

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

11 K STREET, SUITE 806
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
 (916) 445-8448
 FAX (916) 323-0280



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

Minutes
 February 24, 1998

| | | |
|------|---|----------|
| 1. | Roll Call | 1 |
| 2. | Election of Chair | 3 |
| 3. | Funding Status - Informational | 3 |
| 4. | Special Project Planning Account - Informational | 5 |
| 5. | PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 6 - 19) | 5 |
| *6. | Approval of Minutes - November 13, 1997 meeting | 6 |
| *7. | Recovery of Funds | 6 |
| *8. | Mendota Wildlife Area—PG&E Power Line Relocation Project, Fresno County | 8 |
| *9. | Three Rocks Fishing Access, Fresno County | 9 |
| *10. | Coalinga Mineral Springs Public Access, Fresno County | 10 |
| *11. | Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, Santa Cruz County | 11 |
| *12. | Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Yuba County | 12 |
| *13. | Big Bear Lake Fishing Access (Meadow Park), San Bernardino County | 14 |
| *14. | Elkhorn Slough Santa Cruz Tarplant Reserve, Monterey County | 16 |
| *15. | Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Sierra County | 18 |
| *16. | East Grasslands Wetlands Enhancement/Restoration (Castle Land and Cattle) | 20 |
| | Merced County | |
| *17. | Robla Creek Habitat Restoration (Ueda Parkway), Sacramento County | 22 |
| *18. | Eel River Wildlife Area Restoration, Phase II, Humboldt County | 24 |
| *19. | Firebaugh Park and River Restoration, Fresno County | 27 |
| 20. | South Fork American River, Lower Canyon Unit, El Dorado County | 29 |
| 21. | Ellwood Monarch Butterfly Grove, Santa Barbara County | 29 |
| 22. | Fresno Slough Public Access Renovation (Mendota Wildlife Area), | 31 |
| | Fresno County | |
| 23. | Canebrake Ecological Reserve Public Access (South Fork Kern River) | 34 |
| | Kern County | |
| 24. | Los Banos Wildlife Area Public Access, Merced County | 36 |
| 25. | Knights Landing Fishing Access, Yolo County | 38 |
| 26. | Cosumnes River Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Sacramento County | 40 |
| 27. | Wetlands Conservation Easements (River Islands Farm) Sacramento County | 43 |
| 28. | Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve, San Diego County | 47 |
| 29. | Wildlife Conservation Board Delegation of Authority to Staff | 49 |
| 30. | Resolution(s) | 51 |

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

11 K STREET, SUITE 806
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916) 445-8448
FAX (916) 323-0280



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Minutes
February 24, 1998

The Wildlife Conservation Board met at the State Capitol, Room 113, Sacramento, California on February 24, 1998. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Miss Jacqueline E. Schafer, Director, Department of Fish and Game. At this time, she introduced new Members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, Mr. Richard Thieriot, President, Fish and Game Commission, and Mr. Robin Dezember, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Finance.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Richard T. Thieriot, Member
President, Fish and Game Commission
Robin Dezember, 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 Pat Johnston
Ross Sargent, Vice, Senator Pat Johnston
Senator Jack O'Connell
Senator Mike Thompson
Ruth Coleman, Vice, Senator Mike Thompson
Assemblywoman Debra Bowen
Lawrence Lingbloom, Vice, Assemblywoman Debra Bowen
Assemblyman Mike Machado
Kristi Halstenrud, Vice, Assemblyman Mike Machado
Assemblywoman Virginia Strom-Martin

Absent: Senator Tom Hayden, Alternate

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

W. John Schmidt

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
Jerry Heminger, Senior Land Agent
Debra Townsend, Senior Land Agent
Terri Muzik, Staff Services Analyst
Maureen Rivera, Executive Secretary
Jan Beeding, Office Technician

Others Present: Daniel Wilson
David Bettencourt
Steven Mello
Francis Hodgkins, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Tom Stokes
Mike Stokes
L. Keyth Durham, City of Firebaugh
Marcia Sablan, City of Firebaugh
Pat Ward, City of Firebaugh
Jim Lowe, City of Firebaugh
Michael Feeney, Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
Robert Benson, Department of Fish and Game
Jackie Mitchell, Sierra County
Brooks Mitchell, Sierra County
Dave Patterson, California Wildlife Area, Sacramento
Jim Well, Ducks Unlimited
David Brown, SAC-YOLO Mosquito and Vector Control
John L. Lewallen
Dennis Lewallen
John Glick, Delta Habitat
Ronn Slay
Paul Veisze, Department of Fish and Game
Chris Unkel, The Nature Conservancy
Ken Oneto, KLM Ranches Inc.
Larry Rillera
George Nokes, Department of Fish and Game
Bonnie Turner, Department of Fish and Game
Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game
Ron Rempel, Department of Fish and Game

2. Election of Chair

Miss Schafer placed into nomination President Richard Thieriot as the Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board. Mr. Robin Dezember seconded the nomination.

MOTION WAS CARRIED.

Miss Schafer congratulated Mr. Thieriot on his new position. At this time, Mr. Thieriot expressed his appreciation and pleasure to serve on the Wildlife Conservation Board. He then turned over the meeting to Mr. John Schmidt for further business. Mr. Schmidt welcomed Mr. Thieriot to the Board, expressing his pleasure on this appointment.

3. Funding Status as of February 24, 1998 (Informational)

(a) 1997-98 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Governor's Budget - Land Acquisition | \$275,000.00 |
| Less Previous Board Allocations | (2,750.00) |
| Unallocated Balance | \$272,250.00 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Governor's Budget - Minor Projects | \$900,000.00 |
| Less Previous Board Allocations | (120.00) |
| Unallocated Balance | \$899,880.00 |

(b) 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 - Major Development | \$500,000.00 |
| Less Previous Board Allocations | (500,000.00) |
| Unallocated Balance | \$0.00 |

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

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions | \$390,000.00 |
| Less Previous Board Allocations | (193,129.09) |
| Unallocated Balance | \$196,870.91 |

(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 | (76,391,187.31) |
| 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 | <u>11,528,799.69</u> |
| Unallocated Balance | \$2,128,312.69 |

(e) 1997-98 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Governor's Budget | \$16,598,000.00 |
| Less Previous Board Allocations | <u>(6,201,929.62)</u> |
| Unallocated Balance | \$10,396,070.38 |

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

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Governor's Budget | \$10,047,000.00 |
| Less Previous Board Allocations | <u>(6,727,184.89)</u> |
| Unallocated Balance | \$3,319,815.11 |

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

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Governor's Budget | \$7,354,000.00 |
| Less Previous Board Allocations | <u>(6,499,227.75)</u> |
| Unallocated Balance | \$854,772.25 |

(h) 1997-98 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Governor's Budget | \$341,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|

(i) 1997-98 River Parkway Sub-account, Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Fund

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Governor's Budget | \$9,800,000.00 |
| Less Previous Board Allocations | <u>(2,810,000.00)</u> |
| Unallocated Balance | \$6,990,000.00 |

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u> | \$1,663,000.91 |
| <u>CA Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u> | \$2,128,312.69 |
| <u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u> | \$14,570,657.74 |
| <u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u> | \$341,000.00 |
| <u>River Parkway Sub-account, Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Fund</u> . . . | \$6,990,000.00 |

4. Special Project Planning Account Informational

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 account for the pre-project expenses.

Some appropriations now made available 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 1% of an 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, a planning account has been set up as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund | \$20,000.00 |
|---|-------------|

5. **PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 6 thru 14 and items 16 thru 19)**

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Board received a request for Item 15 to be removed from the Consent Calendar, to be addressed as a discussion item. Staff recommended the Board approve Items 6 - 19 from the Consent Calendar, excluding Item 15.

Miss Schafer moved that the WCB approve Consent Calendar Items 6 -19 as proposed in the individual agenda explanations, including funding as noted, with the exception of Item 15.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Schmidt acknowledged several members of the City of Firebaugh, proponents of Consent Item 19. Introduced were: Mayor Marcia Sablan, Councilmember Jim Lowe, City Manager Keyth Durham, and the President of the Firebaugh Rodeo Committee, Pat Ward. At this time, Mayor Sablan expressed her gratitude to the Board and Ms. Cundiff for all their work

on this project. She reported that the citizens of Firebaugh look forward to the display of the natural resources this project will hopefully provide. Mr. Thieriot thanked Mayor Sablan for her expression of gratitude.

*6. Approval of Minutes (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Approval of the minutes of November 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 NOVEMBER 13, 1997 BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

*7. 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 was recommended that the following totals be recovered and that the projects be closed.

\$ 1,428.84 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund
\$ 53,838.23 to the CA Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Fund of 1988
\$ 166,415.67 to the Habitat Conservation Fund
\$ 0.00 to the Inland Wetland Conservation Fund

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Cosumnes River Preserve Visitors Center, Sacramento Co.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Allocation | \$100,000.00 |
| Expended | <u>-100,000.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$ 0.00 |

Monte Rio Fishing Access, Sonoma Co.

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Allocation | \$37,000.00 |
| Expended | <u>-37,000.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$ 0.00 |

Samoa Public Access, Humboldt Co.

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Allocation | \$21,114.00 |
| Expended | <u>-19,685.16</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$ 1,428.84 |

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$1,428.84

CA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND FUND OF 1988

Honey Lake Wetland Restoration, (Jay Dow, Sr., Wetlands), Lassen Co.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Allocation | \$ 172,500.00 |
| Expended | <u>-152,594.88</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$ 19,905.12 |

Partial Recovery -

San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Expansion #8, Mystic Lake, Riverside Co.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Allocation | \$2,320,000.00 |
| Portion to be recovered | \$ 33,933.11 |

Total CA Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Fund of 1988 Recoveries **\$ 53,838.23**

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

M & T Parrot Pumping Station & Fish Screen, Butte Co.

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

North Grasslands Wildlife Area Wetlands Restoration China Island Unit, Merced Co.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Allocation | \$291,000.00 |
| Expended | <u>-290,651.22</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$ 348.78 |

Partial Recovery -

San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Expansion #8, Mystic Lake, Riverside Co.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Allocation | \$2,320,000.00 |
| Portion to be recovered | \$166,066.89 |

Total Habitat Conservation Fund **\$166,415.67**

INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Grassland Environmental Education Center, Merced Co.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Allocation | \$27,000.00 |
| Expended | <u>-27,000.00</u> |
| Amount for Recovery | \$ 0.00 |

Total Inland Wetlands 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 2 AND 3 OF THESE MINUTES AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$1,428.84 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, \$53,838.23 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND FUND OF 1988, \$166,415.67 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND AND \$-0- TO THE INLAND WETLAND CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

*8. Mendota Wildlife Area--PG&E Power Line Relocation Project, Fresno County \$-0-

This proposal was to consider approval of an agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for the purposes of relocating a portion of a power line located within the Mendota Wildlife Area (WLA).

In August 1986, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorized the purchase of 1,373± acres of wildlife habitat as an expansion of the Mendota WLA. The property was accepted and acquired subject to certain title exceptions, which included an easement in favor of PG&E for public utilities which was granted by a prior landowner. PG&E currently maintains an above-ground electrical power line on this easement.

Prior to acquisition of the property by the State, little maintenance of the power line was necessary by PG&E. The property was farmed and wildlife use of the property was minimal. Subsequent to the State's acquisition, wildlife use of the property has increased significantly and the power line has become a problem for the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Specifically, large numbers of starlings and other birds land on the power line and when they fly off, the wires slap together resulting in voltage variations and burned out pumps on the area.

In order to correct the problem, PG&E has offered to relocate the power line at their cost. In addition, the span between poles will be shortened and the wires on the poles will be offset which will reduce the possibility of wires coming together. Also, the proposed relocation would be next to an existing gravel road, out of an existing pond.

If approved, this project would be in the best interest of all parties involved. The DFG would save thousands of dollars per year in repair bills; PG&E would save the cost of sending electricians out to inspect voltage problems; and starlings, raptors and other bird species would benefit by having a more "wildlife friendly" perch on which to sit.

