

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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State of California
 The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Conservation Board

Minutes
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The Wildlife Conservation Board met at the State Capitol, Room 113, in Sacramento, California on March 2, 1999. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Mr. Richard Thieriot, President, Fish and Game Commission. At this time, Mr. Thieriot announced that Agenda Item #18 would be considered first, then the consent calendar and remaining agenda items. Mr. Thieriot also reported that an agreement had been reached the previous night regarding the Headwaters Forest acquisition and that the Board's presence was requested at a press conference and meeting with the Governor at 10:20 A.M., regarding that project. Therefore, the Board meeting would recess at that time and reconvene at 11:20 A.M. Mr. Thieriot recognized those that traveled a long distance to attend the Board meeting and apologized for the unexpected delay. He then continued with introductions, noting that Mr. Tim Gage was not yet present, but expected shortly.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Richard T. Thieriot, Chairperson

President, Fish and Game Commission

B. Timothy Gage, Member

Director, Department of Finance

Annette Porini, Chief Deputy Director

Vice, B. Timothy Gage, Member

Director, Department of Finance

L. Ryan Broddrick, Chief Deputy Director

Vice, Member

Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Pat Johnston

Priscilla Ouchida, Vice, Senator Pat Johnston

Senator Jack O'Connell

Gavin Payne, Vice, Senator Jack O'Connell

Assembly Member Mike Machado

Kristin Halstenrud, Vice, Assembly Member Mike Machado

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, Senior Land Agent
Frank Giordano, Senior 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:

Susan Williams, East Bay Regional Park District
Thomas Oberbauer, County of San Diego
David Barber, County of San Diego
Michael Beck, Endangered Habitats League
Scott Ferguson, The Nature Conservancy
Gloria Harpenau, Crest Open Space and Back County Land Trust
Charles David Stout, Back Country Land Trust
Andy Hammer, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Robert Heraty
John Elliott
Maria and Jerry Ehorn
Dennis Nay, USDA NRCS
John Carlon, Sacramento River Partners
Ann Brice, Cache Creek Conservancy
Rick Poore, Thousand Springs Ranch
Peter Stent, Thousand Springs Ranch
Tina Batt, Martinez Regional Land Trust
John Greer, City of Santa Barbara
Marcy Person, California Department of Finance
Forrest Sprague, Senator Johannessen's Office
Alan Ehrgott, American River Conservancy
Jim Swanson, Dept. of Fish and Game, Central Coast Region
Brian Hunter, Dept. of Fish and Game, Central Coast Region
Banky Curtis, Dept. of Fish and Game, Sacramento Valley
and Central Sierra Region

Mr. Thieriot reported the Board was not yet ready to consider Agenda Item #18 and requested that Mr. Schmidt continue with the consent calendar.

2. Funding Status as of March 2, 1999

Informational

(a) 1998-99 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisition	\$200,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(125,229.09)
Unallocated Balance	\$74,770.91

Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$1,198,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(192,195.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$1,005,805.00

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisition	\$275,000.00
Plus Budget Revision-Reimbursement	247,710.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(522,710.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$0.00

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisition	\$300,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(300,000.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$0.00

Governor's Budget - Major Development	\$500,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(500,000.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$0.00

(d) 1998-99 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$17,960,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(2,377,911.26)
Unallocated Balance	\$15,582,088.74

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

Governor's Budget	\$16,598,000.00
Plus Mid-year Adjustment	250,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(12,365,414.23)
Unallocated Balance	\$4,482,585.77

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

Governor's Budget	\$10,047,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(9,908,975.99)
Unallocated Balance	\$138,024.01

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

Governor's Budget	\$341,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(3,000.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$338,000.00

(h) 1997-98 Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Fund, River Parkway Subaccount Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$9,800,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(6,322,500.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$3,477,500.00

(i) 1998/99 General Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$4,850,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(250,000.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$4,600,000.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund (a), (b) and (c)</u>	\$1,080,575.91
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund (d), (e) and (f)</u>	\$20,202,698.55
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund (g)</u>	\$338,000.00
<u>Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Fund, River Parkway Subaccount (h)</u>	\$3,477,500.00
<u>General Fund (i)</u>	\$4,600,000.00

Mr. Schmidt asked if there were any questions regarding the above item. There were none.

*3. PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 4 - 13)

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Consent Calendar consisted of Items 4 - 13. Staff recommended that the Board approve the Consent Calendar as presented, absent any objection. There were no comments or objections.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE WCB APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS 4 - 13 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

*4. Approval of Minutes - November 3, 1998 Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the November 3, 1998, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 1998 WCB MEETING BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

*5. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following projects previously authorized by the Board have been completed, and some 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.

\$2,580.00 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund,
\$6,292.32 to the Environmental License Plate Fund
\$19,659.88 to the Habitat Conservation Fund
\$3,869.87 to the Inland Wetland Conservation Fund
\$6,671.50 to the CA Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Fund of 1988
\$1,850.00 to the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Fund,
River Parkway Sub-Account
\$50,000.00 to the General Fund

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDBridge Arbor Public Access, Lake County

Allocated	\$120.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$120.00

Slinkard/Little Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, Exp. #5, Mono County

Allocated	\$23,000.00
Expended	<u>-23,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Steelhead Beach Fishing Access, Sonoma County

Allocated	\$200,000.00
Expended	<u>-200,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Yucca Flat Wildlife Area, (Disposal), Tulare County

Allocated	\$3,000.00
Expended	<u>-540.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,460.00

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$ 2,580.00

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUNDFall River Riparian Fencing, Shasta County

Allocated	\$25,000.00
Expended	<u>-21,707.68</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,292.32

Pre-Project Costs

Allocated	\$3,000.00
Expended	<u>- 0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,000.00

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries \$ 6,292.32

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUNDBoden Canyon Ecological Reserve, San Diego County

Allocated	\$2,187,400.00
Expended	<u>-2,184,265.57</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,134.43

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, Exp. #3, Santa Cruz County

Allocated	\$5,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,962.92</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,037.08

East Grasslands Wetlands Enhancement/Restoration, Merced County

Allocated	\$62,250.00
Expended	<u>-62,250.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Elkhorn Slough Santa Cruz Tarplant Reserve, Monterey County

Allocated	\$40,000.00
Expended	<u>-32,288.89</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 7,711.11

Escondido Creek Ecological Reserve, Exp. #2, San Diego County

Allocated	\$3,000.00
Expended	<u>- 0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,000.00

Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, Exp. #4, Sierra County

Allocated	\$45,000.00
Expended	<u>-44,361.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 639.00

Pennington Creek Riparian Enhancement, San Luis Obispo County

Allocated	\$30,000.00
Expended	<u>-30,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Pickel Meadow Wildlife Area Restoration, Mono County

Allocated	\$50,000.00
Expended	<u>-49,867.29</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 132.71

Quail Hollow Ecological Reserve, Santa Cruz County

Allocated	\$750,000.00
Expended	<u>-750,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Sacramento River Riparian Restoration,(Lake Red Bluff), Tehama County

Allocated	\$50,000.00
Expended	<u>-49,999.45</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.55

Sequan Peak Ecological Reserve, Exp. #3, San Diego County

Allocated	\$706,000.00
Expended	<u>-703,995.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,005.00

Wetland Enhancement, Butte Valley Wetlands (Can Living Trust) Siskiyou Co.

Partial Recovery

Allocated	\$23,000.00
Expended	<u>-23,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0.00

Total Habitat Conservation Fund \$ 19,659.88

INLAND WETLAND CONSERVATION FUNDTulare Basin Wetland Restoration (Santura), Phase 2, Kern County

Allocated	\$35,300.00
Expended	<u>-31,430.13</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,869.87

Total Inland Wetland Conservation Fund \$3,869.87

CA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988Napa Marsh Camp Two, Sonoma County

Allocated	\$847,569.00
Expended	<u>-840,897.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 6,671.50

**Total CA Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land
Conservation Fund of 1988 \$6,671.50**

**SAFE, CLEAN RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY FUND
RIVER PARKWAY SUB-ACCOUNT**South Fork American River, Lower Canyon Unit, El Dorado County

Allocated	\$555,000.00
Expended	<u>-553,150.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,850.00

**Total Safe, Clean Reliable Water Supply Fund
River Parkway Sub-Account \$1,850.00**

GENERAL FUND**Pre-Project Costs**

Allocated	\$50,000.00
Expended	<u>0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$50,000.00

Total General Fund \$50,000.00

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE WCB RECOVER FUNDS FOR THE PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 5 - 9 OF THESE MINUTES AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$2,580.00 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, \$6,292.32 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, \$19,659.88 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, \$3,869.87 TO THE INLAND WETLAND CONSERVATION FUND, \$6,671.50 TO THE CA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND FUND OF 1988, \$1,850.00 TO THE SAFE, CLEAN, RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY FUND, RIVER PARKWAY SUB-ACCOUNT AND \$50,000.00 TO THE GENERAL FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

- *6. Riparian Habitat Restoration (South Fork Willow Creek Tributary), \$24,594.00
Glenn County

This proposal was to consider a grant to the Glenn County Resource Conservation District (District) to fund a cooperative project for riparian habitat enhancement and development of ponds for wetland habitat enhancement on private property. The subject project is located in the foothills of western Sacramento Valley, approximately five miles west of the city of Willows. Partners involved in this project include the District, the Department of Fish and Game (Department), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the California Waterfowl Association (CWA), and the private landowner who currently manages the property for hay and beef cattle production.

Thousands of ponds and waterways exist on private lands throughout California's foothills, many of which are utilized for crop and livestock production. Many of these ponds and waterways have the potential to provide increased wildlife habitat. However, over the past 100 or more years, traditional agricultural practices have prevented herbaceous and woody plants from regenerating naturally around these ponds and waterways. In addition, these practices have modified local stream hydrology and reduced the duration of base flows and local surface ponding. Some livestock producers are becoming interested in using new range management technology to achieve various landscape and production goals.

The proposed project will demonstrate how depleted and degraded riparian habitat around ponds and waterways can be restored and protected as part of an overall farm management plan, and how relatively low investments of money and management in new technology can be used to increase forage resources, water quantity and quality, diversity of wildlife, improve landscapes, and increase land values. Finally, it will show how livestock and crops can be produced while benefitting wildlife through the use of prescribed grazing, crop rotation, and other wildlife-friendly practices which include wildlife production as a goal.

Work to be completed as part of this proposal includes: 1) planting and establishing approximately 3 acres of native riparian trees and shrubs along a 3,300± foot long reach of an unnamed tributary to Willow Creek; 2) installing two grade stabilization structures in the downstream reach of the stream to arrest down-cutting; 3) increasing the capacity and improving the water management features of the existing reservoir; 4) developing three shallow ponds (approximately 8 acres) in a pasture area that is located adjacent to the stream; and 5) installing six wood duck nest boxes.

The ponds will be constructed in a series that will be filled with excess water from an existing private reservoir on the property and will be planted with suitable vegetation to attract waterfowl and other wildlife that are associated with wetlands. These ponds will be connected to each other via culverts and risers to allow management of water levels, or to allow complete drainage, when necessary. Water used by the wetlands will not affect the health of the proposed riparian plantings or any other downstream uses, as the landowner has agreed to manage the water use in his reservoir to support the wetlands while maintaining the normal seasonal flow to the stream. When needed, the water supply for the wetlands will be provided from an irrigation district pipeline, which is located at the upper end of the field, where the wetlands will be developed. Water from the ponds will periodically be released, with this runoff percolating into the ground water while slowly flowing overland back to the stream channel. The stream carries winter runoff from the foothills, normally drying up in the midsummer time period. Runoff and subsurface drainage from pasture and alfalfa irrigation, coupled with water made available through this project, should provide adequate flows to maintain the restored riparian corridor, and several deep pools in the channel will retain water through much of the summer period.

Working with technical assistance from the NRCS, the landowner has instituted a system of rotational grazing on the ranch, and has protected the riparian zone along the creek from unrestricted grazing. As a demonstration of his cooperation, the landowner has agreed to maintain the proposed restoration project area for ten years, and has also agreed to defer grazing from the area, approximately 20 acres, until the project technical team (CWA, NRCS and DFG) has evaluated the habitat response and determined the level of acceptable use by cattle.

The proposed project area is used by a number of wild pheasants and mallards for nesting and rearing of young, but lack of wetland habitat during the late spring and summer months limits production. The existing riparian and wetland habitat found along the stream and surrounding the landowner's reservoir are small, but noteworthy when compared to other similar foothill streams in western Glenn County. The landowner manages a licensed pheasant club on the property, and he has observed that the local wild pheasants and mallards which use the area have poor production because of the lack of wetland habitat during the late spring and summer months. The proposed project will add a significant amount of riparian and wetland habitat to the area, and the configuration of the habitat will improve the production and sustainability of wild populations of game birds, as well as improving the habitat for neotropical migrant songbirds and other wetland and riparian-dependent wildlife species.

