

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1807 13TH STREET, SUITE 103
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
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**State of California
 The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
 Minutes
 August 22, 2002**

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 22, 2002

The Wildlife Conservation Board met at the State Capitol, Room 113, Sacramento, California on August 22, 2002. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Chairman Michael Flores. He introduced the Board Members and then turned over the meeting to Mr. Al Wright, Executive Director.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Flores, Chairperson
President, Fish and Game Commission
Robert C. Hight, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game
Annette Porini, Member
Vice, B. Timothy Gage, Member
Director, Department of Finance

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Al Wright

Staff Present: Al Wright, Executive Director
Jim Sarro, Assistant Executive Director
Georgia Lipphardt, Assistant Executive Director
Jan Beeding, Office Technician
Pat Butcher, Office Technician
Gary Cantrell, Research Analyst II, GIS
Tony Chappelle, Public Land Management Specialist
Scott Clemons, Public Land Management Specialist
Marilyn Cundiff, Public Land Management Specialist
John Donnelly, Chief Land Agent
Linda Drake, Senior Land Agent
William Gallup, Senior Land Agent
Dave Means, Senior Land Agent
Terri Muzik, Associate Land Agent
Randy Nelson, Senior Land Agent
Peter Perrine, Public Land Management Specialist
Maureen Rivera, Executive Assistant
Jenny Smith, Staff Services Analyst
Debra Townsend, Senior Land Agent
Roxanne Woodward, Budget Officer

Others Present: Bill Thomas
Terry North, Truckee Donner Land Trust
Steve Frisch, Sierra Business Council
Jim Sayer, Sierra Business Council
Marc Holmes, Bay Institute
Rob Floerke, Department of Fish and Game
David Wrightsman, Department of Parks and Recreation
Steve Ross, Palmdale Summit
Dan Slater, City of Duarte
Ed Cox, City of Duarte
Melinda Marks, San Joaquin River Conservancy
Nancy Schaefer, The Conservation Fund
Alan Ehrgott, American River Conservancy
Susan Ristow, Marin Audubon
B. Meyers, Novato City Council
Lynn Emrich, Save Bahia
Robert Naylor, City of Duarte
Al Jahns, American Land Conservancy
Nita Vail, California Rangeland Trust
Cheryl Belcher, Nevada County Land Trust
Theo Cline, Office of Assembly member Carol Liu
Darren Johnston, GSB
Kevin Kester, California Cattlemen's Association
Dick Nock, California Cattlemen's Association
Emily Franciskovich, Office of Senator Jim Costa
Matt Harmon
Carole Dillon-Knutson
Ronald Miska, Marin County Open Space District
Grace Schmidt, Office of Marin County Supervisor Cynthia Murray
Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game

Others Present: Don Koch, Department of Fish and Game
 (Continued) Susan Kane, Nevada County Land Trust
 Teresa Villegas, Trust for Public Land
 Darrel Sweet, California Cattlemen's Association
 Adam Englehardt, California Rangeland Trust
 Michael Endicott, Office of Assembly member Hannah-Beth Jackson
 Charlie Janiel, County of Fresno
 Sopae Tompkins, Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust
 Robin Park, Trust for Public Land
 Karen Frankel, Trust for Public Land

2.	<u>Funding Status as of August 22, 2002</u>	(Informational)
	(a) 2002-03 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$500,000.00
	(b) 2000-01 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Chapter 395, Statutes of 2000, San Francisco Baylands	\$25,000,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(50,000.00)
	Unallocated Balance	\$24,950,000.00
	(c) 2002-03 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget	\$20,664,000.00
	(d) 2001-02 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget	\$19,963,500.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(1,624,994.00)
	Unallocated Balance	\$18,338,506.00
	(e) 2000-01 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget	\$20,005,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(19,681,369.62)
	Unallocated Balance	\$323,630.38
	(f) 2000-01 General Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget	\$115,000,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(94,277,023.00)
	Unallocated Balance	\$20,722,977.00

(g) 2000-01 Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond Fund (River Protection Subaccount)

Governor's Budget	\$24,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(18,453,480.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$5,546,520.00

(h) 2000-01 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$216,125,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(98,412,955.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$117,712,045.00

Governor's Budget (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$14,562,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(7,095,047.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$7,466,953.00

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

Continuously Appropriated [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)]	\$38,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(15,756,032.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$22,243,968.00

(j) 2002-03 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund

Governor's Budget (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$2,500,000.00
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(k) 2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund

Continuously Appropriated [Section 5096.650 (a)]	\$300,000,000.00
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RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund (a) and (b)	\$25,450,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (c), (d) and (e)	\$39,326,136.38
General Fund (f)	\$20,722,977.77
Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond Fund (g)	\$5,546,520.00
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (h) and (i)	\$147,422,966.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (j) and (k)	\$302,500,000.00

RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000

Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000

Total Tax Credit Available, Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000	\$100,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Approved Tax Credit for Donated Property	(40,825,211.00)
Tax Credit Available	\$59,174,789.00

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 one percent of a budgeted appropriation to set up and maintain an appropriate planning account with the provision it would be reported to the Board as an informational item at the next meeting.

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

Habitat Conservation Fund.....	\$40,000.00
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund	\$50,000.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund	\$50,000.00

Mr. Wright asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the above informational items. There were none.

4. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 5 through 27)

Staff recommended that the Board approve Consent Calendar items 5 through 27.

Ms. Porini stated she was not present at the May 23, 2002 Board meeting and, therefore, abstained from adoption of the meeting minutes.

Therefore, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve Consent Calendar items 5 through 27, as proposed in the individual agenda explanations including funding as noted therein.

Motion carried.

*5. Approval of Minutes – February 27, 2002 and May 23, 2002 meetings

Approval of the minutes of the February 27 and May 23, 2002 Wildlife Conservation Board meetings was recommended.

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 27 and May 23, 2002 meetings be approved as written.

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.

\$4,793,138.60 to the **General Fund**
\$1,284,510.00 to the **Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund**
\$11,614.56 to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**
\$1,909.00 to the **River Parkway Subaccount**
\$7,314,477.00 to **Other**

GENERAL FUND

Arroyo Seco Wildlife Area, Exp. # 1, (Cosumnes River Preserve), Sacramento County

Allocated	\$1,148,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,143,878.60</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,121.40

Carpinteria Bluffs Donation - Trust for Public Land, Santa Barbara County

Allocated	\$3,000.00
Expended	<u>-760.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,240.00

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

Allocated	\$150,000.00
Expended	<u>149,906.48</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$93.52

Oroville Wildlife Area Ponds Fishing Access Improvements, Butte County

Allocated	\$250,270.00
Expended	<u>-250,260.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10.00

Sacramento River Wildlife Area Access, Princeton Unit, Site 21, Glenn County

Allocated	\$135.00
Expended	<u>-130.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5.00

San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Exp. # 20, Riverside County

Allocated	\$4,783,000.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,783,000.00

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Exp. # 8 (Willow Unit/SJRC # 3 - Ball), Fresno County

Allocated	\$3,168,737.00
Expended	<u>-3,168,737.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat (SJRC # 4 - Wagner), Madera County

Allocated	\$510,000.00
Expended	<u>-507,644.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,356.00

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat (SJRC # 5 - Schneider), Madera County

Allocated	\$210,000.00
Expended	<u>-210,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Wetland Habitat Restoration, Honcut Creek (McCorkle Ranch, Butte County

Allocated	\$110,000.00
Expended	<u>-109207.32</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$792.68

Wetland Habitat Restoration, South Grasslands (Britto, ETN, Riverfield, Merced County

Allocated	\$19,100.00
Expended	<u>-18,580.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$520.00

Total General Fund **\$4,793,138.60**

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND

Arroyo Seco Wildlife Area, Exp. # 1, (Cosumnes River Preserve),
Sacramento County

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

Ferry Point Pier, Contra Costa County

Allocated	\$500,270.00
Expended	<u>-500,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$270.00

Humboldt Bay Wildlife Area, Exp. # 1, Jacoby Creek, Gannon Slough Unit,
Humboldt County

Allocated	\$1,285,000.00
Expended	<u>-760.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,284,240.00

**Total Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean
Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund**

\$1,284,510.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Lokern Ecological Reserve, Exp. # 15-19 (Kern Co. Valley Floor HCP),
Kern County

Allocated	\$34,450.00
Expended	<u>-34,425.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$25.00

Sacramento River Riparian Vegetation GIS Mapping, Butte, Colusa, Glenn,
Shasta and Tehama Counties

Allocated	\$20,000.00
Expended	<u>-20,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Exp. # 8, (Willow Unit/SJRC # 3-Ball),
Fresno County

Allocated	\$164,241.74
Expended	<u>-164,241.74</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Wetland Habitat Restoration, Butte Valley Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County

Allocated	\$135,000.00
Expended	<u>-123,410.44</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$11,589.56

Total Habitat Conservation Fund **\$11,614.56**

RIVER PARKWAY SUBACCOUNT

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Exp. # 8 (Willow Unit/SJRC # 3-Ball),
Fresno County

Allocated	\$2,646,263.00
Expended	<u>-2,646,263.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

San Joaquin River (SJRC - Beck), # 2, Fresno County

Allocated	\$1,650,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,648,091.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,909.00

Total River Parkway Subaccount **\$1,909.00**

OTHER

Carpinteria Bluffs Donation - Trust for Public Land, Santa Barbara County

Accepted Donation	\$7,314,477.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7,314,477.00

At the November 28, 2001 meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Board approved, on a conditional basis, the donation of property for inclusion under the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000. The conditional approval was contingent upon various actions to be completed before May 30, 2002. These actions were not taken before the aforementioned date and the donor has withdrawn their application. This entry is to close the project for the Board.

TOTAL OTHER **\$7,314,477.00**

*7. San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Expansion 22, Riverside County \$40,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of private land as a further expansion of the Department of Fish and Game=s (DFG) San Jacinto Wildlife Area (WLA), in western Riverside County. The acquisition will allow for the further protection of Mystic Lake and its associated flood plain habitat.

The project area is located in the San Jacinto Valley of Southern California, approximately 18 miles southeast of downtown Riverside and just north of the community of Lakeview. To the northwest is the City of Moreno Valley, whose corporate limits reach the northern boundary of the WLA. Initial land acquisitions for the WLA were completed during the period of 1981 - 82 as part of a mitigation package developed to compensate for wildlife habitat losses resulting from the construction of the State Water Project. As opportunity and circumstance allowed, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has acquired additional properties. Since 1995, the WCB has acquired 3,500 acres adjacent to or within Mystic Lake for the WLA. The western boundary of the 9,000-acre WLA is contiguous with the Lake Perris State Recreation Area, placing a total of approximately 16,500 acres under public ownership and protection. The current proposal being considered will remove a "private inholding" and add about five acres of land to the WLA adjacent to Mystic Lake.

The upland areas and hills surrounding the lowland flood plain of Mystic Lake are dominated by Riversidian sage scrub. There are areas of intermixed patches of non-native grasslands which are found in both the upland and alkali flat areas. There are numerous sensitive plants associated with the Mystic Lake area, including the thread-leaved brodiaea (state listed endangered and federally proposed threatened), San Jacinto saltbush (federally proposed endangered) and spreading navarretia (federally proposed threatened). The WLA and adjoining lands support 38 species of amphibians and reptiles. Mammal species are well represented and range from the desert shrew to the southern mule deer. The Stephens= kangaroo rat (state listed threatened and federally listed endangered) is a resident mammal of the WLA.

Over 240 species of birds have been recorded on or adjacent to the WLA since 1982. Twenty-two overwintering raptor species are known to utilize the San Jacinto Valley, including the osprey, ferruginous hawk, golden eagle and short-eared owl. The San Jacinto Valley consistently ranks in the top one to two percent in species diversity for the North American Christmas bird counts. Historically, the San Jacinto Valley has always been an important southern California wintering and nesting area for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. There are three federally or state listed endangered birds sighted on the WLA and those are the bald eagle, Peregrine falcon and the California brown pelican.

The DFG has identified the subject property as being within a significant natural area and has recommended the purchase of the property, which would be incorporated into and managed as part of the existing WLA. It is anticipated that the area will offer both nonconsumptive and consumptive recreational uses, as the habitat is restored, maintained and developed in conjunction with the WLA.

There are no claims of sovereign state land ownership within the property. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15313, acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

The fair market value of the property, based on an appraisal reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS), is \$35,000.00 and the owner has agreed to sell the property for this amount. An additional \$5,000.00 will be needed for appraisal, escrow, title insurance fees and DGS' review costs, bringing the total allocation necessary to complete this project to \$40,000.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$40,000.00 from Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) to cover acquisition and project costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as 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 acquisition as proposed; allocate \$40,000.00 from Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) to cover acquisition and project costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

*8. Lokern Ecological Reserve, Expansion 21, Kern County \$1,500.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition and partial donation of 2.5± acres of privately-owned land as an expansion of the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Lokern Ecological Reserve, located approximately 30 miles west of Bakersfield near the town of Buttonwillow, for the protection of numerous rare natural communities and threatened and endangered species. This proposed purchase is 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.

The subject property is located within the Lokern Natural Area (LNA), a 40,000± acre area designated for protection through a cooperative effort among the City of Bakersfield, Kern County, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Energy Commission, Bureau of Land Management, DFG and the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board). The LNA is 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. It is crossed by several roadways, including Highway 33, Highway 58 and Lokern Road.

The primary purpose of this acquisition 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 "A 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 reserve 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 five to ten 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-nose leopard lizard, kern mallow, Hoover's woolly star and alkali larkspur. These species are all known to exist in the 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. These plans include measures to provide offsite compensation for the loss of endangered species habitat due 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, 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 subject property is located in close proximity to the California Aqueduct. It is generally level and is within a designated flood zone. As is typical of many properties in the area, this property has no legal access to a county-maintained road. It has been identified by the DFG as being very important to the overall, long-term program of creating a viable reserve in this area.

