



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD Minutes

February 24, 2016

The Wildlife Conservation Board met on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at the Natural Resources Agency Building in Sacramento, California. Mr. Kevin Hunting, Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.. Mr. John Donnelly, Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, performed the roll call. Present were: Kevin Hunting, Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife, representing Director Chuck Bonham; Eric Sklar, President of the Fish and Game Commission; Eraina Ortega, Chief Deputy Director, representing Director of the Department of Finance, Michael Cohen; Matt Cremins, representing Assemblymember Richard Gordon; and Rachelle Caoutte, representing Senator Jean Fuller.

Mr. Donnelly observed that a quorum was established. He then advised attendees that all were welcome to speak and, if they wished to do so, they simply needed to complete one of the speaker cards available at the back of the room.

ITEM NO.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Kevin Hunting, Chief Deputy Director
Vice, Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eraina Ortega, Chief Deputy Director
Vice, Michael Cohen, Member
Director, Department of Finance

Eric Sklar, President
California Fish and Game Commission

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rachelle Caouette
Vice, Senator Jean Fuller

Matt Cremins
Vice, Assemblymember Richard Gordon

Israel Landa
Vice, Assembly Member Das Williams

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Donnelly

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Wildlife Conservation Board Staff Present:

Candice Marg, Senior Land Agent	Scott McFarlin, Public Land Management Specialist IV
Celestial Reysner, Staff Services Analyst	Teri Muzik, Senior Land Agent
Chad Fien, Public Land Management Specialist IV	Liz Yokoyama, Senior Land Agent
Colin Mills, Staff Counsel	Lloyd Warble, Staff Services Analyst
Elizabeth Hubert Restoration and Development Supervisor.	Ron Wooden, Receptionist
Heidi West, Public Land Management Specialist IV	Peter Perrine, Assistant Executive Director
Jasen Yee, Senior Land Agent	Nancy Templeton, Staff Counsel
John Walsh, Supervising Land Agent	Mary Delaney, Administrative Assistant
Ashley Lackey, Associate Governmental Program Analyst	Brian Cary, Public Land Management Specialist IV
Cynthia Alameda, Public Land Management Specialist IV	Brian Gibson, Senior Land Agent (Specialist)
Joshua Morgan, Administrative Manager	Don Crocker, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Shawn Fresz, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)	

Others Present:

Gail Severns, CDFW, Region 5	Becky Miller, USFWS
Curtis Ecklund, Homeowner	Jim Keegan, UCOP
Mary Beth Wolfe, USFWS	Mike Kisgen, Audubon California
Victoria Joes, Port of San Diego	Rondal Snodgrass,
Wendy Branine, CDFW	Nancy Schafer, CA Rangeland Trust
William Melton, Port of San Diego	Joshua Bush, CDFW
Carney Briggs, CDFW	Logan Nuberg, CFL
Gage Dayton, UCSC	Shannon Nuberg, CFL
Charles and Joanne O'Brien, Landowners	Bob Hammond, RMEF
Dan Madeiros, Land Trust Santa Cruz Cty	Rich Padula
Lily Verdone, The Nature Conservancy	David Chavez, Fresno County
Laura Riege, The Nature Conservancy	Doug Wheeler
Cindy Mertes, San Diego Unified Port District	
Catherine Young, Colusa, CA	

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2.	Funding Status	Informational
	The following funding status depicts Capital Outlay appropriations by year of appropriation and by fund source and fund number.	
(a)	2015-16 WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, (0447)	
	Budget Act	\$1,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$1,000,000.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-5,000.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$995,000.00
(b)	2015-16 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-2,794,678.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$17,868,322.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-292,720.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-6,101,190.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$11,474,412.00
(c)	2014-15 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-13,082,582.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$7,580,418.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-739,500.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-5,527,314.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$1,313,604.00
(d)	2013-14 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Non-budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-19,804,076.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$858,924.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-35,530.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-19,681.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$803,713.00

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(e)	2012-13 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-4,474,979.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$16,188,021.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-1,496,021.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$14,692,000.00
(f)	2011-12 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-14,339,208.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$6,323,792.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-615,201.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$5,708,591.00
(g)	2010-11 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-18,984,822.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$1,683,178.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-418,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-1,137,848.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$127,330.00
(h)	2009-10 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2013-14 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-20,450,871.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$217,129.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-12,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-74,881.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$130,248.00
(i)	2008-09 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2012-13 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-20,653,891.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$14,109.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$14,109.00

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(j)	2007-08 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2011-12 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act	\$20,674,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-20,643,381.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$30,619.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$30,619.00
(k)	2006-07 HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, (0262) (2013-14 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act	\$20,699,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-20,103,299.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$595,701.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-6,368.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$589,333.00
(l)	2006-07 SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND, (0005) (2015-16 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Capital Outlay Budget [Sections a3, a5 & a6]	\$15,224,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-13,740,324.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$1,483,676.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$1,483,676.00
(m)	1999-00 SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND, (0005)	
	Continuously Appropriated [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)]	\$36,100,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-31,262,120.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$4,837,880.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-87,880.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$4,750,000.00
(n)	2004-05 CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND, (6029)	
	2014-15 Reappropriation	\$11,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-10,807,019.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$192,981.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$192,981.00

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(o)	2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund, (6029)	
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650)	\$273,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-249,956,983.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	<u>\$23,043,017.00</u>
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-4,109,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-6,038,500.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$12,895,517.00
(p)	2003-04 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002, (6031) Colorado River	
	Reappropriated 06/07, 10/11, &14/15 (Section 79568)	\$32,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-21,904,443.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	<u>\$10,595,557.00</u>
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$10,595,557.00
(q)	2002-03 WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002, (6031)	
	Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572), including Chapter 81, Statutes of 2005	\$814,350,000.00
	2003-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
	2004-05 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
	2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-4,000,000.00
	2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-3,100,000.00
	2006-07 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-17,688,000.00
	2007-08 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-5,150,000.00
	2008-09 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-1,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	-683,513,154.00
	Unallocated Balance	<u>\$57,898,846.00</u>
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,905,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-54,280,000.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$1,713,846.00

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(r)	2010-11 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2014-15 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$3,380,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-72,280.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$3,307,720.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-2,416,082.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$891,638.00
(s)	2009-10 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2013-14 PARTIAL REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$4,800,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-3,639,660.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$1,160,340.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-1,160,340.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$0.00
(t)	2009-10 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2015-16 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$5,200,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>25,000.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$5,175,000.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-2,349,660.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$2,825,340.00
(u)	2008-09 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2015-16 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$10,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-25,000.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$9,975,000.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$9,975,000.00

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(v)	2007-08 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2014-15 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$10,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-6,931,082.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$3,068,918.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-3,068,918.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$0.00
(w)	2009-10 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2014-15 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Chapter 2, Statutes of 2009 (SB 8)	\$24,000,000.00
	Less 2013-14 Partial Reappropriation	<u>-15,500,000.00</u>
	Balance	\$8,500,000.00
	Less Previous Board	<u>-5,074,012.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$3,425,988.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-3,425,988.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$0.00
(x)	2009-10 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2013-14 PARTIAL REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Chapter 2, Statutes of 2009 (SB 8)	\$15,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-12,075,200.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$3,424,800.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-338,500.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$3,086,300.00
(y)	2008-09 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051), (2014-15 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055(c))	\$25,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-13,082,729.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$11,917,271.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-66,250.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-9,300,000.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	2,551,021.00

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(z)	2007-08 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 , (6051) (2014-15 REAPPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(c))	\$25,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-23,399,564.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$1,600,436.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$1,600,436.00
(aa)	2007-08 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2013-14 APPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(1))	\$1,279,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,072,000.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$207,000.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$207,000.00
(ab)	2007-08 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2013-14 APPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(2))	\$1,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,080,143.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$419,857.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-200,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-219,857.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$0.00
(ac)	2007-08 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051) (2013-14 APPROPRIATION)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(4))	\$2,368,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-2,282,200.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$85,800.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$85,800.00

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(ad)	2006-07 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051)	
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055a)	\$164,700,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-133,033,948.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$31,666,052.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-3,530,000.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-20,875,000.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$7,261,052.00
(ae)	2006-07 SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006, (6051)	
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055(b))	\$123,525,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-92,306,109.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$31,218,891.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-2,823,270.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-13,775,000.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$14,620,621.00
(af)	2015-16 WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND OF 2014, (6083)	
	Budget Act (Section 79735(b)(2))	\$38,400,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$38,400,000.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$38,400,000.00
(ag)	2015-16 WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND OF 2014, (6083)	
	Budget Act (Section 79731(g))	\$2,800,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$2,800,000.00
	February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
	Total Project Development	<u>-0.00</u>
	Projected Unallocated Balance	\$2,800,000.00

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RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund (A)	\$1,000,000.00
February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
Total Project Development	-5,000.00
Projected Unallocated Balance	\$995,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K)	\$51,360,213.00
February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,497,750.00
Total Project Development	-14,978,504.00
Projected Unallocated Balance	\$34,883,959.00
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, And Coastal Protection Bond Fund (L) And (M)	\$6,321,557.00
February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-0.00
Total Project Development	-87,880.00
Projected Unallocated Balance	\$6,233,677.00
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks And Coastal Protection Bond Fund (N) And (O)	\$23,235,998.00
February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-4,109,000.00
Total Project Development	-6,038,500.00
Projected Unallocated Balance	\$13,088,498.00
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal And Beach Protection Fund Of 2002 (P) And (Q)	\$68,494,403.00
February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-1,905,000.00
Total Project Development	-54,280,000.00
Projected Unallocated Balance	\$12,309,403.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality And Supply, Flood Control, River And Coastal Protection Fund Of 2006 (R), (S), (T), (U), (V), (W), (X), (Y), (Z), (Aa), (Ab), (Ac), (Ad), (Ae)	\$91,503,073.00
February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-6,619,520.00
Total Project Development	-56,929,345.00
Projected Unallocated Balance	\$27,954,208.00

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Water Quality, Supply, And Infrastructure Improvement Fund Of 2014 (Af) And (Ag)	\$41,200,000.00
February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	0.00
Total Project Development	0.00
Projected Unallocated Balance	\$41,200,000.00

<i>TOTAL – ALL FUNDS</i>	\$283,115,243.00
February 2016 Board Meeting Allocation	-14,131,270.00
Total Project Development	-132,319,229.00
Projected Unallocated Balance	\$136,664,744.00

RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000

Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000 and Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004	
Tax credits awarded through June 30, 2008	\$48,598,734.00
Chapter 220, Statutes of 2009 (effective January 1, 2010)	
Tax credits awarded	\$8,662,500.00

SUMMARY OF BOND CASH

The following summary provides the status of the up-front general obligation bond sale proceeds that the Wildlife Conservation Board has received since the spring of 2009.

Bond Fund	Authorized GO Bond Proceeds	Expenditures through 1/20/2016	Encumbrances through 12/31/15	Cash Balances Includes Encumbrances
Proposition 12	\$ 12,621,973.31	\$ 9,469,795.06	\$ 267,972.84	\$ 2,884,205.41
Proposition 40	\$ 92,823,425.59	\$ 89,695,484.70	\$ 15,496,025.84	\$ (12,368,084.95)
Proposition 50	\$ 134,120,352.50	\$ 92,997,436.31	\$ 20,465,031.30	\$ 20,657,884.89
Proposition 84	\$ 267,393,047.99	\$ 265,819,178.80	\$ 27,340,462.67	\$ (25,766,593.48)
Proposition 1E	\$ 65,725,202.07	\$ 52,024,454.43	\$ 17,478,578.54	\$ (3,777,830.90)
Proposition 1	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,000.00
Grand Totals	\$ 572,824,001.46	\$ 510,006,349.30	\$ 81,048,071.19	\$ (18,230,419.03)

Director Donnelly directed attention to Item 2 on the agenda explaining that the figures are a reflection of the current status of funds available to the WCB. He gave a break-down describing how the Item shows existing balances, the projects that are aligned with those balances, ending balances and allocations. Director Donnelly then specifically addressed the “Summary of Bond Cash” table seen at the bottom of Item 2. He explained that this table was developed during the Bond freeze of 2008 but that a subsequent restructure of how Bond cash is issued has rendered the table obsolete. He suggested, and the Board members agreed, that as “Summary of Bond Cash” table is no longer relevant, it will not be included in future meeting documents.

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*3 Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4 – 13)

Director Donnelly pointed out a typing error in Item 9, on page 29, under Project Funding. The amount of funds from the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County should have read \$248, 200.00. Deputy Director Hunting invited public comment, there was none.

*4. Approval of Minutes

Director Donnelly introduced the Consent Items for consideration. Eraina Ortega moved to approve and Eric Sklar moved to second with the caveat that he was recusing himself from approving the Minutes from the November 15, 2015, Board meeting as he was not present.

It was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve Consent Calendar Items 4 –12 as proposed in the individual agenda explanations. .

Passed Unanimously.

Ortega – Yes

Sklar – Yes

Hunting – Yes

*5. 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 is recommended that the following totals be recovered and that the projects be closed.

To the Habitat Conservation Fund, **\$66,324.00**

To the Wildlife Restoration Fund, **\$10,593.41**

To the California Clean Water,
Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood
Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund, **\$0**

To the Water Security, Clean
Drinking Water, Coastal
and Beach Protection
Fund of 2002, **\$16,039.00**

To the Safe Drinking Water,
Water Quality and Supply,
Flood Control, River and Coastal
Protection Fund of 2006, **\$95,109.02**

To the Other, **\$0**

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HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Lucky 5 Ranch, Phase II, San Diego County

Allocated	\$510,000.00
Expended	<u>-502,600.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7,400.00

Long Gulch Ranch, Tuolumne County

Allocated	\$876,000.00
Expended	<u>-856,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$20,000.00

Metcalf Bay - 2014 RLA Grant,
San Bernardino County

Allocated	\$731,200.00
Expended	<u>-731,200.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Puma Canyon, Expansion 6 (R. Saylor),
San Bernardino County

Allocated	\$66,000.00
Expended	<u>-58,860.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7,140.00

Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander (King),
Santa Cruz County

Allocated	\$40,000.00
Expended	<u>-17,401.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$22,599.00

Shay Meadows Conservation Area Expansion 2 (Whitcher)
and Expansion 3 (Smith), San Bernardino County

Allocated	\$85,575.00
Expended	<u>-83,705.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,870.00

Spenceville Wildlife Area, Conservation Easement
(Robinson Ranch), Nevada County

Allocated	\$2,128,632.00
Expended	<u>-2,128,632.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Western Riverside MSHCP (2012)

- Dyer/Wynn, Riverside County

Allocated	\$128,200.00
Expended	<u>-126,725.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,475.00

Western Riverside MSHCP (2012)

- McCormick, Riverside County

Allocated	\$68,000.00
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Expended	<u>-64,820.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,180.00
Western Riverside MSHCP (2014)	
- Lloyd, Riverside County	
Allocated	\$118,750.00
Expended	<u>-116,090.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,660.00
Total Habitat Conservation Fund	\$66,324.00
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND	
Lake Earl Wildlife Area Trail Improvements, Del Norte County	
Allocated	\$147,500.00
Expended	<u>-146,209.88</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,290.12
North Coast Interagency Visitor Center, Del Norte County	
Allocated	\$239,000.00
Expended	<u>-229,696.71</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$9,303.29
Pacifica Fishing Pier Improvements, Phase II, San Mateo County	
Allocated	\$249,000.00
Expended	<u>-249,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00
Total Wildlife Restoration Fund	\$10,593.41
CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND	
North Coast Interagency Visitor Center, Del Norte County	
Allocated	\$44,500.00
Expended	<u>-44,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00
Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund	\$0.00
WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION FUND OF 2002	
Napa Sonoma Marsh, Napa River Unit (Giovannoni), Napa County	
Allocated	\$35,000.00
Expended	<u>-18,961.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$16,039.00
Total Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002	\$16,039.00

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SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND
SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL
PROTECTION FUND OF 2006

American River Headwaters, Placer County

Allocated	\$3,500,000.00
Expended	<u>-3,500,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Renovation,
San Diego County

Allocated	\$2,833,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,777,936.31</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$55,063.69

Brush Creek Conservation Easement (Miller Trust),
Mendocino County

Allocated	\$1,676,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,671,541.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,458.50

Leininger and C&R Ranches Habitat Improvement,
CEQA and Design, Tehama County

Allocated	\$60,000.00
Expended	<u>-60,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Project Planning, Oak Woodlands, Statewide

Allocated	\$25,000.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$25,000.00

Sedgwick Reserve Infrastructure and Facilities Upgrade,
Santa Barbara County

Allocated	\$960,000.00
Expended	<u>-957,565.25</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,434.75

Spenceville Wildlife Area, Conservation Easement
(Robinson Ranch), Nevada County

Allocated	\$6,368.00
Expended	<u>-6,368.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Stunt Ranch Reserve Research and Education Center,
Los Angeles County

Allocated	\$967,500.00
Expended	<u>-967,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

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Working and Learning Among the Oaks/Phase II,
San Luis Obispo County

Allocated	\$139,411.00
Expended	<u>-131,258.92</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$8,152.08

Total Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$95,109.02
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OTHER

Feather River Wildlife Area (Transfer of Property),
Highway 99 Bridge Expansion, Sutter County

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

At the May 27, 2010 meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Board approved the transfer of a 1.8± acre portion of the Department of Fish and Game's Feather River Wildlife Area to the Department of Transportation to facilitate a bridge expansion over the Feather River via Highway 99, near the town of Nicolaus, in Sutter County. Work is now complete and this entry is to officially close the project.

