

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD1807 13TH STREET, SUITE 103

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

(916) 445-8448

FAX (916) 323-0280

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

Minutes
May 24, 2000

1.	Roll Call	1
2.	Funding Status - Informational	3
3.	Special Project Planning Account--Informational	5
4.	PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 5 - 13)	5
*5.	Approval of Minutes - February 17, 2000 Meeting	6
*6.	Recovery of Funds	6
*7.	Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansions 15-20, Kern and Tulare Counties.....	11
*8.	Sacramento River Riparian Vegetation GIS Mapping, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta and Tehama Counties	13
*9.	Hot Creek Hatchery Public Access (Restroom), Mono County	15
*10.	Riparian Habitat Restoration, Fall River (Whipple Ranch), Shasta County.....	17
*11.	Lokern Ecological Reserve, Expansions 15-19, (Kern County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan), Kern County.....	19
*12.	Kern County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan, Kern County	21
*13.	Heenan Lake Water and Storage Rights, Expansion 2, Alpine County.....	23
14.	Big Chico Creek, Butte County	25
15.	Red Bluff River Park Fishing Access, Tehama County	27
16.	Blue Ridge--Berryessa Wildlife Area, Napa and Yolo Counties	29
	Coal Canyon Wildlife Corridor, Orange County	31
18.	Riparian Habitat Restoration, Sacramento River Wildlife Area (Jacinto and Princeton), Colusa and Glenn Counties.....	34
19.	Carmel Mountain, Torrey Surf, San Diego County (WITHDRAWN)	36
20.	Staff Report--Easement Transfers.....	37
21.	Acceptance of Grant from the State Coastal Conservancy	37
22.	Acceptance of Private Donations.....	38

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY

GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1807 13TH STREET, SUITE 103
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916) 445-8448
FAX (916) 323-0280

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

May 24, 2000

The Wildlife Conservation Board met at the State Capitol, Room 112, Sacramento, California on May 24, 2000. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Mr. Michael Chrisman, President, Fish and Game Commission. At this time he introduced the Board members present.

1.

Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

- Mike Chrisman, Chairperson
President, Fish and Game Commission
- Annette Porini, Chief Deputy Director
Vice, B. Timothy Gage, Member
Director, Department of Finance
- Robert C. Hight, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Priscilla Ouchida
Vice, Senator Pat Johnston

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- W. John Schmidt

Staff Present:

W. John Schmidt, Executive Director
Jim Sarro, Assistant Executive Director
Georgia Lipphardt, Assistant Executive Director
Debra Townsend, Senior Land Agent
Linda Drake, Senior Land Agent
Bill Gallup, Senior Land Agent
Terri Muzik, Senior Land Agent
Scott Clemons, Riparian Program Manager
Marilyn Cundiff, Wetlands Program Manager
Peter Perrine, Public Land Management Specialist
Gary Cantrell, Staff Services Analyst
Jan Beeding, Office Technician
Maureen Rivera, Executive Secretary

Others Present:

Phil Wallin, River Conservancy
Suzanne Gibbs, Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance
Kenneth Derucher, California State UniversityBChico
Chuck Nason, California State UniversityBChico
Jeff Carter, California State UniversityBChico
Don Holtgrieve, California State UniversityBChico
Duke Foster, National Grant Services
Mike Fitzwater, Fall River Wild Trout Foundation
Martin Potter, Department of Fish and Game
Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game
Bill Craven, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Cathy Rehets, WSPA
Ted James, Kern County
Warren Westrup, Department of Parks and Recreation
Rick Rayburn, Department of Parks and Recreation
Dirk Brazil, Department of Fish and Game
Robert Floerke, Department of Fish and Game
Dan Macon, California Rangeland Trust
Jasen Hershberger, Office of Assembly Member Dick Ackerman
John Carlon, Sacramento River Partners
Daniel Efseaff, Sacramento River Partners
John Hoffnagle, Napa County Land Trust
Ray Krauss, Blue Ridge/Berryessa Natural Area and Homestake
Diane Pragatto Williams, San Bernardino Mountains Wildlife Society
Carol Sebastian, San Bernardino Mountains Wildlife Society
James Argetsinger

2. Funding Status as of May 24, 2000

Informational

)2 1999-00 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor=s Budget - Land Acquisition	\$200,000.00	
..... Less Previous Board Allocations		<u>(2,000.00)</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$198,000.00	
Governor=s Budget - Minor Projects	\$955,000.00	
..... Less Previous Board Allocations.....		<u>(581,250.00)</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$373,750.00	

(2) 1998-99 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor=s Budget - Land Acquisition	\$200,000.00	
..... Less Previous Board Allocations.....		<u>(154,300.20)</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$45,699.80	

(3) 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.....		<u>(522,710.00)</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$0.00	

(a) 1999-00 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor=s Budget.....	\$18,932,000.00	
..... Less Previous Board Allocations.....		<u>(2,877,887.00)</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$16,054,113.00	

(5) 1998-99 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor=s Budget.....	\$17,960,000.00	
..... Less Previous Board Allocations.....		<u>(15,823,867.51)</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$2,136,132.49	

(f) 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.....	(15,918,500.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$ 929,500.00

(7) 1997-98 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor=s Budget.....	\$341,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations.....	(341,000.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$0.00

(a) 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.....	(9,695,650.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$104,350.00

(b) 1999-00 General Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor=s Budget.....	\$34,100,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations.....	(8,833,987.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$25,266,013.00

(10)1998-99 General Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor=s Budget.....	\$4,850,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations.....	(4,352,320.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$497,680.00

(a) 1999-00 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund

Governor=s Budget.....	\$1,050,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations.....	(200,000.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$850,000.00

(b) 1999-00 Forest Resources Improvement Fund

Governor=s Budget.....	\$2,600,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations.....	(500,000.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$2,100,000.00

(13)1999-00 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund

Continuously Appropriated

[Sections 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) and (7)]	\$38,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(0.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$38,000,000.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u> (a), (b) and (c)	\$617,449.80
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u> (d), (e) and (f)	\$19,119,745.49
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u> (g)	\$0.00
<u>Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Fund, River Parkway Subaccount</u> (h)	\$104,350.00
<u>General Fund</u> (i) and (j)	\$25,763,693.00
<u>Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund</u> (k)	\$850,000.00
<u>Forest Resources Improvement Fund</u> (l)	\$2,100,000.00
<u>Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund</u> (m)	\$38,000,000.00

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

3. Special Project Planning Account Informational

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

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

The Board, at the May 6, 1986 meeting, authorized the Executive Director to use up to 1% of a budgeted appropriation to set up and maintain an appropriate planning account with the provision it would be reported to the Board as an information item at the next meeting.

Accordingly, a planning account has been set up as follows:

Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund.....	\$100,000.00
---	--------------

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

4. PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 5 - 13)

Mr. Chrisman reported that the Consent Calendar consisted of Items 5 - 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. Robert Hight that the Board approve Consent Items 5 - 13 as proposed in the individual agenda explanations, including funding as noted therein.

Motion carried.

At this time, Mr. Chrisman introduced Ms. Priscilla Ouchida, from Senator Pat Johnston=s office, and Mr. Bill Craven, from Assembly member Howard Wayne=s office.

5. Approval of Minutes - February 17, 2000 Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the February 17, 2000, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended, subject to the following proposed amendment:

10. GIS Model for Wetland Protection and Restoration, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties

Although the total Program Costs shown on page 15 of the minutes for the above-noted project was correctly shown, the individual cost breakdown was incorrect. The following shows the correct breakdown and was recommended as a correction to the minutes:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Data Development	\$80,000.00
Data Collection	
Data Standardization	
Meta Data Development	
Model Development	60,000.00
Arc View Avenue Programming	
Visual Basic Programming	
Documentation	10,000.00
Help Screens and User Manuals	
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$150,000.00</u>

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the minutes of the February 17, 2000 meeting be approved to include the above correction.

Motion carried.

6. Recovery of Funds

The following projects previously authorized by the Board are now 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.