The Department of General Services (DGS) has approved the fair market value of the subject property at \$1,250.00 and the landowner has agreed to sell to the State for \$1,000.00, thereby providing a \$250.00 donation to the State. It is estimated that an additional \$500.00 will be needed for project costs, including title and DGS's administrative expenses, bringing the total allocation to \$1,500.00.

This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15313, an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Board approve acquisition of this project as proposed; allocate \$1,500.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for the acquisition amount and related project expenses; authorize the acceptance of the donation valued at \$250.00; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize 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 this project as proposed; allocate \$1,500.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for the acquisition amount and related project expenses; authorize the acceptance of the donation valued at \$250.00; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

*9 Canebrake Ecological Reserve, Cap Canyon Unit, Kern County \$572,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 285± acres of privately-owned land located along Highway 178 and approximately four miles east of Onyx and 18 miles east of Lake Isabella in Kern County for the preservation and protection of riparian habitat and a significant portion of the South Fork Kern River watershed.

The acquisition of the subject property will establish the Cap Canyon Unit of the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Canebrake Ecological Reserve (Reserve). The subject property is located in the lower reach of Cap Canyon, adjacent to the southern portion of the Canebrake Creek Unit and the South Fork Kern River. In addition to protecting the Cap Canyon watershed, this acquisition will enhance public access to U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands surrounding the subject property and will protect an important wildlife corridor that extends between the Domeland Wilderness in the north and the isolated Scodie Mountains in the south.

The primary purpose of this acquisition is preservation and protection of this watershed's vegetation, hydrology, soils and the riparian habitat of the South Fork Kern River. Specifically, this acquisition will provide protection for vegetation communities including annual grassland, pinyon-juniper, blue oak-grey pine, valley foothill riparian habitats and habitat crucial to the existence of many special status species, such as the southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo and the western pond turtle. If agricultural or residential development were to occur within Cap Canyon, it would likely result in adverse impacts to these species and the habitat upon which they depend.

The appraised fair market value, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS), is \$562,000.00 and the landowner has agreed to sell to the State at this price. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be required for administrative expenses, including DGS' review costs, escrow fees and closing costs, bringing the Board's total allocation for this proposal to \$572,000.00. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15313, an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$572,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for the acquisition amount and related project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as 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 \$572,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for the acquisition amount and related project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *10. Morro Bay Dunes (Augmentation and Change of Scope), \$655,000.00
San Luis Obispo County

This proposal was to consider an augmentation and change of scope for the allocation of a grant to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to assist in the cooperatively funded acquisition of 40 ± acres of privately-owned property to be conveyed to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), for protection of coastal wetland habitat for threatened and endangered species. The property is located in the town of Los Osos, adjacent to the Morro Bay State Park.

This project was originally presented to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), November 28, 2001, as a proposal to receive and deposit into escrow a grant of \$650,000.00 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), to assist in its acquisition of the subject property. Subsequent to WCB approval, it was discovered the availability of USFWS grant funds would be delayed significantly, beyond the termination date of the purchase option agreement between TPL and the property owner. There was also a concern the grant funds might be redirected toward another project. In order to meet the terms of the option agreement and avoid the risk of losing the property, a decision was made to seek alternate funding to offset the USFWS grant funds.

The subject property is currently undeveloped with a gently sloping topography, offering views of the Los Osos Valley and Hollister Peak. Los Osos Creek runs along the eastern border of the property. Wetland, riparian and upland wildlife habitats can be found on the property, supporting a wide variety of rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species. These include the Morro shoulderband snail, Morro Bay blue butterfly, Morro Bay kangaroo rat, California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, steelhead trout, California black rail, Blochman leafy daisy and dune almond. Migratory waterfowl also frequent the property.

Acquisition of this parcel is an essential part of a multi-agency effort to preserve the dune complex and establish a greenbelt around the community of Los Osos. The planned greenbelt runs south from the Morro Bay State Park, along Los Osos Creek, through the subject property, to the Los Osos Oaks State Preserve and then heads west to the Montana de Oro State Park, located on the coast. There have

been a number of recent acquisitions within the corridor, including the 30-acre Elfin Forest Preserve (an expansion to the Morro Bay State Park), the 15-acre Powell I property (an expansion to the Morro Bay State Park), the 205± acre Bayview Ecological Preserve, approved for purchase by the WCB in 2001 (managed by the Department of Fish and Game), and the 26-acre Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve (an expansion to the Montana de Oro State Park).

The present zoning of the subject parcel allows for single family residential development on five acre lots. Similar to other coastal areas in central California, the Los Osos area is experiencing increased demand for residential development. Combining this factor with the property's viewshed and close proximity to the Morro Bay Estuary, the cost to acquire the property and the pressure to develop it are sure to rise over the foreseeable future.

The conveyance of the property will occur with TPL exercising the purchase option and taking possession of the property. Shortly afterwards the property will be conveyed to the DPR, to be managed as an expansion of the Morro Bay State Park. Proposed uses include hiking trails, open space and outdoor education programs. The property is also adjacent to the Los Osos Middle School, which has developed a class curricula related to the study and restoration of dune habitat and has expressed an interest in using the property for educational purposes.

The property has been appraised and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) at a value of \$1,500,000.00. Funding for this cooperative project will come from various sources. The allocation is as follows:

Morro Bay National Estuary Program	\$250,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	650,000.00
Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program	500,000.00
Coastal Resources Grant Program	100,000.00
<u>TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE</u>	<u>\$1,500,000.00</u>

An additional \$5,000.00 will be needed for DGS' review and closing costs, for a total allocation of \$655,000.00. The terms and conditions of the proposed grant provide staff will review all proposed title documents, preliminary title reports, agreements for purchase, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into an escrow account for this purchase.

Staff recommended the Board approve the grant to the Trust for Public Land as proposed; allocate \$655,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Prop.12), Section 5096.350 (a)(5) to be applied toward the purchase price and related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as 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 to the Trust for Public Land as proposed; allocate \$655,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Prop.12), Section 5096.350 (a)(5) to be applied toward the purchase price and related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *11. Habitat Restoration, Herbert Wetland Prairie Preserve, Area C, \$127,000.00
Tulare County

This was a proposal to consider the allocation of a grant to the Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust (Trust) to restore approximately 83 acres of wetland, riparian and upland habitats on Area C of the 725-acre James K. Herbert Wetland Prairie Preserve (Preserve), located approximately six miles west of Lindsay in Tulare County.

The Trust acquired the Preserve in March 2000 with funding provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and The David and Lucille Packard Foundation. The Preserve contains some of the best remaining examples of northern hardpan vernal pool and associated grassland habitats to be found in Tulare County. Most of the property has remained unleveled and will continue to provide excellent habitat for many wildlife species, including Swainson's hawks, burrowing owls, California horned lark, white-faced ibis, Northern harrier and tri-colored blackbird.

Area C, located in the northwest corner of the Preserve, was previously leveled and equipped with low check levees for irrigated pasture, and is dominated by non-native vegetation during the dry months. Lewis Creek historically meandered through Area C, but was straightened and the vegetation removed to facilitate drainage. This project is intended to demonstrate wildlife-friendly stream channel vegetation methods that will hopefully be adopted by local water districts. Following a plan developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, with consultation from experts in habitat restoration, the Trust will construct a new meandering channel for Lewis Creek. In addition, a series of small ponds with wetland vegetation will be developed and situated within a de-leveled area that will be planted with native vegetation typical of historic prairie grasslands. Valley oaks will also be planted along approximately 720 linear feet of the eastern bank of People's Ditch, a water conveyance structure located at the southern end of Area C. After the vegetation has matured to the stage where irrigation is no longer needed, the habitat will be managed under an adaptive management strategy that may include rotational grazing and/or prescribed burning.

The Trust is planning to develop public access to the Preserve. The draft management plan for the Preserve includes options for visitor facilities, and states that such access is essential to educate the local community and to maintain local support for the Preserve.

Funding for the proposed project is being provided by the Board, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The Trust for Public Land, Great Valley Center, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Trust and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Cost estimates for this proposal have been reviewed by staff and are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Project planning	\$90,175.00
Seed Collection	3,000.00
Plant growth and delivery	5,600.00
Tree materials	500.00
Grading/water control structures	59,828.00
Labor for planting	1,808.00
Replanting	15,736.00
Labor and materials for irrigation	4,350.00
Supplies	1,050.00
Project Coordination	408,060.00
Fencing	9,900.00
Prescribed burning	500.00
Weed maintenance	6,225.00
Signs	1,250.00
Grazing payments	6,225.00
Administration	10,550.00
Contingencies	10,953.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$635,710.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown (includes in-kind contributions):

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$127,000.00
Environmental Protection Agency/TPL	35,000.00
Great Valley Center	20,000.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	25,000.00
Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust	382,885.00
Natural Resources Conservation Service	45,825.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$635,710.00</u>

The proposed project has been reviewed and recommended for funding by staff and the Department of Fish and Game. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of categorical exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$127,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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 items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$127,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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. San Joaquin River, Ball Ranch, Draft Master Development Plan, \$160,000.00
Fresno County

This was a proposal to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with the Department of General Services (DGS) for the production of a draft master development plan and preliminary design (Draft Plan) for the San Joaquin River Conservancy's (SJRC) Ball Ranch property. The 358-acre Ball Ranch is located within the San Joaquin River Parkway, approximately four miles downstream from the town of Friant, in Fresno County.

The ranch was acquired by the Board in 2000 and is downstream of the Lost Lake Regional Park and upstream of the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) San Joaquin River Wildlife Area, Willow Unit. Ball Ranch contains significant habitat diversity including mixed riparian forest, valley oak riparian forest, valley oak woodland, willow scrub, non-native grasslands and freshwater marsh. It provides habitat for a wide array of wildlife, including a resident deer population and many species of birds.

The Draft Plan has three broad-based goals:

1. Protecting and enhancing the environmental values of the property;
2. Developing a spectrum of public access and recreation features consistent with the protection and enhancement of the environmental values; and
3. Developing public access and recreation features that can be self-supporting to the extent feasible.

The following steps will be taken to produce the Draft Plan: 1) develop background information, 2) hold meetings with DFG staff to outline possible compatible uses for Ball Ranch and the adjacent Department-owned properties, 3) meet with the Conservancy's Interagency Project Development Committee (PDC) to further refine possible uses for Ball Ranch and to prepare a rough map of the physical locations and a list of uses, 4) hold a public workshop to get input on the map and list of possible uses for Ball Ranch, 5) develop a first rough draft of the master development plan, 6) review rough draft with PDC, revise as needed, and identify up to three alternatives, 7) hire architectural and engineering consultant and other technical consultants as needed to prepare site plans that detail the proposed improvements under each alternative, and 8) produce a final draft of the master development plan which identifies a preferred alternative, includes the preliminary plans, a schedule to implement the plan and an estimate of capital costs. The Draft Plan will then be presented to the Conservancy's Board of Directors for consideration.

Funding for the Draft Plan is being provided by the Board, using funds from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop.12), Section 5096.310 (r), as specified for San Joaquin River Conservancy projects. The SJRC Board met on March 21, 2002 and approved the proposed agreement with the DGS. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. Estimated costs for the project are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Manage Development of Draft Plan	\$50,000.00
Technical Services for Draft Plan development	35,000.00
Architectural and Engineering Consultant (site plan)	75,000.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$160,000.00</u>

Staff recommended the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$160,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop. 12), Section 5096.310 (r); 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 this project as proposed; allocate \$160,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop. 12), Section 5096.310 (r); 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. San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat (SJRC 11) Augmentation, \$250,000.00
Fresno/Madera Counties

This was a proposal to consider the allocation of funds for the augmentation of previously approved funding (approved August 30, 2001 as agenda item 22) to assist in the proposed multi-party project to acquire 360± acres of habitat located along the San Joaquin River in the City of Fresno. The subject property, which includes over one mile of river frontage, is located on the southerly side of the San Joaquin River, just westerly of the State Highway 41 Bridge. A small portion of the ownership lies on the northerly side of the river in Madera County. Access may be obtained from city streets at several locations.

The property, a portion of which has been mined for gravel, lies from the toe of a bluff located at its southerly property line and gradually slopes northerly to the river. Several ponds exist on the property, providing excellent wildlife habitat benefits. In addition, the potential exists for future public recreational opportunities to be developed, including hiking trails, fishing access and wildlife interpretation activities.

The purchase of this property will continue to be a multi-party effort involving the San Joaquin River and Parkway Trust (Trust), Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Packard Foundation, the California Resources Agency, the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC), the Department of Fish and Game and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

In the original proposal presented to the WCB, TPL was to receive a Caltrans Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program (EEMP) grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 to contribute toward the purchase price of \$7,207,600.00, a value approved by the Department of General Services. Because of unforeseen circumstances and the need for further project negotiations, completion of the transaction has exceeded the time frame allowable under the \$250,000.00 EEMP grant application, which expired at the end of the 2002/03 fiscal year. Therefore, in order to complete this transaction, the WCB and the SJRC were asked to help by providing the funds to make up for the loss of the EEMP grant. The SJRC Board has passed a motion requesting that the WCB approve an augmentation of \$250,000.00 for the purpose as explained above.