Because PG&E will pay for the cost of relocating the power line, including all materials, funding by the WCB is not necessary. In addition, the DFG will pay for all project review costs charged by the Department of General Services. The relocation project is exempt from CEQA under Class 1 as a minor alteration of existing public facilities.

Staff recommended the Board approve the relocation project as proposed; authorize the relocation of PG&E's facilities and right-of-way on the State property; accept property rights that revert to the State as a result of the relocation; 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 THE RELOCATION PROJECT AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE THE RELOCATION OF PG&E'S FACILITIES AND RIGHT-OF-WAY ON THE STATE PROPERTY; ACCEPT PROPERTY RIGHTS THAT REVERT TO THE STATE AS A RESULT OF THE RELOCATION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*9. Three Rocks Fishing Access, Fresno County \$120.00

This proposal was to consider approval of a new Cooperative Agreement with the County of Fresno to continue their operation and maintenance of the Three Rocks Fishing Access area. The site is located approximately 2 miles east of the community of Three Rocks and provides fishing access along a portion of the California Aqueduct at the Clarkson Avenue road crossing, in western Fresno County.

The California Aqueduct extends 444 miles from the Sacramento Delta south through the San Joaquin Valley and over the Tehachapi Mountains to its termination point at Perris Lake in Riverside County. In 1968, the Wildlife Conservation Board approved the development of an aqueduct access program, in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources, to provide fishing access along the aqueduct at various locations. Over the years the Board has funded 18 aqueduct fishing access sites from Stanislaus County to Los Angeles County. All of these sites are operated and managed under agreement by local government and are made available to the public at no charge. Three Rocks is one of three aqueduct access sites located in Fresno County that are operated and maintained by the County.

In 1970, the Board approved funding to improve the Three Rocks Fishing Access area with installation of a paved aqueduct berm, or pathway, a parking area, an access road and sanitary facilities. The Department of Water Resources supplied the land and safety fencing for the site. The County of Fresno agreed to operate and maintain the site under a Cooperative Agreement that expired in 1997.

The Three Rocks Fishing Access area is a popular destination for catfish and striped bass anglers, with some 2,000 visitor use days recorded in 1995 (the last year figures are available). The County of Fresno has now agreed to enter into a new Cooperative Agreement with the Board to continue their operation and maintenance of the site for an additional ten years.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Cooperative Agreement with the County of Fresno; allocate \$120.00 for General Services' review costs from the Wildlife Restoration 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 MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF FRESNO; ALLOCATE \$120.00 FOR GENERAL SERVICES' REVIEW COSTS FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*10. Coalinga Mineral Springs Public Access, Fresno County \$120.00

This proposal was to consider approval of two new operating agreements, one with the County of Fresno (County), and one with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), for the joint operation and management of the Coalinga Mineral Springs Public Access area (also known as the Coalinga Mineral Springs Hunting Access area). The site is located approximately 12 miles west of the town of Coalinga in the inner Coast Range of western Fresno County at about 2,500 feet elevation. Access is provided via a county road leading northerly from Highway 198.

In 1966 the Board approved funding to acquire the 319± acre access area and provide for minimal improvements to be made on the site. The acquisition enabled the public to access approximately 12,760 acres of adjacent BLM lands that were formerly inaccessible. The County and the BLM have managed separate portions of this site since 1966, under operating agreements that expired in 1997. In order to manage the site, the BLM required that the State provide them with a temporary recreation easement over the State access area. This easement, which was granted to them in 1966 to coincide with the operating agreement, expired in 1997.

Both the County and the BLM have agreed to enter into new operating agreements to manage separate portions of the access area for a ten-year period. In addition, the BLM will require a new ten-year recreation easement over the access area.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Operating Agreement with the County of Fresno, the Cooperative Agreement with the Bureau of Land Management and the granting of a Recreation Easement to the Bureau of Land Management; allocate \$120.00 for General Services' review costs from the Wildlife Restoration 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 MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF FRESNO, THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE GRANTING OF A RECREATION EASEMENT TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT; ALLOCATE \$120.00 FOR GENERAL SERVICES' REVIEW COSTS FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*11. Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, Santa Cruz County \$5,000.00

This proposal was to consider accepting 37± acres of land located adjacent to the northern boundary of the Department of Fish and Game's Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve (Reserve) as a donation from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Reserve is located in northern Santa Cruz County, about ten miles north of the City of Santa Cruz and three miles southeast of Davenport.

In 1989, the Wildlife Conservation Board acquired the first 505± acre parcel at Bonny Doon from TNC for the purposes of preserving numerous rare and endangered animal and plant species and rare natural communities. In 1990, an additional 10± acres were acquired by the Board and added to the Reserve. Then, in 1993 the Fish and Game Commission officially took action to designate the 515± acres as an ecological reserve.

The Reserve contains the largest and most pristine remaining occurrences of several rare plant communities which are limited to ancient marine sand deposits in Santa Cruz County. The dominant plant communities on the subject parcel are mixed hardwood forests and Ponderosa pine forests, including Maritime Coast Range Ponderosa Pine Forest, which is classified by the Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base as an "extremely rare" element. These plant communities contain three plant species which are considered to be rare or endangered: the Santa Cruz cypress (Federal and State-endangered); the Ben Lomond spineflower (Federal-endangered); and the Santa Cruz wallflower (Federal and State-endangered). The distribution of these communities has been further reduced and fragmented by urban development and sand mining. The parcel also contains a large sandstone outcrop which is a significant scenic resource, and which supports a nesting colony of Kincaid's colletid bee, a species of regional interest.

The subject property is a bequest from Mrs. Ella Alluisi, who wished it to be managed as part of the Reserve. Mrs. Alluisi was a long-time resident of Bonny Doon and one of the original proponents of establishing the Reserve. The Nature Conservancy, which is a beneficiary under Mrs. Alluisi's will, does not have the management personnel in the area, and is directing its resources away from land management to focus on assisting public agencies in habitat preservation. TNC believes that the intent of Mrs. Alluisi's will would best be served by transferring the property to the Department of Fish and Game.

The Department's primary management objective will be retention of the natural values present on the site, particularly the Maritime Coast Range Ponderosa Pine Forest, and enhancement of the site's potential for Santa Cruz wallflower and Ben Lomond spineflower. In addition, a docent program will be established for the area which will focus on the natural resources of the Reserve and educate visitors on the natural history of the area. This program will be operated in cooperation with the existing Friends of the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve group.

Since TNC will be transferring the property at no cost to the State, no acquisition funds will be necessary. However, it is estimated that \$5,000.00 will be needed for title insurance, escrow and Department of General Services' review costs. The project 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 acquisition as proposed; authorize acceptance of the 37± acres of land; allocate \$5,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786 (b/c)) to cover project related 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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF THE 37± ACRES OF LAND; ALLOCATE \$5,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786 (b/c)) TO COVER PROJECT RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*12. Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Yuba County \$5,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition, in cooperation with the County of Yuba and with a partial landowner donation, of 43.2± acres of land as an addition to the Department of Fish and Game's Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (previously known as Collins Lake Wildlife Area). The proposed acquisition will provide for protection of deer winter range, winter range for the Federal and State-listed endangered bald eagle, and mountain lion, and upland game habitat. In four previous meetings between 1989 and 1992 the Board approved the acquisition of a total of 2500± acres, creating the existing wildlife area.

The subject property, which is located approximately 20 miles northeast of the City of Marysville, is contiguous with the existing wildlife area which is located adjacent to Collins Lake, an artificially created reservoir. It may be accessed from the current wildlife area or through a local subdivision from Dolan Harding Road.

Habitat on the property is primarily deer winter range, upland game and mountain lion habitat. Deer herd composition counts have been done on the State's existing wildlife area and it is common to count over 150 deer in a two-hour evening count. The natural communities found on the property can be described as a mixture of montane manzanita chaparral and blue oak woodlands, with buckbrush being the dominant shrub species, one that is heavily browsed by deer. Redbud, coffeeberry and manzanita are also commonly found on the area. This mixture of plant cover provides excellent habitat for wild turkey, California valley quail, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, various species of rabbit and numerous non-game species. Hunting as well as nonconsumptive uses would be consistent with the current wildlife area management plan. The property is currently subdivided and under threat of development for residential use. Management would be undertaken by the Department as part of the existing wildlife area at minimal additional costs.

The property, which has an approved fair market value of \$100,000.00, is being offered to the State for \$50,000.00. The County of Yuba has been accumulating mitigation funds which are to be used for deer habitat mitigation purposes, as approved by the County and Department of Fish and Game. By a unanimous vote by the Board of Supervisors, the County has approved a motion to provide the required \$50,000.00 from this fund, for the acquisition of the property.

Processing costs which are being requested through this action, are estimated at \$5,000.00, which includes the appraisal, title and escrow fees and the Department of General Services' various review costs. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$5,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786(a)) for administrative and closing 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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THIS ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$5,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786(a)) FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLOSING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*13. Big Bear Lake Fishing Access (Meadow Park), San Bernardino County \$35,120.00

This proposal was to consider a cooperative project with the Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District (District) to develop a barrier-free fishing platform and a seawall at Big Bear Lake. The proposed project will be constructed on the District-owned Meadow Park site located on the south side of Big Bear Lake, in southwestern San Bernardino County.

Work on the masonry dam that created Big Bear Lake began in 1884 and after several modifications the final dam was completed in 1912. It was originally constructed to provide irrigation water for the communities of Redlands and San Bernardino. In 1964, the District was given the authority and responsibility to manage the lake for recreation and tourism to help maintain the economy of the Big Bear Lake area. The lake contains approximately 2,900 surface acres, has a total capacity of 73,000 acre feet and is now used solely for recreational purposes. The Department participates with the Big Bear Municipal Water District (MWD) and the Fishing Association in an annual fish stocking program for the lake, which resulted in the planting of more than 300,000 rainbow trout in 1996. The Big Bear Lake area is known in the Southern California area as a premier trout lake.

Numerous homes are located along the 22 miles of scenic shoreline that shapes beautiful Big Bear Lake, and planned increases in the number of residences will make access to this popular lake increasingly difficult. The lake is widely used for water sports as well as fishing for trout, catfish and bass. The Meadow Park site is a 13-acre recreational complex currently improved with a soccer field, picnic facilities and shoreline trails for hikers and anglers. The proposed improvements include installation of a seawall to protect the shoreline from erosion and a fishing platform to increase fishing opportunities at the lake. There are only a few public access facilities on the lake, Meadow Park being one where fishing is very popular. Currently people fish along the shore line at Meadow Park as well as along a jetty that extends into the lake near the park. Two additional public facilities, one on the north shore and one on the west shore, are operated by the MWD and include fishing platforms and boat launching ramps. The only other public area is located on the north shore and is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. They recently instituted parking fees for their access area, making the Meadow Park facility and the two MWD sites as the only free access areas available on the lake. There are also several private commercial facilities on the lake that charge for boat launching and fishing access.

The proposed barrier-free fishing platform will extend 80 feet onto the lake and provide more diverse fishing opportunities for the public. The lake is shallow in this area and the platform, which will be the only one located on the south shore, will provide access to deeper waters where cold water fish reside in the summer. The seawall will eliminate the erosion at the site, which is destroying the existing fishing access trail along the shoreline and will permit year-round access to the proposed fishing platform.

