

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1807 13TH STREET, SUITE 103
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811
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State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Minutes
May 28, 2009

ITEM NO.	PAGE NO.
1. <u>Roll Call</u>	1
2. <u>Election of Chair</u>	3
3. <u>Funding Status — Informational</u>	3
4. <u>Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 5—12)</u>	7
*5. <u>Approval of Minutes — November 20, 2008</u>	7
*6. <u>Recovery of Funds</u>	7
*7. <u>Forest Conservation Program, Statewide</u>	15
*8. <u>Clear Lake Conservation Area, Lake County</u>	16
*9. <u>Lower Klamath River Fishing Access, Del Norte County</u>	17
*10. <u>Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, Public Access Facilities, Humboldt County</u>	19
*11. <u>Avocado Lake Public Fishing Area Operating Agreement, Fresno County</u>	22
*12. <u>Santee Lakes Fishing Piers, San Diego County</u>	23
13. <u>DFG Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement Projects, Siskiyou, Butte, Glenn, Merced, and San Joaquin Counties</u>	25
14. <u>South Bonnyview Fishing Access Improvements, Shasta County</u>	29

* Proposed Consent Calendar

ITEM NO.	PAGE NO.
15. <u>San Joaquin Multi-Species Conservation Plan (2006), Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties</u>	30
16. <u>North Grasslands Wildlife Area, Gadwall Unit, Merced County</u>	33
17. <u>Tulare Basin Wetland Enhancement, Kern County</u>	34
18. <u>Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Public Access Bridge, Augmentation and Fund Shift, Orange County</u>	36
19. <u>Resolutions</u>	39
20. <u>Closed Session</u>	42
21. <u>Program Statement</u>	43

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes

May 28, 2009

The Wildlife Conservation Board met on Thursday, May 28, 2009, at the Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 100, in Sacramento, California. Mr. Donald Koch, Director of the Department of Fish and Game, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M., introduced Ms. Karen Finn, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance, Mr. John Donnelly, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board, his Executive Assistant, Ms. Natalya Kulagina, and Ms. Cindy Gustafson, President of Fish and Game Commission.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Cindy Gustafson, Member
President, Fish and Game Commission
Karen Finn, Program Budget Manager
Vice, Michael C. Genest, Member
Director, Department of Finance
Donald Koch, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Abel Maldonado

Bill Craven
Vice, Senator Fran Pavley

Teresa Schilling
Vice, Senator Patricia Wiggins

Kevin Erickson
Vice, Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee

Diane Colborn
Vice, Assembly Member Jared Huffman

Erin Shaw
Vice, Assembly Member Ira Ruskin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Donnelly

Wildlife Conservation Board Staff Present:

John P. Donnelly, Executive Director
Debra Townsend, Assistant Executive Director
Dave Means, Assistant Executive Director
Natalya Kulagina, Executive Assistant
Catherine Caldwell, Senior Land Agent
Roland Shield, Research Analyst II
Tony Chappelle, Public Land Management Specialist IV
Bonnie Turner, Public Land Management Specialist IV
Pat Dyas, Senior Land Agent
Janell Bogue, Staff Counsel

Celestial Baumbach, Office Technician
Jasen Yee, Budget Analyst
Ashley Lackey, Office Technician
Teri Muzik, Senior Land Agent
Peter Perrine, Public Land Management Specialist IV
Nancy Templeton, Chief Counsel
Chad Fien, Public Land Management Specialist IV
Mary Westlake, Staff Services Analyst
Roxanne Woodward, Budget and Fiscal Officer
Robert Kane, Senior Land Agent (R.A)

Others Present:

Gina VanKlomben, Department of Fish and Game
Gary Stacey, Department of Fish and Game
Angela Donlan, Department of Fish and Game
Dean Kwasny, Department of Fish and Game
Armand Gonzales, Department of Fish and Game
Michael Musolino, Musolino Development
Jeff Calvert, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
David Finigan, Del Norte County Board of Supervisors
Jake Messerli, CA Waterfowl Association
Norm Brown, N.C. Brown Development, Inc.
Jeff McCreary, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Tasha Newman, Conservation Strategy Group, LLC
Mark Lovelace, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Rosalie Snow, American Fishing Foundation
Flossie Horgan, Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Mark Biddlecomb, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Virginia Getz, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Dan Kim, Pacific Gas and Electric Company
John Kopchik, Contra Costa County
Terry Hanson, City of Redding
Mark Warner, American Fishing Foundation
Catherine Wieman, Alston & Bird, LLP
Bob Fredenburg, Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro Office
Brad Noblitt, Chevron USA Inc.
Amy Larsen, CA Wildlife Foundation

2. Election of Chair

Mr. Koch placed into nomination President of the Fish and Game Commission, Ms. Cindy Gustafson, as the Chairwoman of the Wildlife Conservation Board. Ms. Finn seconded the nomination.