The bulk of the financing is still intact to complete this transaction and the funding partners and their respective amounts will be as follows:

California Resources Agency	\$3,000,000.00
Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities/ Conservation Lands Program grant	2,600,000.00
Caltrans EEMP grant	\$500,000.00
WCB/SJRC (includes \$35,000.00 for costs)	1,142,600.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$7,242,600.00</u>

Staff recommended that the Board approve the allocation of an additional \$250,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond/P-13 (SJRC) to complete this acquisition as proposed; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements as necessary to carry out 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 allocation of an additional \$250,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond/P-13 (SJRC) to complete this acquisition as proposed; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements as necessary to carry out this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *14. Wetland Habitat Restoration, South Grasslands \$26,000.00
(Britto Land and Investments), Merced County

This proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for a partnership project to restore approximately 70 acres of seasonal wetlands on privately-owned land located approximately ten air miles southeast of the City of Los Banos. The partners in this proposal include the CWA, the landowner, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The project is located just over a mile east of the DFG's Gadwall Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Area, and adjacent to a restoration project funded by the WCB on private lands in May of 2001.

The Grasslands is a critical wetland area for many species of wildlife. It is the largest remaining contiguous wetland in the Central Valley and host to hundreds of

species of wildlife. The subject property is developed as a duck small club, has been managed as a wetland for many decades, and is protected with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service perpetual easement. It is located in the northeastern portion of the South Grasslands, and therefore is in a critical area for waterfowl and other birds moving to and from the heart of the South Grasslands and the much larger North and East Grassland areas. This small club could be a magnet for these birds, but drainage problems have resulted in an overgrowth of vegetation with little or no wildlife value.

The project will restore the hydrology on the entire site through the removal of levees that are no longer needed and the replacement and installation of new, larger water control structures. A new drainage system will be installed to allow the club to be completely drained, even when surrounding clubs hold water. This will allow the landowners to manage the site to maximize habitat for waterfowl and other water dependent species. The project will assist with the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture's goal of restoring 20,000 acres of wetlands in the San Joaquin Basin. Cost estimates for this project have been reviewed by staff and are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Site: preparation and earthmoving	\$18,400.00
Water control structures	6,725.00
Gravel for roads and underwater levees	1,000.00
Project design and management	6,000.00
Contingencies	2,600.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$34,725.00</u>
<u>Proposed Funding Breakdown:</u>	
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$26,000.00
Landowner	8,725.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$34,725.00</u>

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The landowner has agreed to manage and maintain the property for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Habitat Management Plan. If at any time during the life of the project, the landowners are unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$26,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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 this project as proposed; allocate \$26,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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. Wetland Habitat Restoration (San Joaquin Wetland Farms), Stanislaus County \$196,000.00

This proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), for a partnership project to provide clean, reliable water to existing privately owned wetlands, located on the left bank of the San Joaquin River 10 miles southwest of the City of Modesto, Stanislaus County. The partners in this proposal include DU, the landowners, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The DFG holds a conservation easement on the property, and adjacent properties are protected with federal Floodplain Easements. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge lies five miles to the north at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers.

The WCB acquired an easement on a portion of this property in 1992, one of the four initial acquisitions under DFG's Permanent Wetlands Easement Program. In 1994, the acquisition was completed, bringing the protected property to its current size of 610 acres. The site was acquired because of its unique combination of mature riparian forest, oak woodlands, seasonal and permanent wetlands, oxbow lakes, small grain food plots and grasslands. The project site is managed by the landowners with direction and guidance from biologists with the DFG's Wetlands Program. Water in the oxbows and permanent wetlands is maintained throughout the summer, and the seasonal wetlands and cropland are irrigated during the summer to maximize production of waterfowl forage plants. All seasonal wetlands are flooded from fall through spring.

Water for the wetlands and riparian oxbows is provided from riparian water rights from the river and from agricultural tailwater, but neither source is dependable. Currently, the landowners own and operate a portable pump to pull water from the river, but summer water is of low quality. In winter, the pump cannot always be used due to high water at the river landing. Agricultural tailwater, chocolate brown

with silt, is the only alternative and only available from March through September. As such, the area needs a supply of water that is dependable and of good quality. The proposal calls for the drilling of two deep wells and the installation of two pumps.

The area supports enormous numbers of wildlife, from riparian loving songbirds like Wilson’s warblers to marsh species like great blue herons. The oak woodlands are home to ringtail cats, screech owls and scrub jays. Waterfowl, including mallards and cinnamon teal, nest on site, and hundreds of nest boxes have been placed in the forests and woodlands resulting in the best wood duck production in the San Joaquin Valley. Flocks of hundreds of American widgeon and gadwalls winter here every year, deer are common and Swainson’s hawks nest in the tallest riparian trees.

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Well drilling	\$80,000.00
Well driveline, perforated pipe, permits, etc.	54,000.00
Two diesel pumps with accessories	46,000.00
Repair of existing pump	10,000.00
Project design and management	19,578.00
Contingencies	22,922.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$232,500.00</u>
 <u>Proposed Funding Breakdown:</u>	
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$196,000.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	10,000.00
Landowners	20,000.00
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	6,500.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$232,500.00</u>

The DFG reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. If at any time during the life of the project, the landowners are unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$196,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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 this project as proposed; allocate \$196,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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.

- *16. Habitat Restoration, Cosumnes River Preserve, \$136,000.00
Sacramento County

This proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant for a cooperative project with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), to restore 94 acres of native grasslands and enhance 28 acres of wetlands on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within the Cosumnes River Preserve. The property is located approximately two miles northwest of the City of Galt, within the flood plain of the Cosumnes River. Project partners include the Bureau of Reclamation, BLM, DU, and the WCB. A North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant has also been approved for the project.

The Cosumnes River Preserve is a 41,136± acre natural area located near the confluence of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne rivers, just east of Interstate 5. Over 25,000 acres of this protected area are owned in fee, while the remainder is controlled either through conservation easements or other voluntary agreements with private landowners.

The WCB was one of the original partners to the Cosumnes River Preserve, having acquired a 38± acre parcel in 1984 prior to the beginning of the official preserve project. The Preserve has become a cooperative conservation effort between its various property owner partners, which include the BLM, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), DU, the DFG, the Department of Water Resources, the M & T Staten Ranch and Sacramento County. Management of the area is handled through a Cooperative Agreement signed by the various owners of land within the Preserve. In 1991, the WCB approved funding for the construction of a Visitors' Center at the Preserve and entered into a 25-year Lease and Operating Agreement for the BLM to operate and maintain the facility. The Board approved additional funding in 1996 to reconstruct the building, which was destroyed by fire in 1995. In August of 2000,

the WCB also approved funding to improve public access at the Preserve by upgrading the existing trail system and parking areas, as well as installing additional sanitary facilities for visitors to the Preserve.

Located adjacent to the BLM property within the Preserve called the Cougar wetlands, this project will take place on former vineyard lands recently acquired by the BLM. The restoration plans include reconnecting three existing sloughs with the Cougar wetlands and restoring a 94-acre upland portion to grassland habitat comprised of native grasses, forbs and oaks. Native grass species tolerant of temporary inundation, such as creeping wild rye, blue wild rye, meadow barley, and slender wheatgrass, will be sown in early winter to establish this habitat. The project is part of a sustained effort to establish a native grassland community at the Preserve. Wetland enhancement will include maintaining water from Cougar wetlands within the existing sloughs for an extended time period. The dike separating the three sloughs from the Cougar wetlands will be lowered to allow water flow into the sloughs whenever it is available. Maintaining water in the sloughs will also provide brood habitat for local waterfowl and foraging areas for other wildlife using this habitat. Shorebirds will also take advantage of newly formed mudflats near the sloughs.

Additional benefits of this restoration project include increasing the available acreage of native grassland habitat for use by species which migrate through and live on the preserve. New nesting and foraging habitats will be available both in the upland and wetland habitats for those species which require them, such as waterfowl, shorebirds, passerines, cranes, giant garter snakes, a variety of mammals and various raptors, including Swainson's hawks.

Cost estimate for this project have been reviewed by staff and are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Site Preparation	\$5,000.00
Native Plant Seed	148,000.00
Planting	18,000.00
Weed Control	46,000.00
Levee Removal	30,000.00
Engineering/Project Management	21,000.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$268,000.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$136,000.00
Bureau of Reclamation	30,000.00
Bureau of Land Management	10,000.00
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	30,000.00
NAWCA Grant	62,000.00

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING **\$268,000.00**

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. This activity is exempt from CEQA under Class 4, of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The landowner has agreed to manage and maintain the property for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$136,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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 this project as proposed; allocate \$136,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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. Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, Salmon Falls Unit, Expansion 3, \$654,000.00
El Dorado County

This proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the American River Conservancy to assist the Conservancy in its acquisition of 157^{1/2} acres of vacant land in El Dorado County, for the preservation of habitat for threatened and endangered species. The property would be an addition to the Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, Salmon Falls Unit, which lies about three and one-half miles north of the urban El Dorado Hills, on the east side of Folsom Lake and about five miles south of Pilot Hill.

The establishment of the Pine Hill Ecological Reserve is a cooperative effort among the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). As proposed, the Reserve would one day encompass some 5,000 acres. While most of the existing Reserve is under the ownership of the BLM, the area is managed cooperatively by the partners listed above. To date, nearly 2,000 acres have been acquired at this reserve either by action of the WCB, as mitigation through the Fish and Game Commission, or through transactions completed by the BLM or the Conservancy.

Because of the area's unique gabbroic soil type, the land supports an extremely rich and important ensemble of rare plants found only in this general area of the world. The predominant vegetation type in this area is chamise chaparral which is composed of chamise, Lemmon's ceanothus, mansanita, redbud and many oak species. The rare Pine Hill ceanothus occurs in cleared or open areas on Rescue soils found within the more common chaparral type. Some slopes support pines and many oak species, including blue oak, interior live oak, black oak, scrub oak, leather oak, valley oak and canyon live oak. Butterweed and mule-ears are found scattered over much of the area while bedstraw occurs under the ponderosa pines on the north-facing slopes. According to the DFG, wildlife in this area includes resident deer and mountain lion, as well as numerous game birds, including dove, quail and wild turkey.

This area is seriously threatened by development with upscale small lot subdivisions moving northward from El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park. There is also great pressure in the immediate area for development of small acreage residential home sites, which would destroy the rare plant communities found there. In fact, there are already new houses being built north of the subject property along the easterly part of Folsom Lake.

It is proposed that the Conservancy complete the acquisition and concurrently convey the subject property to the BLM. The area will be maintained as an ecological reserve by the BLM with limited public access and with the primary management goal of maintaining and protecting the existing populations of rare or endangered plants.

The property has been appraised and the appraisal has been approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) at \$1,044,000.00. It is proposed that the WCB authorize a grant in the amount of \$644,000.00 which will be combined with additional funds provided by the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the purchase. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed for administrative expenses, including DGS' review costs, bringing the total recommended allocation for this proposal to \$654,000.00.

The terms and conditions of the proposed grant provide that the WCB will review and approve the property being proposed for acquisition by the Conservancy. The grant further provides 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 the Conservancy's escrow account for the purchase of the property.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate funds as follows: \$400,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop. 12), Section 5096.310 (a)(5) and \$254,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c); 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 items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate funds as follows: \$400,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop. 12), Section 5096.310 (a)(5) and \$254,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786(b/c); 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.

- *18. Wetland Habitat Restoration (Lincoln High School), \$25,000.00
Placer County

This proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for a cooperative project to restore 37 acres of wetlands, ten acres of uplands and ten acres of irrigated pasture on property owned by Lincoln High School. The partners in this proposal include the CWA, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the landowner and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The project is located five miles west of the City of Lincoln and three miles south of a WCB wetland restoration project funded in November 1999.

Lincoln High School owns and farms this 280± acre parcel as part of its agricultural curriculum, where students can learn the latest agricultural practices. A 37-acre portion of the parcel has never been leveled and is a remnant of the much larger wetlands that once occurred throughout this area. The site floods every winter and the school maintains some water all year long for habitat for breeding waterfowl and other species. Unfortunately, the hydrology of the site has been so altered that the

school is unable to maintain the site to its potential. The CWA has developed a plan to restore the remnant wetland and renovate nearby dryland and irrigated pastures to allow them to be managed to maximize wildlife use.

With this project, Lincoln High School “future farmers” will be able to see how a farm can remain in production while providing significant wildlife benefits. Most of the acreage will continue to be farmed in a variety of ways, from rice to pasture to irrigated cropland. The development of a small wetland in an agriculturally unproductive corner of the farm can show how these frequently flooded areas can be enhanced to maximize their production of waterfowl and other wetland dependent species. The pastures will be grazed in a manner to provide short grasslands for wintering geese and tall grass in the spring to provide nesting habitat for a variety of grassland birds. Brood strips and crowing territories will be constructed along the edges of the pastures to provide ideal breeding habitat for pheasants, but will be grazed during the late summer and fall, demonstrating the land can also raise cattle. The students will visit the farm to study the existing wildlife and to monitor how the site changes with the proposed improvements.

The project calls for the creation of a system of swales, potholes and islands in the wetlands to provide high quality seasonal wetlands for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The pastures will be graded to allow for better water management and pheasant brood strips and crowing territories will be constructed along two sides. Fences will be constructed around the pastures and wetlands to better manage the cattle grazing that will continue. Tules and trees will be planted to quickly establish the riparian and wetland habitats on site.

These kinds of habitats will benefit a variety of species. Waterfowl, such as mallards and cinnamon teal will nest in grasslands on site and raise broods in the permanent pond. Wintering waterfowl and shorebirds, such as green winged teal, American widgeon and western sandpipers, will find improved habitat and more food in the seasonal wetlands. The upland grasslands will be managed to provide brood habitat and crowing areas for pheasants, which have been shown to be more productive for a variety of grassland birds, including meadowlarks and northern harriers. In addition, the site is located in the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture’s (CVHJV) American Basin, the basin that was ranked as the second most critical for restoration in the Valley. The goal of the CVHJV for this basin is 10,000 acres of wetlands restored, and this project will work toward that goal.