The completed project will be managed to maintain and enhance wildlife values, under a management plan prepared by the NRCS and CWA, with input from the Department and the landowner. The landowner believes the project will demonstrate to other farmers and ranchers how a working ranch can be managed to support a variety of habitat types with their attendant wildlife.

This proposal has been accepted for funding by the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), an initiative of the 1996 Farm Bill (United States Department of Agriculture) which provides federal funds to help landowners improve wildlife habitat on private lands. This program is administered by the NRCS. Cost estimates for this project, which have been prepared by CWA and reviewed and approved by WCB staff, are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Pond Construction (8 acres total) (Inc. excavation, flashboards, culverts materials)	\$13,150.00
Grade Stabilization Structures (2)	14,610.00
Wetland and Riparian Revegetation (Seed, plants and labor)	3,200.00
Pipeline Water Supply (800') (Material and labor)	5,000.00
Dam Diversion (Screwgate, material and labor)	1,900.00
Wood Duck Nest Boxes (6) (Material, Construction and installation)	470.00
Deferred Grazing (20 acres for 3 years)	720.00
Project Design	1,500.00
Construction Certification	1,500.00
Contingency Funding (10 percent)	3,284.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:</u>	<u>\$45,334.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$24,594.00
Natural Resources Conservation Service	11,363.00
California Waterfowl Association	170.00
(In-kind services for wood duck boxes)	
Landowner	9,207.00

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING: **\$45,334.00**

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 Categorical Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15034, as a minor alteration to land that will enhance riparian and wetland habitat to benefit wildlife.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this allocation as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$24,594.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786(e) and (f) for the project, 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 MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS ALLOCATION AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$24,594.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786(E) AND (F)) FOR THE PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*7. Riparian Habitat Restoration (Clover and Mad Creeks), Glenn County \$61,250.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the Glenn County Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) for a cooperative project to restore approximately 123 acres of riparian habitat along three miles of Clover and Mad Creeks. The proposed restoration will be done on privately-owned land located approximately twenty-five miles west of the City of Willows and approximately five miles southwest of the community of Elk Creek in southwestern Glenn County. Partners in this project will include the GCRCD, the landowners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the California Waterfowl Association, The Wildlife Conservation Service, the University of California Extension Service, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Board.

Clover and Mad Creeks are two small semi-permanent streams flowing west to east through the oak dominated western foothills of the Central Valley, making their way through five miles of rich grazing land before eventually emptying into Briscoe Creek, a tributary of Stony Creek. All of these creeks are part of the 243,000-acre Stony Creek Watershed, and, therefore, part of an innovative range management plan entitled the Upper Stony Creek Watershed Plan. This plan, initiated in the mid 1980's by local ranchers, the NRCS and two local RCDs, resulted in the Upper Stony Creek Watershed Project. The project is aimed at reversing some of the land management practices that, over decades, have resulted in severe soil erosion, downstream sedimentation, increased runoff and reduced range productivity. Participating ranchers are seeing a proliferation of native perennial grasses, improved water retention and reduced soil erosion/sedimentation, perennial base flows in drainages that heretofore were ephemeral, increased wildlife populations and diversity of species, healthier riparian zones and an overall increase in range productivity.

In 1995, WCB funded a project at this site, patterned after the Upper Stony Creek Watershed Project, but going a step further in that it has also implemented a planned grazing system that focused intensely on protecting and restoring riparian and wetland habitats. Approximately 15,000 feet of fencing was constructed, mainly on Clover and Mad Creeks, to allow the landowner to manage cattle within the riparian and wetland areas for the benefit of native plant and wildlife species. Perennial grasses were planted and grazing was deferred for three years within the riparian zones to allow native perennial plant species to become established. Over the next seven years, grazing will be strictly controlled and used specifically to maintain and improve the newly established vegetation. The project has been quite successful and the landowner and the NRCS have collaborated to present workshops to other ranchers in the area on the techniques developed here.

The proposed project will extend the existing fencing another three miles up Clover and Mad Creeks. As in the previous project, grazing will be deferred from the riparian corridors for three years and grazing will be strictly controlled in subsequent years. The landowner incorporates biological monitoring into his ranching operation, consisting of neotropical bird inventories, biomonitoring of streams and photo point monitoring. The information learned from the earlier project will be fully utilized to construct the second phase and to manage cattle more effectively as a tool to enhance riparian habitat.

Biomonitoring of the existing project on the site has shown a marked increase in riparian and wetland dependent species. Fifteen riparian dependent bird species have been observed on site, including the state and federally endangered willow flycatcher, state threatened bank swallow, and four species of concern: the yellow warbler, tri-colored blackbird, Cooper's hawk and sharp-shinned hawk. Other species observed include the federally threatened red-legged frog and two species of concern: the foothill yellow-legged frog and the northwestern pond turtle. In addition, the area supports bald and golden eagles, at least part of the year.

Cost estimates for this project, developed by NRCS staff, were reviewed and approved by WCB staff as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Fencing materials:	\$46,000.00
Fencing maintenance	11,540.00
Water tank, trough and pipe	9,220.00
Nest boxes	770.00
Plans and Certificates	1,590.00
Deferred grazing	4,450.00
Monitoring	16,690.00
Workshops	1,440.00
Administration	<u>6,800.00</u>
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$98,500.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$61,250.00
Natural Resource Conservation Service	11,810.00
Landowner	18,250.00
Glenn County RCD	3,040.00
California Waterfowl Association	1,200.00
Wildlife Conservation Society	1,350.00
UC Extension Service	<u>1,600.00</u>
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$98,500.00</u>

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The Glenn County RCD will obtain any necessary permits and prepare and process the appropriate CEQA documentation. The landowner has agreed to maintain the site for ten years. If during the 10-year life span of this project, the landowner determines they are no longer able to manage and maintain the site to benefit wildlife, they have agreed to reimburse the State an amortized amount of the project cost.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$61,250.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786 (e/f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; 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 MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$61,250.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786 (E/F); AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*8. Concow Reservoir Public Access, Butte County \$28,850.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with the Thermalito Irrigation District (District) to install a barrier-free fishing access and parking area at Concow Reservoir. This 280-acre reservoir is owned by the District and is located approximately five air miles east of the City of Paradise and twenty-five miles by road northeast of Oroville, on Concow Creek.

The reservoir, built in 1927 to provide drinking water to the town of Thermalito, is now used to replenish water taken from Lake Oroville. It provides ideal habitat for self-sustaining populations of rainbow trout, black bass, redear sunfish, channel catfish, crappie and yellow perch. The reservoir was drained in 1983 to make repairs on the dam, after which it was restocked by the Department of Fish and Game (Department) with 10,000 channel catfish and 80,000 each of black bass, redear sunfish and crappie. By agreement with the Department, water levels in the reservoir never fluctuate more than two feet during bass spawning season, which maintains the excellent fish habitat. Due to the large numbers of fish in this reservoir, it is a popular fishing destination for northern Californians, even though only bank fishing is allowed and parking is limited.

The District has requested funding to improve the access facilities at Concow Reservoir, including the construction of a flat, level fishing pad at the water's edge, using material made from pine sap that binds with any soil, sand or gravel. The resultant surface is similar to asphalt but will not leach toxic material. A 400-foot access trail of the same material will be constructed to connect the proposed fishing pad to an existing dirt parking area on Concow Road. The parking area will be paved, and the entire site will conform to "barrier free" standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Cost estimates for this project, developed by District staff, were reviewed and approved by WCB staff as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Site Preparation	\$10,080.00
Paving and Striping	13,220.00
Bollards and curbs	2,700.00
Contingency (10 percent)	<u>2,600.00</u>
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$28,600.00</u>

In addition to the costs listed above, an additional \$250.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the project to \$28,850.00.

The Department has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The District will be preparing the appropriate environmental documentation as required under CEQA, will obtain all necessary permits and has agreed to maintain the property for twenty-five years under a Lease and Operating Agreement. They will also handle the contract administration for the proposed construction.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$28,850.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services' review costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; 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 MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$28,850.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR PROJECT COSTS AND GENERAL SERVICES' REVIEW COSTS; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*9. Sky Ranch, Contra Costa County \$101,000.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to be applied toward its acquisition of a conservation easement over 242± acres of real property, commonly referred to as Sky Ranch, located in Contra Costa County. The proposed conservation easement would restrict uses of the property, thus providing permanent protection of important oak woodlands, grasslands and wetland habitat. Funding for this proposed grant was included in the Board's 1998/99 budget for the specific purpose of assisting with this acquisition.

The subject property is located immediately west of the city limits of Martinez, west of Dutra Road and south of Highway 4, within the Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve. The 300-acre Mount Wanda addition to the John Muir Historic Site lies just east of the property at the southeastern end of the Franklin Ridge. The riparian habitat on Franklin Ridge (and Sky Ranch in particular) provides wildlife corridors between these large tracts of open space. The property is currently accessed via County Feeder Trail Number One, which links the property to the 400-mile planned Bay Area Ridge Trail.

The property is irregular in shape with topography characterized by moderate to steep slopes with areas of gentle rolling hills at the higher elevations. Its 600 to 1,000 foot elevation offers spectacular views of Mount Tamalpais to the west, Mount Diablo to the east, Mount Saint Helena to the north and all the way into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This unimproved property has historically been used for grazing of cattle.

Recently the property was acquired by the Martinez Regional Land Trust (MRLT) as part of its Franklin Ridge Protection Program. The Program envisions using a variety of land protection tools, including fee conservation easement purchases as well as working with private landowners to protect and restore important wildlife habitat on Franklin Ridge within the larger 50,000 acre Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve. MRLT holds easements on an adjoining property and is in negotiations with another adjacent landowner to purchase easements on his 200-acre ranch.

Sky Ranch hosts a diversity of biotic habitats, including oak/bay riparian woodland, coastal scrub and open grassland. At least two tributaries of Alhambra Creek originate within the boundaries of the property. According to recent surveys conducted by a private consultant and an EBRPD biologist, the diversity of habitat indicates its potential to have a resident population of several special status species, including the threatened Alameda whipsnake, nesting Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks, a species of special concern, and the endangered peregrine falcon. MRLT's Stewardship Committee has begun a baseline inventory of Sky Ranch, and is drafting a management plan, reviewing grazing practices and pursuing seasonal wetlands restoration on the property.

The proposed conservation easement in favor of the EBRPD would provide added protection of the property by ensuring that it will be retained forever in a natural condition, preventing any use of the property that will significantly impair or interfere with its conservation values. The EBRPD intends that the conservation easement confine the use of the property to activities that involve the preservation and enhancement of native species and their habitats.

The approved appraised fair market value of the conservation easement is \$266,000.00. The proposed grant would contribute \$100,000.00 toward its purchase, with the balance being provided by EBRPD. It is estimated that an additional \$1,000.00 will be needed for review of the appraisal by the Department of General Services, bringing the total proposed allocation for this project to \$101,000.00.

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 to EBRPD's purchase escrow. The proposed grant is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the appropriate Notice of Exemption is on file.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the award of a grant to the East Bay Regional Park District to be applied to the acquisition of a conservation easement over Sky Ranch, as proposed; allocate \$101,000.00 to cover the grant and related costs, \$100,000.00 from the 1998/99 General Fund, appropriated specifically for this project, and \$1,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AWARD OF A GRANT TO THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT TO BE APPLIED TO THE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER SKY RANCH, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$101,000.00 TO COVER THE GRANT AND RELATED COSTS, \$100,000.00 FROM THE 1998/99 GENERAL FUND, APPROPRIATED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS PROJECT, AND \$1,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*10. Clayton Ranch, Contra Costa County \$201,000.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to be applied toward its phased acquisition of the Clayton Ranch, this phase consisting of 357± acres, located in Contra Costa County. Funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 was included in the Board's 1998/99 budget for the specific purpose of assisting with this purchase. The Clayton Ranch property, which adjoins the protected Chaparral Spring property, offers the single best opportunity for the creation of a recreational, wildlife corridor between Mount Diablo State Park and the Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. The entire property, consisting of 1,030± acres, is a major canyon complex that offers 360 degree views of central and eastern Contra Costa County, the Sierra Range, the Delta, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve and the crest of Mount Diablo.

The property is unimproved wooded ranch land which has been primarily used for ranching/cattle grazing. It is located on the north side of Marsh Creek Road, northeast of Morgan Territory Road, about five miles southeast of the City of Clayton and can be accessed from Marsh Creek Road. The topography of the property is characterized as moderately sloping hillsides with a central (north-south) valley. Key features of the property include ponds, intermittent streams draining through the north-south valley, oak woodlands and grasslands.