Wildlife Connectivity Mapping (Change of Scope)

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

At the September 19, 2011, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Board approved a Change of Scope and changed the grantee from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to the California Wildlife Foundation for a cooperative project to develop, distribute and maintain data on essential wildlife corridors and linkages located in the northern section of Sierra Nevada Foothills. Work is now complete and this entry is to officially close the project.

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 Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the Recovery of Funds and close the projects as recommended. Recovery totals include: \$66,324.00 to the Habitat Conservation Fund; \$10,593.41 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund; \$0 to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund; \$16,039.00 to the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002; \$95,109.02 to the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006; \$0 to the Other.

Passed Unanimously.

- Ortega – Yes**
- Sklar – Yes**
- Hunting – Yes**

***6. .. Shaver Lake Ramp Extension and Shade Pavilions
Fresno County
\$409,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the County of Fresno (County) to extend an existing boat launch and provide shade structures for boaters, located on privately-owned land, approximately 45 miles northeast of the City of Fresno in Fresno County.

LOCATION

Shaver Lake is located in the Sierra National Forest in Fresno County along State Highway 168, approximately 45 miles northeast of Fresno. The lake was created in the early 1900s when Southern California Edison Company (SCE) built a dam on Stevenson Creek, a tributary of the San Joaquin River. The lake boasts two public boat ramps, one at Camp Edison (Shaver Lake Marina) on the southeastern side of the lake, and one at the project site (Sierra Marina) located on the north shore. The Sierra Marina boat ramp was constructed in 1966 and is operated by the County through an agreement with SCE, the landowner. The County does not charge a fee for parking or launching. Shaver Lake is a very popular destination for local anglers and anglers from all over the State. At around 5,300 feet in elevation and surrounded by pine trees and granite, the lake offers a scenic destination to anglers and provides populations of trout, Kokanee salmon, bass, catfish, and carp. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) also manages an annual fish stocking program at the lake. To satisfy the ever increasing use on the lake, the Board approved projects in February 2005 and again in November of that year to upgrade the facilities at Sierra Marina by enlarging the ramp from two lanes to four, constructing additional parking, and providing a second restroom. In November 2008, the Board approved additional funding to replace aging boarding floats and electrical lighting at the site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Sierra Marina facilities currently include a 250± foot long boarding dock and two concrete boat launching ramps. The east ramp is in excess of 500 feet and can be utilized even during low water years due to its length and invert elevation. The west launch ramp is 120 feet in length and can only be used during normal water years when the lake is at or above 75% capacity. The purpose of the project is to provide two usable launch ramps when the lake is less than 75% capacity. Having both ramps available during peak summer months will alleviate congestion and minimize boat launch traffic backing up all the way to Highway 168. The project will extend the west boat ramp by 100± feet in length. Rip rap will be placed along the side and at the end of this ramp extension. In addition, public access will be enhanced by providing two shade pavilions adjacent to and east of both boat ramps and constructed to extend out over the water when the lake is at capacity.

The main access to the site is from State Highway 168. The entrance is four miles past the town of Shaver Lake. The existing public parking facilities have demonstrated that they are more than adequate to accommodate traffic use during the peak summer months. The addition of the west ramp extension will alleviate congestion on the east ramp, turn around area above the ramps, and the boat-ready lane where cars with trailers are waiting to launch or haul out boats. Parking will be unaffected by these improvements.

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The existing facility, which includes the Sierra Marina, provides public use, daily launching, storage of boats on and off the water, repair shop, convenience store with food, fuel, boating and fishing supplies and slip rentals. The general boating season extends from April to October, but the lake is open year round and fishermen are always prevalent. The launch ramp is open 24 hours a day and can be used during the night time hours since the launch ramp and parking areas are lit with lighting standards. The County has amended an existing lease agreement with SCE that extends the lease of the facility through June 30, 2035. As a partner in the operation and maintenance of the launch facility, Sierra Marina staff will, under agreement with the County, maintain the dock extension and the shade pavilions for the 25-year life of the improvement per the Grant Agreement.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Public Access Program and meets the program's goal of providing public access for hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation statewide.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSISTENCY

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

- Goal C. 1 –
Support a wide range of recreational activities (e.g., hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, camping, photography, etc.) in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources.
- Goal C. 4 –
Place greater emphasis on projects that accommodate compatible wildlife-oriented public uses, while supporting urban areas and disadvantaged communities.

The extension of the existing boat launch will provide a safer and more enjoyable boating experience for visitors to Shaver Lake which provides a variety of wildlife-oriented recreational activities including fishing, boating, bird watching and hiking trails. In addition, the installation of the ADA compliant shade pavilions will provide greater opportunities for individuals with disabilities to access and enjoy the area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The existing launch, public facilities, the proposed extended launch, and shade pavilions will be open without charge and should conditions change, any proposed fee structure would be approved by WCB in the future. The County will provide long-term management of the project site through an agreement with Sierra Marina, and has entered into a 25-year management plan with WCB that will remain in effect until the expiration date of February 24, 2041. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, the County does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Budget Item	WCB	County of Fresno	Total
Engineering	5,000	8,500	13,500
Planning, Design & Permitting	20,000	16,500	36,500
Construction	384,000	91,600	475,600
Project Contingency	-	79,590	79,590
Project Management:	-	5,000	5,000
Total:	\$409,000	\$201,190	\$610,190

Project costs will be for engineering, planning, design, permitting, and construction related activities including labor and materials.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a). The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife compatible recreational activities. WCB staff has applied for assistance through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act, which has been approved and will reimburse 75% of project costs.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. As lead agency, the County of Fresno, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has considered the MND and has prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$409,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); authorize the acceptance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act reimbursement; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$409,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); authorize the acceptance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act reimbursement; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned. Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

***7. Ventura River Oak Woodland Restoration
Ventura County
\$200,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) for a cooperative project with Ventura County and private donors to restore 20 acres of coast live oak savanna and woodland habitat adjacent to the Ventura River on the Ventura River Preserve (VRP), located approximately one mile west of the City of Ojai in Ventura County.

LOCATION

The 1,600 acre VRP is located in the Western Ojai Valley and encompasses three miles of the Ventura River and surrounding canyons. Home to over 300 plant and animal species, the VRP's diverse topography creates ideal conditions for a variety of plant communities. Steep north facing slopes in Wills Canyon offer refuge for shade-loving plants while chaparral blanketed hillsides are open to summer sun. Pockets of grasslands and meadows offer a colorful variety of spring wildflowers and grasses.

The project site is located at the abandoned 41 acre orange orchard on the northern end of the property. The site lies adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest and within the Ventura River watershed, which is the sole water source for the entire Ojai Valley.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will implement a portion of the larger Ventura River Oak Woodland Restoration Project that is underway on the OVLC's VRP. Specifically, grant funds will be used to restore 20 acres on the 41 acre project site to coast live oak savanna and woodland habitat. The goal of the project is establishment of oak trees at a density appropriate for oak savanna habitat (12 trees per acre), and oak woodland habitat (25 trees per acre). The 20 acres of habitat restoration will include 16.3± acres of oak savanna and 4.7± acres of oak woodland habitats. Oak savanna habitats are remarkable for their scattered single trees, and differ from oak woodlands that tend to have higher tree densities. Oak savanna habitat is projected to have greater than 10% oak canopy when oak trees are mature. A minimum of 313 coast live oak trees will be established as a component of this project. In addition, the project will be managed for the long-term success of oaks.

The site is currently occupied by the remains of a historic orange orchard. Most of the trees are dead or dying because they are no longer irrigated and have suffered drought impacts. The majority of the orange trees in the 41 acres are currently being removed by OVLC in preparation of the restoration project by masticating them in place with a tractor-mounted masticator. The tree mulch will be left in place to help manage weeds in the project area, and will also benefit new oak plantings. Removing the orange trees has the added benefits of reducing fire risks and preventing the potential harboring of agricultural pests. Fewer than 10% of the dead standing orange trees will be left in place to provide habitat complexity for wildlife. Additional site preparation includes cutting non-native grasses and thistles to prevent seed formation.

Oak trees will be planted in designated “Oak Nodes” that are irregularly spaced throughout the project area in a density of 12 per acre for oak savanna habitat and 25 per acre for oak woodland habitat. In addition, up to five companion shrubs will be added to each node, as oak tree vigor is enhanced when they are situated in a plant community complex. Native grasses will be propagated at the OVLC Native Plant Nursery and planted at the project site in grass nodes.

The proposed project is more than an effort to grow oak trees, the project site is situated in an area where other restoration projects have or are occurring which result in integrated multiple habitat types that create sustainable and functional value for wildlife. Adjacent to the proposed oak restoration site is a newly restored riparian area where Rice Creek has been returned to its historic route. The newly re-watered creek will attract a variety of wildlife species and create ecological synergy. In addition to the WCB proposed 20 acres of oak woodland and savanna restoration, 10 acres of oak savanna restoration began in October 2015 with funding from the Ventura County Oak Tree Mitigation Fund (VC Oak). Long-term plans include a seeding program on site to establish native perennial bunch grasses and annual forbs.

The project supports the Ventura River Parkway Plan (Plan) developed by the State Coastal Conservancy. The goal of the Plan is to protect vital habitats, maintain wildlife linkages, and re-connect the river with its floodplain. In addition, the proposed project is consistent with The Ventura River Watershed Management Plan, approved by the Watershed Council in March 2015 because it improves habitat connectivity and implements oak savanna and woodland restoration. The proposed restoration project will serve as an example for how restoration on other parcels could be implemented successfully.

WCB PROGRAM

This project is being considered under the WCB’s Oak Woodlands Conservation Program (Program). Grant proposals under this Program are evaluated and selected for funding by WCB staff based on established criteria, and must be located within a county that has adopted an Oak Woodlands countywide management plan. The Program is designed to assist local efforts to achieve oak woodland protection. Ventura County adopted an Oaks Woodland Management Plan in 2007.

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

Goal B.1 – Invest in projects and landscape areas that help provide resilience in the face of climate change, enhance water resources for fish and wildlife and enhance habitats on working lands:

A possible outcome of climate change is increased fire frequency. The 41 acres of dying orange trees pose a significant fire threat to the surrounding landscape, including the adjacent Los Padres National Forest. Removal of this potential threat will be beneficial for the entire region.

The proposed project will restore 20 acres of live oak savanna and woodland habitats and contribute to the protection and restoration of the Ventura River watershed, which is the sole water source for the entire Ojai Valley.

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The watershed of Rice and Wills Canyon serve as an important wildlife corridor between the Los Padres National Forest and the Ventura River. This project will improve the corridor by restoring the habitat in the orange orchard which lies between the Ventura River floodplain and Rice and Wills Canyons.

Goal B.5 – Provide opportunities for greater public involvement in restoration projects:

The OVLC has encouraged and provided outdoor education to elementary to high school age children on OVLC preserves for over 10 years. The oak restoration at VRP will provide an additional opportunity for these groups to get hands-on restoration experience by providing the opportunity for students to assist with acorn collection and planting, native container planting, weeding, and irrigation. In addition, volunteers may be used to plant acorns, weed non-native species, and plant grass plugs. The Restoration Program Manager will oversee all volunteer activities to ensure project goals are being achieved by volunteer activities.

Goal C.1 – Support a wide range of recreational activities (e.g., hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, camping, photography, etc.) in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources:

The land is owned by OVLC and is open to the public daily. The land is actively managed for the maintenance and improvement of wildlife habitats and for passive recreation uses such as hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, dog walking, equestrian use, and educational purposes.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project site lies on permanently protected conservation land that is actively managed for habitat quality, ensuring that the project benefits will be long lasting. The project will be implemented, managed and maintained by the grantee/landowner, the OVLC. The OVLC manages open spaces for habitat preservation and public use opportunities, relying on a combination of employees, volunteers, partners and members to support this effort. Monitoring reports will be submitted annually to WCB in the first five years and every 5 years thereafter for the 25 year project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Budget Item	WCB	VC Oak	Private Donations	Totals
Planning	\$21,000	\$6,960	0	\$27,960
Materials	\$17,640	\$6,305	\$2000	\$25,945
Labor	\$112,500	\$67,400	\$40,00	\$219,900
OE&E	\$14,800	\$200	0	\$15,000
Monitoring	\$9,000	\$5,220	0	\$4,220
Contingencies	\$25,060	\$12,913	0	\$37,973
Total	\$200,00	\$98,998	\$42,000	\$340,998

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Project costs will be for removal of non-native perennial plants and control of non-native annuals (i.e. weed management), installation of extensions to existing irrigation system, oak savanna and woodland restoration, and project management and administration. Funding for the removal of the 41 acres of orange orchard has been obtained by private donation and funding granted from the VC Oak Fund (VC Oak). Also included in the VC Oak is funding for 10 acres of oak savanna restoration. Funding is being sought by the OVLC for future restoration of the remaining 11 acres.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(d)(2), which provide funding for the preservation of native oak woodland habitat pursuant to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (Fish and Game Code Section 1360, et seq.).

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15304, Class 4 as a minor alteration to the condition of land, which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(d)(2); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(d)(2); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

***8. Climate Resiliency Planning for the South Coast Ecoregion
San Diego, Riverside, Orange, Ventura, Los Angeles,
San Bernardino and Santa Barbara Counties
\$250,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the San Diego State University Research Foundation (SDSURF) for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop an analytical framework identifying practical, proactive approaches for the management of biodiversity under the influence of climate change and urban land use pressures for the South Coast Ecoregion in San Diego, Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties.

LOCATION

The South Coast Ecoregion includes the coastal plain and hill portions of the counties of San Diego, Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, and Santa Barbara, as well as the Channel Islands. The area is characterized by a Mediterranean-like climate – mild, wet winters.

Due to the desirable climate and proximity to the Pacific Ocean, humans have been attracted to this region for centuries. Today, several of the largest population centers of California occur here including the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area and Greater San Diego. Roughly 30% of the state's population resides in this area that comprises less than 5% of California's land.