Motion carried.

At this time, Ms. Gustafson expressed appreciation on her election and stated she was honored to chair the Wildlife Conservation Board. Ms. Gustafson then introduced Ms. Diane Colborn of Assembly Member Jared Huffman's office and turned the meeting over to Mr. Donnelly.

3. Funding Status — Informational

Mr. Donnelly welcomed Ms. Gustafson to the Board and moved to the Funding Status item on the meeting agenda. Mr. Donnelly gave an explanation about the current situation with the bond funds freeze. Ms. Finn commented about the status of the bond freeze. With no further questions on the bond freeze status, Mr. Donnelly moved on to the next agenda item, Proposed Consent Calendar.

(a) 2008-09 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act.....	\$1,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$156,000.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$844,000.00

(b) 2006-07 General Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act.....	\$5,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$3,465,000.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$1,535,000.00

(c) 2008-09 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act.....	\$20,668,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$35,000.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$20,633,000.00

(d) 2007-08 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act.....	\$20,674,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$11,830,187.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$8,843,813.00

(e) 2006-07 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act.....	\$20,699,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$9,079,102.32)

Unallocated Balance.....	\$11,619,897.68
(f) 2006-07 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
Budget Act.....	\$15,224,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$13,042,551.50)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$2,181,448.50
(g) 2000-01 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget (2006-07 Reappropriation)	
Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects).....	\$14,562,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$14,561,999.33)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$0.67
(h) 1999-00 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
Continuously Appropriated [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)] ...	\$36,100,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$27,480,085.39)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$8,619,914.61
(i) 2004-05 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget (2007-08 Reappropriation)	
Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects).....	\$11,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$409,302.00)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$10,590,698.00
(j) 2003-04 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget (2007-08 Reappropriation)	
Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects).....	\$8,500,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$8,499,999.40)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$0.60
(k) 2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650)	\$273,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$184,027,395.30)
Unallocated Balance.....	\$88,972,604.70
(l) 2004-05 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget (Section 79568)	
Budget Act (2006-07 Reappropriation)	\$13,250,000.00

- Less Previous Board Allocations (\$13,089,784.38)
 - Unallocated Balance..... \$160,215.62
- (m) 2003-04 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget (Section 79568)
 - Budget Act (2006-07 Reappropriation) \$32,500,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (\$22,616,970.00)
 - Unallocated Balance..... \$9,883,030.00
- (n) 2002-03 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget
 - Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572), including Chapter 81, Statutes of 2005..... \$814,350,000.00
 - Less 2003-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565.. (\$21,000,000.00)
 - Less 2004-05 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565.. (\$21,000,000.00)
 - Less 2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565.... (\$4,000,000.00)
 - Less 2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572.... (\$3,100,000.00)
 - Less 2006-07 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79672.. (\$17,688,000.00)
 - Less 2007-08 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572 (\$5,150,000.00)
 - Less 2008-09 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 795725.. (\$1,000,000.00)
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (\$644,979,623.39)
 - Unallocated Balance..... \$96,432,376.61
- (o) 2008-09 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget
 - Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) \$10,000,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (\$0.00)
 - Unallocated Balance..... \$10,000,000.00
- (p) 2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget
 - Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) \$10,000,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (\$50,000.00)
 - Unallocated Balance..... \$9,950,000.00
- (q) 2008-09 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget
 - Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055c)..... \$25,000,000.00
 - Less Previous Board Allocations (\$25,000.00)
 - Unallocated Balance..... \$24,975,000.00
- (r) 2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget
 - Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055c)..... \$25,000,000.00

	Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$13,731,574.00)
	Unallocated Balance.....	\$11,268,426.00
(s)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(1))	\$14,293,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$2,188,492.00)
	Unallocated Balance.....	\$12,104,508.00
(t)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(2))	\$14,293,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$1,301,572.00)
	Unallocated Balance.....	\$12,991,428.00
(u)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(3))	\$4,762,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$1,405,600.00)
	Unallocated Balance.....	\$3,356,400.00
(v)	2006-07 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055a)	\$164,700,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$25,000.00)
	Unallocated Balance.....	\$164,675,000.00
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055b)	\$123,525,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$16,549,611.00)
	Unallocated Balance.....	\$106,975,389.00
(w)	2003-04 Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (2006-07 Reappropriation)	\$5,000,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	(\$5,000,000.00)
	Unallocated Balance.....	\$0.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund (a)	\$844,000.00
General Fund (b)	\$1,535,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (c), (d) and (e)	\$41,096,710.68
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (f), (g) and (h).....	\$10,801,363.78
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (i), (j) and (k)	\$99,563,303.30
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and	

Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (l), (m) and (n)	\$106,475,622.23
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u) and (v)	\$356,296,151.00
Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund (w).....	\$0.00

RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000

Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000
Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000 and Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004

Total Tax Credits Available.....	\$100,000,000.00
Less Previously Awarded Tax Credits	(48,598,734.00)
Balance of Tax Credits Available.....	\$51,401,266.00

Note: The Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program is currently suspended, (effective 07/01/08).

4. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 5 – 12)

Mr. Donnelly requested that item #10 (Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, Public Access Facilities, Humboldt County) be pulled from the Consent Calendar so that a presentation could be made for the Board’s benefit.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

Ms. Gustafson moved that the Board approve Consent Calendar items 5 through 12, excluding item #10 (Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, Public Access Facilities, Humboldt County), as proposed in the individual agenda explanations, including the funding therein.

Motion carried.

*5. Approval of Minutes — November 20, 2008 Meeting

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Gustafson that the Board approve the minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting.

Motion carried.

*6. 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.

\$254,791.50 to the **Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund**

\$826,774.82 to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**

\$1,079,576.80 to the **California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund**

\$14,921.00 to the **Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002**

\$120,306.50 to the **Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006**

\$0.00 to the **Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund**

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

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve (Edom Hill Unit), Expansion 31, Riverside County

Allocated	\$5,000.00
Expended	<u>-468.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,532.00

Humboldt Bay Coastal Reserve, Expansions 2 and 3, Humboldt County

Allocated	\$370,000.00
Expended	<u>-360,117.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$9,883.00

Iron Mountain Wildlife Area, Monte Vista, San Diego County

Allocated	\$25,000.00
Expended	<u>-11,238.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$13,762.00

Mill Creek Water Right (Jones), Tehama County

Allocated	\$580,000.00
Expended	<u>-576,879.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,121.00

Ramona Grasslands, Expansion 2, San Diego County

Allocated	\$25,000.00
Expended	<u>-3,802.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$21,197.50

Santa Rosa Mountains, Expansions 9 and 10, Riverside County

Allocated	\$280,000.00
Expended	<u>-93,753.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$186,246.50

Triple Creeks Conservation Area, Expansion 3, Riverside County

Allocated	\$5,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,521.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,479.00

Western Riverside County MSHCP, and Expansions 1 and 2, Riverside County

Allocated	\$15,000.00
Expended	<u>-5,616.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$9,384.00

Wilson Creek Riparian Corridor, Expansion 6, Riverside County

Allocated	\$5,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,813.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,186.50

**Total Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water,
Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund** **\$254,791.50**

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Black Mountain Preserve, Expansion 3, Fresno County

Allocated	\$1,150,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,130,117.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$19,883.00

Canebrake Ecological Reserve, Canebrake Creek Unit, Expansion 3, Kern County

Allocated	\$29,468.00
Expended	<u>-29,468.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 11, Butte County

Allocated	\$610,000.00
Expended	<u>-597,372.18</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$12,627.82

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 12, Yuba County

Allocated	\$935,000.00
Expended	<u>-934,258.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$741.50

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 9, Monterey County

Allocated	\$40,500.00
Expended	<u>-40,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 9, Augmentation and Change of Scope, Monterey County

Allocated	\$32,500.00
Expended	<u>-32,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 10, Monterey County

Allocated	\$370,000.00
Expended	<u>-321,667.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$48,332.50

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 10, Augmentation and Change of Scope, Monterey County

Allocated	\$350,000.00
Expended	<u>-350,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 11, Monterey County

Allocated	\$247,500.00
Expended	<u>-245,062.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,437.50

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 11, Augmentation and Change of Scope, Monterey County

Allocated	\$232,500.00
Expended	<u>-37,839.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$194,660.50

