divider box & return system	98,800.00
Wood Duck boxes, installation & monitoring	14,000.00
Cuttings, acorns, site preparation	12,150.00
Project Design	6,500.00
Project Monitoring and Control	3,500.00
Contingencies (exclusive of in-kind contribution)	26,499.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:</u>	<u>\$307,492.00</u>

Funding to complete this project is proposed from the following sources:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$211,499.00
Wilmarth Ranch (cash)	79,993.00
Wilmarth in-kind contributions	<u>16,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$307,492.00</u>

In addition to the Wilmarth Family contribution of \$95,993.00 in cash and services, the family has agreed to manage and maintain the property for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of a detailed management plan. If, at anytime during the 25-year life of the project, the landowner is not able to manage and maintain the project pursuant to the agreement, the landowner will reimburse the State of California an amortized amount of the grant agreement. In addition to the 25-year management agreement, the restored wetland and riparian habitat will be protected with a 30-year conservation easement. Specifically, the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be purchasing a 30-year easement over the project area, as authorized under the 1996 Farm Bill and the Wetland Reserve Program.

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

Mr. Schmidt reported that several letters of support had been received on this project. The letters were from The Natural Reserve Conservation Service, the California Waterfowl Association, Colusa Basin Drainage District, Supervisor Nathaniel McCoy and Randy Marler from the Grand Island School.

Mr. Schmidt introduced the owners of the property, Ms. Frances Ostrom and Mr. John Wallace, who were in the audience. Mr. Joe Lauwerijssen, the lessee, was also introduced.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$211,499.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund as made available for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Miss Schafer and Mr. McGeoghegan both spoke in support of the project.

Mr. McGeoghegan then asked whether the Board would approve the project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$211,499.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND AS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE INLAND WETLANDS

CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Blue Sky Ecological Reserve (Parking Area Grant) \$105,000.00
San Diego County

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a grant to the City of Poway to be applied toward the City's purchase of a 16.4± acre parcel of land to be improved and used as a parking area, servicing the public's need for parking and access to the Department of Fish and Game (Department) owned Blue Sky Ecological Reserve. Mr. Frank Giordano explained the project.

Specifically, it is proposed that the Board allocate \$100,000.00 in the form of a grant to the City which would be placed directly into an escrow account for this purchase. The City would provide the additional required funds to complete the purchase. The property would vest in the City's name and the City will take responsibility for parking improvements.

An area located adjacent to the reserve along Espola Road has historically, although unofficially, provided parking to visitors to this reserve. However, the scheduled widening of Espola Road will result in a loss of this parking area. Consequently, users of this reserve will be forced into a potentially dangerous situation of parking across this heavily traveled road. This new, formal parking area will not only benefit the Department by supplying a parking area for reserve users, but will allow the City to continue developing their plans to someday place a visitor center on a portion of the site. It is expected that this visitor center will actually compliment the reserve. The City has agreed, as a condition of the proposed grant, to work with the Department in their future development of the remainder of the site.

The reserve is located about three miles east of Interstate 15, fronting on Espola Road just north of, and adjacent to Lake Poway park. It contains a wide variety of both plant and animal species and is a very important ecological unit for the Department. Purchase of the State's original 317± acre ecological reserve was authorized by the Board on February 23, 1989, followed by two additional acquisitions totaling 149.8± acres which were authorized at the Board's February 10, 1994 meeting and an additional 94.7± acquisition authorized at the Board's meeting of May 14, 1996.

The appraised fair market value of the subject property, which has been reviewed and approved by the State's Department of General Services is \$370,000.00. The City will be responsible for funding the remaining purchase price. An additional Board allocation of \$5,000.00 will be necessary to cover acquisition expenses, including appraisal review

costs. The City will also be responsible for all CEQA documentation required to complete this purchase.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that a phone call of support had been received from Senator Dave Kelley.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board authorize the proposed grant to the City of Poway; allocate \$105,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (\$100,000.00 for the grant and \$5,000.00 for necessary acquisition expenses) to carry out the grant; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked for questions from the Legislative Advisory. Miss Schafer clarified that the Board had recently approved funding to add to the existing acquisition at the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve. Mr. Giordano and Mr. Schmidt both answered affirmatively. Mr. Giordano indicated the date of that meeting was May 14, 1996. He also pointed out that John Anderson, a wildlife management supervisor from Region 5, the Department of Fish and Game, was present to answer questions should any arise. Miss Schafer wanted to know who would be maintaining the parking facility. Mr. Giordano and Mr. Schmidt both answered that the City would be maintaining the facility.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked if there were any questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED GRANT TO THE CITY OF POWAY; ALLOCATE \$105,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND (\$100,000.00 FOR THE GRANT AND \$5,000.00 FOR NECESSARY ACQUISITION EXPENSES) TO CARRY OUT THE GRANT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Gray Whale Ranch, Santa Cruz County \$250,000.00

