

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1807 13TH STREET, SUITE 103
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
 (916) 445-8448
 FAX (916) 323-0280
www.dfg.ca.gov/wcb

State of California
 The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
 Minutes
 August 13, 2003

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** Project added after Preliminary Agenda was distributed

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 13, 2003

The Wildlife Conservation Board met at the State Capitol, Room 112, Sacramento, California on August 13, 2003. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Mr. Michael Flores, Chairman. He introduced the Board members present and then turned over the meeting to Mr. Al Wright.

1. Roll CallWILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Flores, Chairperson
President, Fish and Game Commission
Robert C. Hight, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game
Shelly Mateo, Program Budget Manager,
Vice, Steve Peace, Member
Director, Department of Finance

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kristie Stauffacher,
Vice, Senator Michael J. Machado
Jeff Arthur,
Vice, Assembly Member Hannah-Beth Jackson
Ann Baker,
Vice, Assembly Member Fran Pavley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Al Wright

2. Funding Status as of August 13, 2003 (Informational)

a. 2003-04 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Minor Projects..... \$500,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations (0.00)
Unallocated Balance \$500,000.00

b. 2003-04 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget..... \$20,620,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations (0.00)
Unallocated Balance..... \$20,620,000.00

c. 2002-03 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget..... \$20,664,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations (3,277,019.00)
Unallocated Balance \$17,386,981.00

d. 2001-02 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget..... \$19,963,500.00
Less Previous Board Allocations (12,800,696.35)
Unallocated Balance \$7,162,803.45

e. 2000-01 Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond Fund (River Protection Subaccount) Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget (2003-04 Reappropriation)
(San Joaquin River Cons. Projects - Reimbursements) ... \$10,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations (5,983,480.00)
Unallocated Balance \$4,016,520.00

f. 2000-01 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget (2003-04 Reappropriation)
(San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) \$14,562,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations (9,121,497.00)
Unallocated Balance \$5,440,503.00

- g. 1999-00 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget
 - Continuously Appropriated
 - [Section 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)] \$38,000,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (16,729,181.79)
 - Unallocated Balance \$21,270,818.21

- h. 2003-04 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget
 - Governor's Budget
 - (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) \$8,500,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (0.00)
 - Unallocated Balance \$8,500,000.00

- i. 2002-03 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget
 - Governor's Budget
 - (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) \$2,500,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (0.00)
 - Unallocated Balance \$2,500,000.00

 - Chapter 983, Statutes of 2002 \$4,800,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (0.00)
 - Unallocated Balance \$4,800,000.00

 - Chapter 984, Statutes of 2002 \$19,200,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (0.00)
 - Unallocated Balance \$19,200,000.00

- j. 2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget
 - Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650) \$273,000,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (46,691,163.07)
 - Unallocated Balance \$226,308,836.93

- k. 2003-04 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget (Section 79568)
 - Governor's Budget \$32,500,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (0.00)
 - Unallocated Balance \$32,500,000.00

- I. 2002-03 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget
 - Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572) . \$814,350,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (78,468,719.73)
 - Less 03-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Sec.79565 .(21,000,000.00)
 - Unallocated Balance..... \$714,881,280.27

- m. 2003-04 Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget
 - Governor’s Budget
 - (Pursuant to Chapter 588, Statutes of 2001) \$5,000,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (0.00)
 - Unallocated Balance..... \$5,000,000.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund (a)	\$500,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (b), (c) and (d)	\$44,063,948.24
Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond Fund (e).....	\$4,016,520.00
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (f) and (g)	\$26,711,321.21
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (h), (i) and (j) .	\$261,308,836.93
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (k) and (l).....	\$747,381,280.27
Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund (m)	\$5,000,000.00

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 .	(36,884,984.00)
Tax Credit Available	\$63,115,016.00

- 3. Special Project Planning Account (Informational)

The Board has historically used a special project planning 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.....	\$75,000.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund.....	\$25,000.00
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002.....	\$145,000.00

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

4. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 5 through 11)

Approval of Consent Calendar items 5 through 11 was recommended.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve Consent Calendar items 5 through 11, as proposed in the individual agenda explanations, including funding as noted therein.

Motion carried.

*5. Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2003.

Approval of the minutes of the May 14, 2003 meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve the minutes of the May 14, 2003, Wildlife Conservation Board meeting.

Motion carried.

*6. Recovery of Funds, August 13, 2003

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.

\$133,032.03 to the **General Fund**
\$23,603.90 to the **Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund**
\$1,942,437.00 to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**
\$23,163.10 to the **Wildlife Restoration Fund**
\$0.00 to the **River Parkway Subaccount**
\$4,200.00 to the **River Protection Subaccount**
\$69,201.07 to the **California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund**

GENERAL FUND

Hudeman Slough Public Fishing Access Improvements, Sonoma County

Allocated	\$21,870.00
Expended	<u>-20,506.03</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,363.97

Martinez Regional Land Trust, Almond Ranch, Contra Costa County

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

Mill Creek Fishing Access Improvements, Tehama County

Allocated	\$205,270.00
Expended	<u>-205,260.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10.00

Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve, Sacramento County

Allocated	\$410,000.00
Expended	<u>-400,736.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$9,264.00

Wetland Habitat Restoration, North Grasslands Wildlife Area,
Gadwall Unit, Merced County

Allocated	\$161,709.24
Expended	<u>-161,709.24</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Wetland Habitat Restoration, 2017 Ranch, Colusa County

Allocated	\$198,000.00
Expended	<u>-175,605.94</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$22,394.06

Total General Fund **\$133,032.03**

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

Big River Conservation Area (Augmentation), Mendocino County

Allocated	\$1,005,500.00
Expended	<u>-1,000,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,500.00

Briones Valley (Cowell Ranch), Contra Costa County

Allocated	\$3,005,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,998,508.22</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$6,491.78

Humboldt Bay Wildlife Area, Exp. 5, Humboldt County

Allocated	\$855,000.00
Expended	<u>-850,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Exp. 24-26, Del Norte County

Allocated	\$521,500.00
Expended	<u>-519,887.88</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,612.12

Morro Bay Dunes (Augmentation and Scope Change), San Luis Obispo County

Allocated	\$655,000.00
Expended	<u>-650,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

Total Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund **\$23,603.90**

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Merced River Salmon Habitat Preservation Project, Robinson Cattle Company, Merced County

Allocated	\$355,000.00
Expended	<u>-339,563.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$15,437.00

Musty Buck Ridge, Butte County

Allocated	\$1,920,000.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,920,000.00

Riparian Habitat Restoration, Amargosa and Mojave Rivers, Inyo and San Bernardino Counties

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

Riparian Habitat Restoration, Union School Slough Watershed, Yolo County

Allocated	\$33,600.00
Expended	<u>-33,600.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Sacramento River Conservation Area, Exp. 6, Glenn County

Allocated	\$405,000.00
Expended	<u>-400,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

Wetland Habitat Restoration, South Grasslands (Britto Land and Investment),
Merced County

Allocated	\$26,000.00
Expended	<u>-24,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,000.00

Total Habitat Conservation Fund \$1,942,437.00

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Mill Creek Fishing Access Improvements, Tehama County

Allocated	\$166,135.00
Expended	<u>-160,376.79</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,758.21

Red Bluff River Park Fishing Access, Tehama County

Allocated	\$230,260.00
Expended	<u>-230,260.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Suisun City Improvements (Peytonia Slough Ecological Reserve),
Solano County