- \$0.00 to the General Fund
- \$24,070.97 to the Habitat Conservation Fund
- \$2,600.00 to the Inland Wetland Conservation Fund
- \$162,120.00 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund
- \$0.00 to the River Parkway Subaccount
- \$0.00 to the Forest Resource Improvement Fund

GENERAL FUND

North Bay Riparian Station, Marin and Sonoma Counties

Allocated	\$250,000.00	
Expended	<u>- 250,000.00</u>	
Balance for Recovery	\$	0.00

Scott Creek Conservation Area, Mendocino County

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

Total General Fund Recoveries \$0.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Bear River Riparian Restoration, Placer and Nevada Counties

Allocated	\$3,050.00	
Expended	<u>- 1,317.93</u>	
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$1,732.07</u>	

Jewett Creek Riparian Restoration, Humboldt County

Allocated	\$50,000.00	
-----------	-------------	--

Expended	- 50,000.00	
Balance for Recovery	\$	0.00

Mud Slough Wildlife Area, Expansion #2 (Gadwall Unit #1), Merced County

Allocated	\$1,300,000.00	
Expended	-1,298,020.06	
Balance for Recovery	\$	1,979.94

Paynes Creek Wetlands #3, Tehama County

Allocated	\$20,000.00	
Expended	- 19,000.00	
Balance for Recovery	\$	1,000.00

San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Riverside County

Allocated	\$1,415,000.00	
Expended	- 1,405,353.00	
Balance for Recovery	\$	9,647.00

Suisun Marsh Waterfowl Production Enhancement Project, Solano County

Allocated	\$120,000.00	
Expended	- 120,000.00	
Balance for Recovery	\$	0.00

Tamarack Meadow Riparian Restoration, Fresno County

Allocated	\$15,151.00	
Expended	- 8,439.04	
Balance for Recovery	\$	6,711.96

Wilderness Ranch Wildlife Area, Tulare County

Allocated	\$338,000.00	
Expended	- 335,000.00	
Balance for Recovery	\$	3,000.00

Total Habitat Conservation Fund **\$24,070.97**

INLAND WETLAND CONSERVATION FUND

Wetlands Conservation Easement Program, Shivley Ranch, Butte County

Allocated	\$61,000.00	
Expended	<u>- 58,400.00</u>	
Balance for Recovery		\$ 2,600.00

Total Inland Wetland Conservation Fund Recoveries \$2,600.00

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Big Bear Lake Fishing Access (Meadow Park) San Bernardino County

Allocated	\$35,120.00	
Expended	<u>-35,000.00</u>	
Balance for Recovery		\$ 120.00

Lopez Lake Fishing Access, San Luis Obispo County

Allocated		\$54,370.00
Expended	<u>- 54,370.00</u>	
Balance for Recovery		\$ 0.00

Los Banos Wildlife Area Public Access, Merced County

Allocated	\$151,770.00	
Expended	<u>- 151,770.00</u>	
Balance for Recovery		\$ 0.00

Pardee Reservoir Public Access (Blue Heron Pt.), Amador County

Allocated	\$157,120.00	
Expended	<u>- 120.00</u>	
Balance for Recovery		\$157,000.00

Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, Salmon Falls Unit Land Transfer/Exchange,
El Dorado County

Allocated	\$ 5,000.00	
Expended	<u>- 0.00</u>	
Balance for Recovery		\$ 5,000.00

Ventura Fishing Pier, Ventura County

Allocated	\$250,000.00	
Expended	<u>-250,000.00</u>	
Balance for Recovery		\$ 0.00

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$162,120.00

RIVER PARKWAY SUBACCOUNT

Butte Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve, Butte County

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

Total River Parkway Subaccount..... \$0.00

FOREST RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT FUND

Redwoods to the Sea Corridor, Humboldt County

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

Total Forest Resource Improvement Fund..... \$0.00

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight to recover funds for the projects listed on pages 6 thru 10 of this agenda and close the project accounts. Recovery totals include \$24,070.97 to the Habitat Conservation Fund, \$2,600.00 to the inland Wetland Conservation Fund and \$162,120.00 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

Motion carried.

*7. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansions 15-20, \$6,000.00
Kern and Tulare Counties

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of six separate ownerships totaling 263" acres of land for addition to the Allensworth Ecological Reserve, a Significant Natural Area providing habitat for the endangered Tipton kangaroo rat and Blunt-nosed leopard lizard, as well as the San Joaquin kit fox, a state listed threatened and federally listed endangered species. The subject properties are located about five miles west of both Highway 99 and the town of Delano, on both sides of the Tulare-Kern County Line.

Funding for these proposed purchases is made available from a Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Grant, accepted for this purpose by the Board at the November 18, 1999 meeting.

The Allensworth area is listed in the 1988 Annual Report of Significant Natural Areas of California prepared by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The Valley Sink Scrub community found at Allensworth is one of the best remaining examples in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Due to the relatively large area it covers, it provides critical habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox, which requires sizable territories (one to two square miles) for hunting and breeding. In addition, because of its significant habitat for the Blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the Allensworth area has long been recommended for protection in the Recovery Plan for that species.

Much of the land in the general vicinity of the subject properties has been or is currently being converted to extensive agricultural uses including alfalfa, cotton, milo, grapes or orchard use. In the long-term, it is almost a certainty that the subject properties would be developed to agricultural uses, thereby destroying their habitat values. DFG operation and maintenance costs for this area are expected to be minimal. The management focus is habitat preservation with potential species augmentation.

While good progress has been made to protect habitat in the northern portion of the Allensworth Ecological Reserve, progress has been slower in the southern portion with about 1,296" acres acquired to date, with the last acquisitions being approved by the Board at the November 18, 1999, meeting. The current proposed acquisitions will add 181.7" acres to the southern area and 81.1" acres to the northern area. Continuing efforts are being made to join DFG ownerships in the southern area through mitigation measures.

The following is a brief description of the six individual parcels currently being recommended for purchase and acceptance under this grant program. It should be noted that separately the parcels may contain limited wildlife values, however, as combined together and with other DFG lands, they are very important to the overall, long-term program of creating a viable ecological reserve in this area. In essence, the acquisitions are an effort to buy out inholdings within the Allensworth Reserve and simplify DFG management. The subject properties are not farmed, contain no improvements and have no current water availability.

Expansion 15, Tulare County

This 20" acre parcel has legal access and adjoins state property along its western boundary. The owners have agreed to sell at the approved fair market value of \$10,000.00.

Expansion 16, Kern County

This ownership contains 20" acres, has legal access and is located adjacent to the proposed Expansion 18, which lies immediately to the west. The owners have agreed to sell to the state at the approved fair market value of \$10,000.00

Expansion 17, Tulare County

Proposed Expansion 17 consists of two separate parcels totaling 48" acres. One parcel is located approximately one-half mile north of the Tulare/Kern County line and the other is on the County line. Both are inholdings surrounded by state lands. The owner has agreed to sell at the approved fair market value of \$41,000.00.

Expansion 18, Kern County

This 161.7" acre ownership consists of two separate parcels located in the northern portion of Kern County. Both parcels have legal access. The owners have agreed to sell to the state at the state=s approved fair market value of \$124,300.00.

Expansion 19, Tulare County

This proposed expansion contains three one-acre parcels with no legal access. They adjoin state property on their southern boundary line. The owners have agreed to sell the land at the state=s approved appraised value of \$4,000.00.

Expansion 20, Tulare County

This 10.1" acre parcel has legal access and is bordered by state property on both its west and north boundaries. The owners have agreed to sell their land at the state approved appraised value of \$9,000.00.

The funding for these purchases, and others currently in negotiations, has been made available through a grant from the BOR. The original grant was for \$150,000.00 which was then amended to total \$310,000.00. Later the BOR amended the grant again to add another \$300,000.00, bringing the total amount of grant funds made available for this program to \$610,000.00. The BOR, together with the DFG, has targeted a number of ownerships primarily in southern Tulare and northern Kern County area for protection, as discussed earlier.

The grant provides funding for the total purchase price of the properties acquired. The funds for the purchases are deposited directly into the state=s escrow account by BOR. In addition, BOR provides funds for all other related real estate expenses, such as title, escrow and appraisal services. These funds are to be provided to WCB on a reimbursement basis.

As noted, all owners have agreed to sell the above discussed lands for the total approved appraised fair market value of \$198,300.00. Acquisitions costs are estimated to be an additional \$6,000.00 for title insurance, escrow fees and the Department of General Services= review charges, all of which will be reimbursed by BOR. The acquisitions are exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these transactions as proposed; authorize the acceptance of both the grant and the proposed properties; allocate \$6,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c), to cover the related 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. Robert Hight that the Board approve these transactions as proposed; authorize the acceptance of both the grant and the proposed properties; allocate \$6,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c), to cover the related 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.

- *8. Sacramento River Riparian Vegetation GIS Mapping, \$20,000.00
Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta and Tehama Counties

This proposal was to consider an allocation of funds for a grant to California State University (CSU), Chico Research Foundation, for a cooperative project to update an existing Geographic Information System database that will identify and map the current riparian and wetland vegetation types along approximately 160 miles of the Sacramento River corridor, within Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta and Tehama counties. The project will classify vegetation types, including exotic and invasive species in a manner that is consistent with the California Native Plant Society classification system.