Mr. Schmidt explained that this proposal was to consider a grant to the State Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for a multi-party acquisition between the Save-the-Redwoods League, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), DPR, and the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board). This acquisition, located in Santa Cruz County, will provide for the protection of 2,305 ± acres of habitat supporting a wide array of rare plants and animal species. Mr. Frank Giordano explained the project.

The property has been acquired by the Save-the-Redwoods League and at this point, the League will be transferring the property to the State upon approval of the various parties' funding. Specifically, it is proposed that the Board allocate \$250,000.00 for a grant to

DPR which would be placed directly into escrow and used toward the State's purchase of the entire 2,305± acres. The other partners to this purchase, as noted above are funding the remainder of the purchase price, which is substantially less than the appraisal value due to a very generous donation by the Grantors. The property's appraised value, as reviewed and approved by the State's Department of General Services is \$25,000,000.00.

Gray Whale Ranch is bounded on the west by Wilder Ranch State Park and on the east by the University of California, Santa Cruz Campus, Natural Reserve. The property stretches for six miles along Empire Grade Road, from The City of Santa Cruz to Bonnie Doon, and is situated in a coastal prairie/redwood forest region between the ocean and the north-south oriented ridge tops of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Three major watersheds originate on the Gray Whale Ranch property. Majors Creek, Baldwin Creek and Wilder Creek drain these areas.

The Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) recognizes the sensitivity and rarity of California plant communities and habitat on the basis of their state-wide importance. Gray Whale Ranch provides examples of three plant communities given highest sensitivity rating by the NDDDB. These are the Northern Interior Cypress Forest, the Northern Maritime Chaparral, and the Coastal Prairie.

The Santa Cruz Cypress, associated with the Northern Interior Cypress Forest community type, is listed as endangered under both Federal and California law. There are only ten small stands of this cypress left in existence anywhere, most of which are threatened by development. This is the only cypress naturally occurring in the Santa Cruz Mountains and is one of the rarest of the ten cypresses native to California. In addition to the Santa Cruz Cypress, the Northern Interior Cypress Forest also supports knob-cone pine, sensitive manzanita, chaparral pea and white-thorn.

The Gray Whale Ranch also hosts other federal candidate or federally-listed species including silver-leaved Manzanita, Townsend's big-eared bat, and three invertebrates: an amphipod, pseudoscorpion, and a spider. In addition, the property supports numerous species identified as species of special concern or considered significant locally and/or statewide. These include Golden eagle, Cooper's hawk, American kestrel, long-eared owl, and chipping sparrow. In addition to the sensitive species found on the property, Gray Whale Ranch also supports a diverse assemblage of other wildlife species common to this area including black-tailed deer, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, and California quail, as well as a host of other birds and mammals.

Unique to the Gray Whale Ranch is an area known as Cave Gulch. Cave Gulch is part of the Cowell limestone deposit which is described in a publication by the California Division of Mines. It is the largest limestone pod in the California coastal area that is covered with redwood forest. The Cowell limestone deposit can be defined as a classic karst plain, rare in the State of California, but common in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Upon purchase of the Gray Whale Ranch, the Save-the-Redwoods League will convey the property to the State to be managed by DPR and included into their State Park System.

Mr. Giordano indicated that Ms. Kate Anderton, a representative from the Save-The-Redwoods League, was in the audience to answer questions.

Mr. Schmidt thanked the Save-The-Redwoods League for their efforts in putting this project together and indicated that a letter of support from Assemblyman Fred Kelley had been received.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize the proposed grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation and entry into this multi-party acquisition as outlined; allocate \$250,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [Proposition 117/Section 2786 (b)(c), (Proposition 70 - Section 2720 (a))]; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Miss Schafer noted that the appraised value of the property was \$25 million dollars and indicated that the grantors efforts also made the project possible. Mr. McGeoghegan and Miss Schafer both spoke in support of the project.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked if there were any questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED GRANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO PUT INTO ESCROW AND ENTRY INTO THIS MULTI-PARTY ACQUISITION AS OUTLINED; ALLOCATE \$250,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND [PROPOSITION 117/SECTION 2786 (B)(C), (PROPOSITION 70 - SECTION 2720 (A))]; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion #5, Humboldt County \$230,400.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation for the acquisition of 134± acres on Cannibal Island which is located approximately four miles west of the community of Loleta, in Humboldt County. The subject is an inholding in the Cannibal Island Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area which is located seven miles south of Eureka and four miles west of U.S. Highway 101. This property is accessed by proceeding westerly on Cannibal Island Road from the town of Loleta, to Senestraro Lane, then northerly until the public access ends at a locked gate on the property line. Ms Debra Townsend explained the project.