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 12, Monterey County

Allocated	\$550,000.00
Expended	<u>-541,908.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$8,092.00

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 12, Augmentation and Change of Scope, Monterey County

Allocated	\$535,000.00
Expended	<u>-0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$535,000.00

Oak Grove, San Diego County

Allocated	\$7,699,500.00
Expended	<u>-7,699,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Upper Cosumnes River Basin, Expansion 2, El Dorado County

Allocated	\$1,465,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,460,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

Total Habitat Conservation Fund **\$826,774.82**

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

American River Preserve, North Fork Unit, El Dorado County

Allocated	\$1,510,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,505,723.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,277.00

Humboldt Bay Coastal Reserve, Expansions 2 and 3, Humboldt County

Allocated	\$125,000.00
Expended	<u>-115,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10,000.00

Millerton Preserve (Ecker Ranch), Madera County

Allocated	\$1,856,508.00
Expended	<u>-1,856,508.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Morro Bay Wildlife Area, San Luis Obispo County

Allocated	\$810,000.00
Expended	<u>-801,780.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$8,220.00

Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area, Balls Ferry Unit, Expansion 2, Shasta County

Allocated	\$1,745,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,743,315.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,685.00

Oak Grove, San Diego County

Allocated	\$2,820,500.00
Expended	<u>-2,820,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 3, San Diego County

Allocated	\$9,020,000.00
Expended	<u>-8,016,916.59</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,003,083.41

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Expansion 15, Fresno County

Allocated	\$570,000.00
Expended	<u>-555,274.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$14,725.50

Shay Meadow Conservation Area and Expansion 1, San Bernardino County

Allocated	\$152,500.00
Expended	<u>-134,914.11</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$17,585.89

South Fork American River, Lower Canyon Unit, Expansion 3, El Dorado County

Allocated	\$410,000.00
Expended	<u>-400,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10,000.00

Wheeler Ridge Wildlife Area, Expansion 1, Mono County

Allocated	\$840,000.00
Expended	<u>-830,000.00</u>

Balance for Recovery \$10,000.00

**Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe
Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund \$1,079,576.80**

**WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH
PROTECTION FUND OF 2002**

Marshall Canyon Conservation Corridor, Los Angeles County

Allocated \$5,130,000.00
Expended -5,120,079.00
Balance for Recovery \$9,921.00

Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve (Transfer of Jurisdiction of State-owned Real
Property), San Luis Obispo County

Allocated \$5,000.00
Expended -0.00
Balance for Recovery \$5,000.00

Total Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 \$14,921.00

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

El Sobrante, Expansions 1, 2, and 3, Riverside County

Allocated \$1,987,000.00
Expended -1,977,418.00
Balance for Recovery \$9,852.00

Irish Hills Conservation Area, Andre Ranch, San Luis Obispo County

Allocated \$1,005,000.00
Expended -1,000,000.00
Balance for Recovery \$5,000.00

Jacoby Creek Forest, Expansion 4, Humboldt County

Allocated \$509,000.00
Expended -495,404.00
Balance for Recovery \$13,596.00

Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 2, Napa County

Allocated	\$3,370,000.00
Expended	<u>-3,292,993.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$77,006.50

Midland School Oak Woodlands Conservation Easement, Santa Barbara County

Allocated	\$1,117,161.00
Expended	<u>-1,114,033.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,128.00

Millerton Preserve (Ecker Ranch), Madera County

Allocated	\$1,158,492.00
Expended	<u>-1,151,768.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$6,724.00

San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Expansion 31, Riverside County

Allocated	\$660,000.00
Expended	<u>-660,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

South Fork American River, Lower Canyon Unit, Expansion 2, El Dorado County

Allocated	\$360,000.00
Expended	<u>-355,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

Total Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protect Fund of 2006 **\$120,306.50**

OAK WOODLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Midland School Oak Woodlands Conservation Easement, Santa Barbara County

Allocated	\$3,037,839.00
Expended	<u>-3,037,839.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Total Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund **\$0.00**

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Gustafson that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the Recovery of Funds for the projects listed on pages 7 through 14 of the agenda and close the project accounts. Recovery totals include \$254,791.50 to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund; \$826,774.82 to the Habitat Conservation Fund; \$1,079,576.80 to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe

Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund; \$14,921.00 to the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002; \$120,306.50 to the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006; and \$0.00 to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund.

Motion carried.