The proposed project will generate an additional layer of vegetation data to update existing mapping that has been done along the upper Sacramento River since 1991 by the Geographic Information Center (GIC) at CSU Chico. To produce this additional layer, the GIC will utilize 1,176 color aerial photographs that were taken during 1999 by the Department of Water Resources. The photographs cover the Sacramento River, from the City of Colusa to Keswick Dam, at a scale of 1 inch to 600 feet. The width of the photographic coverage is one mile, which will result in a layer of riparian vegetation data that will extend for approximately one-half mile on each side of the river. Existing GIS coverage dates from before the flood years of 1997 and 1998, prior to considerable changes in the alignment of the river and the distribution of riparian habitats. In addition to mapping these changes, the new data layers will distinguish the exotic and invasive species from the native species of riparian vegetation.

Many agencies and conservation organizations value and use the existing GIS database for land-use planning, research, acquisition planning for conservation and evaluation of locations for desired fisheries or riparian habitat restoration work. The proposed project will improve upon the accuracy of the existing information, and should prove even more useful to users of this GIS database. The project will also complement the state's continuing efforts to develop and integrate resource data in standardized GIS formats by producing a digital GIS map on CD-ROM which will be available to the Department of Fish and Game, as well as its federal, state, local and non-profit conservation organization partners.

Cost estimates for this proposal have been developed by the Chico Research Foundation, and have been reviewed and approved by staff as follows:

Description

Estimated Cost

Orthophoto Development	\$52,585.00
Riparian Mapping	26,410.00
Map Compilation	<u>17,730.00</u>

<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$96,725.00</u>
------------------------------------	---------------------------

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$20,000.00
Chico Research Foundation	22,440.00
Department of Water Resources	35,000.00
The Nature Conservancy	<u>19,285.00</u>

<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$96,725.00</u>
---------------------------------------	---------------------------

The GIC has agreed to produce the GIS map and database within a one-year period, which will include at least three field checks to assure accuracy, with all mapping layers being done consistent with state and federal accuracy standards. Each funding partner will receive the orthophoto geo-referenced TIFF files of the study area on CD-ROM, as well as riparian habitat maps of the Sacramento River project area and associated metadata explaining the classification system and the photo interpretation process. One copy of the orthophotos and riparian maps on CD-ROM and three copies of each final plotted map will also be made available to the project partners. Additional copies, including specialty work, will be made available to federal, state and local governments at the cost of CD-ROM duplication, or the cost of the specialized services requested.

Consistent with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, this project is categorically exempt under Section 15301, Class 1 (i) maintaining fish and wildlife habitat to protect wildlife resources. The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the proposal and supports this GIS effort.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the funding for this project as proposed; allocate \$20,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [Section 2786 (e/f) aquatic/riparian] for project costs; authorize staff to enter into the 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. Robert Hight that the Board approve the funding for this project as proposed; allocate \$20,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [Section 2786 (e/f) aquatic/riparian] for project costs; authorize staff to enter into the 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. Hot Creek Hatchery Public Access (Restroom), Mono County \$42,630.00

This proposal was to consider a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to make public access improvements at the Department's Hot Creek Fish Hatchery. Other site improvements previously funded by the Board, in 1953, 1956 and 1959, included brood ponds and expansions to the hatchery facilities.

The Hot Creek Hatchery, which is located approximately 38 miles north of Bishop and ten miles southeast of Mammoth Lake, was established in 1931 to raise trout for the burgeoning sport fishery in the eastern Sierra. This area proved to be an ideal site for this purpose because springs located on the property provided a constant flow of water, during both winter and summer, at a perfect temperature for trout production.

Like many hatcheries, this site has become very popular with the public, especially during the spring through fall period. Conveniently located near Highway 395, and on a road to popular fishing and swimming holes on Hot Creek, an estimated 45,000 people visited the hatchery last year. It continues to grow in popularity every year as more people visit this beautiful area. Despite this interest, Hot Creek Hatchery has never had restroom facilities for the visiting public. While the public is currently allowed the use of the hatchery employees' restrooms, these facilities are located nearly one-half mile from the public parking area. Visitors must walk past residences and hatchery buildings, often placing them in conflict with hatchery and employee vehicles and with other hatchery operations.

The proposal will provide a vault type restroom, in conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, at the existing visitor parking area. In addition, a new water line will be constructed to the new restroom to allow the building to be easily cleaned. Finally, a new hatchery sign will be installed to identify the visitor parking area.

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Pre-fabricated restroom	\$25,000.00
Delivery and Installation	8,000.00
Sign	1,000.00
Water Line	2,000.00
Contract Administration	3,000.00
Contingencies (10%)	3,500.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$42,500.00</u>

In addition to the costs listed above, an additional \$130.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the Board's portion of the project to \$42,630.00.

The Department has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. They will complete the appropriate notice to satisfy CEQA requirements and will acquire any permits that may be necessary to complete the proposed work. The Department will also be responsible for maintenance of the completed improvements.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$42,630.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services= review costs; authorize staff to enter into the 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. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$42,630.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services= review costs; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *10. Riparian Habitat Restoration, Fall River (Whipple Ranch), \$50,000.00
Shasta County

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the Fall River Wild Trout Foundation (Foundation), a nonprofit conservation organization, for a cooperative project to fence and restore 6± acres of riparian habitat, along about one mile of the Fall River. The proposed project is to be constructed on private property that is located on both sides of the river immediately downstream from its confluence with Spring Creek, approximately ten miles north of the town of Fall River Mills.

The proposed project will be administered by the Foundation, in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game (Department). The Department has been active in working with landowners to protect and restore habitat along the banks of the Fall River for many years. This proposal is the third fencing project to be considered by the Board along this river, and will add to the protection provided by those fencing projects approved in 1991 and 1995.

As a part of the upper Sacramento River Watershed, in the northeastern corner of Shasta County, the Fall River, a very low gradient meadow stream, gently meanders for 22" miles through ranching and farming lands of the Fall River Valley. Much of the year, the river is fed entirely by clear flows from one of the largest complexes of springs in the country. As a tributary to the Pit River, the Fall River ultimately contributes about 18 percent of the annual flow into Shasta Reservoir.

In 1972 the Fall River was designated as one of the original 16 streams in the California Wild Trout Program. Land along the river has been actively managed for livestock production for many years, with much of its historic riparian vegetation having been removed. The resulting unvegetated banks are subject to erosion, which is exacerbated by the burrowing activities of muskrats and by uncontrolled cattle access to the river for drinking water. During the last two decades a small number of landowners have installed fencing along the banks of the river in attempts to manage their cattle and to reverse the effects of the erosion. Along with the loss of land, the sedimentation flowing into the river from this erosion is causing impacts to the aquatic environment in the river, which is recognized in the Fall River

Resource Conservation District's Watershed Study as a threat to the tremendous productivity of this world-famous wild trout stream. The Fall River, within the proposed project area, has been recognized as one of the most productive trophy trout fishing areas along the entire river, locally known as AZug Bug Alley. The proposed project will use fencing to limit cattle access to the river and revegetation to stop erosion in an attempt to reverse the loss of property and damaging sedimentation along this valuable reach of the Fall River. Long-term biological/ecological benefits will include improved water quality, restoration of riparian habitat for wildlife, reduction of sediment input to the stream and improved instream habitat including aquatic vegetation and invertebrate populations.

The proposed project will also create improved foraging and nesting conditions which will benefit multitudes of wading birds, waterfowl, raptors, neotropical migrant birds and resident fish, including osprey, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, Canada geese, little willow flycatcher, mallards, widgeon, tricolored blackbirds, rainbow trout and Sacramento sucker. The Fall River is a major stopover point for members of the waterfowl guild and neotropical migratory guild destined for the Bay-Delta.

Project components will consist of the construction of approximately 5,308 feet of cattle exclusion fencing, with two cattle water access points and 11 gates. It will also include the revegetation of habitat within the 6" acre fenced area, with locally obtained native shrubs and trees, followed by extended stewardship activities by the Foundation and volunteers to assure adequate growth and survival of the planted trees and shrubs. There will also be a 10-year period of monitoring the vegetation survival/colonization, bank morphology, water quality, aquatic vegetation, and channel substrata.

Cost estimates for this proposal have been developed by the Foundation and have been reviewed and approved by Department and WCB staff as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Cattle Exclusion Fence	\$27,700.00
Riparian Planting Labor & Materials	32,850.00
Maintenance	4,000.00
Monitoring	58,745.00
Project Signs	1,000.00
Contingencies	6,300.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$130,595.00</u>
 <u>Proposed Funding Breakdown:</u>	
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$50,000.00
Fall River Wild Trout Foundation	76,595.00
Landowner	4,000.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$130,595.00</u>

The Foundation has agreed to administer the project and work with the landowner to make the project improvements. To protect the state's investment, the landowner has agreed to manage and maintain the fencing to protect the restored riparian area for 10 years.