The proposed acquisition by EBRPD is intended to help create an unbroken corridor between Mount Diablo and Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. EBRPD acquired Phase 1 of Clayton Ranch in December, 1998, and plans to acquire Phase 3 in the year 2000. The work of EBRPD, however, has not been in isolation. Their efforts to preserve Mount Diablo have been cooperative efforts and have included both private and public sectors of the community. As a result of those efforts, the protected open space on and around Mount Diablo has increased from 6,877 in 1971 to more than 53,000 acres today.

The property's high quality grassland, chaparral, oak woodland and riparian habitat provide important habitat for many resident and migratory animal species that move through the property to Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve or Mount Diablo State Park. Several special status plant and animal species are known to occur on the property. Perhaps most significant among these is a population of Alameda whipsnake, a state and federally-listed threatened species which is known to make use of the high quality chaparral and adjacent habitats that occur on site. Raptor species, including prairie falcons and golden eagles, forage at Clayton Ranch. Finally, several special status plant species have been identified on the property, including the Mount Diablo sunflower, Mount Diablo manzanita and serpentine bedstraw. As a condition of the proposed grant, EBRPD has agreed to manage the property for purposes of wildlife habitat preservation, restoration and management, wildlife-oriented education and research, and for compatible public uses, consistent with wildlife habitat preservation.

The approved appraised fair market value of the 357± acre subject property is \$700,000.00. The proposed grant would contribute \$200,000.00 toward the purchase by EBRPD. It is estimated that an additional \$1,000.00 will be required for Department of General Services' costs, bringing the total proposed allocation for this proposal to \$201,000.00. The balance of the proposed acquisition cost will be provided by EBRPD, Save Mount Diablo and the Contra Costa County Agriculture/Open Space Trust.

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 for EBRPD's purchase directly into escrow. The proposed grant is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the appropriate Notice of Exemption is on file.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the award of a grant to the East Bay Regional Park District to be applied toward the acquisition of its second phase of Clayton Ranch, as proposed; allocate \$201,000.00 to cover the grant and costs; \$200,000.00 from the 1998/99 General Fund, appropriated specifically for this purpose; and \$1,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff of the Board to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AWARD OF A GRANT TO THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THE ACQUISITION OF ITS SECOND PHASE OF CLAYTON RANCH, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$201,000.00 TO COVER THE GRANT AND COSTS; \$200,000.00 FROM THE 1998/99 GENERAL FUND, APPROPRIATED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND \$1,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF OF THE BOARD TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*11. Palos Verdes Peninsula Habitat Restoration, Los Angeles County. \$100,000.00

This proposal was to consider a grant to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (Conservancy) for a cooperative project to restore coastal sage scrub habitat on approximately 50 acres of land located in the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Los Angeles County. Funding for this proposed grant was included in the 1998/99 Board budget for the specific purpose of assisting with this project.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula is a major coastal feature extending from San Pedro on the south, to the cities of Redondo Beach and Torrance on the north. It encompasses approximately 16,832 acres and four cities: Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates and Rancho Palos Verdes. The topography of the area rises abruptly approximately 100 feet from the beaches, resulting in a coastal bluff terrace. From the coastal bluffs, the upland terrain rises an additional 1,100 to 1,200 feet. Substantial residential and commercial development of the area has occurred and is ongoing, leaving only about 2,000 acres of natural habitat remaining on the entire peninsula. Much of the area consists of inland canyons which contain patches of coastal sage scrub habitat, home to the federally-listed threatened California gnatcatcher and coastal cactus wren "a Species of Special Concern." The canyon bottom and margins of the canyon walls in this area support mostly weedy upland species, such as fennel and mustard. Restoration and enhancement of native coastal sage scrub habitat is felt to be important to the continued survival of some of the plant and wildlife species found in this area.

The Conservancy is a non-profit organization with a goal to manage several Palos Verdes Peninsula open space properties and restore native habitat to these areas. Two properties have been identified by the Conservancy as sites for restoration of coastal sage scrub habitat with these funds: Lunada Canyon Natural Area and the Linden H. Chandler Preserve. Lunada Canyon Natural Area is a 20± acre property owned by the Conservancy and located in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, just west of Hawthorne Boulevard. The Chandler Preserve is a 28.5± acre property owned by the Conservancy and the City of Rolling Hills Estates and is located north of North Palos Verdes Drive, within the City of Rolling Hills Estates.

The Conservancy will work with the local city governments to define how those areas should be managed, where trails should be located and where habitat restoration will take place. A management plan for each property will be developed, with follow-up management to be accomplished consistent with the agreed-upon plan and approach. The plan will provide direction to efforts to enhance habitat protection, recreation opportunities, and the aesthetic value of the properties so that the properties may be enjoyed by residents and visitors to the Peninsula. The primary objective of the management strategy is to protect, enhance and revegetate local coastal sage scrub habitats preferred by the California gnatcatcher, cactus wren and other rare species, preserve sensitive plant species found on the sites, and to provide compatible recreational opportunities for the public.

Development of the management plans will require site surveys, data collection and plant and wildlife surveys to obtain necessary information to determine how best to manage each site. Once the plans are completed, restoration efforts will commence and will include weed and trash removal, revegetation with container plants cultivated from native sources, and ongoing maintenance. Once planted, the restoration areas will be watered and managed to assure survival of the plants for the first year. Ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the plants will continue for the first five years. After five years, monitoring and maintenance activities will occur annually and will include trash and weed removal, care of buffer areas and maintenance of fire prevention areas.

The Conservancy will obtain any necessary permits and prepare and process the appropriate CEQA document for the project components. Costs estimates for the restoration efforts have been reviewed by staff and are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Data Collection:	
Land Inventory	\$ 3,000.00
Management Plan Preparation	3,500.00
Consultants:	
Restoration Plan & Field Work	38,400.00
Volunteer Management	28,800.00
Restoration Supplies	7,100.00
Conservancy Administration	<u>19,200.00</u>
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$100,000.00 from the General Fund for project 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 MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$100,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR PROJECT COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*12. Cache Creek Nature Preserve, Yolo County \$200,000.00

This proposal was to consider a \$200,000.00 grant to the Cache Creek Conservancy (Conservancy) for a cooperative project to establish the Cache Creek Nature Preserve on 130 acres of Yolo County-owned property located off Road 94B and Road 20 just west of the City of Woodland. Funding for this proposed grant was included in the 1998/99 Board budget for the specific purpose of assisting with this project.

Situated along the Cache Creek corridor between Woodland and Esparto, the site is unique to the region as it represents one of the few areas along Cache Creek where human activity has been minimized. The most significant physical features of the property are Cache Creek and Gordon Slough, which are located along the southern and northern portions of the property, respectively. Surrounded by farming activity to the north and east, a golf course to the south, and agricultural and mining areas to the west, the site represents a desirable opportunity to conserve habitat as well as provide interpretive opportunities for the region. A. Teichert and Son, Inc., a contracting and construction materials company, recently deeded the property to the County of Yolo for the establishment of a nature preserve. A conservation easement exists on the property requiring that it be maintained for this purpose. This public/private partnership will provide educational opportunities for children and adults as well as ensure habitat protection.

The property provides important habitat for riparian wildlife, potential habitat for several special-status wildlife species and includes one of the oldest recorded oak groves in Yolo County. The site's mature cottonwoods and valley oaks along the creek and slough provide suitable nesting and roosting habitat for Swainson's hawks, red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, yellow billed magpies and American crows. The riverine habitat found at the site provides important foraging, roosting, resting and rearing habitat for waterfowl, amphibians, and aquatic reptiles. Great blue herons, great egrets, snowy egrets, black-crowned night herons, green herons, killdeer and spotted sandpipers have been identified on the site and pacific chorus frogs and western toads lay their eggs in the quiet backwater pools and shallow side channels on the property.

The Conservancy is a non-profit organization formed to oversee restoration activities along the Cache Creek corridor as well as to pursue public outreach and educational opportunities relative to Cache Creek. Their objective for the Nature Preserve is to conserve and enhance the cultural and habitat values of the area and make the site available to youth-oriented, educational, research, and conservation organizations to encourage the appreciation and study of cultural and habitat values of the area. The County and the Conservancy have entered into an agreement whereby the Conservancy has agreed to develop, restore, and manage the property.

The Conservancy is funded, in part, by four aggregate companies which mine in the area. This funding source is secured for 30 years through development agreements with Yolo County and the aggregate companies and will provide some of the Conservancy's ongoing management costs. The funds proposed to be provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board grant will be used to install nature trails and an observation platform, reinforce an access bridge, construct information kiosks, signs, restroom facilities and a barrier-free parking area, as well as to stabilize an historic barn on the property to house antique farm equipment and educational material. Plans for future improvements include a small amphitheater, additional parking, strengthening existing buildings and development of an interpretive center building and observation tower.

The Conservancy will obtain any necessary permits and prepare and process the appropriate CEQA documentation for the project components. The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. Letters of support for the project have been received from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors as well as the Woodland Joint Unified School District. Cost estimates for the project have been reviewed by staff and are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Access Bridge and roadway improvements	\$60,000.00
Large Barn-strengthening and improvements	40,000.00
Overlook Structure	25,000.00
Footbridge	25,000.00
Trails	12,000.00
Kiosks	8,000.00
Signage	12,000.00
Asphalt Paving	15,000.00
Portable Restroom Structure	3,000.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>

If actual costs are less than projected and funds remain after the above improvements are completed, they propose to apply them towards completing the following additional project elements:

Small Amphitheater with Berm	\$10,625
Strengthening and improvements to Small Barn	\$15,000
Parking Area Addition and Gravel Paths	\$45,000
Interpretive Center	\$365,000
Observation Tower	\$60,000

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$200,000.00 from the General Fund for project 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 MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$200,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR PROJECT COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*13. Plaisted Creek Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, San Diego County \$75,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 6± acre inholding within the Department of Fish and Game's Plaisted Creek Ecological Reserve (Reserve). The subject property lies within the southeast portion of the 458± acre Reserve and, if acquired, would bring the total acreage of wildlife habitat protected to 464± acres.

The Reserve is located near Palomar Mountain, on the east side of Pauma Valley in northern San Diego County, approximately 20 miles north of the City of Escondido and 30 miles east of the Pacific Ocean coastline. The two main travel routes to the Pauma Valley area are via County Road S-6 from Escondido through Valley Center and Highway 76 from Pala Road, where I-15 crosses the San Luis Rey River.

Habitat types found on the subject property, which are similar to those found on the Reserve, include chamise chaparral, oak woodlands and riparian woodlands. Chaparral is found on the slopes and ridges and the oak and riparian woodlands are located on flat benches, creeks and drainages which are found throughout the property. The oak woodland is composed of coast live oak, canyon live oak, Englemann's oak and scrub oak, while the riparian woodlands contain sycamores, alders and ferns.

A host of animal species are present on site, including southern mule deer, rabbits, California quail, coyotes, bobcats and mountain lion. Numerous raptors and songbirds are also present on site while reptiles and amphibians can be found in wet areas located along creek bottoms and springs. During good rainfall years, deer use the property as a fawning area. The Department of Fish and Game has recommended the purchase to not only protect the habitat found on the property, but to eliminate possible development of this inholding which could be detrimental for the existing Reserve.

The owners have agreed to sell the property to the State for the appraised fair market value of \$70,000.00, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). It is estimated that an additional \$5,000.00 will be needed for expenses including escrow fees, title insurance 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.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$75,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund for acquisition costs and project expenses; 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 MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$75,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR ACQUISITION COSTS AND PROJECT EXPENSES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. North Fork Weber Creek, Spivey Pond Unit, El Dorado County \$106,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a grant for a cooperative project with the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the American River Conservancy (ARC), and others as noted below. Grant funds would be applied to the BLM's acquisition of 54± acres of wildlife habitat, including habitat for the California red-legged frog, a federally-threatened species. Mr. John Donnelly then explained the project in greater detail.

The subject property fronts on the North Fork of Weber Creek, approximately 2 miles southwest of Pollock Pines and approximately 5 miles upstream of Snows Road. It is known locally and regionally among public agencies as Spivey Pond. The 1± acre pond located on the property is fed by North Fork Weber Creek. It has an approximate capacity of 10-acre feet and is maintained by an earthen dam of approximately 150 feet in length and 16 feet in height. The American River Conservancy recently completed renovation of both the dam and a concrete spillway located on its north side.