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Site preparation and earthmoving	\$14,000.00
Fencing	24,000.00
Water control structures	2,900.00
Tule and tree planting	2,200.00
Project design and management	7,100.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$50,200.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$25,000.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	16,500.00
Landowner	6,200.00
California Waterfowl Association	2,500.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$50,200.00</u>

The Department of Fish Game (DFG) has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4, of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filled with the State Clearinghouse. The landowner has agreed to manage and maintain the property for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Habitat Management Plan. If at any time during the life of the project, the landowners are unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$25,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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 items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$25,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d) (IWCP); 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. Wetland Habitat Restoration (Butte Ranch), \$58,000.00
Colusa County

This proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the California Waterfowl Association for a partnership project to restore approximately 160 acres of seasonal wetlands, 15 acres of semi-permanent marsh, and ten acres of uplands on privately-owned land located near Butte Creek approximately ten miles northeast of the City of Colusa. The partners in this proposal include the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the CWA, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the landowner and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

The site was recently enrolled in the NRCS Floodplain Easement Program and protected with a perpetual federal easement. This voluntary program offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. Typically, these lands are marginal farmlands that regularly flood. These agricultural lands provide some wildlife benefit, especially when flooded in winter. The restored habitat will greatly enhance this wildlife value, not only in winter, but throughout the year. The WCB and NRCS have a long and cooperative history together. Butte Ranch is a prime example of this cooperation, with the NRCS providing funds for its protection and some of the restoration, and the WCB working with the landowner and the other partners to restore the wetlands.

The landowner has tried to farm rice on the 185-acre property for many years, but located in the Butte Basin between Butte Creek and the Sacramento River, it floods in most years, making the farming of the site not economically feasible. This same flood regime, however, provides a unique opportunity to provide extremely valuable wetland and riparian habitat. The property is completely surrounded by other properties that have been restored to wetlands, all of which provide outstanding habitat for waterfowl and many other wetland and riparian dependent species. Much of the Butte Basin is an ideal mix of restored wetlands and riparian habitat, interspersed with rice and other small grain crops, which provide tremendous wildlife benefits. The Board's Inland Wetlands Program was established to help achieve the goals of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture (CVHJV), which calls for the protection and restoration of 34,000 acres within the Butte Basin. This project will add to the remarkable habitat that already exists within the Basin and will also work toward the CVHJV Butte Basin restoration goal.

The proposed project will restore approximately 160 acres of seasonal wetlands, 15 acres of brood ponds, 10 acres of uplands, and 30 acres of riparian habitat. Swales and potholes will be constructed through the seasonal wetlands, providing habitat diversity. Upland areas will be planted with native perennial grasses to provide nesting cover for mallards, pheasants and other ground nesting birds. Finally, riparian habitat will be established in various locations throughout the property to provide additional diversity.

These habitat improvements should provide for a broad range of wildlife species. Mixtures of riparian, open shallow water, permanent marsh and seasonal wetlands provide ideal habitat for many species of waterfowl, including mallards, wood ducks and American widgeon. The surrounding natural habitats and rice, when flooded in the winter, provide foraging habitat for many thousands of waterfowl, and this project will provide additional food and refuge for these birds. Shorebirds, such as greater yellowlegs and long-billed dowitchers, will benefit from the shallow water and mudflats created by the project. Riparian dependent species that will benefit from such a project include yellow-breasted chats, black headed grosbeaks and ringtailed cats. Cost estimates for this project have been reviewed by staff and are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Floodplain Easement (NRCS)	\$369,000.00
Site preparation and earthmoving	68,400.00
Water control structures	9,600.00
Tule, tree and upland plantings	17,000.00
Grantee project design and management	1,000.00

<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$465,000.00</u>
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Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$58,000.00
Natural Resources Conservation Service (Easement)	369,000.00
Natural Resources Conservation Service Landowner	23,750.00 14,250.00

<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$465,000.00</u>
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The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The management plan was developed by the DFG, and DFG personnel will monitor the project and provide technical assistance. If at any time during the life of the project, the landowners are unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

Its presence in riparian zones has been associated with lowering water tables, reduced base flows in summer, habitat loss by displacing natives, salt accumulation in soils and increased flooding.

The Sulphur Creek/Wilbur Hot Springs area is the upstream source of most, if not all, of the tamarisk plants that have invaded lower Bear Creek and upper Cache Creek below the Sulphur Creek confluence. Impenetrable thickets of this invasive shrub are now common along all three of these drainages. Young tamarisk plants are abundant, indicating that the problem will get worse if left unaddressed. Removal of this tamarisk infestation would greatly increase the chances of successful eradication of the noxious weed within the rest of the Bear Creek watershed.

The second phase of the project will include planting native forbs and grasses in local areas where tamarisk has been removed, and along eroded road cuts which lead to Sulphur Creek. Re-establishment of native plants from locally grown source materials increases the value of local habitat for native animal species using the area.

The ALC will manage the tamarisk eradication and native plant restoration project which should be completed in approximately three years. The landowner has agreed to manage his property pursuant to the terms of the 25-year management agreement portion of the Grant Agreement. If at any time during the life of the grant agreement, the landowner is unable to maintain the management agreement, the landowner will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left in the grant agreement. Neighboring landowners include the Bureau of Land Management who recently purchased the 13,000-acre Payne Ranch, and the 15,000-acre Bear Valley Ranch, now under conservation easement to the ALC.

Funding for this project is being provided by the Board, the property owner, the University of California at Davis, the local NRCS and the ALC. The estimated costs for the proposed project have been reviewed by staff and are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Invasive Plant Control	\$77,500.00
Revegetation Costs	40,000.00
Equipment/Supplies	20,500.00
Travel	6,500.00
Project Design	5,500.00
Project Management	95,500.00
Contingencies	17,000.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$262,500.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$180,000.00
University of California, Davis	22,500.00
Property Owner	36,000.00
Natural Resources Conservation Service	18,000.00
American Land Conservancy	6,000.00

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING **\$262,500.00**

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$180,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (e/f), authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$180,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (e/f), authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *21. Wetland Habitat Restoration (Provo), Yuba County \$50,000.00

This was a proposal to consider the allocation of a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for a cooperative project to restore 135 acres of seasonal wetland, 40 acres of permanent marsh brood water, 10 acres of riparian habitat and 80 acres of upland habitat on a privately-owned hunting club and rice farm. The partners in this proposal include the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CWA, the landowner, and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The Provo Ranch is located within the American Basin approximately six miles north of Marysville and one mile southeast of the intersection of Ramirez and Tanabe Roads in Yuba County.

The site was recently enrolled in the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and protected with a perpetual federal conservation easement. The WRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. The NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. Typically, these lands are marginal farmland, often areas that regularly flood. These agricultural lands provide some wildlife benefit, especially when flooded in winter. The restored habitat will greatly enhance this wildlife value, not only in winter, but throughout the year. The WCB and the NRCS have a long and cooperative history together. These partnerships have protected and restored thousands of acres in the Central Valley and throughout California. Provo Ranch is a prime example of this cooperation, with the NRCS providing funds for its long-term protection and the WCB working with the landowner to restore the habitat.

Most of project site has been farmed for rice for many years and is located adjacent to Jack's Slough. This north-south oriented channel provides drainage when the American Basin is flooded. Consequently the area is often under water, resulting in farmland that is considered marginal at best. This same flood regime, however, provides a unique opportunity to provide extremely valuable wetland and riparian habitat. Jack's Slough likely once supported a corridor of riparian habitat which was reduced to nearly nothing when the adjacent fields were leveled and leveed for agricultural production.

The proposed project will restore approximately 265 acres of marginal rice land and other cropland to 135 acres of seasonal wetland, 40 acres of permanent marsh brood water, 10 acres of riparian and 80 acres of upland habitat. Wetland habitat will be restored by constructing levees and excavating swales and potholes to provide habitat diversity. The upland area will be planted with native perennial grasses to provide nesting cover for mallards, pheasants, and other ground nesting birds. Finally, a strip of land adjacent to Jack's Slough will be encouraged to return to riparian habitat by moving the existing levees away from the slough and planting riparian vegetation in the widened floodplain.

These habitat improvements should provide for a broad range of wildlife species. Mixtures of open shallow water, permanent marsh and seasonal wetlands will provide ideal habitat for many species of waterfowl, including mallards and American widgeon. The surrounding rice lands, when flooded in the winter, provide foraging habitat for many thousands of waterfowl, and this project will provide additional food and refuge for these birds. Shorebirds, such as greater yellowlegs and long-billed dowitchers, will benefit from the shallow water and mudflats created by the project. Riparian dependent species that will benefit from such a project include yellow-breasted chats, black-headed grosbeaks and ring-tailed cats.

Cost estimates for this proposal, which have been developed by CWA and reviewed by staff, are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Survey and design	\$ 10,000.00
Construction supervision	15,000.00
Earthwork	105,000.00
Tule transplants	6,000.00
Tree transplants	4,000.00
Potted trees (installed)	3,000.00
Twin track weir (installed)	25,300.00
Flashboard risers (installed)	6,000.00
Screw gates (installed)	15,000.00
Native Upland seeding and maintenance	12,000.00
Upland seeding	9,600.00
Repair deep well	15,000.00
Refurbish lift pump	15,000.00
Gravel roads to pumps	40,000.00
Contingencies	25,590.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$306,490.00</u>

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$50,000.00
Natural Resources Conservation Service	146,490.00
USFWS	20,000.00
Landowners	90,000.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$306,490.00</u>

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The landowner has agreed to manage and maintain the property for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Habitat Management Plan of the Grant Agreement. The management plan was developed by the DFG and their personnel will monitor the project and provide technical assistance. If at any time during the life of the project, the landowners are unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years remaining on the project life.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$50,000.00 from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund for project 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 this project as proposed; allocate \$50,000.00 from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund for project 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.

*22 Woodson Bridge Fishing Access Improvements Augmentation, \$58,135.00
 Tehama County

This was a proposal to consider an amendment to an approved cooperative project with the County of Tehama (County) and the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to augment an existing contract to improve boating access at the Woodson Bridge Boat Launching facilities located on the east bank of the Sacramento River, about 50 miles south of Redding in Tehama County.

The existing boat ramp at the Tehama County River Park, also known as Woodson Bridge, was originally built in 1957 as a joint venture between the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and the County of Tehama. The site is well developed and consists of a boat launching ramp, parking areas, picnic areas and two restrooms. Fishing at Woodson Bridge is popular for such species as American shad, rainbow trout, steelhead trout and Chinook salmon. Early in 2001, the County and the DBW contacted the WCB requesting assistance for the reconstruction of the two-lane boat ramp, which needed to be re-angled and lengthened to access a deeper part of the river. The proposal also called for a walkway parallel to the new launching ramp, paving, striping and expansion of the parking areas, bank stabilization, replacement of the restrooms, and construction of new walkways, benches, and lighting. In May 2001, the WCB approved this project and authorized the expenditure of \$326,000.00 toward that goal. Bids were solicited for the construction of the project and the lowest bid was \$58,000.00 more than the funding available. The total project cost, originally estimated at \$703,520.00 is now estimated to be \$761,520.00.

The total amount of money available for the project, including funds already approved, is outlined as follows:

Proposed Funding Breakdown

Wildlife Conservation Board (May 18, 2001 approval)	\$326,000.00
Department of Boating and Waterways	377,520.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	58,000.00

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING \$761,520.00

An additional \$135.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs bringing the allocation necessary for the WCB's portion of the amended project to \$58,135.00. An amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) grant will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the increased costs. The SFRA grant allows for reimbursement of 75 percent of the total approved project costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$58,135.00.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize the receipt of federal reimbursements from the Sport Fish Restoration Act; 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, subject to funding being provided in the 2002/03 State budget, the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$58,135.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize the receipt of federal reimbursements from the Sport Fish Restoration Act; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

*23 Mill Creek Fishing Access Improvements Augmentation, \$166,135.00
Tehama County

This was a cooperative proposal with the County of Tehama Department of Public Works (County) and the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to augment an existing contract to improve boating access at the Mill Creek Boat Launching Facility located on the east bank of the Sacramento River, about 40 miles south of Redding in Tehama County.

In 1968, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorized the construction of a boat ramp, parking area, access road and restroom at the County's Mill Creek Park. The site is well developed and consists of a boat launching ramp, parking area and restroom. Fishing at Mill Creek is popular for such species as American shad, rainbow trout, steelhead trout and Chinook salmon. In 2001, the County and the DBW contacted the WCB staff to partner in the reconstruction of the single-lane boat ramp, which needed to be widened and replaced. The proposal also called for a walkway parallel to the new launching ramp, paving, and striping of the parking area, replacement of the restroom, and installation of lighting, landscaping, trash receptacles and signs. In 2001, the WCB approved this project and authorized the expenditure of \$205,000.00 toward that goal. Bids were later solicited for the construction of the project and the lowest one was \$166,000.00 more than the funding available. The total project cost, originally estimated at \$468,000.00 is now estimated to be \$634,000.00. The total amount of money available for the project, including funds already approved, is outlined as follows:

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board (May 18, 2001 approval)	\$205,000.00
Department of Boating and Waterways	263,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	166,000.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$634,000.00</u>

An additional \$135.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the WCB's amended portion of the project to \$166,135.00. An application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be submitted for a Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) grant for reimbursement of 75 percent of the project costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$166,135.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize the receipt of federal reimbursements from the Sport Fish Restoration Act; 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, subject to funding being provided in the 2002/03 State budget, the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$166,135.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize the receipt of federal reimbursements from the Sport Fish Restoration Act; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *24. Dunsmuir Public Access (formerly Tauhindauli Public Access, Expansion 1), Siskiyou County \$ - 0.00 -

This was a proposal to consider approval of the acquisition of 9± acres of land and acceptance of Cantara Trustee Council (CTC) funding to be deposited directly into a designated escrow account to affect purchase of the land for the purpose of expanding public recreational opportunities associated with the Upper Sacramento River in Siskiyou County.