The South Coast Ecoregion is renowned for its outstanding biodiversity and is considered one of the world's most significant biodiversity hotspots. A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeographic region with a significant number of species that are under threat from human activity. There are more than 300 species in the South Coast Ecoregion that are thought to be potentially threatened with extinction. Examples include the California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, San Diego cactus wren, California least tern, Pacific pocket mouse, light-footed clapper rail, and all the subspecies of island fox.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Maintaining regional biodiversity and ecological function in the face of the direct and indirect impacts of climate change is one of the central issues facing land managers. Across Southern California, increasing temperatures and more frequent drought events are predicted to impact biodiversity over the next century. Changes in climate can also have indirect effects that impact wildlife, such as extending fire seasons and increasing fire frequency. Locally, temperature shifts are likely to drive migration upslope to cooler climates or westward to areas with greater marine influence and lower temperatures. However, species' capacity to move to future suitable habitat is challenged by habitat fragmentation and loss. Ongoing land use development is expected in Southern California, where high population density and growth is correlated with an increase in the number of plants and animals which become listed as rare and threatened along with an increase frequency of fire. Without prudent management, climate and land use change are expected to cause unprecedented species extinctions at the local and global scales. Preserving habitat connectivity is the most frequently recommended strategy for mitigating the impacts of climate change, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance. In Southern California, the California Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program developed ecological networks in response to widespread habitat fragmentation. These plans are designed to protect biodiversity by establishing networks of core habitats.

Connectivity is essential if these networks of core habitats are to support the long-term goals of protecting biodiversity. Landscape connectivity allows for movement among patches of suitable habitat, reduces the chance of extinction for small populations, and maintains gene flow in patchy landscapes. Over longer time scales, and in the face of changing environmental conditions, connectivity will prove critical for facilitating range shifts in response to landscape changes caused by changing climate and altered disturbance regimes.

This project will develop an analytical framework identifying practical, proactive approaches for the management of biodiversity of the South Coast Ecoregion under the influence of climate change and urban land use pressures. Guidelines and connectivity linkage maps will be developed that identify landscape linkages across the network of protected lands. The analyses and maps generated from this work will be used to assist CDFW with direct identification and prioritization of land acquisition targets, identification of potential habitat enhancement project needs, and regional landscape management planning.

To meet project outcomes, the project will collaborate with CDFW and build on the work of the South Coast Missing Linkages and California Essential Habitat Connectivity projects by providing more detailed landscape linkages. Input from stakeholder engagement will also be gathered at various points during the project to provide opportunities to adapt the approach. Linkages will be prioritized based on their contribution to increasing abundance projections for the target species populations along with the assessment of economic cost associated with potential acquisitions across the South Coast Ecoregion.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for restoration of coastal, tidal, or fresh water habitats, coastal scrub, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitats.

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

- Goal B.1 –
Invest in projects and landscape areas that help provide resilience in the face of climate change, enhance water resources for fish and wildlife and enhance habitats on working lands:

The purpose of this project is to develop an analytical framework for CDFW identifying practical, proactive approaches for the management of biodiversity by identifying networks of core habitats. Connectivity is essential if these networks are to support the long-term goals of protecting biodiversity, particularly as species' ranges are likely to shift in response to climate change.

In addition, the proposed project addresses the following priorities outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

- Climate change resiliency and adaptation
- Habitat connectivity and corridors
- Improve habitat for threatened and endangered species

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Budget Item	WCB	USFWS	Totals
Project Management	\$215,510	\$152,126	\$367,636
Travel	\$5,000	\$1,066	\$6,066
Project Administration	\$22,051	\$26,808	\$48,859
Contingencies	<u>\$7,439</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$7,439</u>
TOTAL:	\$250,000	\$180,000	\$430,000

Project costs will be for data gathering, analysis, and coordination/meetings with stakeholder groups.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)(2), which provides funding for the development of scientific data, habitat mapping and other research information necessary to determine the priorities for restoration and acquisition statewide.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) Section 15061(b)(1) and (3) and Section 15262 as feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions which the Board has not approved, adopted, or funded. Subject to Board approval, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)(2); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)(2); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

***9. Santa Cruz Sandhills, Zayante, (Bias)
Santa Cruz County
\$10,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (LTSCC) for a cooperative project with the USFWS to acquire in fee 10± acres of land for the protection of habitat essential to the long term recovery of several state and federally listed endangered species.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located within the Zayante Sandhills region of Santa Cruz County approximately six miles north of the City of Santa Cruz and west of the City of Scotts Valley. The Property contains unique, intact habitat communities found on rocky outcrops and slopes consisting of sandy Zayante soils. Zayante soils are derived from marine deposits occurring over 15 million years ago. These areas support diverse assemblages of endemic plants and insects, including four federally listed endangered plant species that are known to only exist in the Sandhills: the Santa Cruz wallflower, the Ben Lomond spineflower, the Ben Lomond buckwheat and the silver leaf (Bonny Doon) manzanita. Located near the Property in the Sandhills are the South Ridge Conservation Area, Ben Lomond Sandhills Preserve, the Quail Hollow Quarry Conservation Area, and the Randall Morgan Preserve. These protected habitat areas are managed cooperatively by Santa Cruz County, the City of Scotts Valley, and LTSCC.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property has been identified in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) for the Santa Cruz Sandhills as a priority for protection. The proposed project would permanently protect and improve the management of rare sandhills habitat essential to the long-term recovery of several federally listed endangered species including the Mount Hermon June beetle, Zayante band-winged grasshopper and four plant species described above.

Approximately 40% (4 acres) of the Property supports sand parkland – the Sandhills community characterized by open canopy of ponderosa pines and diverse understory of herbaceous plants and rich assemblage of animals; less than 250 acres of this extraordinarily rare community type remain in the county. The remainder of the parcel supports silverleaf manzanita chaparral, also known as “sand chaparral”, which is dominated by the endemic silverleaf manzanita.

Assembling a network of protected habitat blocks will promote long-term persistence of the endangered species and unique communities within the Sandhills in the region. Ongoing development and encroachment into the Sandhills threatens to eliminate important habitat and irrevocably sever connectivity. Protection of the Property will increase the size and connectivity of existing protected habitat, thus facilitating dispersal, gene flow, and natural disturbance processes that maintain viable populations.

The Property is also important for the following reasons:

- Biodiversity – The Property features the lower slope of the South Ridge of Quail Hollow Quarry, which is known as the “Crown Jewel” of the Sandhills because it

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supports the greatest diversity of rare and unique species as well as most of the largest populations of the endemic Sandhills species.

- Size – The Property is relatively large for Sandhills habitat, which has been extensively fragmented along with the rest of central Santa Cruz County.
- Adjacency – The parcel is contiguous with the 104 acre Quail Hollow Quarry Conservation Area, which is permanently protected by the County of Santa Cruz and CDFW.
- Integrity – The Property is undeveloped and contains highly intact Sandhills habitat. It features some limited trails used by hikers and perhaps occasional equestrians; these trails have helped to maintain open habitat required by the Santa Cruz wallflower, Santa Cruz kangaroo rat and Zayante band-winged grasshopper.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed subgrant for this project is being made under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code Section 1300, et seq.), authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the Program the WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition Grant selection and review process.

This project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal A.1 Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

The Property contains habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened and endangered species. In addition to the silverleaf manzanita, the Property also contains or will support, the Mount Hermon June Beetle, Zayante band-winged grasshopper and Ben Lomond spineflower. By protecting the wildlife corridors and reducing the fragmentation in the area, the species will have the potential to adapt to changes in climate.

- Goal A.4 Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

The Property is identified as a priority for protection in CDFW's CAPP for the Santa Cruz Sandhills. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance and use for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The LTSCC will manage the Property in conjunction with other properties it owns in the surrounding area. Its focus will be on preserving the rare Sandhills habitat.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$365,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for its approved fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by LTSCC. The terms and conditions of the proposed subgrant of USFWS funds to the LTSCC provide that staff of WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the subgrant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the subgrant or require the subgrantee to transfer a conservation easement to WCB or another qualified holder.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

LTSCC	\$248,000.00
USFWS subgrant funds	\$116,800.00
Total Purchase Price	\$364,800.00
Other Project Related Costs	\$10,000.00

TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION \$10,000.00

It is estimated that \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review. Under the terms of the USFWS grants, the WCB may seek partial reimbursement of these costs.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this acquisition are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c), which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat on which threatened, endangered, fully protected and unique species or natural communities naturally exist.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

This project has been reviewed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing

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natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve the project as proposed; allocate \$10,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code section 2786 (b/c), to cover internal project-related expenses; accept the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$116,800.00 and authorize the subgrant of these federal funds to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$10,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), to cover internal project-related expenses; approve acceptance of the Recovery Land Acquisition grant from the USFWS in the amount of \$332,475.00 and approve a subgrant of these funds; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

***10. Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area
Expansion 7
Riverside County
\$66,250.00**

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition (Section 6) grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC). This proposal is also to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB or Board) grant to the CVCC. The proposed grant and subgrant would fund CVCC's purchase of 39± acres of land in Riverside County for the protection of habitat to support the recovery of federal and state-listed endangered species within the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP/NCCP) area.

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is in a region known as the Coachella Valley (Valley) which extends for approximately 45 miles in Riverside County southeast from the San Bernardino Mountains to northern shore of the Salton Sea. The Valley is bounded by the outlying mountain ranges of the San Jacinto Mountains on the west, the Santa Rosa Mountains on the South, and the Little San Bernardino Mountains on the north and east. The greater Los Angeles area is approximately 100 miles to the west with Highway 10 providing convenient Valley access for residents and commuters. The Valley's urban and residential development has been growing rapidly. With a population of nearly 600,000 people the Valley is part of the 13th largest metropolitan area in the United States, the Inland Empire.

The Property is located in the city of Desert Hot Springs along the east side of Indian Avenue, south of Mission Lakes Boulevard and approximately nine miles north of the city of Palm Springs. The total area of Desert Hot Springs encompasses 24± square miles with a population of approximately 28,000 residents. Considerable amounts of the population are seasonal residents who wish to avoid the snow and cold temperatures of their northern winter residence for the consistent moderate weather of the region. Several golf course communities and single family home subdivisions saturate the immediate outlying area of the Property and support the steadily growing population of Desert Hot Springs.

The Property is identified for protection within the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area, a designated conservation area within the CVMSHCP/NCCP area approved for the Coachella Valley portion of Riverside County. The purpose of the CVMSHCP/NCCP is to provide a regional vision for balanced growth to meet the requirements of federal and state endangered species laws, while promoting enhanced opportunities for recreation, tourism, and job growth. The CVMSHCP/NCCP aims to conserve 240,000 acres of open space to support the 500,000 acres of pre-existing conservation land for the expanded protection of 27 plant and animal species. With the support of other resources partners, the State and the federal government have previously helped conserve approximately 85,000 acres within the CVMSHCP/NCCP area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of an undeveloped rectangular parcel characterized by natural desert terrain with gently sloping topography. The current general plan land use designation for the Property is low density residential development. This proposed acquisition will protect core habitat, linkages, fluvial and Aeolian sand transport corridors and braided washes important

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for the federally threatened and state endangered Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and the federally endangered Coachella Valley milk-vetch. Other sensitive, sand dependent species that would benefit from this acquisition include the flat-tailed horned lizard, Coachella Valley round tailed ground squirrel, Coachella Valley pocket mouse, Palm Springs pocket mouse, Coachella Valley sand-treader cricket, Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket, burrowing owl and the Little San Bernardino linanthus.

The vital habitat on this Property continues to be threatened by ongoing urban development, off-road vehicle use, invasive species and the loss of sand source. A majority of the Valley's natural blowsand habitat has been eliminated or degraded by the direct and indirect effects of development. Structures and non-native plant species restrict what were once free-moving sand deposits and prevent replenishment of the blowsand habitat which these species rely upon. Acquisition of this Property would place over 39± acres of blowsand and braided wash habitat under permanent protection.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.), authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the Program WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The project has been reviewed and approved by the CDFW under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition Grant selection and review process.

This Project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following outlined goals:

- A.1 – Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climactic change.

One of the goals of the CVMSHCP is to preserve existing habitat connections by expanding a network of protected linkages. Connectivity in the habitat area is essential to maintaining the genetic viability of listed/sensitive species being conserved under the plan. Wildlife linkages also provide ecosystem responses to climate change by incorporating elevation gradients that allow species and vegetation communities to shift upward in elevation.

- A.3 – Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The Property is identified in the CVMSHCP and the NCCP as a priority acquisition that supports the recovery of listed species.

- A.4 – Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

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CDFW was instrumental in the creation and support of the CVMSHCP through its NCCP program. Under the NCCP program, CDFW works numerous private and public partners to develop a regional protection plan for plants, animals and their habitats.

- E.1 - Maximize expenditures of remaining bond funds and identify opportunities to leverage existing funds as effectively as possible.

The Property is proposed to be acquired with WCB funds leveraged by the matching funds from the USFWS Section 6 subgrant.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Following the close of escrow, the Property will be owned, managed and monitored by the CVCC. CVCC has established an endowment that will support the monitoring and management for of the Property in perpetuity. The Property will be maintained in conjunction with other properties contained within the CVMSHCP/NCCP. The Property may be considered for future appropriate passive recreational uses.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$175,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match of \$61,250.00.00 that is proposed to be provided by a WCB grant. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and subgrant of USFWS grant funds to the CVCC provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant or subgrant terms, WCB can require CVCC to encumber the property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$61,250.00
WCB – subgrant of USFWS funds	\$113,750.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$175,000.00
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	\$5,000.00

TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION \$66,250.00

It is estimated that an additional \$5,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(c), which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans and is consistent with the purposes of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 13525, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$66,250.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(c), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; approve acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant from the USFWS in the amount of \$113,750.00 and approve a subgrant of these federal funds to CVCC; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$66,250.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(c), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; approve acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant from the USFWS in the amount of \$113,750.00 and approve a subgrant of these federal funds to CVCC; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially a

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

***11. Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion 6
San Diego County
\$25,530.00**

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition (HCPLA) grant and the acquisition in fee of 2± acres of land in San Diego County (Property) on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This is a cooperative project with the USFWS for the protection of core areas of habitat to support threatened and endangered species and to secure key regional wildlife linkages all consistent with the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), a joint Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The proposed acquisition focuses on land that will augment the San Diego MSCP, a comprehensive long-term habitat conservation plan addressing the needs of multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. The MSCP addresses the potential impacts of urban growth, natural habitat loss, and species endangerment and creates a plan to mitigate for the potential loss of covered species and their habitat due to the direct impacts of future development of both public and private lands within the MSCP area.

The Property is located northeast of the community of Jamul, in San Diego County, and is adjacent to the southern boundary of the 2,300+/- acre CDFW Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve (Reserve). The Sweetwater River flows through the northern portion of the Reserve before it eventually feeds into the Sweetwater Reservoir southwest of the Reserve. The Loveland Reservoir, located in the Cleveland National Forest, is located northeast of the Reserve.

Other protected lands in the vicinity of the Property include CDFW's Crestridge Ecological Reserve to the north and its Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area and Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve to the south.

Also in the vicinity of the Property are residential subdivisions, with larger estate developments and intermittent commercial development along the major thoroughfares. Protecting this strategically located Property will avoid further development encroachment that would result in a fragmented landscape and preclude connectivity between already protected areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property contains a variety of landscapes and habitats, including coastal sage scrub habitat for the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (gnatcatcher) as well as habitat suitable for the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and the arroyo toad. MSCP target species found or expected on the site include mountain lion, orange-throated whiptail, San Diego horned lizard and Cooper's hawk.

Acquisition of the Property will secure key regional wildlife linkages and preserve core resource areas of habitat. Core resource areas are defined as areas of high concentration of sensitive biological resources which, if lost, could not be replaced or mitigated elsewhere.

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The Property is unique, in that the naturally occurring ecological processes necessary to maintain a fully functioning ecosystem are still intact. Conservation of this Property will not only preserve this ecosystem but will also increase the protected linkages among nearby public lands. These nearby lands are managed by the County of San Diego, CDFW, USFWS and Endangered Habitats Conservancy.

The proposed acquisition will contribute to the San Diego MSCP's ability to address the effects of climate change by conserving additional core and linkage habitat and will enhance the supported species' opportunities to utilize suitable habitat and/or expand their ranges as necessitated by climate change.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition on behalf of CDFW and acceptance of the USFWS Grant for this project are being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB or Board) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.), authorizing WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions of properties. Under the Program WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The project has been reviewed and approved by CDFW under its NCCP program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

This project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal A.1 Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

The Property contains habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened and endangered species. Linkages and corridors between major core habitat areas will be protected and maintained to allow for range shifts and migration of species to utilize suitable habitat as necessitated by climate change or temporary loss of habitat due to catastrophic fires or drought.