While Spivey Pond is relatively small in size, it supports one of two known populations of the California red-legged frog (a federally-listed threatened species), in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has been surveying the Weber Creek drainage since the 1940's and the last reported sighting of the red-legged frog in this watershed was in 1975. Interest was renewed in 1996 when there was a reported sighting on the North Fork Weber Creek, in the area of Snows Road. In July of 1997, surveys by federal researchers documented six adult red-legged frogs in Spivey Pond. This was the first confirmed sighting in the Sierra Nevada in nearly 25 years.

In addition to supporting habitat for a federally-threatened species, the property also contains an especially rich ecotone of habitat values including black oak woodlands, mature douglas fir, yellow pine and cedar forest, grassland, chaparral and several distinctive riparian habitats. Because of the diversity of habitat types found on the property, numerous aquatic, bird and other animal species are present. These include western pond turtle (Species of Special Concern), California newt, rainbow trout, wild turkey, quail, bald and golden eagle, bear, mountain lion and deer. The Department, working with other public agencies, has highly recommended the protection of this property.

Through negotiations with other interested agencies, the BLM has agreed to accept ownership of the property. Management will be carried out through a cooperative effort among state, federal and local agencies. A management agreement involving the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), El Dorado County and the El Dorado Irrigation District is currently being prepared for this purpose. Management will focus on maintaining the pond environment to ensure its long-term stability as red-legged frog habitat and to implement measures to reduce contributions of sediment and other pollutants to the pond and surrounding watershed.

One of the parties to this multi-agency partnership, the American River Conservancy, was able to pre-acquire the subject property while the public agencies were securing appraisal approval, securing funding and project approvals. Funding for the purchase from the Conservancy is proposed to come from BLM, USFWS, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Board.

The appraised fair market value of the subject property, as approved by the Department of General Services, is \$325,000.00. It is proposed that the Board fund \$99,000.00 toward this purchase with the balance coming from the entities noted above. An additional \$7,000.00 is estimated to be necessary for project expenses, bringing the allocation proposed for this project to \$106,000.00.

Mr. Schmidt added that this project was for the California red-legged frog, a federally-threatened species. The funds appropriated would come out of the Habitat Conservation Fund for items that are listed in the Habitat Conservation Fund for significant natural areas and threatened and endangered species.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$106,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (\$27,584.00 from Section 2786 (a) and \$78,416.00 from Section 2786 (b/c)); authorize staff to deposit \$99,000.00 into escrow as a grant toward BLM's purchase; with the balance, \$7,000.00, to be used for project expenses; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Thieriot commented that this was a wonderful project and was presented very well. Mr. Broddrick asked Mr. Schmidt if there was any public testimony. He was advised there were no requests to speak on this item.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. RYAN BRODDRICK THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$106,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (\$27,584.00 FROM SECTION 2786 (A) AND \$78,416.00 FROM SECTION 2786 (B/C)); AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DEPOSIT \$99,000.00 INTO ESCROW AS A GRANT TOWARD BLM'S PURCHASE; WITH THE BALANCE, \$7,000.00, TO BE USED FOR PROJECT EXPENSES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

As discussed at the beginning of the meeting, we now moved to Item #18. Mr. Thieriot introduced the newest member of the Board, Mr. Tim Gage, who was recently appointed as Director of the Department of Finance. Mr. Thieriot explained that because he was related to the landowner of the property over which this project is located, and pursuant to his discussion with a Deputy Attorney General, he would not take part in considering or voting on this project. Therefore, Mr. Gage's attendance was required for a quorum, since only one Deputy Director could serve on the Board at one time. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Ryan Broddrick.

At this time, Mr. Schmidt introduced Ms. Annette Porini, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Finance, who would be sitting in for Mr. Gage for the remainder of the meeting, after considering Item #18.

18. Riparian Habitat Restoration (Bear Creek Meadow,) Shasta County \$161,320.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this proposal was for a grant to California Trout (CalTrout), a nonprofit organization, to conduct a cooperative habitat restoration project on private land in Bear Creek, located near the town of Dana, in northern Shasta County. This project would restore a portion of Bear Creek, a major tributary to the Fall River, to a location near its historic channel, which would result in the establishment of over two miles of riparian corridor. The project would also develop several ponds and wetland areas in the adjacent flood plain/meadow, thereby enhancing approximately 500 acres of wildlife habitat. A major feature of this project is that it would eliminate a significant source of sediment that has destroyed aquatic habitat in the Fall River, one of the finest wild trout streams in California.

Mr. Scott Clemons reported that the current landowner of this project, Mr. Peter Stent, and his agent, Mr. Rick Poore, were in the audience, in addition to Mr. Gary Stacey from the Department of Fish and Game's Region 1, and were available to answer questions. Mr. Clemons went on to explain the project in greater detail.

Approximately 40 years ago, the former owners used the lands for livestock grazing, and felt the need to "improve" the meadow for that use by moving the creek from its historic channel near the center of the meadow to a new location on the extreme northern edge of the property. Following the relocation of the channel, winter runoff carved out a new, highly unstable channel in the meadow soil. The channel rapidly eroded vertically, creating a deeply incised channel. This process lowered the water table in the meadow and delivered tons of sediment to the Fall River each year, covering fish habitat for miles. A recent study funded by the Clean Water Act concluded that 41 percent of the current sediment input to the Fall River originates from erosion of the 2 mile long gully in the project area. Over time, only a small number of clumps of trees became established along the banks of the channel, and the few mature trees that remained along the historic channel corridor gradually began to die.

The anticipated objectives of this overall project are to: 1) re-establish the water table at the elevation of Bear Creek Meadow, 2) enhance summer flows, 3) improve fish habitat and passage potential in the meadow, 4) reduce erosion and sediment loading from eroding banks in the meadow, and 5) re-establish the meadow as a functional flood plain which will be able to trap most of the sediments which come from upstream. The present gullied channel will be filled and the new channel will be created by reconnecting remnant segments of the historic channel with newly excavated segments. The new channel will achieve a natural, stable configuration, using accepted process-oriented geomorphic designs.

The current landowners together with local, State, and federal public agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations, and professional hydrologists and geomorphologists have developed state-of-the science plans for this project over the last four years. Restoring the health and function of the two-mile stream corridor and 500 acres of associated wetland flood plain is consistent with the goals and objectives of the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program, the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Plan, the Central Valley Improvement Act, and the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture. The project is further supported through a Memorandum of Understanding negotiated between the landowners, the Department of Fish and Game, CalTrout, the Fall River Resource Conservation District, the National Audubon Society, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the California Waterfowl Association.

Many fish and wildlife species, as well as people, will benefit from this project. Waterfowl will benefit by the development of twenty acres of ponds providing nesting habitat and flyway usage, while neotropical songbird habitat will be enhanced by the increase in

abundance and diversity of riparian corridor vegetation. Increased stream side shading and cover will benefit wild trout and other aquatic species. Other species expected to benefit include the western pond turtle, the state-listed Threatened Swainson's hawk, Cooper's hawk, wild turkey, black-tail deer, California quail, and the Federally Endangered Shasta crayfish. People will benefit from the improved water quality in the stream, with overall reductions in the rate of sediment being supplied by the erosion of the vertical gully walls. The project is expected to arrest approximately 60 percent of the current sediment delivery to the Fall River. Proper stream and flood plain function will also help to attenuate flood flows and reduce peak flood damages.

The project is expected to be completed within three years, including the construction of the new channels and ponds, and the planting of various native riparian species. Project performance will be monitored over the three-year period. Performance criteria will include channel stability, groundwater levels, water quality, vegetation survival and bird use. The Wildlife Conservation Society has been involved in monitoring the riparian-dependent bird species in the project area, and has established pre-project baseline data for bird use. The applicants are seeking funding from other sources to extend the monitoring efforts beyond the three-year implementation period.

Excavation and planting along the design channel are expected to commence in early spring, as soon as field conditions allow the use of a track excavator. The design channel is expected to be completed by November, 1999. Irrigation water will be supplied for the duration of the summer and fall, until rains begin in late fall or early winter. The pond excavation and fill of the incised gully will commence as soon as flows subside in early summer, depending upon the duration of the wet season.

Approximately 150,000 cubic yards will be excavated from three main sites along the line of the existing gullied channel, which will be converted into ponds. The excavated material will be used to fill the main gully of the existing channel. Three or four smaller ponds will be excavated along a remnant sub-channel. Work will also be done to the newly constructed banks to improve their resistance to erosion.

The long-term habitat goal for this project is to re-establish a functioning riparian community in the Bear Creek Meadow area. This will be accomplished by creating conditions conducive to the recruitment of native climax riparian species in the meadow, such as Oregon ash and black cottonwood.

CalTrout will oversee the project and construction, and management will be done by the landowner and local contractors, with the Department of Fish and Game providing technical assistance, as needed.

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Project Design and Supervision (Landowner matching funds)	\$ 40,000.00
Plant Materials	45,000.00
Irrigation Supplies	15,000.00
Equipment Rental	5,000.00
Restoration Contracts	323,000.00
Including earthwork, planting and bioengineering (Landowner, Fall River RCD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy matching funds= \$250,000.00)	
Monitoring	20,000.00
(Landowners matching funds=\$10,000.00)	
Contract Administration Fee (9 percent of WCB Contribution)	<u>\$ 13,320.00</u>
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$461,320.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$161,320.00
Fall River RCD Grant (Proposition 204 Bay Delta Program)	100,000.00
The Nature Conservancy	50,000.00
Landowner	110,000.00
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	40,000.00

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING **\$461,320.00**

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The Department has approved a Negative Declaration for this project, and CalTrout and the landowner will obtain any necessary permits. The landowner has agreed to maintain the site for ten years. If at any time during the ten-year life of the project, the landowner is unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, he will refund to the Board an amortized amount of the funds based on the number of years left in the project life.

Mr. Schmidt emphasized the important factor that the project as proposed, was expected to reduce the sediment flowing into the Fall River by approximately 60 percent. He also pointed out that on page 31 of the agenda, there were five funding partners shown, but that the project actually included a number of additional partners involved that were not identified on that page.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$161,320.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786 (e) and (f)); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Gage asked for clarification on who performs the work on these types of projects, whether the work is contracted or a cooperative effort. Mr. Clemons explained the idea for this project was developed by the landowner four or five years ago, in an effort to try to restore the stream's function in this meadow. Mr. Stent stated that he has been in contact with various contractors and went on to explain that there will be a dirt moving contractor, that a revegetation specialist has taken native plants from the meadow which are currently being grown out by Cornflower Farms. He also said there would be a monitoring specialist on site to work with the actual dirt moving, and an excavating contractor. Mr. Stent explained he would be the project manager. Mr. Gage commented that it would seem to be a useful thing, when opportunities arise, to use California Conservation Corp for this type of project, as a cooperative project. Mr. Schmidt responded that the Corp is not being used on this particular project, but are often used in stream restoration projects, and have always done a fine job. Mr. Gage added that he was pleased to see the combination of funding sources for these projects, but requested clarification regarding the value of the land being enhanced by these project efforts and whether the Board staff looks at the contribution that the landowner is making in relation to the enhanced value. Mr. Schmidt explained that sometimes land values actually decrease because land is being taken out of production in order to do habitat improvements. Obviously the wildlife habitat values are somewhat enhanced by these projects, which are not necessarily economic benefits. Mr. Schmidt stated the Board tries to work with the landowner to the extent they can, as far as the funding goes, but in this particular case, a person could look at it either way as to whether or not the market value is being enhanced. Mr. Gage expressed appreciation on behalf of the Governor and the State of California to the landowners for their willingness to participate in this venture and for their significant contribution.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TIM GAGE THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$161,320.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786 (E) AND (F)); AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

At this time Mr. Gage left the meeting and Mr. Thieriot rejoined the Board, assuming the role of Chairman. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Gage for taking time from his busy schedule to attend this part of the Board meeting. Mr. Thieriot announced that the meeting would recess for one hour so that the Board members could attend a press conference and meeting with the Governor regarding the closure of the Headwaters Forest acquisition.

Before recessing, Mr. Thieriot introduced Mr. Gavin Payne, representing Senator Jack O'Connell.

The meeting reconvened at 11:25 A.M. At this time, Mr. Thieriot introduced Ms. Priscilla Ouchida, representing Senator Pat Johnston. Mr. Thieriot and Mr. Schmidt expressed their appreciation to those attending for their patience during the press conference.

15. Moore Creek, Expansion #1 (Bombay Project), Santa Cruz County \$1,007,770.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of a conservation easement over 160± acres of land for the protection of significant habitat and watershed areas, including special status plants and animal species, located just west of the Santa Cruz city limits. Mr. John Donnelly explained the project in greater detail.