- *7. Forest Conservation Program, Statewide N/A

This proposal was to consider modifying the grant cycle for the Forest Conservation Program. As initially approved, project applications are accepted and reviewed in January and June. Staff propose to change this grant cycle to a continuous process whereby project applications are accepted and reviewed on a continuous basis consistent with all other WCB grant programs.

On November 15, 2007, the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board) approved the development and implementation of the new Forest Conservation Program. This program was authorized pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, commonly referred to as Proposition 84 (Bond Act), passed by the voters on November 7, 2006.

Consistent with the provisions of the Bond Act and as previously reported to the Board, the goals of the Program are to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests for all their public benefits 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.

To implement the Board's role under the Bond Act, staff, working in partnership with an advisory group, developed the Forest Conservation Program. The advisory group was comprised of registered foresters, private landowners and industry representatives, forest managers, and representatives from the following organizations: Pacific Forest Trust, Save the Redwoods League, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, UC Cooperative Extension, UC Berkeley School of Forestry, Sierra Business Council, economic forest consultants, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, California Council of Land Trusts, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, CAL FIRE, and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

The advisory group developed guiding principles designed to protect, restore, and enhance forestlands and working landscapes responsive to the ecological, economic, and biological attributes of the forest ecosystem. The principles, used in conjunction with eligibility and selection criteria, which the advisory group also

developed, assist applicants in the preparation of project proposals that are responsive to the Bond Act language and purposes of Program.

Since the Program's inception, the Board has received a total of 13 project applications. From the applications received to date, staff is working on seven projects to present to the Board for consideration of possible funding; two project applications have been returned to the project applicant because they did not meet the eligibility and selection criteria, and four projects are still under staff review.

As part of the grant application process, the criteria provide that project proposals are accepted on a continuous basis; however, the proposals are to be evaluated during defined periods. Specifically, proposals are to be evaluated in late January and early June. When the Program was initially presented to the Board for approval, staff proposed to review project applications during a pre-defined period as staff thought it would facilitate a more efficient review process and allow staff greater flexibility in managing the workload. Having gone through three grant cycles, staff has found that reviewing projects twice a year has not improved the management of the workload associated with reviewing the project applications. As such, staff is recommending the Program's grant cycle be modified to accept and review proposals on a continuous basis and eliminate the January and June time periods associated with reviewing applications.

Accepting and reviewing project applications on a continuous basis is consistent with other Wildlife Conservation Board grant programs. All other eligibility and project selection criteria would remain as previously approved by the Board.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Gustafson that this recommendation be approved by the Board and direct staff to implement this Program change effective May 28, 2009.

Motion carried.

- *8. Clear Lake Conservation Area,
Lake County

N/A

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of a donation from Lake County Watershed Protection District (Lake County) of a Conservation Easement over six real properties totaling 31± acres to protect a historic wetland habitat, located approximately two and one-half miles northwest of the community of Nice, in Lake County.

The properties are located within the Middle Creek Flood Control Project near Clear Lake. The project, completed in 1966 by the Army Corps of Engineers, includes 14.4 miles of levees, diversion structures and a pumping station. Gravel mining, road construction and use, wildfires and other land uses in this area have resulted in erosion and sedimentation of Clear Lake, leading to noxious

conditions that are detrimental to fish and wildlife resources. The current levees have not provided adequate flood protection to residences in the area.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded Proposition 13 funds to Lake County to acquire properties near the levees as part of a plan to restore the ecosystem in this watershed. One requirement of the DWR grant to Lake County was the obligation of a third party to hold a conservation easement on any acquisitions and monitor their restoration. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is willing to accept this conservation easement along with an endowment of \$50,000.00 from Lake County to monitor the restoration of these six properties.

The DFG will reserve the right to make periodic visits in order to insure that the conditions of the easement are being honored. Interest from the endowment will cover the annual monitoring expenses anticipated by the DFG.

The Lake County Board Watershed Protection District approved the Agreement for Conveyance and Acceptance of a Conservation Easement at their meeting on April 21, 2009. The Conservation Easement Deed, dated November 20, 2007, will be recorded by the DFG at no cost in Lake County. The acceptance of the donation will not result in any expenses to the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board).