Allocated	\$133,670.00
Expended	<u>-116,265.11</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$17,404.89

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund \$23,163.10

RIVER PARKWAY SUBACCOUNT

Sacramento River Wildlife Area Riparian Restoration,
(River Mile 166.5R and 169.5R), Glenn County

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

Total River Parkway Subaccount \$0.00

RIVER PROTECTION SUBACCOUNT

Cosumnes River Wildlife Area, Exp. 11, Sacramento County

Allocated	\$470,000.00
Expended	<u>-465,800.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,200.00

Total River Protection Subaccount \$4,200.00

**CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD
PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND**

Jacoby Creek Forest, Exp. 1, Humboldt County

Allocated	\$1,810,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,801,922.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$8,078.00

Wetland Habitat Restoration, North Grasslands Wildlife Area,
Gadwall Unit, Merced County

Allocated	\$80,290.76
Expended	<u>-19,167.69</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$61,123.07

**Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood
Parks and Coastal Protection Fund \$69,201.07**

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board recover funds for the projects listed on pages 6 through 10 of these Minutes and close the project accounts. Recovery totals include \$133,032.03 to the General Fund; \$23,603.90 to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund; \$1,942,437.00 to the Habitat Conservation Fund; \$23,163.10 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund; \$0.00 to the River Parkway Subaccount; \$4,200.00 to the River Protection Subaccount; and \$69,201.07 to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund.

Motion carried.

- *7. Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansions 26, 27, 28 and 29 (Sand Source Corridor Unit), Riverside County \$450,000.00

This was a proposal to consider the acquisition of four separate ownerships totaling 45± acres of vacant land as expansions to the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve near Thousand Palms in eastern Riverside County. These acquisitions will allow further protection of the "blow sand wind corridor" and ensure the viability of the sand dependent species within the reserve.

The project area is located in the Coachella Valley approximately one mile north of Interstate Highway 10 about one-half mile easterly of the community of Thousand Palms. The DFG owns approximately 1,800 acres and when combined with the properties owned by Center for Natural Lands Management, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, the total protected area is about 20,000± acres.

Initial acquisition of the reserve began in 1982 and has grown through public and private acquisitions and exchanges to its current size. Development has been sporadic in the immediate area of the reserve over the past 20 years with a number of homes built within the sand source corridor. Additional construction and development within the acquisition area is considered to be detrimental to the corridor as the sand transport would be blocked and the dune habitat to the east within the current reserve would not be maintained. Historically, the blow sand was thought to originate from northerly of the reserve through Thousand Palms Canyon. More recent studies have found that the blow sand source is from five smaller canyons to the northwest of the reserve.

The DFG has identified Expansions 26 through 29 as being critical to the protection of the reserve and has recommended the purchase of these proposed expansions. When acquired, the acreage will be incorporated into, and managed in conjunction with, the existing reserve. It is anticipated that the area will offer passive recreational uses, as the habitat is maintained and developed in conjunction with the reserve.

Preservation of the properties identified within the sand source area (blow sand corridor) will insure the continued success of the reserve and enhance the habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. The reserve also provides habitat for several other species that are currently being considered in the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, including the flat-tailed horned lizard, Coachella Valley milk vetch, Palm Springs pocket mouse, Palm Springs ground squirrel and the Coachella giant sand treader cricket.

Therefore, consistent with long-range planning purposes, staff of the Board presents the following four proposals for Board consideration:

Expansion 26: This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 20± acres of unimproved desert land. The Grantor has agreed to sell for the approved appraised value of \$220,000.00. An additional \$8,000.00 will be needed for appraisal, escrow, title insurance and the Department of General Services' review costs.

Expansion 27: This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 10± acres of unimproved desert land. The Grantor has agreed to sell for the approved appraised value of \$80,000.00. An additional \$4,000.00 will be needed for appraisal, escrow, title insurance and the Department of General Services' review costs.

Expansion 28: This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 5± acres of unimproved desert land. The Grantor has agreed to sell for the approved appraised value of \$40,000.00. An additional \$4,000.00 will be needed for appraisal, escrow, title insurance and the Department of General Services' review costs.

Expansion 29: This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 10± acres of unimproved desert land. The Grantor has agreed to sell for the approved appraised value of \$80,000.00. An additional \$4,000.00 will be needed for appraisal, escrow, title insurance and the Department of General Services' review costs.

These proposed acquisitions are exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as acquisitions of land for wildlife conservation purposes and Class 25 as a transfer of ownership of interest in land to preserve open space, and a Notice of Exemption will be filed upon Board approval.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of Expansions 26, 27, 28 and 29 as proposed; allocate \$450,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c), for the acquisitions and related expenses; authorize staff to enter into agreements as necessary to carry out these acquisitions as described; 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; approve the acquisition of Expansions 26, 27, 28 and 29 as proposed; allocate \$450,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c), for the acquisitions and related expenses; authorize staff to enter into agreements as necessary to carry out these acquisitions as described; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. Motion carried.

- *8 Habitat Restoration, White Point Nature Preserve Augmentation, \$170,000.00
Los Angeles County

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to augment an existing contract to restore 90± acres of coastal sage scrub and associated habitats on a former World War II Nike Missile site located above the coastal bluffs across Paseo del Mar in the City of Los Angeles.

During the early days of the Cold War, the White Point property was used as a Nike Missile anti-aircraft defense site to protect Los Angeles and the surrounding coastal cities from air attacks. In 1978, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States transferred the 102-acre property to the City of Los Angeles for “perpetual use as a public park and recreation area.” Extensive study and community input regarding the best use of the property culminated in June 1999, with the recommendation of the White Point Advisory Committee that the park be used for coastal open space and historical preservation, habitat restoration and passive recreation. To implement this proposal, the Department of Parks and Recreation entered into an agreement with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), a local nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving undeveloped land in perpetuity as open space for ecological, recreational, historical, educational and scenic purposes. Under the agreement, the PVPLC was given responsibility to manage the development of a community-based Master Plan for the Nature Preserve and to begin implementing a restoration program.

White Point Nature Preserve consists of two marine terraces and steep slopes parallel to the coastline. Non-native annual grassland covers the majority of the site and has replaced the native habitat which once provided habitat for threatened and endangered species such as the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly, the California Gnatcatcher and the Cactus Wren.

In 2001, the PVPLC contacted WCB staff to request funds to implement the restoration of the site. Funds were allocated by the Board in August of that year and, subsequently, much progress has been made in restoring the native habitat. The PVPLC has done extensive work eradicating exotic annual plants which would compete with the new native plants, installed more than one third of the irrigation system, collected native seed, and grown and installed over 30,000 plants including over 40 different native species. A Department of Fish and Game biologist recently visited the site and is very enthusiastic about the work done to date.

The PVPLC has been effective in economizing the funds available and at the same time making much progress in fulfilling their obligations under the original grant agreement. Scouts, students, families, advisory board members and

community supporters have all helped to contribute over 1650 volunteer hours to the restoration project. Furthermore, the PVPLC has budgeted 25 percent of its unrestricted revenues to the project this year. In addition, the project has utilized Outward Bound for some of the labor, utilizing a relatively inexpensive labor source and at the same time educating under-privileged children about restoration and the biology of the area. Even so, the PVPLC has found that additional funding will be needed to successfully complete the project. The original estimate for the cost of the irrigation system was too low given the challenge of irrigating so many plants on such steep slopes.