More specifically, the subject property is located just east of Wilder Ranch State Park and north of Natural Bridges State Park in Santa Cruz County. It is adjacent to lands currently encumbered with a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) conservation easement and contains the majority of the uplands which comprise the Moore Creek Watershed, a watershed identified by the DFG as a Significant Natural Area. The subject property fronts on State Highway 1 to the south and is within close proximity to the University of California--Santa Cruz campus, which is located to the northeast.

A mixture of riparian habitat, oak woodland, evergreen forest, and several types of grasslands, including Coastal Terrace Prairie, are found on this property. Coastal Terrace Prairie habitat-type is known to support Gairdner's yampah, San Francisco popcornflower, Santa Cruz clover, wild oat and rye grass. Located on the northern two-thirds of the property are mima mounds, topographical features which are found with vernal swales located between them. The vernal swales are wetland types, dominated by wetland species. This mima mound/vernal swale system is very rare in California, and the Local Coastal Plan considers it to be an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area.

A number of rare and sensitive animal species occupy the area, including, but not limited to, tricolored blackbird, black swift and the Ohlone tiger beetle. Common species observed on site include blacktail deer, coyote, bobcat, California quail, mourning dove and numerous raptor and other bird species. The DFG has recommended the purchase of this easement to assure protection of this habitat.

Through negotiations, of which Wildlife Conservation Board staff was a party to, the property was acquired by the City of Santa Cruz. The City purchased fee title to the subject lands with the full intent that the Board would acquire an easement interest over it to help offset their costs. In fact, the 1998/99 WCB budget contained \$1,000,000.00 specifically appropriated to assist with this purchase. The property will be managed in conjunction with

adjacent lands which are owned by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz, but over which the DFG also has a conservation easement, as discussed above. The adjacent easement encumbers 85± acres, the purchase of which was approved by the Board at the May, 1998 meeting. The entire area will be managed for the purposes of protecting critical wildlife habitat while expanding public recreational opportunities, environmental research and education.

The appraised fee value of the subject property is \$4,500,000.00, an amount approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). They have also approved a conservation easement value of at least \$1,000,000.00 for the subject project. It is estimated that an additional \$7,770.00 will be needed for project expenses including escrow, title insurance and DGS review costs. The project is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the appropriate notice has been filed.

Mr. Schmidt stated he received one telephone call from Assemblyman Keeley in support of this project. He added that Mr. Brian Hunter and Mr. Jim Swanson from the Department of Fish and Game's Region 3 were in the audience to answer any questions. He commented that this proposal was recommended for acquisition as a conservation easement because of its significant natural areas, although the funding was coming from the General Fund as a special authorization.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of a conservation easement as proposed; allocate \$1,000,000.00 from the General Fund, specifically appropriated for this purpose to cover the cost of the conservation easement, and \$7,770.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to pay for project expenses; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

At this time, Mr. Schmidt explained that because there were two Chief Deputy Directors attending the meeting, only one was authorized to vote. He stated that in the past, it has been customary for the Chief Deputy Director, Department of Finance to be the voting member and the Chief Deputy Director, Department of Fish and Game to serve as an advisor. Members decided to proceed with the remainder of the meeting with Mr. Thieriot and Ms. Porini as the voting members.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ANNETTE PORINI THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,000,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIFICALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PURPOSE, TO COVER THE COST OF THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND \$7,770.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND TO PAY FOR PROJECT EXPENSES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara County\$250,250.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation to fund a cooperative project to rebuild the fire-damaged Stearns Wharf located at the end of State Street, just off State Highway 101 in the City of Santa Barbara. Originally constructed in 1865, Stearns Wharf ran 500 feet out from shore but was poorly situated, couldn't accommodate deep-water vessels and was eventually destroyed by a storm. Businessman John Stearns recognized the inadequacies of the original pier and redesigned and rebuilt a longer wharf in 1872. The wharf has historically served the City of Santa Barbara as a seaport for cargo, passenger, and fishing ships and recreation, including fishing. Over the years, the wharf has been renovated to add commercial and retail businesses, remodeled to add interpretive signs and rebuilt numerous times as a result of fire and storm damage. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt explained the project in further detail.

Shut down in 1975 after the Old Harbor Restaurant burned, the pier lay idle for several years, visited only by the gulls. Rebuilt and reopened in 1981, the pier once again became a focus of city life, with vehicles permitted to drive onto and park on the wharf. Framed descriptions of local sea life, animals and birds from the Museum of Natural History have since been added at intervals along the pier railing and the 1,950 foot wharf also houses a cluster of shops that offer candy, clothing, shells and curios for sale. Fishing from the end of the pier has always been a popular activity with anglers who fish for a variety of fish including mackerel, sand bass, surf perch and halibut. In 1983 the wharf was battered by an El Nino-inspired winter storm and in 1986 a half-million dollar fire damaged portions of the wharf, which was rebuilt soon thereafter with little interruption to the business and recreational activities.

In November, 1998, still another fire burned a 425-foot section of the wharf and destroyed two restaurants, a public access ramp used by whale watching boats, and a bait and tackle shop. The fire broke out under a restaurant and quickly spread beneath the wooden planks. The Harbor Patrol boats and a Coast Guard cutter equipped with mounted hoses sucked up seawater and bathed the flames. A sprinkler-system that was installed beneath the pier after the 1986 fire, created a curtain of water under the pier and helped stop the spread of the flames. Fire fighters cut off the fire-damaged portion of the pier to save the remaining structures, leaving a 425-foot gap between the main pier and the outer end of the pier mainly used by anglers. The main portion of the pier is currently open to the public with a majority of the businesses still open for business. However, in addition to losing the restaurants and bait shop, the end of the pier is no longer accessible to anglers.

The tide and submerged lands in and around the wharf were granted to the City of Santa Barbara by the State in 1975, to be held in trust for the promotion of commerce, navigation and fisheries. The grant further reserves to the people of the State of California, the right to fish in the waters within the grant area, together with the right of convenient access to those waters. The City intends to rebuild the wharf, with a majority of the estimated \$9.7 million

reconstruction costs coming from insurance proceeds. In addition to reconstructing the pier, the City is considering installing hand rails along the end of the pier, which is predominately used for fishing and wildlife viewing. The funds provided through the Wildlife Conservation Board will contribute towards the City's estimated \$400,000 to \$500,000 in costs that are not covered by insurance. An estimated four to six tons of pier and restaurant rubble from the fire have already been cleared and the reconstruction of the pier is anticipated to commence in March, 1999.

The City is in the process of preparing the appropriate notice as required under CEQA and has agreed to enter into a 25-year Operating Agreement to operate and manage the facilities. The City will also handle the contract administration for the proposed reconstruction. In addition to the \$250,000.00 to be contributed towards the reconstruction, an additional \$250.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the Board's portion of the project to \$250,250.00.

Mr. Schmidt commented this allocation is only a small portion of the total restoration. Most of the repairs are covered by insurance. He reported that the Board received a letter signed by Senator Jack O'Connell, former Assemblyman Firestone and Assemblywoman Jackson in support of this project. He added that Mr. John Greer from the City of Santa Barbara was in the audience and available to answer any questions. Ms. Porini and Ms. Lipphardt discussed the sprinkler system designed to protect portions of the pier and Mr. Schmidt stated that one acre of the end of the pier was saved because of this sprinkler system. He added that the reason why the Wildlife Conservation Board was involved in a project like this was because of the fishing benefits. The City wants the pier restored as soon as possible so that the public can enjoy fishing from the end of the pier again.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$250,250.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services' review costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ANNETTE PORINI THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$250,250.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR PROJECT COSTS AND GENERAL SERVICES' REVIEW COSTS; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Sacramento River Wildlife Area Riparian Habitat \$500,000.00
Restoration (RM 169.5R and 166.5R), Glenn County

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a grant to Sacramento River Partners (Partners) for a cooperative project to restore approximately 93 acres of riparian habitat at two sites located along the Sacramento River near the community of Codora. Both locations are State-owned and managed by the Department of Fish and Game (Department) as units of the Sacramento River Wildlife Area. Cooperators involved in this proposed project include the Partners, the Department, California State University--Chico, and Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Mr. Scott Clemons then explained the project in greater detail.

The proposed 93± acre restoration will take place on two separate properties acquired pursuant to actions of the Board in 1991. One parcel, the Princeton Unit of the Sacramento River Wildlife area, containing a total of 46.8± acres, is located at River Mile 166.5R. The other parcel, known as the Beehive Bend Unit, contains a total of 240.6± acres and is located at River Mile 169.5R. Both properties are located inside the flood control levees and within the flood plain of the Sacramento River.

Existing conditions for riparian habitat along the Sacramento River in general, and within the project area specifically, are extremely poor. Prior to 1850, hundreds of miles of riparian forest occurred in a broad expanse along the entire length of the Sacramento River. Less than 10 percent of this resource remains today, and what habitat does remain is largely fragmented and isolated. Many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians depend upon riparian habitat. Native landbird populations, including neotropical migrant birds, raptors, and resident songbirds, depend upon riparian habitat for breeding, overwintering and migration stopover areas. The recently released Draft Riparian Bird Conservation Plan (Plan), prepared for California Partners in Flight and the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture, has revealed that the single most important factor in the decline of neotropical migrant landbirds in California, has been poor reproductive success. The Plan reveals that brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds and high predation rates by both native and non-native predators are significant factors that affect bird reproductive success, and that these factors are directly influenced by the structure and diversity of riparian vegetation, including patch size and isolation of remaining riparian habitats coupled with landscape-scale factors (surrounding land uses, conditions in adjacent upland habitats, etc.). Many large expanses of riparian habitat located along the Sacramento River have been isolated from the vital river functions that create these diverse habitat elements, and therefore provide the poor habitat conditions that have resulted in a continuing decline in neotropical bird populations.

The restoration of these properties will improve habitat conditions for many riparian-dependent species at the subject two key locations. The proposed work will compliment and connect with the efforts of two other groups, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), who are restoring riparian habitats on approximately 2,100 acres of public land along this reach of the river.

The property at River Mile 166.5R contains a mix of re-sprouting English walnut trees and open ground covered by exotic annuals grasses and weeds. Patches of riparian forest have reestablished themselves in a few spots but the predominant wood plants are Black and English Walnut trees. The species benefitting the most from the habitat currently provided by this site are the agricultural pests of English walnuts (which are grown commercially across the levee to the west), Codling moth and Walnut husk fly. Restoration of this site would involve removing some of the existing walnut trees and restoring a $27.2 \pm$ acre portion of the area to a mixed riparian forest with native tree and shrub species.

The property at River Mile 169.5R was an active field crop operation until 1991, at which time all farming was discontinued. Since then only a handful of young valley oaks have colonized this site. A narrow fringe of mature sycamore, cottonwood, willow, valley oaks and Himalayan blackberries surrounds the project area, which includes two fields dominated by exotic weed species. This site experiences flooding several times per season in high rainfall years, and is surrounded by sloughs which connect directly to the Sacramento River and an existent riparian forest. The proposal is to plant a mixed riparian forest totaling $65.5 \pm$ acres in the two fallow fields. The native species would include a mix of valley oak, sycamore, elderberry, coyote bush, wild rose, box elder, and willow.

Restoration work is expected to begin in the Spring of 1999 with completion expected by October 2002. The trees and shrubs will be grown to planting size by California State University - Chico and the Partners. Irrigation, collection of cuttings, custom field operations and planting will be done by members of the local community, under the supervision of Partners, with technical assistance from the Department. The Partners will track the survival of the woody species planted over the three-year life of the project, while the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will monitor migratory and resident bird use in the newly established riparian forest. A key feature of the project is to establish and monitor shaded riverine habitat on the eroding banks along River Mile 166.5R. Two public workshops are being planned by the Partners to further engage the public during the initial planting period and during the year following the first growing season. After three growing seasons, the riparian species should be able to sustain themselves, with an expectant life for this newly emerging forest of several hundred years. The Department will manage these restored habitat areas as a component of their ongoing management of the Sacramento River Wildlife Area.

One important goal of this project is to develop riparian restoration into a community-based agricultural activity. The large scale approach proposed for this project was pioneered on restoration projects conducted on the Sacramento River by TNC and local agricultural leaders over the last ten years. It is hoped that the proposed project will provide a vehicle to engage local farmers and businesses in conservation work. Similar large-scale projects undertaken on the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) have shown that escaped control burns, pesticide/herbicide trespass, and garbage dumping are much less likely to occur on restoration projects where the neighbors were hired to help implement the

reforestation. Other important public benefits of this property include improved bird watching and other passive recreational activities and the possibility of increased game populations which should improve local hunting opportunities.