- Goal A.3 Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The Property is within the MSCP area and will help meet the goals of the MSCP. Also, the project has been reviewed and approved by the CDFW under its NCCP program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW will manage the Property as part of the Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve. CDFW expects minimal, if any, additional expenses as a result of this acquisition.

Possible future public use opportunities that may be considered include hiking, photography and bird watching.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$30,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that will be provided by the Habitat Conservation Fund from WCB. WCB will perform all necessary due diligence to acquire the Property, including review and approval of all title documents and preliminary title reports, inspections and environmental site assessments. WCB will also prepare all acquisition documents including the Property Acquisition Agreement, Grant Deed and escrow instructions. This acquisition is exempt from DGS transaction review. Once approved by WCB, all funds will be ordered and disbursed directly into the escrow account established for this transaction.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board (non-federal match)	\$10,530.00
USFWS HCPLA grant funds	\$19,470.00
TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE	\$30,000.00
Other project related administrative costs	\$15,000.00

TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION \$25,530.00

It is estimated that project-related administrative costs will include appraisal costs, DGS appraisal review, escrow and title insurance costs.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purpose of this project is consistent with the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species and which allows for the acquisition of habitat on which unique species or natural communities naturally exist .

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve the project as proposed; allocate \$25,530.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize acceptance of the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$19,470.00; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

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As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$25,530.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize acceptance of the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$19,470.00; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

***12. Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area
Expansion 6
San Diego County
\$282,720.00**

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition (HCPLA) grant and the acquisition in fee of 185± acres of land in San Diego County (Property) on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This is a cooperative project with USFWS for the protection of core areas of habitat to support threatened and endangered species and to secure key regional wildlife linkages all consistent with the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), a joint Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The proposed acquisition focuses on land that will augment the San Diego MSCP, a comprehensive long-term habitat conservation plan addressing the needs of multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. The MSCP addresses the potential impacts of urban growth, natural habitat loss, and species endangerment and creates a plan to mitigate for the potential loss of covered species and their habitat due to the direct impacts of future development of both public and private lands within the MSCP area.

The Property is located in the community of Jamul, about 20 – 25 miles east of downtown San Diego. The Property shares boundaries with the Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (HCWA) to the south, east, and west. The 6,100± acre HCWA, in turn, shares boundaries with other important state, federal, and county owned and managed conserved public lands to the east, west, and south and is an important wildlife corridor between Otay Mountain and the Jamul Mountains. Other protected lands in the vicinity of the Property include CDFW's Crestridge Ecological Reserve and Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve to the north and Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve to the south.

Also in the vicinity of the Property are residential subdivisions, with larger estate developments and intermittent commercial development along the major thoroughfares. Protecting this strategically located Property will avoid further development encroachment that would result in a fragmented landscape and preclude connectivity between already protected areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Acquisition of the Property will secure key regional wildlife linkages and preserve core resource areas of habitat. Core resource areas are defined as areas of high concentration of sensitive biological resources which, if lost, could not be replaced or mitigated elsewhere.

The Property contains a variety of landscapes and habitats, including coastal sage scrub habitat for the federally threatened and California State Species of Concern coastal California gnatcatcher (gnatcatcher) as well as habitat suitable for the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and the arroyo toad. MSCP target species found or expected on the site include mountain lion, orange-throated whiptail, San Diego horned lizard and Cooper's hawk.

The Property is unique, in that the naturally occurring ecological processes necessary to

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maintain a fully functioning ecosystem are still intact. Conservation of this Property will not only preserve this ecosystem but will also increase the protected linkages among nearby public lands. These nearby lands are managed by the County of San Diego, CDFW, USFWS and Endangered Habitats Conservancy.

The proposed acquisition will contribute to the San Diego MSCP's ability to address the effects of climate change by conserving additional core and linkage habitat and will enhance the supported species' opportunities to utilize suitable habitat and/or expand their ranges as necessitated by climate change.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition by CDFW and acceptance of the USFWS Grant for this project are being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB or Board) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) authorizing WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions of properties. Under the Program WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The project has been reviewed and approved by CDFW under its NCCP program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

This project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal A.1
Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

The Property contains habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened and endangered species. Linkages and corridors between major core habitat areas will be protected and maintained to allow for range shifts and migration of species to utilize suitable habitat as necessitated by climate change or temporary loss of habitat due to catastrophic fires or drought.

- Goal A.3
Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The Property is within the MSCP area and will help meet the goals of the MSCP. Also, the project has been reviewed and approved by the CDFW under its NCCP program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding.

- Goal A.4
Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

The USFWS grant proposed for this project has been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CDFW will manage the Property as part of the HCWA. CDFW expects minimal, if any, additional expenses as a result of this acquisition.

Possible future public use opportunities that may be considered include hiking, photography and bird watching.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$720,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that will be provided by the Habitat Conservation Fund from WCB. WCB will perform all necessary due diligence to acquire the Property, including review and approval of all title documents and preliminary title reports, inspections and environmental site assessments. WCB will also prepare all acquisition documents including the Property Acquisition Agreement, Grant Deed and escrow instructions. Once approved by WCB and DGS, all funds will be ordered and disbursed directly into the escrow account established for this transaction.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board (non-federal match)	\$252,720.00
USFWS HCPLA funds	\$467,280.00
TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE	\$720,000.00
Other project related administrative costs	\$30,000.00
TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	\$282,720.00

It is estimated that project-related administrative costs will include appraisal costs, DGS appraisal, environmental and transaction review, escrow and title insurance costs.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purpose of this project is consistent with the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species and which allows for the acquisition of habitat on which unique species or natural communities naturally exist.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve the project as proposed; allocate \$282,720.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize acceptance of the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$467,280.00; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$282,720.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize acceptance of the USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$467,280.00; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

***13. San Diego Mountain Ranch
San Diego County
\$10,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Back Country Land Trust (BCLT). BCLT would use the funds for a cooperative project with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) to acquire 982+/- acres of land for the protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species and key wildlife corridor connectivity.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located on the north side of State Route 94, east of La Posta Road in the community of Campo in eastern San Diego County. The Property is approximately 60 miles east of downtown San Diego, south of Interstate 8. The Campo Indian Reservation is located directly to the west of the Property and the Mountain Warfare Training Camp Michael Monsoor (formerly La Posta Warfare Training Facility) is roughly one mile to the west of the Property. Adjoining the training facility are public lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Much of the land within the Campo community consists of scattered rural residential home sites, small ranches and agricultural/equestrian properties. The rural community of Cameron Corners is about four to five miles southwest of the Property and the town of Campo is about one to two miles beyond Cameron Corners. Public services in the local area include elementary and high schools, a post office, library and a fire station.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TPL acquired the Property in 2012 after the Property went into foreclosure. There was a history of illegal sand mining and other types of trespass that impacted the conservation values of the Property.

The Property is an irregularly shaped parcel. The area is topographically diverse, with well-defined north-south draining valleys supporting springs, wet and dry meadow floodplains and oak woodlands. The valleys range from approximately 3,000 – 4,000 feet in elevation. There are east/west secondary canyons on the Property and five drainage systems, with Miller Creek being the most prominent.

The Property occupies a large part of the Miller Creek watershed. Miller Creek bisects the Property and the areas along the creek offer high groundwater elevations and relatively wide floodplains, supporting wet grasslands. These stream habitats and the adjacent floodplain sustain breeding, rearing, foraging and over-wintering of the federally endangered arroyo toad.

The southern three-quarters of the Property constitute the largest single block of designated critical habitat for the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly in the La Posta/Campo core occurrence complex. Protecting the La Posta/Campo complex, which is one of only three core occurrence complexes in San Diego County, is vital to maintaining metapopulation dynamics by enabling exchange of individuals among subpopulations.

The Property's plant and wildlife communities represent an ecological transition between communities along the Pacific coast, the higher elevation of the Peninsular Range and the Sonoran Desert.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed subgrant for this project is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB or Board) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*), which enables WCB to pursue acquisitions on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and accept federal grant funds or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. The project has been reviewed and approved by CDFW under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal A.1
Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

The Property contains habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened and endangered species. It supports habitat for the federally endangered arroyo toad and Quino checkerspot butterfly. The Property contains a variety of soil types, plant communities and species habitats. Acquisition and continued management for conservation will contribute to the recovery of the arroyo toad and Quino checkerspot butterfly and contribute toward resilience to the effects of climate change by conserving valuable habitat.

- Goal A.3
Fund projects that support the implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and recovery of listed species.

The San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (San Diego MSCP) is a joint Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The Property is located in the East County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) area of the HCP/NCCP. The project has been reviewed and approved by the CDFW under its NCCP program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding.

- Goal A.4
Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

As noted above, the Property is within the boundaries of San Diego's East County MSCP. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned and managed by BCLT. Founded in 1990, BCLT owns and manages several thousand acres of land in the Potrero Valley area of San Diego County.

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SANDAG, through its TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program, has agreed to make a grant to BCLT to assist with the acquisition and future management of the Property. TPL has agreed to grant a \$50,000.00 management endowment to BCLT at the close of escrow.

The Property will be managed with the intent to preserve the habitat and wildlife corridors required for the successful recovery of the arroyo toad and Quino checkerspot butterfly.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,455,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS), USFWS, and SANDAG. TPL has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by the SANDAG grant. The Navy has also agreed to contribute funds as part of their Encroachment Protection program to assist with the acquisition.

As a condition of its funding, the Navy requires a Restrictive Use Easement (RUE) that will prohibit development and restrict uses of land that would be incompatible with or interfere with current or future military training, testing, or operations in the area. In addition, under the terms of the SANDAG grant, BCLT must convey a conservation easement over the Property to SANDAG. The SANDAG easement will also prevent development of the Property and protect the habitat and linkages found on the Property.

The Restrictive Use Easement and the Conservation Easement, as well as a Notice of Unrecorded Subgrant Agreement giving notice of the WCB subgrant requirements, will each be recorded against the Property at close of escrow.

The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB subgrant of USFWS funds to BCLT provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the subgrant terms, WCB can require the Subgrantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another approved holder and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

WCB – Subgrant of USFWS funds	\$317,200.00
SANDAG (non-federal match)	\$567,800.00
Department of Defense (Navy)	<u>\$1,570,000.00</u>
TOTAL purchase price	\$2,455,000.00
Administrative costs	\$10,000.00
<i>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>

It is estimated that \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs including DGS appraisal review.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purpose of this project is consistent with the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The project has been reviewed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; authorize acceptance of the Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds from USFWS in the amount of \$317,200.00 and the subgrant of these federal funds to the BCLT; allocate \$10,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c), to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; authorize acceptance of the Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds from USFWS in the amount of \$317,200.00 and the subgrant of these federal funds to the BCLT; allocate \$10,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c), to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

**14. Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Expansion (Manner)
Shasta County
\$350,000.00**

This proposal is to re-consider the acquisition in fee of approximately 13 acres of land on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as an addition to the Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (MCCWA) to provide improved access. The proposal is being reconsidered to provide for proper notification to adjacent land owners pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1348.1.

Mr. John Walsh presented the project to the Board.

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located adjacent to CDFW's MCCWA in the community of Cottonwood in southern Shasta County. The Property is easily accessible from Interstate 5 via Balls Ferry Road. The site has frontage along Adobe Road and on Oakbriar Lane, a private gravel driveway that runs along the western edge of the Property and also serves several residences to the south.

The surrounding neighborhood is comprised primarily of rural residential ranchette-style single family dwellings with the additional acreage set aside for horses and livestock grazing. The Property and its immediate neighborhood are located within CDFW's Battle Creek Riparian (BCR) Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) area. Properties within the BCR CAPP area are situated within the Sacramento River basin near the confluence of Battle Creek and the Sacramento River in Shasta and Tehama counties. The Property is positioned in an area just north of Cottonwood Creek and west of the Sacramento River. Cottonwood Creek is considered an important stream as part of a complex and highly valuable riparian ecosystem that occurs along the Sacramento River and its associated tributaries.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is comprised of a single rectangular parcel improved with a single family dwelling and shop building used to house tools and farm equipment. The Property is zoned as Limited Agriculture (A-1). The A-1 zoning designation is for purposes of preserving agricultural lands at a size capable of supporting part-time agricultural operations. The zoning also allows a variety of uses that include the construction of a single-family residence; agricultural use; sale of agricultural products grown on site; small wineries; and a second single-family residence subject to provisions. The Property is currently used for livestock grazing.

The general terrain and topography of the Property is gently sloping, rural grassland enclosed with perimeter fencing. There are mature oaks scattered throughout the Property with greater density in the upland area near the road. The lower portion of the Property consists of a natural swale that receives water regularly throughout the year due to excess flows and runoff from the local water district. This swale supports a variety of wetland and riparian species including willow, tule, blackberry, elderberry and wild grape. This highly diverse area provides valuable habitat for numerous wildlife species that include black-tailed deer, mountain lion, muskrat, gray fox, and brush rabbit; it also supports the federally endangered valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

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The Property represents an opportune acquisition by CDFW not only because of its habitat values and location adjacent to MCCWA, but also for its location next to a public road. For years CDFW has sought improved public access to the MCCWA. Current access to and through the western portion of MCCWA is by means of a narrow lane with no designated parking area. In order to access this portion of the Wildlife Area, public users must park a considerable distance along Adobe Road. If WCB approves the acquisition, CDFW would like to propose a parking area which would provide superior access to the MCCWA. The Property also has the potential for future habitat restoration and enhancement opportunities if CDFW wishes to do so.

CDFW's goal is to preserve, protect, and enhance as much of the remaining riparian and wetland areas in the upper Sacramento River as is possible and to provide appropriate public use. This goal can best be accomplished through acquisition of properties like the Property that will enable CDFW to expand the MCCWA and provide opportunities for potential future wildlife oriented recreation.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition for this project is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code Section 1300, et seq.), which authorizes WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with the acquisition of properties. Under the Program WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to WCB with a recommendation to fund.

The project meets the following WCB's strategic Plan goals:

- A.1 – Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

The Property is located in the BCR CAPP, which is designated by CDFW as an important riparian area. Properties identified within this CAPP possess extensive fish and wildlife habitat values because of the area's riparian ecosystems. The mature riparian and riparian scrub habitats in these ecosystems allow wildlife species to move in response to climate change. The proposed acquisition of the Property will serve to expand CDFW's block of protected properties in furtherance of this purpose.

- A.4 – Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

The Property is identified as within CDFW's BCR CAPP. CDFW has completed a comprehensive and detailed study of the BCR CAPP area. The BCR CAPP report states that: "habitat acquisition is being taken in this area because of the unusually high fish and wildlife values resulting from riparian areas adjacent to diverse wetland habitats, land ownership

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patterns including public lands, existing State wildlife areas and the proximity to the rapidly urbanizing Redding-Cottonwood area.” CDFW is investing its energy in acquiring properties within the BCR CAPP, such as the Property, for the purpose of protecting their habitat values along with potential future opportunities to expand and develop wildlife oriented public use in the area.

- C.1 – Support a wide range of recreational activities in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources.