The proposed acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is 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 Board, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Plans for the properties include conservation and restoration of the remaining high quality riparian, fresh water marsh, oak woodland and grassland habitats at the north end of Clear Lake. These plans will promote multi-species conservation efforts as well as preservation and expansion of public hunting and fishing opportunities. Numerous physical and biological problems will be resolved in the Clear Lake Basin through the restoration of a historic wetland habitat. These future plans were reviewed in an EIS/EIR jointly prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of engineers and the County of Lake.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board accept this donation as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this acceptance; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Gustafson that the Wildlife Conservation Board accept this donation as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this acceptance; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed

substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *9. Lower Klamath River Fishing Access, \$101,000.00
Del Norte County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the American Fishing Foundation to establish a floating boat dock at the Roy Rook public boat launching facility, owned by the County of Del Norte and co-operated by the County of Del Norte and the American Fishing Foundation, located on the western edge of the community of Klamath Glen, in Del Norte County.

The project site is located in the Klamath basin watershed and approximately 4 miles upstream from the mouth of the Klamath River. The Klamath basin drains approximately 16,000 square miles with 35% of the watershed in south-central Oregon (known as the Upper Klamath) and 65% in northwestern California (known as the Lower Klamath). The generally accepted boundary between the upper and lower basins is Iron Gate Dam. The Lower Klamath River flows through the counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Humboldt, and Del Norte. The Klamath River is the second-largest salmon-producing stream on the West Coast behind the Columbia River.

The WCB previously allocated funding in 1958 to establish the boat ramp at Klamath Glen. Improvements to the launching facility were also made in 1988 including parking area improvements and public restroom facilities.

The current project site is one of two public boat launching facilities located along the Lower Klamath River (56 river miles); however, the second public boat launching facility known as Klamath Townsite Boat Ramp Facility, is currently unusable because the concrete ramp was severely damaged during recent storms and high water flows. The Klamath Townsite facility is expected to be closed for repairs during 2009. In addition to the Roy Rook boat launching facility being the only public boat launching facility that will be operable during 2009, the closing of other salmon fisheries in Oregon and California has increased use at the project site. Installing the floating boat dock will help ease traffic congestion and improve access for the public and government personnel. The boat dock will be put in place and anchored annually when the river's water level is between 6ft and 10ft above mean sea level, which is generally from about the third week in April through the second week in November.

The County has agreed to manage and maintain the property for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. If at any time during the life of the project, the County is unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will be obligated to refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$101,000.00
American Fishing Foundation	<u>122,890.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</u>	<u>\$223,540.00</u>

WCB funding will be for the purchase and installation of the floating boat dock including abutments, anchors, erosion control and site prep, excavation and backfill, dock installation, mobilization; and project design, construction supervision, and administration. The project also qualifies for a Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act grant that will reimburse the WCB 75 percent of the WCB's share of the project costs.

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Wildlife Restoration Fund which provides funding for the development and construction of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-oriented recreational uses and is consistent with the objectives of this project. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. Del Norte County, as lead agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$101,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Gustafson that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$101,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

10. Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, Public Access Facilities, \$126,652.00
Humboldt County

Mr. Donnelly requested this item be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to Friends of the Dunes to develop a public parking area and accessible public restroom facilities at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center. The project site is located immediately to the north of the community of Manila, in Humboldt County.

Mr. Donnelly reported that a letter of support was received for this project from Senator Patricia Wiggins, Second Senate District. Mr. Chad Fien of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

The WCB, beginning in 2007, allocated funding to assist with the original acquisition of 38± acres, which included a residential building on the property to be used as office space and nature center, and subsequent expansions 1, 2, and 3, (additional 76± acres) for a total of 114± acres. The purposes of these projects were for the preservation of beach and sand dune habitat, ensuring the continuity of land managed for conservation, and providing a visitor center for information about Humboldt Bay. The property also provides recreational opportunities and public access linkages with adjacent publicly owned properties.

The restoration work for this project will include development of a public restroom facility, covered outdoor area, parking lot improvements and signage/trail markers.

The restroom facilities will have natural lighting through skylight wells, low-flow fixtures, and house the mechanical space for the main building. The parking areas will consist of a lower parking area to include 25 public parking spaces, one ADA compliant parking space and parking areas for 2-3 buses. The upper parking area will be reserved for staff parking and provide two more additional ADA compliant parking spaces.

The landowner has agreed to manage and maintain the property for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. If at any time during the life of the project, the landowner is unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$126,652.00
Humboldt Co. Div. of Environmental Health	40,000.00
Private Donations/Landowner	<u>140,648.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</u>	<u>\$307,300.00</u>

Project costs will be for public restroom facilities; parking area improvements; and project design, construction supervision, and administration.