Consistent with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, this project is categorically exempt under Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land to restore fish and wildlife habitat.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$50,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [Section 2786 (e/f) aquatic/riparian], 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. Robert Hight that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$50,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [Section 2786 (e/f) aquatic/riparian], 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.

- *11. Lokern Ecological Reserve, Expansions 15-19 \$20,000.00
(Kern County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan), Kern County

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of five ownerships, containing a total of 35" acres of privately-owned land, located approximately 30 miles west of Bakersfield, near the town of Buttonwillow. These proposed purchases are a small part of a larger program involving a number of public and private entities to protect rare natural communities in the southern San Joaquin Valley.

This larger area is known as the Lokern Natural Area (LNA), an area generally bounded by the community of Buttonwillow to the east, the Temblor Mountains to the west, and extending in a narrow, irregular pattern approximately 20 miles in a north-south direction, with Buttonwillow lying approximately midway. It is crossed by several roadways, including Highway 33, Highway 58 and Lokern Road. The subject acquisitions are part of many proposed by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to be brought to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) as part of the state=s participation in this protection effort.

While the LNA name has been chosen for the overall program, several of the participating entities have elected to use their own internal identifying names depending on individual policies. For example, all WCB proposed acquisitions will be classified as Lokern Ecological Reserve projects, while Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquisitions will be referred to as falling within their Lokern Area of Critical Concern. The point is that each entity acquiring property under this program will be helping to meet the goals of the LNA. At this time the participants in this habitat protection program include the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Energy Commission, BLM, DFG and the WCB.

The primary purpose of acquisitions in the proposed 40,000-acre LNA is to protect rare natural communities and the threatened and endangered plant and animal species that are found in this area. In 1992, a report was completed by the San Joaquin Valley Biological Technical Committee (composed of various agency representatives) entitled AA Biological Framework for Natural Lands and Endangered

Species in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, @ which described the value of preserving lands in this area. In developing this document, the participants proposed a strategy of core reserves of existing habitat with connecting corridors throughout the San Joaquin Valley, which would form a regional conservation program to ensure that sensitive natural communities and listed species would survive over time. The Lokern area was identified as one of the primary preserve areas for this purpose. This part of the valley has one of the highest concentrations of listed species in the continental United States. It is estimated that only 5 to 10 percent of the land base on the valley floor remains in the natural vegetative communities endemic to the area. The Lokern area of western Kern County contains some of the highest quality natural habitats left in the entire valley. The primary sensitive species found in this area include the San Joaquin kit fox, giant kangaroo rat, Tipton kangaroo rat, San Joaquin antelope squirrel, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Kern Mallow, Hoover=s woolly star and alkali larkspur. These species are all known to exist in the proposed LNA.

This area is also of significant interest to local government, specifically the City of Bakersfield and Kern County, both of which were involved in the preparation of large regional Habitat Conservation Plans, which address the acquisition of endangered species and their habitats over the next 20 years. These plans include measures to provide offsite compensation for the loss of endangered species habitat to development. Both plans include the LNA as a primary preserve area in which 90 to 95 percent of the existing habitat would be protected in perpetuity.

Most of the lands in the Lokern area are still natural vegetation communities, having never been cultivated. Some areas have been farmed to row crops, some of which are now being allowed to revert to their natural condition. Portions of the area have been developed for oil and natural gas production purposes. Basically, however, the LNA is relatively undisturbed in character. Threats to the area include future development potential as well as overgrazing by sheep and haphazard use by off-road vehicles, all of which could adversely affect this fragile habitat.

The five ownerships being recommended at this time for purchase under this program, are located west of the California Aqueduct, are generally level, and are within a designated flood zone. As is typical of many properties in the area, these properties have no legal access to a county-maintained road. It should be noted that each parcel, by itself, contains limited wildlife values. However, each one being considered for purchase has been identified by DFG as being very important to the overall, long-term program of creating a viable reserve in this area.

The owners have agreed to sell to the state for the approved fair market value of the properties, as follows:

Expansion #15 (Nash)	5" acres	\$ 2,500.00
Expansion #16 (Hoffner)	5" acres	\$ 2,500.00
Expansion #17 (Bailey)	5" acres	\$ 2,500.00
Expansion #18 (Machii-Ross)	10" acres	\$ 5,000.00
Expansion #19 (Bechtel)	<u>10" acres</u>	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
TOTAL	35" acres	\$17,500.00

In addition to the \$17,500.00 necessary to complete the purchase of the five properties, it is estimated that an additional \$2,500.00 (\$500.00 each) will be needed for project costs, including title and

Department of General Services= administrative expenses, bringing the total allocation to \$20,000.00. The project is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for fish and wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve acquisition of these properties, as discussed; allocate \$20,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, as specifically made available for this program, to cover acquisition costs and project expenses; 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. Robert Hight that the Board approve acquisition of these properties, as discussed; allocate \$20,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, as specifically made available for this program, to cover acquisition costs and project expenses; 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.

- *12. Kern County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan, Kern County \$909,500.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the County of Kern to assist in its acquisition of land within a large regional planning area encompassing the biologically rich southern San Joaquin Valley, in western Kern County. These proposed purchases are part of a larger program involving a number of public and private entities to protect rare natural communities. In fact, including the proposed purchases shown in Item #11 of this agenda, the Board will have been involved in 19 purchases under this program using funding specifically budgeted for this purpose, as are the funds proposed for this item.

Habitat corridors and management areas within the proposed Kern County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) lie below the 2,000-foot elevation level of the San Joaquin Floor, and encompass a mosaic of lands including the cities and towns of Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, Bakersfield, Arvin and Taft. Major highway arterials, including Interstate 5 and State Highways 33, 43, 65 and 99, bisect the area in a north-south direction; State Highways 46, 58, 119 and 166 bisect the area in an east-west direction. The proposed HCP will complement preservation of the Semitropic Preserve, Lokern Natural Area, Sand Ridge Wildflower Preserve, ARCO Coles Levee Preserve and Kern River areas. It will also complement efforts by the Bureau of Land Management to manage over 65,000 acres for the benefit of endangered species in the area.

The primary purpose of the acquisition program is to protect rare natural communities and the threatened and endangered plant and animal species that are found in this area. This portion of the San Joaquin Valley Floor has one of the highest concentrations of listed species in the continental United States. It is

estimated that only 5 to 10 percent of the land base on the valley floor remains in the natural vegetative communities endemic to the area. The primary sensitive species found in this area include the San Joaquin kit fox, giant kangaroo rat, Tipton kangaroo rat, San Joaquin antelope squirrel, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Kern Mallow, Hoover=s woolly star and alkali larkspur and Bakersfield cactus. Acquisition of properties identified within the HCP will be designed to ensure survival and recovery of species and ensure that connectivity between the area=s established preserves are maintained and enhanced. The HCP will include measures to provide offsite compensation for the loss of endangered species habitat to development. Under the HCP, it is proposed that 90 to 95 percent of the existing habitat will be protected in perpetuity.

The terms and conditions of the proposed grant provide that the funds will be used to further the conservation purposes of the HCP. The County will receive direct credits for the land acquisitions, which will become effective at such time as endowments are established for the properties in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Game=s (DFG) Section 2081 Management Agreement for the HCP. The County may, at its option, convey the properties to a DFG approved nonprofit organization for management purposes. If the County fails to designate a transferee acceptable to the DFG within six months from the close of escrow, the County would be required to transfer the real properties to the state.

The grant is structured so that staff will review all proposed title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, agreements for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and the instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into escrow. It is also proposed that the grant will fund all direct County acquisition costs associated with the acquisition of the real properties, including appraisal reports, title and escrow fees, and review and approval by the State Department of General Services. The proposal is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the award of a grant to the County of Kern to be used to help facilitate the acquisition of land, as proposed; authorize the acceptance of title to any of such properties that may, in the future, be transferred to the state by virtue of the transfer requirements of the grant; allocate \$909,500.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 (Kern County HCP, specifically appropriated for this purpose); 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. Robert Hight that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the award of a grant to the County of Kern to be used to help facilitate the acquisition of land, as proposed; authorize the acceptance of title to any of such properties that may, in the future, be transferred to the state by virtue of the transfer requirements of the grant; allocate \$909,500.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 (Kern County HCP, specifically appropriated for this purpose); 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.