The property was part of the Eel River Delta estuary prior to construction of protective dikes in the early 1900's to reclaim the area for livestock grazing. In 1995, flood waters eroded substantial portions of the dikes, restoring much of the land to saltwater intrusion. Other than the remaining sections of dike, the only improvements located on the property include fencing and an old abandoned residence and barn.

The Eel River Wildlife Area, consisting of 1,910± acres, was acquired by the Wildlife Conservation Board between 1986 and 1994. It is located south of DFG's Table Bluff Ecological Reserve and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Humboldt Bay National Refuge. In 1988, the Board acquired three properties located adjacent to the subject which now comprise the Cannibal Island Unit of the wildlife area. The subject property is central for completion of the unit and is rated the highest priority for acquisition. Its position as an inholding precludes access to a portion of the wildlife area which is landlocked by the subject and other adjacent private properties.

The Eel River Delta supports at least 35 species of mammals, including black-tail deer, gray fox, river otters, raccoons, skunks, mink, weasels, sea lions, seals and a variety of small mammals. In addition, over 250 species of birds have been recorded in this area. Common water-associated birds include about 30 species of waterfowl, 30 species of shore birds, 7 species of egrets, herons and bitterns, 3 species of loons, 5 species of grebes, 3 species of cormorants and 4 members of the rail family (including coots). Many species of coastal and pelagic birds, such as gulls, petrels, terns and the endangered brown pelican also use the lower Eel River Delta. This acquisition will enhance the carrying capacity of this area to maintain the populations of these species, along with providing additional public access.

Management would be by DFG as part of its management of the Eel River Wildlife Area. Restoration of tidal action would continue and the lands would be allowed to revert to emergent saline and estuarine habitat, which would be virtually cost-free as it will occur naturally when the cattle are removed from the acquired property. Public use opportunities would be significantly increased through DFG ownership of this parcel and the public land access that would be provided to adjacent DFG lands. Permitted public uses would include hunting, fishing, bird watching, nature study, hiking, boating and other wildlife resource related activities.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes and a Notice of Exemption has been filed. Potential claims by the State Lands Commission have been considered to have no impact on this acquisition.

The owners have agreed to sell the 134± acres to the State at the approved appraised fair market value of \$214,400.00. An additional \$6,000.00 is estimated to be needed for related acquisition and processing costs. In order that the property can safely be made available to the public, DFG has requested that the Board allocate an additional \$10,000.00

for removal of the old, unoccupied residence and barn, and for improvement of the access road located within the property. Therefore, the total allocation necessary to complete this proposal will be \$230,400.00.

Mr. Schmidt explained other details of the property, including the need to remove an old house and old barn to make the property safe for public use. He noted that Mr. Don Cook from Region 1 of Fish and Game was present to answer questions.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked how the fair market value and highest and use was established on this piece of property.

Ms. Townsend explained that until recently the property had been used for livestock grazing and can be continued to be use for agricultural purposes at this point. The appraisal was made on this basis.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition project as proposed; allocate \$230,400.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 [Aquatic/Riparian (Section 2786 (e)(f) and Wetland (Section 2786 (d))]; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE EEL RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #5 ACQUISITION PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$230,400.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 [AQUATIC/RIPARIAN (SECTION 2786 (E)(F) AND WETLAND (SECTION 2786 (D))]; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. San Joaquin River Riparian Restoration (Riverside Site), Fresno Co. \$64,571.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a grant to the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust (Trust) for a restoration project to restore approximately 15 acres of riparian habitat along the San Joaquin River on property owned by the City of Fresno. This property is located adjacent to the Riverside Golf Course, downstream from the Santa Fe Railroad crossing, approximately one mile upstream from the Department of Fish and Game's Camp Pashayan site. Currently the area supports a mixture of native and introduced species, an area where debris has been dumped, and an extensive sandy area which is devoid of any vegetation due to years of trampling by people. Mr. Scott Clemons explained the project.

