

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1807 13TH STREET, SUITE 103
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
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State of California
 The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
 Minutes
 February 19, 2004

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

February 19, 2004

The Wildlife Conservation Board met on Thursday, February 19, 2004, in Room 113 of the State Capitol in Sacramento, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Mr. Al Wright, Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board. At this time he introduced the Board Members and attending Joint Legislative Interim Advisory Committee Members.

1. Roll CallWILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Kellogg, Chairman
President, Fish and Game Commission
L. Ryan Broddrick, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game
Dave Harper, Deputy Director, Legislation
Vice, Donna Arduin, Member
Director, Department of Finance

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assembly member Hannah-Beth Jackson
Assembly member Patty Berg
Kristin Stauffacher,
Vice, Senator Michael J. Machado
Jeff Arthur,
Vice, Assembly Member Hannah-Beth Jackson
Mary Morgan,
Vice, Assembly Member Patty Berg
Adrian Alvord,
Vice, Assembly Member Fran Pavley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Al Wright

Staff Present:

- Al Wright, Executive Director
- John P. Donnelly, Assistant Executive Director
- Dave Means, Assistant Executive Director
- William Gallup, Senior Land Agent
- Steven Christensen, Senior Land Agent
- Linda Drake, Senior Land Agent
- Randy Nelson, Senior Land Agent
- Debra Townsend, Senior Land Agent
- Terri Muzik, Associate Land Agent
- Marilyn Cundiff, Public Land Management Specialist
- Bonnie Turner, Public Land Management Specialist
- Peter Perrine, Wetlands Program Manager
- Scott Clemons, Riparian Program Manager
- Tony Chappelle, Public Land Management Specialist
- Roxanne Woodward, Budget Officer
- Ajit Bindra, Associate Budget Analyst
- Gary Cantrell, Research Analyst
- Ken Morefield, Research Analyst
- Jennifer Smith, Staff Services Analyst
- Maureen Rivera, Executive Assistant
- Jan Beeding, Office Technician
- Elena Salas, Secretary
- Mary Grande, Secretary

Others Present:

- David Myerson, Resource Opportunity Group
- Chris Hayes, Department of Fish and Game
- John Siperek, Department of Fish and Game
- N. Jamahl Butler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jennifer Johnson, The Nature Conservancy
- Phil Bassett, California Deer Association
- Jim Swanson, Department of Fish and Game
- Sonia Jacques, Trust for Public Land
- Julia Belson, Trust for Public Land
- Anne McMahon, The Nature Conservancy
- Nita Vail, California Rangeland Trust
- Michelle Clark, California Rangeland Trust
- Margaret Connell, City of Goleta
- Debra Geiler, Trust for Public Land
- Carla Frisk, Trust for Public Land
- Jack Moluduof, HRM
- Mary Morgan, Office of Assembly Member Patty Berg
- Casey Stone, Yolo Land and Cattle Company
- Kathy Kelb, Yolo Land Trust
- Susan LaGande, California Cattlemen's Association
- Kathy Loftus, California Cattlemen's Association
- Pat Veesart
- Natasha Hunt

Tony Lucchesi
Sophie Lucchesi
Steve Arrison, Department of Fish and Game
Bob Stafford, Department of Fish and Game
Terry Palmisano, Department of Fish and Game
Henry Colette, California Deer Association
Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game
Brian Cashore, Inyo County Water Department
Dave Feliz, Department of Fish and Game
Scott Stone, California Rangeland Trust
Casey Stone, California Rangeland Trust
Hank Stone, California Rangeland Trust
Laurie Archambault, State Parks
Bill Beechinor
Bob Becchinor
Kevin Kester
Darrel Sweet, California Cattlemen's Association

2. Election of Chair

Mr. Ryan Broddrick nominated Mr. Jim Kellogg as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Funding Status Informational

(a) 2003-04 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$500,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(99,270.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$400,730.00

(b) 2003-04 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$20,620,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(1,332,000.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$19,288,000.00

(c) 2002-03 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$20,664,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(6,483,919.00)
Unallocated Balance	\$14,180,081.00

(d) 2001-02 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$19,963,500.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(13,585,520.70)
Unallocated Balance	\$6,377,979.30

(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 Conservancy 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 \$38,000,000.00
 [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)]
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (20,167,287.33)
 - Unallocated Balance \$17,832,712.67

- (h) 2003-04 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget
 - Governor's Budget \$8,500,000.00
 (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)
 - 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 \$2,500,000.00
 (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)
 - 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 (95,336,597.00)
 - Unallocated Balance \$177,663,403.00

- (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 (20,025,135.00)
 - Unallocated Balance \$12,474,865.00

(l)	2002-03 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Continuously Appropriated	\$814,350,000.00
	(Sections 79565 and 79572)	
	Less 2003-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF	(21,000,000.00)
	from Section 79565	
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(422,359,249.73)
	Unallocated Balance	\$370,990,750.27
(m)	2003-04 Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget (Pursuant to Chapter 588,	\$5,000,000.00
	Statutes of 2001)	
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(0.00)
	Unallocated Balance	\$5,000,000.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund (a)	\$400,730.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (b), (c) and (d)	\$39,846,060.30
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)	\$23,273,215.67
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (h), (i) and (j)	\$212,663,403.00
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (k) and (l)	\$383,465,615.27
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	(33,510,734.00)
Tax Credit Available	\$66,489,266.00

At the request of the Department of Finance, the Wildlife Conservation Board will continue the suspension of the NHPTCA program through June 30, 2004. The Board will not be accepting applications for consideration under the Program during this time.

4. Special Project Planning Account Informational

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

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

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

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

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

5. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 7 through 14 and 27)

Mr. Wright reported that Consent Item 6, Approval of Minutes, would not be considered at this time due to the absence of former Board members to approve those Minutes, and that the Minutes would be considered at a future meeting. Mr. Wright stated that the Board would be considering Consent Items 7 through 14, and Item 27 which was added to the final agenda.

Mr. Wright reported that in regard to one of the projects on the Consent Calendar, a project located in Yolo County, the Board received a letter from the Delta Protection Commission that raised some issues previously brought to the Board's attention a couple of years ago during an expansion to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Mr. Wright introduced Mr. Banky Curtis, Regional Manager of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and asked him to reiterate the DFG's commitments to resolving these issues. Mr. Curtis explained that previous concerns were expressed by both the County and the Delta Protection Commission and the DFG agreed to address all of those concerns with the acquisition of the previous Glide Ranch. He stated that it is the DFG's plan to roll this land into that same program, that the DFG worked diligently to meet those commitments and it appears they have been working well and everyone seems

to be pleased with what the DFG is doing in that area. Mr. Curtis again stated that the DFG plans to treat this land as if it were part of the original agreement, applying the conditions that were stated in the letter from Director Hight to this property as well. Mr. Curtis stated that the DFG supports the Commission's concerns and will respond in writing to the Delta Protection Commission reaffirming the Department's commitment.

It was moved by Mr. Kellogg that the Board approve the Consent Calendar items 7 through 14 and 27, as proposed in the individual agenda explanations, including funding as noted therein.

Motion carried.

- *6. Approval of Minutes – September 30, 2003 and November 18, 2003 Meetings

This item was withdrawn from consideration at this time and will be considered at a later meeting.

- *7. Recovery of Funds

The following projects previously authorized by the Board are now completed, and some have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It was recommended that the following totals be recovered and that the projects be closed.

\$52,820.00 to the General Fund
\$42,319.00 to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund
\$485,686.56 to the Habitat Conservation Fund
\$0.18 to the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund
\$30.00 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund
\$0.00 to the River Parkway Sub Account
\$1,322.72 to the California Wildlife, Coastal, and Parkland Conservation Fund of 1988
\$1,396.00 to the Special Deposit Fund
\$708,407.00 to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund
\$269,500.00 to the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act
\$0.00 to Other

GENERAL FUND

Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Water Rights Acquisition, Tehama County

Allocated	\$60,000.00
Expended	<u>-12,660.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$47,340.00

Bixby Ranch Donation, Monterey County

Allocated	\$2,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Merced River Salmon Habitat Protection (Augmentation), Robinson Cattle Co., Merced County

Allocated	\$99,374.00
Expended	<u>-99,374.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Monrovia Wilderness Preserve, Los Angeles County

Allocated	\$8,631,593.00
Expended	<u>-8,631,593.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$-0-

Rancho Dos Vistas, Santa Barbara County

Allocated	\$6,000.00
Expended	<u>-760.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,240.00

San Bruno Mountain, Brisbane Acres, Expansion 1, San Mateo County

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

Total General Fund **\$52,820.00**

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

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansion 24, Riverside County

Allocated	\$1,086,121.00
Expended	<u>-1,086,121.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Diablo Range Conservation Area, Bear Valley Unit, Monterey County

Allocated	\$2,000,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,990,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10,000.00

Joughin Ranch, Los Angeles County

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

Mattole River Ecological Reserve, Expansions 11-14, Humboldt County

Allocated	\$866,000.00
Expended	<u>-848,576.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$17,424.00

Ramona Grasslands, San Diego County

Allocated	\$1,406,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,401,115.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,885.00

Sea West Ranch, San Luis Obispo County

Allocated	\$6,505,000.00
Expended	<u>-6,500,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

Woodson Bridge Fishing Access Improvements, San Joaquin County

Allocated	\$326,270.00
Expended	<u>-326,260.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10.00

Total Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund \$42,319.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Allensworth ER, Expansions 7-14, Tulare County

Allocated	\$6,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,467.04</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,532.96

Canebrake Ecological Reserve, Cap Canyon Unit, Kern County

Allocated	\$572,000.00
Expended	<u>-566,279.80</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,720.20

Canebrake ER, Cap Canyon Unit, Expansion 1, Kern County

Allocated	\$795,000.00
Expended	<u>-789,760.91</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,239.09

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansions 19-20, Riverside County

Allocated	\$1,035,736.00
Expended	<u>-1,025,336.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10,400.00

Fitzhugh Creek, Modoc County

Allocated	\$1,332,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,309,878.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$22,122.00

Heenan Lake Water and Storage Rights, Expansion 3, Alpine County

Allocated	\$1,570,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,562,572.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7,428.00

Lokern Ecological Reserve, Expansion 21, Kern County

Allocated	\$1,500.00
Expended	<u>-1,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Merced River Salmon Habitat Protection (Augmentation), Robinson Cattle Co., Merced County

Allocated	\$177,401.00
Expended	<u>-177,401.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Musty Buck Ridge Conservation Easement, Butte County

Allocated	\$1,765,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,760,047.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,952.50

Pitkin Marsh Ecological Reserve, Sonoma County

Allocated	\$283,200.00
Expended	<u>-9,485.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$273,715.00

Riparian Habitat Restoration, Harper's Well, Imperial County

Allocated	\$12,000.00
Expended	<u>-12,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Riparian Habitat Restoration, Sacramento River WLA (Jacinto and Princeton), Glenn and Colusa Counties

Allocated	\$310,650.00
Expended	<u>-310,650.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Area, Baumberg Tract, Alameda County

Allocated	\$2,650,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,649,999.78</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.22

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Eel River Wildlife Area, Humboldt County

Allocated	\$115,000.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$115,000.00

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, North Grasslands (Featherston), Merced County

Allocated	\$83,000.00
Expended	<u>-55,423.41</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$27,576.59

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, South Grasslands (Rooney Ranch), Merced County

Allocated	\$100,000.00
Expended	<u>-90,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10,000.00

Total Habitat Conservation Fund **\$485,686.56**

INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Wetland Habitat Restoration (Provo), Yuba County

Allocated	\$50,000.00
Expended	<u>-49,999.82</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.18

Total Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund **\$0.18**

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Woodson Bridge Fishing Access Improvements (Augmentation), Tehama County

Allocated	\$58,135.00
Expended	<u>-58,105.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$30.00

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund **\$30.00**

RIVER PARKWAY SUB ACCOUNT

Riparian Habitat Restoration, Sacramento River Wildlife Area (Jacinto and Princeton), Glenn/Colusa County

Allocated	\$104,350.00
Expended	<u>-104,350.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Total River Parkway Sub Account **\$0.00**

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL, AND PARKLAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Area, Baumberg Tract, Alameda County

Allocated	\$4,273,324.00
Expended	<u>-4,272,001.28</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,322.72

Total California Wildlife, Coastal, and Parkland Conservation Fund of 1988 **\$1,322.72**

SPECIAL DEPOSIT FUND

Lokern Ecological Reserve, Expansion 20, Kern County

Allocated	\$18,000.00
Expended	<u>-16,604.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,396.00

Total Special Deposit Fund **\$1,396.00**

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

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansions 19-20, Riverside County

Allocated	\$109,264.00
Expended	<u>-109,264.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve, Expansions 24-25, Riverside County

Allocated	\$2,996,879.00
Expended	<u>-2,996,879.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Monrovia Wilderness Preserve, Los Angeles County

Allocated	\$403,407.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$403,407.00

Old Dutch Cleanser Mine (Red Rock Canyon State Park), Kern County

Allocated	\$305,000.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$305,000.00

Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund **\$708,407.00**

NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000

All Tax Credit projects listed below were approved by the Board prior to July 1, 2002.

Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Water Rights Acquisition, Tehama County

Accepted Donation	\$269,500.00
Expended	<u>-0-</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$269,500.00

At the August 30, 2001 meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Board approved the donation of property for inclusion under the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit (NHPTC) Act of 2000. The project did not go forward as planned. This entry is to officially close the project for the Board.

Bixby Ranch Donation, Monterey County

Accepted Donation	\$2,970,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,970,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Eagle Ridge Conservation Easement, Calaveras County

Accepted Donation	\$1,430,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,430,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Hart Ranch Donation, Lake County

Accepted Donation	\$20,350.00
Expended	<u>-20,350.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Joel McCrea Ranch Conservation Area (Donation), Ventura County

Accepted Donation	\$2,370,500.00
Expended	<u>-2,370,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Madera Farmland Conservation Area (Donation), Madera County

Accepted Donation	\$93,500.00
Expended	<u>-93,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Madera Farmland Conservation Area Phase II, Madera County

Accepted Donation	\$619,226.00
Expended	<u>-619,226.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Mid-State Bank Donations, San Luis Obispo County

Accepted Donation	\$1,284,250.00
Expended	<u>-1,284,250.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Rancho Dos Vistas, Santa Barbara County

Accepted Donation	\$3,025,000.00
Expended	<u>-3,025,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Rasmussen Donation - Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Los Angeles County

Accepted Donation	\$2,882,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,882,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve, Sacramento County

Accepted Donation	\$698,500.00
Expended	<u>-698,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

San Timoteo Canyon, Riverside County

Accepted Donation	\$1,081,158.00
Expended	<u>-1,081,158.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Tomales Bay, State Park Donation, Marin County

Accepted Donation	\$651,750.00
Expended	<u>-651,750.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Tuna Canyon Conservation Area, Los Angeles County

Accepted Donation	\$16,115,000.00
Expended	<u>-16,115,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Total Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 **\$0.00**

OTHER

Lower Clear Creek, Shasta County

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

At the November 22, 2002 meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Board approved the acquisition of 20± acres of land, and authority to accept Cantara Trustee Council funding into a designated escrow account to affect the purchase of said land, for the purposes of riparian and salmonid habitat protection. The acquisition has been completed. This entry is to officially close the project for the Board.

Napa-Sonoma Wildlife Area, Solano County

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

At the May 18, 2001 meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Board approved the transfer of control and possession of 1.2± acres of land with Department of Fish and Game's Napa-Sonoma Wildlife Area (White Slough Unit) to the Department of Transportation for the widening of Highway 37 (also known as Marine World Parkway) in Vallejo, California. The project is now completed. This entry is to officially close the project for the Board.

Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area, Bahia Wetlands Unit, Change in Scope, Marin County

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

At the November 22, 2002 meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Board approved a change in scope for a previously approved grant to the Marine Audubon Society to assist in the acquisition of 645± acres near the mouth of the Petaluma River in the San Pablo Bay/San Francisco Bay tidelands at the easterly terminus of Bahia Drive in the City of Novato. The original grant was approved by the Board at its meeting on August 22, 2002. This change in scope was to authorize the acceptance of 355± acres of the 645± acres as an addition to the Department of Fish and Game's Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area. The project is now completed. This entry is to officially close the project for the Board.

Total Other	\$0.00
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As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the recovery of funds for the projects listed on pages 9 through 18 of these minutes and close the projects accounts. Recovery totals include \$52,820.00 to the General Fund, \$42,319.00 to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, \$485,686.56 to the Habitat Conservation Fund, \$0.18 to the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund, \$30.00 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund, \$0.00 to the River Parkway Sub Account, \$1,322.72 to the California Wildlife, Coastal, and Parkland Conservation Fund of 1988, \$1,396.00 to the Special Deposit Fund, \$708,407.00 to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund, \$269,500.00 to the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act and \$0.00 to Other.

Motion carried.

- *8. Fund Transfer of Various Projects \$476,495.23

The Board has identified outstanding General Fund obligations that could be met by other appropriate funding sources, thereby helping to close significant budget gaps. This item is to shift the contract and/or grant balance of previously approved General Fund projects to an alternative fund source to generate General Fund savings for the current year budget. These sources include the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.355 and the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650.

Project Name and County	Board Approval Date	General Fund Amount	Shift to Fund
San Joaquin River Restoration Augmentation (Parkway Exotics Removal), Fresno and Madera Counties	05/18/01	\$61,157.23	5096.355 (Prop. 12)
San Joaquin River Parkway, Lewis S. Eaton Trail, Fresno County	08/30/01	\$226,473.00	5096.355 (Prop. 12)
Lake Redding Fishing Access, Shasta County	2/23/01	\$82,125.00	5096.650 (Prop. 40)
Turtle Bay Boat Ramp, Shasta County	11/22/00	\$106,740.00	5096.650 (Prop. 40)
Total Fund Shifts		\$476,495.23	

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the transfer of funds as described, to shift the contract and/or grant balance of previously approved General Fund projects, totaling \$476,495.23, to an alternative fund source(s) to generate General Fund savings for the current year budget; alternative sources include the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.355 and the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650.

Motion carried.

- *9. Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, Expansion 4, 5, and 6 \$-0-
(Change of Scope), Riverside County

This proposal was to consider a "change of scope" for an acquisition project approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) on May 14, 2003, involving the 3,850± acres of land in south-western Riverside County. Additional land areas have been identified and the proposal changed to provide for the acquisition of numerous ownership interests totalling 4,330± acres of land which

would include fee title to 3,100± acres, conservation easements covering 1,100± acres of land held by public entities and conservation easements covering 130± acres of land held by private property owners. The properties will be owned by the State as an expansion of the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG's) Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve and are essential to protecting a three mile linkage between the Santa Rosa Plateau and 250,000± acres of public land including the San Mateo Wilderness Area, Cleveland National Forest and Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base to the north and to the west.

The project area is located on Clinton Keith/Tenaja Road about two miles southwest of the town of Murrieta. Interstate Highway 15 is about three miles easterly of the Plateau and is the major connector highway between Los Angeles the Inland Empire and San Diego. The DFG owns approximately 1,150± acres and when combined with the properties owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Riverside County and the Metropolitan Water District, the total area protected is in excess of 8,200± acres.

Initial acquisition of the Ecological Reserve began in 1991, and has grown through public and private acquisitions and exchanges to its current size. Development has been steady in the immediate area of the reserve over the past 10 years with a number of homes built on privately owned parcels within the corridor. Additional construction and development within the acquisition area is considered to be detrimental to the corridor and to the free movement and migration of the many different species that live there.

The DFG has identified Expansions 4 and 5 and 6 as being critical to the continuance of the Ecological Reserve and has recommended the purchase of these proposed properties. The Santa Rosa Plateau is a biologically diverse area which supports over 450 native plant species, 27 reptiles, 35 mammals, at least 173 bird species and an unknown number of invertebrates. The Ecological Reserve contains over 1,500 acres of oak woodland with the last remaining naturally producing Engelmann oak groves in southern California. There are about 3,000 acres of native grassland crossed with bands of southern sycamore and live oak riparian woodland habitat. There are also numerous vernal pool areas and extensive coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats. The creeks that drain the Santa Rosa Plateau contain deep pools, called Tenajas, which provide a year-round water source. There are at least 50 rare, threatened and endangered species, and species of special concern on the reserve, including 11 plants, 26 birds, five amphibians, four reptiles, four mammals and several invertebrates. Large mammals using the Plateau include mountain lion, deer and badger.

When acquired, the acreage will be managed by the DFG in conjunction with the existing Ecological Reserve. It is anticipated that the area will offer passive recreational uses, compatible with protection of the habitat. TNC has agreed to establish an endowment in an amount not less than \$3,500,000.00 to cover operation and maintenance costs for the Santa Rosa Plateau, into perpetuity.

The market value of Expansions 4, 5 and 6, as determined by appraisal and as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) is \$9,448,200.00. The current owner, TNC is donating nearly \$3,000,000.00 in value to the State. At its meeting in May 2003, the WCB approved an allocation of \$6,500,000.00 for the purchases, together with \$30,000.00 to cover acquisition-related expenses including appraisal, escrow and title fees and review fees by the DGS. The previously approved allocation, together with the donation from TNC, will provide for the proposed acquisition of the 3,100± acres (Expansion 4), the acceptance of the assignment of conservation easements over 1,100± acres of land from public entities (Expansion 5) and the acquisition of conservation easements over 130± acres of land owned by private individuals (Expansion 6).

The proposed acquisitions are exempt from The California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and Section 15325, Class 25 as the transfer of ownership of an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) was filed on May 23, 2003. A revised NOE will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the WCB.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the change of scope with no additional funds authorized other than approved as WCB Agenda Item 29, May 14, 2003, for Expansions 4, 5 and 6 as proposed; 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. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the change of scope with no additional funds authorized other than approved as WCB Agenda Item 29, May 14, 2003, for Expansions 4, 5 and 6 as proposed; 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.

- *10. San Joaquin River Parkway, Lewis S. Eaton Trail \$168,000.00
Augmentation, Fresno County

This proposal was to consider the allocation of funding for a cooperative project with the City of Fresno to augment an existing contract to construct approximately two miles of multi-use trails and public access facilities on portions of the proposed twenty-two mile San Joaquin River Parkway, Lewis S. Eaton Trail, in the City of Fresno.

The San Joaquin River Parkway is defined in State Legislation as approximately 5,900 acres within a 22 mile long area between Friant Dam and State Route 99 on the San Joaquin River. The San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) was created in 1992 to preserve and enhance the San Joaquin River's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its valued cultural and natural resources and provide educational and recreational opportunities to the local communities. Part of the SJRC's mission is the creation of the Lewis S. Eaton Trail, a 22-mile long trail route spanning the length of the San Joaquin River Parkway. To date approximately six miles of trail have been constructed. This project will add an additional two miles of trail, connecting Riverbottom Park to Camp Pashayan. The new trail will offer new recreational opportunities for area residents by providing much needed access to the San Joaquin River and associated riparian habitat. The trail will facilitate bank fishing, bird watching, canoe launching, hiking and biking.

The Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) 1999-2000 budget contained General Fund monies and the 2000-2001 budget contained Propositions 12 and 13 monies with control language directing that these funds be used for SJRC programs. The SJRC, at its April 19, 2001, Board meeting, approved a request asking the WCB to allocate funds to the City of Fresno for the proposed trail project. Specifically, the proposal included the construction of approximately two miles of natural surface (6'-10' wide) multi-use trails, restoration of select sections of riparian forest, erosion control using native vegetation, connections to urban trails, a vault restroom, drinking fountain and hand/foot wash station, fencing and interpretive and directional signage.

The WCB approved funding for this project in August of 2001 and construction of the project ensued shortly thereafter. The project was divided into three sections, a Riverside Trail Section adjacent to Riverside Golf Course, a Riverside Trail right-of-way section from the golf course to the railroad tracks and a Riverbottom Park and loop trail section from the railroad tracks to Riverbottom Park. To date the Riverside Trail section has been completed. Design and permitting are complete for the Riverside Trail right-of-way section and design and permitting are nearly complete for the Riverbottom Park and loop trail section.