- *13. Heenan Lake Water and Storage Rights, Expansion 2, Alpine County \$1,010,000.00

This proposal was to consider the purchase of 400" acre feet of water and storage rights in Heenan Lake to provide for additional protection of the Lahonton cutthroat trout fishery and egg taking operation at this lake. The Board, at its May 21, 1998 meeting, approved the original water and storage rights purchase of 440" acre feet, together with the approval of an option to purchase additional water and storage rights. At the Board=s meeting of November 3, 1998, the Board approved an additional purchase of 360" acre feet of water and storage rights along with the acceptance of a donation of 500" acre feet of these rights. The option allows the state, until September 30, 2000, to close escrow on any further purchases under this option. Protection of adequate water and storage rights is extremely important to the protection of the Lahontan cutthroat trout fishery (a federally listed threatened species) in California. The Department of Fish and Game (Department), in an effort to avoid a winter fish kill in the lake due to freeze over, requested the earlier water rights acquisitions to assure lake levels were adequate for winter protection. However, in reviewing the storage levels at this lake, it has now been determined that these levels, while adequate in normal years, may not be adequate in years following a drought when flows into the lake are reduced. They have therefore requested an additional purchase to provide added protection for this fishery.

Heenan Lake is located in the northeast portion of Alpine County, about seven miles east of Markleeville. State Highway 89 provides the main access to the subject area. Continuing east over Monitor Pass from Heenan Lake, Highway 89 joins U.S. Highway 395 in Antelope Valley (Mono County), just south of Topaz Lake. The immediate neighborhood of the project area is a combination of steep mountainous terrain with some forest cover, sloping lands with sage brush and juniper cover, and fairly level mountain meadow lands. Elevations in the neighborhood range from about 6,500 feet to almost 9,000 feet.

The major water feature of this immediate area is Heenan Lake, which occupies about 130 surface acres in the northwest portion of a 1,652" acre parcel owned by the Department. This lake, which has a storage capacity of approximately 3,200 acre feet, was created by an earthfill dam constructed on the lower end of Heenan Creek in 1923. This dam is just south of existing Highway 89. During most years the reservoir can be filled from runoff originating from the Heenan Creek drainage.

The Department currently uses Heenan Lake for egg taking purposes in connection with its Lahontan cutthroat trout fishery program. The lake is a high priority for the Department as it is the only egg source for this species in the State of California. In fact, the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery in Nevada is also supplied some eggs from this lake and, on occasion, so is the State of Nevada.

The first acquisition of the Heenan Lake property was approved at the Board=s November 29, 1982 meeting wherein the Board authorized the purchase of 1,652" acres of land, which included the lake bottom, but no water rights. In January of 1985, the Board approved funding for fishery facilities (egg taking operation) to be built on the property. At its meeting of September 17, 1985, the Board approved

the purchase of the outstanding timber rights on the land acquired in 1982. During these prior negotiations, staff obtained the landowner=s agreement to maintain a minimum pool of 500 acre feet in the lake to afford minimal protection of the lake=s important fishery, but as noted, no ownership of rights to the water were able to be acquired.

The subject water and storage rights have been appraised at \$2,500.00 per acre foot, a value approved by the Department of General Services. The option price for the subject 400" acre feet is therefore \$1,000,000.00, which is also the proposed purchase price. An additional \$10,000.00 is estimated to be necessary for escrow and Department of General Services= review costs.

The purchase is categorically exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 13, as acquisition of lands or other property rights for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the 400" acre feet of water and storage rights; allocate \$1,010,000.00 from the General Fund; 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. Robert Hight that the Board approve the acquisition of the 400" acre feet of water and storage rights; allocate \$1,010,000.00 from the General Fund; 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. Schmidt reported that Item #19 was being withdrawn from consideration

14. Big Chico Creek, Butte County \$1,690,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a grant to the California State University, Chico Research Foundation (Foundation) to assist, in a cooperative project with the River Network (a non-profit conservation organization), the Packard Foundation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Fish and Game (Department) and the Board, to acquire 2,724" acres of land for the protection and enhancement of sensitive habitats located along Big Chico Creek. Also, to consider the acceptance of a Conservation Easement over the property as a condition of the Grant. Following Mr. Sarro=s explanation of the project=s location, Mr. Schmidt summarized the proposal.

The subject property is located in Butte County, approximately 10 miles upstream from the City of Chico. The downstream end of the property adjoins Bidwell Park, the second largest municipal park in the United States. It contains over two miles of Big Chico Creek frontage extending through the entire Big Chico Creek Canyon from Musty Buck Ridge on the west to the Highway 32 ridge on the east. Access to the property is by reserved easement over a dirt road that leads from Highway 32 through Bidwell Park, entering the property on the southeast.

The property lies in a transition zone between oak woodland and pine/fir forests. The wide range of habitat types, together with the richness of a healthy riparian zone, contributes to exceptional biological diversity. The area encompasses four broad habitat types including blue oak woodland, oak/pine forest, scrub oak/Ceanothus chaparral and riparian areas. Where canopy cover allows, foothill grasslands are present throughout the blue oak forest. The grassland, unlike nearby drainages, is not inundated with exotic grasses like medusahead or Yellow star thistle. The area hosts a wealth of bird species associated with the stream, meadows, forest and cliffs, many of them with special status.

Recent surveys of the property found that over 140 different wildlife species utilize the property, 13 percent of which are listed species, including Species of Special Concern. Some of these special status animal species include Pacific lamprey, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, California whiptail, riparian brush rabbit, golden eagle, Swainson=s hawk, American peregrine falcon and yellow warbler. In addition, Big Chico Creek is crucial to the survival of populations of steelhead trout and spring-run chinook salmon, with the section of the creek located on the subject property serving as spawning and rearing habitat for both species. This section of the stream provides particularly good rearing habitat for anadromous fish since other large fish predators are prevented from invading the area by difficult passage through Iron Canyon located downstream in Bidwell Park . Anadromous populations in Big Chico Creek declined severely during the 1970's, but relocation of an irrigation diversion near the mouth in 1996 may have solved the major problem since runs of spring chinook in the last two years have exceeded recorded runs since the 1960's.

The property is also considered significant winter range for the East Tehama deer herd which is the largest migratory herd in California with current numbers reaching 45,000. The deer migrate over 100 miles and use the property as a wintering area during the months of October through March. Mountain lions consistently use the subject property and are drawn to the rock outcroppings and cliffs, vegetated ridgetops and brush thickets that provide cover for hunting. Black bear, coyotes, gray fox, bobcats, ringtails and river otter are some of the additional predators found on the property. Its relative isolation from human habitation, abundant cover and prey populations make it ideal predator habitat.

The overall management responsibility of the property will be undertaken by the Foundation in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department. They will act in partnership with the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, a consortium of watershed stakeholders, including landowners and local government. Management will focus on objectives that include protecting and preserving the various ecosystems on the property, provide opportunities for educational research and training, and provide controlled public access for hunting, fishing and other compatible recreational uses.

The River Network has secured an exclusive purchase option for the property and has arranged for the property to be transferred to the Foundation upon close of escrow. The property has been appraised and the value has been approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) at \$3,677,000.00. In addition to WCB=s proposed funding participation at \$1,677,000.00, the amount equal to the proposed grant, other funding will be provided by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (\$1,500,000.00) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$500,000.00).

As a condition of grant funding, the Foundation will be required to grant the State a conservation easement over the property. Acceptance of the easement will not only protect the state=s financial interests in the property, but will also insure long-term protection of the property while at the same time preserving public recreational opportunities into the future. It is estimated that \$13,000.00 will be needed for project costs associated with accepting the conservation easement, which include DGS costs for appraisal and project review, title insurance and WCB=s share of the escrow fees. The project is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the grant to the Foundation to be applied toward the purchase of the 2,724" acres as proposed; authorize acceptance of the conservation easement; allocate \$1,690,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 [\$1,000,000.00 from Section 5096.350 (a)(2) and \$690,000.00 from Section 5096.350 (a)(4)] for the grant amount and for project expenses; 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. Schmidt reported that Mr. Banky Curtis, Regional Manager for the DFG region covering the project area, and several people from California State University, Chico, and the River Network were in the audience should there be any questions. Mr. James Argetsinger, representing the Owens Trust (an adjacent property owner), requested clarification regarding the controlling entity of the subject property, also the location and responsible party for any fencing in the area. Mr. Schmidt responded that the managers of the property would be the Chico Research Foundation under a cooperative management agreement with the Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Kenneth Derucher, Dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology, explained that he was the managing Dean for the Environmental Resources Program. He went on to explain that the property would be managed by the California State University, Chico Research Foundation, and that Mr. Jeff Wright, Director of Sponsored Projects, and he, would be the contact people for this project. Mr. Chrisman asked if there were additional questions. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve the grant to the Foundation to be applied toward the purchase of the 2,724" acres as proposed; authorize acceptance of the conservation easement; allocate \$1,690,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 [\$1,000,000.00 from Section 5096.350 (a)(2) and \$690,000.00 from Section 5096.350 (a)(4)] for the grant amount and for project expenses; 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.