Cost estimates for this project were developed by the District and have been reviewed and approved by staff as follows:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Seawall | \$35,000.00 |
| Platform Materials | 25,776.00 |
| Construction & Installation | 27,000.00 |
| Engineering | 1,700.00 |
| Permits & Administration | <u>1,500.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS</u> | <u>\$90,976.00</u> |

The District is providing funding for the engineering and has applied for a Community Development Block Grant through the City of Big Bear Lake to help fund this project. Additional funds will also be provided by the Big Bear Lake Municipal Water District. The proposed breakdown of the funding partners is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Community Development Block Grant | \$52,776.00 |
| Wildlife Conservation Board | 35,000.00 |
| BBV Recreation & Park District | 1,700.00 |
| BBV Municipal Water District | <u>1,500.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u> | <u>\$90,976.00</u> |

In addition to the proposed project costs listed above, an additional \$120.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the Board's portion of the project to \$35,120.00.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the project proposal and supports these proposed improvements. The District will be preparing the appropriate notice as required under CEQA and has agreed to enter into a 25-year Lease and Operating Agreement to lease the site to the State and operate and manage the facilities. They will also handle the contract administration for the proposed construction.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this cooperative project for a seawall and barrier-free fishing platform as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$35,120.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services' 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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS COOPERATIVE PROJECT FOR A SEAWALL AND BARRIER-FREE FISHING

PLATFORM AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$35,120.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR PROJECT COSTS AND GENERAL SERVICES' REVIEW COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*14. Elkhorn Slough Santa Cruz Tarplant Reserve, Monterey County \$40,000.00

This proposal was for the acquisition of a conservation easement over 40.4± acres to allow for protection, restoration and enhancement of habitat for a population of endangered Santa Cruz tarplants.

The Santa Cruz tarplant was once found in Monterey, Santa Cruz, Alameda, Contra Costa and Marin Counties. This summer-blooming annual wildflower grows in coastal prairie habitat, primarily in areas with clay soils, which hold soil moisture long into the growing season. Habitat destruction has reduced the range of the species so that the plant is now known from only twelve natural populations, all in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The plant also occurs in introduced populations in the East Bay Regional Park District's Wildcat Canyon in Contra Costa County.

In 1993, the last natural population of tarplants in the northern range of the species, Contra Costa County, was extirpated by development on the site. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the developer eventually reached agreement on mitigation for the habitat loss, which called for the developer to provide, among other things, tarplant habitat protection and restoration. After the developer's efforts to complete the required mitigation failed, DFG and the developer terminated their agreement and entered a new agreement whereby the developer provided the funding to the Department to carry out the mitigation directly. This proposed transaction represents the habitat protection element of the mitigation.

The proposed transaction is actually the result of a cooperative effort among the Department, the nonprofit Elkhorn Slough Foundation (Foundation) and the private landowners who currently own the subject property. Under this multi-party agreement, the landowners propose to donate a conservation easement over the tarplant population and an appropriate buffer area, a reserve of 40.4± acres in all, to the Foundation. The Foundation would then sell the easement to the State for its fair market value. Among other things, the conservation easement would protect the tarplant reserve and allow for population monitoring, scientific study, management of the reserve and habitat restoration and enhancement as deemed appropriate. By separate agreement between the Foundation and DFG, the Foundation would use the proceeds of this sale for 1) maintenance and

management of the reserve for tarplants pursuant to a DFG management plan, and 2) protection and enhancement of natural habitats in the Elkhorn Slough area.

This transaction is recommended by the Department as the best of the numerous alternatives that have been studied. It is viewed as providing an excellent chance for success in the protection and enhancement of tarplants and their habitats at a net cost that is considered quite acceptable.

The site itself is located near Elkhorn Slough in northern Monterey County. It is bounded generally by Gavin Road on the north, Hall Road on the south, Las Lomas Road on the east, and Elkhorn Road on the west. The reserve is part of a $238 \pm$ acre holding over which the owner previously donated a $94 \pm$ acre conservation easement to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to protect native plants and wildlife and a high quality stand of coastal live oaks on the property. The proposed tarplant reserve would adjoin the TNC easement area, thus forming a protected, mixed-habitat reserve of $134 \pm$ acres.

The property has been appraised, and the State-approved fair market value of the conservation easement is \$6,500.00 per acre, a total of \$260,000.00. The Foundation has agreed to accept this sum and to undertake the management responsibilities as generally outlined above and in the Foundation/DFG agreement. The bulk of the purchase price, approximately \$230,000.00 principal and interest, is available from the Department in the mitigation account that was funded by the developer. The balance of the purchase price, approximately \$30,000.00, is available to the Board from the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) as provided for protection of threatened and endangered species habitat. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 in HCF would be required for escrow closing and Department of General Services' review charges. The project is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of an interest in land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve acquisition of a conservation easement as described; allocate \$40,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786 (b/c)) toward the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as outlined above.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AS DESCRIBED; ALLOCATE \$40,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786 (b/c)) TOWARD THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Sierra County \$45,000.00

Mr. Schmidt noted that this item was originally on the Consent Calendar, but was withdrawn for discussion. He reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 115± acres of deer and mountain lion habitat as an expansion of the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, which is located in Lassen and Sierra counties. The subject parcel is entirely located in eastern Sierra County, and is adjacent to the California/Nevada State line. The parcel lies on the south ridge of Petersen Mountain, near the Washoe County communities of Bordertown and Cold Springs, Nevada. Mr. John Donnelly then provided more details on the project.

The subject property lies at the southern edge of a major migration corridor for the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd, a herd of local, State and interstate significance. The interstate importance comes from the fact that some of the deer migrate through the property to the State of Nevada to winter on ranges on Petersen Mountain and in the Sand Hills. The intensity of this migration is largely dictated by the severity of the winter and the depth of winter snowfall. Although wildlife use of the parcel is primarily by deer and mountain lions, other species such as antelope, chukar, quail and rabbits are known to inhabit the site. In addition, Golden eagles and various species of raptors use the property for foraging.

The parcel has a light cover of grasses and forbs and the typical sagebrush/rabbit brush association is dominant. There are juniper trees and rock outcroppings at the higher elevations and the parcel is cut with small drainages.

Given the close proximity of the parcel to Reno, Nevada, future development of the property is very likely. Since the subject property is the only inholding within an area owned by the State that stretches approximately 4.5 miles along the California/Nevada border, its development would surely impact the integrity of the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area.

The current owner, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU), is in the process of consolidating its inherited lands in the State of Nevada through an exchange with the Bureau of Land Management. However, since the subject property is in California, it cannot be included in the ongoing negotiations, as such actions may not cross state lines. If the Board approves the acquisition, the NBU has assured the Department of Fish and Game that the proceeds from the sale will be used for acquisition or enhancement of wildlife habitat.

The appraised fair market value of the property, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS), is \$40,000.00. An additional \$5,000.00 is estimated to be necessary for project expenses, which will include title insurance, escrow and DGS review costs. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Donnelly explained the map and photograph of the area. Mr. Schmidt noted there are a number of deer crossings in that area, put in as part of the mitigation program between the Department of Fish and Game and CalTrans.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$45,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786 (a)) to cover acquisition costs and Department of General Services' review charges; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt introduced Mr. Brooks Mitchell, Sierra County Supervisor, who expressed support for the acquisition of land for wildlife habitat, but also expressed concern regarding loss of increased tax revenue from these properties. Mr. Mitchell would like to see the Board assist the County in getting legislation to increase tax revenue that the County would normally expect if the property was privately owned and the legal annual property tax increase of 2 percent a year was in place. Mr. Thieriot mentioned that if we were going to make a change such as this, we would have to do the same for all of our acquisitions, which would create a significant impact on finances. Mr. Mitchell explained that there was legislation passed to assist northern California counties financially and perhaps Sierra County could apply, pursuant to the legislation, for Frontier County status. Miss Schafer stated she is not personally acquainted with such legislation, but would request the Department's legislative office to research this particular legislation and brief her. Miss Schafer stated DFG is the only State or Federal natural resources agency that pays any fees for the acquisitions that they make. Those payments are made annually out of a combination of the Fish and Game Preservation Fund and public resources account, approximately \$1.5 million. Fish and Game Preservation Fund is the fund in which funds are deposited from license revenues, deer tags, etc., therefore, it is not a growing source of funds. Mr. Ross Sargent, representing Senator Patrick Johnston, asked Mr. Mitchell about economic benefits to Sierra County from hunters in the area. Mr. Mitchell stated there is some revenue, but the deer herd has decreased about 40 percent within the last 10 to 15 years, therefore, minimal benefit is seen. Mr. Sargent asked if a cost/benefit analysis as to the lost revenue had been completed. Mr. Mitchell stated the County Assessor is currently working on a cost/benefit analysis. Once all the data is compiled the County would proceed accordingly through their local legislators. Mr. Mitchell thanked the Director for the opportunity to address the County's concerns. Mr. Thieriot noted the Supervisor's concerns as a philosophical issue and as a new member will try to learn more about these concerns.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$45,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786 (a)) TO COVER ACQUISITION COSTS AND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES' REVIEW CHARGES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*16. East Grasslands Wetlands Enhancement/Restoration \$62,250.00
(Castle Land and Cattle), Merced County

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for a partnership project to enhance and restore nearly 720 acres of wetlands and associated uplands for waterfowl and other water dependent wildlife. The proposed partners in this proposal include the CWA, the landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The project is located on private land, approximately ten miles southwest of the City of Merced, adjacent to the Merced National Wildlife Refuge and ten miles east of the Los Banos Wildlife Area.

The subject site has been operated as a duck club for many decades, with ponds designed in squares, which are more difficult to maintain since the natural topography of the site has not been utilized. The proposed project will reestablish a more natural seasonal wetland and grassland complex by removing many of the old levees and building new levees that follow the topography of the landscape. These new levees will pond water more efficiently, which will create an additional fifty acres of wetlands and enhance the existing 200± acres of wetlands. Other project elements include creation of swales and permanent wetlands from excavations needed to supply soil for the new levees, and strengthening and repairing supply ditches. In addition, once the new ponds are constructed, they will be seeded with native wetland associated species that provide food for waterfowl, while the levees will be planted with native grasses and forbs to provide additional nesting cover.

Further improvements include constructing new fences and installing water troughs on traditionally grazed areas to allow the existing pastures to provide a greater variety of wildlife habitat. Vegetation will be allowed to grow in the spring to provide nesting habitat for ducks and other ground nesting birds that need cover. The pastures will then be grazed to provide goose and sandhill crane winter foraging habitat. Wetland habitat with adjacent uplands and pastures, as described here, are known to support a wide variety of wildlife species. Many species of waterfowl will benefit from these improvements, and other bird species, such as rails, yellowthroats, song sparrows, herons and egrets will also inhabit the marshes and seasonal wetlands. The pastures provide habitat for grassland species such as meadowlarks, and provide foraging areas for hawks. Mammals supported by this habitat matrix include voles, deer mice, and muskrats, which are prey for coyotes and raptors.

As the landowner has invited a local elementary school to use the site for an outdoor classroom, school children visit the area every year to study local plant and animal communities. In addition, the landowner intends to make the site available as an outdoor laboratory for university students, either for U.C. Davis or for the new State university planned for Merced.

Cost estimates for this project, which have been reviewed and approved by staff, are as follows:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> |
|--|-----------------------|
| Site preparation and earthmoving | \$51,954.00 |
| Water control structures | 11,300.00 |
| Fencing and water for livestock | 9,653.00 |
| Removing existing structures (in-kind) | 1,280.00 |
| Discing, seeding and planting | 10,140.00 |
| CWA project design and management | 12,649.00 |
| Contingency (10%), excluding in-kind | <u>9,569.00</u> |

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u> | <u>\$106,545.00</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Wildlife Conservation Board | \$62,250.00 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | 10,000.00 |
| Castle Land and Cattle (cash) | 33,015.00 |
| Castle Land and Cattle (in-kind) | <u>1,280.00</u> |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u> | <u>\$106,545.00</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|

The landowner has agreed to manage and maintain the property for twenty-five years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the habitat management plan. If at any time during the twenty-five year life of the project, the landowners are unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the Board an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left in the project life.

The Department of Fish Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. This project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15305, as it is a minor alteration to land that will restore and enhance wildlife habitat.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$62,250.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, (Section 2786 (d)); 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 THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT;

ALLOCATE \$62,250.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (SECTION 2786 (d)); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*17. Robla Creek Habitat Restoration (Ueda Parkway), Sacramento County \$76,900.00

This proposal was to consider a grant to the City of Sacramento to partially fund restoration of the riparian corridor along Robla Creek, on property owned by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA). The project area is located upstream from Rio Linda Boulevard, within the Ueda Parkway in North Sacramento. Specifically, the grant funds will be used to excavate existing eroded areas along the creek to develop ponded areas connected to the stream, and to plant native riparian trees, shrubs and grasses. The plantings will be cultivated throughout a planned $14.5 \pm$ acre riparian corridor which extends approximately one-half mile on both sides of Robla Creek. The proposed project will also include exclusionary fencing to prevent cattle from grazing in the project area and will provide shaded public fishing access to Robla Creek. The project sponsors, the City of Sacramento and SAFCA, will be funding many public interest features including development of barrier-free public access trails, bike trails and interpretive signs describing the restoration effort and highlighting the wildlife resources of the Robla Creek/Dry Creek floodplain.