Successful habitat restoration on the two proposed sites should benefit many wildlife species including the giant garter snake, red-legged frog and the western pond turtle. Bird species which should be greatly benefitted include the long-eared owl, sharp-shinned hawk, white-tailed kite, Swainson's hawk, Cooper's hawk, clapper rail, western yellow-billed cuckoo, bank swallow, willow flycatcher and blue grosbeak. Other beneficiaries of this project will be the Valley elderberry long-horn beetle, Chinook salmon (all four runs), steelhead trout, Sacramento perch, Sacramento blackfish, Sacramento River splittail, ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, California quail and black-tailed deer.

Board staff has applied for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant in the sum of \$50,000.00. Should the grant be approved, the \$50,000.00 would be used to reimburse the Board for a portion of the project costs. The Board has also been awarded \$512,500.00 in CALFED Category III funding to be used for restoration on the Sacramento River. These funds will be used to reimburse the Board's costs for the restoration and for \$12,500.00 in administrative costs.

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Project Management	\$246,240.00
Evaluation, Planning and Layout	15,000.00
Plant Materials	38,000.00
Irrigation Supplies	40,000.00
Equipment Rental	8,000.00
Restoration Contracts	79,560.00
(Earthwork, irrigation and planting)	
Herbicides	3,000.00
Fuel/Utilities	3,000.00
Monitoring	12,000.00
Workshops (Sacramento River Partners in-kind contribution)	10,000
Administration	60,200.00
(\$5,000 = Sacramento River Partners in-kind contribution)	
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$515,000.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$500,000.00
Sacramento River Partners	<u>15,000.00</u>

<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$515,000.00</u>
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The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The Partners will obtain any necessary permits. The activity will not cause any significant adverse impacts to the environment, and meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act as addressed in the Sacramento River Wildlife Area Management Plan (an approved mitigated Negative Declaration). The proposed project received a high rating for restoration potential from the California Riparian Evaluation System (CARES), a computerized decision-support model which incorporates statewide data from the California Rivers Assessment. In addition, this proposal is fully consistent with the goals and objectives of CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, the Draft Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook, and both the Central Valley Habitat and Riparian Habitat Joint Ventures.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; authorize the acceptance of the grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, if approved, and the award from the CALFED Category III funding program; allocate \$500,000.00 from the River Parkway Subaccount, Safe Clean Reliable Water Supply (P-204); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Clemons reported that Mr. John Carlon from Sacramento River Partners was in the audience and available to answer any questions, in addition to Mr. Banky Curtis of the Department of Fish and Game's Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region.

Mr. Schmidt added that the Board received three letters of support from the Sacramento River Preservation Trust, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Glenn County Board of Supervisors. He also commented that this particular project is somewhat unique as the Sacramento River Partners would be using, to the extent possible, local ranchers to help out with the restoration work. It helps the local citizens to be more aware as to what can be done for fish and wildlife resources, in addition to them playing an important role in the project. Students from Chico State would also be involved in growing the seedlings for this project.

Mr. Thieriot commented that he was familiar with this area and that this project is actually a continuation of what is being done elsewhere along the Sacramento River to bring the river back, bring the riparian lands on both sides of the river back, and that if this continues, it will be a wonderful project. Mr. Thieriot asked Mr. Carlon if Sacramento River Partners had any of the local landowners in the group. Mr. Carlon stated the Partners are a recently formed nonprofit group, with three full-time staff, all staff with agricultural backgrounds, and that

the Board of Directors is made up equally of local landowners and conservationists. Mr. Schmidt commented that Mr. Carlon was formerly involved in restoration work on riparian habitat along the Sacramento River. Mr. Broddrick asked if any of the Board of Directors owned land adjoining this parcel. Mr. Carlon stated they did not. Mr. Carlon, using the map, described what areas are in public ownership, WCB, DWR and USFWS. Therefore, this project affords an opportunity to build onto existing riparian areas.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ANNETTE PORINI THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT; AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION, IF APPROVED, AND THE AWARD FROM THE CALFED CATEGORY III FUNDING PROGRAM; ALLOCATE \$500,000.00 FROM THE RIVER PARKWAY SUBACCOUNT, SAFE CLEAN RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY (P-204); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. The Board considered this item out of order. Refer to page 28 of these minutes for details.

19. Crestridge Ecological Reserve, San Diego County \$3,516,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the purchase of 858.7± acres of real property, and to accept the donation of an additional 1,518.8± adjacent acres, commonly referred to as the Crestridge tract. This tract is a large, continuous block of biologically diverse habitat and is a significant biological core area that is vital to the long-term effectiveness of San Diego County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). As such, the acquisition is very important to the successful implementation of the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) efforts in the county as part of this multi-party, public and private cooperative venture. Ms. Debra Townsend explained the project in greater detail.

The Crestridge property, located in the eastern portion of San Diego County, is situated south of the town of Lakeside and Interstate 8, and approximately eight miles northeast of the City of El Cajon. Primary access to the property is obtained from La Cresta Road to Ranch Gate Road. The property is improved with three unoccupied residential structures and agriculturally-related out buildings. The topography of the property varies from generally level to steeply sloping, with elevations ranging from about 1,400 to 1,750 feet. The steeper portions of the property offer the visitor amazing panoramas of the Coronado Islands of Mexico, El Capitan and the distant peaks of the Laguna Mountains in the Cleveland National Forest.

Acquisition of this significant core area will strengthen the north-south linkage (connecting the Lakeside Ecological Reserve to the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge) in an area otherwise constrained by residential development. Crestridge, if preserved intact, would also serve to augment a somewhat constrained east-west corridor linking the MSCP preserves in the west (particularly San Diego County Water Authority mitigation property) to the Cleveland National Forest in the east. This complimentary corridor will be particularly beneficial as the Harbison Canyon linkage comes into the MSCP preserve system. The Wildlife Conservation Board has been a partner with the County in its recent acquisitions comprising the Lakeside Ecological Reserve.

The subject property contains an astounding diversity of impressive landscapes and sensitive habitat types, including many acres of Engelmann and live oak woodlands, riparian woodlands (willow, oak, sycamore and cottonwood) and native and non-native grasslands. However, it is largely composed of coastal sage scrub (a total of approximately 900 acres), habitat for the California gnatcatcher, and habitat for over 50 other sensitive and protected species. Crestridge contains the world's largest stand of the rare endemic *Ceanothus cyaneus*, also called Lakeside ceanothus. It also supports breeding and feeding habitat for golden eagles, great horned owls, white-tailed kites, Cooper's hawks and numerous other raptors which would be negatively impacted by increased human occupation of the area.

As an added component, the 1,519± acre donation being offered by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the current landowners, is in an approved conservation bank. The bank currently has 1,190 credits available. The value of the credits, based on the expected future income stream from sales, is estimated at nearly \$4,300,000.00. The 859± acres under consideration for purchase may be added into the Conservation Bank provided the property is not developed. The State would propose to add this portion of the property into the Conservation Bank following the close of escrow. This inclusion would provide for an added 1,038 available credits with an expected future income stream from sales estimated at nearly \$3,700,000.00. It is proposed that the credits remain with TNC or its assignee. All proceeds of sales of credits would be used to purchase or obtain additional habitat lands that would be added to the San Diego MSCP preserve system or to fund necessary management of the MSCP preserve, subject to review and approval by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). As provided in the Conservation Bank Agreement, \$270 from each credit sold will be deposited into an endowment account for operation and management of the property by DFG.

The acquisition of the Crestridge tract would produce several benefits beyond preserving and protecting sensitive plant and animal species and wide swaths of contiguous sensitive habitat. First, the purchase is consistent with the MSCP and Subarea Plan. Secondly, it would protect the most biologically sensitive portion of the property against any possibility of negative development impacts. Thirdly, the proposed acquisition would commit a large, continuous block of biologically diverse habitat as a crucial habitat linkage for lands in the MSCP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, the only viable linkage between lands south of Interstate 8 and lands to the north, including the

Cleveland National Forest. Finally, the purchase of the Crestridge tract would provide an effective demonstration of the State of California's continuing commitment to the progressive open space planning techniques developed through the Multiple Species Conservation Program.

The DFG is pursuing long-term monitoring and management opportunities through formal and informal agreements with regional partners through the County of San Diego, San Diego State University, Back Country Land Trust and other land conservancies. Management objectives would provide for passive recreational and educational uses consistent with the management framework approved by the County of San Diego's MSCP Subarea Plan.

The 859± acres proposed for acquisition has an approved fair market value of \$5,395,000.00. TNC has agreed to sell the property to the State for its actual acquisition and holding costs, \$3,506,000.00, resulting in a \$1,889,000.00 donation to the State. They have offered the additional 1,519± acres to the State as a full donation. Processing costs are estimated at \$10,000.00, and include title and escrow fees and Department of General Services' review costs, for a total project cost of \$3,516,000.00.

The proposed action is categorically exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the appropriate Notice of Exemption is on file. Funding is available for this acquisition from the Habitat Conservation Fund as specifically designated in the Budget Act for NCCP acquisitions.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Board received four letters of opposition to this transaction and 85 letters of support, in addition to petitions containing approximately 740 signatures supporting the acquisition. He added that the funding for this project would come from the Habitat Conservation Fund, and that this funding was specifically designated for NCCP acquisitions, and that a Notice of Exemption has been filed as required by law. Mr. Schmidt also reported that there were members of the audience that wanted to speak about this project.

Mr. Robert Heraty spoke in opposition to the acquisition, stating that he was attending the meeting as a representative of his community to keep Oakridge Park as it has been for many years, open space. He stated that the community of Crest and the surrounding communities support a recreational-based open space, but not a hardcore nature preserve. He stated that neither The Nature Conservancy nor the Department of Fish and Game held any public meetings to solicit the community's input. He went on to describe how the area and trails have been used in the past.

Mr. Thieriot asked for clarification on how the area would be used. Ms. Gail Presley, NCCP Manager with Environmental Services (DFG), responded that this area is intended to be used as open space for passive nature enjoyment, hiking, walking and possibly for horseback use as well. She stated the final decision had not been made yet, but at the time they go forward to develop the management plan for this area, they will hold public meetings in the area to discuss issues raised by the community members.

Mr. Thieriot commented to Mr. Broddrick that when considering a project such as Crestridge, that the Department's efforts be responsive to the local community, and that we try to allow as much interaction and use of the property, short of what may hurt the natural component we are trying to protect. Mr. Broddrick stated that there appears to be a difference in opinion regarding allowable activities. He stated that the primary objective of this acquisition is to conserve habitat that is supporting threatened and endangered species. He explained that these are the statutory obligations of the funding, the NCCP process and the adopted plans, and that when considering parcels for wildlife areas or preserve lands, the issue of use and conflict between users is always at the forefront of most of the acquisitions and that passive use seems to be the objective in this proposal.

Mr. Thieriot asked if passive use included horseback riding. Ms. Presley stated that in some areas that have very sensitive resources, horseback riding was excluded, and then in other areas where there were less sensitive resources, those types of activities were permissible. She stated that in meeting with the community members, this type of information would be obtained and they could then make these types of decisions.

Mr. John Elliott stated that he was attending the meeting, representing several recreational, equestrian and mobilized recreational user groups. He stated that there is a major concern for this property being acquired as an ecological reserve and that there appears to be much uncertainty as to what types of uses would be allowed on this property. He stated that this particular piece of real estate has been open to the public's use forever, never gated and always open to the surrounding communities. He added that the public support for this open space comes from that recreational use and that their community is now being told these traditional uses will probably not be allowed. He stated that the number of people that hike in that area are few, compared to those that use it for equestrian, mountain bike and motorized recreational uses. He stated that a lot of the responses received by the Board in support of this acquisition are from the user groups, to retain this property as open space, but with serious concerns regarding it as an ecological reserve. He stated that there are other ecological reserves for which adequate user management plans have not been developed. He felt the local populace should have been polled as to what they want in this area and that public hearings should have been held in the Crest and east San Diego County areas to hear from the local population supporting the open space projects. He also expressed concern about the amount of money being paid for this property, particularly The Nature Conservancy's donation of a portion of the property and giving them \$8 million in mitigation credits. He requested delaying funding the project, and to conduct local meetings in the San Diego area so that staff could hear what community members want on this property, what type of uses they want, and then consider the acquisition and development of a good user plan for the property.

Mr. Schmidt addressed a comment made by Mr. Elliott regarding The Nature Conservancy and their role in this acquisition. He explained that TNC is keeping the 1,190 credits, but that piece of property to which the credits are attached, is being donated in full by TNC without cost to the State. He further stated that as provided in the banking agreement, \$270.00 from each credit sold will come back to the Department of Fish and Game for management. He added that the purchase contract states that for every credit they sell, the remainder of the funds will go back into the purchases of future properties for the NCCP program in San Diego County. Therefore, the State is not paying for the credits that they are retaining, nor are they paying for the land that those credits are on, that it is a donation on that particular property. Mr. Schmidt added that the primary purpose for this acquisition is to protect it for an ecological reserve for threatened and endangered species. Mr. Schmidt then called Mr. Michael Beck to speak.