15. Red Bluff River Park Fishing Access, Tehama County \$230,260.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with the City of Red Bluff to improve the existing Red Bluff River Park Fishing Access area, located on the Sacramento River near the mouth of Reeds Creek, in the City of Red Bluff. The project, located just a

few blocks south of the center of town and upstream of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, was originally developed with WCB funds in 1965. Since that time it has been operated and maintained by the City for public fishing access purposes. The original improvements consisted of a two-lane boat ramp (12 foot lanes), boarding dock, parking area, lighting and a restroom. Following Ms. Lipphardt=s explanation of the project=s location, Mr. Schmidt summarized the proposal.

In 1990 the Board funded improvements to the restroom and the parking area. At that time the City of Red Bluff, who owns the project site, entered into a 25-year Lease and Operating Agreement with the Department of Fish and Game wherein they agreed to operate and maintain the facilities until May 10, 2015. This proposal is for the removal of the old, substandard boat ramp and dock, construction of a new wider two-lane boat ramp, a new boarding/courtesy dock, pavement of the area between the new ramp and the existing parking lot, dredging of the launch basin, replacement of four of the light standards, installation of a new project sign and construction of retaining walls and rock slope protection on either side of the ramp for erosion control.

This fishing access area is a popular destination for anglers and tourists, with an estimated 25,000 visitor use days reported in 1999. Anglers fish for migratory fish such as salmon and steelhead in the late summer months, for resident fish such as trout in the upper reaches of the Sacramento River and for bass in the 3 mile Red Bluff lake, formed when the Red Bluff Diversion Dam gates are in place during the summer months. The City has signed a resolution supporting the project and has agreed to extend their existing Lease and Operating Agreement until May, 2025.

It is anticipated that the project will qualify for federal participation under the Sport Fish Restoration Act. After approval by the Board, staff will file the appropriate application with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which, if approved, will provide the Board with a 75 percent reimbursement of all project costs. The City of Red Bluff will complete the appropriate notice to satisfy CEQA requirements and has agreed to handle the project design and contract administration for the construction of the improvements.

Cost estimates for the project, which have been developed by the City, and a breakdown of the partnership shares for the project are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>WCB</u>
Demolition of Existing Dock and Ramp	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000
Earth Work-Widen Ramp	20,000		20,000
Boat Ramp Replacement	25,000		25,000
New Courtesy Dock	35,000		35,000
Retaining Wall/Shore Erosion Control (Rip-Rap)	37,500	\$ 5,000	32,500
Channel Dredging	20,000	10,000	10,000
Lighting	21,000		21,000
Parking lot pavement to new grade (inc. curbs, gutters and ADA striping)	19,500		19,500
Signage	6,000		6,000
Engineering	30,000	10,000	20,000
Permits	4,000	1,500	2,500

Contract Administration	10,000	7,500	2,500	
Contingencies	<u>21,000</u>	<u> </u>		<u>21,000</u>
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$264,000</u>	<u>\$34,000</u>	<u>\$230,000</u>	

An additional \$260.00 will be required for Department of General Services= review costs for the project, bringing the total allocation necessary to complete this project to \$230,260.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$230,260.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for the project costs and General Services= review costs; authorize the receipt of federal reimbursements from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Porini requested clarification regarding management of the property. Mr. Schmidt stated that the City would manage the property under the renewal of a 25-year Operations and Maintenance Agreement. Mr. Chrisman asked if there were further questions. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$230,260.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for the project costs and General Services= review costs; authorize the receipt of federal reimbursements from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

16. Blue Ridge--Berryessa Wildlife Area, Napa and Yolo Counties \$1,243,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a cooperative project to acquire 8,078.6" acres of land located in the heart of the 300,000" acre Blue Ridge--Berryessa Natural Area, within the northeastern portion of Napa County and portions of southern Yolo County. The primary purpose of the acquisition is to protect grasslands and oak woodlands habitat, and to provide the opportunity to restore the riparian habitat of Eticuera, Foley, Long Canyon and Knoxville Creeks. Following Ms. Townsend=s explanation of the project=s location, Mr. Schmidt summarized the project.

The Blue Ridge--Berryessa Natural Area includes portions of the Putah and Cache Creek watersheds, both tributary to the Sacramento Valley, and is bounded by Blue Ridge on the east. The natural area extends from the area north of Highway 20, between Williams and Clear Lake, to Highway 128 and Monticello Dam to the south. It is located approximately ten miles north of Lake Berryessa and ten miles southeast of the town of Lower Lake. The property can be reached by taking the Berryessa/Knoxville Road about ten miles north of Lake Berryessa.

Acquisition of the subject property will further the goals of the Blue Ridge--Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership that is currently drafting a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for the 300,000" acre region. Other public owners in the area include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), which owns the Cache Creek Public Access and Nature Preserve, both of which were acquired by the Wildlife Conservation Board in 1986 and 1999, respectively. The subject property is bordered on the northwest by the 6,800" acre McLaughlin Mine, which is in the process of becoming the Donald and Sylvia McLaughlin Reserve. The fee title to the reserve will continue to be held by the current owners. However, they will enter into a long-term license with U.C. California, Davis to include the property in U.C.'s Natural Reserve System. The Napa County Land Trust will also hold a conservation easement over the 6,800" acre property. All of these partnerships will be managed cooperatively under the guidance of the CRMP.

The subject property encompasses a unique assemblage including grasslands, oak woodlands, serpentine chaparral, extensive riparian and cliff habitats. Wildlife species abound, with a diversity of songbirds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fish. The area is large and remote, and contains critical habitat which supports deer, bald and golden eagles, mountain lions and bears, as well as a variety of hawks, osprey, harriers, falcons, owls and other raptors.

The DFG will manage the site cooperatively with the partners of the Blue Ridge--Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership, for the protection and restoration of the oak woodland, serpentine chaparral and riparian habitat that supports a diversity of species, using the principles of ecosystem management, local administration, and self-sufficient funding to protect natural and cultural values while promoting a compatible level of public use, while fully respecting private property rights. The DFG has also proposed that the property be included in the Cache Creek Management Area Memorandum of Understanding with BLM to carry out management objectives.

The property to be purchased has been appraised for \$2,425,000.00, an amount approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). However, the owner has agreed to sell for \$2,200,000.00, resulting in a donation to the state of \$225,000.00 in land value. Costs to carry out this purchase, which include DGS's review costs, appraisal costs, title insurance costs and escrow fees, are estimated at \$15,500.00. The David and Lucille Packard Foundation has approved a grant to The Napa County Land Trust for the overall project of preservation of the two ownerships discussed herein, including \$902,500.00 to be applied toward the state's purchase of the subject property. In addition, the Bechtel Family Foundation and The San Francisco Foundation (Evelyn Tilden Mohrhardt Fund) have donated \$20,000.00 and \$50,000.00, respectively, to be applied toward the purchase. The balance of the purchase price (\$1,227,500.00) is recommended for funding by the Board. Therefore, the total allocation necessary to complete this purchase with costs, is \$1,243,000.00.

The project, which is highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game, is categorically exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes and the appropriate Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Mr. Robert Floerke, Regional Manager for the project area, was in the audience should there be any questions. Mr. Schmidt added that a letter of support of this project was received from Senator Chesbro.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$1,243,000.00 for the purchase and related costs from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117, Section 2786 (a); 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. Chrisman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. He commented that he was impressed with the extensive public and private partnerships and their commitment to the project.

It was moved by Ms. Annette Porini that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$1,243,000.00 for the purchase and related costs from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117, Section 2786 (a); 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. Coal Canyon Wildlife Corridor, Orange County \$3,000,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to assist in a cooperative project to acquire 650 acres of land within Coal Canyon, in eastern Orange County. The primary purpose of the acquisition is to preserve a critical wildlife corridor linking lands currently under public protection. Following Ms. Townsend's explanation of the project's location, Mr. Schmidt summarized the proposal.

The Coal Canyon property is located west of Corona, lying immediately south of State Highway 91 and adjacent to the northerly boundary of the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Coal Canyon Ecological Reserve. Adjoining the Reserve to the southwest is the Cleveland National Forest. Acquisition of the subject property will be one large step in protecting the historic wildlife corridor leading from the 975-acre DFG property, to the 12,000-acre Chino Hills State Park, a DPR ownership located to the north, across the highway. Adjoining the DFG property is the Cleveland National Forest, adding to the protection of this valuable habitat. Negotiations are continuing for one intervening ownership, the purchase of which will complete the protection of this corridor.

The Coal Canyon area is a steep-walled, narrow canyon in the rugged terrain of the Santa Ana Mountains, containing portions of the Gypsum Canyon and Fremont Canyon watersheds. The east and west branches of the canyon are formed by tributaries fed by winter and spring rains, while Upper Coal Canyon supports a year-round spring. Elevation ranges from 600 feet on the canyon floor to 2,000 feet at the head of the canyon. Most of the area is on the Silverado soil formation which consists mostly of clays and sandstones. This formation also contains narrow veins of coal formed by fossilized vegetation deposited in freshwater lagoons during the Paleocene era, hence the name ACoal Canyon.