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

Description:	Estimated Costs
Native plant stock development for ~ 1,000 plants per acre	\$250,000.00
Temporary nursery facility	30,000.00
Restoration materials and supplies	29,500.00
Signage	500.00
Restoration site preparation, planting and maintenance	180,000.00
Irrigation system	350,000.00
Engineering/Design	20,000.00
Contract	70,000.00
Management/Administrative	
Restoration monitoring	15,000.00
Contingencies	35,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$980,000.00

Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
Wildlife Conservation Board (Original project)	\$810,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board Augmentation	170,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$980,000.00

An Environmental Impact Report has been completed for the project in order to satisfy CEQA requirements. The PVPLC has agreed to operate and maintain the property for 25 years.

Staff recommended the Board approve this augmentation as proposed; allocate \$170,000.00 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 consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this augmentation as proposed; allocate \$170,000.00 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

- *9. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansions 28, 29 and 30, \$28,000.00
Del Norte County

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of three separate ownerships totaling 20± acres, including residential and out buildings located thereon, as an expansions to the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Lake Earl Wildlife Area (LEWA) and also to consider the acceptance of grant funds from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the purpose of completing the acquisitions. These acquisitions will allow for the further protection of Lake Earl and its associated coastal dune, wetland, upland and forest habitats, the continued development of the wildlife area, the protection and enhancement of threatened and endangered species habitat, and the improvement of public access to the LEWA. The subject parcels are located north of Crescent City, west of Lower Lake Road. The property can be accessed via Lower Lake Road and Kellogg Road.

The Lake Earl Wildlife Area was acquired as a result of the Keene-Nedgedly Act of 1975, which directed the DFG and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to jointly evaluate and acquire certain specified coastal lands for the purpose of protecting, enhancing and managing wetlands. Together, the two agencies have acquired over 11,000 acres in the Crescent City area, extending from near Point Saint George north to the Smith River. Of the total, approximately 5,723 acres have been purchased by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and are managed by the DFG. This includes all of Lakes Earl and Talawa (under lease from the California State Lands Commission). These lakes are actually coastal lagoons that periodically breach the barrier island, thereby allowing the interchange of fresh and saltwater. This natural breaching has been replaced in recent times by artificial breaching as a means of lowering water elevations and increasing lands available for livestock grazing and urban development.

Lake Earl is a shallow estuarine lagoon that supports a variety of wetland plant communities, including submerged aquatics in deeper, relatively freshwater areas of the estuary. Freshwater aquatic plants are used extensively by migrating waterfowl. These wetland communities provide habitat for a large number of water-associated species. Sitka spruce grows to the edge of the lake shore and are used by both peregrine falcon and bald eagle. The non-native perennial grasses are managed on the LEWA as foraging habitat for the Aleutian

Canada goose. Over 95 percent of the Aluetian Canada goose population stages in the agricultural fields on or adjacent to the LEWA. Over 240 species of birds have been recorded in the area since 1982. Historically, the Lake Earl complex has been an important northern California wintering, stopover and nesting area for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. There are three federally or State listed endangered birds sighted in the LEWA, including bald eagle, Peregrine falcon and the California brown pelican.

The acquisition of the subject properties will assist in securing these unique resources, which lie adjacent to or between existing State lands and urban residential development. Placement of this property in public ownership would facilitate lake level management and would add significant buffer for the LEWA. The DFG has identified the subject properties as being within a Significant Natural Area (Lake Earl) and has recommended the purchase of these parcels, which will be incorporated into, and managed as part of, the existing LEWA.

The three proposed projects are more specifically described as follows:

Expansion 28: The Grantors have agreed to sell at the Department of General Services' (DGS) approved fair market value of \$181,000.00. The 3.99-acre parcel is improved with a 1,434 square foot single family residence and a detached two car garage. The owner-occupants are eligible for relocation benefits in the form of moving expenses.

Expansion 29: The Grantors have agreed to sell at the DGS' approved fair market value of \$175,000.00. The 10-acre parcel is improved with a 1,440 square foot manufactured home, 2,125 square foot barn and an 840 square foot carport. The owner-occupants are eligible for relocation benefits in the form of moving expenses and a replacement housing payment.

Expansion 30: The Grantors have agreed to sell at the DGS' approved fair market value of \$185,000.00. The 6.3-acre parcel is improved with a 1,685 square foot single family residence, 3,200 square foot barn and a detached two car garage. The owner-occupants are eligible for relocation benefits in the form of moving expenses and a replacement housing payment.

The approved appraised value of the three properties total \$541,000.00, and staff estimates that an additional \$88,000.00 will be needed to pay for relocation benefits as determined in a relocation entitlement study currently being completed by the DGS. The acquisition and relocation costs will be paid using funds secured by the DFG through the USFWS's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program and will be placed directly into escrow upon staff's request. In addition, it is estimated that an additional \$28,000.00 is needed for project expenses, including appraisal, escrow and title fees, relocation entitlement study and DGS' review costs.

There are no claims of sovereign State land ownership within the subject property. The proposed acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of lands for wildlife purposes and under Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of ownership interest in land to preserve existing natural conditions and historical resources and the appropriate documentation will be filed upon approval by the Board.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of Expansions 28, 29 and 30 as proposed; authorize acceptance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant funds directly into escrow to complete the acquisition and pay appropriate relocation benefits; allocate \$28,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coast and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, to pay project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; the acquisition of Expansions 28, 29 and 30 as proposed; authorize acceptance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant funds directly into escrow to complete the acquisition and pay appropriate relocation benefits; allocate \$28,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, to pay project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *10. City of Isleton Public Access Augmentation, \$308,135.00
Sacramento County

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with the City of Isleton (City) to augment an existing contract to construct a fishing pier, boat dock, parking lot and restroom on the City's undeveloped Sacramento River waterfront. Isleton is located approximately five miles north of Rio Vista in the northern Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The Sacramento River and its Delta support a wide array of sportfishing opportunities including salmon, sturgeon, bass and catfish. Anglers of all ages and abilities flock to this area from all over the state to fish from the banks or boats, to participate in fishing tournaments and to otherwise enjoy the myriad of outdoor sporting opportunities here. The California Department of Parks and Recreation, in its Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Recreation Survey, has identified a need in the Delta for more public access facilities, particularly fishing piers, fish cleaning stations and restrooms.

On February 27, 2002 the Board allocated \$250,000.00 to implement the project. It was thought at the time that these funds along with a Community Development Block Grant obtained by the City would be sufficient to complete the project. However, the bids have come in significantly higher than originally estimated. In fact the project was put out to bid twice in an unsuccessful attempt to get lower bids.

The proposal is to construct a fishing pier with a fish cleaning station, boat dock, parking lot and restroom on an unimproved City-owned parcel with 200 feet of river frontage. The proposed facility will be barrier-free throughout with elevators, ramps and parking to assist mobility impaired individuals.

Although the project proposal itself remains unchanged, there is a change in which project elements are proposed for Board funding. Earlier Board action approved funds for both land and water side improvements. However, due to the fact that the City's Community Development Block Grant must go entirely for land-side improvements, Board funding is proposed to go entirely to the water side, with the one exception being the project sign.