The Project will accommodate a parking area which would provide superior access to the MCCWA.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be maintained and managed by CDFW’s Northern Region as an addition to the MCCWA under its existing budget. The project coincides with CDFW’s management objective for the BCR CAPP, which is to preserve riparian and wetland habitats and to develop both consumptive (e.g., hunting and fishing) and non-consumptive interpretive use programs. Users would be exposed to various kinds of riparian habitats and associated wildlife. A future parking area at the Property would assist in providing greater access to the MCCWA’s recreational opportunities.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$320,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The owner has agreed to sell the Property for its approved appraised fair market value. WCB Staff will complete a due diligence review of all title documents, preliminary title reports, inspections, and environmental site assessments as well as prepare documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance, prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. If approved by the WCB the transaction must also be reviewed and approved by DGS.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Approved Fair Market Value	\$320,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$320,000.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$320,000.00
Other project related administrative costs	\$30,000.00
<i>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</i>	<i>\$350,000.00</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$30,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including environmental site assessment, appraisal, DGS appraisal and transaction reviews, and escrow and title insurance costs.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife compatible recreational activities. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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The project is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats, and Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor public alteration in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$350,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Director Donnelly introduced Item 14 by explaining that this proposal had previously been heard and approved at the Sept 2015 Board meeting but that he was bringing it back for reconsideration. He offered the following background on this proposal: CDFW recommended the acquisition and the WCB began the acquisition process, which includes obtaining an appraisal from the Department of General Services, as well as notifying legislators, county supervisors and adjacent landowners (landowners) who, based on the location of a project, might be affected or have an interest in the project. Things seemed to progress uneventfully, an appraisal was obtained, the letters were prepared and signed and the project was presented to, and approved by, the Board. However, in the days subsequent to the Board meeting Mr. Donnelly received comments from adjacent landowners objecting to the project. Curious about the timing of the objections, Mr. Donnelly discovered that while the WCB had prepared the CDFW required letters to notify adjacent landowners that the project would be considered at the September meeting, the letters had not been sent. Given that lapse, and the depth of the adjacent landowners' concerns, Mr. Donnelly decided it appropriate to bring the proposal back for reconsideration, thereby providing the Board and adjacent landowners the opportunity to communicate directly, and the item to be fully vetted.

Following Mr. Donnelly's explanation, John Walsh, WCB Supervising Land Agent, presented the item. Following his presentation he introduced Eric Haney, CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist, and asked Mr. Haney to share his observations about proposed project.

Mr. Haney introduced himself as a Region 1 (Region) scientist that deals largely with land conservation and planning in CDFW's Northern Region and said he wanted to briefly explain why the Region feels the project is important. He directed attention to a map of the neighborhood of the proposed project site and the two existing parking areas serving the approximately 22 acres of managed wetlands. He described the first parking area as straddling Adobe Road, a narrow lane with parking on the shoulder. He said people getting in and out of cars are at risk from passing traffic, and the Wildlife Area activity results in damage to mailboxes and other private property belonging to residents whose homes border the road. Mr. Haney then described the second existing parking area as a proper parking facility, with a kiosk and restrooms but said the distant location, approximately 1.5 mile from the Wildlife Area, is an impediment to access for some. Mr. Haney explained that local CDFW staff feel current parking is lacking and a better option is to purchase the 13 acres, build a new facility and direct all parking to that location. This area would be designated a completely closed zone and would be robustly signed regarding the no-hunting status. Finally, a new trail would be

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built and fresh signs posted in existing closed portions of the wetland area to remind people that no hunting is allowed within 150 feet of a dwelling.

Mr. Haney continued by saying he has talked to a couple of people along Adobe Road who are very supportive of the project, and he has also talked to folks who are not so supportive of the project. He then asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Hunting said he had a couple of questions but would like to open it up to the Board for questions first.

Mr. Eric Sklar asked Mr. Haney to reaffirm that, should the project be approved, all 13 acres would be closed to hunting. Mr. Haney confirmed that was the case and Mr. Sklar then stated that as he understands, the new area would be closed and the approval of this project would not change the use designation of the existing area in any way. Mr. Haney confirmed that understanding is correct. Mr. Sklar then asked if staff had considered what other unwanted impact the project might have on the neighborhood. Mr. Haney said that staff believes the most likely impact will be light and noise from early morning users and stated that CDFW staff intends to use riparian greenery in a strategic manner to shield the neighborhood from those potential disturbances.

Mr. Sklar inquired whether many people use the area. Mr. Haney said it sees quite a bit of use, up to 10 cars in the upper parking lot, especially early in waterfowl season. He stated on a given day, there are three to four cars in the parking lot at any given time. He said the area is not one of CDFW's flagship areas but that it does have dedicated hunters, hikers and birdwatchers that regularly use the area. He stated that CDFW also holds junior pheasant hunts once or twice a year.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any other questions from the Board. There were none.

Mr. Hunting then invited the public to speak and Mr. Donnelly introduced Mr. Charles O' Brien, an adjacent landowner.

Mr. O'Brien addressed the Board. He said he objects to this project for several different reasons: The project would result in his property being bordered on two sides by the wetland area and bring the edge of the public area 12 feet from his back door. He stated that the close proximity of hunters to his home worries him and that, while there are rules, law enforcement is too busy to enforce them. He told of having to let a pond he installed for family enjoyment over-grow because it attracted hunters. He feels the plans to offset negative impact on the neighborhood are insufficient and that the money being spent on the project could be better used in other ways. Mr. O'Brien stated that his neighbors don't like the project either but do not have the resources to travel to Sacramento for the meeting. He suggested the meeting should've been held in the Cottonwood area. He stated only two of his neighbors are in favor of the project and only because Wildlife Area users park in front of their houses. He is concerned about the traffic and crime he thinks the project will bring to the neighborhood. Mr. O'Brien stated he would like someone to really look into the project.

Mr. Donnelly introduced the next speaker, Mr. Curtis Ecklund, an adjacent landowner.

Mr. Ecklund stated that his property is directly North of the project site and that his driveway is directly across from where the driveway of the proposed parking lot would be. Mr. Ecklund shared his concerns; on three different occasions, people have broken his fence in order to access his private pond, and another time passers-by jumped out of their car and shot at

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quail. Mr. Ecklund says that he is a hunter himself and supports elk and duck foundations but feels this area is not compatible with hunting. Mr. Ecklund described children walking to the bus stop, sometimes in the dark, potentially at risk from increased traffic and random bullets. Mr. Ecklund suggested a better idea than building a parking lot would be to build a bridge to a neighboring facility for public use. He continued that this project would devalue the homes in the neighborhood, result in litter and illegal roadside dumping, and attract homeless people and parolees. Mr. Ecklund expressed frustration at the lack of enforcement personnel in State recreational facilities and the decision to spend State money on acquiring this land. He suggested the money could be better spent on law enforcement and clean-up. On the topic of using greenery as a shield for light and noise, Mr. Ecklund was skeptical. He said that PG and E had recently paid him to allow them to cut trees, making him question the wisdom of planting more trees. Mr. Ecklund again stated he does not think this project is a good idea.

Mr. Hunting thanked him and asked if there were additional public comments. There were none. Mr. Hunting said he knows the WCB reached out to the landowners and could Mr. Donnelly recap the project to this point.

Mr. Donnelly restated the series of events that led to his decision to bring this proposal back to the Board; CDFW had recommended the acquisition, an appraisal had been obtained, the preparation of all paperwork, including letters, the September approval by the Board, and then the eventual realization that adjacent landowners had not been adequately notified. Mr. Donnelly said that in mid-November, WCB/CDFW staff held a meeting in the Cottonwood Area that included neighbors of the Wildlife Area, CDFW Region staff and wardens, so that all could air their concerns. He reiterated that as no real consensus between the parties was reached, he felt he needed bring the project for reconsideration to let Board hear the concerns of the landowners. Mr. Donnelly continued saying that he appreciates the landowners concerns regarding the discharge of firearms and the safety of the neighborhood children but that regardless of the Board's decision on this proposal, the current use of the wildlife area will not change. Public access to the Wildlife Area for hunting, fishing, birdwatching etc. is a separate issue and not one the WCB will consider today. The only decision being weighed by the Board at this meeting was whether the land would be acquired and a parking lot built. Mr. Donnelly added that he believes the parking lot will improve the overall traffic situation eliminating the hazard of people parking on the county maintained road. He stated there will be added benefit in having user vehicles in one place, allowing the Department to more easily monitor activity at the Wildlife Area. Lastly, Mr. Donnelly addressed the suggestion that some of the money allotted for the acquisition instead be spent on trash pick-up or wardens, Mr. Donnelly explained that WCB money is earmarked for capital outlay projects and is not available for other uses. He closed by saying he recommends approval of the project.

John Walsh, WCB Supervising Land Agent said, for the record, that the meeting in Cottonwood had taken place on November 6, 2015, and that he, region staff, and wardens had attended.

Mr. Charles O'Brien asked if he could make one more comment. Mr. Hunting invited him to do so. Mr. O'Brien that there had been a public meeting in the Cottonwood area, but that he had called it and there were two people there. He didn't want the Board to be left with the impression that a big meeting had been held and people approved the project because that's not what happened. Mr. Hunting thanked him.

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Mr. Donnelly re-stated the he recommends the project but added that he hopes the Department would continue to work with the landowners on what could be done to alleviate their concerns. He said the Wildlife Area is a valuable resource to the hunting public as well as those who enjoy other outdoor activities.

Kevin Hunting thanked Mr. Donnelly and said he agreed with him that many of the issues raised are not relevant to the acquisition of the 13 acres and the use of the area is not what is being considered today. He said there is great value in the hunting and fishing opportunities provided by Wildlife Areas but wants to assure the landowners that he understands their concerns as well. He continued saying that CDFW staff has been considering solutions to the potential impact of the project on the neighborhood and will continue to work with landowners.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were further questions or comments, there were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$350,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a), for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Sklar Yes
Ortega – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

**15. Eel River Peninsula, Phase II
(Foster Mountain), (Garcia Creek), (Summer Camp)
Mendocino County
\$3,530,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of three separate conservation easements (Conservation Easements) on behalf of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) under the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007 (Public Resources Code Section 12200, et seq.) and the allocation of three grants totaling up to \$3,500,000.00 to CALFIRE by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to provide matching funds and assist with the acquisition. The Conservation Easements will protect 15,620± acres of land in Mendocino County containing significant forest, natural, ecological, and open space conservation values.

Ms. Teri Muzik presented this project.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject properties (Properties) are located northeast of the City of Willits and approximately 12 miles east of Hwy 101 in Mendocino County. These irregularly-shaped parcels are adjacent to or in close proximity to public lands, including land owned by the Bureau of Land Management and the Mendocino National Forest. The general terrain varies from mountainous to rolling hills. Elevations range from approximately 1,400 feet near the Eel River to 3,800 feet on some of the ridge tops. The current land uses on these properties are recreational and agricultural, including forestry and grazing.

The area is sparsely populated but there is development potential on portions of the Properties. Subdivision of the larger parcels is permitted by zoning.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In June of 2011, the WCB approved the first Eel River Peninsula project (Project). The Project involved the acquisition of a conservation easement over 8,544±/- acres by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). WCB approved a grant to RMEF to acquire the conservation easement.

This proposal is to consider the second phase of the Project. The same property owner and his family are now granting the three conservation easements over the Properties. The Conservation Easements provide protection of a diverse mix of habitat communities, including oak woodlands, grasslands, interior wetlands, and riparian habitat. The Conservation Easements also call for the establishment of a forest management plan to be reviewed and approved every ten years by the easement holder (CALFIRE) and the WCB. Any timber harvest contemplated before the establishment of the forest management plan shall follow the Forest Stewardship Council standards.

The diverse habitat types and special habitat elements found on the three Properties provide important wintering, breeding and migratory habitat for many species including the northern spotted owl, Cooper's hawk, foothill yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, bald and golden eagle, purple martin, Chinook and coho salmon and the most southerly known population of Pacific fisher. The Conservation Easements also protect key range habitat and migration corridors for black-tailed deer and resident tule elk populations. Healthy populations

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of black and brown bears inhabit the Properties. The higher elevations provide seasonal habitat for mountain lions and the bears.

The Eel River flows along the borders of the three Properties. The headwaters and stream channels within the Properties are relatively undisturbed. By eliminating the possibility of development of these Properties, the Conservation Easements will prevent degradation of these watersheds.

WCB AND CALFIRE PROGRAMS

The proposed grants are being considered under the WCB's Forest Conservation Program (Program). Grant proposals under the Program are evaluated and recommended for funding by WCB staff based on established criteria approved by the Board on November 17, 2007, including a peer review process involving biological and forestry expertise and including CDFW. The Program seeks to preserve and restore productive managed forest lands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitat for native fish and wildlife and plants found on these lands. One of the primary objectives of the Program is the protection and conservation of working forests and productive managed forestlands. Selected projects promote the restoration and/or the maintenance of the ecological integrity and economic stability of the property in the context of the surrounding landscape and regional economy.

In 2000, the Governor signed into law SB1832, the California Forest Legacy Program Act. The Forest Legacy Program Act adopted in 2000 and amended in 2007 allows CALFIRE to accept lands and interests in lands and encourages the long-term conservation of productive forest lands by providing an incentive to owners of private forest lands to prevent future conversions of forest land and forest resources through the use of conservation easements. Eligible properties may be "working forests," where forestland is managed for the production of forest products and traditional forest uses are maintained. The purpose of these conservation easements is to maintain these forests intact to provide such traditional forest benefits as timber production, wildlife habitat, watershed protection and/or open space. These forests remain in private ownership, except for the restrictions on development or other uses conveyed by the conservation easement to the agency selected by the landowner.

This proposal is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following outlined goals:

- A.1 Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

The Conservation Easements preserve existing habitat and wildlife linkages by expanding a network of protected lands. Habitat connectivity is essential in maintaining the genetic viability of the region's listed/sensitive species. By protecting wildlife corridors and reducing development in the area, the species will have the potential to adapt to any climate change impacts.

- A.4 Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

CDFW is a member of the review committee for the WCB Forest Conservation Program. The project was reviewed and recommended for funding by CDFW.

- E.1 Maximize expenditure of remaining bond funds and identify opportunities to leverage existing funds as effectively as possible.

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The proposed WCB grants to CALFIRE to assist with the acquisition of the Conservation Easements would be used as a match to federal Forest Legacy funds awarded to CALFIRE by the United States Forest Service (USFS).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CALFIRE will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with RMEF for the purpose of monitoring the Properties for compliance with the terms of the Conservation Easements. The Conservation Easements allow access by CALFIRE or their agents annually and once every three years by WCB and USFS for monitoring purposes.

Portions of the Properties are encumbered Land Conservation Contracts under the Williamson Act which are not affected by the terms of the Conservation Easements.

TERMS AND FUNDING

Each of the Conservation Easements was individually appraised both by an independent licensed appraiser hired by WCB and the USFS reviewer. The USFS reviewer rejected the appraisal. After discussions between the landowners, CALFIRE, WCB and USFS, it was agreed that USFS would provide an opinion of market value based on the information contained in the appraisal, with selective additions and edits by the USFS reviewer. Both the appraisals and opinions of market value were submitted to the Department of General Services (DGS) for review. The DGS reviewer approved the value as determined by USFS.

The federal Forest Legacy Program was created with clearly delineated open space conservation goals and objectives to protect environmentally important private forest lands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. CALFIRE was awarded a federal Forest Legacy grant (Forest Legacy grant) in the amount of \$7,000,000.00 to facilitate the acquisition of the easements over these properties.

The Forest Legacy grant is being matched by the \$3,500,000.00 grant from WCB to CALFIRE. Below is specific information for each Conservation Easement:

Foster Mountain

This Conservation Easement covers 3,829± acres. A fair market value of \$3,446,000.00 was approved by USFS and DGS. The landowners have agreed to sell the Conservation Easement for \$2,573,912.00.

Proposed Funding is:

WCB Grant to CALFIRE	\$857,971.00
Federal Forest Legacy Grant	\$1,715,941.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$2,573,912.00
Other Project related expenses	\$10,000.00
<i>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</i>	<i>\$867,971.00</i>

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Garcia Creek

This Conservation Easement covers 4,779± acres. A fair market value of \$4,301,000.00 was approved by USFS and DGS. The landowners have agreed to sell the Conservation Easement for \$3,212,516.00.

Proposed Funding is:

WCB Grant to CALFIRE	\$1,070,839.00
Federal Forest Legacy Grant	\$2,141,677.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$3,212,516.00
Other Project related expenses	\$10,000.00
<i>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</i>	<i>\$1,080,839.00</i>

Summer Camp

This Conservation Easement covers 7,012± acres. A fair market value of \$7,011,000.00 was approved by USFS and DGS. The landowner has agreed to sell the Conservation Easement for \$4,713,572.00.