The restoration area will be linked to a large network of public trails which connect the American River Parkway to the Ueda Parkway, and northeasterly to the proposed Dry Creek Parkway and Dry Creek Greenway, which terminates in the City of Folsom. The proposed restoration project is thus centrally located in a complex of regional recreation and wildlife corridors totaling more than 130 miles in length.

The proposed project involves a partnership among the Wildlife Conservation Board, the City of Sacramento's Neighborhood Services Department, SAFCA, and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Staff from the DFG have been involved in the planning for the Ueda Parkway and this project from the early stages of development. The project and its connection to the Parkway will be used to foster awareness of the natural and cultural resources of the Parkway at the local and regional level. The Neighborhood Services Department is currently developing interpretive materials in cooperation with community leaders, student employees, public agency officials, educators and naturalists. Local neighborhood citizens have expressed enthusiastic interest about helping to restore the habitat along Robla Creek as volunteers.

The natural channel of Robla Creek, like several other streams within the Ueda Parkway, needs to be protected and enhanced as it provides a continuous wildlife corridor to other important resource areas. All these waterways, and their associated floodplain lands,

provide habitat for several endangered and special status species including Chinook salmon, steelhead, Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, black shouldered kite, western pond turtle, and the northern harrier. A State-designated heron and egret rookery is located within the project's boundaries.

Cost estimates for this proposal have been developed by Sacramento County and have been reviewed and approved by staff as follows:

| Description | Estimated Cost |
|--|----------------------------|
| Land acquisition (in-kind) | \$173,700.00 |
| Engineering design (in-kind) | 3,500.00 |
| Project management, supervision and administration | 14,500.00 |
| Construction equipment costs and materials | 10,000.00 |
| Signage (in-kind) | 7,000.00 |
| Grading (in-kind) | 48,450.00 |
| Plant materials, planting and irrigation | 29,400.00 |
| Plant materials (in-kind) | 2,000.00 |
| Plant monitoring and establishment (3 years) | 22,500.00 |
| <u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS:</u> | <u>\$311,050.00</u> |
| <u>Proposed Funding Partners:</u> | |
| Wildlife Conservation Board | \$ 76,900.00 |
| City of Sacramento, SAFCA | 234,150.00 |
| <u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u> | <u>\$311,050.00</u> |

The proposed project is part of a regional recreational trails program which was authorized by Congress in 1993 as a component of the Natomas element of the American River Watershed Investigation flood control project. Grant funds will be used as a part of the match needed by the City of Sacramento and SAFCA to secure Federal funding to enhance resources within this floodway, which the National Park Service has designated as containing nationally significant natural resources.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The proposal ranked high as a suitable restoration project using, in part, the decision-support model developed with information from the California Rivers Assessment. The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15034, as a minor alteration to land that will enhance riparian habitat to benefit wildlife, and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this grant as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$76,900.00 for the grant from the Habitat Conservation Fund (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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS GRANT AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$76,900.00 FOR THE GRANT FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786 (e)(f)); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*18. Eel River Wildlife Area Restoration, Phase II, Humboldt County \$99,700.00

This proposal was to consider a grant to the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) to partially fund the second phase of the restoration of riparian forest habitat on Cock Robin Island, a unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area. This wildlife area is located in the Eel River Delta approximately four miles north of Ferndale, in Humboldt County. Specifically, the grant funds will be used to grow certain desirable, but commercially unavailable, riparian plants in a temporary nursery on the island, to obtain other plants and planting materials, and to cultivate those plants over approximately 55 acres of formerly agricultural land within the next two years. This project will contribute to the completion of one of the largest riparian restoration projects to be undertaken on the North Coast of California. RCAA has worked very closely with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to develop and coordinate comprehensive restoration and management plans for Cock Robin Island.

The Wildlife Conservation Board approved funding in 1993 and 1994 to acquire approximately 374 acres of Cock Robin Island. Of the total land area acquired, approximately 235 acres were considered restorable to historical coastal riparian forest and freshwater wetland habitat. The Board approved a \$93,650.00 grant to RCAA for the first phase of restoration on May 4, 1995, a project which was completed in 1997. That project included fencing to exclude cattle, a 20± acre riparian planting, additional plantings to determine the most effective methods for larger scale restoration, and the design of a freshwater wetland area. Subsequent efforts by RCAA leveraged the Board's initial grant to attract \$120,000.00 in funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Jobs in the Woods Program. Work using those funds will revegetate approximately 45 additional acres of riparian forest, finalize the wetland habitat design, and construct the 55-acre freshwater wetland area by the end of 1999. If funding for the subject proposal is approved, RCAA anticipates using the Board's funding to leverage additional funds to finish the remaining 55 acres of riparian habitat restoration by the end of 2001. Seedlings cultivated in the temporary nursery to be constructed in this phase will be available to grow seedlings for the final phase.

As an important segment of the Pacific Flyway, the Eel River Delta, in conjunction with Humboldt Bay, is one of the most critical coastal wetlands in California. In addition, the diversity of the delta's habitats, including coastal dunes, riparian woodlands, tidal

mudflats, salt marshes, freshwater marshes and pastures, support a rich mixture of resident plant and animal life. This area supports at least 35 species of mammals and over 250 species of birds. Thousands of ducks and many species of coastal and pelagic birds pass through the area annually, including many neotropical migrant songbirds. The average annual bird days use in the Eel River/Humboldt Bay Delta exceeds 1,350,000. The Eel River and its associated channels provide habitat for 26 species of fish, including the Chinook and Coho salmon, steelhead trout, and coastal cutthroat trout. This project would benefit several listed and candidate species, including Coho salmon, steelhead trout, American peregrine falcon, ferruginous hawk, northern goshawk, California brown pelican, and the northern red-legged frog.

Riparian resources in the Eel River Delta have been heavily impacted since the 1850's, with only 1 to 3 percent remaining today. Mature coastal riparian forests consisting of black cottonwood, Sitka spruce, willows and red alders now only occur in isolated patches and are being actively removed to make room for pasture and grazing livestock. In addition to the species noted above, restoring significant acreage of riparian habitat on Cock Robin Island will provide resting, nesting and food for migratory songbirds that is now severely lacking.

Mature riparian forests also play a role in providing healthy fisheries habitat in the delta and offshore. During flood events, large woody debris collects on riverbanks and provides instream cover and resting areas for migrating and juvenile fish, especially Chinook salmon, which spend most of their rearing time in estuaries. Recent studies have shown that when this woody debris is transported out of the estuary to the offshore ocean environment, it becomes floating islands for many species of fish, including salmonids. When these logs eventually sink, they become miniature reef structures on the ocean floor, creating habitat in an otherwise ecologically limited area.

Currently, there is a limited supply of commercially available Sitka spruce and red alder stock from near the project area. Previously planted red alder were donated from locations several counties to the south and inland of the site, and their poor performance on the project site indicates that the stock is not genetically adapted to the conditions on Cock Robin Island. After a cost analysis, RCAA has determined that it will be more cost-effective to produce the required trees in a temporary nursery on Cock Robin Island, using locally obtained seeds. Willow and cottonwood are planted by using cuttings of live material. The U.S. Coast Guard (Air Station Humboldt Bay) has once again volunteered the use of its helicopter and crew to assist in transporting willow and cottonwood cuttings to Cock Robin Island as a training exercise. In addition, some inmate labor will be provided by the Department of Forestry (CDF).

Trees will be planted and monitored by RCAA over a two-year establishment period. The DFG is responsible for overall management of the island, and will periodically inspect the site.

The Board's second phase of the restoration of Cock Robin Island will consist of the following activities. The associated cost estimates have been reviewed and approved by staff:

| Description | Estimated Cost |
|--|----------------------------|
| Site prep., nursery construction, tree planting and supervision | \$ 61,609.00 |
| CDF inmate labor (in-kind) | 16,500.00 |
| DFG staff time (in-kind) | 5,200.00 |
| Materials for nursery and tree planting | 16,067.00 |
| Materials for nursery and tree planting RCAA in-kind | 3,815.00 |
| Helicopter transport (Coast Guard in-kind) | 7,200.00 |
| Heavy equipment use, transport, and maintenance | 8,305.00 |
| Heavy equipment maintenance (RCAA in-kind) | 2,215.00 |
| Project administration | 13,719.00 |
| Project administration (RCAA in-kind) | <u>5,500.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u> | <u>\$140,130.00</u> |
| <u>Proposed Funding Partners:</u> | |
| Wildlife Conservation Board | \$ 99,700.00 |
| Redwood Community Action Agency | 11,530.00 |
| California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection | 16,500.00 |
| California Department of Fish and Game | 5,200.00 |
| U.S. Coast Guard | <u>7,200.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u> | <u>\$140,130.00</u> |

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The proposal ranked very high as a suitable restoration project using, in part, the decision-support model developed with information from the California Rivers Assessment. The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15034, as a minor alteration to land that will enhance riparian habitat to benefit wildlife, and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this grant as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$99,700.00 for the grant from the Habitat Conservation Fund (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, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS GRANT AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$99,700.00 FOR THE GRANT FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786 (e)(f)), AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*19. Firebaugh Park and River Restoration, Fresno County \$500,000.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a \$500,000.00 grant to the City of Firebaugh to be used toward the development and restoration of the Andrew Firebaugh Historical Park and river restoration project. The San Joaquin River system has tremendous social, environmental and economic value to the people of California, providing critical water for farms, cities and industries, hydroelectric power, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. Funding for this proposal was specifically provided in the 1997/98 State budget as one of the projects to receive funds from the River Parkway Subaccount of the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Fund (Prop. 204).

Recognizing the tremendous value of this river system, AB 3603 (Chapter 1068, Statutes of 1990), was enacted and resulted in the development of the San Joaquin River Management Plan. The plan identified several projects (including the Firebaugh Park and River Restoration effort) designed to preserve, protect and restore the San Joaquin River system.

For many years the City of Firebaugh has owned 18.2± acres adjacent to the San Joaquin River. Although the site contains the remnants of the historical Firebaugh swing bridge, little attempt has been made to preserve it. In the early 1900s, community interest in the park site was stirred because of the natural beauty and topography that allowed for a variety of public uses, including a temporary community events arena used once or twice a year. As the temporary use was so successful, community leaders decided to develop the park and construct a permanent arena and other facilities that would meet the community need. They also determined that there was a significant need for riparian habitat restoration along the banks of the San Joaquin River.

The primary components of the Firebaugh Park and restoration effort include the following:

1. A riparian habitat restoration plan that calls for the planting of a buffer area along the San Joaquin River, and enhancement of the remaining area of the park with riparian trees and shrubs.

2. A 24-foot wide multi-purpose trail to be designed to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. The trail will be away from sensitive wildlife and historical areas, but at the same time will allow users to enjoy the natural habitat being restored under this proposal.
3. A 5-foot wide nature trail adjacent to the San Joaquin River, complete with interpretive and observation nodes, allowing users to learn more about the values of riparian systems such as that found along the San Joaquin River.
4. A community events arena with permanent seating for 800 people and the ability to accommodate temporary seating for 400 people. The arena includes grandstands, restrooms, concession stands, staging area, and a parking lot. It will be used for events such as the annual Firebaugh Rodeo, square dances, farm equipment shows, high school band review and athletic events, farmers markets, craft fairs and community fund raising events. Because of the tremendous community interest and support for the Firebaugh Park, the community events arena has been completed and is operational.