Thus far construction and design costs have exceeded expectations due to the challenges of permitting a project in the floodplain. Furthermore, certain funding originally expected to be available for the project did not materialize. Therefore, the City of Fresno has determined that additional funding will be needed to successfully complete the project. Consequently the SJRC Board approved a request for additional funding for the project at its meeting of October 16, 2003.

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

Riverside Trail Section

Description:	Estimated Cost
Property Line Survey	\$15,000.00
Mobilization	7,000.00
Construction Staking	9,000.00
Rough Grading of 6' wide Trail Section	35,000.00
Fine Grading and Resin Application to Trail	70,000.00
Composite Wood Water Bars for Across Trail Drainage	1,000.00
Drainage Culverts	7,000.00
Dry Stack Walls	37,000.00
Chain Link Safety Fencing	31,000.00
High Safety Fencing to Protect Hikers from Stray Golf Balls	45,000.00
Signage	6,000.00
Demolition of Existing Golf Cart House	9,000.00
Riparian Restoration between Trail and San Joaquin River	32,000.00
Erosion Control	20,000.00
Engineering and Design	38,000.00
Administration & Construction Management	35,000.00
Contingencies	30,000.00
ESTIMATED SUBTOTAL:	\$427,000.00

Riverside Trail Right-of-Way

Description:	Estimated Cost
Construction Staking	\$2,000.00
Rough Grading of 6' Wide Trail Section	10,000.00
Fine Grading and Resin Application to Trail	11,160.00
Composite Wood Water Bars for Across Trail Drainage	625.00
Drainage Culverts	1,000.00
Riparian Restoration Between Trail and River	6,000.00
Erosion Control	15,000.00
Safety Structure under Railroad Bridge to Protect Trail Users from Falling Objects	40,000.00
Engineering and Design	17,000.00
Administration and Construction Management	15,000.00
Contingencies	13,000.00
ESTIMATED SUBTOTAL:	\$130,785.00

Riverbottom Park and Loop Trail

Description:	Estimated Cost
Property Line Survey	\$10,000.00
Mobilization	5,000.00
Construction Staking	3,000.00
Rough Grading of 6' wide Trail Section	22,000.00
Fine Grading and Resin Application to Trail	7,000.00
Drainage Culverts	2,000.00
Post and Steel Fencing/Access Gate	10,000.00
Signage	3,000.00
Riparian and Upland Restoration	60,000.00
Erosion Control	5,000.00
Restroom/Drinking Fountain	
Hand Washing Station	55,000.00
Trash Receptacles	3,500.00
Irrigation	2,000.00
Engineering and Design	16,000.00
Administration & Construction Management	22,000.00
Contingencies	10,000.00
ESTIMATED SUBTOTAL:	\$235,500.00
Riverside Trail	\$427,000.00
Riverside Trail Right-of-Way	\$130,785.00
Riverbottom Park and Loop Trail	\$235,500.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$793,285.00
Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
WCB (Original project)	\$578,430.00
San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust (Original project)	21,855.00
Developer fees (Original project)	25,000.00
WCB (Augmentation)	168,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$793,285.00

The City has completed the California Environmental Quality Act process for the entire project and is in the process of obtaining environmental permits for the Riverbottom Park and loop trail section of the project. The City has agreed to operate and maintain the project for 25 years.

Staff recommended the Board approve this augmentation as proposed; allocate \$168,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.355; 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. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve this augmentation as proposed; allocate \$168,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.355; 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. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Expansion 6, Yolo County \$180,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 119± acres of land as an addition to the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area for the preservation of historic wetlands, wintering habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, threatened and endangered species and other wetland associated species.

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area lies south of Interstate 80, east of County Road 104 and within and adjacent to the Yolo Bypass, in Yolo County. The property may be accessed from Interstate 80 off Chiles Road, then over the west levee of the bypass across State property.

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is a result of a long-term cooperative effort to preserve wetlands and associated habitats of the Yolo Basin. Since the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB's) initial acquisition of 3,150± acres in 1991, there have been five expansions, increasing the wildlife area to over 16,500± acres. As part of the initial acquisition, the State acquired a Conservation Easement and a Right of First Refusal to purchase the underlying fee interest to the 119± acres at some time in the future. The property owners have recently received an offer to purchase the 119± acres. While the property is currently used in a manner that is consistent with the DFG goals for maximizing wildlife habitat, the DFG is concerned that an alternate use by new owners will limit the flexibility with regard to overall wildlife area management. As a result, the State proposes to exercise the Right of First Refusal to purchase the fee title. Once acquired, the property will be managed by the DFG. This habitat is suitable for several threatened and endangered species such as the Greater Sandhill crane, the Peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, the yellow-billed cuckoo and habitat for the giant garter snake.

The existing wildlife area provides the public with a managed public hunting program for waterfowl and upland game and offers educational programs through the Yolo Basin Foundation. Additionally, the DFG provides programs for fishing, wildlife viewing and other nature-oriented activities.

Flood control will continue to be the primary purpose of all property owned and managed by the DFG within the Yolo Bypass. The DFG is signatory to an agreement with the Department of Water Resources, the State Reclamation Board, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the management and maintenance of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area as a part of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project. If necessary, the agreement can be amended to ensure that future management of this proposed addition to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area will not compromise flood control purposes.

The CalFed Bay-Delta Program recognizes, in its Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Study/Report of Decision, the benefits of protected and restored habitats in the Yolo Bypass. While the CalFed Program will not be contributing funding toward the proposed acquisition of the property, the CalFed Ecosystem Restoration Program will be providing a grant to the Yolo Basin Foundation to develop a locally based management strategy for the entire Yolo Bypass, including the subject property.

The owner has agreed to sell the subject property at the appraised value of \$175,000.00, approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). In addition, an estimated \$5,000.00 will be needed for acquisition related costs including appraisal, escrow and title fees and the DGS' review fees.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15325, Class 25, as the transfer of ownership of an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exception will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the WCB.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$180,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786(d) IWCP; authorize staff to enter into the agreements necessary to complete 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. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$180,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786(d) IWCP; authorize staff to enter into the agreements necessary to complete this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *12. Eagle Lake Fishing Access Improvements \$200,135.00
Augmentation, Lassen County

This proposal was to consider the allocation of funding to augment an existing contract with the Spalding Community Services District (District) as part of a cooperative project with the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) and the District to improve public access at the District's Eagle Lake Fishing Access located in the community of Spalding Tract.

In 1975, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) funded construction of a concrete boat ramp, boarding floats, sanitary facilities and a parking area at the Eagle Lake Fishing Access on the north-western shore of Eagle Lake. At this time the site was owned and operated by Lassen County. In 1990, the WCB funded the extension of the ramp and boarding floats to facilitate launches at low water levels. Title to the Eagle Lake Fishing Access was acquired in 1999 by the District from Lassen County. At this time the District took over operation and maintenance responsibilities of the existing facilities.

Eagle Lake is located 14 miles north of Susanville in a mountainous basin in Lassen County. Situated some 5,100 feet above sea level, it is the second largest freshwater lake in California covering approximately 44 square miles. The lake is widely recognized and highly valued for its fishery, wildlife, recreational and visual resources. By far, the most popular and productive sport fishery here is the Eagle Lake trout. This remarkable fish was on the brink of extinction several decades ago and has since recovered thanks to the efforts of the Department of Fish Game (DFG) and the WCB. In the forties and fifties the WCB funded the construction a flow maintenance dam on Pine Creek as well as a hatchery both of which were successful in helping recover the Eagle Lake trout population. People of all ages and abilities come to the area from all over the state to fish and otherwise enjoy the many outdoor sporting opportunities available here. The District estimated 30,000 activity days for anglers at Eagle Lake in 2001.

The current proposal before the WCB will augment an existing contract with the District to construct a barrier-free fishing pier, a parking lot for the pier, a public courtesy mooring and concrete access trails. These trails will enable mobility impaired individuals to better utilize the area and encourage others to avoid trampling the wetland vegetation along the shoreline. The DBW funding will be used to replace the more than 25 year old boat ramp and parking lot and to construct a second ramp, restroom, fish cleaning station, access road and walkways to better serve the many users of the Eagle Lake Fishing Access.

Prior to the WCB approval of the initial funding allocation in November 2002, the District had prepared an Initial Study and a Negative Declaration in order to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Further, the District had agreed to operate and maintain the project for 25 years, and to provide a free lease to the State for the duration of the operating agreement.

Following WCB approval, the District secured all of the necessary permits for the project and advertised for construction bids in August 2003. Unfortunately the bids came in higher than expected when the original project budget was prepared. Consequently, the District has concluded that additional funding will be necessary to complete the project. The proposed funding augmentation will cover the funding shortfall and ensure completion of the project.

Cost estimates for this proposal including the augmentation have been developed by the District and have been reviewed by staff are as follows:

Description:	Estimated Cost
Engineering and Design	\$21,500.00
Environmental Studies	28,500.00
Excavation	15,000.00
Riprap	16,800.00
Fishing Platform and Access Ramp	215,240.00
Parking	33,750.00
Public Courtesy Mooring	88,900.00
Wetland Protection Walkways	32,000.00
Contingencies	8,310.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$460,000.00

Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
Wildlife Conservation Board (Original Project)	\$260,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board (Augmentation)	200,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$460,000.00

In addition to the costs listed above \$135.00 will be required for Department of General Services (DGS) review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for this augmentation to \$200,135.00. Staff have applied for a reimbursement grant from the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program which will provide the WCB with a 75 percent reimbursement of all eligible project costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$200,135.00.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, Minor Capital Outlay; 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. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; allocate \$200,135.00.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, Minor Capital Outlay; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. Motion carried.

- *13. Jacoby Creek Forest, Expansion 3, Humboldt County \$1,130,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 20± acres of private land and the subsequent transfer of the property to the Jacoby Creek Land Trust (the Land Trust) for a cooperative project with the Land Trust and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for the protection of habitat along Jacoby Creek, its tributaries and mature second growth Redwood forest, southeast of the City of Arcata in Humboldt County.

Specifically, the subject property is located along Jacoby Creek Road outside the city limits of the City of Arcata, about two miles southeasterly of the downtown area of Arcata. Land use in the area consists of single family homes on small acreage parcels as well as timber production zones along the steeper slopes of the Jacoby Creek drainage. Topography of the subject ranges from level areas near Jacoby Creek to modest and steep slopes. The subject property is approximately 1.5 miles west of the Jacoby Creek Forest (800 ± acres) owned by the City of Arcata.

The primary purpose of this proposed acquisition is to protect and maintain the health of the limited existing old growth forest habitat and also create a riparian reserve area adjacent to the Jacoby Creek corridor. Approximately 1,200± lineal feet of the middle reaches of Jacoby Creek is located on this property. This property is an integral part of the Jacoby Creek watershed and in large part contributes to the Humboldt Bay ecosystem that provides an adequate water supply to maintain habitat for fish, waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other water associated wildlife. This acquisition will help insure the integrity of the watershed and enhance the downstream habitat restoration investments that have been made in the Humboldt Bay Wildlife Area, Jacoby Creek/Gannon Slough Enhancement Area.

Most of the middle and upper reaches of Jacoby Creek have traditionally been used for timber production. The subject is primarily second growth with a few small stands of old growth timber still remaining. The lower portion of Jacoby Creek westerly of the subject property was originally part of Humboldt Bay's extensive intertidal salt marsh and mud flats prior to the construction of the Northwestern Railroad line adjacent to the bay and later the construction of State Highway 101. Construction of these facilities as well as timber harvest in the upper watershed and conversion of the riparian areas to agricultural uses in the lower watershed have impacted Jacoby Creek. There are a number of listed and sensitive species that should benefit from this acquisition, including the northern red-legged frog, the foothill yellow-legged frog, northern spotted owl, Coopers hawk, osprey, yellow warbler, sharp shinned hawk, Pacific fisher, white footed vole, red tree vole. Additionally coastal cutthroat trout, coho salmon, steelhead and the tidewater goby would all benefit from this acquisition.