Proposed Funding is:

WCB Grant to CALFIRE	\$1,571,190.00
Federal Forest Legacy Grant	\$3,142,382.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	\$4,713,572.00
Other Project related expenses	\$10,000.00
<i>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</i>	<i>\$1,581,190.00</i>

CALFIRE will be paying for the majority of the project related administrative expenses which will include the appraisal, DGS appraisal and transaction review costs, escrow fees and related costs.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for the WCB grant proposed as part of this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a), which allows for forest conservation and protection projects in order to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through forest conservation, preservation and restoration of productive managed forest lands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitats for native fish, wildlife and plants found on these lands.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitat. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed, approve the acquisition of three separate Conservation Easements totaling 15,620± acres on behalf of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection under the California Forest Legacy Act; allocate \$3,530,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a) for the grants to CALFIRE and to cover the project related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Donnelly reported that the WCB received letters of support from Congressman Mike Thompson and Congressman Jared Huffman.

Ms. Muzik noted that Jeff Calvert, Deputy Chief of Forestry Assistance, CalFIRE, was present.

Mr. Donnelly pointed out that this proposal is a Forest Legacy Project being considered under the Forest Legacy Program. He explained that under that legislation, the Public Resources Code gives the WCB the authority to acquire conservation easements on behalf of CalFire. He said he wanted to emphasize that the Board will be approving and accepting the easements on behalf of CalFIRE. The easements themselves will still go through DGS for approval but the Board will be authorizing CalFIRE to accept the conservation easements.

Mr. Calvert introduced himself and said all the involved parties are very eager to finally complete this project. He continued saying CalFIRE has been working with Rocky Mountain Elk and the landowners for about seven years. He said it's been a lot of work, a lot of angst and sleepless nights but it's a fantastic project that will push Forest Legacy over 100,000 acres that have been conserved in California. He explained that all easements in the Forest Legacy Program are working forest conservation easements. The property will never be developed and will provide wildlife habitat in perpetuity. He said he greatly encourages the Board to approve the project.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were further questions or comments, there were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; approve the acquisition of three separate Conservation Easements totaling 15,620± acres on behalf of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection under the California Forest Legacy Act; allocate \$3,530,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a) for the grants to CALFIRE and to cover the project related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Sklar Yes
Ortega – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

16. **Willow Bend,
Colusa County
\$430,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the River Partners (Partners) to acquire in fee 24± acres for the protection of riparian and floodplain habitat along the Sacramento River.

Project was presented by Brian Gibson.

LOCATION and SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property), known as Willow Bend, is a privately owned agricultural parcel located in the unincorporated area of northern Colusa County approximately 10 miles north of the City of Colusa and 3 miles south of the community of Princeton. More specifically, the Property is located west of River Road and north of Gould Road and the Moulton Weir. The Property is bordered by both protected and agricultural lands.

The Property is located within the Sacramento River watershed, along a meandering stretch of river known as the Colusa Subreach. It lies on the east bank of the Sacramento River within and to the west of the eastern Sacramento River levee. The Property is in a wildlife corridor that includes federal, state and privately owned lands dedicated to the protection and enhancement of habitat for wildlife species.

Immediately south of the Property is Partner's 162± acre Willow Bend Preserve (Preserve). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Sacramento River Wildlife Area (SRWA) Stegeman Unit is located directly west of and across the river from the Property. The SRWA's Princeton Unit is approximately 3 miles north of the Property. The initial portion of the SRWA was acquired in 1958. In 1978, two more properties were acquired and the area was designated as a wildlife area by the Fish and Game Commission. Four properties were acquired in 1986-1987, and additional properties purchased between 1989 and 1995. The most recent CDFW acquisition within the SRWA occurred in 2005 when 257± acres was acquired as an expansion of the Princeton Unit.

Upstream of the Property is the Drumheller Slough Unit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Refuge, which is located along an 80 mile stretch of the Sacramento River between Princeton and the City of Red Bluff, totals 10,353± acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a rectangular shaped parcel that is generally level to slightly undulating with a slight slope to the south towards the adjacent Preserve. The Property stretches along 1.5 miles of the Sacramento River at an elevation of approximately 65 to 75 feet above sea level. During high rain events the Property is subject to flooding. Currently, the Property is a walnut orchard with trees ranging in age from 12 to 30 years old. Approximately 16 acres are planted in Hartley walnuts and 3 acres are of the Serr variety. There is a functioning 30 horsepower submersible pump and irrigation system servicing the orchard. The remaining land consists of annual grasses. Native vegetation (e.g. willows) borders the Property to the north.

Among the diversity of species that can be seen along the river in the vicinity of the Property are otters, beavers, gray fox, bobcat, western pond turtles, ash-throated flycatchers, great blue herons, egrets, and a variety of birds of prey. The Property contains suitable habitat for several game species including black-tailed deer, California quail, ring-neck pheasant, grey squirrel, and wild turkey. Elderberry shrubs, which serve as habitat for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (Beetle), have been identified on the Property. The California Natural Diversity Database has documented the federally threatened Beetle to occur within the USGS Moulton Weir 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle within which the Property and the Preserve are located. Mature and highly diverse riparian vegetation, which creates a matrix of cover types, food and nesting materials, is within close proximity to the Property. Moreover, the high quality soils onsite could easily support riparian planting to aid in linking existing wildlife corridors.

This acquisition is part of a larger effort to protect and restore the Sacramento River and floodplain ecosystem from channelization, conversion, encroachment and other actions that may impact the river's riparian habitat areas and floodplain processes. Eventually if plans are approved for restoration of the site, the Property may be restored to native riparian vegetation. If restoration is completed, it is contemplated that both the Property and the Preserve may be transferred to the CDFW as an addition to the 3,900± acre SRWA.

This project is guided by the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Strategic Plan and supports the following goals:

- A.1. Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.

The Project preserves existing habitat connections by expanding a network of protected linkages. The Project will expand the protection of wildlife linkages and provide ecosystem responses to climate change by incorporating elevation gradients that allow species and vegetation communities to shift upward in elevation.

- B.1. Invest in projects and landscape areas that help provide resilience in the face of climate change, enhance water resources for fish and wildlife and enhance habitats on working lands.

CDFW AND FORUM SUPPORT

The project falls under the purview of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF). SRCAF is a non-profit organization that evolved from 1986 legislation (SB 1086) which called for a management plan to protect, restore and enhance the fisheries and riparian habitat along the Sacramento River from Keswick Dam down river to Verona. The SRCAF involves both private and public landowners along the Sacramento River, including representatives from seven counties and State and federal resource agencies. SRCAF promotes and coordinates restoration related activities along the Sacramento River and develops and implements site-specific and sub-specific plans for areas within the Conservation Area.

On October 29, 2015, SCRAF approved the project in principle with no formal opposition raised concerning the acquisition. In addition, the WCB has received a property acquisition request memo from the CDFW North Central Region expressing support for this acquisition.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Partners will manage the Property. It intends to lease the walnut orchard and use the rental income to facilitate management and the potential future restoration of the Willow Bend Preserve. As soon as funding and permitting allow, Partners hopes to restore the Property back to riparian habitat. There are no plans for public use of the Property while under Partners' ownership.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$420,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, WCB can require the grantee to encumber the property with a conservation easement and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>\$420,000.00</u>
Total Purchase Price	\$420,000.00
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	\$ 10,000.00
<i>TOTAL ALLOCATION</i>	<i>\$430,000.00</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review. Partners, as project proponent, will fund all other project-related administrative costs for the acquisition, including but not limited to the appraisal, survey, escrow and title insurance costs.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species and to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition 1E)]

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$430,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition 1E), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Hunting asked for questions from the Board or public comment. There were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$430,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition 1E), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

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**17. Epperson Place Ranch Conservation Easement
Colusa County
\$407,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Rangeland Trust (CRT) for a cooperative project with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with the acquisition of a conservation easement (Conservation Easement) over 1,547± acres of land in Colusa County for the protection of oak woodlands, deer and mountain lion habitat, watersheds, and wildlife corridors.

Ms. Candice Marg presented this project.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located off Bear Valley Road, 15 miles west of the town of Williams, and north of Highway 20. The Property lies within the CDFW Blue Ridge –Berryessa Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) which establishes criteria to prioritize parcels based on their conservation values to increase or enhance habitat, migration corridors, and connectivity. To the west of the Property are protected lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Indian Valley Wildlife Area. To the south are two adjacent Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)-funded conservation easements held by CRT: the Cache Creek Conservation Area, approved at the May 2006 WCB Board Meeting, and the Bear Valley Conservation Area, approved at the February 2001 Board Meeting. Together the Cache Creek and Bear Valley Conservation Areas total 16,000± acres. The proposed 2,507± acre Keegan Ranch conservation easement (Item 18 of this Agenda) is adjacent to the Property to the east.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is irregular in shape and stretches roughly 1.75 miles in a north south direction and 1.75 miles in an east west direction. The eastern portion of the Property is flat grazing land used for seasonal domestic livestock grazing and contains a significant portion of Bear Creek, which connects to Cache Creek and then to the Sacramento River. The western portion of the Property consists of moderate to steep foothills, with an elevation variance of approximately 1,350 feet to over 2,000 feet, allowing for species migration. The western portion of the Property also contains a 320 acre foot holding pond created by York Hill Dam and diverted from Doyle Canyon Creek.

The Property is a working cattle ranch with several habitats including wet meadow, riparian, vernal pool, and blue oak woodland. These habitats support a number of important animal species including the golden eagle, deer and mountain lion. Species of special concern occurring on the Property include the burrowing owl, western pond turtle, and foothill yellow legged frog. Additionally, the Property's habitat supports the state endangered bald eagle. The property is leased annually for cattle grazing and the lease has been determined to be compatible with the proposed Conservation Easement. Cattle are grazed from roughly November through May with approximately 150 pair in a normal year. Improvements existing on the Property include perimeter and cross fencing, a pivot irrigation system, and several barns and sheds. The Property's wildflower resources contain several special status plant species including Colander's horkelia, Jepson's milk-vetch, pink creamsacs, and the state threatened adobe lily.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*), authorizing WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW and grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property. Under the Program the WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through the development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with recommendation to fund.

This Project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal A.1 Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.
- Goal A.4 Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

The Property is a high priority within the approved Blue Ridge –Berryessa CAPP and includes several habitats with varying elevation and terrain including wet meadow, riparian, vernal pool, and blue oak woodland supporting a number of special status species. In addition, the Property is adjacent to BLM land and two existing WCB-funded conservation easements and will therefore increase and expand the scope of conserved habitat, migration corridors, and connectivity in the area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

When establishing a new conservation easement CRT works closely with the landowner to address the protection of the property's natural habitat and agricultural resources. The purposes of the proposed Conservation Easement are to ensure that all resources, agricultural, and wildlife habitat are conserved in balance and harmony with each other. The Property owner has agreed to provide CRT with an endowment of \$35,135.00. The Grant Agreement obligates CRT to monitor the Property at least once a year to ensure the Conservation Easement terms are being honored, as well as to prepare and submit a written monitoring report to WCB documenting the visit and noting any significant changes to the resources or any compliance issues. If necessary, corrective action must be recommended and noted in the report.

NRCS is providing \$409,000 toward the Conservation Easement purchase price through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance. NRCS is also preparing a management plan as a funding requirement. The management plan is being developed in coordination with CDFW and the WCB.

TERMS

The Conservation Easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$806,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the Conservation Easement for the approved appraised fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to CRT provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the grant agreement or require CRT to convey its interest in the Conservation Easement to WCB or, at the election of WCB, another entity or organization authorized by California law to acquire and hold conservation easements and that is willing and financially able to assume all of the obligations and responsibilities of CRT.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board grant	\$397,000.00
Natural Resource Conservation Service	\$409,000.00
Total purchase price	\$806,000.00
Other project related administrative costs	\$10,000.00

TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION *\$407,000.00*

It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), that provides for funding for the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, to protect deer and mountain lions.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 13525, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$407,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

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John Donnelly advised that Item 17 and Item 18 were being presented together. He explained that properties in each item are independent but they are adjacent to each other and will be used for the same purposes. He stated the Items would be presented together but separate motions would be requested for grants to the Rangeland Trust for conservation easements in Bear Valley, Colusa County.

Ms. Marg stated that present in the audience were; Josh Bush, CDFW Region 2; Nancy Schafer, CA Rangeland Trust, and property owner Jim Keegan.

Mr. Hunting noted that the area is a popular destination for wildflower viewing and asked if those opportunities will remain. Ms. Marg explained that the landowner, Jim Keegan, had arranged access for the public for wildflower viewing and that access would continue.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were comments or questions.

Mr. Jim Keegan asked to speak and explained that his family has been in the valley since the 1880s. He said every April the wildflowers bloom and crowds come to see them. He explained that his only issue with the public had been that gates were left open. He said he installed spring-loaded gates and that had addressed the problem.

Mr. Sklar thanked Mr. Keegan for sharing what he sees as a very innovation solution.

Mr. Donnelly pointed out that one motion needed to be made for Item 17 and another for Item 18.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were further questions or comments, there were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$407,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Sklar Yes
Ortega – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

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**18. Keegan Ranch Conservation Easement
Colusa County
\$332,500.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Rangeland Trust (CRT) for a cooperative project with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with the acquisition of a conservation easement (Conservation Easement) over 2,507± acres of land in Colusa County for the protection of oak woodlands, deer and mountain lion habitat, watersheds, and wildlife corridors.

Ms. Candice Marg presented this project in conjunction with Item 17.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The property (Property) is located off Bear Valley Road, 15 miles west of the town of Williams, and north of Highway 20. The Property lies within the CDFW Blue Ridge –Berryessa Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) which establishes criteria to prioritize parcels based on their conservation values to increase or enhance habitat, migration corridors, and connectivity. To the west of the Property are protected lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Indian Valley Wildlife Area. To the south are two adjacent Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)-funded Conservation Easements held by CRT: the Cache Creek Conservation Area, approved at the May 2006 WCB Board Meeting, and the Bear Valley Conservation Area, approved at the February 2001 Board Meeting. Together the Cache Creek and Bear Valley Conservation Areas total 16,000± acres. The proposed 1,547± acre Epperson Place conservation easement (Item 17 of this Agenda) is adjacent to the Property to the west.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is irregular in shape and stretches roughly 2.5 miles in a north south direction and 2.5 miles in an east west direction. The western portion of the Property is flat grazing land used for seasonal domestic livestock grazing and residential purposes and contains a significant portion of Bear Creek, which connects to Cache Creek and then to the Sacramento River. The eastern portion of the Property consists of moderate to steep foothills, with an elevation variance of approximately 1,350 feet to over 2,000 feet, allowing for species migration.

The Property is a working cattle ranch with several habitats including wet meadow, riparian, vernal pool, and blue oak woodland. These habitats support a number of important animal species including deer, golden eagle and mountain lion. Species of special concern occurring on the Property include the burrowing owl, western pond turtle, and foothill yellow legged frog. Additionally, the property's habitat supports the state endangered bald eagle. The Property's wildflower resources are considered some of the best in the world and contain several special status plant species including Colander's horkelia, Jepson's milk-vetch, pink creamsacs, and the state threatened adobe lily.

The owner is the fourth generation of his family and runs the cattle operation on the Keegan Ranch and the adjacent Epperson Place Ranch. Cattle are grazed primarily during the winter months roughly from November to May with a carrying capacity of 250 pair in a normal year. The land owner also leases a portion of the property to allow for private deer and pig hunting. Improvements existing on the Property include a 2,400± square foot home built in 1960, along with barns, sheds, shops, and corrals.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*), authorizing WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW and grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property. Under the Program, WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with CDFW, which evaluates the biological values of property through the development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with recommendation to fund.

This Project is guided by the WCB Strategic Plan and supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal A.1 Fund projects and landscapes that provide resilience for native wildlife and plant species in the face of climate change.
- And Goal A.4 Invest in priority conservation projects recommended under CDFW's land acquisition evaluation process or within other conservation plans supported by CDFW.