As well as being a mountain lion corridor, the Coal Canyon property contains habitat for several rare and sensitive species, including Tecate cypress, Branton's milk-vetch, known from only seven locations,

rare coastal nolina, many-stemmed live-forever, coast horned lizard, orange-throated whiptail lizard, Bell=s sage sparrow, rufous-crowned sparrow, black-chinned sparrow, coastal sage scrub and alluvial sage scrub. Coal Canyon also provides local year-round water sources and shelter for denning and fawning for mountain lions, coyotes, mule deer, bobcats, foxes, racoons, and rare bat species, such as the mastiff bat. Both mountain and California quail are also found on the property.

Wildlife use of the corridor is currently limited due to impediments at the freeway crossing at State Route 91. Fencing has been erected which prevents wildlife from using the freeway underpass, leaving a relatively small double box culvert as the only crossing alternative. Mountain lions, coyotes, and a few other species are using the culvert, but many species are not. Deer, for example, don=t use it because they typically need a view of the opposite side of the crossing, which is not available through the culverts. If the acquisitions are successfully completed, the existing underpass would no longer be needed for traffic associated with future development as the potentially developable property would be protected. It could then be used as the main wildlife corridor crossing.

This proposed acquisition consists of land which is critical to the protection of the last viable habitat linkage between the Santa Ana Mountains and the Puente-Chino Hills, an area of over 512,000" acres. Preservation of this corridor will maintain a critical connection between a number of protected lands, managed by non-profit conservancies and by local, State and federal agencies, some of which were discussed earlier. These protected lands include, but are not limited to, the Cleveland National Forest, the Coal Canyon Ecological Reserve, the Santa Rosa Plateau Reserve, Camp Pendleton, the Nature Reserve of Orange County, Chino Hills State Park and the Prado Basin. In addition, the corridor links two sub-regions of DFG=s Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP). Protection of the Coal Canyon Corridor is recognized as being extremely critical to state and regional habitat conservation planning efforts. If the subject property is not acquired, it would no doubt be developed for residential and commercial use, eliminating the opportunity to protect the corridor and destroying the habitat found on the property.

The DPR and DFG have recommended acquisition of the subject property as a top statewide priority. In addition, the Coal Canyon biological corridor is recognized as one of the most critical acquisitions in southern California by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and by numerous local government entities and conservation groups.

In addition to protecting the corridor, the acquisition will add important resource lands to Chino Hills State Park, helping to protect a key recreational trail linkage. The Puente-Chino Hills and Santa Ana Mountains are literally within reach of 15 million California citizens, providing an opportunity for discovery and education, guided nature tours, interpretive displays and photography. Preservation and management of the subject property by the state will continue to provide these benefits.

The subject property has been appraised for \$50,000,000.00, and the appraisal is subject to approval by the Department of General Service (DGS). However, the owners have agreed to sell the property to the State for \$25,000,000.00. DPR has received funding for the acquisition through its own budget and from a number of other public and private sources, including \$1,000,000.00 from a 1997 Interagency Agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board, which provided funding for the acquisition of Chino Hills State Park (a specific Habitat Conservation Fund Budget ItemB97/98). To cover the remaining

shortfall, DPR has requested a grant from the Board, in the amount of \$3,000,000.00, to complete the funding for the purchase. \$2,000,000.00 of this amount has been made available to the Board for this specific purpose in the Board's 1999/00 Budget (General Fund). An additional \$1,000,000.00 is being proposed to assist in this purchase from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Deer and Mountain Lion habitat).

The terms and conditions of the proposed grant provide that staff will review all proposed title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, agreements for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and the instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into escrow. The proposal is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, as an acquisition for land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Messrs. Rick Rayburn and Warren Westrup, representing the Department of Parks and Recreation, were in the audience should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the award of a grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation to be applied to the acquisition of the 650" acres, as proposed; allocate \$3,000,000.00 for the purchase and related costs [\$2,000,000.00 from the General Fund and \$1,000,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117, Section 2786 (a)]; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this agreement; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Chrisman asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Hight commented that he has flown over the subject property and that this would make a wonderful addition to the preservation of this entire area.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the award of a grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation to be applied to the acquisition of the 650" acres, as proposed; allocate \$3,000,000.00 for the purchase and related costs [\$2,000,000.00 from the General Fund and \$1,000,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117, Section 2786 (a)]; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this agreement; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

18. Riparian Habitat Restoration, Sacramento River Wildlife Area, \$415,000.00
(Jacinto and Princeton), Colusa and Glenn Counties

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to Sacramento River Partners, a nonprofit conservation organization, for a cooperative project to restore 71± acres of riparian forest habitat along approximately one and one-half miles of river front property. This proposed work will be accomplished on two units of the Department of Fish and Game's (Department) Sacramento River Wildlife Area, both of which are located on the right bank of the river. The Jacinto Unit is located in Glenn County at River Mile 180, approximately 10 miles northeast of Willows, while the Princeton Unit is located in Colusa County, at River Mile 163, approximately 10 miles north of Colusa. Both

properties lie on the river side of the federal flood control levee, and may be accessed via State Highway 45. Following Mr. Clemons explanation of the project's location, Mr. Schmidt summarized the project.

The Jacinto Unit, totaling 300.6" acres, was acquired in two phases pursuant to Board action taken in 1978 and 1989. While it had historically been riparian forest land it had been partially cleared and operated as a walnut orchard until 1993, at which time farming was discontinued and the walnut orchard was cut down. However, the stumps were not removed, and subsequently resprouted, while only a handful of young riparian trees colonized the area since that time. The dominant vegetation found in the proposed restoration area are exotic weed species, primarily Johnson grass and yellow star thistle. The property floods several times per season in high rainfall years. The proposed restoration work includes clearing the orchard, grinding the stumps and planting a minimum of 30 acres of low-terrace mixed riparian forest. The native species proposed to be planted include valley oak, sycamore, cottonwood, California blackberry, coyote bush, wild rose, box elder and willow.

The Princeton Unit, which contains 227.8" acres, was acquired pursuant to Board action in 1993. Like the Jacinto Unit, it had been riparian forest habitat that had been partially cleared and planted to a walnut orchard. This orchard has not been managed since the property was acquired by the State. Patches of native trees have reestablished themselves along the bordering riparian forest but the majority of the site consists of black walnut trees and exotic annuals. The work proposed for this site is similar to that discussed for the first site and will include cutting down the orchard, grinding the stumps and planting 41" acres of low-terrace mixed riparian forest with a mixture of species similar to the Jacinto Unit.

The walnut trees at both sites harbor Codling moths and walnut husk fly, agricultural pests of English walnuts, and the exotic annuals provide cover for voles, which have been shown to be a major cause of mortality (from girdling) in young native trees. Recent studies on the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge indicate that non-native weedy vegetation support significantly higher populations of voles than riparian forests or native grasslands. Actively restoring these properties over a three-year period should reduce vole populations and benefit both the planted and naturally recruited trees and shrubs. The proposed project will increase the value of the Department's properties to resident and migratory wildlife and will help to heal the gap in the surrounding riparian forests.

Sacramento River Partners is a locally based nonprofit group that contracts with neighboring farmers and workers to complete restoration work. Local involvement helps to promote local Aownership@ of the future riparian forest and contributes toward creating positive relations between government land managers and the neighboring farm community. The proposed project will further the goals of the draft Sacramento River Wildlife Area Management Plan, the Department's Riparian Habitat Program and Lands Stewardship Program, the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program, the SB 1086 Sacramento River Conservation Area program, and the California Partners in Flight Riparian Habitat Joint Venture.

The proposed restoration project will benefit many species of wildlife, including the red-legged frog, western pond turtle, long-eared owl, sharp-shinned hawk, white-tailed kite, Swainson's hawk, Cooper's hawk, western yellow-billed cuckoo, neotropical migratory bird guild, wading bird guild, waterfowl guild, Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, all four runs of the Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, Sacramento perch, Sacramento blackfish, Sacramento River splittail, wild turkey, California quail and

black-tailed deer. Sacramento River Partners have agreed to track the survival of the woody species planted over the three-year life of the project and have contracted with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory to monitor migratory and resident bird use in the newly established riparian forest. The Department will periodically monitor progress of the project, and will continue to manage the properties after the project is completed. It is anticipated that the restored riparian forests will sustain themselves after the three-year establishment period.