Specifically, the property is located on the east bank of the Upper Sacramento River in the City of Dunsmuir. The majority of the subject property can be accessed by a paved city street known as Dunsmuir Avenue or adjacent property owned and managed by the City as Dunsmuir City Park. The entire area received recognition in 1991 as the area of a devastating chemical spill, which was labeled as California's largest inland ecological disaster. About 19,000 gallons of metam sodium were spilled into the Sacramento River from a derailed Southern Pacific tanker car, upstream from the subject property at the Cantara Loop. Through the management actions of state and federal trustee agencies, as well as local organizations and concerned citizens, the Upper Sacramento River has recovered to its pre-spill condition.

The subject property contains a mix of habitats native to the Upper Sacramento River canyon, including montane riparian woodlands and willow scrub, and provides forage for mule and black-tailed deer and a host of other wildlife species. In addition, the Upper Sacramento River is considered a world class fishery supporting a healthy population of wild rainbow trout.

The property is highly recommended for acquisition by both the Department and the CTC. The CTC was established in 1995 to administer funds received in the settlement of litigation that followed the metam sodium spill. It is the CTC's mission to ensure that the proceeds of the settlement are used effectively to restore natural resources, replace resource values that were lost as a result of the spill and provide for public access to the river wherever possible. The CTC has requested that WCB staff carry out recommended acquisition projects. Consequently, WCB staff, with the approval of the Board, has acquired nearly 70 acres within the Upper Sacramento River canyon to offset adverse impacts resulting from the chemical spill.

The owners have agreed to sell their property to the State at the Department of General Services' (DGS) approved fair market value of \$230,000.00. All administrative expenses, including appraisal, DGS review charges and escrow fees will be paid by the CTC. The purchase is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15313, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed upon approval of this project by the Board.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; authorize acceptance of Cantara Trustee Council funds in the amount of \$230,000.00 for placement directly into escrow for purposes of acquiring the subject property; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to carry out 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 as proposed; authorize acceptance of Cantara Trustee Council funds in the amount of \$230,000.00 for placement directly into escrow for purposes of acquiring the subject property; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to carry out this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *25. Spenceville Wildlife Area, Expansion 4, Nevada County \$685,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 494± acres of land as an expansion to the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Spenceville Wildlife Area (SWA), for the protection of oak woodlands and deer and mountain lion habitat. The property is located approximately 15 miles southwest of the City of Grass Valley in Nevada County and 20± miles northwest of the City of Marysville and Yuba City, in Yuba County and Sutter County, respectively.

The SWA contains 11,213± acres of gently rolling, lower Sierra foothills. It extends ten miles from north to south and four and one-half miles from east to west. Beale Air Force Base borders on the western side of the SWA. The northern, eastern and southern boundaries abut up to what are mostly large private land holdings. Camp Far West Reservoir, owned and managed by a public utility also lies adjacent and south of the SWA. The majority of the SWA is located within Yuba County with a small eastern portion located in Nevada County. The proposed expansion abuts the northeast portion of the SWA and is located entirely in Nevada County. Access to the SWA is available from Spenceville Road coming out of Wheatland from the west and Smartville Road coming in from the north. The old Spenceville Road actually extends through the SWA directly into the subject property.

The two predominate types of habitat found on the wildlife area are grassland and oak woodland. Other habitats found in smaller quantities, include grey pine forests, valley foothill riparian and wetland areas. The areas support and provide prime habitat for a number of large mammals and carnivores including, deer, mountain lion, coyote, bobcat, gray fox and ringtail. The wildlife area is also inhabited by a

number of threatened, endangered and special concern species, including the California black rail, willow flycatcher, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, bald eagle, western pond turtle, Townsend's big-eared bat, yellow-legged frog and the California horned lizard.

The SWA is extremely popular in terms of public use and activities. These include hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and wildlife viewing. Of special note and popularity are turkey hunts, held during the first five days of the spring turkey season, and the Spenceville waterfalls frequented by numerous visitors during the spring and summer months. The public use of the SWA continues to increase each year as population growth occurs throughout the valley and foothill areas surrounding the wildlife area. One of the benefits of the proposed expansion is it will help allow the SWA to accommodate additional public use.

Population growth in the area is also placing a greater demand on properties surrounding the SWA, for subdivision and development into smaller residential, ranchette type uses. As this conversion into smaller property holdings occurs, the ability of the state to acquire property for expansion of the SWA, as needed, will be significantly restricted over time.

The purchase of the subject property will also help in the protection and creation of habitat corridors and linkages from the Sacramento Valley, through the foothills into the lower Sierras, beneficial to migrating deer populations and other large mammals. Along these same lines, the DFG is currently developing a Conceptual Area Protection Plan for the foothill areas east and southeast of the SWA, extending out to State Route 49. Located 8± miles to the north, are the University of California wildlife reserve lands and the DFG's 6,450± acre Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area. These protected areas provide an opportunity to develop a north-south corridor along the foothills, linking them with the SWA.

The terrain of the subject property consists of sloping valley areas in the west, rising up to moderate to steep hills in the east. A perennial, spring fed creek flows through the property. The historical and present use of the property has been seasonal livestock grazing. Improvements include an old, dilapidated, unoccupied residence, perimeter fencing, stock water ponds and farm roads.

Different habitats found on the property include blue oak woodland, valley oak woodland, grey pine forest and valley foothill riparian areas. Acquiring the subject property will help support and provide additional habitat for deer, mountain lion, threatened, endangered and special concern species found in the SWA and described above. The riparian areas in and around the perennial creek have also been identified as areas that might be enhanced to support beaver, otter and muskrat populations.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has an option to acquire the property from the owner. If approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), TPL will exercise the option and sell the property directly to the state at its appraised fair market value of \$675,000.00, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). An additional \$10,000.00 is estimated to be needed for title, escrow and DGS' review costs, for a total allocation of \$685,000.00.

The TPL is hopeful of securing an additional \$150,000.00 in private funds to contribute toward this project. If TPL is successful in securing the additional funds, the WCB's contribution toward the acquisition of this property will be reduced accordingly. The remaining fund balance will be recovered at a subsequent Board meeting.

This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed upon Board approval of this project.

Staff recommended the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$685,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (a) for the acquisition and related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as 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 \$685,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (a) for the acquisition and related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *26. China Hill and Expansions 1 and 2, Siskiyou County \$130,000.00

This was a proposal to consider the allocation of three separate grants to the City of Yreka (City) for a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to acquire up to 42± acres of endangered species habitat, located on China Hill approximately one mile northeast of downtown Yreka.

China Hill is a small northeast-trending ridge which parallels Interstate 5 northeast of downtown Yreka. China Hill is bounded roughly by State Route 3 to the south, by Juniper Drive on the east and northeast and Interstate 5 on the northwest.

The subject properties are home to a significant population of endangered plants known as Yreka phlox. Yreka phlox is listed as endangered by the state and federal government, is ranked as S1.1 ("less than six Element Occurrences or less than 1,000 individuals or less than 2,000 acres; very threatened") by the DFG's Natural Diversity Data Base and is on the California Native Plant Society's List 1B ("plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere"). The China Hill Yreka phlox population occurs on an open ridge and adjacent slopes surrounded by juniper woodland. The shallow soils derived from serpentine support scattered western junipers and buckbrush. Important components of the vegetation include rabbitbrush, several species of buckwheat and perennial grasses. Other plants observed in the area include spring gold, woolly sunflower, silverleaf phacelia and small onion. At China Hill, Yreka phlox often occurs on nearly bare serpentine soil and is reported to be most dense on west-facing slopes.

The City currently owns approximately 180 acres on China Hill which support Yreka phlox and manages the land for the benefit of the phlox. The City's management objectives for the subject properties, are the same as the ones the City has established for its adjacent property and include protecting the area and its unique natural elements. Public use goals include passive natural resource related activities including nature study, photography and hiking. The City will also encourage scientific and educational use. Specific recommendations for conservation and protection of the Yreka phlox will be developed in a Yreka phlox recovery plan which will be implemented by the City in conjunction with government agencies (state, county and/or federal) and private citizens and organizations. Consistent with long-range planning purposes, WCB staff present the following three proposals for Board consideration.

China Hill

This is a proposal for the allocation of a grant to the City to acquire 15± acres of land which is adjacent to City property on its entire eastern boundary and Interstate 5 on the north. The property has been appraised and the Department of General Services (DGS) has approved the value at \$40,000.00 and the owners have agreed to sell to the City at this price.

China Hill, Expansion 1

This is a proposal for the allocation of a grant to the City to acquire 12± acres of land which is adjacent to City property on its eastern boundary and abuts the China Hill, Expansion 2 property as described below. The property has been appraised and the owners have agreed to sell to the City at the DGS' approved appraised value of \$25,000.00.

China Hill, Expansion 2

This is a proposal for the allocation of a grant to the City to acquire 15± acres of

land which is located adjacent to China Hill, Expansion 1 as described above. The property has been appraised and the owners have agreed to sell the property to the City at the DGS' approved appraised value of \$50,000.00

It is estimated that an additional \$15,000.00 will be needed for project related expenses for the above referenced grants, for a total allocation of \$130,000.00. The terms and conditions of the proposed grants provide that staff review and approve all documents pertaining to the City's acquisition, including any appraisals, preliminary title reports, agreements for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and the instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the award of three separate grants as proposed; allocate \$130,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(3) to cover the grant amounts and to pay for project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to carry out these projects; 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 award of three separate grants as proposed; allocate \$130,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(3) to cover the grant amounts and to pay for project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to carry out these projects; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

*27 Noyes Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6, Siskiyou County \$10,000.00

This was a proposal to consider the acceptance of a donated conservation easement over 2,360± acres of critical deer winter range as an addition to the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Noyes Valley Wildlife Area (NVWA) located east of Scott Valley, approximately 16 miles southeast of Etna and 47 miles southwesterly of Yreka.

In 1985, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorized the first donated conservation easement by the owners of the subject property, the Merlo family, over 664± acres of land. Since that date, the Merlos have generously donated conservation easements on 12,480± acres of their land in Noyes Valley which has

an estimated value of \$1,420,455.00. The estimated market value of this proposed donation is \$354,000.00, which, if approved, would bring the estimated total donation value from the Merlo family to \$1,775,455.00.

Also in 1986, the WCB authorized the purchase of a 2,247± acre conservation easement from the Merlo family. To date, the total area of the NVWA is 14,727± acres. The conservation easement being considered in this proposal, if approved, will bring the total number of acres of habitat protected to 17,084± acres.

The NVWA is located in an area where larger ranches are being subdivided into small parcels (40 to 160 acres) for use as rural or mountain ranchettes. Such a division could certainly lead to eventual development which will, according to the DFG, have a detrimental effect on critical deer winter range for the Klamath deer herd, as well as, the overall integrity of the existing wildlife area. If a conservation easement is placed on the subject property, future building will be prohibited.

The property is presently used for cattle grazing in the mountainous portions and farming in the valley area. Under the terms of the easement, the property will continue to be used for these purposes or for other agricultural or forest-related uses that will not adversely affect fish and wildlife habitat values. The DFG has recommended acceptance of this conservation easement.

Management of this area will be assumed by the DFG. This would be limited to occasional inspections and monitoring to ensure compliance with the terms of the easement. It is proposed that the property be left in its existing condition with some minor habitat improvements possibly to occur in the future. The easement does not include the right of public access over the property, but does give the DFG the right of access for management purposes, including the right to improve habitat.

It is estimated that the State's costs related to processing this conservation easement will be \$10,000.00, which includes title and escrow company charges. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15313, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of this conservation easement as proposed; allocate \$10,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (a), to cover project-related expenses; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve the acceptance of this conservation easement as proposed; allocate \$10,000.00 from the Habitat

Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (a), to cover project-related expenses; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

28. Duarte Hills Open Space Preserve, Tax Credit and \$2,000.00
Los Angeles County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the approval of a donation of 91± acres to the City of Duarte for inclusion into the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 program (the Act) and to approve a total of \$3,201,000.00 in tax credits in favor of the donor of the property. The property is located in the Duarte foothills and is bordered on the eastern and western boundaries by National Forest property. To the north of the subject property is open space also owned by the donor. Ms. Terri Muzik briefly described the project and its location.

The donation qualifies for the tax credit program pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 37015 (e). Specifically, the property, currently threatened by development, will be used to protect open space and provide public access to the National Forest lands through wilderness trails.

There is very little open space remaining in the Duarte foothills. It is the City's long-term goal to create a trailhead system that connects to the National Forest trails. The subject parcel will allow for a diversity of public access opportunities while maintaining the preservation of natural resources.

A field survey of the site has indicated that five sensitive plant communities and a host of other plant and animal species can be found on the property. Animals species include the Santa Ana sucker, southwestern pond turtle, Nelson's bighorn sheep, Santa Ana speckled dace and Bell's vireo. A Cooper's hawk has also been sited on the subject property.

Section 37012 (d) of the Act requires that before any donation can be considered by the Wildlife Conservation Board, a public hearing must be held by the donee in the county in which the property is located. Pursuant to this requirement, the City of Duarte held a public hearing on February 12, 2002. Comments from neighboring landowners and members of the community were considered and the City Council passed a resolution approving the City's participation in the proposed donation.

The subject parcel is 91□ acres and has been appraised for \$5,820,000.00, an amount approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The landowner is

donating the entire parcel, and under the Act, a landowner qualifies for a tax credit equal to 55 percent of the approved fair market value of the donation. In this case, the landowner would receive a tax credit of \$3,201,000.00.