The Property is a high priority within the approved Blue Ridge –Berryessa CAPP and includes several habitats with varying elevation and terrain including wet meadow, riparian, vernal pool, and blue oak woodland, supporting a number of special status species. In addition, the Property is adjacent to BLM land and two existing WCB-funded Conservation easements and will therefore expand the scope of conserved habitat, migration corridors, and connectivity in the area.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

When establishing a conservation easement CRT works closely with the landowner to address the protection of the property's natural habitat and agricultural resources. The purposes of the proposed Conservation Easement are to ensure that natural resources, agricultural, and wildlife habitat are conserved in balance and harmony with each other. The property owner has agreed to provide CRT with an endowment of \$35,135.00. The grant agreement requires CRT to monitor the Property at least once a year to ensure the Conservation Easement terms are being honored, as well as to prepare and submit a written monitoring report documenting the visit and noting any significant changes to the resources or any compliance issues. If necessary, corrective action must be recommended and noted in the report.

NRCS is providing \$965,250 toward the Conservation Easement purchase price through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance. NRCS will also prepare a management plan as a funding requirement. The management plan is being developed in coordination with CDFW and the WCB.

TERMS

The Conservation Easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$1,287,750. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the

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Conservation Easement for the approved appraised fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to the CRT provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the grant agreement or require CRT to convey its interest in the Conservation Easement to WCB or, at the election of WCB, another entity or organization authorized by California law to acquire and hold conservation easements and that is willing and financially able to assume all of the obligations and responsibilities of CRT.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board grant	\$322,500.00
Natural Resource Conservation Service	\$965,250.00
Total purchase price	\$1,287,750.00
Other project related administrative costs	\$10,000.00
<i>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</i>	<i>\$332,500.00</i>

It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), that provides for funding for the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, to protect deer and mountain lions.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 13525, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WCB approve this project as proposed; allocate \$332,500.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

See notes on Item 17.

It was moved by Board Member Eric Sklar that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$332,500.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and CDFW to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Sklar - Yes
Ortega – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

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19. Big Creek Reserve Facility Improvements, Phase II
Monterey County
\$2,558,270.00

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Regents of the University of California for a project to improve research facilities at Landels-Hill Big Creek Natural Reserve, located on State Route 1, five miles north of the community of Lucia in Monterey County.

Mr. Shawn Fresz presented this project.

LOCATION

The Landels-Hill Big Creek Natural Reserve (Big Creek) is a 4,200-acre ecological reserve located along the Big Sur coast of Central California. Big Creek was established in 1978 as an off-campus field station that supports biological research and education in a natural setting. Big Creek is bordered to the north and east by federally designated wilderness, to the south by 5,500 private acres, and to the west by the Pacific Ocean. Big Creek protects a 24 square mile watershed that harbors steep gradients and diverse vegetation and geology, resulting in high biodiversity. Big Creek is directly adjacent to the Big Creek State Marine Protected Area (SMPA), providing marine research opportunities there and in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will focus on improvements at two sites within Big Creek, the Reserve Entrance site and the Coyote Creek Site. At the Reserve Entrance site, the project proposes to construct a new building to house a classroom, an office, a break out room, and two restrooms. At the Coyote Creek site, the Project would construct one new building and a residence for full-time staff with an attached garage/workshop. At both sites, the Project would construct new septic systems and infrastructure to supply domestic and fire protection water from springs that are already used for water supply at existing facilities. Electricity would be provided by existing and new solar arrays and backup generators.

The mission of the University of California, Natural Reserve System (UCNRS) is to contribute to the understanding and wise management of the earth and its natural systems by supporting university-level teaching, research, and public service at protected areas throughout California. Under Proposition 84, the WCB received funding to provide matching grant dollars to the UCNRS for land acquisitions and the construction or development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources. To implement this funding, the WCB and the UCNRS developed guidelines for identifying eligible projects and the UCNRS established an Ad Hoc Advisory Subcommittee to review and set priorities for project proposals to be submitted to the WCB for funding.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Grant Agreement requires that the UCNRS maintain the facilities for the purposes of providing space for research, administration, and educational activities for thirty years.

PROJECT FUNDING

Budget Item	WCB Funding	UCSC Matching Funds	Source of Matching Funds
Construction	\$2,200,000	\$54,910	
Construction Management and Planning	\$358,270	\$330,924	<i>in-kind salaries</i>
Operating and Maintenance	0	\$1,136,186	<i>endowment</i>
Property Match	0	\$521,880	<i>land donation</i>
Phase II Total	\$2,558,270	\$2,043,900	

Project costs will be for site clearance and preparation, construction, consultation, architectural, engineering, planning, site tests and surveys, and construction management.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)(3). The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for grants to the University of California for the Natural Reserve System for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources.

CEQA AND STATE REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The project was vetted through the University of California Natural Reserve System's Ad Hoc Subcommittee and recommended for funding. A coastal development permit for this project has already been obtained from the California Coastal Commission.

As lead agency, the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). UCSC adopted the MND in April 2015. Staff has considered the MND and has prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,558,270.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(b)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were questions or comments, there were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,558,270.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(b)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

**20. Santa Clara River Riparian Restoration
Ventura County
\$1,010,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for a cooperative project with the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Santa Clara River Trustee Council to remove non-native invasive plants and restore riparian habitat on TNC's Hanson property (Property), located two miles southwest of the City of Santa Paula in Ventura County.

Mr. Scott McFarlin presented this project.

LOCATION

The 1,000± acre Property is located on the north and south side of the Santa Clara River and 345± acres are within the 100 year floodplain. The Property is bordered by South Mountain (the western end of the Santa Susana Mountains) along the southern boundary, while urban and agricultural development is adjacent along the northern boundary. The project area sits within the floodplain on the north side of the river.

The Santa Clara River flows over 100 miles from the San Gabriel Mountains in Los Angeles County westward across Ventura County and meets the Pacific Ocean near the City of Ventura. It is a "flashy" river that experiences the majority of its water flows during high intensity, short duration storm events and transports a high sediment load. The river is one of the least altered river systems in all of California with relatively natural flows, and one of the only river systems in southern California that remains in its natural state without significant channelization and/or concrete.

Despite its local and regional ecological importance, the lower Santa Clara River is threatened by invasive non-native vegetation, potential levee building, poor water quality, conversion pressures from agriculture to urban land uses and increasing development within the floodplain. In 2005, American Rivers designated the Santa Clara River as one of the most threatened rivers in the nation.

Since 1999, TNC has worked to protect the Santa Clara River and its tributaries with the overall goal of conserving and restoring aquatic and riparian habitat for native species, provide enhanced flood protection through the conservation of the natural floodplain, and eventually provide public access to the river. To date, TNC has protected over 3,300 acres of the Santa Clara River floodplain, including 421 acres acquired by funding from the WCB.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Prior to 1988, the property was an active aggregate gravel mine, with mining activity on both banks of the river and in the active channel. The effects are apparent today throughout the project area with highly compacted ground, gravel stockpiles, berms and excavation pits found on the historic floodplain and north-bank terrace.

The project area is highly degraded due to the historical aggregate mining and more recent establishment of exotic weed species. Many of these species are in the upper-terrace and are ranked "high" by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) and aggressively compete with native plants for water and light. These include salt cedar (*Tamarix chinensis*), sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), castor bean (*Ricinus*

communis), cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). The mid- and lower- terraces and active river channel have been inundated with arundo (*Arundo donax*). The large stands of arundo increases the risk of fire spreading within the floodplain, increases destruction of properties adjacent to the floodplain and streambank habitat which will result in severe flooding and continued introduction of arundo downstream of the project area.

TNC's approach to restoration in the Santa Clara River is to focus on restoring large contiguous sections of native riparian habitat, as opposed to several smaller individual parcels dotted along the river's main stem. The concept of protecting large landscapes to maintain biodiversity has been one of the key applications of island biogeography theory to conservation practice. This practice is guided by an underlying principle that larger, contiguous blocks of habitat can support higher biodiversity and have more self-sustaining ecological functions over a longer period of time than smaller, fragmented blocks of habitat. The riparian area and natural floodplains of the Santa Clara River will best support native biodiversity through the protection of larger blocks of contiguous habitat, as opposed to several smaller individual parcels dotted along the river corridor. Similarly, larger wetland restoration projects have been shown to have faster rates of biological, hydrological, and biochemical recovery, and are more self-sustaining over time. Protecting and ecologically restoring habitat blocks along riparian corridors surrounded by urban or agricultural lands results in an integrated system of habitat blocks. The objective is that these habitat blocks are close enough together to facilitate wildlife movement and support ecosystem processes.

The project area has been identified by TNC and its partners as an area of high priority for conservation actions. Restoration on the property will reestablish natural floodplain dynamics allowing for natural processes such as groundwater recharge, sedimentation, and nutrient exchange to operate, reduce damage and channel incision during flood events, and provide new and enhanced habitat for over three dozen rare, threatened and endangered species and protected communities. Targeting restoration efforts to large habitat blocks ensures that the effort expended in removing non-native vegetation and restoring habitat will allow TNC to establish defensible zones of high quality native habitat that can serve as core habitat for a broad suite of native species.

This project will restore and enhance 238 acres of riparian forest, riparian scrub and alluvial scrub habitat on the Santa Clara River floodplain. The project will complement adjacent remnant and restored habitat, and promote the recovery of migratory and resident birds, fish, and other aquatic and terrestrial species. The restored habitat will dynamically evolve and increase in complexity over time providing direct benefits to the listed species and other wildlife that occur in and migrate through the project area. Post-restoration monitoring at several TNC restoration projects on the Santa Clara River have demonstrated an increase of native species, most notably with an increase in the breeding population of the state- and federally-listed endangered least Bell's vireo.

The Project will enhance 162 acres of existing native riparian forest and riparian scrub by removing arundo and other non-native invasive vegetation. It will also remove 40 acres of dense arundo stands and actively restore the same area with native riparian forest and riparian scrub. Finally, the Project will convert 36 acres of heavily disturbed non-native herbaceous vegetation to native riparian scrub with coastal sage scrub on the upland edges.

This project will also provide benefits to the 16 million people who live within an hour's drive of the property, including improved water quality for people, agriculture and wildlife, flood damage reduction, increased recreational opportunities, and improved aesthetics.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program and meets the program's goal of increasing riparian habitat across California by implementing riparian habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

The project is consistent with the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

- Goal B.1 – Invest in projects and landscape areas that help provide resilience in the face of climate change, enhance water resources for fish and wildlife and enhance habitats on working lands:

The project will provide additional nesting habitat for Southwest willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo which occupy other portions of the Santa Clara River riparian habitat.

Over time, the diversity of species selected for restoration will allow for the full range of native plants to successfully adapt during gradually changing climate conditions. Ideally, if dominant habitat components are impacted from climate change (for example, fewer cottonwoods), the additional species provided via this project will ensure the natural shift towards other native riparian species.

In addition, the proposed project addresses the following priorities outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

- Provide species strongholds or refugia,
- Provide or enhance habitat connectivity, and
- Improve habitat for threatened or endangered species

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

TNC is responsible for long-term management and maintenance of the Property and restoration work completed. TNC has completed a long-term management plan (Hanson Property Long-Term Restoration Management Plan) and will follow those guidelines for the life of the project.

Long-term vegetation management for the Property focuses on passive maintenance of native vegetation combined with an as-needed exotic weed control program to prevent recolonization of non-native, invasive plant species in the restoration area and the spread of these exotics to areas upstream and downstream of the property. The plant and seed palette for the restoration is developed around local, native vegetation communities that are adapted to the climate cycles of the area, including cycles of prolonged drought and flash floods and typical herbivory of native wildlife. Such native vegetation restored and enhanced in large (100 plus acre) patches are more resilient to the natural disturbance regimes found on the Santa Clara River mainstem in this area.

Recognizing that the Property is in the middle reach of the Santa Clara River (as opposed to the upper reach or headwaters of the river), TNC will actively monitor this project area annually for recolonization of Cal-IPC "high" and "moderate" ranked invasive weeds or previously unknown invasive species. If necessary, areas of recolonization will be treated with an aquatic formulation of herbicide or will be removed.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Activity	Trustee Council	TNC	SCC	WCB	Total
Project Management & Monitoring	0	\$52,640	0	0	\$52,640
Project Permitting (CEQA, ESA/CESA Permitting)	0	\$19,368	0	0	\$19,368
Restoration Implementation	\$200,000	\$673,623	\$363,636	\$918,182	\$2,155,441
Develop Plan for Public Access & Visitor Services	0	\$75,000	0	0	\$75,000
Indirect Costs directly related to the project	0	\$389,409	\$36,364	\$91,818	\$517,591
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	\$200,000	\$1,210,040	\$400,000	\$1,010,000	\$2,820,040
Percent Share of Costs	7%	43%	14%	36%	

Project costs will be for mowing, herbicide application, weeding, seed and cutting collection, propagation, planting, irrigation installation and maintenance and indirect costs directly related to the project.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a), which provide funding for the acquisition, protection and restoration of coastal wetlands identified in the Southern California Coastal Wetlands Inventory, located within the coastal zone, other wetlands connected and proximate to such coastal wetlands and upland areas adjacent and proximate to such coastal wetlands.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land and vegetation that does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Subject to Board approval of the project, staff will file the appropriate Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,010,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

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Mr. Donnelly reported that the WCB had received a letter of support from Dan Silver, Executive Director of the Endangered Habitats League

Mr. Hunting asked if there were questions or comments, there were none

It was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,010,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

Ortega Yes

Sklar – Yes

Hunting - Yes

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**21. Shelter Island Boat Launch Replacement
San Diego County
\$3,350,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the San Diego Unified Port District (District) for a cooperative project with the Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to replace the Shelter Island Boat Launch, located on land owned by the State of California and managed by the District, located in the City of San Diego in San Diego County.

Ms. Cynthia Alemeda presented this project.

LOCATION

The project site is located on the Shelter Island peninsula which opens into San Diego Bay. The Shelter Island Boat Launch (SIBL) was built in 1956 and was upgraded in 1976. The SIBL is partially protected from exposure to open bay waters by rock jetties that form a breakwater basin around the boat ramp facilities. The project site is located in an urbanized area surrounded by San Diego Bay to the south and east and by developed park and commercial uses, including hotels, restaurants, and marine sales and services uses to the north and west. The SIBL is an important and significant facility to the region's boating community and there is a strong desire to enhance the facility among local boaters, community members, and the DBW.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The SIBL is in need of significant improvements due to the corrosive and wearing actions of seawater and heavy use by boaters. The SIBL replacement project includes the repair, maintenance and/or replacement of the existing boat launch components. The SIBL experiences approximately 48,000 boat launches per year and has seen increased use by larger recreational boats adding to congestion and delays when launching boats in the limited basin area. Further, boat access to the SIBL basin is extremely limited during low tide. The purpose of the project is to provide more navigable water area within the existing breakwater basin that surrounds the boat ramp to launch and retrieve boats, improve boat maneuverability, reduce boat congestion, and improve boat safety and operation. In addition, the project will provide ADA compliant accessibility for users with disabilities. The existing boat launch was built in the 1950s and has not been updated to meet current ADA requirements. The proposed project will meet ADA requirements by improving the length and slope of the gangway and the walkway on the top of the easterly bulkhead wall.

The project includes the following components:

- demolition and replacement of the existing 10-lane boat launching ramp;
- replacement of the existing rock jetties with concrete sheet pile (bulkhead) walls;
- installation of publicly accessible walking platforms with viewing areas atop the bulkhead walls;
- replacement of the existing floating docks;
- installation of new gangways to the floating docks;
- construction of a sidewalk with curb and gutter;

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- re-grading and re-paving of the vehicle/trailer maneuvering area to raise the elevation of the upper area of the launch ramp;
- installation of signage;
- minor re-grading of the beach area to reinstate pre-construction beach profile;
- completion of rock slope protection measures within the basin;
- installation of updated launch ramp lighting; and
- minor ADA compliant modifications to the restrooms and parking stalls.

The top of the existing concrete boat launching ramp will also be extended and raised approximately two feet to a more appropriate elevation which will accommodate future anticipated sea level rise. The project will not increase the number of lanes comprising the existing boat launching ramp; therefore, an increase in the operational capacity of the SIBL would not occur. Thus, no significant change to parking, sanitary facilities, or other ancillary facilities is needed.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Public Access Program and meets the program's goal of providing public access for hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation statewide.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSISTENCY

The project furthers the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

Goal C. 1 – Support a wide range of recreational activities (e.g., hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, camping, photography, etc.) in conjunction with other land uses and without degrading environmental resources.

