



Notice of Meeting

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

February 18, 2016

1:30p.m.

California State Capitol

Room 126

Sacramento, California 95814

Final Agenda Items

Item Number

1. Roll Call
2. Proposed Stream Flow Enhancement Projects

There are many challenges facing water management in California. The California Water Action Plan (CWAP), developed as a framework for sustainable water management, shows that decreases in water supplies, reduced water quality, degradation of native fish and wildlife habitat, coupled with population growth and climate change highlight the need for collaborative, complex and resilient management practices to ensure long term sustainability. The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 authorized the Legislature to appropriate \$200 million to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to address some of these challenges as they specifically relate to stream flow. A total of \$38.4 million was allocated to WCB for expenditure in FY 2015/16 for the California Stream Flow Enhancement Program (CSFEP) through a competitive grant process, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and other partners. WCB staff was tasked with developing program guidelines and a solicitation package that required both the California Natural Resource Agency's (CNRA) and WCB's Board (Board) approval.

Guided by the CWAP, funding is to be focused on projects aimed at the direct and measurable enhancement to the amount, timing and/or quality of water, which will be available to improve habitat for anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered or at risk species; or to provide resilience to climate change.

Draft guidelines were approved by the CNRA in February 2015 and placed on the WCB web site to begin a two-month public comment period. To solicit additional input, three public meetings were held in northern, central and southern California during the first week of April 2015. On June 30, 2015, the draft guidelines were presented to and approved by the Board.

Following guideline approval, WCB staff drafted a solicitation and released it for public review on June 8, 2015. After receiving input, staff presented the solicitation to the Board on July 23, 2015, where it was approved. On July 27, 2015, the CSFEP Solicitation Package was released and remained open through September 30, 2015. WCB received proposals for 81 projects, totaling \$76,126,722.56 in requested funds.

Projects were reviewed through a multi-tiered process. First, submissions were required to pass an administrative review, designed to evaluate the eligibility and completeness of the application. Proposals that passed the administrative review were then evaluated by technical and scientific specialists, using established scoring criteria and standards put forth by the CSFEP Solicitation Package. Each project was reviewed by a minimum of 3 professionals, consisting of a CDFW regional specialist, a WCB Streamflow Enhancement Program staff member, and other technical experts and/or SWRCB professionals. Applications receiving scores of 85 or higher were presented to a Selection Panel, made up of managers and staff from CDFW, WCB, and SWRCB, for further assessment and discussion. The Selection Panel met on January 7, 13, and 15, 2016; and developed a recommended list of projects based on numerous factors including, among others, the following: scoring, feasibility, durability and how projects supported the specific goals of the CSFEP Solicitation Package. Projects recommended for funding by the Selection Panel were reviewed by the WCB Executive Director during the week of January 25, 2016, in preparation for the February 18, 2016, Board meeting.

The fund allocation summary of recommended CSFEP projects for FY 2015/16 is presented below (Table 1). Projects recommended for funding are presented in the following links: [Table 2: Wildlife Conservation Board Stream Flow Enhancement Program FY 2015/16, Recommended Project Allocations](#), and an overview of all proposals received can be found in [Table 3: Wildlife Conservation Board Flow Enhancement Program FY 2015/16, Summary](#).

Table 1: Fund allocation summary for Wildlife Conservation Board, California Stream Flow Enhancement Program FY 2015/16

Project Type	WCB Prop 1 Funds Available for FY 2015/16	Number of Projects Received	Requested Funds	Number of Projects Recommended for Funding	Funds to be Allocated for Recommended Projects
Planning	\$5,000,000.00	47	\$23,040,967.24	14	\$5,000,000.00
Implementation	\$33,400,000.00	24	\$25,837,207.32	7	\$8,246,531.00
Acquisition ¹		10	\$27,248,548.00	3	\$6,909,747.00
Total:	\$38,400,000.00	81	\$76,126,722.56	24	\$20,156,278.00

¹Appraisals for acquisition projects will be reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services.

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings for the following two projects: the Salinas River Arundo Eradication Project Phase III and Reconnecting Stream Flows in the Lower Eel River Delta, and approve all the individual projects identified by the selection panel as suitable for funding up to the amounts requested for each, as identified in the attached Table 2: *Wildlife Conservation Board Stream Flow Enhancement Program FY 2015/16, Recommended Project Allocation*; allocate a total of \$20,156,278.00 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 (Proposition 1), Water Code Section 79733; authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish these projects; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Persons With Disabilities

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department’s Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator Melissa Carlin at (916) 651-1214 or Melissa.Carlin@wildlife.ca.gov. Reasonable Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility should be received by February 12, 2015. Requests for American Sign Language Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event, and requests for Real-Time Captioners at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator immediately.