Ms. Muzik reported that Mr. Steve Ross, representing the landowner, and Mr. Ed Cox, representing the City of Duarte, were in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Cox provided a brief summary of the proposed project and expressed his appreciation to the Board.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received letters of support for this project from Assembly member Carol Liu, Senator Bob Margett, City of Monrovia Mayor Blakely and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

Mr. Flores asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Staff recommended the Board approve the donation for inclusion into the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program and related tax credits; allocate \$2,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) to cover project costs, including the Department of General Service's review charges; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Annette Porini stated that she would like to make the motion on this and point out for the record that there is legislation enacting the budget that does impact the tax credit and would basically suspend that tax credit for 2002/03. Therefore, Ms. Porini moved that the Board approve the donation for inclusion into the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program, conditioned upon the Board's continuing authority for that program, pursuant to staff's recommendation.

Motion carried.

Pursuant to the passage of Assembly Bill 3009, the ability of the Franchise Tax Board to award tax credits was suspended from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. Therefore, this donation approval is rescinded and may be reconsidered by the Board at a later date.

29. Tule River, Negus Ranch Conservation Area, Tulare County \$127,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the

Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust, to assist in a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for the purchase a 722± acre conservation easement, for the protection and enhancement of riparian, aquatic, oak woodland and chaparral habitat along the north fork of the Tule River, north of Springville, Tulare County. Mr. William Gallup briefly described the project and its location.

The primary purpose of this proposed grant is to protect the Tule River corridor. The Tule River bisects the property and the topography ranges from generally flat at the river, gently sloping upward to the east and west from the river to very steep hillsides to the easterly sections of the property. The Tule River above Lake Success Dam has not been seriously degraded. The headwaters are protected within the boundaries of the newly created Giant Sequoia National Monument and to Sequoia National Park, Dillionwood Grove. The addition was approved in August 2001 by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

A number of healthy giant Sequoia groves exist in these upper drainages. The sycamore, willow, Oregon ash, cottonwood and valley oak riparian forest of the flood plains provide winter habitat for the California spotted owl, habitat for migrating neo-tropical birds and movement corridors for large animals such as bear, mountain lion and mule deer. Other species in the region are the state-listed and endangered and federally-listed threatened Springville clarkia and several California Species of Special Concern including the black swift, western pond turtle and foothill yellow-legged frog, among others.

As the free flowing forks of the Tule River drop from the Sierra Nevada Mountains into the foothills, threats to the biological integrity of the watershed increase significantly. The predominant land use is cattle ranching and privately owned companies legally draw large quantities of water from the river for use outside the area. In addition, residential development is being directed into the foothills from the San Joaquin Valley to preserve agriculture lands. The river corridors are beginning to feel the development pressure as cattle ranches are being sold for rural "ranchette" development.

The acquisition of the Negus Ranch conservation easement accomplishes departmental goals by protecting habitats of significance to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region while incurring minimal operation, maintenance and personnel costs. Management of the property will be assumed by the grant recipients in cooperation with the DFG. Management activities will include providing maintenance and protection of the species of concern and reducing the quantity of water transferred outside the area.

The owner has agreed to sell the conservation easement over the property for the Department of General Services' (DGS) approved appraised value of \$326,000.00. The proposed grant to the Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust in the amount of

\$122,000.00 will be combined with other funds provided by the Packard Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to complete the purchase. An additional \$5,000.00 will be needed for expenses including appraisal and the DGS' review costs for a total allocation being requested herein of \$127,000.00 to complete the purchase.

The DFG has recommended the acquisition of this conservation easement through grant assistance. There are no claims of sovereign State land ownership over the property. The terms and conditions of the proposed grant provide that staff review and approve all documents pertaining to the Grantee's acquisition, including any appraisals, preliminary title reports, agreements for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and the instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds.

Mr. Gallup stated that Sopae Tompkins, President of the Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust, and Nancy Schaefer, California Director of The Conservation Fund, were in the audience.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received a letter of support for this project from the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve the grant to the Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust for the acquisition of the conservation easement as proposed; allocate a total of \$127,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop.12), Section 5096.350 (a) (5) to cover the grant and related project costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to carry out this project; and authorize the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve the grant to the Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust for the acquisition of the conservation easement as proposed; allocate a total of \$127,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop.12), Section 5096.350 (a) (5) to cover the grant and related project costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to carry out this project; and authorize the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

30. San Joaquin River, Lost Lake Improvements, Fresno County \$705,135.00

Mr. Wright reported that this was a proposal to consider a cooperative project with

the County of Fresno (County) to construct barrier-free restroom facilities at Lost Lake Park located on the south bank of the San Joaquin River approximately five miles northeast of the City of Fresno near the City of Friant in Fresno County. Tony Chappelle briefly described the project and its location.

The 305-acre Lost Lake Park consists of more than 229 acres of County-owned property and approximately 76 acres of Department of Fish and Game (DFG) land, and is situated immediately downstream of the DFG's San Joaquin River Hatchery. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved funds to acquire the 76-acre portion on behalf of the DFG in 1957. Soon after the acquisition was complete, the WCB approved funding to improve the site with sanitation units, a parking area, road, and a boat landing area at Lost Lake. The County has subsequently made further improvements in the park including camping and day-use facilities. The entire park is operated and maintained by the County for general park purposes, including fishing, through a Cooperative Agreement with the State that expires in 2027. The DFG stocks the river at Lost Lake Park with rainbow trout to further enhance the visitor experience. The area provides about 2.4 miles of river frontage, public campgrounds, day-use areas, and fishing access to the Lake and the San Joaquin River. The area is a very popular spot for campers, picnickers and fishermen with more than 44,000 paying vehicles visiting the park over the last three years.

The proposed project will improve public access at Lost Lake Park by replacing at least four, and as many as five, existing restrooms which have been in use for more than 30 years. Three of the facilities to be replaced are on County land, one near the entrance booth, one at the handicapped fishing access and one near the nature trail area. One pit-type facility on the DFG-owned land at the furthest upstream end of the project will be replaced with a fully plumbed restroom. A fifth restroom on the DFG land will be replaced if sufficient funding is available. All of the new restrooms will conform to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Two kiosk-type educational and informational signs will also be installed as part of this project.

Cost estimates for this proposal, which were developed by the County and reviewed by staff, are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Administration	\$ 22,000.00
Demolition	37,700.00
Site preparation	24,000.00
Site plumbing	19,730.00
Site electrical	10,680.00
Accessibility improvements (parking, signage, ramps and sidewalks)	17,500.00
Concrete	57,500.00
Masonry	90,840.00
Metals	11,300.00
Woods and plastics	35,500.00
Moisture protection	39,250.00
Doors and windows	19,500.00
Finishes	40,000.00
Specialties (toilet accessories, stall doors, signage)	15,750.00
Plumbing	216,837.50
Electrical	7,500.00
Educational Signs/kiosks	5,000.00
Contingencies	34,412.50
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$705,000.00</u>

The County will prepare and file the appropriate environmental documents and will obtain all permits necessary to complete the project.

Mr. Chappelle reported that Melinda Marks, Executive Officer of the San Joaquin River Conservancy, was in the audience.

Mr. Flores asked if there was any public testimony. Ms. Marks, on behalf of the SJRC, expressed appreciation to the Board for assistance in advancing the San Joaquin Parkway. She stated that the project is consistent with their five-year capital outlay plan and will support their efforts to invest in public access, recreation improvements and high quality experiences along the river.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$705,135.00 from the Safe Neighborhood, Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Prop. 12), Section 5096.310 (r) as specified for San Joaquin River Conservancy projects, for project costs and General Services' review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Ms. Annette Porini that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$705,135.00 from the Safe Neighborhood,

Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Prop. 12), Section 5096.310 (r) as specified for San Joaquin River Conservancy projects, for project costs and General Services' review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

31. Ferry Terminal Public Pier, San Francisco County \$200,270.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider a cooperative project with the City and County of San Francisco, acting through the Port of San Francisco, to improve public access near the Ferry Building, just north of the Oakland Bay Bridge on The Embarcadero. The Ferry Terminal Public Pier project is an element of the Port of San Francisco's Downtown Ferry Terminal Project currently under construction that includes new and improved ferry terminal facilities and general public access in the vicinity of the historic Ferry Building, located on The Embarcadero at the foot of Market Street. The pier will be managed and maintained by the Port in accordance with an operating agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). Ms. Bonnie Turner briefly described the project and its location.

Planned improvements include the building of a 115-foot trestle-pier extending from the promenade sidewalk to a recently completed 500-foot-long breakwater to create a 615-foot barrier-free public access pier. The breakwater was built to protect berths at the newly expanded Downtown Ferry Terminal. The Public Pier will allow visitors to walk out and fish along its entire length, view interpretive signage about fishing and the Bay environment, observe ferry activities in the adjacent harbor, and enjoy spectacular views of the Bay, Bay Bridge, Treasure Island and the City. Pedestrian amenities on the Pier will include a metal railing, benches, lighting and interpretive displays. The pier would substantially enhance opportunities for recreational fishing along the San Francisco waterfront.

In 1985, the WCB approved funding for another cooperative Port project with the City and County of San Francisco. This project involved the rebuilding of Pier 7, an award-winning 845-foot-long fishing and public access pier on the north side of The Embarcadero near the foot of Broadway. Completed in 1991, Pier 7 also provided much needed public fishing access and amenities for the general public.

The development of the Ferry Terminal Public Pier will provide additional space for recreational uses, serving local workers and residents as well as visitors from around the world. The types of fish likely to be found off the pier include Pacific

herring, various species of perch, leopard shark, brown shark, an occasional bat ray, northern anchovy, jacksmelt, topsmelt, brown rockfish, white croaker and California halibut.

The few fishing piers that already exist in the area are heavily used by fishing enthusiasts, including Pier 7 and the deck behind the Ferry Terminal Plaza. Over 100,000 people are expected to visit the new pier annually. Additional facilities are needed along this heavily used segment of the San Francisco waterfront to support fishing and to provide wildlife viewing opportunities for the public.

The Bay Conservation and Development Commission has approved the project, per its Special Area Plan, which explicitly supports the creation of public access along San Francisco's waterfront. The State Coastal Conservancy is also contributing towards the pier development, and the Port has obtained additional funding from a variety of sources to complete the project. The Port will prepare and file the appropriate environmental documents and will obtain all permits necessary to complete the project. Cost estimates for the project, which have been reviewed by staff, are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Trestle to connect to Promenade	\$480,000.00
Railing and site furnishings	510,000.00
Electrical	65,000.00
Pier Turn-around	110,000.00
Construction Administration	116,500.00
Contingencies	163,100.00
<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>\$1,444,600.00</u>

<u>Proposed Funding Breakdown:</u>	
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$200,000.00
California Coastal Conservancy	400,000.00
Port of San Francisco Capital Fund	300,000.00
Association of Bay Area Governments Bay Trail Grant	200,000.00
California State Resources Agency, Coastal Impact Assistance Program	105,000.00
City Department of Public Works	50,000.00
California Transportation Commission, Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant	200,000.00
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</u>	<u>\$1,455,000.00</u>

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate

\$200,270.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services' review costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that, subject to funding being provided in the 2002/03 State budget, the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,270.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for project costs and General Services' review costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

32. Heenan Lake Water and Storage Rights, Expansion 3, \$1,570,000.00
Alpine County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the purchase of 624± acre feet of water and storage rights in Heenan Lake to provide for additional protection of the Lahontan cutthroat trout fishery and egg taking operation at this lake. 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 Highway 395 in Antelope Valley (Mono County), just south of Topaz Lake. Ms. Terri Muzik briefly described the project and its location.

The project area is a combination of steep mountainous terrain with some forest cover, sloping lands with sage brush, juniper cover and fairly level mountain meadow land. Elevations in the neighborhood range from about 6,500 feet to almost 9,000 feet. Heenan Lake, which occupies about 130 surface acres, is located in the northwest portion of a 1,652± acre parcel owned by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). 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 first acquisition of the Heenan Lake property was approved in 1982 wherein the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorized the purchase of 1,652± acres of land, which included the lake bottom, but no water rights. In 1985, the WCB approved funding for fishery facilities (egg-taking operation) to be built on the property. In September 1985, the WCB approved the purchase of the outstanding

timber rights on the land. Subsequently, in 1998, the WCB approved the original water and storage rights purchase of 440± acre feet. Since that time, the WCB has approved two additional purchases, bringing the total to 1,700 acre feet of water and

storage rights under the DFG's control. If this current proposal is approved, the State will own an undivided interest of approximately 79 percent of the total amount of the water and storage rights in Heenan Lake.

The DFG 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 DFG 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 owners have agreed to sell the 624± acre feet of water and storage rights for \$2,500.00 per acre foot or \$1,560,000.00, a value approved by the Department of General Services' (DGS). An additional \$10,000.00 is estimated to be necessary for escrow and DGS review costs.

This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 13, of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15313, an acquisition of land for wildlife purposes. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Ms. Muzik reported that Mr. Banky Curtis, Regional Manager for the Department of Fish and Game, was in the audience.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the 624± acre feet of water and storage rights as proposed, allocate \$1,570,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (e)(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Ms. Annette Porini that the Board approve the acquisition of the 624 acre feet of water and storage rights as proposed, allocate \$1,570,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (e)(f); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

33. Donner Memorial State Park, Placer County Tax Credit and \$2,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the approval of a donation of

155± acres to the Truckee Donner Land Trust for inclusion into the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 program (the Act) and to approve \$173,250.00 in tax credits in favor of the donor of the property. The property is accessible via Highway 40 in Donner Memorial State Park and the county road in Coldstream Canyon. The parcel is bordered on the west by state lands, on the north by United States Forest Service (USFS) lands, and on the south by Donner Land Trust and other private lands. The Donner Memorial State Park is situated east of the property, approximately three miles west of the town of Truckee off of Highway 80. Ms. Terri Muzik briefly described the project and its location.