Goal C. 4 – Place greater emphasis on projects that accommodate compatible wildlife-oriented public uses, while supporting urban areas and disadvantaged communities.

The boat launch is located in an urban area and the replacement will allow for continued use by a variety of recreational boating users including small yachts, in-board and out-board motorboats, private fishing boats, fishing tournament boats, kayaks, and other small boats. Further, the project as proposed will enhance public walkways and platforms for bird and other wildlife viewing, as well as include ADA improvements to the facility that allow for wildlife-oriented recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The new boat launch facility will be open without charge, and should conditions change, any proposed fee structure would be approved by WCB in the future. The District will provide long-term management of the project site and has entered into a 25-year management plan with WCB that will remain in effect until the expiration date of February 24, 2041. If at any time during the 25-year life of the project, the District does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that it refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Budget Item	WCB	DBW	Project Total
Engineering		\$346,000	\$346,000
Construction	\$3,350,000	\$3,853,000	\$7,203,000
Inspection		\$360,000	\$ 360,000
Escalation & Contingency		\$1,441,000	\$1,441,000
Total:	\$3,350,000	\$6,000,000	\$9,350,000

Project costs will be for construction related activities including labor and materials.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a). The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife compatible recreational activities. WCB staff has applied for assistance through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act, which if approved, will reimburse 75% of project costs.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. As lead agency, the San Diego Unified Port District prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has considered the MND and has prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$3,350,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); authorize the acceptance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act reimbursement; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were questions or comments, there were none

It was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed: allocate \$3,350,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a); authorize the acceptance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act reimbursement; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting - Yes**

**22. Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration
Planning and Design
San Diego County
\$895,000.00**

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association for a cooperative project with the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) to complete environmental analysis, permitting, and design for Phase I of a restoration project at the Tijuana Estuary which is located on DPR's Border Field State Park within the Cities of Imperial Beach and San Diego in San Diego County.

Mr. Scott McFarlin presented this project.

LOCATION

The Tijuana Estuary and River Valley represent one of the largest intact coastal wetland systems in Southern California. Unlike most other coastal ecosystems in the region, it has contiguous beach, dune, salt marsh, riparian, and upland habitats. These habitats are largely in public ownership, being managed by the TRNERR, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Border Field State Park, and County of San Diego Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. The Tijuana Estuary was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1973.

The estuary is one of the few remaining salt marshes on the Southern California Coast. The estuary is a critical stopover point along the Pacific Flyway. Many species of migratory and residential species rely on the estuary as essential breeding, feeding, and nesting habitat.

The estuary consists of a northern arm, known as Oneonta Slough, a central estuary dominated by the Tijuana River, and a southern arm that follows one of the historic paths of the Tijuana River. The Tijuana River has changed course several times in recent history and the tidal inlet is currently located roughly in the central estuary. The tidal inlet is primarily influenced by tidal action during dry periods and by scouring and sedimentation during and immediately after flood events.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The estuary has been subjected to degradation over time. Activities affecting the estuary include river channel modification, damming, escaped sewage and run-off flows from Mexico, unseasonal freshwater flows, and excessive erosion and sediment deposition. It has been estimated that as much as 60-80% of wetland habitats and the tidal prism at Tijuana Estuary have been lost since the mid-1800s.

The southern arm has been heavily impacted by filling and diking for agriculture and military use, and more recently, by sedimentation borne across the border from Mexico. Much of the south arm was used as a training field by the U.S. Navy during World War II and is currently designated as Border Field State Park, a feature of the California State Parks system.

The Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program, which began more than 20 years ago, is a long-term, strategic effort aimed at recreating marsh habitat, improving marsh functions, including tidal circulation, and linking sound science with phased implementation to continually increase abilities to effectively understand and restore marsh ecosystems.

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In 2008, the Tijuana Estuary - Friendship Marsh Restoration Feasibility and Design Study was completed. This document addressed restoration of approximately 250 acres of marsh habitats and hydrology in the southern arm of the Tijuana River Estuary. The proposed project will advance the long-term restoration efforts in the tidal marshes of the Tijuana Estuary by completing final project design, engineering, environmental analysis, and permitting for the first phase of what will be a multi-phased restoration. The previously completed feasibility study identified five phases of construction ranging in size from 32 acre to 75 acres. However, these phases were designed primarily to estimate costs and were not detailed enough to present a viable Phase I project.

The proposed project will develop a plan for a more natural stand-alone Phase I project. The proposed project will revisit design criteria and location within the overall 250-acre site, and will develop construction ready design specifications and plans. The proposed project will build on information gathered in the Feasibility Study, including civil and hydrological engineering, soils analyses, and excavated materials disposal options.

The overall restoration goals that the Phase I restoration plan is intended to include are:

- Increased tidal prism
- Restoration of former salt marshes, tidal channels, and mudflat affected by sedimentation
- Restoration of the barrier beach and dunes
- Increased habitat for endangered species
- Increased area of undisturbed transition zone
- Incorporation of a berm to prevent sudden loss of restored habitat from flood events
- Incorporation of research and adaptive management

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for restoration of wetlands that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Inland Wetland Conservation Program such as coastal, tidal, or fresh water habitats, coastal scrub, grasslands, threatened and endangered species habitats, in-stream restoration projects including removal of fish passage barriers and other obstructions.

The project is consistent with the following goals outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

- Goal B.1. Invest in projects and landscape areas that help provide resilience in the face of climate change, enhance water resources for fish and wildlife and enhance habitats on working lands:

The proposed project will assess the potential effects of climate change and sea level rise on the project area.

In addition, the proposed project addresses the following priorities outlined in the WCB Strategic Plan:

- Improve habitat for threatened or endangered species:

This project is uniquely situated to benefit multiple federally listed coastal wetland-dependent wildlife species including the Belding's savannah sparrow and Ridgeway's rail.

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- Provide or enhance habitat connectivity and corridors:

It is anticipated that the design plans for Phase I restoration of the site, if ultimately constructed, will result in a hydrologic connection within the south arm of the estuary, allowing movement of fish and invertebrates, as well as marsh dependent birds, such as Ridgway's rail.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project is consistent with a number of plans and programs. It is the next phase of the Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program (TETRP), which began almost 25 years ago with the certification of the programmatic EIR / EIS and, more recently, the Feasibility Study completed in 2008. It also helps fulfill the restoration actions identified in the TRNERR Comprehensive Management Plan (2010), which specifically calls for continued implementation of TETRP. Additionally, it is consistent with the City of San Diego's Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan for the Tijuana River Valley (2007), which includes the following goal: "to protect, preserve, and restore natural coastal resources." The project also helps fulfill one of the Priority Action Areas of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy (*Living with the Water*), which was endorsed by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2012. The project site consists of public lands with jurisdictions committed to long-term management, and aimed at planning efforts that will maximize effectiveness in terms of both outcomes and implementation costs.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>WCB</u>	<u>NOAA</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Project Management	\$284,769	-	\$284,769
Studies/EIR/EIS	\$382,000	\$200,000	\$582,000
Plan Design and Specs	\$77,500		-\$77,500
Permitting	\$67,600	-	\$67,600
Administration	\$44,845	-	\$44,845
Contingencies	\$38,286	-	\$38,286
TOTAL:	\$895,000	\$200,000	\$1,095,000

Project costs will be for project design, permitting, engineering, environmental studies and analysis, restoration plan development, administration and project management.

Additional non-WCB funding for other restoration efforts in the Tijuana Estuary have totaled over \$14 million since 1997, including \$1,165,890 from the State Coastal Conservancy to fund the Tijuana Estuary Friendship Marsh Restoration Feasibility and Design Study in 2008.

In 2004, WCB in cooperation with SCC and DPR, funded \$9,500,000 (\$1.8 million from WCB) to construct sediment management basins and a new access road to the ocean near a former quarry site to handle the sediment originating south of the border in Mexico.

WCB FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a), which provides funding for the acquisition, protection and restoration of coastal wetlands identified in the Southern California Coastal Wetlands Inventory, located within the coastal

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zone, other wetlands connected and proximate to such coastal wetlands and upland areas adjacent and proximate to such coastal wetlands.

CEQA AND CDFW REVIEW/ RECOMMENDATION

The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15262) as feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$895,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Donnelly reported that the WCB had received a letter of support from Mr. Dan Silver, Executive Director of the Endangered Habitat League.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were questions or comments, there were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$895,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

Passed Unanimously.

Ortega Yes

Sklar – Yes

Hunting - Yes

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**23. Staff Report- Easement Transfers
Informational**

At the February 24, 1998, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB or Board) meeting, WCB authorized the Executive Director to transfer less-than-fee interests (easements, right of ways, etc.) in California Department of Fish and Wildlife or WCB-controlled land, where the value of the interest is less than \$50,000.00. This action was taken to improve service to the public and reduce the cost of processing these transfers. Proceeds received are deposited into the Wildlife Restoration Fund, pursuant to Fish and Wildlife Code, Section 1348.

The Board placed two conditions on its delegation of authority. First, the grant of less-than-fee interest must be made at the request or with the recommendation of CDFW to assure adequate consideration of impacts on habitat and programs. Second, any grant made under this authority must be reported to the Board as an informational item.

Pursuant to the above described process, the following easement transfers have been completed by staff.

Project Title	Transfer Type	Grantee	Size	Fair Market Value
PG&E Feather River Utility Easement	Utility Easement Recorded: 10/29/15	PG&E	5,000 sq. ft.	\$1,000.00
Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve, Soil Nail Easement	Soil Nail Easement Recorded: 10/23/14	Rancho Jamul Indian Village of California	2 acres	\$7,000.00
Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Water Pipeline Easement	Easement for Water Pipeline Recorded: 3/7/14	Browns Valley Irrigation District	1± acre	\$250.00
Truckee River Wildlife Area Power Line Easement	Access Powerline Easement Recorded: 7/30/14	California Pacific Electric Co.	0.32 acre	\$1,300.00
Doyle Wildlife Area	Utility Easement (utility transmission line) Recorded: 6/13/12	Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative Inc.	2,662 sq.ft.	\$1,425.00
Smartsville Road Realignment Easement	Roadway Easement Recorded: 6/15/10	County of Yuba	0.32 acre	\$500.00
Blue Sky Pipeline Easement	Utility Gas Pipeline Easement Recorded: 7/4/14 & as amended on 12/15/14	San Diego Gas and Electric Co.	0.6 acre	\$1,700.00

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Loma Rica Road Widening	Roadway Easement Recorded: 4/25/13	County of Yuba	4 acres	\$2,700.00
Sutter Bypass – Defty Roadway Easement	Non-Exclusive Roadway Easement Recorded: 7/1/11	Spencer & Laura Defty	.02 acres	\$200.00
Sonoma County Water District Easement, Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Huichica Creek Unit	Utility Pipeline Easement Recorded: 3/8/13	Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District	2.8 acres	\$3,500- <i>Exchange of water.</i>
Escalona Gulch PG&E Easement	Above/Below Ground Utility Easement Recorded: 7/21/11	PG&E and Pacific Bell Telephone Company	321 sq. ft.	\$500.00
Napa Sanitation District Pipeline Easement	Utility Pipeline Easement Recorded: 12/30/15	Napa Sanitation District	1.4 acres	\$1,000.00

Mr. Hunting asked if there were questions or comments, there were none

24. Delegation of Authority

This proposal is to consider the delegation of authority to the Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to execute non-controversial contracts with both private and public entities to support the mission and goals of the WCB, limiting such authority to routine service and interagency contracts and amendments of no more than \$150,000.00 in value per year and no more than three years in length per contract. The California State Contracting Manual, Volume 1, Section 2.06(B) requires that for contracts in excess of \$5,000, State boards and commissions must have either statutory authority for the executive officer to sign contracts, or the authority must be conveyed by the board or commission by written resolution, order, or motion. Currently, WCB must take requests for non-controversial contracts to our Board individually in order to meet these requirements.

The WCB is periodically required to administer specific and routine service and interagency agreements with both private and public entities to carry out its day-to-day administrative operations and support its land acquisition and habitat conservation programs. The contracts are for non-controversial activities, involve the transaction of routine State business, and do not involve significant policy decisions that would require the consideration of the Board during publicly held meetings. Examples of routine service and interagency agreements include but are not limited to maintenance of copy machines and other WCB office equipment, and security guard services for the WCB office building.

Specific interagency contracts staff anticipates executing in the near future include the following:

1. A three-year agreement with the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights for approximately \$320,000 (\$106,000 annually) to provide technical services and scientific review to help accomplish the goals of WCB's California Stream Flow Enhancement Program, including processing of water right filings associated with stream flow enhancement projects; and
2. A three-year agreement with the Natural Resources Agency for approximately \$150,000 for the implementation of the new Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal), an integrated financial management system for all State agency budgeting, accounting, procurement, and cash management activities.

Staff recommends that the Board delegate authority to the Executive Director to execute non-controversial contracts with both private and public entities to support the mission and goals of the WCB, limiting such authority to routine service and interagency contracts and amendments of no more than \$150,000 in value per year and no more than three years in length per contract. Contracts executed under the recommended delegation of authority will be reported to the Board as an informational item following each fiscal year.

Mr. Donnelly presented and then asked for questions or comments.

Mr. Sklar said he assumed there would be some reporting back to the Board, much like the item above.

Mr. Donnelly confirmed that he would report to the Board periodically. Mr. Sklar suggested that reporting occur at the next Board meeting. Mr. Donnelly agreed and added that these will be for service and interagency type contracts, not huge dollar amounts.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were further questions or comments, there were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this delegation as proposed; authorize the Executive Director to execute non-controversial contracts with both private and public entities to support the mission and goals of the WCB, limiting such authority to routine service and interagency contracts and amendments of no more than \$150,000 in value per year and no more than three years in length per contract. Contracts executed under the recommended delegation of authority will be reported to the Board as an informational item following each fiscal year.

Passed Unanimously.

Ortega Yes

Sklar – Yes

Hunting - Yes

25. Resolutions

The following Resolutions are submitted for enactment by the Wildlife Conservation Board:

Mr. Michael Sutton

WHEREAS, Mr. Michael Sutton served for two years as a Member of the California Wildlife Conservation Board, commensurate with his term as President of the Fish and Game Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sutton, with his intense interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, coupled with his sound judgment and practical experience in California's natural 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. Sutton was instrumental in the development and adoption of the Board's Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sutton, 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. Sutton 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 Michael Sutton 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. Sutton.

Mr. Jack Baylis

WHEREAS, Mr. Jack A. Baylis has, in January 2016, completed one year of service as a member of the California Wildlife Conservation Board and five years with the California Fish and Game Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baylis, with his intense interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, coupled with his sound judgment and his commitment to the preservation and protection of California's ever declining wildlife resources, has greatly assisted the Board and its staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baylis, as a member of the Board, has supported the Board's programs

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throughout his tenure, making preservation, enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat a true priority, for all of California; 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 Mr. Jack A. Baylis 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. Jack A. Baylis.

Mr. Donnelly asked the Board adopt the Resolutions. He also congratulated Eric Sklar on his appointment as President of the Fish and Game Commission and welcomed him as a member of the WCB.

Mr. Sklar remarked that Jack Baylis and Michael Sutton served the State admirably and left big shoes to fill. He said he also wanted to thank them personally for making his transition to the State so easy.

Mr. Hunting agreed that Mr Baylis and Mr. Sutton served the State well. He asked if there were further questions or comments, there were none.

It was moved by Board Member Eraina Ortega that the Wildlife Conservation Board enact these Resolutions as submitted.

Passed Unanimously.

**Ortega Yes
Sklar – Yes
Hunting – Yes**

John Donnelly said he wanted to clarify that the consent calendar did not stop with Item 9 (Agenda Items were on consent through Item 13)

Mr. Hunting asked for any further questions or comments, there were none and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted,



John Donnelly
Executive Director