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

Description:	Estimated Cost
Mobilization	\$53,797.00
Site work	179,849.00
Dock access ramp, walkway, retaining wall	65,612.00
Gangway, landing platform, stairs, wheelchair lift (water side)	59,114.00
Levee access stairway, landings, wheelchair lift (land side)	80,600.00
Piling and debris diverter	107,365.00
Landing float, docks, fishing pier	161,972.00
Dock utilities	26,191.00
Restroom	173,359.00
Landscaping	12,900.00
Sign	2,000.00
Contingencies	115,241.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$1,038,000.00

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board (Original project)	\$250,000.00
City of Isleton (Original project)	426,779.00
Wildlife Conservation Board Augmentation	308,000.00
City of Isleton Augmentation	53,221.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$1,038,000.00

In addition to the costs listed above, an additional \$135.00 will be required for General Services review costs, bringing the allocation for the Board's portion of the project to \$308,135.00. An Environmental Impact Report has been completed for the project in order to satisfy CEQA requirements. The City has agreed to operate and maintain the facility for 25 years and has provided a free lease to the State for the duration of the operating agreement.

Staff recommended the Board approve this augmentation as proposed; allocate \$308,135.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), 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 \$308,135.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *11. Riparian Habitat Restoration, Polaris Creek, Placer County \$25,000.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to the California Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) for a partnership project to remove fill material and restore approximately one acre of meadow habitat in the floodplain of Polaris Creek in Placer County. The partners in this proposal include the Board, the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) and the Foundation. Most of the property to be restored is owned by the CTC, while a small strip of land, including the right-of-way along State Highway 28 and the North Shore Bike Trail, is owned by the California Department of Transportation.

The Board has long been involved in the development and improvements of the Lake Tahoe Public Access Site, located near the mouth of Burton and Polaris Creeks. During the course of the most recent improvement project at that site, the Board agreed, as part of that project, to participate in a habitat restoration project to assist the CTC and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) in their goals to restore habitat around Lake Tahoe. The proposed project was developed by the CTC, in cooperation with the Board and the TRPA, to satisfy that agreement.

The Lake Forest area of Lake Tahoe contains a number of ecologically sensitive streams and riparian meadows which have been greatly altered by construction and road development projects. The Polaris Creek meadow near Lake Forest

has been adversely affected by the placement of fill adjacent to State Highway 28. The removal of the fill and the revegetation of the area will improve the condition of this ecosystem and should also have a beneficial influence on Lake Tahoe, which receives drainage from this creek.

Specifically, the project will remove approximately 3,000 cubic yards of fill material from the riparian meadow within the Polaris Creek basin. The project has been designed such that the resulting surface will be at the same elevation and slope as the surrounding meadow area. The fill will be removed and relocated to an appropriate site outside of the stream zone. There will be approximately .83± acres of revegetation (36,000 square feet), using native plant species suitable for the site. Ten existing willow trees will be relocated into the newly established wet meadow and seven upland trees will be removed. The goals of the project include improvement of the wetland function of the riparian meadow and removal of eroding materials which are presently entering Polaris Creek. The project will restore habitat that benefits a multitude of resident and migratory wildlife species and will enhance the visual aspect of the meadow for area travelers (automobile and bicycle) and nearby local residents. Invasive plants will be controlled during the restoration project and control will continue under the CTC's long-term management.

The proposed project meets the objectives of the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program, the California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture and the CTC's Wildlife Enhancement Program and Stream Environment Zone and Watershed Restoration Program.

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

Description:	Estimated Cost
Mobilization/Demobilization	\$ 6,500.00
Remove fill/trucking	84,000.00
Disposal of fill	93,000.00
Traffic Control	11,500.00
Tree Removal	3,500.00
Filter Fence and Coire	13,500.00
Willow Relocation	3,000.00
Revegetation	36,000.00
Pavement Repair	3,000.00
Project Management	36,000.00
Contingencies	44,000.00
Project Administration	50,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$384,000.00
Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
Wildlife Conservation Board (Revegetation)	\$25,000.00
California Tahoe Conservancy	359,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$384,000.00

The Department of Fish Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The CTC has approved a Negative Declaration for this project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$25,000.00 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 \$25,000.00 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.

12. Habitat Restoration, Goat Canyon, San Diego County \$1,800,260.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider a cooperative project with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to control erosion and sedimentation coming from Goat Canyon, and to restore wildlife habitat in the canyon. Funding partners in this proposal include the Board, DPR, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the California State Coastal Conservancy. Goat Canyon is located approximately 15 miles south of the city of San Diego on the border between California and Mexico, and is part of Border Field State Park, which is owned and managed by the DPR. The park is part of a larger unit called the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (Reserve) which is jointly administered by NOAA and the DPR through a federal-state cooperative agreement. Mr. Scott Clemons briefly described the project and its location.

Previous Board projects near the Tijuana River Estuary include the acquisition of the Dairy Mart Ponds, located three air miles to the east, which was acquired in 1988 to protect prime coastal freshwater wetlands, and the construction of the Imperial Beach Fishing Pier, completed in 1963, which lies four air miles to the north. The Dairy Mart Ponds site was transferred to the County of San Diego in February 2003. The County has agreed to continue to manage the site to provide riparian wildlife benefits.

The Reserve spans 2,500 acres and is a mosaic of State, federal, local and privately-owned lands. Border Field State Park is comprised of 813 acres at the southern end of the Reserve. The Reserve is the endpoint of the drainage basin for the Tijuana River and its tributaries, a 1,735 square-mile watershed, of which one-third lies in the United States and two-thirds in Mexico. Flooding and

sedimentation has been a long-standing critical issue in the estuary and a substantial amount of sediment comes from Goat Canyon each year. Each year, this excessive sedimentation degrades marsh and streamside habitats, reduces tidal exchange, creates obstacles to habitat restoration efforts, blocks public access roads and damages park facilities. The problem of flooding, sedimentation and erosion has become even more acute in recent years as development has increased in the upper watershed in Mexico.

All in all, more than 30 acres of critically important tidal marsh has been completely covered. The California State Coastal Conservancy and the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, which includes 17 State and federal resource agencies, have given the Goat Canyon project its highest priority because of the project's importance to protecting some of Southern California's most endangered habitats and one of the State's principal areas for wetland restoration. The proposed project is consistent with the goals and policies of the adopted land use plans for the area, including the City of San Diego General Plan, Tijuana River Valley Local Coastal Program, Multiple Species Conservation Plan, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan and the Border Field State Park Resource Management and General Development Plan. Further, the project is consistent with the City of San Diego Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Coastal Development regulations and the State Coastal Act pertaining to wetlands restoration.

The proposed project will provide for the construction of sediment retention basins and improve the park entrance road. To offset construction related impacts, the project includes removal of sediment and exotic species and the restoration of southern willow scrub and mulefat scrub habitats on 23 acres within the alluvial floodplain of Goat Canyon Creek. Each of the two retention basins will have a total capacity of approximately 90 acre-feet of sediment. The basins will be designed to capture sediment from the project area before it can reach and damage the wetlands and park facilities. The improvements to the park entrance road will address flooding and sedimentation issues, providing more reliable access. The DPR is responsible for long-term maintenance of the sedimentation basins. This project will benefit many wildlife species which utilize the marsh and stream habitats in Border Field State Park and downstream in the lower portions of the estuary. The public will also benefit from improved and more dependable access facilities.