Mr. Michael Beck stated that he is the San Diego Director of a nonprofit conservation organization called the Endangered Habitats League. He explained that the League formed as advocates for the listing of the gnatcatcher and have been participating in all that has resulted from that process, including the NCCP program and the local MSCP program in five southern California counties. He stated that San Diego County has been planning a conservation plan in one-third of the County, the MSCP area, for over eight years. When the conservation plan for the entire County is done, it will be well over a billion dollars in acquisition and management costs. The stakeholders that participated and eventually endorsed the plan and encouraged the elected officials to put themselves out, change their land use plans, and make a 35-year commitment to implement the plan, a plan that would be managed in perpetuity for a region that has the highest biodiversity in any county in the continental United States. He stated that when the plan was started, no one anticipated it would be the scale that it is and that it is the scale that it is because it only makes sense to do something meaningful, long-term and substantive for all the stakeholders involved. This particular project is one component of that huge effort. The League has focused time and energy over the last eight years on this project. He stated the biological resource value of this area is extreme and the League is very appreciative of the Wildlife Conservation Board's past efforts in this area. He stated that the League began focusing on this project several years ago because it was clear that this is one of the most strategically important areas in the MSCP. Because of its urban boundary, and its size, this is the only place the gnatcatcher can leapfrog across the freeway and the only place they can get from the southern portion of San Diego County to the central portion of the County. In regard to the anticipated uses on this property, he stated the MSCP and the NCCP are such complex programs that it is very difficult for those who are not entirely familiar with the programs to understand what is exactly at stake, trade-offs and how all the pieces fit together. One of the things that they feel is essential is to make a connection with the local community. He stated that the League has been working with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game and a nonprofit coalition of conservancies and trusts in San Diego to form partnerships with the Department, the Service, other landholders, jurisdictional parks departments, etc., to manage these lands so that the communities have some sense of ownership and connection

to this program. He stated that John Elliott has participated in the hearing process in some measure over the years and understands that the management plans that are in the program level have identified the types of uses and they include equestrian uses and passive recreational use because we're trying to protect the resources. Mr. Beck stated that the plans generally do not support motorized vehicle use in the reserve, which appears to be the real conflict with Crest. He stated there is not a conflict with equestrian use, but there is a conflict with a motorized vehicle use.

Ms. Gloria Harpenau then spoke, stating that she has been a resident of Crest for two and one half years, but familiar with the area for many years. She stated that approximately two years ago, she became aware of plans to develop the property with 92 homes, and after a year and a half, was happy to hear that The Nature Conservancy was interested in preserving this area. She spoke on behalf of their local grassroots organization, an interest in preserving this area for nature hikes, bird watching, bicycling, and possible use by scouts for camping and that she gathered over 700 signatures on a petition. She noted the old bunkhouse could be used as a nature interpretive center, and that nature hikes could be conducted and that the community could possibly provide signs to identify the different flora and fauna. She stated that over 30 different species of birds have been identified in the area. Ms. Harpenau added that with the approval of The Nature Conservancy, their group had been renovating abandoned structures on the property and that recently motorcycles and vehicles have frequented the area. She also passed photos around to Board members showing the property and the poor condition of the improvements located thereon. She urged the Department to continue their efforts in preserving this area for future generations.

Mr. David Barber stated that he represented San Diego County Supervisor Diane Jacob, who represents the portion of the County this project is located within. He stated that Supervisor Jacob has been active in the efforts to acquire this private land for open space and emphasized that the subject property is private land, not currently park land that is available to the public. He delivered a letter from Supervisor Jacob expressing her support for this acquisition and designation of the land as an ecological reserve, and that the acquisition has the passionate support of 740 members of a community consisting of 1,200 households, with positive comments from the Crest community planning group, and endorsement of the plan by the Back County Horseman of California.

Mr. Barber introduced Mr. Tom Oberbauer from the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use. Mr. Oberbauer stated that the County began working on an open space regional program for this area. In March 1998, the County of San Diego received the permits for the MSCP plan under the NCCP plan. During the preparation of the MSCP, there were major areas identified and considered as the most important for the creation of an open space reserve system. The Crestridge property was included in that plan to provide a large block of habitat as well as to bolster north and south connections and eastward connections through the planning area that links land to the western side of the community of Crest and also bolsters the location of the open space connections acted upon last summer.

He stated that Crestridge property was considered because of its special significance of its large size and undisturbed nature, as it consists of ridges and valleys on the surroundings of the El Cajon, Lakeside and Crest communities. He also addressed the natural and biological resources in the area. He stated that this proposal has the complete support of the County of San Diego, The Back Country Land Trust and the Endangered Habitats League. He also noted that the County looked forward to working with the Department of Fish and Game on a management plan for the property to provide for appropriate staging areas and trails that would be appropriate for the property.

Ms. Porini asked for clarification regarding public hearings that were held. Mr. Oberbauer stated that the Board of Supervisors acted on the MSCP program and had approximately two or three dozen notified hearings with the Board of Supervisors, with notification to all property owners within the MSCP planning area (approximately 35,000), all of whom had the opportunity to provide input. He stated that this property was identified as one of the preapproved mitigation areas by the wildlife agencies.

Mr. Dave Stout stated that he is a resident of the community of Alpine, which lies about three miles east of the subject property. He spoke on behalf of the Back Country Land Trust and also as a resident of Alpine. He read a letter from the Principal of Alpine High School in support of the acquisition, stating that this project could provide educational opportunities for their students and the participation of students belonging to the school's Youth for Conservation Program. He stated that as a representative of the Back Country Land Trust, he has been actively working with community members in Crest, and has had active dialog with the members of the Crest Community Association, who are eager to work with the Land Trust and the Department of Fish and Game to provide trails and open space amenities that are consistent with the guidelines of the MSCP. He also stated that as a professional scientist and member of the Back Country Land Trust, one of their primary goals is to assist with the management of the property by actively promoting scientific surveys required by the MSCP in regard to management and monitoring goals. He also stated that members of Flight Tours, a San Diego based ecotourism and birdwatching group, have submitted a proposal to the Land Trust to conduct comprehensive bird and butterfly surveys on site, in addition to others willing to assist in the management obligations of Crestridge.

Mr. Thieriot asked if there were any questions. There were none. He commented that he knows the Board tries very hard to compromise with the community groups and user groups effected by conservation projects. He commented that ecological sanctuaries and motorcycles don't mix well. However, he stated that he felt the community, as a whole, was supportive of this project. He apologized that there will be a user group for whom this project will be problematical, but hoped there were other options for their activities.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize the purchase of the 859± acre property as proposed together with the acceptance of the proposed donation of 1,519± acres; allocate \$3,516,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (designated NCCP funds) to cover the purchase price and associated acquisition costs of the property; and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ANNETTE PORINI THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF THE 859± ACRE PROPERTY AS PROPOSED TOGETHER WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSED DONATION OF 1,519± ACRES; ALLOCATE \$3,516,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (DESIGNATED NCCP FUNDS) TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND ASSOCIATED ACQUISITION COSTS OF THE PROPERTY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. Bair Island Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, San Mateo County \$520,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a cooperative project to acquire 769.2± acres of abandoned salt ponds, on Bair Island, situated east of Highway 101 in Redwood City on the west side of San Francisco Bay. Bair Island contains a total of 3,000 acres and is comprised of three islands: outer, middle and inner. Mr. Jerry Heminger explained the project in further detail.

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) successfully negotiated an agreement with the previous owners of a 1,626± acre parcel within this island complex. POST then turned to public agencies to make this purchase a reality. The protection of this island is considered by many to be of utmost priority within the San Francisco Bay. On November 13, 1997, the Board approved the purchase of a 176.5± acre portion of this property. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service also acquired a portion of the area for inclusion in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. In order for POST to complete its plan of pre-acquiring this property for public protection it now needs to sell 769.2± acres of the last 1,450± acres remaining under its control.

With the November, 1997, purchase, the Department of Fish and Game now owns approximately 1,200 acres of the Bair Island complex, known as the Bair Island Ecological Reserve. With the approval of this purchase, only about 400 acres of the entire Bair Island complex will remain in private ownership. The State has been successful in securing a grant to be used toward this purchase in the amount of \$4,000,000 from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Activities Program (ISTEA). The State Coastal Conservancy has agreed to provide an additional \$500,000.00 in funds toward this purchase, which has a total appraised value of \$5,000,000.

When California was admitted to the Union in 1850, the San Francisco Bay was surrounded by approximately 860 square miles of marshes and hundreds of square miles of mud flats which provided excellent habitat for waterfowl, shore birds and many other wildlife species. Loss and degradation of freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, mudflats and other bay habitats have negatively impacted fish and wildlife using the Bay. Residential and commercial development have also had a significant impact on the area. As urbanization continues, associated services and facilities such as transportation routes, utilities and solid waste and wastewater disposal facilities continue to impact the Bay's wetland values. As a result, there is a critical need to preserve and restore as many acres of wetland habitat as possible to maintain the overall viability of this important environment.

Bair Island is the largest remaining restorable wetland area in the south San Francisco Bay. According to the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and Clapper Rail Recovery Plan, Bair Island must be restored in order to prevent extinction of these two species. Some restoration has occurred as the DFG property on Outer Bair Island has re-vegetated naturally after tidal action resumed. Thus, we know that the island can be restored by breaching the levees and allowing the marsh to do what comes naturally. Both the salt marsh harvest mouse and the California clapper rail have been documented to use the restored areas.

The San Francisco Bay region, with its vast wetland environment, has been designated by the DFG as an "Area of Special Biological Importance". Five endangered species use Bair Island's habitats, including the California clapper rail, the salt marsh harvest mouse, the California least tern, peregrine falcon, and the California brown pelican. The San Francisco Bay tidal marshes are the only places in the world where the California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse are found. Least terns historically nested on Bair Island, and it is felt that habitat restoration may entice them to return. Peregrine falcons and California brown pelicans feed on Bair Island. In addition, the area provides varied habitat for many plant species that support wintering and migratory waterfowl, as well as shorebirds and mammals. In the diked marsh areas, Great and snowy egrets, great blue herons, black-necked stilts, American avocets and numerous species of sandpipers and other shorebirds prey on invertebrates in the shallow water and exposed mudflats. Shorebirds rest in the vegetation when other Bay mudflats are covered by the tides.

It is anticipated that there will be a number of positive results from public ownership and management of Bair Island:

1. Permanent protection and restoration of the island will offer vital isolation to vulnerable, ground-nesting birds, particularly the endangered California clapper rail. Protected from any urban predators, rare and endangered species will again have an opportunity to flourish.

2. The majority of Bair Island is currently diked and provides only limited wetland functions. Restoration of the site will re-establish significant amounts of estuarine intertidal emergent wetlands as well as mudflats and open water habitats.
3. Expanded recreational opportunities, such as fishing and boating, will become possible and passive public use, such as jogging and bicycling, would likely also be compatible on certain parts of the island.
4. Prevention of new pollution, traffic congestion and climatic impact that would have occurred with development should also be a long-term benefit to wildlife and to human inhabitants of the South Bay Area.

POST has agreed to sell this 769.2± acre parcel to the State of California for the State-approved fair market value of \$6,500.00 per acre or \$5,000,000.00. It is estimated that an additional allocation of \$20,000.00 will be required to cover the costs of escrow, title insurance, Department of General Services' review and related acquisition expenses.

A breakdown of the proposed funding participation, as discussed above, is as follows:

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Coastal Conservancy (Grant)	\$ 500,000.00
ISTEA (Grant)	4,000,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board (inc. costs)	<u>520,000.00</u>

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING **\$ 5,020,000.00**

It is proposed that the \$4,500,000.00 in partner funding will be placed directly into escrow by the grantor noted above. It is anticipated that management of the DFG property would be undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in accordance with a management agreement between USFWS and DFG. The proposed purchase is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions. A Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Mr. Schmidt recapped the funding for this project. He reported that Messrs. Brian Hunter and Jim Swanson of the Department of Fish and Game were in the audience and available to answer questions. Mr. Thieriot asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$520,000.00 for the purchase and related costs; \$266,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund and \$254,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786 (b/c)); authorize the acceptance of the grants from the Coastal Conservancy and Intermodal Surface Transportation Activities Program; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ANNETTE PORINI THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS ACQUISITION AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$520,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; \$266,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND AND \$254,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SECTION 2786 (B/C)); AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANTS FROM THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY AND INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED

MOTION CARRIED.