The donation qualifies for the tax credit program pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 37015 (e). The property will preserve open space, important wildlife habitat and potential State Park lands with historic significance due to the portion of the Emigrant Trail that crosses the property. This parcel will eventually be transferred to the Department of Parks and Recreation for addition to the Donner Memorial State Park.

The subject parcel is a critical part of the effort to expand Donner Memorial State Park. State Parks has already added lands in the Coldstream Canyon area, and this donation will allow those State Park lands to connect with the Park lands recently conveyed by the Trust for Public Land as part of this expansion project. The subject parcel includes the route of the historic Emigrant Trail through Emigrant Canyon and is a probable route for a future recreational trail in the Park.

Although the project area has been logged over the years, its protection is still ecologically significant for its own inherent biological richness, which will increase over time. An ecological evaluation found that protection of this site would provide nesting and denning habitat for target species like the Sierra Nevada mountain beaver, osprey and possibly yellow warbler and mountain yellow-legged frogs and significant local foraging habitat for northern goshawks and California spotted owls whose nests are located on immediately adjacent lands. It would also provide probable foraging habitat for American martens, golden eagles, and Cooper's hawks. Preservation of the property would also protect high quality examples of target natural communities. These include wet and dry montane meadows, a dry subalpine meadow, a meadow stream and an aspen riparian forest.

Section 37012 (d) of the Act requires that before any donation can be considered by the Wildlife Conservation Board, a public hearing must be held by the donee in the county in which the property is located. In 2001, the Department of Parks and Recreation held public hearings in Tahoe City in Placer County and at the Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center west of Truckee in Nevada County. Comments from neighboring landowners and members of the community were considered at the hearings.

The subject parcel is 155±□ acres and has been appraised for \$315,000.00, an amount approved by the Department of General Services. The landowner is donating the entire parcel and under the Act, a landowner qualifies for a tax credit

equal to 55 percent of the fair market value of the donation. In this case, the landowner would receive a tax credit of \$173,250.00.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received a letter of support for this project from Senator Rico Oller.

Ms. Muzik reported that Mr. Perry Norris, representing the Truckee Donner Land Trust was in the audience.

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

Staff recommended the Board approve the donation for inclusion into the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program and related tax credits; allocate \$2,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) to cover project costs, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Recognizing that pending legislation would suspend the awarding of tax credits for the 2002-03 fiscal year, Mr. Robert Hight moved that the Board approve the donation for inclusion into the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program and the related tax credits, conditional upon the Board's continuing authority under the Tax Credit Program; allocate \$2,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) to cover project costs, including the Department of General Service's review charges; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Porini seconded the motion, with the caveat that this again is a tax credit and so, pending budget legislation, we have the same outcome.

Motion carried.

Pursuant to the passage of Assembly Bill 3009, the ability of the Franchise Tax Board to award tax credits was suspended from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. Therefore, this donation approval is rescinded and may be reconsidered by the Board at a later date.

34. Sierra Valley Conservation Area, \$1,685,000.00
Plumas and Sierra Counties

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the California Rangeland Trust for a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), The Packard Foundation, Sierra Business Council, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to acquire a conservation easement over 13,110± acres of land for the purposes of protecting wildlife habitat while encouraging compatible agricultural practices. The property is located approximately two miles north of the town of Loyalton and extending north on the eastern side of Sierra Valley. Mr. John Donnelly briefly described the project and its location.

Sierra Valley is located at 5,000 feet elevation in the northern Sierra Nevada Mountains and is an approximate 30-minute drive from either the town of Truckee or the City of Reno, just across the Nevada/California state line. State Highway 49 traverses the south and east side of the Valley and State Highway 70 lies across the north side of the valley. Dyson Lane, a County maintained road bisects the Valley and runs east to west. The subject property can be accessed from both State Highway 49 and Dyson Lane.

Sierra Valley supports an unusually rich flora and fauna and is located near two biogeographic regions, the Great Basin to the east, and the Cascade Mountains to the northwest. The proximity of these other regions introduces plants and animals into Sierra Valley that are not common in other parts of the Sierra Nevada, such as pronghorn antelope and silver sagebrush. Sierra Valley also represents a low point in the crest of the Sierra, and this serves as a movement corridor for animals and provides habitat for plants that are typically found farther west at lower elevations, such as black oak. Finally, the wetlands of Sierra Valley contribute to an abundance of bird species that exceeds any region of similar size in the entire Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The WCB has authorized and funded a number of acquisition projects in the foothills and mountains that surround the valley floor including Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area (1,731± acres), Antelope Valley Wildlife Area (5,616± acres) and Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area (1,385± acres). These wildlife areas were established for the purposes of providing migratory corridors and critical winter range for the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd and the Doyle deer herd, protection of the rich diversity of other plants and animals in the region and to provide access to the public for hunting and other recreational uses.

The subject property is located on the eastern side of Sierra Valley in Plumas and Sierra Counties and locally known as the Bar One Ranch. In addition to operating

as a working cattle ranch complete with agricultural fields (alfalfa) and irrigated pastures, the property includes a variety of habitat types including seasonal wetlands, permanent wetlands, wet meadow, riparian, montane riparian, native

grassland, bitterbrush and sagebrush. Bitterbrush requires well drained soils, and is located in the eastern most portions of the subject property, where it mixes with sagebrush at lower elevations, and juniper and eastside pine at higher elevations. Two perennial creeks found on the property, Last Chance Creek and Smithneck Creek, provide habitat for an abundance of wildlife, including willow flycatcher (state listed endangered) and yellow warbler (California Species of Special Concern).

Because of its agricultural and ecological values, Sierra Valley is an ideal location for demonstrating that cattle ranching can coexist with protecting and improving natural resource values. With a conservation easement prohibiting detrimental practices, a restoration program in place and responsible and experienced ranchers managing the land, both natural and economic values will be upheld. The DFG has recommended and supports the issuance of a grant to assist in the acquisition of a conservation easement over the herein described property.

The property has been appraised and a conservation easement value has been reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) at \$2,510,000.00. The WCB's grant in the amount of \$1,675,000.00 will be combined with other funds secured by the Sierra Business Council through a Packard Foundation grant to complete the acquisition. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed for project costs, including appraisal costs and DGS' review charges, bringing the total amount requested for this project to \$1,685,000.00.

The terms and conditions of the 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 the disbursement of funds.

Mr. Donnelly reported that Ms. Nita Vail, Executive Director of the California Rangeland Trust, Mr. Banky Curtis, Regional Manager of the Department of Fish and Game, and Mr. Al Jahns, representing the California Rangeland Trust, were in the audience should there be any questions.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve the award of a grant to the California Rangeland Trust to be applied to the acquisition of a conservation easement over 13,110± acres of habitat as proposed; allocate a total of \$1,685,000.00

[\$1,000,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (a) and \$685,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(5)] for the grant amount and related 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.

It was moved by Ms. Annette Porini that the Board approve the award of a grant to the California Rangeland Trust to be applied to the acquisition of a conservation easement over 13,110± acres of habitat as proposed; allocate a total of \$1,685,000.00 [\$1,000,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (a) and \$685,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(5)] for the grant amount and related 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.

35. Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Honey Lake Wildlife Area, \$443,000.00
Lassen County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) for a cooperative project to restore approximately 299 acres of seasonal wetlands and approximately 434 acres of uplands and wildlife friendly agriculture lands and enhance approximately 2,332 acres of seasonal wetlands and approximately 781 acres of uplands on the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Honey Lake Wildlife Area in Lassen County. Project partners include DU, Pheasants Forever, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the DFG and the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board). The project will be constructed on both the Fleming and Dakin Units of the wildlife area, which are located approximately 15 miles southeast of the City of Susanville on the northern edge of Honey Lake. Mr. Peter Perrine briefly described the project and its location.

The DFG first acquired an interest on the shores of Honey Lake in 1942 with an acquisition to provide nesting and brood habitat for resident waterfowl. In 1949, the WCB provided funding for the construction of ponds, canals and water control structures on the property. Since then, the WCB has continued to be active in the

area, acquiring an additional 7,840 acres for the wildlife area between 1970 and 1998. While the primary purpose of the wildlife area was to provide waterfowl habitat, that purpose has been expanded to include upland and riparian habitats for

a variety of species. In 1992, the Board assisted in a restoration project to provide feeding, nesting and escape cover for pheasants.

The two units of the wildlife area are located on the delta of the Susan River and receive surface water from the braided channels of that river. The Dakin Unit gets most of its water from Hartson Slough, and the Fleming Unit is fed by water from the main channel of the Susan River and from Tanner Slough. Both units also receive agricultural tailwater and groundwater from several wells. During most years, water is very limited in the area. The DFG's Management Plan cites water as the major limiting factor for the development and operation of the wildlife area. Most of the adjudicated water rights are only available from early March to mid-June, making irrigation provided by wells necessary during the rest of the year.

In 1995, heavy rain caused Honey Lake to rise to near record levels, inundating much of the wildlife area. The water stayed on the wildlife area for the next several years, eroding levees, causing ice damage to many of the structures, and raising the salinity in the soils. The wildlife area needs an infrastructure that is somewhat immune to these fluctuating conditions and one that can provide water efficiently when it is scarce.

Specifically, the project calls for the rehabilitation of nearly 18 miles of water conveyance ditches, and includes the replacement or reuse of existing structures. Pipelines will replace existing ditches where pumps are the only source of water, and pumps damaged by ice will be repaired and strengthened. Four seasonal wetland units will be restored through the construction of swales and nesting islands, and levees will be repaired and reinforced. The invasive weed whitetop will be removed from approximately 400 acres of uplands, and gypsum will be applied to four crop fields to recondition the soils that were inundated by Honey Lake in 1995.

The Honey Lake Valley provides critical habitat for many species of wetland, riparian and upland grassland dependent species, both migratory and summer resident, and the Honey Lake Wildlife Area is the crown jewel in the center of the Valley. The improvements outlined above will provide breeding habitat to waterfowl such as the Canada goose and mallards. The WA currently produces more than 1,000 geese and 5,000 ducks in an average year, and the planned improvements should increase production. In addition, other ground nesting birds, such as meadowlarks and pheasants will benefit from the upland habitat provided. In the fall, thousands of migrating birds stop in the Valley, and waterfowl such as American widgeon, gadwall and white-fronted geese, and shorebirds, including dowitchers and sandpipers, will benefit from this project. Special status species expected to benefit include the white faced ibis and sandhill cranes, which often forage on site.

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

Description

Estimated Cost

Earthwork	\$327,760.00
Water control structures	43,400.00
Pump repairs	19,000.00
Pipelines	173,092.00
Gravel road base	6,734.00
Whitetop control	13,674.00
Gypsum, applied	52,290.00
Winter wheat planting	15,160.00
Permits	16,120.00
Project survey, design and management	50,180.00
Contingencies	40,058.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST **\$757,468.00**

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$443,000.00
California Department of Fish and Game	36,834.00
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	15,500.00
North American Wetlands Conservation Act	257,134.00
Pheasants Forever	5,000.00

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING **\$757,468.00**

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. This activity is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4, of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration of land. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received a letter of support for this project from the California Waterfowl Association.

Mr. Perrine reported that Ms. Virginia Getz, representing Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and Mr. Don Koch, Regional Manager, Department of Fish and Game, were in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Flores asked what portion of the property would be available for hunting. Mr. Koch reported that the majority of the area would be open to hunting with some typically sized closed zones.

Mr. Flores asked if there were further questions or comments. There were none.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate

\$443,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d), as designated for wetlands outside the Central Valley; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$443,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (d), as designated for wetlands outside the Central Valley; 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.

36. Point St. George Wetlands, Del Norte County \$1,500,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the County of Del Norte to assist in a cooperative project to acquire and allow for restoration and enhancement of 339± acres of wetlands, coastal prairie, spruce forest and coastal scrub lands, dunes and bluffs. Mr. Jim Sarro briefly described the project and its location.

The property lies on the coast, about one mile northwesterly of Crescent City, and is bounded on the north by the Talawa Dunes State Park and the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Lake Earl Wildlife Area and on the east by the Jack McNamara Field (County airport). There currently exists some public access to the coast within the property, provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) decades ago. This acquisition would greatly enhance the potential for public access for the entire one and one-half to two miles of oceanfront within the property.

The property contains primarily freshwater wetlands formed into a series of more or less parallel dune ponds. In the center of the area are a willow and spruce swamp and some maritime forest habitats. These habitats support a wide range of sensitive and listed plant and bird species and provide wetland habitat for a number of water-associated species as well. The property ranges in elevation from sea level to 60 feet above mean sea level where maritime spruce forest has established. The area has been grazed historically. Most recently, cattle numbers have been reduced. It is likely that the early successional habitat types required for many of the species inhabiting this area have been maintained over time by grazing. Many of the unique plant associations are being severely impacted due to nonnative plant encroachment and habitat succession.

The County has expressed its strong support to acquire the site and to provide for public access and compatible uses. Objectives include protection of significant archaeological sites, sensitive native plant and habitat associations, habitat

restoration and to work in partnership with various tribal, nonprofit and state and federal agencies which would assist (technically, financially, etc.) in the management of the Point St. George area. The State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) has committed up to one-half of the acquisition costs with the remaining costs recommended by the DFG for funding by the WCB.