Because of timing and project constraints, the property will be acquired by the State and then subsequently transferred to The Land Trust. The Land Trust will assume day-to-day management of the property in consultation with the DFG and the City of Arcata and will include public access and habitat protections.

The owner has agreed to sell this property for the appraised value of \$1,100,000.00, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). It is estimated that an additional \$30,000.00 will be needed for the DGS review costs, escrow fees and title insurance expenses, bringing the total amount requested for this project to \$1,130,000.00.

The DFG has recommended the acquisition of this property as part of the Humboldt Bay Jacoby Creek/ Gannon Slough, Conceptual Area Protection Plan. There are no claims of sovereign State land ownership over any of the property. The acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, under Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and Section 15325, Class 25, as the transfer of ownership of an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$1,130,000.00 to cover the acquisition and related costs from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565; authorize subsequent transfer of the property to the Land Trust for management purposes; authorize staff to enter appropriate agreements necessary to carry out this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Mr. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$1,130,000.00 to cover the acquisition and related costs from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565; authorize subsequent transfer of the property to the Land Trust for management purposes; authorize staff to enter appropriate agreements necessary to carry out this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *14. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion 31, \$15,000.00
Del Norte County

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the acquisition of 5.69± acres of privately-owned improved land as an expansion of the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Lake Earl Wildlife Area. The acquisition 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 wildlife area. The subject parcel is located north of Crescent City near the north shore of Lake Earl on Lower Lake Road.

The Lake Earl Wildlife Area was acquired as a result of the Keene-Nedgedly Act of 1975, which directed the DFG and the 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 5,743 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 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 is used by both peregrine falcon and bald eagle. The nonnative perennial grasses are managed on the wildlife area as foraging habitat for the Aluetian Canada goose. Over 95 percent of the Aluetian Canada goose population stages in the agricultural fields on or adjacent to the wildlife area. 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 wildlife area, including bald eagle, Peregrine falcon and the California brown pelican.

The acquisition of the subject property would 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 habitat protection and restoration and would add significant buffer for the wildlife area. The DFG has identified the

subject property as being within a Significant Natural Area (Lake Earl) and has recommended the purchase of this parcel, which would be managed as an expansion of the existing wildlife area.

The property owners have agreed to sell the property at its appraised value of \$180,000.00, approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The 5.6± acre parcel is improved with a 1,568 square foot single family residence and an 888 square foot barn. The owner-occupants are eligible for relocation benefits in the form of purchase differential and moving expenses.

It is intended that the subject parcels be acquired and relocation benefits be paid using the Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant in the approximate amount of \$205,000.00 from the USFWS. In addition to the USFWS grant, it is anticipated that an allocation by the WCB of \$15,000.00 is needed for 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 the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes and under Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of ownership interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the WCB.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the project as proposed; accept the \$205,000.00 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; allocate \$15,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, to pay for project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting it was moved by Mr. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the project as proposed; accept the \$205,000.00 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; allocate \$15,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565, to pay for project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

15. Lower Colorado River Ecological Reserve, \$11,400,000.00
Riverside County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of a single ownership totaling 1,352± acres of vacant land and water rights as the initial acquisition to establish the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Lower Colorado River Ecological Reserve near the town of Blythe, in eastern Riverside County. This acquisition will allow protection of critical river/riparian habitat and approximately 2.75± miles of frontage along the Colorado River. Mr. William Gallup briefly described the project and its location.

The project area is located along the Colorado River about four miles north (upstream) of the town of Blythe in Riverside County. Interstate Highway 10 is about four miles south of the subject property and is a major connector highway between California, Arizona, New Mexico and points east. River frontage land is at a premium all along the river. Several large holdings have been subdivided into small lots and constructions of single family residences have taken place.

This acquisition is important to meet the DFG's commitment as a participating agency to the goals of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program and its stakeholders including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) and Riverside County. The large size of this proposed land purchase, coupled with its close proximity to the Colorado River and adjoining public lands, ownership of the water rights, existing irrigation infrastructure and opportunities to purchase smaller parcels to strengthen the corridor system along the river's main channel make this property uniquely invaluable towards the conservation of declining species and the restoration of degraded habitats.

Major benefits accomplished by this acquisition would be to provide public access to a wide variety of the DFG sponsored activities on the property including upland game, waterfowl, big game hunting, fishing and Junior and Heritage special hunts. These lands would also be available for activities such as wildlife observation and hiking. The acquisition of this 1,352± acre river front property, one of the last known intact tracts, will ultimately provide for long term species and habitat protection through habitat conservation along the Lower Colorado River Basin for 56 "covered" State and or federal endangered, threatened or candidate status species identified in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. A partial list of those species include the Southwestern-willow flycatcher, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, elf owl, gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, Yuma clapper rail and California clapper rail. The adjacent Colorado River, backwaters and reservoirs would benefit the bonytail chub and the razorback sucker.

The property owner has agreed to sell the property to the State at the appraised value of \$11,330,000.00, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). It is estimated that an additional \$70,000.00 will be needed for acquisition related costs including appraisal, escrow and the title fees and review

costs by the DGS, bringing the total proposed allocation for this project to \$11,400,000.00.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15313, Class 13 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and Section 15325, Class 25 as the transfer of ownership of an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the WCB.

Mr. Gallup reported that Mr. Chris Hayes, Supervising Biologist from the Department of Fish and Game, and Ms. Sonia Jacques, Project Manager, Trust for Public Land, were in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Kellogg asked if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Ryan Broddrick asked if this proposal is consistent and complimentary to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan.

Mr. Hayes reported that it could be and they look forward to partnering with a program such as that to help meet project goals and opportunities for cost sharing for all renovation and habitat restorations that might be on the properties.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$11,400,000.00 from Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop 50), Section 79568, for the acquisition 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.

It was moved by Mr. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$11,400,000.00 from Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop 50), Section 79568, for the acquisition 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.

16. Crystal Lake Public Access, Los Angeles County \$150,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of funding for a cooperative project with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS), as a partnership project to restore the fishery at Crystal Lake by removing up to 50,000 cubic yards of sediment from the bottom of the lake, repairing an existing staircase, and installing aerators, a floating dock, a new trail and signage. The partners in this proposal include the USFS, the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps, the Angeles Volunteer Association, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The USFS also has requested a grant from Home Depot, which is under review. The project is located approximately 25 miles north of the City of Glendora in the Angeles National Forest. Mr. Peter Perrine briefly described the project and its location.

Due to its accessibility and beauty, Crystal Lake is one of the most visited lakes in the State. The WCB understood its importance early on, providing funds to purchase a water supply pipeline in 1949, only two years after the WCB was established. Most of the pipeline is still operational, though a portion was damaged in heavy winter rains in 2002/03 and has been replaced by the USFS. Those same storms, which followed a devastating fire the summer before, deposited thousands of tons of sediment into the lake and damaged a staircase between the lake and a nearby campground. The USFS has begun repairs on the other portions of the public access site, but the sedimentation in the lake limits the habitat values for the resident fish populations. The DFG plants 4,000 pounds of rainbow trout in the lake each year. The sediments also severely mar the lake's inherent beauty. While the lake will still attract many visitors, if it cannot support fish populations, it will not provide the fishing enjoyment that the public has come to expect.

For safety reasons, the Forest has been closed to the public since the fires swept through it in September 2002. This provides a unique opportunity to restore the lake and repair and construct the public access amenities without interfering with the public enjoyment of the site. As such, the USFS has committed not only to repair the existing infrastructure, but also to install a new floating dock in the lake and a new Americans with Disability Act accessible trail to the lake. However, by removing the sediment first, the fishing at the lake will be much improved. The WCB's involvement would be specific to providing funds for the removal of the sediment, thereby deepening the lake and enlarging the surface area. A deeper lake would provide cooler water and more underwater structure, benefiting the resident rainbow trout population and providing additional angling opportunities.

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

Description:	Estimated Cost
Engineering	\$10,000.00
Project Oversight and Management	6,000.00
Labor	30,000.00
Soil/water Testing	2,000.00
Lake Clearing	10,000.00
Sediment Removal	150,000.00
Aerators	15,000.00
Floating Dock	20,000.00
Trail	70,000.00
Signage	5,000.00
Staircase Repair	5,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$323,000.00

Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$150,000.00
U.S. Forest Service	97,000.00
Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps	39,000.00
Angeles Volunteer Association	10,000.00
Home Depot	25,000.00
DFG (In-kind)	2,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$323,000.00

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The USFS will complete the appropriate documentation to satisfy requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act and has agreed to manage and maintain the property for twenty-five years.

Mr. Perrine reported that Mr. Jamahl Butler, representing the U.S. Forest Service, was in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Kellogg asked if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Brodrick requested clarification regarding the anticipated completion date. Mr. Butler stated that they expected this project to be finished during the summer.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$150,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, Minor Capital Outlay; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the DFG to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Mr. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$150,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, Minor Capital Outlay; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

17. Ellwood Mesa, Santa Barbara County \$4,010,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation of a grant to the City of Goleta for a cooperative project with the State Coastal Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to assist with the City's acquisition of 136± acres located on the Pacific Ocean coastline of the West Goleta Valley, in the City of Goleta. Ms. Terri Muzik briefly described the project and its location.

The subject property is adjacent to the Coal Oil Point Reserve and University of Santa Barbara Open Space to the south and east, the Coronado Butterfly Preserve to the north and the Santa Barbara Shores Park to the west.

The property contains coastal shoreline, riparian, vernal pool, native grassland, coastal sand dune and coastal bluff scrub communities. Also on the property are internationally significant eucalyptus groves that support thousands of monarch butterflies. Each year in early October, the butterflies flock to Ellwood Mesa in the course of their winter migration. As many as 60,000 golden-winged insects travel from as far as Canada, across the Sierra Nevada, to the shelter of the eucalyptus groves on the bluff.

The subject property also contains Devereux Creek, which runs along the northern boundary of the property and a network of vernal pools. Both of these attract a variety of waterfowl and wading birds, including herons, egrets and cinnamon teal. The vast grassland hosts a range of fauna and an estimated 200 species of birds, including the white-tailed kite, northern harrier and burrowing owl. Devereux Creek is the primary source of freshwater for Devereux Slough, one of three large, coastal estuaries remaining on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County and the largest estuary on the Gaviota Coast. The Devereux Slough is an important breeding and winter roosting location for the federally threatened and State Species of Special Concern western snowy plover.

A popular coastal trail also runs along the bluff for the length of the subject property and continues into the open space on the mesa's eastern and western boundaries, spanning a two-mile corridor of undeveloped coast. The land is privately owned and plans for major development are underway. Acquisition by the City of Goleta will ensure continued public access for year-round, passive recreational uses such as hiking, picnicking or just enjoying the spectacular views afforded by the mesa.

The TPL is spearheading the fund raising efforts for this complex transaction as well as partnering with the City of Goleta on a two-pronged acquisition strategy that includes cash compensation through a mix of public and private funds, for a portion of the subject property's appraised value in exchange for developable land located at the northwestern corner of the City-owned Santa Barbara Shores Park. Development to take place in the exchanged area will be subject to standard planning procedures and approvals, as required by the City of Goleta and the Coastal Commission. The TPL has entered into an agreement to purchase the subject property from the current landowners. Once the acquisition of the subject property is completed, the TPL will transfer the land to the City of Goleta to be managed for the dual purposes of habitat preservation and passive public recreation.

Both the exchange property and the subject property have been appraised. The appraisals were reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) to determine the fair market value of each property. The landowner has agreed to sell the property for the appraised, approved fair market value.

The TPL is in the process of raising approximately \$12,000,000.00 toward the \$19,750,000.00 purchase from a variety of sources, including a community fundraising campaign aimed at private donors, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Santa Barbara County's Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund, the Department of Park and Recreation's Habitat Conservation Fund and the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program administered by Caltrans. TPL is requesting the remaining funds from two state conservation agencies - the State Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Staff proposes that the Board approve an allocation of \$4,000,000.00 in the form of a grant toward the purchase price. It is anticipated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover administrative expenses including the DGS' review costs, bringing the total proposed allocation for this project to \$4,010,000.00.