Cost estimates for this proposal have been developed by Sacramento River Partners and have been reviewed and approved by Department and WCB staff as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Hydrologic Study/Site Assessment/ Restoration Plan	\$ 24,322.00
Plant Propagation	35,212.00
Field Survey/Layout/Planting	55,101.00
Well/Irrigation	66,707.00
Equipment Rental/related costs	13,774.00
Maintenance/Monitoring (3 yrs.)	96,804.00
Project Management	39,080.00
Project Signs	1,000.00
Direct Administrative Costs	49,800.00
Contingencies	33,200.00
In-Kind Work (Sacramento River Partners)	17,000.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$432,000.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$415,000.00
Sacramento Rivers Partners (in-kind contribution)	\$ 17,000.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$432,000.00</u>

The Department has worked with the Sacramento River Partners and others to evaluate all of the potential Department owned restoration sites within the Sacramento River Wildlife Area complex and have selected the two proposed sites as priority areas for restoration. Consistent with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, this project is categorically exempt under Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land to restore fish and wildlife habitat.

Mr. Schmidt reported that letters of support of this project were received from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors and the Sacramento River Preservation Trust. He added that Mr. Banky Curtis, Regional Manager for the project area, was in the audience should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$415,000.00 for the proposed work [\$104,350.00 from the River Parkway Subaccount-Safe, Clean Reliable Water Supply Fund/Prop. 204 and \$310,650.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/Section 2786 (e/f) aquatic/riparian]; 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. Chrisman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Ms. Annette Porini that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$415,000.00 for the proposed work [\$104,350.00 from the River Parkway Subaccount-Safe, Clean Reliable Water Supply Fund/Prop. 204 and \$310,650.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/Section 2786 (e/f) aquatic/riparian]; 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.

19. Carmel Mountain, Torrey Surf, San Diego County \$560,000.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the City of San Diego to assist in its phased acquisition of 9.4" acres, including vernal pools and 23 adjacent residential building sites, to preserve critical habitat and a key open space and wildlife corridor in the Carmel Mountain/Carmel Valley area.

THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM BOARD CONSIDERATION.

20. Staff Report--Easement Transfers Informational

At the February 24, 1998 Wildlife Conservation Board meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director to transfer less-than-fee interests (easements, rights of ways, etc.) In Department of Fish and Game or Wildlife Conservation Board controlled lands, where the value of the interests is less than \$50,000.00. This was done to improve service to the public and to reduce the cost of processing these transfers.

In addition, the Board placed two conditions on this delegation of authority, the first of which is that in all cases the grant of a less-than-fee interest would be made at the request or with the recommendation of the Department of Fish and Game to assure adequate consideration of impacts on habitat and programs. Secondly, any grant made under this authority would be reported as an informational item at the next available meeting of the Board.

Pursuant to the above described process, the following easement transfers have been completed by staff:

PROJECT TITLE	TRANSFER TYPE	GRANTEE	SIZE	CONSIDERATION
Mattole River Ecological Reserve	Permanent easement for a telephone line easement for	GTE Network	.5" acre	\$100.00 for administrative costs

- Briceland Road, Mendocino Co.	public use.	Services		
McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve, San Diego Co.	Easement for a pipeline water delivery system.	Otay Water District	1.6" acre	\$1,330.00
San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, San Diego Co.	Access easement to adjacent owner.	Steven Rutherford, et al	5" acre	None. Done as part of an acquisition of neighboring property.
Butte Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve, Butte Co.	Easement for fish ladder, dam and overflow facilities.	County of Butte	3" acres	\$800.00

Mr. Schmidt asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

21. Acceptance of Grant from the State Coastal Conservancy

Mr. Schmidt reported that this item was to consider the acceptance of a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), in the amount of \$613,499.00, to fund projects within the jurisdiction of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (Rivers and Mountains Conservancy). Board staff was recently advised that the SCC had funds that they would like to be made available for Rivers and Mountains Conservancy projects within its jurisdiction.

However, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, being a new State Conservancy, has yet to hire a staff to handle the receipt of funds and the follow-up work necessary to accomplish projects. In order to best insure the use of these funds for their intended purpose, it is proposed that the SCC provide a grant to the Board, with grant language specifically requiring that these funds be used for acquisition, restoration, enhancement and/or public access projects within the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's jurisdiction, together with planning necessary to accomplish these objectives. Furthermore, according to provisions of the grant, these funds are to be used for Rivers and Mountains Conservancy projects on the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

Pursuant to the terms of the grant, any projects to be considered for funding by the Board with these grant funds, must be first recommended for said funding by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. While the receipt of these funds does not include project specific recommendations, it is the intent of Board staff that no funds be spent without first receiving Board approval at a future meeting.

Based on the above report, it was the recommendation of staff that the Board approve the acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$613,499.00 from the State Coastal Conservancy for expenditure for projects on the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, in accordance with recommendations received from, and within the jurisdiction of, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to receive the grant of these funds, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Chrisman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve the acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$613,499.00 from the State Coastal Conservancy for expenditure for projects on the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, in accordance with recommendations received from, and within the jurisdiction of, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to receive the grant of these funds, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

22. Acceptance of Private Donations

Mr. Schmidt reported that this item was to consider the acceptance of a donation from the late Dr. Edward H. LaFranchi, for deposit directly into the Wildlife Restoration Fund. Pursuant to Article 3, Section 1348(c)(1), the Board may accept gifts for deposit to this fund.

In early May, staff received a phone call from Mr. Charles H. LaFranchi indicating that his father was very ill and wanted to make a donation to the Wildlife Conservation Board to assist in carrying out the fine Board projects that he had been reading about for many years in the Board's annual report, carried each year in the Outdoor California magazine. This donation was to be in the form of a wire transfer of stock to the Board and needed to be completed as soon as possible. We learned two days after the offer was made that Dr. LaFranchi passed away. His son then informed us that it was also his father's wish that memorial contributions be made to the Board.

In working with the State Treasurer's Office staff to determine the most appropriate way to handle the stock donation, we were advised that a stock liquidation at the brokerage firm would be the most appropriate way to proceed. Based on this direction, and the timing necessary to proceed, your staff worked with Mr. LaFranchi's brokerage firm to establish a temporary account, then liquidated the stock, with the proceeds sent directly to the Wildlife Conservation Board for deposit directly to the Wildlife Restoration Fund. The value of the stock at liquidation was \$19,794.84.

Pursuant to the above report, staff recommended that the Board take formal action to accept Dr. LaFranchi's gift, as well as any memorial contributions made on his behalf; appropriately thank Mr. Charles LaFranchi and his family, and others for their most generous gifts; authorize any agreements necessary to accomplish the transfer of funds, as well as acknowledge work accomplished to date by staff to complete any transfers.

Mr. Chrisman requested clarification regarding the procedure of acceptance for this type of donation. Mr. Schmidt stated that this was the first time the Board had received a stock donation and that the Board has had the authority to accept donations for several years.

Ms. Porini commented that she felt it was fabulous that the family felt comfortable in making these donations and that this was a tribute to the staff, recognizing their work and reports.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board take formal action to accept Dr. LaFranchi=s gift, as well as any memorial contributions made on his behalf; appropriately thank Mr. Charles LaFranchi and his family, and others for their most generous gifts; authorize any agreements necessary to accomplish the transfer of funds, as well as acknowledge work accomplished to date by staff to complete any transfers.

Motion carried.

Mr. Chrisman complimented Mr. Schmidt and the staff of the Board for their efforts. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 24, 2000, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board=s inception in 1947 totaled \$687,854,372.68*. 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, the Harbors and WaterCraft Revolving Fund, Forest Resources Improvement Fund, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund of 2000 and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

1. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects.....	\$16,006,219.06
2. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development and Improvement.....	23,443,022.63
Reservoir Construction or Improvement.....	\$ 5,535,972.75
Stream Clearance and Improvement	14,788,961.69
Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	547,719.86
Marine Habitat	646,619.07
Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects.....	1,923,749.26
3. Fishing Access Projects	38,301,906.60
Coastal and Bay.....	\$ 2,992,860.08
River and Aqueduct Access	9,996,388.28
Lake and Reservoir Access	7,037,197.98
Piers	18,275,460.26
4. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49

5.	Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development and Improvement.....	593,466,941.58
	Wildlife Areas (General).....	\$199,721,252.52
	Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development	4,632,633.74
	Wildlife Areas/Ecological Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	216,957,952.57
	Land Conservation Area	21,057.18
	Inland Wetlands Conservation Grants and Easements.....	7,112,632.57
	Riparian Habitat Conservation Grants and Easements	5,771,299.44
	Other Wildlife Habitat Grants	159,250,113.56
6.	Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57
7.	Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	10,653,879.29
8.	Special Project Allocations.....	1,116,464.79
9.	Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	3,688,725.63
	State Owned	\$960,365.63
	Grants	2,728,360.00
10.	Sales and/or exchanges	<u>545,420.04</u>
	Total Allocated to Projects	<u>\$687,854,372.68*</u>

*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.