Board funds will be used only for the construction of the sediment basins. Cost estimates for the entire project, which have been reviewed by staff, are as follows:

Description:	Estimated Cost
Clear and Grub/Earthwork	\$318,393.00
Paving	509,440.00
Culverts/Crossing	11,578.00
Utilities	120,604.00
Erosion Control	175,662.00
Sediment Basins	4,120,770.00
Sediment Removal/ Revegetation of Floodplain	1,412,193.00
Offsite Material Disposal	555,919.00
Staging/Loading Areas	303,921.00
Fences	68,020.00
Architectural and Engineering Services	192,500.00
Project Management and Soil Testing	60,000.00
DPR Cultural Heritage Evaluation	71,900.00
Signs	6,000.00
Contingencies	1,235,340.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$8,405,700.00

Proposed Funding Breakdown:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$1,800,000.00
Department of Parks and Recreation	1,200,000.00
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.	300,000.00
State Coastal Conservancy	5,105,700.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$8,405,700.00

In addition to the costs listed above, an additional \$260.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the Board's portion of the project to \$1,800,260.00. The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The DPR has completed an Environmental Impact Report to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act for this project.

Mr. Clemons reported that Ms. Suzy Lahitte, representing the California Department of Parks and Recreation, was in the audience should there be any questions.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,800,260.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79572 (a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Ms. Shelly Mateo that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,800,260.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79572 (a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. Motion carried.

At this time Mr. Flores welcomed Ms. Kristie Stauffacher, representing Senator Mike Michado, and Mr. Jeff Arthur, representing Assembly member Hannah-Beth Jackson.

13. Oak Valley, Riverside County \$5,005,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this was a proposal to consider an allocation of a grant to the Riverside Land Conservancy (RLC) to assist in the cooperatively funded acquisition of 357± acres of land, located in the San Timoteo Canyon region of Riverside County, for the protection of wildlife habitat corridors, linkages and riparian zones. The property is located within the San Timoteo Canyonlands and Badlands, northwest of the junction of Interstate 10 and State Route 60, in Riverside County. Mr. Dave Means briefly described the project and its location.

The subject property is situated in a transition area between the San Gorgonio Mountain foothills and lower alluvial plains. The property has an irregular, triangular shape. The general terrain consists of a series of hills and small canyons that feed into flat valley bottom areas. From the valley bottoms the property drains into the San Timoteo Canyon creek and then into the Santa Ana River watershed.

The natural habitats found on the property include sage scrub, chaparral, riparian, wetlands and coast live oak woodlands. The property falls within the boundaries of the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Riverside County, and within the Significant Natural Area (SNA) Riv 22, of which there are 20 listed federal or State endangered, threatened or species of special concern. Species of note include the least Bell's vireo, California gnatcatcher, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, Stephens' kangaroo rat, San Jacinto Valley crowscale and the Santa Ana woollystar. The oak woodlands and other tree groves on the property provide nest sites for numerous raptors, including the red-tailed hawk, white-tailed kites and a variety of different owl species.

The subject property is part of the proposed Oak Valley development, consisting of approximately 5,523± acres of land approved for up to 12,951 residential units, along with smaller planned areas for commercial, industrial, parks, golf courses and other public facilities.

The proposed acquisition is part of a three phase acquisition resulting from a court settlement between the current owners, Oak Valley Partners, and the Valley Audubon Society and the Center for Biological Diversity. Under the settlement Oak Valley Partners has agreed to sell three areas (phases) within the development based on their appraised fair market value, to the RLC, the landowner's representative for the Audubon Society and the Center for Biological Diversity. The three phase areas within the development were designated based on their high habitat values and wildlife corridor potential.

The subject property represents the first phase of the three phases. The other two phases, totaling 754± acres are scheduled to be purchased later this year by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), using Off Highway Vehicle mitigation funds. After all three phases are acquired there will be a total of 1,112.4± acres in conservation.

In terms of linkage and corridor protection, the three phases are situated strategically between the San Bernardino National Forest to the east, including Mount San Gorgonio, and the San Timoteo Canyonlands and Badlands area to the west, including the county's Norton Younglove Reserve. Just south and west of the Canyonlands and Badlands is the Department of Fish and Game's San Jacinto Wildlife Area. On May 23, 2002, the Board approved the tax credit for the 438± acre San Timoteo Canyon, a donation and expansion to the County's Norton Younglove Reserve, a portion of which borders on the second phase of this project area.

Further south within the Badlands, south of State Route 60, there are a number of additional large acreages designated for conservation as mitigation for a proposed Off Highway Vehicle park, being developed by the DPR.

Once the three phases are acquired a protected corridor will be established between the San Bernardino National Forest, via Live Oak canyon and a "tunnel" going under Interstate 10, to the subject property. This link represents one of the last remaining undeveloped corridors crossing Interstate 10. From here, the property will connect with the Norton Younglove Reserve to the west.

The RLC, working with the Resources Land Partners, has entered into an option agreement to acquire the subject property (phase 1), based on its fair market value of \$5,796,000.00, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). To fund this cooperative project, the proposed participation from the WCB is \$5,000,000.00. The remaining balance will be provided in the form of a donation from the Oak Valley Partners.

The funding breakdown is shown below:

Property Owners	\$796,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	5,000,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$5,796,000.00

In addition to the grant amount, an additional \$5,000.00 is estimated to be needed for DGS' review and other administrative costs, bringing the total allocation requested for this project to \$5,005,000.00.

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 or sale, escrow instructions and the instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements under Section 15313, Class 13 as the acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and under Section 15325, Class 25 as the transfer of ownership in land to preserve open space, habitat or historical resources. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

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

Staff recommended the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$5,005,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), to fund the grant 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.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$5,005,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), to fund the grant 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.

14. Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve, South Unit, \$916,000.00
San Luis Obispo County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider a cooperative project to acquire 32± acres of land, for protection of maritime chaparral and coastal dune habitat, for threatened and endangered species. The property is located in Los Osos, south of the Morro Bay Estuary, on the lower slopes of the Irish Hills, in San Luis Obispo County. Mr. Dave Means briefly described the project and its location.

The subject property is an undeveloped, triangular shaped parcel of land, situated on a sloping hillside, overlooking both the Morro Bay Estuary and the Pacific Ocean. Acquisition of the property is an essential part of a multi-agency effort to preserve and establish a greenbelt corridor around the community of Los Osos and the Morro Bay Estuary and to preserve the coastal related habitats within this greenbelt corridor.

The greenbelt corridor runs south from the Morro Bay State Park, along Los Osos Creek, to the Los Osos Oaks State Preserve and then heads west, through the subject property, to the Montana De Oro State Park, located along the coast. Within the corridor there have been a number of recent acquisitions of note, some of which have been presented to, and approved by the Board. These projects include the 30± acre Elfin Forest Preserve, acquired by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), as an expansion to the Morro Bay State Park; the 15± acre Powell I property, acquired by the DPR as an expansion to the Morro Bay State Park; the 40± acre Powell II property acquired by the DPR and funded in part by a grant approved by the Board on August 22, 2002; the 26± acre Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve, an expansion to the Montana De Oro State Park; the 18± acre Los Osos Dunes and Wetland property, acquired by the Bay Foundation and funded in part by a grant approved by the Board on February 27, 2002; the 205± acre Bayview Ecological Preserve, a cooperative project acquired for the Department of Fish and Game and approved by the Board on August 10, 2000. The subject property abuts the Bayview property on its southwest border.