This proposed acquisition is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act Section under Class 13, Section 15313, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and under Class 25, Section 15325, as the transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed upon approval by the WCB.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received letters of support for this project from Assembly member Hannah-Beth Jackson; Jack O'Connell, former Senator and current State Superintendent of Schools; Gail Marshall, Santa Barbara County Supervisor; Cynthia Brock, Mayor of Goleta; Linda Krop, Chief Counsel, Environmental Defense Center; Michael Lunsford, President, Gaviota Coast Conservancy; Darlene Chirman, President, Santa Barbara Audubon; Maria Gordon, Acting President, Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Inc.; Mike Wondolowski, President, Citizens of Goleta Valley and Ariana Katoich,

Sierra Club. In addition to those letters, Mr. Wright received a lengthy list of supporters for this project from Assembly member Jackson.

Ms. Muzik reported that Ms. Debra Geiler and Ms. Carla Frisk, representing the Trust for Public Land, and Ms. Margaret Connell, representing the City of Goleta, were in the audience should there be any questions.

Ms. Connell thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss this project. She reported that the Mesa is one of the few areas for easy public access to the coastal bluffs along the coastal trail system. She stated that this project is a top priority for their City and that it has the unanimous support of the Council. She reported that top City staff, including the City Manager and Planning Director, have taken direct leadership on this project, dedicating considerable financial resources to the open space management plan. She complimented the developer for their willingness to work with the City and the Trust for Public Land to make this project happen. Ms. Connell shared a newspaper clipping describing the migration of the Monarch butterflies to this area. She commented that the City of Goleta will be proud to be part of preserving the Ellwood Mesa for the benefit of the entire State.

At this time Mr. Kellogg welcomed Assembly member Patty Berg to the meeting.

Assembly member Jackson stated that this property is an extraordinary spot and magnificent area, especially when the butterflies are present. She reported that this area has been subject to a lot of developmental push, and the effort to save Ellwood Mesa has been a long-standing one. Assembly member Jackson stated that this effort has brought together the community in a unanimous vote of support, both emotionally and financially, and with that support they have been able to get private funding to help with the \$4 million requested from the Wildlife Conservation Board. She commented that because of the local and statewide significance, they have been able to bring in support from all over California. Assembly member Jackson stated that besides the butterflies, recreational benefits, ocean views, and it being very accessible to the public, as the coastline gets developed this is an area that needs to be saved. She commented that without this purchase, the area could be the subject of development. She thanked former Mayor and Councilmember Connell for her active involvement in this project. She added that this property is truly a treasure for the State of California and encouraged the Board to approve this proposal.

Mr. Kellogg and Mr. Wright thanked Assembly member Jackson for her comments and strong support for Ellwood Mesa.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$4,010,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79572 (a), for the acquisition and related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Mr. Ryan Brodrick that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$4,010,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79572 (a), for the acquisition and related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

At this time Mr. Wright welcomed Ms. Adrienne Alvord, representing Assembly member Fran Pavley.

18. Santa Rosa Creek Ecological Reserve, \$765,000.00
San Luis Obispo County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of fee title to 106± acres, together with an access easement to the property, located at the northeastern edge of the coastal community of Cambria for the protection of a significant stand of Monterey pine forest and water resources important to Santa Rosa Creek. Ms. Terri Muzik briefly described the project and its location.

The subject property is situated north of Main Street, directly east of the Community of Cambria. There are established urban uses to the south and southwest, and scenic open areas and farmland located to the east.

The Cambria stand of Monterey pine is one of only three native stands in California and signature feature of the scenic viewshed along State Highway One. This proposed acquisition will protect the resource while providing opportunities for forest management and research, while also providing an important buffer from future development. Researchers have determined that the Monterey pines located on the subject property are genetically distinct from other populations and provide genetic diversity important to the sustainability of the species.

This acquisition will also directly and indirectly protect the resources of Santa Rosa Creek. The property provides upslope creek and watershed protection by supporting water quality and quantity in the creek below. By not utilizing the water wells on the property, groundwater will be maintained in the basin and thereby keep water available to the creek. The area contains suitable habitat for additional listed or sensitive animal species, the California red-legged frog, two-

striped garter snake, southwestern pond turtle, tidewater goby and yellow warbler.

Portions of the subject property have had some limited public access in association with the annual docent-led hike program that occurs through the forested portions of the adjacent Cambria Coast Ranch. The program includes eight annual hikes, limited to 20 participants each and occurring on four weekends in the spring of each year. Future public access associated with the hike program and any research or forest management activities will likely be limited to fewer than 200 people per year and only several days annually.

The fair market value of the subject property, as determined by the appraisal approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) is \$1,165,000.00. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) currently owns the property and is willing to sell to the State for \$750,000.00. It is estimated that an additional \$15,000.00 will be needed for administrative costs, including DGS review, escrow costs and title insurance.

The Nature Conservancy will transfer the property to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG); however the DFG will delegate the stewardship and management responsibilities of the property, possibly in conjunction with TNC's transfer of a conservation easement on a nearby property, as part of a joint management agreement. TNC has begun informal discussions to that end with various entities that have a stake in protection of the forest.

This proposed acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Class 13 Section 15313, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and under Class 25, Section 15325, as the transfer of ownership interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed upon approval by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Ms. Muzik reported that Ms. Anne McMahon, representing The Nature Conservancy, was in the audience should there be any questions.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$765,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for this purchase and associated 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. Dave Harper that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$765,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for this purchase and associated 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.

19. Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve, Expansion 5, \$8,120,000.00
San Luis Obispo County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider a cooperative project with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to acquire 15,350± acres as an addition to the State's Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve located in San Luis Obispo County, for the protection of several sensitive plant and animal species and to provide a direct link between the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument in eastern San Luis Obispo County. Ms. Linda Drake briefly described the project and its location.

The Carrizo Plain is located about 150 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles and lies midway between Santa Maria and Bakersfield in a valley separating the Coast and Temblor mountain ranges. The subject property (Chimineas Unit) is situated between the Los Padres National Forest to the south and the Carrizo Plain National Monument to the northeast. In 2002, the WCB acquired the southern portion of the Chimineas Ranch from TNC. The balance of the ranch will be acquired through this acquisition.

In 1985, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the DFG signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Carrizo Plain Natural Area (CPNA). Representatives of 16 public and private agencies formed a steering committee to develop the concept and objectives of the CPNA and to secure the necessary funds to purchase and manage the land. Committee representation includes San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties, the ranching industry, oil, gas and mining industries, federal and State governments and environmental groups. The area's first purchase, 82,000± acres, was by TNC in 1988. Subsequently, TNC sold a majority of the acreage to BLM. This was followed by four additional purchases by the WCB beginning in late 1988.

Former President Clinton, while in office, designated the federal lands as the Carrizo Plain National Monument (CPNM). This area allows for tremendous interpretive and educational opportunities, not only because of the incredible natural and cultural values associated with it, but also due to its close proximity to the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo metropolitan areas. As a replica of what the San Joaquin Valley was like before widespread settlement, the CPNM has been the focus of educational programming in the United States, Europe and South America.

The CPNM is the largest remaining tract of the San Joaquin Valley biogeographic province with limited human alteration containing a diverse complex of habitats with very limited distribution. It includes the largest remaining contiguous habitats for many endangered, threatened and rare species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, giant kangaroo rat and San Joaquin antelope squirrel, supporting some of the healthiest populations of these species. The CPNM also provides habitat for many State or federally listed plant species, including the California jewelflower, Hoover's wooly-star and San Joaquin wooly-threads. In addition, the area contains habitat for pronghorn antelope, mule deer, tule elk, sandhill cranes and mountain plovers.

The Department of General Services (DGS) has approved the fair market value for the subject property at \$9,000,000.00 and the property owner has agreed to sell to the State for this amount. It is estimated that an additional \$120,000.00 will be needed for appraisal, relocation benefits, environmental studies, title insurance, escrow and DGS review costs. TNC has agreed to provide \$1,000,000.00 towards the purchase price; therefore the amount needed to complete this transaction is \$8,120,000.00.

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and Section 15325, Class 25, as the transfer of ownership of an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the WCB.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received letters of support from Samuel Sweet, Associate Professor, UC Santa Barbara; Dick Dasmann, President, Arroyo Grande Sportsmen's Club; Dave Chipping, California Native Plant Society; Daniel Cooper, Audubon California; Phil Bassetti, President, California Deer Association; Kathleen Phelps, District Ranger, Los Padres National Forest; Diane Noda, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Marlene Braun, Bureau of Land Management; Roger Zachary, President, North Cuesta Audubon Society; David Roper, Chairman, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; N. Patrick Veasart, former San Luis Obispo County Planning Commissioner; Bob Lavelle, Chairman, Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County and Janet Cobb, President, California Oaks Foundation. He also reported that the Board received a letter from Ms. Judith Friend and two letters from the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, expressing concern regarding the acquisition. Mr. Wright read a sentence from the Board of Supervisors' letter which explained concerns ranging from the lack of resources the Department of Fish and Game has to manage the lands, to the loss of producing agriculture land in the county, to the removal of these private lands from the tax roles.

At this time Mr. Wright welcomed Ms. Kristin Stauffacher, representing Senator Michael Machado.

Ms. Drake reported that Mr. Bob Stafford, representing the Department of Fish and Game, was in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Kellogg asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Darrell Sweet, a rancher from Livermore, California, and President of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA), addressed the Board and read a prepared statement advocating conservation of the Chimineas Ranch through a conservation easement and strongly opposing fee title ownership by the California Department of Fish and Game. (See Attachment A)

Mr. Bob Beechinor and Mr. Bill Beechinor, neighboring ranchers to the Chimineas Ranch, addressed the Board in opposition of this purchase and stated that they oppose the purchase for reasons including they have never been given an opportunity to buy the ranch and they are concerned about the reduction in tax revenue. Mr. Beechinor stated that he is not aware of endangered habitat in the area. He explained that part of his ranch is bordered by the Los Padres National Forest, which allows public access to the forest, and has campsites located along his property boundaries. He stated this public access creates a problem during hunting season and expressed concern, considering budget constraints, that the Department of Fish and Game will have difficulty managing public access on the Chimineas Ranch property. Mr. Beechinor reported that there have been promises made to protect his property from hunters and requested the Department's assistance in keeping the public away from their property boundaries. He encouraged the Board to consider a conservation easement on the subject property.

Mr. Kevin Kester, Vice President of the San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen's Association, presented a letter and resolution from that association which opposed the purchase of the Chimineas Ranch. (See Attachment B) Mr. Kester stated that he agreed with Mr. Sweet's comments and emphasized the opinions stated in the association's letter and resolution. He commented that the practicality of meaningful and viable public access to the northern section of the Chimineas Ranch is questionable. He encouraged the Board to consider keeping the ranch in private ownership with public access, referencing passage of Assembly Bill 396 which concerned shared habitat and lands for recreation. He stated this new program promotes public access and private landowner partnerships through a contractual relationship with the Department of Fish and Game. He recommended postponing consideration of this proposal to give The California Rangeland Trust or similar nonprofit organization time to work out a solution that will save the taxpayers a great deal of money.

Ms. Kathy Loftus addressed the Board and expressed concern regarding the proposed acquisition of this land. She stated that her father owned the ranch from 1931 to 1972, developing the property into a viable working cattle and farming ranch and habitat for wildlife. Ms. Loftus shared reasons for her continued personal interest in the property, her vision for preservation of the ranch by a conservation easement and her efforts with The Nature Conservancy

to preserve the southern/lower end of the ranch. She stated that most people are opposed to the purchase of this ranch due to the possible increase in poaching on adjacent private property, land being taken out of grazing, concerns regarding fire prevention, loss of tax revenue and future management concerns. She requested the Board postpone voting on this proposal.