This proposed restoration project involves a partnership between the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Trust, the City of Fresno Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Department and the Department of Fish and Game (Department) which has been involved from the initiation of the proposal as a technical advisor. Staff from the Department will continue to participate as a member of the project review team and will assist with local administration of the project.

The Riverside site supports remnant fragments of the Great Valley Willow Scrub plant community, along with some tall stands of elderberry bushes. The San Joaquin River Parkway Plan, adopted in 1992 by the San Joaquin River Parkway Task Force, in addition to calling for a parkway trail, recognized that many areas along the river have diminished habitat values due to loss of native riparian vegetation. Restoration of the Riverside site will involve boundary protection such as repair of existing fencing and planting of thorny scrub vegetation in selected areas to discourage trespassing, placing interpretive signs to enhance the public's understanding of restoration, coordination with landscape architects on the siting of the planned parkway trail, debris removal, seed collection for plant propagation, removal of exotic plant species, and revegetation with native plant species. The Trust will coordinate a large group of local volunteers to assist with the revegetation.

The restoration of the Riverside site will consist of the following activities and associated estimated costs:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total</u>
Environmental review	\$5,000.00
Access Control	4,000.00
Site Preparation, including removal of exotic species and clean-up	3,500.00
Irrigation Materials & Installation	9,900.00
Signage	1,500.00
Revegetation, including seed collection & propagation	7,680.00
Project Design	1,200.00
Project Management	36,400.00
Monitoring and replacement of plants, as necessary (2 years)	13,671.00
Contingency	5,000.00
<u>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS:</u>	<u>\$87,851.00</u>

Proposed WCB Contribution: \$64,571.00

Contribution by others: \$23,280.00

As noted above, the Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal, and recommends it for funding by the Board. The City of Fresno, as part of their contribution to this project, has conducted an environmental assessment for the proposed project and

has determined that the restoration work will not have a significant impact on the environment. They have approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Mr. Clemons indicated that Ms. Teresa Malone and Mr. Frank Creager, both representing the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust, were in the audience to answer any questions.

Mr. Schmidt explained the funding breakdown and indicated letters of support had been received from Senator Costa, The City of Fresno, The San Joaquin River Conservancy, the San Joaquin River Management Program and Professor Crowder from Fresno State University.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this grant as proposed; allocate \$64,571.00 for the grant from the Habitat Conservation Fund; [Proposition 117, Section 2786 (e)(f) - riparian/aquatic] and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked if the Board would approve this project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THIS PROJECT BE APPROVED AS PROPOSED, INCLUDING THE ALLOCATION OF \$64,571.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND TO CARRY IT OUT.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. San Miguel Ranch, San Diego County \$1,305,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation of \$1,300,000.00 for a grant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be applied toward the acquisition of 500± acres located in San Diego County. This acquisition is essential in creating a proposed 1,852± acre San Miguel Ranch Reserve/Conservation Bank comprising a large biological core area for the regional ecosystem preserve under the San Diego Multi-Species Conservation Plan component of the Natural Community Conservation Planning program. When acquired, the 500± acres will not only provide habitat protection for the unique assemblage of thirty endangered, threatened and sensitive species found on the site, but also trigger the contribution of an additional 1,186± acre land conservation bank for the remainder of the San Miguel Ranch North Parcel, and facilitate the transfer of an additional 166± acres to the USFWS as mitigation for the landowner's offsite developments. Mr. Jim Sarro explained the project.

The subject property is located in the unincorporated area of San Diego County, but within the City of Chula Vista's sphere of influence, north of the current city boundary. The property is bounded on the north and west by the Sweetwater Reservoir, to the east by San

Miguel and Mother Miguel mountains and to the south by lands owned by San Diego Gas and Electric Company. The site is situated on slopes of less than 25% steepness which form ridges and mesas, transitioning to steep-sided gullies on the slope of Mother Miguel Mountain. The land is within the Sweetwater River watershed and is part of the foothills and lower peaks of the Jamul Mountains.

Acquisition of this site is considered critical to assembling a large, biologically viable, natural lands core area within the larger regional ecosystem. It is strategically situated amidst other large, managed habitat lands including the 1,872± acre Rancho San Diego Refuge administered by the USFWS and the Sweetwater Authority. In addition, the Jamul Mountains immediately to the east and the Otay Mountain/Otay Lakes area further to the south will remain as large blocks of natural habitat.