Within the greenbelt a variety of different habitat types can be found, including fresh and saltwater wetlands, riparian, coastal dune scrub and maritime chaparral. On the Irish Hills, northern slope portion of the greenbelt, where the subject property is located, the primary habitat types are maritime chaparral and coastal dune scrub. These habitats support a wide range of wildlife species, including over 100 different bird species, 40 mammals and 20 reptiles. Included within these species are a number of federal and State, threatened, endangered and special status species, including the Morro manzanita, Indian Knob mountainbalm, Monterey spineflower, Peregrin falcon, Morro shoulderband snail, the black legless lizard and the coast horned lizard.

This area of the greenbelt, including the subject property, is also located within an area designated for the protection and recovery of the Morro Bay kangaroo rat, a listed species. Although no surveys were conducted on the subject site as part of this study, "tail drags" tracks were identified on similar and adjacent properties (DFG's Bayview property), indicating the subject property could help support and provide additional habitat for this extremely rare species.

Vegetation on the subject property consists mostly of Morro manzanita. Coastal sage scrub is found on some of the lower areas and a small grove of pygmy coast live oaks exist near the property's western border. Animal species found on the property are consistent with those found throughout this area of the greenbelt, as mentioned above and found within maritime chaparral and coastal dune scrub habitats.

The present zoning of the subject parcel is residential suburban and allows for development of 10 single family residential lots of 15,000 square feet or more. Similar to other coastal areas in southern California, the Los Osos area is experiencing increased demand for residential development. Combining this factor with the property's exceptional views of Morro Bay and the Pacific Ocean, the cost to acquire the property and the pressure to develop it are sure to rise over the foreseeable future.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a partner on this transaction, has an option to acquire the property. The conveyance of the property will occur with TPL first exercising their purchase option, acquiring the property at its appraised value, and then conveying the property to the State, at its appraised value. In addition to expanding the greenbelt, the property will help establish trail and habitat linkages from the southern limits of Los Osos up and into the Montana De Oro Park located just north of the subject property. Potential public uses include hiking, bird watching and educational research and study. Strong local community support and involvement, including the local schools, has already led to the development of volunteer programs to help study and assist with the management of other properties recently acquired and protected within the greenbelt.

The property has been appraised for \$1,900,000.00, a value approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). To fund this cooperative project the proposed participation from the Board is \$906,000.00. The remaining balance will be provided from grants to WCB from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The funding breakdown is shown below:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$ 500,000.00
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	494,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	906,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$1,900,000.00

Supplement to the purchase amount, an additional \$10,000.00 is estimated to be needed for title, escrow and DGS' review costs, for a total allocation of \$916,000.00.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements under Section 15313, Class 13 as the acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and under Section 15325, Class 25 as the transfer of ownership in land to preserve open space, habitat or historical resources. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

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

Staff recommended the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$916,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, for the acquisition and related costs; authorize acceptance directly into escrow of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 grant and NOAA grant in the amounts of \$500,000.00 and \$494,000.00, respectively; 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.

It was moved by Ms. Shelly Mateo that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$916,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, for the acquisition and related costs; authorize acceptance directly into escrow of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 grant and a NOAA grant in the amounts of \$500,000.00 and \$494,000.00, respectively; 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.

15. Garcia River, Mendocino County \$3,700,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation of a grant to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for a cooperative project with the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the City of Point Arena, Mendocino Coast Audubon Society, the Board and many local conservation groups to assist the BLM with the acquisition of 1,210± acres in fee and a conservation easement over 560± acres of property surrounding the Point Arena Lighthouse and extending inland approximately 2 miles, crossing Highway 1. Ms. Terri Muzik briefly described the project and its location.

The subject property is adjacent to Manchester State Park which is owned by the DPR. In addition, the BLM is now responsible for managing the new California Coastal National Monument, which includes all federally-owned islands, rocks, exposed reefs and pinnacles off the California coastline within a 12-mile zone. The BLM is currently using two other lighthouses in the State as potential visitor nodes as a means of telling the monument story and attracting thousands of visitors each year. This property surrounds the Point Arena lighthouse and the BLM has indicated that the property may serve as an ideal location for a monument visitor node.

Acquisition of this property will help preserve natural resources, protect prime agricultural land, preserve the scenic corridor along State Highway 1 and expand public access where it does not conflict with maintenance of habitat and continued farming/ranching activities. The BLM will purchase approximately 1,210± acres consisting of upland coastal bluffs, coastal dunes and riparian areas along Hathaway Creek, and purchase an agricultural conservation easement over approximately 560± acres consisting of agricultural lowlands adjacent to the Garcia River and grazing land east of Highway 1.

The property contains rare and natural communities as identified by the California Natural Diversity Database including freshwater seep, coastal freshwater marsh, northern coastal salt-water marsh, north coast riparian scrub, northern dune scrub, northern coastal bluff scrub and beach pine forest. Also found on the property is habitat for anadromous fish species, a heron rookery at Hathaway Creek, a seabird rookery at Sea Lion Rocks, habitat for endangered species such as the Point Arena mountain beaver, wintering areas for migratory bird species, including tundra swans and prime agricultural lands.

This proposed acquisition will also expand public access opportunities where consistent with natural resource protection. The acquisition of the spectacular coastline will be included in the California Coastal Trail. Recreational opportunities will include bird watching, fishing, whale watching, picnicking, cultural resource study and environmental education. It is also anticipated that local conservation groups, such as the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society, will lead field trips in the area.

The Nature Conservancy will be the recipient of the grant funds from the WCB. After WCB review of the acquisition documents between the parties, the grant funds will be deposited directly into an escrow account for the benefit of the landowners. The property will transfer directly from the landowners to the BLM. The BLM will acquire the fee interest and conservation easement for an approved, appraised value of \$7,805,000.00. The appraisal was reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services.

The funding partners and their contributions in this project are shown below:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$3,700,000.00
California Coastal Conservancy	3,500,000.00
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant	1,000,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$8,200,000.00

All project expenses and administrative costs will be paid by the California State Coastal Conservancy out of their contribution.

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 or sale, escrow instructions and the instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements under Section 15313, Class 13 as the acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and Section 15325, Class 25 as the transfer of ownership in land to preserve open space. Upon approval of the project by the Board, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received a letter of support from the Mayor of Point Arena and numerous letters of support from citizens over the past two years.

Ms. Muzik reported that Rich Burns, representing the Bureau of Land Management, Hally Swan and Kevin Knowles, representing the landowners, and Jim Swanson, representing the Department of Fish and Game, were in the audience should there be any questions.

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

Staff recommended the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,700,000.00 for the grant to The Nature Conservancy from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and 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 \$3,700,000.00 for the grant to The Nature Conservancy from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. Motion carried.

16. Oyster Point Fishing Pier Improvements, San Mateo County \$99,270.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with the San Mateo County Harbor District (District) to restore parts of the Oyster Point Fishing Pier, which is located on the San Francisco Bay in the City of South San Francisco on City-owned land and State-owned tidelands. Mr. Peter Perrine briefly described the project and its location.

The District currently operates and maintains the pier having entered into a 25-year Lease and Cooperative Agreement in 1981 with the Board. It was at this time that the Board allocated funds for construction of the pier, a restroom and a 40 space parking lot. The concrete pier is 300 feet long and 12 feet wide with benches, lighting and a fish cleaning station. The proposed restoration of Oyster Point Fishing Pier will ensure continued public use of the only fishing pier in the City of South San Francisco which is within an hour's driving time to millions of residents in San Francisco and San Mateo counties. In fact it averages 4,200 visitor days per year for its lifespan. The pier is located adjacent to a section of the Bay Trail, a recreational corridor that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays connecting the shoreline of all nine Bay Area counties with a continuous 400-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails.