Mr. Pat Vessart addressed the Board in support of this proposal. Mr. Vessart stated he is a 35-year resident of San Luis Obispo County, working and living in the area and is currently the caretaker for the Goodwin Ranch, a nearby ranch owned by The Nature Conservancy. He stated he has visited the Carrizo area regularly throughout his adult life, as a birdwatcher, amateur botanist and photographer, experiencing biological resources in that area. Mr. Vessart acknowledged this area has a long history in cattle ranching and that cattle ranching is in direct competition with certain species of wildlife in the area. He commented that the opportunity to have this land in public ownership and managed to protect the biological resources in this area, at this scale, is unprecedented. He reported that real estate prices in San Luis Obispo County are going up, particularly in the coastal areas, and that this part of the County still represents a bargain to the State to be able to acquire large acreages of land and manage to protect the biological resources. Mr. Vessart stated that he has been a County planning commissioner for a number of years and has watched the gradual breakup of the large ranches and the loss of biological resources in the area. He urged the Board to approve this proposal.

Mr. Ryan Broddrick expressed his appreciation to the speakers for their testimony and passion for this proposal. He acknowledged their common interest in preserving the integrity of this ranch, either as a working cattle ranch with a conservation easement on it or as a fee acquisition. Mr. Broddrick explained that planning for the Carrizo Plains began in 1985 with the first acquisition in 1988 and that there has been a certain timeline and accumulation of interest and then the necessity to find funding to make these landscape plans a reality. He acknowledged balancing preservation of landscape through easements, acquisitions, investments and restoration by using bond monies that have been available in historic proportions over the last five years. Mr. Broddrick recognized that cattlemen and the cattle industry are a critical component to maintaining traditions as well as the biological integrity of the State and that approximately 90,000 acres in rangeland conservation have been protected in the last four or five years through actions of this Board. He stated that the opportunity for public access and the opportunity for linkage to Los Padres National Forest can create conflict where it did not previously exist. However, he hoped the Board would consider this item as in balance with what the DFG has recommended in the past, what the Board has accomplished over the last five years in supporting rangeland conservation easements and later in the agenda, consider a proposal, with broad support, for another conservation easement. Mr. Broddrick commented that he did not want to dismiss the passion or interest of the speakers that have provided suggestions and alternatives, but stated that he believes this acquisition will help complete the vision started in 1985 and complete the link to the Los Padres National Forest. He again expressed great appreciation for the public testimony.

Mr. Kellogg asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board.

At this time Mr. Kellogg introduced Senator Wesley Chesbro. Senator Chesbro welcomed Mr. Kellogg to the Capitol and Mr. Broddrick to the Department of Fish and Game. Senator Chesbro stated that he looked forward to working with Mr. Broddrick in the near future regarding resource issues that are important to his Senate District which is located on the north coast and in the North Bay area. He expressed appreciation to the Board for approving Agenda Item 13, Jacoby Creek Forest, recognizing that through public and private partnerships between various State and local agencies, the Jacoby Creek Land Trust and private landowners, the watershed may be restored to its greatest potential. Senator Chesbro acknowledged that this is a long-term effort and that the acquisition is a major step as part of that overall effort. He also expressed his support for Agenda Item 23, Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, located in the Napa Valley, stating that Napa has been renowned for its unique flood control project which recognizes that the best way to solve flood control problems is to work with nature and to begin to restore natural resources. He expressed appreciation to the Board for assisting with the restoration projects in the Napa area.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of 15,350± acres as proposed; allocate \$8,120,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565 and the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c), to pay for the acquisition cost and related project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Mr. Ryan Broddrick that the Board approve the acquisition of 15,350± acres as proposed; allocate \$8,120,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79565 and the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) (\$6,000,000.00 from Prop. 50 and \$2,120,000.00 from HCF), to pay for the acquisition cost and related project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

20. Riparian Habitat Restoration, Lower Owens River Saltcedar (Augmentation), Inyo County \$560,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of funding to augment an existing grant with the Inyo County Water Department (County) to allow for the continued control and removal of saltcedar from the Lower Owens River in Inyo County. The project is located on land owned by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Mr. Scott Clemons briefly described the project and its location.

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorized the existing grant to the County on November 28, 2001. The project's objective was to remove as much of the saltcedar as possible, with the available funding and allotted time from approximately 63 miles of the Lower Owens River channel, located below the starting point of the Los Angeles Aqueduct to the dry Owens Lake. This reach of the Lower Owens River has been essentially dry since 1913, and has been invaded by saltcedar (a.k.a. tamarisk), a nonnative plant that has very little wildlife value in comparison to the historical cottonwood/willow gallery forest that previously grew along the river. Under the terms of an agreement between the County and the LADWP, instream flows will be restored to this reach of the river within the next year or two. It is imperative that the bulk of the saltcedar is removed before that happens, so that native vegetation can reinhabit the channel and banks.

Project work began in the upper section of the river, where the densest stands of saltcedar were located, and has proceeded downstream. Since being awarded the initial grant, the County has successfully cleared saltcedar from approximately 18 miles of the channel. It is expected that an additional six miles will be cleared during this winter's work season. That will leave an additional 39 miles of river to be cleared. The proposed augmentation, along with a time extension of two more years, should allow the County to accomplish their goal prior to the rewatering of the channel.

The proposed augmentation will allow the County to achieve significant control over the invasive saltcedar in the Lower Owens River. This will allow the river corridor to be restored by natural colonization from existing upstream populations of cottonwood and willow that will occur over time after flows are restored to the river. This project will result in an increase in native biodiversity and habitat. The rewatered Lower Owens River should provide excellent, year-round fish and wildlife habitat that will complement several other important protected habitat areas in the region, including Mono Lake (Important Bird Area), Owens Lake (Important Bird Area), Fish Slough (BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Pupfish Refuge), Ash Meadows (National Wildlife Refuge), and the White/Inyo Mountains. The project will aid in the restoration of the former Great Basin Cottonwood/Willow Riparian Forest habitat along the Lower Owens River, which will provide habitat for a large number of fish and wildlife species, including neotropical migrant songbirds (e.g., Yellow-billed cuckoo and Willow flycatcher), large mouth and small mouth bass, Owens sucker, Owens Valley vole, Owens

pupfish, Owens tui chub, long-eared owl, Swainson's hawk, wood duck and great blue heron.

This project contributes to the goals of the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program, the California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture and the Intermountain West Habitat Joint Venture. The County continues to receive annual funding for this project from the City of LADWP.

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

Description	Total	WCB	Inyo County
Saltcedar Program	\$129,370	\$118,120	\$11,250
Employees	224,260	213,010	11,250
Saltcedar Seasonals	75,000	37,500	37,500
Administration	3,500		3,500
Employee Physicals Unemployment	3,100		3,100
Safety Equipment	3,400		3,400
Vehicle Costs	26,000		26,000
Equipment (labor)	10,000	10,000	
Equipment (parts)	10,500	10,500	
Herbicide, supplies	112,000	110,000	2,000
Contract Services	30,870	30,870	
Revegetation	30,000	30,000	
Travel	2,000		2,000
Office/Utilities	2,000		2,000
Portable Equipment (Chainsaws, brushcutters sprayers), Vehicles	8,000		8,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS:	\$670,000	\$560,000	\$110,000

Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
WCB	\$560,000.00
Inyo County Water Department	\$110,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$670,000.00

The Department of Fish Game (DFG) has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was approved for this project in October, 1999 by Inyo County Water Department, in compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. The grantee has agreed to manage and maintain the property for twenty-five years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. If at any time during the life of the project, the grantee is unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

Mr. Clemons reported that Mr. Brian Cashore, representing the Inyo County Water Department, and Mr. Chris Hayes, representing the Department of Fish and Game, were in the audience should there be any questions.

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

Mr. Brian Cashore reported that the water is supposed to be released in the channel next fall. He provided information regarding the current status of the overall project and projections for completion. He stated that an agreement has been made with the City of Los Angeles to provide funds to match Wildlife Conservation Board funding to continue with the tamarisk removal.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$560,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop.12), Section 5096.350 (a)(2); 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. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$560,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop.12) Section 5096.350 (a)(2); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

21. Riparian Habitat Restoration, Carmel River Lagoon, Monterey County \$752,260.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of funding for a cooperative project with California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to restore 84 acres of historic lagoon and floodplain habitats along approximately one mile of the Carmel River, located within the DPR's Carmel River State Beach, immediately south of the City of Carmel. Mr. Scott Clemons briefly described the project and its location.

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has previously been involved in restoration work on the Carmel River, funding the Carmel River Spawning Habitat project in 1991. That project placed gravel at several locations in the upper reaches on the Carmel River to enhance spawning habitat for steelhead. The proposed project would result in the restoration of approximately 84 acres of what is now fallow farmland to historic tidal lagoon and floodplain habitats. Formerly a component of the river's natural floodplain, the project area was leveed off from the river and cultivated for much of the last century. The fallow agricultural fields represent an unnatural condition of extremely limited habitat value and while

the lagoon does support the threatened steelhead trout, habitat is compromised by shallow depths that result in high water temperatures that make fish vulnerable to predation. The proposed project would remove hydrologic barriers and return the area to a complex of estuarine intertidal and palustrine emergent, palustrine forested and palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands, as well as oak woodland and grasslands.

The proposed project is located within Carmel River State Beach, a coastal park permitting passive recreational use. Visitors enjoy recreational activities that include sunbathing, beachcombing, bird-watching, swimming, scuba diving and picnicking. Current facilities include a parking lot, two public restrooms and a series of trails. A conceptual plan has been developed that would include an interpretive loop trail leaving from a visitor's center to be developed in the historic barn at the east side of the project area.

In general, the project will enhance rearing habitat in the lagoon for steelhead and other aquatic species, restore the hydrologic connection between the river and the floodplain, re-establish native plant communities, and protect a small area of farm land, including the historic barn. Specifically, the project will restore approximately 3,000 feet of the historic south arm of the lagoon to open water and wetland habitat; excavate approximately three acres of brackish marsh contiguous with the northern extension of the south arm, providing a range of microhabitats including mudflats and emergent marsh; lower the elevation of 835 feet of access road; remove 540 feet of levee; construct a low berm near the historic barn complex; re-grade the eastern edge of the existing restored tidal marsh thereby adding to the work done previously by Caltrans; and, re-establish wetland and upland plant communities, including brackish marsh, brackish marsh/seasonal wetland, riparian scrub/willow thicket, tule benches, and riparian habitat that grades upslope into live oak woodland habitat. These restored habitats will benefit many native fish and wildlife species, including steelhead, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, many aquatic bird species, shore birds, riparian-dependent birds and provide cover for many species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The site is adjacent to the DFG's Carmel Bay Ecological Reserve. This 160 acre Marine Ecological Reserve will benefit from the proposed tidal restoration by expanding existing spawning and rearing habitat.

The proposed project implements specific recommendations of the California Partners in Flight and the California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture which are contained in the Riparian Bird Conservation Plan. The project is consistent with the State Park General Plan for the unit, which designates the site as wetland and riparian habitat, and is also consistent with the policy of the Monterey County Local Plan's Carmel Area Land Use Plan.

Matching funds for this project are being provided by the SCC and by DPR. Cost estimates for this project, which have been reviewed and approved by staff, are as follows:

Description:	Estimated Cost
Design and Construction Support	\$291,164.00
Permits and Pre-Project Surveys	125,000.00
Excavate South Arm	1,216,158.00
Excavate Brackish Marsh	404,000.00
Lower Access Road	470,089.00
Remove Levee	100,390.00
Construct Berm/Regrade Marsh Perimeter	63,000.00
Site Revegetation	536,691.00
Transfer Excavated Material	472,479.00
Maintain and Monitor Reveg. Areas	126,505.00
Wildlife and Aquatic Monitoring	180,300.00
Project Management and Administration	253,700.00
Project sign(s)	2,000.00
Contingency	619,563.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:	\$4,861,039.00
Proposed Funding Breakdown:	
WCB	\$752,000.00
SCC	4,000,063.00
DPR (in kind)	108,976.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING:	\$4,861,039.00

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 WCB's portion of the project to \$752,260.00.