The property contains or is used by a wide array of threatened, endangered and sensitive species of plants and animals, including among other, peregrine falcon, burrowing owl, Cooper's hawk, northern red-legged frog, western lily, coast checkerbloom and, quite probably, Oregon silverspot butterfly. In addition, the recently delisted federal species, Aleutian Canada goose, has traditionally used Point St. George as a major roost site. Habitat quality for the Aleutian Canada goose has declined due primarily to vegetative changes brought on by plant succession. Other wildlife common to Point St. George include a variety of waterbirds, ducks, herons, egrets, rails, grebes, coots, raptors and songbirds. Mammals, such as mountain beaver, gray fox, striped skunk, river otter and raccoon. Other common species, such as brush rabbit, deer mouse, ground squirrel, weasel and deer, also frequent Point St. George.

The property is considered among the most important cultural resources in the Northwest. It contains the earliest known site of human habitation within the northern California/southern Oregon coastal region. The Tolowa Indians of the region consider it an extremely significant ancestral site. The Smith River Rancheria hopes to raise and contribute up to \$500,000.00 toward the acquisition and is eager to help with the development of a plan to manage and interpret the cultural resources, as is the Elk Valley Rancheria. Members of both rancherias are of Tolowa ancestry.

The property would be purchased by the County of Del Norte. The County would enter into agreements with resource agencies to assure that the resources on the site will be managed, preserved, restored and/or interpreted for the public to the highest possible standard in perpetuity. The public will continue to access the site for beachcombing, walking, nature study and fishing.

The Rancherias are interested in working with the County and State Parks to develop a cultural program for the site, which may include using portions of the property for occasional traditional ceremonies during certain times of the year. In addition to protecting important coastal resources and providing public access, the project will assist Del Norte County in maintaining the commercial status of its airport, a condition that is required if Crescent City is to continue to attract the business community and tourism. The current airport runways must be extended in

order to accommodate jets when the smaller commuter airplanes are phased out, and this will require a larger buffer area at the airport edges. The County owns the property that will be used for the extended runways but does not own the needed

buffer area on the airport's west side.

Once the entire Point St. George property is owned by the County, the eastern 60 acres of the property can serve as the needed buffer area, with the understanding that the property can only be used for the purposes for which it was acquired, i.e., open space, resource protection and/or public access.

The property has been appraised and the Department of General Services' approved value is \$3,000,000.00. The County has reached agreement with the owners to purchase the property for \$3,000,000.00. Earlier this year, the Coastal Conservancy authorized disbursement of up to \$1,500,000.00 toward the acquisition and the preparation of a management/enhancement plan for the site. As noted above, the Smith River Rancheria and the Elk Valley Rancheria have indicated strong support and are seeking funds to contribute toward the purchase and eventual management of the property. At the time of preparation of this agenda, the amounts of funds from those sources are uncertain. To provide assurance that sufficient funding will be available for the purchase staff recommends the WCB authorize a grant of up to \$1,500,000.00 to the County for this purchase. Any funds not required for the purchase would be recovered at a future WCB meeting.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received letters of support for this project from the California Waterfowl Association, Assembly member Virginia Strom-Martin and from the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Wright stated that he had personal conversations with County Supervisor Martha McClure, and that this project had the enthusiastic support of the Board of Supervisors.

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

Staff recommended the Board approve the award of a grant to the County of Del Norte for the Point St. George acquisition as proposed; allocate \$1,500,000.00 for the maximum of the grant amount from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop. 12), Section 5096.350 (a) (5); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Ms. Annette Porini that the Board approve the award of a grant to the County of Del Norte for the Point St. George acquisition as proposed; allocate \$1,500,000.00 for the maximum of the grant amount from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop. 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(5); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. Motion carried.

****37. Bridgeport Valley Conservation Easement, Mono County \$3,210,000.00**

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the

American Land Conservancy for a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the California Rangeland Trust and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to acquire a conservation easement over 6,350± acres of land for the purposes of protecting wildlife habitat while encouraging compatible agricultural practices, located immediately west of Bridgeport, along the eastern slope of the Central Sierra Nevada mountain range in Bridgeport Valley. U.S. Highway 395 traverses the northern portion of the property and the Toiyabe National Forest is adjacent to the west. Mr. John Donnelly briefly described the project and its location.

The subject property is a combination of wet and dry irrigated pasture, and upland scrub which includes woody riparian and scattered forest habitat types. The non-irrigated portion of the ranch is along the western edge, where Robinson and Buckeye Creeks first enter Bridgeport Valley. These creeks currently support year-round populations of wild trout and Paiute sculpin, a declining species. This sculpin is found only in the Lahontan Basin and some headwater streams of the Columbia Basin. Its existence speaks to the long-term quality of the fisheries habitat on site.

The proposed conservation easement ties the riparian water rights associated with Robinson and Buckeye Creeks, as well as some 2,800 acre feet of water stored in Twin Lakes, to the property. With maintaining irrigation on the property, the area will continue to support significant acres of wetland areas used by a variety of wetland dependent species, including willow, narrow leaf cottonwood and alder and will provide the opportunity to protect and enhance important cold-water wetland habitat and the associated riparian ecosystem in eastern California. Without protection, the streams and meadows of Bridgeport Valley will eventually be divided into small, ranchette type properties that will fragment the habitat and preclude active management for the benefit of the species.

The property hosts a diversity of animal species and provides for nesting and foraging by thousands of migrating waterfowl, including Canada goose, mallard, green-wing teal, gadwall, cinnamon teal and pintail. Numerous species of shorebirds, including snipe, dunlin, spotted sandpiper, willet, black-necked stilt and Wilson's phalarope use the wet pasture areas for nesting and as migratory habitat. Special status forest carnivores, including the State threatened wolverine and Sierra Nevada red fox, have been documented on and adjacent to the subject property. Other mammals common to the area include mountain lion, mule deer, bobcat, raccoon, gray fox, porcupine, beaver, black bear, striped skunk and numerous species of small rodents. Black bears are particularly common to Bridgeport Valley, and especially to Buckeye and Robinson Creek watersheds.

Because of its agricultural and ecological values, Bridgeport Valley is an ideal location for demonstrating that cattle ranching can coexist with protecting and improving natural resource values. With a conservation easement prohibiting

detrimental practices, a restoration program in place and responsible and experienced ranchers managing the land, both natural and economic values will be upheld. The DFG has recommended and supports the issuance of a grant to assist in the acquisition of a conservation easement over the herein described property.

The value of the conservation easement has been approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) at \$4,200,000.00. The Board's grant in the amount of \$3,200,000.00 will be combined with other funds provided through a Department of Transportation, Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) grant to complete the acquisition. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed for project costs, including DGS' review charges, bringing the total amount requested for this project to \$3,210,000.00.

The terms and conditions of the 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 the disbursement of funds.

Mr. Donnelly reported that Ms. Nita Vail, Executive Director of the California Rangeland Trust and Mr. Al Jahns, representing the American Land Conservancy, were in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Flores requested Ms. Vail comment on the value of the easements. Ms. Vail expressed appreciation to the Board for its support for what the Rangeland Trust views as a new and different approach to build a mosaic protecting some very valuable resources. She stated that in this project, there are probably 6,000 cubic feet of water and storage rights on this ranch and that this particular valley is very pristine, not unlike the Sierra Valley. She also stated that they are seeing the value of conservation easements providing a lot of diversity in the State and can range anywhere from 25 to 65 percent of the value of fee acquisition. One of the advantages they see as an organization is having a steward on the land. Consequently, there are no management costs to the agencies, while developing partnerships.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the award of a grant to the California Rangeland Trust to be applied to the acquisition of a conservation easement over 6,350± acres of habitat as proposed; allocate a total of \$3,210,000.00 [\$2,210,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (e/f) and \$1,000,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop.12), Section 5096.350 (a)(5)] for the grant amount and related 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.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve the award of a grant to the California Rangeland Trust to be applied to the acquisition of a conservation easement over 6,350± acres of habitat as proposed; allocate a

total of \$3,210,000.00 [\$2,210,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (e/f) and \$1,000,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop.12), Section 5096.350 (a)(5)] for the grant amount and related 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.

- **38. Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area – Bahia Wetlands Unit, Marin County \$4,520,000.00**

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the Marin Audubon Society to assist in a cooperative project with the State Coastal Conservancy, Marin County Open Space District, Marin Community Foundation, Marin Baylands Fund, North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and others to purchase 645± acres of private land located in the City of Novato in Marin County, for the protection of blue oak woodland, salt marshes and habitat for numerous endangered species, and to provide compatible public access for recreational opportunities. Mr. William Gallup briefly described the project and its location.

The property is located at the easterly terminus of Bahia Drive in the City of Novato near the mouth of the Petaluma River as it enters San Pablo Bay. The general topography varies from near sea level with diked salt marsh that is inundated at high tide to gently sloping hillsides that are covered with blue oaks and various other trees, shrubs and annual grasslands. The interface of the blue oaks and salt marsh is a rare ecotone that is being lost as lands are developed within the region. A number of special status species have been observed on the site, including California clapper rail, California black rail, black shouldered kite, golden eagle, merlin, short-eared owl, loggerhead shrike, salt marsh yellowthroat and salt marsh harvest mouse. Chinook salmon, Sacramento splittail, steelhead trout, Delta smelt and numerous migratory waterfowl species are found in the adjacent waterways. This acquisition will insure the protection and connectivity of habitat between other units of the Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area, Marin Open Space District lands (including Cemetery Marsh) and the northern reaches of the San Pablo Bay via the Petaluma River.

A development plan was approved by the City of Novato in 2001 and a voter referendum rescinded the City's action. The developer has offered the property for sale and the Marin Audubon Society has entered into a sales agreement with the

owner. The appraised fair market value, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS), is \$15,800,000.00. In addition to the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) grant of \$4,500,000.00, numerous other partners are providing funding in the amount of \$11,300,000.00. It is anticipated that \$20,000.00 will be required for administrative services, including the DGS' review costs, bringing WCB's total allocation for this proposal to \$4,520,000.00.

The terms and conditions of the proposed grant provide that staff will review all proposed title and transfer documents prior to distribution of funds into escrow.

Mr. Gallup reported that Susan Ristow, Vice President of the Marin Audubon Society, Bernie Myers and Carole Dillon-Knutson of Novato City Council, Ron Miska, Assistant General Manager of the Marin County Open Space District, Grace Schmidt, representing Marin County Supervisor Cynthia Murray, Lynn Emrich, resident of Bahia and Co-Chair of the Citizens to Save Bahia, Marc Holmes of the Bay Institute and representing the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Program, and Jim Swanson of the Central Coast Region, Department of Fish and Game. Ms. Dillon-Knutson reported that the acquisition of this property is supported by a broad coalition of agencies and organizations. She also reported that this property was subject to a referendum when a development was proposed of 424 homes. The referendum to defeat the development was passed by 68 percent. She stated that this is a lovely area which has a great deal of wildlife, that there is a blue oak forest which is unusual in the area and that this acquisition will have regional impact to preserving wildlife corridors. She added that a possible educational forum has been thought about for this property, as well as trail access.

Mr. Flores asked if there were further comments or questions. Ms. Susan Ristow, on behalf of Marin Audubon, expressed appreciation for the Board's consideration of the grant.

Ms. Porini requested clarification regarding management of the property. Mr. Gallup stated that a portion of the property would be managed by the Marin County Open Space District and that eventually Marin Audubon will grant approximately 360 acres to the Department of Fish and Game and they will manage the other portion of the property.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the award of a grant to the Marin Audubon Society to be applied toward its purchase as proposed; allocate \$4,520,000.00 from the General Fund – Wetlands, for the grant amount and related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Ms. Annette Porini that the Board approve the award of a grant to the Marin Audubon Society to be applied toward its purchase as proposed; allocate \$4,520,000.00 from the General Fund – Wetlands, for the

grant amount and related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

Mr. Wright reported that Mr. Jim Sarro, Assistant Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, recently announced his retirement from the Board. Mr. Wright commended Mr. Sarro for his leadership and thanked him for his many years of service to the Board and the State of California. Mr. Sarro expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work at the Board. Mr. Hight also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Sarro for his diligence and hard work over the last 30 years. Ms. Porini added that she has enjoyed working with Mr. Sarro and thanked him for his valuable contributions to the State.

There being no further business to discuss, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Wright
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on August 22, 2002, the amount allocated to projects since the

Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$987,746,689.98. 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 Fund, 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 Act of 2000, Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000 and the Wildlife Restoration Fund. In addition to projects completed with the above funding sources, this statement includes tax credits awarded under the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000. The tax credits are not reflected in the total amount allocated to projects.

A. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$16,006,219.06
B. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement	23,425,641.88
Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 5,518,592.00
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
C. Fishing Access Projects.....	43,782,852.02
Coastal and Bay	\$ 3,215,000.08
River and Aqueduct Access	12,285,043.70
Lake and Reservoir Access.....	8,756,807.98
Piers	19,526,000.26
D. Game Farm Projects.....	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development and Improvement	882,238,854.01
Wildlife Areas (General)	\$270,138,702.57
Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development.....	5,596,933.74
Wildlife Areas/Ecological Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	256,849,316.57
Land Conservation Area.....	1,971,557.18
Inland Wetlands Cons. Grants & Easements	14,861,026.83
Riparian Habitat Cons. Grants & Easements	12,041,934.48
Other Wildlife Habitat Grants.....	319,472,635.59
F. Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57

G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	10,698,639.29
H. Special Project Allocations.....	1,037,464.79
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects.....	9,387,137.80
State Owned.....	\$1,244,856.07
Grants.....	7,437,146.73
J. Sales and/or exchanges	538,088.07
K. Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act (tax credits awarded)...	(33,510,734.00)
Statutory plans.....	(0.00)
Corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat, streams and riparian habitat.....	(6,234,658.00)
Agricultural lands	(712,726.00)
Water and water rights.....	(269,500.00)
State and local parks, open space and archaeological resources.....	(26,293,850.00)
Total Allocated to Projects	\$987,746,689.98