The pier is located in the "mixing zone" between the freshwaters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and the saline waters entering through the Golden Gate. This area provides excellent habitat for a variety of fish. Anglers utilizing Oyster Point Fishing Pier pull in king salmon, striped bass, sturgeon, California halibut and various skates, sharks and flatfish.

Oyster Point Park/Marina was constructed on a former landfill. As is sometimes the case in these types of areas, differential settling of the substrate has occurred causing the concrete access ramp and its foundation to tilt and pull away from the pier structure. This has resulted in an approximately five inch gap between the pier and the ramp which the District has filled temporarily in order to eliminate safety hazards and to continue to facilitate access for mobility impaired individuals. The main concern about the movement of the ramp relates to the fact that its foundation was designed to support the landward end of the pier. Should the ramp structure move several more inches, the end of the pier would be in danger of collapse. Obviously this is a public safety concern. Additional aspects to the project include replacement of five light standards and associated electrical conduit which are beyond repair having been continuously exposed to the elements for 20 years. The District is providing one half of the funding for the project.

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

Description:	Estimated Cost
Engineering and permitting	\$45,000.00
Demolition and reconstruction of access ramp and foundation	115,000.00
Light pole replacement	7,500.00
Conduit repair and replacement	14,000.00
Contingencies	16,500.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$198,000.00
Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$99,000.00
San Mateo County Harbor District	99,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$198,000.00

An additional \$270.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the Boards portion of the project to \$99,270.00.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and supports the proposed improvements. The District will file the proper documents in order to satisfy CEQA requirements, has agreed to operate and maintain the property for 25 years through a Lease and Operating Agreement, and will handle the contract administration for the construction of the improvements.

Mr. Perrine reported that Robert Johnson, representing the San Mateo County Harbor District, was in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Flores asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none. Mr. Flores asked how long the pier would be under construction and if it would remain accessible to the public during that time. Mr. Johnson reported that the restoration would last about four weeks and that they would try to maintain access as long as it was safe for the users of the facility.

Staff recommended the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$99,270.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Ms. Shelly Mateo that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$99,270.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. Motion carried.

17. Riparian Habitat Restoration, Feather River Wildlife Area, \$1,307,000.00
O'Connor Lakes Unit, Sutter County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation for a grant to River Partners for a project to restore riparian habitat on the O'Connor Lakes Unit of the Feather River Wildlife Area. The property is owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and is located on the right bank of the Feather River, approximately six miles south (downstream) of the cities of Yuba City and Marysville, in Sutter County. Mr. Scott Clemons briefly described the project and its location.

The Board has been involved for many years in land acquisitions to protect wildlife habitat and provide public access on the Feather River. The Feather River Wildlife Area includes 2,408 acres of land inside the levees that protect land in Sutter and Yuba Counties. The most recent addition to the wildlife area, a portion of the proposed restoration project on the O'Connor Lakes Unit, was acquired by the Board in 1998. The O'Connor Lakes Unit is managed for wildlife habitat and public access for hunting or wildlife viewing. Access is from Star Bend Road, where a small parking area has been developed. The area is closed from March through June but is open for hunting and passive recreational uses from July 1 to January 31, and during the spring turkey season.

The existing condition of riparian habitat within the project area is extremely degraded. The DFG has identified the O'Connor Lakes Unit as a high priority restoration site on the Feather River. The project will restore riparian vegetation to benefit wildlife on approximately 228 acres of flood-prone land that was farmed prior to State acquisition. Specifically, the project will involve project design and application for required permits, removal of debris and non-native invasive plants (including *Arundo donax* and yellow star thistle), field preparation, irrigation system installation, planting, irrigation, weed control and field monitoring. After the planted areas are able to grow without irrigation (approximately 2 ½ years from planting), the grantee will remove the agricultural infrastructure and decommission any existing wells.

Restoration of the site will benefit many fish and wildlife species, including great horned owls, many species of hawks and neotropical migrant birds, Chinook salmon, wild turkey, California quail and black tailed deer. The planned improvements to wildlife habitat will also benefit both hunting and non-hunting public uses of the area. This project has already attracted support from several neighboring landowners.

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

Description:	Estimated Cost
Planning and Permitting	\$31,000.00
Field Layout	13,000.00
Irrigation System Installation	140,000.00
Field Preparation/Planting Activities	407,000.00
Plant Support (cultivation, irrigation, weeding)	275,000.00
Monitoring Plant Development	52,000.00
Project Management	144,000.00
Administrative Costs	170,000.00
Contingencies	75,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$1,307,000.00

The Department of Fish Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. This project 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.

Mr. Clemons reported that Paul Hoffman, representing the Department of Fish and Game, and Dan Efseaff, representing River Partners, were in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Flores asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none. Mr. Flores asked if this property was primarily upland game habitat. Mr. Hoffman stated that it will be largely upland game habitat with a riparian corridor and some waterfowl habitat. He explained that because this is a flood area, wildlife will move in and out of the area.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,307,000.00 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 Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,307,000.00 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.

18. Fall River Valley (Noel Ranch), Shasta County \$174,000.00

Mr. Wright reported this proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the Fall River Resource Conservation District (RCD) to assist in a cooperative project with The Conservation Fund, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Board to acquire a conservation easement over 310± acres of privately-owned land adjacent to the Fall River, for the protection and preservation of farmland, wetlands and riparian habitat near the community of Glenburn, 75± miles northeast of Redding off Highway 299 in Shasta County. Mr. Steve Christensen briefly described the project and its location.

The subject property is located in the central portion of Fall River Valley near Glenburn, a mountain valley situated between the Sierra-Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges, with Mount Lassen to the south and Mount Shasta visible to the northwest. The property is on the course of the Pacific Flyway, south of the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuges, important resting areas for migrating waterfowl.

The Fall River forms an oxbow loop through the property, separating the eastern portion of the property from the west, with more than 2.5 miles of river frontage. With a topography that is relatively flat, the majority of land is in cultivated crop production, with the bulk of the remaining acreage in wetlands. The Fall River meanders for 22 miles through the valley and converges with the Pitt River at Fall River Mills. Supplied by underground springs at a near constant temperature and flow throughout the year, this river is renowned for its world class trout fishing. The river is designated by the DFG as one of the 16 original streams in its Wild Trout Program.

The primary purpose of this proposed acquisition is to preserve the historical agricultural practices from the threat of residential development, while protecting significant habitat for native fishes such as wild rainbow trout, neotropical bird species, sandhill crane, bald eagle, osprey and invertebrates, such as the Montane pea clam, California floater mussel and abundant waterfowl. Because of its proximity to the river and abundant recreational opportunities in the area, the threat of subdivision to rural residential home sites is very real.

The Fall River Resource Conservation District will oversee the management of the conservation easement. The property owner currently leases hunting and fishing rights on portions of the property which will be perpetuated under the easement.