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The DPR has approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project (filed with the State Clearinghouse on October 15, 2002). The DPR will manage the restored habitat in perpetuity under their existing State Park General Plan.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received letters of support from Mr. Curtis Weeks, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, and Mr. Thomas Lindburg, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

Mr. Clemons reported that Ms. Laurie Archambault, representing the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and Ms. Terri Palmisano and Mr. Jim Swanson, representing the Department of Fish and Game, were in the audience should there be any questions.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$752,260.00 from the, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(2); 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. Dave Harper that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$752,260.00 from the, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(2); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

22. Franklin Ridge, Contra Costa County \$205,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the Muir Heritage Land Trust (Land Trust) to assist in its purchase of 158± acres of land for the protection of oak woodlands, open space and expansion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Corridor. The property is located outside the City of Martinez in the northern portion of Contra Costa County. Mr. Steve Christensen briefly described the project and its location.

The 158± acre parcel is locally known as the Dutra Ranch and is located within the Franklin Ridge Wildlife and Trail Corridor, an area of 10,000± acres adjacent to the John Muir National Historic Site, located at the southerly end of the City of Martinez. This corridor connects the East Bay Regional Park District's Briones Regional Park to the National Park Service's Mt. Wanda. The entire Franklin Ridge lies within the 60,000 acre Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve managed by an agreement between Contra Costa County and the 14 surrounding municipalities prohibiting water and sewer infrastructure.

The Dutra Ranch is a triangular shaped parcel comprised of rolling hills that have historically been used for ranching and grazing. Access to the property is from a dirt road, south from Franklin Canyon Road and across adjacent properties, including the larger Sky Ranch to the east.

Acquiring priority lands within the Franklin Ridge Corridor will contribute to statewide habitat protection, agricultural land conservation, riparian corridor protection and recreational access priorities. The grasslands, oak woodland, riparian corridors, chaparral, freshwater marsh/seep and seasonal wetland habitats on the ranch provide valuable habitat for several special-status wildlife species. These special-status species consist of the Alameda whipsnake, California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, Cooper's hawk and the white-tailed kite. The Dutra Ranch is located within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service area designated as critical habitat for the Alameda whipsnake. Habitat for

raptors and birds of prey such as hawks, owls and falcons is abundant in the area.

The subject's prospects for any development potential are seriously limited due to zoning, lack of water, sewer and poor access. Threats to the Franklin Ridge, however, are occurring in the form of large single family "trophy" homes being built on the ridgeline. Land in this area is considered affordable when compared to other parts of the county. Contra Costa County has the ninth largest population in the State and is one of the fastest growing counties in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Wildlife and land management objectives will involve a number of activities such as preserving and enhancing habitat, the reintroduction of the California ground squirrel and native plant species and controlling non-native plant and animal species. The restoration of riparian corridors and ponds for wildlife movement will also be directed toward benefiting special-status species.

Public access to properties within the Franklin Ridge Corridor will be managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) via the Bay Area Ridge Trail. A joint land management agreement will be pursued to incorporate Muir Heritage Land Trust properties along the Bay Area Ridge Trail into EBRPD's revised Master Plan.

The property owner has agreed to sell the Dutra Ranch property to the Muir Heritage Land Trust at the appraised value of \$790,000.00, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) proposed grant to the Land Trust would contribute \$200,000.00 toward the purchase, with the remaining funds coming from the EBRPD, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the State Resources Agency under the EEM Program, the California Coastal Conservancy and numerous private foundations. It is estimated that an additional \$5,000.00 will be needed for the DGS review costs, bringing the total allocation requested for this project to \$205,000.00.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15313, Class 13, as the acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes and Section 15325, Class 25, as the transfer of ownership or an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the WCB.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received letters of support for this project from Assembly member Joseph Canciamilla and Senator Tom Torlakson.

Mr. Christensen reported that Ms. Tina Batt, representing the Muir Heritage Land Trust, was in the audience should there be any questions.

Ms. Tina Batt expressed appreciation to the Board and Assembly member Canciamilla for supporting this proposal. She reported that the Trust received numerous private contributions for this acquisition, including contributions from the Longs, Skaggs and Cargill Foundations and many other individuals. She also expressed appreciation to the Dutra Family who approached the Land Trust to purchase this property and preserve it in remembrance of their family.

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

Mr. Kellogg mentioned he is personally familiar with the area and acknowledged the loss of Mr. Dutra.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$205,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) to be applied toward the purchase price and associated costs; authorize staff to enter into the 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. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$205,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) to be applied toward the purchase price and associated costs; authorize staff to enter into the 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.

23. Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Napa River Unit, \$1,780,000.00
Expansion 1, Napa County

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 242± acres of vacant land and a Conservation Easement over an additional 17± acres for the preservation and enhancement of existing wildlife habitat. This is also a proposal to consider the acceptance of a State Coastal Conservancy grant directly into escrow to assist with funding the purchase. The subject property is located immediately south of Highway 29 on the west bank of the Napa River. Mr. Randy Nelson briefly described the project and its location.

The Napa-Sonoma Marshes area is recognized as a diverse ecological region and the proposed acquisition presents an opportunity to protect a substantial resource area. This acquisition will benefit waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and a whole host of plants and mammals, including some endangered species. The Wildlife Area is home to the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail and the threatened California black rail. Other listed species or species of special concern that have been observed in the area include the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, California brown pelican, California least

tern, salt marsh yellow throat, San Pablo song sparrow, Suisun shrew, snowy plover, burrowing owl and several others.

The DFG currently owns and manages approximately 13,081± acres of land in the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area. The DFG will manage the property as an expansion of the wildlife area. Public uses of this addition to the wildlife area will include educational and scientific study, bird-watching, nature observations and photography. The project will provide access to the Napa River.

The owners have agreed to sell the fee and easement interests to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) at the appraised value of \$1,919,500.00, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The State Coastal Conservancy has approved a grant for this project in the amount of \$160,000.00 as part of its effort to protect wetlands along the Napa River. It is proposed that WCB approve an allocation for the balance of the purchase price in the amount of \$1,759,500.00. It is estimated that an additional \$20,500.00 will be needed to provide for acquisition related costs including appraisal, title and escrow expenses and review by the DGS, bringing the total proposed allocation for this project to \$1,780,000.00

The proposed acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of lands for wildlife purposes and under Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of ownership of an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the WCB.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received letters of support from Senator Wesley Chesbro and Mr. John Hoffnagle, Executive Director, Land Trust of Napa County.

Mr. Nelson reported that Mr. Jim Swanson, representing the Department of Fish and Game, and Mr. John Hoffnagle, Executive Director of Napa Land Trust, were in the audience should there be any questions.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; authorize acceptance of the State Coastal Conservancy grant directly into escrow to assist with the purchase price; allocate \$1,780,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79572 (c) to pay the remainder of the purchase price and project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was moved by Mr. Ryan Broddrick that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; authorize acceptance of the State Coastal Conservancy grant directly into escrow to assist with the purchase price; allocate \$1,780,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79572 (c) to pay the remainder of the purchase price and project expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

24. Eastern Blueridge Range, Yolo County \$2,450,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider a grant to the California Rangeland Trust and the Yolo Land Trust to assist in a cooperative project to acquire a conservation easement over 6,983± acres of land located in western Yolo County to protect rangeland and wildlife habitat conditions of the property, together with the continued wildlife, water quality, watershed and open-space benefits that occur from livestock grazing. Ms. Debbie Townsend briefly described the project and its location.

The California Legislature, in September 2002, passed the Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Act and identified the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) as the responsible entity to implement the protection program. The purpose of the program is to protect California's rangeland, grazing land and grasslands through the use of conservation easements. To implement the program, procedures were developed for accepting applications and evaluating proposals which measure the project's contribution toward achieving the purposes of the program. This project represents the first project accepted for consideration under the program and will place a conservation easement over a 6,983± acre portion of a 7,463± acre property known locally as the Yolo Land and Cattle Ranch.

More specifically, the property is located at the western terminus of County Road 25, five miles southwest of the community of Madison, and nine miles north of the City of Winters. Situated in the Yolo County portion of the Coastal Range Mountains, the area is characterized as agricultural in nature with primary emphasis on livestock grazing and hunting. The area is bordered by the Sacramento Valley to the east, Solano County to the south, Napa County to the east and Colusa County to the north. Access to the area is via Interstate Highway 505 from the north and south, and Highway 16 from the east and west.

The majority of the property is open rangeland and has been operating as a working cattle ranch complete with agricultural fields (wheat and hay) for the last 27 years. While the property owners currently have a diversified farming and ranching operation, the primary emphasis remains cattle production. In addition, they have developed a number of niche marketing enterprises in recent years

which contribute to the long-term economic viability of the ranch. These ventures include marketing of cattle products to developing the ranch headquarters for tours, events and weddings. The property owners have hosted numerous education field days and workshops at the ranch for government and non-profit entities.

The ranch is a mosaic of three primary habitat types including blue oak savannah, blue oak riparian woodlands and annual grasslands. Studded with ponds and other wetlands, natural stream courses and waterways and unfragmented open space, the ranch provides habitat and food sources for deer, quail, migratory birds and waterfowl, raptors, bobcats, gray fox and tree squirrels. Species identified in the Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan that rely on the riparian and grassland habitat on the ranch include the State-threatened Swainson's hawk, Cooper's hawk, northern harrier, loggerhead shrike, tri-colored blackbird, California yellow warbler, short-eared owl, burrowing owl, bank swallow, federally-threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle and the northwestern pond turtle. Game bird species on the ranch include doves, turkeys, valley quail, mountain quail, wood ducks, mallards and Canadian geese.

The Yolo Land and Cattle Ranch is part of the Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area which covers 500,000 acres of inner-coastal rangeland and contains a unique assemblage of ecological communities. Conservation easement protection will provide quality wildlife habitat, spectacular view sheds, ecological diversity and habitat connectivity. Portions of the 27,000-acre Blue Ridge lands, under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are adjacent to the ranch. The Yolo Land Trust holds an agricultural conservation easement on a near-by ranch approximately three miles to the south. Also in the area is the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG's) Putah Creek Wildlife Area and Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, both part of the University of California Reserve System. Approximately eight miles to the north is the Cache Creek Reserve, managed by the Cache Creek Conservancy, and 14 miles to the north is the 70,000-acre BLM Cache Creek Natural Area.

The landowners are engaged in significant conservation and research projects on the ranch with partners including Natural Resource Conservation Service, Michigan State University, Ag Research Service, Audubon California, UC Davis Cooperative Extension, FARMS and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District. The conservation projects have involved creating and restoring existing stock ponds and reservoirs, fencing on riparian areas to improve water quality and native habitat and perennial grass re-vegetation. Participating in those efforts, the WCB, in February 2000, approved a grant to the National Audubon Society for a cooperative project with Audubon, the property owner, the DFG and the WCB to protect 13± acres of riparian habitat and wetlands on the ranch. The ranch is currently enrolled in a Vegetative Management Program with the California Department of Forestry, to perform controlled burns for rangeland improvement.

Because of its agricultural and ecological values, the Yolo Land and Cattle Ranch is an ideal location for demonstrating that continued ranching, grazing, agricultural and recreational activities on the land will sustain and protect the agricultural value of the property, the open space value created by the working landscape, and the natural wildlife habitat provided by rangeland environment of the property. With a conservation easement prohibiting detrimental practices, and experienced ranchers managing the land, both natural and economic values will be upheld.

The property has been appraised and a conservation easement value has been reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) at \$3,030,000.00. The WCB's grant in the amount of \$2,430,000.00 will be combined with an approved \$600,000.00 Packard Foundation grant through its Agricultural Intensification Program to the Great Valley Center to complete the acquisition. It is estimated that an additional \$20,000.00 will be needed for project costs, including appraisal costs and DGS' review charges, bringing the total amount requested for this project to \$2,450,000.00. An increase in the Packard grant is pending, which if approved, could provide an additional \$80,000.00 toward the cost of the easement. In the event additional funding becomes available, staff will reduce the amount of the proposed grant, respectively.

The terms and conditions of the grant provide that staff will review all proposed title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, agreements for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and the instruments of conveyance prior to the disbursement of funds.

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and Section 15325, Class 25, as the transfer of ownership of an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the WCB.