The property supports one of the richest, most diverse assemblages of unique and sensitive biological resources in southern California. These resources include a core population of the federally listed threatened California gnatcatcher and significant populations of coastal cactus wren, Otay tarplant, coast barrel cactus, orange-throated whiptail, and San Diego horned lizard. In addition, six sensitive plant taxa, one sensitive reptile and fifteen sensitive birds also occur on site.

In addition to the numerous sensitive species found on site, the property also hosts a number of other birds and mammals. These include California quail, mourning dove, mule deer, mountain lion, and bobcat.

The property's appraised fair market value, which has been approved by the Department of General Services, is \$3,850,000.00. The land owners have agreed to sell the property for \$3,000,000.00. The USFWS will contribute \$1,700,000.00 toward acquisition and staff recommends the Board provide \$1,300,000.00 in the form of a grant to the USFWS to acquire the entire 500± acre parcel. The grant would carry provisions to assure that management of the site would be for the primary purpose of wildlife habitat and sensitive species habitat protection in perpetuity. It is estimated that an additional \$5,000.00 will be needed for expenses which include the appraisal and DGS review expenses.

Assemblywoman Debra Bowen left the meeting at this point.

Mr. Schmidt recognized Mr. Garrett Thelander, the landowner, and thanked him for his donation on this project. Mr. Thelander thanked Mr. Sarro for his part in making this project happen.

Mr. Schmidt noted a letter of support had been received from The Trust for Public Land.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board approve a grant to the USFWS to be applied toward the acquisition of the San Miguel Ranch as proposed; allocate \$1,300,000.00 for the grant and \$5,000.00 for related project expenses, for a total allocation of

\$1,305,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P117 (NCCP); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Miss Schafer wanted to know if the new federal refuge was up and running and whether there were people on site. Mr. Sarro reported that the final approval was set for two weeks in the future and approximately 30 days after that they can acquire land and that there would be people managing on site but he did not think they would be living on-site.

Miss Schafer spoke in support of the project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A GRANT TO THE USFWS TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THE ACQUISITION OF THE SAN MIGUEL RANCH AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,300,000.00 FOR THE GRANT AND \$5,000.00 FOR RELATED PROJECT EXPENSES, FOR A TOTAL ALLOCATION OF \$1,305,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P117 (NCCP); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. Report on the Board's 50th Anniversary Planning

Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that in response to the discussion at the last Board meeting regarding the 50th year celebration, a committee had been formed to plan the event commemorating the event. He asked the Board to assist in some final decisions. He began by discussing possible locations. The committee had narrowed the choices down to two possible locations; Elkhorn Slough and the Capitol. He also listed the locations that had been discussed and asked the Board for their input. Mr. McGeoghegan noted that he did have an opinion regarding the location but wanted to form a sub-committee and discuss the matter further. He set a target date of one month from the date of today's meeting. Miss Schafer then suggested the Yolo Basin as a possible location. She noted that it demonstrates the types of partnerships the Board has been able to structure over the years. Mr. McGeoghegan agreed that it should be considered and appointed himself as a member of the committee. He went on to suggest Mr. Schmidt be another member of the committee. Ms Theresa Parker noted that the participation of other groups with refreshments and other amenities in order to make the event a nice celebration should also be considered when determining a location.

21. Mr. Schmidt pointed out that the August Board meeting was scheduled for August 14, 1997. He noted that the Legislature is on recess from July 18 - August 18 and suggested that the date of the August meeting be changed to August 21. Mr. McGeoghegan suggested that no decision be made at this time but that it be determined at a later date.

22. Finally, Mr. Schmidt introduced three new WCB staff members; Peter Perrine, a new Field Agent, Jerry Heminger, a new Senior Land Agent and Sylvia Martinez-Allison, the new Executive Secretary.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked for further comments. None being forthcoming, he adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 1, 1997, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$385,759,309.57. 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	20,882,246.14
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	14,700,544.90
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	36,694,793.15
1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 2,994,288.92
2. River and Aqueduct Access	8,967,957.52
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,852,706.45
4. Piers	17,879,840.26
D. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement	299,805,042.45
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$174,287,290.27
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	4,671,341.76
3. Wildlife Areas/Eco Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	115,017,140.49
4. Land Conservation Area	2,705.00
5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	2,992,199.50
6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	1,201,465.43
7. Other Wildlife Habitat Grants	1,632,900.00
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	862,615.63
1. State Owned	\$757,615.63
2. Grants	\$105,000.00
J. Sales and/or exchanges	<u>31,496.00</u>
Total Allocated to Projects	\$385,759,309.57