The property has been appraised and the value of the conservation easement has been reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) at \$600,000.00. The owner has agreed to sell a conservation easement to RCD at the reduced value of \$582,000.00, donating the difference. The Board's proposed grant to RCD would contribute \$169,000.00 toward the purchase price

of the property, with grants for the remaining funds coming from the California Farmland Conservancy Program and the Farmland Protection Program. It is estimated that an additional \$5,000.00 will be needed for administrative expenses, including review of the appraisal by the DGS, bringing the total proposed allocation for this project to \$174,000.00.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313, Class 13, as the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and under Section 15325, Class 25, as the transfer of ownership in land to preserve open space, habitat or historical resources. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Mr. Christensen reported that Nancy Schaefer, representing The Conservation Fund, Deniz Tuncer, representing the Department of Conservation, and Tim Weaver, representing the Fall River Resource Conservation District, were in the audience should there be any questions.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve this grant as proposed; allocate \$174,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, for the grant and associated costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Ms. Shelly Mateo that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$174,000.00 for the grant to the Fall River Resource Conservation District from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, for the grant and associated costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

19. Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Act of 2002 -0-

Mr. Wright reported that a unique program has been developed pursuant to the requirements of the Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Act of 2002, enacted by Chapter 984, Statutes of 2002. According to the Society for Range Management, rangelands, generally managed as a natural ecosystem, occupy about 40 percent of the land area in the United States and the world. Further, rangelands provide critical environmental values to numerous species of wildlife and plant communities. Moreover, these areas provide the economic foundation for many rural towns and communities across the State and the nation. Ms. Marilyn Cundiff briefly described the program.

Currently, there are approximately 22 million acres of privately-owned rangeland, grazing and grasslands remaining in California. According to the State Department of Finance, by the year 2040, California's population is projected to increase from 35 million people to more than 50 million people. Faced with projected population increases, associated urban expansion and the continual increase in the number and size of rural ranchettes, California is at risk of losing a unique resource that provides economic, ecological and cultural benefits to the people of California.

In response to these increased threats, the Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Program was created. With this program, landowners, conservation organizations, cities and counties have an opportunity to obtain funding for projects designed to protect the critical areas that much of our western heritage was founded upon.

Through the purchase of conservation easements, the program is designed to achieve the following purposes:

1. To prevent the conversion of rangeland, grazing land, and grassland to nonagricultural uses;
2. To protect the long-term sustainability of livestock grazing, and;
3. To ensure continued wildlife, water quality, watershed and open-space benefits to the State of California from livestock grazing.

The Act identifies the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board) as the responsible entity to implement the Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Program. Further, the Act requires the Board to develop guidelines and criteria for awarding grants designed to protect rangeland, grazing land and grasslands.

To develop guidelines and selection criteria responsive to the needs of rangeland and grassland resources and the grazing community, WCB convened a working group. The working group was comprised of private landowners, ranchers, professional rangeland specialists and resource managers. In addition, professional organizations participated representing the California Cattlemen's Association, the California Rangeland Trust, the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Area, the California Farm Bureau, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Lands, The Natural Resource Conservation Service, The California Department of Conservation, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Marin Agricultural Land Trust. This group actively worked to develop a program including the creation of guidelines and selection criteria designed to meet the expressed intent of the law.

To implement the program, including procedures for accepting applications and evaluating proposals, a series of workshops and small group meetings were held. Accordingly, three guidelines were developed for the purposes of ensuring proposed projects meet the legislative purpose of the program and include the following:

- Grazing – Protect the long-term sustainability of livestock grazing.
- Threat to Property -- Prevent the conversion of rangeland, grazing land and grasslands to nonagricultural uses.
- Regional, Community and Ecological Goals – Ensure continued wildlife, water quality, watershed and open-space benefits to the State of California from livestock grazing.

In addition, selection criteria were developed for each of the three guidelines to elicit information from the applicant that would further describe the merits and value of the proposal. The project application is designed to collect information designed to measure the project's contribution toward achieving each criteria, including the larger landscape or regional and local conservation effort. In addition, applicants are requested to provide information that describes the "added value" associated with the project and whether or not the project contributes toward multiple objectives, i.e., economic, social and/or ecological objectives.

To accomplish the intent of the program, the Act appropriated \$19.2 million from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund created pursuant to Section 5096.610 of Public Resources Code, of the amount made available under subdivision (f) of Section 5096.650. The Act further specified that these funds shall only be available for the purchase of conservation easements. Further, recognizing resource similarities and values between rangeland, grazing land and oak woodlands, the Act allows for the coordination of this program with the newly enacted Oak Woodlands Conservation Act.

Mr. Wright acknowledged Mr. Darrell Sweet, California Cattlemen's Association, and Mr. Chris Kelly, for their participation in this program. Mr. Wright reported that there was one issue where there was not unanimous agreement among all of the workshop participants regarding conversion of rangelands to more intensified agriculture uses such as vineyards and orchards. He stated that there was language in the Act that spoke to the importance of maintaining the economic viability of the ranches and at the same time it also spoke to preserving these ranches for grazing purposes. Mr. Wright stated there was a great deal of discussion among members of the working group regarding how much land could be converted to a more intensified agricultural use. Some participants suggested as much as ten percent, others disagreed. Recognizing the sensitivity of the issue, Mr. Wright suggested five percent maximum. Further,

if the five percent limit became a deterrent for ranchers to participate in the program, Mr. Wright would reconvene the working group to revisit the issue.

Mr. Sweet and Mr. Kelly thanked the staff and Ms. Cundiff for all their work in developing the processes and program.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the suggested guidelines; authorize staff to proceed with the distribution of the application package; and authorize staff to proceed with the implementation of the program substantially as planned.

It was moved by Mr. Robert Hight that the Board approve the suggested guidelines; authorize staff to proceed with the distribution of the application package; and authorize staff to proceed with the implementation of the program substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

****20. Staff Report – Easement Transfer (Informational)**

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

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

Mr. Wright reported that pursuant to the above described process, the following easement transfer has been completed by staff:

PROJECT TITLE	TRANSFER TYPE	GRANTEE	SIZE	CONSIDERATION
Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, Little Dry Creek Unit	Utility Easement	Wild Goose Storage	.21 acres	\$420.00

Other Business

Mr. Wright reported that Ms. Georgia Lipphardt, Assistant Executive Director, retired at the end of June after many years of State service. Mr. Wright and Mr. Flores presented her with resolutions acknowledging her contributions and dedication to the State Lands Commission and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Wright
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on August 13, 2003, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$1,224,507,821.30. 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, California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund, Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 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	24,602,180.88
Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 5,518,592.00
Stream Clearance and Improvement.....	14,788,961.69
Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	542,719.86
Marine Habitat	646,619.07
Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	3,105,288.26
C. Fishing Access Projects.....	45,773,746.87
Coastal and Bay	\$ 3,537,906.11
River and Aqueduct Access	12,834,760.89
Lake and Reservoir Access	9,015,632.69
Piers	20,385,447.18
D. Game Farm Projects.....	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development and Improvement	1,112,529,229.98
Wildlife Areas (General)	\$274,178,448.77
Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development.....	5,596,933.74
Wildlife Areas/Ecological Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	417,406,802.59
Land Conservation Area.....	6,981,557.18

Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	17,204,341.09
Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	20,717,803.59
Other Wildlife Habitat Grants.....	370,443,343.02
F. Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	11,945,430.29
H. Special Project Allocations.....	1,389,820.29
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	11,080,312.80
State Owned	\$1,244,851.07
Grants	9,835,461.73
J. Sales and/or exchanges	549,088.07
K. Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act (tax credits awarded)...	(33,508,511.50)
Statutory plans.....	(0.00)
Corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat, streams and riparian habitat	(6,232,435.50)
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	 \$1,224,507,821.30