The ranch is within an established preserve under the Williamson Act and the Department of Conservation has been notified of the WCB's proposed grant for the purpose of purchasing a conservation easement over the property to protect and sustain rangeland grazing and the protection of grasslands.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board has received numerous letters of support for this project from Rick Landon, Agricultural Commissioner, Yolo County; Eric Paulsen, President, Yolo County Farm Bureau; Phil Hogan, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Paul Robins, Executive Director, Yolo County Resource Conservation District; Vance Russell, Program Manger, Audubon California; Craig McNamara, Sierra Orchards; and Rick Rominger, Rominger Brothers Farms, Inc.

Ms. Townsend reported that Mr. Scott Stone, owner of the property, Mr. Darrel Sweet, President of the California Cattlemen's Association and Ms. Nita Vail, Executive Director of the California Rangeland Trust, were in the audience should there be any questions. Mr. Wright expressed appreciation to Messrs. Scott, Casey and Hank Stone, representing Yolo Land and Cattle, for attending the meeting.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$2,450,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 10330, for the grant and associated costs; authorize acceptance of additional funds into escrow to complete the acquisition; 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. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve the grant as proposed; allocate \$2,450,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 10330, for the grant and associated costs; authorize acceptance of additional funds into escrow to complete the acquisition; 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.

25. Balls Ferry, Expansion 1, Shasta County \$1,325,000.00

Mr. Wright reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 345± acres as an addition to the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG's) Balls Ferry area, located on the south side of Balls Ferry Road approximately two miles east of Cottonwood in Shasta County for the protection of valuable wetlands and wildlife habitat. Ms. Linda Drake briefly described the project and its location.

The subject property is approximately 16 miles southwest of Redding, one mile north of the DFG's Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area and two miles northwest of the DFG's Battle Creek Wildlife Area. It is located at the lower end of the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) and is part of a complex palustrine wetlands system within the Sacramento River historical flood plain. The construction of Shasta Dam reduced the wetland system, but some areas persist from normal run-off; flooding of Anderson Creek and drainage from the ACID system are a result of that run-off.

The primary purpose of this acquisition is to protect valuable wetland habitat found in the Sacramento River historical flood plain. Specifically, the riparian vegetation typically found in this river bottom enhances the high wildlife values in the area. The acquisition will also prevent the land from the rapidly growing urbanization which is steadily encroaching into this area.

The subject property is prime wetlands that provides critical year-round habitat for numerous species of wildlife. In the fall and spring, thousands of waterfowl use the property during migration. Species include, Tundra swan, snow geese, white fronted geese, Ross' geese, pintail, American wigeon, shoveler, gadwall, green-winged teal, wood duck, redhead, ringneck duck, canvasbacks, lesser scaup, bufflehead and ruddy duck. The property also provides a seasonal home for Canada geese, mallards and cinnamon teal to name a few.

Numerous raptors use the property including the endangered bald eagle. Other species include red - tailed hawk, rough - legged hawk, northern harrier, osprey, prairie falcon, screech owl and great horned owl.

After sale to the State, management will be assumed by the DFG. Limited waterfowl hunting may be provided to the public as well as other public recreational use opportunities such as bird watching and photography.

The Department of General Services (DGS) has approved the fair market value for the subject property at \$1,300,000.00 and the landowner has agreed to sell to the State for that amount. It is estimated that an additional \$25,000.00 will be needed for project costs, including appraisal, title insurance, escrow and DGS's review costs as well as start-up costs for fencing, bringing the total proposed allocation for the purchase to \$1,325,000.00.

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and Section 15325, Class 25, as the transfer of ownership of an interest in land to preserve open space. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon approval by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Mr. Wright reported that the Board received a letter of support for this project from Mr. John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

Ms. Drake reported that Mr. Steve Arrison and Mr. John Siperek, representing the Department of Fish and Game, were in the audience should there be any questions.

Mr. Kellogg asked if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Ryan Broddrick requested clarification regarding the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District and any particular conditions or concerns the District may have with DFG's ownership of the tail end of their drainage system. Mr. Arrison stated that water passes through the property, goes into a sump, and is then picked up

by other irrigators, providing an important link to that water source for the irrigators. Mr. Arrison stated that this area is going to be managed to not only provide wetlands but improve water quality.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$1,325,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop 50), Section 79565 for this purchase and associated 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. Ryan Broddrick that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate \$1,325,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop 50), Section 79565 for this purchase and associated costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

26. Resolution(s)

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

Robert C. Hight

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert C. Hight has, in November 2003, completed more than four years of service as a Member of the California Wildlife Conservation Board and as Director of the Department of Fish and Game; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hight, with his intense interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, coupled with his sound judgment and legal experience in California land resources, his love for California's wildlife resources and his concern for the protection of these ever declining resources, has greatly assisted the Board and its staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hight, as a Member of the Board, has supported the Board's program throughout his tenure, making preservation, enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat a true priority, for all of California; and

WHEREAS, All who have served with Mr. Hight have appreciated his consistent support, leadership, comments and advice, and have especially appreciated the personal and pleasant manner in which he has conducted the business of the Board and his ability to address and resolve resource issues in California, all of which have earned for him the esteem and respect of all who have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge his contribution to the works of the Board and the entire State of California; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the Members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee, and the Board staff convey to Robert Hight our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Board, and express our best wishes to him as he continues on with his personal endeavors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board meeting and that a copy be provided to Mr. Hight.

Michael Flores

WHEREAS, Mr. Michael Flores has, in January 2004, completed two years of service as the Chairman of the California Wildlife Conservation Board and as President of the California Fish and Game Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Flores, with his intense interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, coupled with his sound judgment and experience in California Government, his love for California's wildlife resources and his concern for the protection of these ever declining resources, has greatly assisted the Board and its staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Flores, as Chairman of the Board, has supported the Board's program throughout his tenure, making preservation, enhancement and public access of wildlife areas a true priority, for all of California; and

WHEREAS, All who have served with Mr. Flores have appreciated his consistent support, leadership, comments and advice, and have especially appreciated the personal and pleasant manner in which he has conducted the business of the Board and listening with keen interest to the public, all of which have earned for him the esteem and respect of all who have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge his contribution to the works of the Board and the entire State of California; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the Members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee, and the Board staff convey to Michael Flores our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Board, and express our best wishes to him as he continues on with his personal endeavors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board meeting and that a copy be provided to Mr. Flores.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the resolutions honoring Mr. Michael Flores and Mr. Robert Hight, former members of the Board.

Mr. Kellogg acknowledged Mr. Flores' commitment to the Fish and Game Commission and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

It was moved by Mr. Ryan Brodrick that the Board approve the resolutions honoring Mr. Michael Flores and Mr. Robert Hight, former members of the Board.

Motion carried.

- **27. Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, Expansion 5, El Dorado County \$6,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Assistance Grant, in the amount of \$390,000.00, from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the authorization to re-grant the federal funds to the American River Conservancy (Conservancy) to assist in their acquisition of 23± acres of vacant land in El Dorado County for the preservation of habitat for threatened and endangered species. The property, which consists of two 11.5-acre parcels, would be an addition to the Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, which lies about five miles northeast of urban El Dorado Hills, six miles east of Folsom Lake and about two miles north of the town of Rescue.

The establishment of the Pine Hill Ecological Reserve is a cooperative effort among the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), El Dorado County and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). As proposed, the Reserve will one day encompass approximately 5,000 acres. While most of the existing Reserve is under the ownership of the BLM, the area is managed cooperatively by the partners listed above. To date, nearly 2,000 acres have been acquired at this Reserve either by action of the WCB, as mitigation through the Fish and Game Commission, or through transactions completed by BLM or the Conservancy. The subject property lies within the habitat acquisition area recommended by the recovery plan for the listed species. Though it is not contiguous with other publicly-owned land, the subject property lies between 320 acres owned by the State (DFG) near the top of Pine Hill and 160 acres owned by the BLM within the Penny Lane Unit of the Reserve.

Because of the area's unique gabbroic soil type, the land supports an extremely rich and important ensemble of rare plants found only in this general area of the world. The predominant vegetation type in this area is chamise chaparral which is primarily composed of chamise, manzanita, redbud and interior live oak. Some slopes support grey and ponderosa pines as well as oak species, including black oak, blue oak, leather oak, valley oak and canyon live oak. Robust populations of two of the rarest plant species which the Reserve is intended to protect, Pine Hill flannelbush and El Dorado bedstraw are found on these two parcels. Both species are endemic to the Pine Hill area of El Dorado County and are found to grow only in very specific locations within that area. According to the DFG, wildlife in this area includes resident deer and mountain lion, as well as numerous game birds, including dove, quail and wild turkey.

This area is seriously threatened by building of upscale homes on small acreage lots, especially those lots on or near ridge-tops (i.e. with views), which also happen to be the areas preferred by the endangered flannelbush. Few such lots are left, resulting in a fast-paced market, and therefore very little habitat left for purchase and permanent protection.

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

The property owner has agreed to sell the two parcels to the Conservancy at the appraised value of \$390,000.00, approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). As the recipient of the HCP Assistance Grant Funds in the amount of \$390,000.00, the Conservancy has agreed to abide by all of the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement between the USFWS and the State. Staff of the WCB will review all acquisition-related documents prior to recommending disbursement of the federal funds directly into escrow. The Conservancy proposes to provide an "in-kind" match for the federal funds using a previously acquired property that is located within the same HCP as the subject property, protects compatible resources and has an appraised value equal to or greater than the match requirement of 25 percent. In addition to the re-grant of the federal funds, it is anticipated that an allocation by the WCB of \$6,000.00 will be needed to cover appraisal review costs by the DGS as well as other acquisitions related expenses.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize the acceptance of \$390,000.00 from a HCP Assistance Grant from the USFWS and approve the re-grant of the federal funds to the American River Conservancy; allocate \$6,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for administrative 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. Jim Kellogg that the Board approve this project as proposed; authorize the acceptance of \$390,000.00 from a Habitat Conservation Program Assistance Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and approve the re-grant of the federal funds to the American River Conservancy; allocate \$6,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for administrative 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.

*** Closed Executive Session

Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126(e)(1), the Board met in Closed Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. to discuss pending litigation, California Farm Bureau Federation, et al., vs. California Wildlife Conservation Board, et al., Colusa County Superior Court Case No. CV22294 (California Environmental Quality Act).

In Attendance: Jim Kellogg
 L. Ryan Brodrick
 Dave Harper
 Al Wright
 Dave Means
 Michael Valentine
 Peter Perrine
 John Donnelly
 Ken Morefield
 Tina Cannon
 Maureen Rivera

Closed Executive Session was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Mr. Wright reported that the Board received advice from legal counsel on the issues being litigated with the Farm Bureau in the Traynham case. Based on advice to the Board from legal counsel, the Board has directed the Executive Director to take whatever action is appropriate on the case as may be necessary between now and the next Board meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Wright
Executive Director

Attachments

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on February 19, 2004, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$1,623,146,565.01. 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.....	46,697,951.70
Coastal and Bay	\$ 4,038,176.11
River and Aqueduct Access	13,023,545.89
Lake and Reservoir Access.....	9,250,782.52
Piers	20,385,447.18
D. Game Farm Projects.....	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development and Improvement	1,492,407,798.86
Wildlife Areas (General)	\$281,452,268.54
Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development.....	9,051,933.74
Wildlife Areas/Ecological Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	588,657,542.82
Land Conservation Area.....	8,053,464.18

Inland Wetlands Cons. Grants & Easements	18,119,643.40
Riparian Habitat Cons. Grants & Easements	22,035,063.59
Other Wildlife Habitat Grants.....	565,037,882.59
F. Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	11,938,002.29
H. Special Project Allocations.....	1,389,820.29
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	28,935,379.80
State Owned	\$1,244,851.07
Grants	27,690,528.73
J. Sales and/or exchanges	537,419.07
K. Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act (tax credits awarded)...	(33,241,234.00)
Statutory plans	(0.00)
Corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat, streams and riparian habitat	(6,234,658.00)
Agricultural lands	(712,726.00)
Water and water rights.....	(0.00)
State and local parks, open space and archaeological resources	(26,293,850.00)
Total Allocated to Projects	\$1,623,146,565.01