As previously mentioned, the area contains remnants of the old swing bridge, originally built in the mid-1800s. In addition to the above components, the restoration effort will also include the preservation and restoration of, and access to, remnant structures related to the historical bridge. A historical river crossing interpretive area is also planned for the site.

The final component of the park includes the development of a passive park area that includes an extensive natural grassland area for activities such as picnicking, bird watching, and unstructured play.

The City of Firebaugh owns the project site. Cost of the entire park development and restoration effort is estimated at approximately \$1.1 million. This proposal will provide funds for the riparian restoration portion, development of the buffer zones, nature trails, the historical interpretive and observation nodes and some of the restoration associated with the preservation of the historical structures, all of which qualify under the provisions of the River Parkway Subaccount of the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Fund (Prop. 204).

Staff recommended that the Board approve the grant as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$500,000.00 from the River Parkway Subaccount/P-204; 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 AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT;

ALLOCATE \$500,000.00 FROM THE RIVER PARKWAY SUBACCOUNT/P-204;
AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO
PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. South Fork American River, Lower Canyon Unit, El Dorado County

This proposal was to consider a grant to the Bureau of Land Management in the amount of \$550,000.00, plus an additional allocation of \$5,000 for administrative costs, to apply toward the acquisition of 274± acres of significant habitat located on the South Fork of the American River, approximately one mile above Folsom Lake.

This item was withdrawn from Board consideration.

21. Ellwood Monarch Butterfly Grove, Santa Barbara County \$205,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a grant, to The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, to assist in its acquisition of a 9.3± acre parcel located in the University Village area of Goleta, to assure the permanent preservation of monarch butterfly habitat. Ms. Debra Townsend then explained the project in more detail.

The subject property is located south of Highway 101 and may be accessed by exiting in an easterly direction from Hollister Avenue, then traveling south on Santa Barbara Drive, east on Sea Gull Drive, and then south on Coronado Drive. Newport Drive borders the site on the north and west, and Coronado Drive defines its eastern boundary. To the south, where the monarch butterfly aggregation sites occur, is a narrow parcel owned by the County of Santa Barbara for flood control purposes and the Monarch Point Preserve/Ellwood Shores property owned by Southwest Diversified. The middle fork of Devereux Creek runs diagonally through the western portion of the subject property.

Acquisition of various historic monarch groves is among the projects specifically mandated by the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (Proposition 70). Under a contract with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Monarch Project of the Xerces Society, an international non-profit group based in Portland, Oregon, has identified and prioritized specific sites along the California coast. To date, the Board has acquired five of the identified sites located in the Counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, Marin and Sonoma. The Ellwood site remains among the highest priorities for protection with Proposition 70 funds. Staff of the DFG have indicated this site is worthy of efforts to secure funding and has recommended The Land Trust as a grant recipient.

The Ellwood Beach-Santa Barbara Shores area contains very important monarch butterfly habitat. One of the three largest overwintering sites west of the Rockies is located in the northern eucalyptus grove on the Southwest Diversified property. That site is called the

"Ellwood Main." Other sites are known or reported to occur on the county property and in other portions of the Southern Diversified northern grove. The subject property, directly connected to the main grove, provides habitat for the monarch butterflies and a host of other species and is also important as an autumnal roosting area. According to literature, these autumnal roosts may serve as wintering roosts during mild winters, and also serve as forage areas for wintering monarchs at nearby groves. The acquisition site may also prove to be of greater importance once the housing project slated for the Ellwood mesa is completed. There will still be some habitat maintained on the mesa, but most of what is currently open will be developed.

The Land Trust is committed not only to the acquisition of the subject property, but also to raising sufficient funds for restoration and management of the habitat values on this site. Once the property is acquired, The Land Trust will continue its fund raising efforts until it has secured an ample endowment for management and habitat restoration. Educators from the Goleta School District have already expressed an interest in establishing a stewardship program with the students to assist in the restoration and maintenance of the site. With an active neighborhood and local school district involved, it is anticipated that a high level of volunteer effort will be available for the future care of the property.

The 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 of the property have agreed to sell the property for its approved appraised fair market value, of \$600,000.00. Therefore, the proposed \$200,000.00 grant represents only a portion of the overall purchase price. In addition to the proposed grant of \$200,000.00, it is estimated that an allocation of \$5,000.00 will be required to cover the costs of General Services' review of the appraisal.

The terms and conditions of the proposed grant provide that staff will review all proposed title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, agreements for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and the instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into escrow. The terms also require that the purchased lands be utilized for habitat preservation and restoration, wildlife-oriented education and research and compatible public uses.

Mr. Schmidt explained the overall appraised value of the property is \$600,000.00 and this proposal is to make a grant to The Land Trust for \$200,000.00 of that amount. The Trust will be raising the remainder. He also reported that letters of support on this project had been received from the Goleta Land Trust, Goleta Union School District, Senator O'Connell, and 31 letters from private parties including a packet of letters from the first and second grade classes of an elementary school, indicating a lot of support from the local community.

Senator O'Connell commented that there is considerable interest in this project from the University of California at Santa Barbara in terms of environmental research being done in this area. He also confirmed there is widespread support for this project in Santa

Barbara; many citizens are anxious to use this grant to leverage other revenue to purchase this site from the Goleta School District.

Mr. Thieriot introduced Mr. Michael Feeney, Executive Director of The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County. Mr. Feeney delivered a message of support from The Land Trust and from the coalition of public agencies that strongly support this acquisition. Mr. Feeney expressed his gratitude to Ms. Townsend and Senator O'Connell and his staff for their assistance on this project. Miss Schafer asked if the butterflies visit that area every winter. Mr. Feeney stated the butterflies are present most winters and that a log is kept at the site for visitor registration.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the issuance of a grant to The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County to be applied toward the acquisition of the Ellwood Ecological Reserve property in Santa Barbara County as proposed; allocate \$205,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), under Section 5907 (c) (2) as specifically authorized for the acquisition of monarch butterfly habitat and for related administrative costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF A GRANT TO THE LAND TRUST FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THE ACQUISITION OF THE ELLWOOD ECOLOGICAL RESERVE PROPERTY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$205,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), UNDER SECTION 5907 (c) (2) AS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MONARCH BUTTERFLY HABITAT AND FOR RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 22. | <u>Fresno Slough Public Access Renovation (Mendota Wildlife Area)</u> | <u>\$100,620.00</u> |
| | <u>Fresno County</u> | |

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to renovate the Fresno Slough Public Access area which is located within the Department's Mendota Wildlife Area, near White's Bridge and the town of Mendota. The Mendota Wildlife Area totals more than 11,000 acres and is managed by the Department. Migratory waterfowl utilize the wildlife area from October through February while numerous species of mammals and birds, including egrets, herons, pheasants and quail, use the area throughout the year. In addition, migrant bird species such as doves are abundant in summer and raptors frequent the area in winter. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt then explained the project in more detail.

Fresno Slough is a slough of about 600 surface acres that extends southerly from Mendota Pool, which is located on the San Joaquin River north of the Wildlife Area. It provides good fishing for warmwater species and is a popular destination for bass anglers. The boat ramp is also very popular with hunters and anglers with more than 3,600 visitor use days reported annually. Use figures for the entire Wildlife Area are more than 54,000 annually and include hunters, anglers, boaters and wildlife viewers.

The existing facilities were constructed in 1963 and included an access road, parking area, boat ramp, floats, sanitary facilities and a water supply system. Historically, during winter storm events, the slough floods over the existing ramp and onto the upper parking area and Wildlife Area. To keep the Wildlife Area from flooding during these storms, the ramp has to be closed each year by building a temporary earth dam around the ramp area. In order to keep the ramp open all year, this project will include reconstruction of the deteriorated upper 30-foot section of ramp and raising the top of the ramp to prevent seasonal flooding. The remaining undamaged 63-foot section of the ramp will be saw cut with new grooves to provide traction for automobiles and boat trailers. In addition, over the years the dock and restroom facilities have been subject to heavy use, vandalism and weather and are now in need of repair. The restroom facilities will be upgraded as well as modified to provide barrier-free access. To facilitate barrier-free access to the boat ramp, a new aluminum floating dock and gangway will be installed. The project also includes placement of rip rap to stop erosion, and dredging of a silted-in area near the end of the ramp.

The proposed improvements have been designed by the Department's Engineering Section and will reduce the necessity to close the ramp during flood events and generally improve boat access to Fresno Slough. The Engineering Section has prepared the cost elements for the proposed project as follows:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mobilization and Demobilization | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Remove existing Boat Ramp | 1,000.00 |
| Water Control | 15,000.00 |
| Earthwork and Slope Protection | 13,000.00 |
| Concrete Ramp | 10,000.00 |
| Floating Dock and Gangway | 30,000.00 |
| Cut Grooves on Existing Ramp | 5,000.00 |
| Restroom Modifications | 10,000.00 |
| Administration | 8,700.00 |
| Contingencies | <u>4,800.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS</u> | <u>\$ 100,500.00</u> |

In addition to the proposed project costs listed above, an additional allocation of \$120.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the total allocation necessary for this proposal to \$100,620.00.

The project is exempt under Class 2 and Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions and a Notice of Exemption has been filed. Any additional permits or approvals will be obtained by the Department prior to beginning construction. It is anticipated that the project will qualify for Federal participation under the Sport Fish Restoration Act. After approval by the Board, staff will file the appropriate application with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which, if approved, will provide the Board with a 75 percent reimbursement of all project costs.

Ms. Lipphardt indicated Mr. George Nokes, Regional Manager of Region 4, Department of Fish and Game, was in the audience to answer questions regarding management issues in this wildlife area, also Mr. Rob Benson of the Department of Fish and Game Engineering staff was in the audience to answer any questions regarding design. There were no questions. Mr. Schmidt mentioned, as indicated in the agenda, that the cost estimate of this project is \$100,500.00 and that an additional \$120.00 would be necessary for General Services' fees. He also reported that this project qualifies for Federal participation from the Sport Fish Restoration program, that we have made application and are nearly assured it will be approved, and that we will be reimbursed for 75 percent of our costs, for a net cost of just over \$25,000.00.

Miss Schafer commented that wildlife areas provide a lot of recreational opportunity for not only duck hunters but for anglers as well. She reported that she personally visited this area and saw a lot of anglers. She asked Mr. Nokes if he had any data regarding usage. He mentioned there were no specific figures but that the area was used a lot.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the project as proposed, including the authorization to apply for and receive a Federal grant; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreement necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$100,620.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; 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 PROJECT AS PROPOSED, INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A FEDERAL GRANT; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$100,620.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

23. Canebrake Ecological Reserve Public Access (South Fork Kern River) \$160,120.00
Kern County

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider funding trail improvements and a parking lot on Department of Fish and Game (Department) owned land to provide public access to adjacent public land. The Canebrake Ecological Reserve (Reserve) is located at the confluence of the Canebrake Creek and the South Fork Kern River, approximately ten miles northeast of Lake Isabella in Kern County. Nearly three miles of the South Fork Kern River and about one mile of Canebrake Creek flow through the property, with the Sequoia National Forest Dome Land Wilderness bordering it to the north. Access to the Reserve is from Highway 178 which fronts the property on the south and east. Mr. Schmidt advised Chairman Thieriot that in his briefing on February 23, he indicated the trail would be asphalt, however, the trail will actually be decomposed granite. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt then provided more details on the project.

The 1290± acre Reserve was acquired by the Board in 1994 to preserve the area's biological diversity and to provide access to thousands of acres of Federal public lands. The Reserve lands represent a unique association of vegetative and biological communities that are claimed to be found nowhere else in California, or in the world. The variety of habitat types include five of the six ecozones of California, including the Great Basin, Intermountain Sage, Mojave Desert, Great Valley Grassland, and the Sierra Nevada. The only zone not represented is the California coastal chaparral ecozone. The five ecozones represent a combination of features that provide a rare mixture of wildlife and vegetation that, in their uniqueness, attract one of the largest diversities of plants and animals found anywhere in California. Some 287 species of birds are known to use the area and a total of 41 rare elements have been identified in the area by the Department's Natural Diversity Data Base.