21. Arroyo Seco Wildlife Area, Sacramento County \$1,410,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to purchase a conservation easement over 3,575± acres of land and to accept a donation of an additional 968± acres of conservation easement being considered by the owners for possible donation to the State, over adjacent lands. This cooperative effort among the Department of Fish and Game (Department), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with grants from the North American Wetland Conservation Council, Central Valley Project Improvement Act Restoration Fund, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Packard Foundation, is expected to result in protection of a total of 13,000± acres of land. Mr. Frank Giordano then explained the project in greater detail.

The purchase will provide for the protection of a wide variety of habitat types as described below. The property, also known as the Howard Ranch, is located along the Sacramento and Amador County Line, in the southeastern portion of Sacramento County. It can be accessed from several places along State Highway 104, as it approaches Amador County.

For some time TNC has been working with the owners of this property in an attempt to acquire this valuable habitat. They have now successfully negotiated an option to acquire the land. As a condition of sale to TNC, the owners require that a one-mile strip, running the full north-south length of their ownership contiguous to the Amador County line, be encumbered with a conservation easement in the name of a public entity. This easement is to be a "buffer" between the acquisition area and the owners' remaining adjacent lands located in Amador County. The one-mile buffer comprises 3,575± acres located on the south side of State Highway 104 and running the length of the ranch, and an additional 968± acres of the one-mile buffer north of State Highway 104. TNC is currently negotiating with NRCS for the purchase of an easement over this northern area as part of NRCS's participation in the acquisition. The entire buffer, north and south of Highway 104, must be recorded by March 31, 1999 as a condition of the option. At the time of this writing, it appears that NRCS may not be able to acquire the northern easement area by the March deadline. If this remains the case, TNC proposes to donate the 968± easement area, at no additional cost, to the state in order to facilitate the closing of the entire 13,000-acre ranch purchase.

The Howard Ranch, which is considered to be located in the Cosumnes River Watershed, contains high quality vernal pools and other wetlands in addition to its oak woodlands and grasslands, supporting nine rare species, two of them vernal pool invertebrates. Protection of this site will more than double the number of acres protected to date in the watershed by increasing it from 12,000± acres to 25,000± acres. Downstream more than 12,000 acres of Cosumnes River Watershed have been protected as the Cosumnes River Preserve, located southerly of the City of Sacramento.

The ranch features vernal pools extraordinary for their integrity, density and diversity of soil and geographic formations. Vernal pools contain a uniquely diverse flora and fauna found nowhere else and, because of this fact, contribute to the preservation of the region's biodiversity. The proposed acquisition would ensure protection of these pools, as well as the other community types, in perpetuity. Howard Ranch represents one of the last and best remaining large contiguous blocks of undisturbed vernal pool/grassland/oak woodland matrix in the Central Valley.

Nine listed or candidate species will be protected through this acquisition including vernal pool fairy shrimp, tadpole shrimp, slender orcutt grass, Sacramento orcutt grass, California tiger salamander, giant garter snake, peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk and greater sandhill crane. These species are presumed to exist at the Ranch based on their presence on neighboring lands. The first five species on this list are associated with vernal pools. Tiger salamanders use the pools for breeding purposes while the giant garter snake exists in lower Laguna Creek and is expected to occur in the upper creek. The pools provide grazing habitat for wintering geese and an essential high protein food source for migratory ducks, geese, shorebirds and other birds at the critical time of the year when they are required for building flight muscles and reproductive organs.

Historically, the ranch has been used for a combination of cattle grazing and recreational use, including hunting and fishing. Future management would focus on implementation of a grassland and vernal pool ecosystem restoration and management plan, which would include prescribing grazing schedules that are compatible with wetland and other natural community health, restoration of springs and fencing of sensitive wetlands. Public access may be allowed on fee-owned portions of the ranch, but would be closely supervised. Activities such as birdwatching, photography, wildflower study and nature interpretation would be encouraged and while hunting may be permitted, there would be no public access to the easement area.

Protection of Howard Ranch is urgent due to a number of major threats in the region. Most immediate among them is the conversion of rangelands to vineyards. A drive in the vicinity of the Ranch provides visual evidence of this trend, as several adjacent farms now grow grapes. Residential development is also a threat to the protection of these systems. Many of the other lands in the region outside the county's urban services boundary have been purchased by speculators. The acquisition is also considered a key step in the next phase of the watershed strategy: expanding on protection successes in the lower flood plain in an effort to protect biologically important sites throughout the watershed.

The proposed conservation easement proposed for purchase and acceptance has an approved fair market value of \$600 per acre, or \$2,145,000.00 for the 3,575± acre southern area and \$580,800.00 for the 968± northern area. TNC has agreed to sell the 3,575± areas for \$1,400,000.00 providing a donation value of \$745,000.00. If need be, TNC would donate the remaining 968± acres, depending on whether NRCS is able to act prior to the March 31, 1999 deadline, which would result in the donation of an additional value of \$1,325,800.00. Processing costs, including General Services' review and title and escrow fees are estimated to be an additional \$10,000.00, bringing the total requested allocation to \$1,410,000.00. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the appropriate Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Mr. Giordano stated that Mr. Chris Kelley of The Nature Conservancy, and Mr. Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game's regional manager for the subject area, were in the audience and available to answer questions.

Mr. Schmidt commented that The Nature Conservancy is trying to pull together a 13,000 acre project and this is only a small piece of it.

Mr. Thieriot expressed his pleasure on the continued efforts to expand the area. Mr. Giordano stated the property would be managed in conjunction with the Cosumnes River Preserve.

Ms. Porini requested clarification regarding time lines on acquiring the additional 968- acre donation. Mr. Giordano stated that within a month the Board would know, that it is a condition of the close of escrow, and that the additional strip of land must be in the public entity by that date. He explained that if it can't be closed with NRCS, it must be accepted by the Board in order for escrow to close.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize the proposed 3,575± acre conservation easement acquisition, together with the acceptance of the potential donation of an additional conservation easement over 968± acres as proposed; allocate \$1,410,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/Sections 2786 (a) and 2786 (b/c)); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ANNETTE PORINI THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED 3,575± ACRE CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION, TOGETHER WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE POTENTIAL DONATION OF AN ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER 968± ACRES AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,410,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/SECTIONS 2786 (A) AND 2786 (B/C)); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

22. Resolutions Honoring Miss Jacqueline Schafer, Mr. Robin Dezember, Congressman Mike Thompson and Senator Debra Bowen.

The following resolutions were submitted for enactment by the Wildlife Conservation Board:

Resolution Honoring Miss Jacqueline Schafer

WHEREAS, Miss Jacqueline Schafer, as Director of the Department of Fish and Game, served as a dedicated and faithful member of the California Wildlife Conservation Board for over two years; and

WHEREAS, Miss Schafer, with her intense interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, her sound judgement, the experience she has gained from years of serving the people of the State of California and the United States of America, all coupled with her interest in wildlife habitat conservation, she 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 this State; and

WHEREAS, Miss Schafer, as Director of the Department of Fish and Game, has consistently supported the Board's efforts to protect habitat by seeking to enhance the Department's abilities to provide stewardship over those lands acquired, both in providing proper protection and enhancement of these lands as well as to be a "better neighbor" where Department-owned lands are located; and

WHEREAS, All who have served with Miss Schafer have greatly appreciated her consistent support, sound leadership and advice, and have especially appreciated the very professional manner in which she conducts business, all of which have earned for her the utmost respect of all those who have worked with her; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge all of her 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 Jacqueline (Jackee) Schafer our sincere appreciation for her noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board, and extend to her 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 Miss Schafer.

Resolution Honoring Mr. Dezember

WHEREAS, Mr. Robin Dezember, as Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Finance, served as a dedicated and faithful member of the California Wildlife Conservation Board this past year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dezember, through his interest and knowledge of the outdoors, his sound fiscal background, his vast knowledge of governmental operations and administrative procedures, coupled with his interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board and his interest in wildlife habitat conservation, has greatly assisted the Board and its staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities and has, in so doing, significantly furthered the objectives of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the welfare of the wildlife resources of this State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dezember has served the Board during his tenure through his regular attendance and participation in the public meetings, as well as through his very active support of the Board's programs during the State budget process; and

WHEREAS, All who have served with Mr. Dezember have greatly appreciated his sound judgement, his leadership and advice, and have especially appreciated the very pleasant and professional manner in which he conducts business, all of which have earned for him the utmost respect of all those who have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge all of 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 Robin Dezember 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. Dezember.

Resolution Honoring Congressman Mike Thompson

WHEREAS, Congressman Mike Thompson, while a member of the California State Senate, served with distinction as a member of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board for six years, leaving this position upon his election to the United States Congress in November of 1998; and

WHEREAS, because of Congressman Thompson's genuine interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, together with his love for the outdoors and for wildlife conservation, he made the preservation, enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat a true priority, particularly concentrating on wetland and riparian habitats, in addition to supporting the development of recreational public access opportunities for the people of the State; and

WHEREAS, he has, among his many accomplishments, promoted the continued establishment of partnerships with private landowners to further wildlife protection, conservation and restoration efforts in California, and has been an avid supporter of the Board's Inland Wetland Conservation Program, helping to make the preservation and enhancement of many acres of wetlands a reality; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Thompson's sound judgment, wise counsel and good humor, together with his sincere praise and acknowledgment of staff activities, have greatly helped the Board and staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities and have gained him the appreciation and respect of those who have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge his personal efforts and professional 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 Congressman Mike Thompson our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board; and extend to him our best wishes as he continues his distinguished career as a member of the United States Congress; 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 Congressman Thompson.

Resolution Honoring Senator Debra Bowen

WHEREAS, Senator Debra Bowen's tenure as a State Assembly member of the Wildlife Conservation Board's Joint Legislative Advisory Committee terminated with her election to the State Senate in November of 1998, and

WHEREAS, Senator Bowen has served with distinction as an Assembly member of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board for two years; and

WHEREAS, due to Senator Bowen's genuine interest in the outdoors, coupled with her knowledge and interest in general wildlife matters, she has furthered the objectives of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the welfare of the wildlife resources of the State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bowen's earnest desire to enhance the programs of the Board for the good of all the citizens of California has been observed in the accomplishments of the Board during her tenure, earning for her the respect of those who have worked with her; and

WHEREAS, As an Assemblywoman, she actively supported the Board's program through her involvement in the State Budget process and due to her unwavering resolve was able to promote the Board's mission of wildlife resource conservation, and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge her 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 Senator Debra Bowen our sincere appreciation for her noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board and extend to her our very best wishes as she continues serving the public as a State Senator, 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 Senator Bowen.

Staff recommended that the Board approve resolutions honoring Miss Jacqueline Schafer and Mr. Robin Dezember, former members of the Board, and Congressman Mike Thompson and Senator Debra Bowen, former legislative advisory committee members of the Board.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. PORINI THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THESE RESOLUTIONS AS PROPOSED, THAT THEY BE MADE A PART OF THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THIS BOARD AND THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE FURNISHED TO MISS SCHAFFER, MR. DEZEMBER, CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON AND SENATOR BOWEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt announced that the next scheduled Board meeting would be held on May 20, 1999 at 10:00 A.M.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on March 2, 1999, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$652,232,903.73*. 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	22,353,152.93
	Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 4,534,613.05
	Stream Clearance and Improvement	14,700,451.69
	Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	547,719.86
	Marine Habitat	646,619.07
	Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,923,749.26
C.	Fishing Access Projects	37,519,762.16
	Coastal and Bay	\$ 2,992,860.08
	River and Aqueduct Access	9,162,782.13
	Lake and Reservoir Access	7,198,909.69
	Piers	18,165,210.26
D.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E.	Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development & Improvement	562,089,116.77
	Wildlife Areas (General)	\$187,437,128.17
	Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development.	4,713,316.73
	Wildlife Areas/Eco Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	206,165,555.89
	Land Conservation Area	28,808.00
	Inland Wetlands Conservation Grants & Easements	5,324,934.81
	Riparian Habitat Conservation Grants & Easements	3,978,958.29
	Other Wildlife Habitat Grants	154,440,414.88
F.	Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57
G.	Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	10,653,879.29
H.	Special Project Allocations	1,116,464.79
I.	Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	1,318,095.63
	State Owned	\$917,735.63
	Grants	300,360.00
J.	Sales and/or exchanges	544,420.04
	TOTAL ALLOCATED TO PROJECTS	\$652,232,903.73*

*This total includes allocations in the sum of \$230,500,000.00 for grants to acquire the Headwaters and Grizzly Creek Forests and the acquisition of Owl Creek Forest.