

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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State of California
Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Minutes

July 23, 2015

The Wildlife Conservation Board met on Thursday, July 23, 2015 at the Natural Resources Agency, Room 1131, located at 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, California. Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board, called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. Mr. John Donnelly, Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, performed the roll call.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Karen Finn, Program Budget Manager
Vice, Michael Cohen, Member
Director, Department of Finance

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Alf Brandt
Vice, Assembly Member Anthony Rendon

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
John P. Donnelly

Wildlife Conservation Board Staff Present:

Anh Dang, Office Technician
Brian Cary, Public Land Management Specialist IV
Celestial Reysner, Staff Services Analyst
Colin Mills, Staff Counsel

John Walsh, Senior Land Agent
Laura Featherstone, Executive Assistant
Peter Perrine, Assistant Executive Director
Nancy Templeton, Staff Counsel

Others Present:

Susan Strachan, Sacramento River Forum

California Streamflow Enhancement Program

Informational/Action

Staff presented the final Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation) for the California Streamflow Enhancement Program (Program) to the Board for discussion and approval. This new program focuses on enhanced stream flows and was created in response to Proposition 1 (Water Bond), which was approved by California voters on November 4, 2014 and established within the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

The Water Bond authorizes \$200,000,000.00 to be administered by the WCB (Water Code Section 79733, subject to appropriation by the Legislature) for projects that result in enhanced stream flows. It is proposed that \$38.4 million be made available for expenditure in the first year.

Grants by WCB will be made through a competitive process in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and other partners with the goal of providing and protecting enhanced flows in stream systems statewide to achieve conservation objectives outlined in the California Water Action Plan.

On June 30, 2015, the Board approved the Guidelines for the Program, and reviewed the first draft of the Solicitation. Specifically, the Board directed staff to highlight primary filters in the Solicitation that would focus applications toward projects that benefited anadromous fish; assisted with the recovery of threatened, endangered or at-risk species; or provided resilience to climate change. In addition, the Board requested certain specific changes within the scoring criteria. Several members of the public attended and had additional comments. The Board directed staff to make changes to the Solicitation pursuant to direction and comments received, and present those changes to the Board at a focused public meeting for a final review.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize staff to finalize and release the solicitation to the public.

Mr. Donnelly called the meeting to order and noted that Board Member Jack Baylis was participating by phone. Since the meeting was not noticed to the public as a conference call, Mr. Baylis was exempt from voting.

Chairman Bonham summarized the prior meeting saying the Board reviewed the solicitation and listened to the public comments. Staff were asked to clarify some points and add further specificity. The Board then decided to consider the solicitation as a work in progress and asked staff to produce a red-lined document showing the suggested changes and schedule the current meeting to further discuss and approve the solicitation. Chairman Bonham said the new section, entitled "Focus," provides the specificity that the Board requested at the initial meeting. Also, points are now being awarded for advancing other statewide and regional plans.

Chairman Bonham asked if there were any further public comments.

Mr. Alf Brandt spoke and said he appreciates the changes to the amended document.

Mr. Donnelly spoke and said developing this new program was a challenge and the program would not be where it is today without the help of CDFW staff and other outside agencies. WCB does not have stream flow enhancement projects to this level of specificity. Additionally, this is WCB's first real competitive grant program. Mr. Donnelly said he is looking forward to implementing projects under this program. He thanked Peter Perrine and his staff for all their hard work.

Ms. Finn moved to approve the guidelines.

Passed Unanimously.

**Bonham - Yes
Finn - Yes**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted



John Donnelly
Executive Director