In addition to protecting this unique habitat, the State's acquisition also provided a public property linkage to adjacent public lands for upland game hunting, fishing, hiking and general wildlife observation and enjoyment. An agreement has been reached among the Department, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to provide a trail connection to the common State-Federal property line on the north boundary of the Reserve. The proposed improvements are needed to provide access from State Highway 178 across the Reserve to this trail connector. Due to the sensitive nature of the Reserve's habitats and species, hunting on the Reserve is not compatible, but the proposed parking lot and trail will provide access across the Reserve to those adjacent Federal lands that have been inaccessible for decades. The Department has received public support from outdoor sportmen's groups for providing access to these Federal lands.

The proposed trail has been designed by the Department's Engineering Section to allow uses other than its primary purpose of providing access to the adjacent Federal lands. The trail will be approximately one mile long, six feet wide, handicapped accessible, fenced

and will include a 200 foot long footbridge crossing over Canebrake Creek. The planned 6,000 square foot parking area will be located approximately 600 feet west of the existing entrance road of the Reserve, just off Highway 178. The purpose of the fence along the trail is to limit public access to the Reserve but at the same time provide users with good opportunities to view and enjoy the habitat and wildlife found on the Reserve. Gates will be provided along the fence for administrative use.

Cost elements for the proposed project, prepared by the Department's Engineering Section, are estimated as follows:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Parking Lot (approximately 60' x 100') | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Trail (approximately 1 mile long x 6' wide) | 75,000.00 |
| Foot Bridge (approximately 200' long) | 45,000.00 |
| Fencing | <u>35,000.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS</u> | <u>\$160,000.00</u> |

In addition to the project costs listed above, an additional \$120.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the total allocation necessary for this proposal to \$160,120.00.

The project is exempt under Class 3 of Categorical Exemptions and a Notice of Exemption has been filed. Any additional permits or approvals will be obtained by the Department prior to beginning construction. Ms. Lipphardt indicated that Mr. Rob Benson of the Department of Fish and Game Engineering staff was in the audience to answer any questions regarding design.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the project, in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game, for the construction of a parking lot, footbridge and fenced trail at the Canebrake Ecological Reserve as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$160,120.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Miss Schafer pointed out the Department of Fish and Game is working with the group that manages the Kern River Preserve, a magnificent riparian area restored by The Nature Conservancy, and now operated by the Audubon Society. Miss Schafer also mentioned that she personally visited the area a number of times and found it a wonderful place to watch birds. She added that one could not easily access the ecological reserve and that this project will provide a nice amenity to the area. Miss Schafer asked Mr. Benson about the safety of making a left-hand turn into the area. Mr. Benson reported the parking lot was moved further down the road to improve visibility of the cars. She then asked if they were working with the county or CalTrans to provide signs coming from the east so that traffic will slow down when coming around the curve. Mr. Schmidt mentioned that there would

also be an encroachment permit necessary from CalTrans which will provide them the opportunity to review it for safety. There were no further questions or concerns.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE PROJECT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT, FOOTBRIDGE AND FENCED TRAIL AT THE CANEBRAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$160,120.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR PROJECT COSTS AND GENERAL SERVICES REVIEW COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

24. Los Banos Wildlife Area Public Access, Merced County \$151,770.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this project was to consider an allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited to provide additional parking, enhance existing parking and place an informational kiosk at the Department of Fish and Game's (Department) Los Banos Wildlife Area. The project is located at the Wildlife Area's main parking facility adjacent to the headquarters, which is approximately two miles north of the City of Los Banos. Mr. Peter Perrine then provided more details on the project.

The Los Banos Wildlife Area has a long history of activities with both the Department and the Wildlife Conservation Board. Nearly 3,000 acres were acquired by the Department in 1929, which was the first property acquired by the Department specifically to provide habitat for waterfowl. It was designated a State Wildlife Area in 1954. The Board approved five expansions to the Wildlife Area between 1965 and 1992, thereby increasing its size to more than 6,200 acres. The Board has also approved projects on the Wildlife Area to provide firm, abundant water supplies and to enhance and restore wetlands. A previous public access project, submitted to the Board in May 1993, proposed to construct a new parking facility in the Wildlife Area three miles north of this proposal. That project was dropped because subsequent estimates were considerably higher than previously thought, and additional funding was unavailable. However, the need still exists for improved parking and access to the Wildlife Area for the general public.

The Wildlife Area is a popular destination for hunters, anglers, and wildlife viewers, with more than 26,000 annual visitors recorded in 1995 (the last year figures are available). The existing parking lot at the Wildlife Area is in need of expansion to provide adequate parking for visitors on the busiest days of the year, mainly during the waterfowl hunting season. In addition, there is a need to provide visitor information directing the many visitors to the wildlife viewing sites or toward hunting areas. While the area has an

existing informational kiosk, its location is not readily seen by many visitors. This proposed project will reconstruct, and enlarge, the existing parking lot so that visitors can more easily take advantage of all of the wildlife recreational opportunities available at the Wildlife Area. In addition, the existing kiosk will be moved to a site that will be readily accessible to visitors, or a new kiosk will be built at that site, whichever option is more cost effective.

Cost estimates for this proposed project, which have been reviewed and approved by staff, are as follows:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Site preparation | \$72,860.00 |
| Construct new parking | 49,910.00 |
| Move or build kiosk | 10,000.00 |
| Project design and management | <u>19,000.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u> | <u>\$151,770.00</u> |

The Department of Fish Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. This project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15302, as it is a replacement of existing structures and facilities.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this is a proposed cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game and Ducks Unlimited. Ducks Unlimited will handle the engineering and also the contract administration. Mr. Schmidt added that Mr. George Nokes from the Department of Fish and Game was in the audience to answer any questions, as well as Mr. Jim Well from Ducks Unlimited, to answer any questions regarding engineering.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish the project; allocate \$151,770.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; 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 THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$151,770.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

25. Knights Landing Fishing Access, Yolo County

\$131,020.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a cooperative project with the County of Yolo to improve the Knights Landing Fishing Access site, a 4.2± acre site owned by the Department of Fish and Game (Department). The access project is located on Sycamore Slough at the confluence with the Sacramento River, near the town of Knights Landing, is approximately one-quarter mile west of the intersection of State Highways 45 and 113. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt then provided more details on the project.

The property was acquired by the Board in 1957 and has functioned as a very popular access site since the completion of the improvements in 1959. The original improvements included a boat ramp, dock, road, parking area and sanitary facilities. The site is operated and maintained by the County of Yolo under a Cooperative Agreement with the Department. The Knights Landing area is well known for its excellent salmon and striped bass runs as well as year-round catfish and sturgeon fishing. Recreational usage of the facility has risen through the years, with annual use figures for the site reaching 25,000 in 1995 (the last year figures are available).

In May of 1996 the Board approved funding for the County to renovate the site by extending the boat ramp, installing security features and constructing a concrete pad for toilets. Due to erosion at the end of the ramp, launching has become, not only difficult, but unsafe due to the drop off the end of the ramp. In addition, vandalism and off-hour use has become frequent and needs to be eliminated. Following the May 1996 Board action, the County developed final project plans, with the assistance of the Department, and endeavored to bid the project with no success. The County then received design input from contractors who declined to bid and explained that the ramp would be difficult to install at this location without employing some type of water containment structure during construction. In 1997, the County and the Department's Engineering staff modified the project design to include a coffer dam to facilitate the installation of the ramp extension.

The funding approved for the project in 1996 is insufficient to cover the additional costs required to facilitate this construction project and is only available until June of 1998. Due to environmental concerns, the period of time allowable for construction is during the month of October, which means the funds will revert before the County will be able to rebid and construct the project. Therefore, a new allocation is necessary if this project is to be completed. The County has already completed the following portions of the project as previously approved by the Board:

1. Fabrication and installation of the entrance gates;
2. Installation of the barrier along the roadway; and
3. Construction of the concrete pad for the chemical toilets.

Work completed has resulted in the expenditure of \$4,494.61 from the original Board allocation of \$45,000.00. Funds remaining will revert to the Wildlife Restoration Fund and will become available for future budget appropriations to the Board. The balance of the proposed improvements have not been completed and the County will need additional time to bid the project to include a water containment structure and to construct the project within the allowable time frames.

Revised cost estimates have been prepared by the Department of Fish and Game Engineering Section and reviewed by staff as follows:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Mobilization and Demobilization | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Water Control (150± ft. by 25± ft. long sheet piles) | 67,500.00 |
| Install Drainage Rocks at end of ramp | 2,000.00 |
| Ramp Sections | 12,000.00 |
| Wood pile and Floating dock Extension | 20,000.00 |
| Concrete pad for park host | 3,900.00 |
| Project Administration | 3,000.00 |
| Contingencies | <u>12,500.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u> | <u>\$130,900.00</u> |

In addition to the above noted project costs, an additional \$120.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the total allocation necessary for this project to \$131,020.00

The project is exempt under Section 15302 of CEQA, reconstruction of existing structures, and a Categorical Exemption has been filed by the County as required. This proposed work qualifies under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) program and is therefore eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs. Staff will amend its application to the SFRA to include the water control work. The County has agreed to extend the existing operation and maintenance agreement to the year 2023. Ms. Lipphardt indicated Mr. Larry Rillera, Parks and Facility Manager for Yolo County, was in the audience to answer any questions. There were no questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; approve the amendment to the Cooperative Agreement; allocate \$131,020.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT; ALLOCATE \$131,020.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR PROJECT COSTS AND GENERAL SERVICES REVIEW COSTS; AND

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

MOTION CARRIED.

26. Cosumnes River Wildlife Area Expansion #4, Sacramento County \$355,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 220± acres of riparian habitat and adjacent uplands as an expansion of the Cosumnes River Wildlife Area. The purpose of the overall acquisition is for the protection and preservation of freshwater marshes, vernal pools, mixed riparian forests and valley oak habitats. The existing State holdings are cooperatively managed and known locally as the Cosumnes River Preserve, an area acquired through a partnership effort involving The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento County Department of Parks and Recreation, Ducks Unlimited, The American Farmland Trust, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Game (Department) and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The subject proposal is a portion of a 598± acre property over which TNC recently exercised a purchase option. Mr. Jerry Heminger then provided more details on the project.

The first Cosumnes River Wildlife Area acquisition by WCB, consisting of 840± acres, was approved by the Board at its May 10, 1990 meeting, followed by Board approval of Expansion #1, totaling 327± acres, at its February 13, 1991 meeting. Expansion #2, totaling 1,020± acres, was approved by the Board at its August 10, 1995 meeting providing the State's first contribution toward multi-party efforts to acquire the Valensin Ranch addition. Expansion #3, totaling 285±, acres was approved by the Board at its November 5, 1996 meeting. The current proposed purchase is located about one-half mile southeast of the Expansion #3 property, at the east end of Lambert Road, about 18 miles south of downtown Sacramento.

The key habitat types found on the property include riparian communities, freshwater marshes, and native grasslands. A large area (approximately 180 acres) of mixed riparian forest located on the ranch is considered to be among the best remaining examples known in California. Buttonwillow thickets found along the slough channels provide cover and forage for a host of bird species. Freshwater marsh habitat along the Cosumnes River area is permanent or perennial, while seasonal marsh has largely been developed for agricultural use. Both of these latter communities are especially important to migratory waterfowl.

Acquisition of the subject property will protect critical habitat for Federally-listed threatened or endangered species including vernal pool fairy shrimp (threatened), tadpole shrimp (endangered), and California linderiella (threatened). Also, the State-listed endangered bald eagle and threatened greater sandhill crane will benefit from protection

of the ranch. At least 400 greater sandhill cranes now winter at the Cosumnes River Preserve and the bald eagle is an occasional winter visitor. In addition, other notable species found along the Cosumnes River include the Federally-listed threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle and several bird and mammal species including the Swainson's hawk (State-listed threatened), giant garter snake (State-listed threatened), river otter and ringtail cat.

The project area is especially rich in bird fauna with over 200 species having been sighted, with waterfowl species including white-fronted, Ross' and snow geese, cinnamon and green-winged teal, canvasback, ring-necked and wood ducks, gadwall, northern shoveler, American widgeon green, great blue and black-crowned night herons and American bittern. The thick riparian forest also provides habitat for black-headed grosbeaks, northern orioles, nuttall's woodpecker, western tanagers and numerous other species.

Valley oaks, once widely distributed in broad forests along central valley rivers and streams, have been drastically reduced by cutting for firewood and clearing of land for agriculture. The regeneration of seedlings and saplings has been dwindling, posing a threat to the continued survival of valley oak forest and woodland communities. The Cosumnes River is a significant area for this species. The acquisition of this parcel will protect a large, healthy population of trees of various ages.

The Cosumnes River site is listed in the 1988 Annual Report of Significant Natural Areas of California prepared by the Department's Lands and Natural Areas Project. The river has also been identified in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan as a critical part of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture for habitat protection and enhancement, and is a candidate for National Natural Landmark designation by the National Park Service. Additionally, the Cosumnes River is one of three areas targeted in a national campaign by TNC and Ducks Unlimited for wetland and riparian forest restoration.

The threat to the property appears to be from increasing development pressures, as evidenced by the optioning of certain property in the project area by nonagricultural interests. Development of lands within the area would increase the need for flood control structures, which would reduce river flows in the winter and early spring, reducing flooding and lowering the water table. Such changes would adversely impact the riparian areas, marshes and ponds. Any changes in agricultural use away from grains or pastures would reduce sandhill crane and Swainson's hawk food sources. Heavy livestock browsing continues to be a threat to oak seedling and sapling establishment, affecting the regeneration and age composition of the forest community. However, some continued agricultural use, including limited grazing within the project area, may be compatible with the natural habitat values now found on the property.

In addition to protecting this property, the acquisition will provide the opportunity for habitat restoration and enhancement. Future public use of the area may include the opportunity for fishing, duck hunting, hiking, canoeing, general wildlife observation and

education. However, the area will be primarily managed for the preservation of its biological resources under the current cooperative management agreement for the Preserve, which includes the Department as well as the other property owners and partners in the Preserve.

Prior to expiration of its option to acquire this property, TNC exercised and acquired the entire ranch for \$1,600,000.00, with the understanding that it was a pre-acquisition for the Preserve partners. TNC now proposes to sell 220± acres of its purchase to the State, and the Department fully supports this action. The remainder of the ranch will be exchanged for other riparian habitat along the river.

The appraised fair market value of the subject 220± acre property, as approved by the Department of General Services, is \$440,000.00. TNC has agreed to sell it to the State for its net cost of \$340,000.00. It is estimated that an additional \$15,000.00 will be needed for expenses which include title, escrow and Department of General Services review costs. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Any potential State ownership claims to the waterway have been addressed by the State Lands Commission and considered in the determination of fair market value. Mr. Heminger indicated that Dr. Chris Unkel of The Nature Conservancy was in the audience to answer any questions regarding management. No questions were asked.

Mr. Schmidt stated this parcel has been preacquired by The Nature Conservancy for resale to a public agency. Senator Johnston was instrumental in having funds placed in the WCB budget for acquiring properties along the Cosumnes River using Proposition 204 Water Bond Act monies designated for river and parkway purchases. Mr. Schmidt added that this property is actually appraised at \$440,000.00 and The Nature Conservancy has agreed to sell it for \$100,000.00 less than the appraised value. Mr. Thieriot asked if the plan was to attempt to continue to bringing pieces of property together to create an even larger complex. Miss Schafer acknowledged it was and that this was one of those great regional amenities for this area. Mr. Schmidt stated there were 8 or 9 partners in the management of this area and that an earlier purchase, the Valensin Ranch, had 22 funding partners.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the 220± acre property as proposed; allocate \$355,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Cosumnes River) to cover the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE 220± ACRE PROPERTY AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$355,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (COSUMNES RIVER) TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

27. Wetland Conservation Easement Program, (River Islands Farms) \$448,000.00
Sacramento County

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of a wetland conservation easement over approximately 800 acres of land in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The property is located within Tyler Island, adjacent to Georgiana Slough, approximately 3 miles south of the community of Walnut Grove, in South Sacramento County. Formerly agricultural ground, the project will protect and restore seasonal wetlands. Ms. Marilyn Cundiff then provided more details on the project.

This project is designed to contribute toward the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture (CVHJV) goal of protecting and restoring wetlands and waterfowl habitat in the Central Valley. This project will contribute toward the CVHJV goal specifically designed for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta area.

Under the authority and requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wetland Reserve Program, the NRCS will purchase a 30-year wetland easement over the entire property. To protect the restored property beyond the 30-year easement period, it is proposed that the Board purchase a wetland easement in perpetuity thereby protecting the property beyond the 30-year NRCS easement. The total cost associated with this transaction is \$1,640,000.00. Consistent with the provisions of the Wetland Reserve Program, the NRCS will contribute approximately 75 percent of the total easement cost, or \$1,200,000.00. It is proposed that the Board contribute the remaining 25 percent, or \$440,000.00.

The terms and conditions of the easement agreements permit full and exclusive use of the property by the landowner except those uses which would result in the loss of wetland habitat or the degradation of the property's waterfowl habitat values. In addition, a marsh management plan has been prepared for the property which is intended to assure the development and maintenance of high quality wetlands and waterfowl habitat throughout the property. The term of the easements, which do not provide for public access, extend in perpetuity and run with the land regardless of changes in ownership.

The owners of the property have agreed to sell this easement for the Department of General Service's approved appraised fair market value of \$1,640,000.00, of which it proposed that the Board contribute \$440,000.00. It is estimated that an additional \$8,000.00 will be needed for appraisal, escrow and General Services' review costs.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes. The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and fully supports it.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this easement acquisition as proposed; allocate \$448,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/Section 2786 (d) and the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program for the purchase price and costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Cundiff stressed this project will restore 800 acres to a combination of seasonal and permanent wetland habitat and brood ponds. The property will be managed by the private landowner in perpetuity, even though the Federal easement is for 30 years. The Federal government will pay 75 percent of the cost for this protection. Ms. Cundiff went on to explain that the management plan is designed so that this project will not impact neighboring landowners. The management plan outlines specific practices to address potential seepage issues. Further, the plan requires the landowner to engage in practices designed to address the spread of noxious weeds to neighboring landowners.

Mr. Thieriot reported there were five people that wished to address the Board regarding this project, Mr. Tom Stokes, Mr. Daniel Wilson, Mr. Steve Mello, Mr. John Glick and Mr. David Brown.

Mr. Mello, a neighbor in the area, expressed concern regarding the possible presence of noxious and pervasive weeds and their spread to neighboring properties. Further, he stated the Federal easement had conflicts with the State easement language. He further expressed concerns regarding the introduction of special status species and their effects on the agronomic practices including spray regiments, the degradation of neighboring crop by species inhabiting easement lands. He also questioned the categorical exemption and compliance with CEQA. Regarding the management plan, he voiced concerns regarding possible increase in reclamation district taxes to cover the cost of pumping water that is drained from wetlands and, if there was a similar project on Empire Tract, he requested to see a comparison of costs on pumping. Mr. Mello concluded that this project will have a permanent impact on his farm land and requested an extension to gather more information to further document his concerns and the concerns of neighboring properties.

Mr. Tom Stokes, an adjacent property owner, addressed the Board regarding his concerns about maintenance of the levees, possible increase in taxes and apparent mismanagement of the property.

Mr. Daniel Wilson, owner of a neighboring parcel, and reclamation district trustee, voiced concern regarding pumping of the area, the possibility of the property at some point in the future, falling into Federal or State ownership resulting in problems with tax collection, and possible seepage problems. Mr. Wilson requested a continuance on this project until the next Board meeting, if possible.

Mr. John Glick, addressed the Board as a proponent of this project and welcomed any questions those in attendance might have. Mr. Glick explained that he would be doing the ongoing management of the land after the easement goes into effect. In regard to the seepage issue, he explained that the management plan only calls for brood water ponds of

approximately 75 acres to be maintained between February and August and that they would be located in such a fashion as to minimize seepage to neighboring properties. In regard to increased pumping, he stated the adjacent properties currently flood during the wintertime, which is approximately the same time this property would be flooded also, and with that, the only other additional water demands would be the irrigation required. Once the easement lands are drained they germinate the seeds and plants for the ongoing management practices and very little irrigation is ever needed. In contrast, Mr. Glick noted the local farming operations in nearby lands will continually irrigate to keep their crops viable. It was his opinion that the easement lands will not impact their pumps more than what is already being done. Because the easement lands will be held in private ownership, all reclamation district assessments and property taxes will be paid. Mr. Glick welcomed any questions. No questions were asked.

Mr. Thieriot acknowledged the neighbors' concerns regarding seepage and noxious weeds and wanted to be sure he understood that staff in their scientific opinion feel these issues will not be a problem. At this time, Ms. Cundiff indicated Mr. Glenn Rollins of the Department of Fish and Game was available to speak to these issues. Miss Schafer introduced Mr. Glenn Rollins of the Department of Fish and Game, a specialist on wetland restoration projects in this area. Mr. Rollins explained that once the project is started and the easement is in effect, it is up to his staff to monitor the management the property. He stated that they visit the property twice a year to evaluate the management plan for possible changes. Mr. Rollins also stated that he has worked with Mr. Glick in the past on the Empire Tract and that he is easy to work with. In addition, he indicated that the Department has easements in the Yolo Bypass which the mosquito abatement district had been very concerned about. Following a number of meetings to address this issue, and using the management plan in effect, they have never had to spray any permanent easement properties in the Yolo Bypass. Mr. Rollins further stated that there have been no mosquito problems or seepage and that he felt the issues brought forward in this meeting will not be problems.

Mr. Lee, attorney representing Peter Brown, wanted to advise those present that the first public meeting with everyone (neighbors) took place last Thursday at the Reclamation District. He further expressed his concern that the State's easement would impact the economic feasibility of the Delta.

Miss Cundiff discussed management requirements for this project and noted that there is language in the easement document and management plan that specifically addresses noxious weeds and seepage problems. She further stated that the landowner is responsible for addressing any negative impacts to neighboring landowners. Also, she stated that the easement lands are reviewed twice a year and that the management plan is adapted to address any problems which may arise. She stressed that the plan was a flexible document subject to annual revisions. Miss Schafer asked for clarification on the NCRS's contribution for the easement cost and if the Federal government planned to move ahead independent of the State should the Board not approve this proposal. Ms. Cundiff explained the Federal government

made a separate offer to the landowner, which is not contingent upon the State's offer being accepted. She stated that the Federal management plan for the property is not as extensive as the State's and that the Federal government's management plan requires wetlands to be maintained as wetlands and that the landowner will no longer be able to farm the property. She added that regardless of the Board's approval on this project, this land will change in its use from actively being farmed to actively managed wetlands.

Miss Schafer then asked if this was the first project that NCRS pursued in this area under that program. Ms. Cundiff reported that this is the first project the Wildlife Conservation Board has pursued in conjunction with the NCRS, however, it was not the first easement WCB had purchased in the Delta.

Ms. Cundiff stressed the importance of resolving the concerns of the neighboring landowners and, if possible, meet to clarify outstanding concerns.

Mr. Thieriot introduced Mr. David Brown, Manager of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District. Mr. Brown commented that the District has gone on record supporting the enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetland restoration projects in general, as long as the management plans address issues of mosquito and vector control. He stated the District has had success with the Cosumnes River restoration project, and some concerns regarding conservation easements, and encouraged their participation at the beginning of the project. He added that the District has developed a very cooperative and proactive relationship with Cosumnes River Preserve and would like to see the Board continue to support such cooperation not only with their District but other projects throughout the State.

Miss Schafer, Mr. Thieriot and Mr. Schmidt discussed proceeding with this project, as the Federal government would proceed regardless of the State's plan, to amend the easement language, if necessary, and to resolve concerns the adjacent landowners have.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. DEZEMBER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS EASEMENT ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$448,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/SECTION 2786 (d) AND THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, WITH THE ADDITIONAL EXPRESSED PROVISION THAT STAFF MEET WITH THE CONCERNED NEIGHBORS IN AN ATTEMPT TO MODIFY THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND/OR EASEMENT TO SATISFY THEIR CONCERNS AND REPORT BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN A 30-DAY PERIOD, AND TO PROCEED AFTER THAT POINT.

MOTION CARRIED.

28. Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve, San Diego County \$2,187,400.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was for the purchase of approximately 561 acres within Boden Canyon, which lies on the north side of State Highway 78, about 10 miles easterly of Escondido. The acquisition would be further implementation of the habitat protection efforts in this region's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program. Mr. Jim Sarro then provided more details on the project.

Boden Canyon is ideally located for purposes of creating a viable preserve and is an important element of the City of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and NCCP, as well as the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority's (JPA) San Dieguito River Regional Park Plan. The site provides a connection between the San Dieguito River Valley and the Rancho Guejito area adjacent to Pamo Valley, forming one of the longest natural corridors in San Diego County, extending north to Riverside County. In addition, the entire eastern boundary abuts the Cleveland National Forest.

The canyon, which is over 4 miles long and about 3/4 of a mile wide, consists of about 2,070 acres with a mixed ownership pattern. In recent years, the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego have acquired almost 840 acres in separate locations as part of the NCCP program and the San Dieguito River Regional Park plan. The remainder, about 1230 acres, is in three private ownerships.

The property that is under consideration in this proposal consists of 561± acres comprising the majority of the riparian corridor that remains in private ownership in the canyon. This purchase would leave only about 1/4 mile of private ownership abutting the national forest.

There are nine major vegetation communities in the canyon, all of which occur on the subject property and six of which are considered sensitive, namely Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern willow scrub, southern coast live oak riparian forest, coast live oak woodland, Engelmann oak woodland and coastal and valley freshwater marsh.

Among the fourteen observed sensitive animal species using these habitats are the San Diego horned lizard, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, loggerhead shrike, two-striped garter snake, jacumba pocket mouse and Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse. At least one nesting pair of endangered least Bell's vireos is located on the property. The Department indicates that with specific management, additional breeding pairs could be supported in the canyon. Game species using the canyon include mule deer and turkey.

The Department strongly supports the acquisition and would propose to work with the City and the County toward cooperative management of the property. Management would be primarily for habitat protection and enhancement, but, where compatible, could include hunting, hiking, nature observation and similar wildlife oriented public recreation.

The approved fair market value of the property is \$2,814,856.00. The partnership that owns the property offered it to the state for \$2,372,394.00, thus providing a donation of \$442,462.00 in land value. In addition, the California Coastal Conservancy will be paying \$200,000.00 toward this purchase, as repayment to the Board for its full payment of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Ecological Reserve purchase (Board approved 11/5/96). Costs of sale, escrow, appraisal and Department of General Services' review are estimated to be \$15,000.00, thus indicating a total necessary allocation of \$2,187,400.00 (rounded). Funding is available for this purchase in the Habitat Conservation Fund as specifically designated for NCCP acquisitions.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Board received several letters of support from the San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy, the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority, Palomar Audubon Society and U.S. Forest Service. He also reported that the Board received a letter from an adjacent landowner's attorney requesting this item be removed from the agenda, as the landowner feels that ownership by the State could possibly infringe on his agricultural operations. Miss Schafer, Mr. Thieriot and Mr. Sarro discussed the landowner's concern that the State's management of the property might negatively affect the adjacent property. Mr. Sarro stated the properties are topographically disconnected by the mountains that form the westerly and northerly boundaries of Boden Canyon. The property is designated locally as open lands and habitat preserve. Further, the Department would follow its normal practice of seeking input from all interested parties in the development of the management plan.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$2,187,400.00 to cover the purchase price and related expenses from the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCCP); and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$2,187,400.00 TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED EXPENSES FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (HCCP); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

29. Wildlife Conservation Board Delegation of Authority to Staff

(NOTE: This item was originally calendared for Board consideration at its meeting of November 13, 1997, but was deferred.)

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the delegation to the Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authority granted under the Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947, the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program (IWCP) and the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program (CRHCP) for the granting of less-than-fee interests in Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and WCB controlled lands in those cases where the value of the interest to be conveyed is less than \$50,000.00.

For many years, the inventory of DFG and WCB controlled lands has been growing at a rapid pace. As a result, the Department and the Board have both experienced a corresponding rapid increase in real estate-related transactions that necessarily go along with the ownership and management of property. Examples of the needed activities are the processing of requests for easements across state land for access, public utilities, streets and highways and the like.

Under current law and practice, WCB staff processes all such activities for DFG and WCB in one of two different manners, depending upon the urgency of the request and the availability of staff time. These different methods are described as follows:

- 1) Under Government Code Section 14666, staff may submit the request to the Department of General Services (DGS), which is authorized to grant interests, easements and rights of way over state land whenever requested and authorized to do so by the affected state agency. Agreements of this kind, when carried out by DGS, are subject to all of DGS's policies and practices related to real estate transactions. In essence, DGS is provided with a statement of the rights to be conveyed, then negotiates the transaction for the requesting agency. DGS bills the agency and/or the grantee at the rate of \$90.00 per hour for this service.

The problems with this method of handling these requests are many:

- a) Once a request is made, the control of the transaction is out of the hands of the requesting agency. It is not realistic to expect the staff of DGS to be aware of all of the concerns and specialized needs of the agency (for example, presence of critical habitat types, species, etc., within the property or to be aware of the most appropriate contact persons within DFG in order to get specific information.)

b) DGS staff receives and handles requests of this type from all state agencies except CalTrans and the Department of Water Resources. As such, workload and priorities can, merely because of the circumstances, result in some lengthy delays between the request for action and the completion of a transfer.

c) At \$90.00 per hour, DGS real estate services are quite costly when compared to costs of WCB staff services.

d) The Government Code does not provide that the proceeds of sales of these less-than-fee interests be returned to the requesting agency. DGS historically does arrange for proceeds to be deposited to accounts (e.g. Wildlife Preservation Fund) specified by the requesting agency, but this is not required under the law.

2) Under the WCB's statutory authority, the Board may act directly to make grants of easements and other interests in WCB and DFG lands. Currently, when staff directly negotiates these transactions, the procedure is similar to other WCB transactions (such as land acquisition or restoration projects) in that the transactions are scheduled for full public hearing by the Board. The Board acts upon these requests on a case-by-case basis.

This method of handling these less-than-fee transfers has the advantages of "transaction control" and cost control. In addition, any proceeds from the transfers of these interests must be deposited into the Wildlife Restoration Fund and would be available for WCB program activities.

Staff is of the opinion that using WCB direct authority is clearly the preferable method of handling these real estate transactions. However, there is one drawback. Under current WCB policy and procedure, all transactions involving transfer of interests in real property must first be heard and acted upon by the Board at one of its quarterly public hearings. In view of public notice requirements, agenda preparation and printing time and related processes, the granting of easements through WCB can (and usually does) take a minimum of 3 - 6 months and then must still be reviewed and approved by the DGS. In the usual case, parties who request transfers of interest in WCB/DFG lands are under time constraints based on construction schedules (power lines, highways, access roads, etc.) and need more timely response. As a result, staff generally requests DGS to handle these transfer under its authority, which does not require public notice or hearings at all.

In order to greatly improve the process of granting less-than-fee interest in DFG/WCB controlled lands, staff recommends the Board delegate authority to the Executive Director to make such grants of less than fee interest when deemed to be appropriate and where the value of the interest to be granted is less than \$50,000.00. In all cases, the grants would be made at the request or recommendation of DFG to assure adequate consideration of impacts on habitat and programs. Any grants of interest in land would be reported as an informational item at the next available WCB meeting. In all cases, as now, the state must receive fair market value (or like-kind benefits) for any transfers that are made, and the transaction is still subject to review and approval by DGS.

By way of information, staff has also separately requested from DGS an exemption from its approval of minor transactions, those involving not more than \$50,000.00, for which DGS approval is otherwise required by statute. Staff anticipates this exemption will be provided shortly. Staff estimates that the requested exemption, coupled with the proposed delegation of authority, will result in substantial savings in staff time and DGS review charges while greatly improving the Board's and the Department's responsiveness in dealing with requests for easements and rights-of-way and the like from neighboring landowners, public utilities and other requesting parties.

Staff recommended that the Board delegate to the Executive Director its authority to grant less than fee interests, easements and rights of way over DFG and WCB controlled State land, as described above, where the value of the interest to be granted is less than \$50,000.00.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD DELEGATE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITS AUTHORITY TO GRANT LESS THAN FEE INTERESTS, EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY OVER DFG AND WCB CONTROLLED STATE LAND, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, WHERE THE VALUE OF THE INTEREST TO BE GRANTED IS LESS THAN \$50,000.00.

MOTION CARRIED

30. Resolution Honoring Douglas McGeoghegan

The following resolution was submitted for enactment by the Wildlife Conservation Board:

WHEREAS, Mr. Douglas McGeoghegan has, in January 1998, completed a two-year term as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board, and President of the California Fish and Game Commission, the last year of which was served during the Board's Golden Anniversary Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McGeoghegan, with his always intense interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, coupled with his sound judgement, his experience in the California agricultural community, and his longtime interest in conservation of California's wildlife resources, has greatly assisted the Board and its staff in carrying out its duties and

responsibilities and has, in doing so, significantly furthered the objectives of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the welfare of the wildlife resources of the State; and

WHEREAS, all who have served with Mr. McGeoghegan have appreciated his consistent support, leadership and advice, and have especially appreciated the personal and pleasant manner in which he conducts business, all of which have earned for him the love, esteem and respect of those who have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge his contributions to the work of the Board; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee, and the Board staff convey to Douglas "Doug" McGeoghegan our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board, and extend to him our very best wishes for the future, and be it further

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


Staff recommended that the Board approve the above resolution honoring Mr. Douglas McGeoghegan as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION AS PROPOSED, THAT IT BE MADE A PART OF THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THIS BOARD AND THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FURNISHED TO MR. MCGEOGHEGAN.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on February 24, 1998, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$396,363,458.88. 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 Sport Fish Restoration 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, the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act of 1996, the Natural Resources Infrastructure Fund and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

| | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| A. | Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects | \$16,006,219.06 |
| B. | Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement | 20,882,152.93 |
| 31. | Reservoir Construction or Improvement | \$ 3,063,613.05 |
| 32. | Stream Clearance and Improvement | 14,700,451.69 |
| 33. | Stream Flow Maintenance Dams | 547,719.86 |
| 34. | Marine Habitat | 646,619.07 |
| 35. | Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects | 1,923,749.26 |
| C. | Fishing Access Projects | 36,958,162.55 |
| 1. | Coastal and Bay Access | \$ 2,992,860.08 |
| 2. | River and Aqueduct Access | 9,199,717.52 |
| 3. | Lake and Reservoir Access | 6,850,624.69 |
| 4. | Piers | 17,914,960.26 |
| D. | Game Farm Projects | 146,894.49 |
| E. | Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement | 309,983,219.57 |
| 1. | Wildlife Areas (General) | \$177,038,536.29 |
| 2. | Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. | 4,671,641.76 |
| 3. | Wildlife Areas/Eco Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat) | 120,136,540.49 |
| 4. | Land Conservation Area | 7,705.00 |
| 5. | Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements | 3,765,475.72 |
| 6. | Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements | 2,750,625.43 |
| 7. | Other Wildlife Habitat Grants | 1,612,994.88 |
| F. | Hunting Access Projects | 484,898.57 |
| G. | Miscellaneous Projects (including leases) | 10,228,879.29 |
| H. | Special Project Allocations | 616,464.79 |
| I. | Miscellaneous Public Access Projects | 1,022,735.63 |
| 1. | State Owned | \$917,735.63 |
| 2. | Grants | 105,000.00 |
| J. | Sales and/or exchanges | 33,832.00 |
| | Total Allocated to Projects | \$396,363,458.88 |