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Wildlife Restoration Fund, which provides funding for the development and construction of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-oriented recreational uses and is consistent with the objectives of this project. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. A coastal development permit has already been obtained from the California Coastal Commission for this project. Humboldt County, as

lead agency, prepared a Negative Declaration for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff considered the Negative Declaration and has prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$126,652.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Donnelly commented that the project includes public access parking development and public restroom construction only. Ms. Finn asked if there was private funding included in the project. Mr. Donnelly responded that there are private donations that will assist with the parking and restrooms. Ms. Finn stated she recalled a Humboldt Nature Center project from a prior State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) meeting and asked if this project was part of the same. Mr. Donnelly responded that the SCC provided funding for building renovation at the project site and the project being considered herein, is a stand alone project.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions about this item. Mr. Koch pointed out that this area offers significant benefits in terms of connecting the public with wildlife resources and this project will enhance that connection.

At this time, Ms. Gustafson recognized Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro in the audience and asked if he would like to make any comments. Mr. Chesbro expressed his support of the project and explained that the project was located within his district. He highlighted the benefits this project would provide the public in terms of wildlife oriented recreational opportunities and expressed his appreciation of Board's consideration of this item and for the Board's support and that of the Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Fien introduced Mr. Mark Lovelace of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Lovelace stated he appreciated the Board's consideration of this project. He explained that it is important for County residents and the public in general, to have quality access to beach dune habitat and indicated that this project would advance that opportunity.

Ms. Gustafson thanked Mr. Chesbro and Mr. Lovelace and asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Koch that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$126,652.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *11. Avocado Lake Public Fishing Area Operating Agreement, \$176.00
Fresno County

This proposal was to consider entering into a new Operating Agreement with the County of Fresno (County) to operate and maintain the Avocado Lake Public Fishing Area for public fishing access for the next 30 years. The project is located approximately 5 miles east of the Fresno city limits and adjacent to the Kings River.

WCB acquired and developed 33± acres of land for public fishing access in 1956. This area was combined with adjacent properties owned by the County of Fresno, the Alta Irrigation District, the Fresno Irrigation District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a private landowner to form the Avocado Lake Public Fishing Area. The Public Fishing Area has been operated and maintained by the County of Fresno since it opened. It contains parking areas, restrooms, picnic areas, a barrier-free fishing platform, and a non-motorized boat launch/landing area. The approximately 83 surface-acre Avocado Lake is a former borrow pit resulting from the construction of the Pine Flat Dam on the Kings River, and is regularly stocked with sport fish by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

The previous Cooperative Agreement for the Avocado Lake Public Fishing Area was initiated between the County and the Board in 1984 and expired on February 1, 2009. It was amended once to allow the County to charge an entrance fee and to restrict public access to certain hours.

Reentering into this agreement will continue the County's long-term commitment to operate and maintain the state-owned portions of Avocado Lake Public Fishing Area. This also helps pave the way for any future requests by the County for WCB funding, for items such as upgrades or new improvements, by reestablishing the underlying documentation and assurances needed by the WCB to fund these types of projects.

Under the agreement the County agrees to keep the area open to the public from 7am to 10pm, from April 1 to September 30 and from 7am to 7pm, from October 1 to March 31, for the next 30 years. A \$5 vehicle entrance fee may be charged and the revenue from the entrance fees and must be used to operate and maintain the project area. Any changes in these commitments must be approved by WCB staff. The County will keep the area and all facilities in the area safe, clean and functional. The County has entered into separate agreements with the other landowners and does not anticipate any changes in the operation of the facilities.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$176.00
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TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING

\$176.00

Project costs will be for Department of General Services' documentation review costs requiring an allocation by the Board of \$176.00.

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Wildlife Restoration Fund, which provides funding for the development, construction and management of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-oriented recreational uses and is consistent with the objectives of this project. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. This project is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15378 (b)(5).

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$176.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capitol Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Gustafson that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$176.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capitol Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

- *12. Santee Lakes Fishing Piers, \$52,768.00
San Diego County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to Padre Dam Municipal Water District (District) to replace two aging fishing piers at the Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve. The project is located in the City of Santee in San Diego County.

The Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve contains a chain of seven (7) small lakes totaling 65± acres. The lakes were at one time part of the District's water treatment facility but now are maintained strictly for public use, fishing and wildlife habitat. In 1983 WCB funded the installation of three floating fishing piers and two foot bridges at the Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve. At the time the lakes provided plenty of bank-fishing access, but it was necessary to provide better access for mobility-impaired individuals. The fishing piers were installed to achieve this purpose. Santee Lakes has become one of the top fishing destinations in San Diego County due to its aggressive stocking schedule. Every other week the lakes are stocked with either catfish or trout. Approximately 23,000 pounds of catfish and 12,500

pounds of trout are stocked each year. In 2006-2007, 36,273 fishing permits were sold. The fishing program has grown 136% since 2000.

The project will enhance public fishing access at Santee Lakes, by replacing two fishing piers at Lakes 3 and 7. The existing wood and aluminum piers are approximately 25 years old and their polyurethane-filled pontoon floats have deteriorated such that they no longer support the pier platforms properly. The new floating piers will be made entirely of polyethylene with galvanized steel railings. Portions of the railings will be lower to accommodate wheelchair users.

The District has agreed to manage and maintain the facilities for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement. If at any time during the life of the project, the District is unable to manage, maintain, and keep open to the public the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$52,768.00
Padre Dam Municipal Water District	\$53,068.00
<u>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</u>	<u>\$105,836.00</u>

Project costs will be for two T-shaped floating piers, galvanized steel rails, components, and a project sign.

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Wildlife Restoration Fund, which provides funding for the development and construction of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-oriented recreational uses, and is consistent with the objectives of this project. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. This project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 2 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15302, as a replacement of an existing structure of substantially the same purpose and capacity. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$52,768.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Gustafson that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$52,768.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay); authorize staff to enter into

appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

13. DFG Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement Projects, \$1,061,000.00
Siskiyou, Butte, Glenn, Merced, and San Joaquin Counties

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for a cooperative project with the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Comprehensive Wetland Habitat Program to enhance 1,583± acres of wetland habitat, restore 95± acres of wetland habitat and 4± acres of riparian habitat on six separate DFG-owned properties (Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, Los Banos Wildlife Area, Volta Wildlife Area, Woodbridge Ecological Reserve and Butte Valley Wildlife Area), located in Butte, Glenn, Merced, San Joaquin and Siskiyou Counties.

At this time, Ms. Gustafson introduced Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee and Mr. Bill Craven of Senator Fran Pavley's office and welcomed them to the Board. Mr. Peter Perrine of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

The DFG manages 240 Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves totaling nearly 900,000 acres. These lands contain the most critically important lands in California for our State's diverse wildlife. Many of these lands require intensive management to provide the highest quality habitat and are disked, mowed or otherwise manipulated every year to maintain the early successional wetland vegetation that provides food sources for the thousands of waterfowl that visit the Central Valley every winter. They often have extensive water delivery and levee systems that require annual maintenance. These systems are remnants of the original land ownership and, as a result, are often inefficient, wasteful and difficult or impossible to manage efficiently. Every year, the DFG must repair or rehabilitate portions of the basic infrastructure of these areas. In many cases the land had never been converted to other uses and has never been restored back to native habitats.

Each year proposed projects are developed, evaluated and prioritized by DFG Regional staff and then sent to DFG Headquarters to be evaluated by staff with the DFG's Comprehensive Wetland Habitat Program (CWHP) and the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Development staff. Based on a system developed by DFG biologists, projects are ranked by their ability to benefit a broad range of wetland, upland, and riparian-dependent species. The projects summarized below were ranked high by the DFG and by the CWHP and WCB, and were also projects that qualify under the WCB's Inland Wetland Conservation Program and Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Programs.

Mr. Donnelly pointed out that the amount listed in the agenda for Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Field 18 should reflect \$295,000.00, not \$270,000.00.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Field 18, Butte County - \$295,000.00

This 143± acre wetland is impossible to fill or drain properly, which encourages mosquito production and limits the wildlife area staff's ability to provide quality wetland habitat. The proposal will entail a minor amount of earthmoving to remove existing small levees, develop a system of swales through the area, and strengthen existing levees. In addition, existing water control structures will be replaced to provide precise water management. The wetland is located adjacent to one of the visitor viewing platforms on Gray Lodge, and the restoration work will enhance visitor appreciation by removing some of the tall tule growth that blocks views from the platform.

Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, Butte and Glenn Counties - \$266,000.00

Two separate projects consisting of limited earthwork and the installation of structures will be constructed on the Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area: Field 205 on the Howard Slough Unit and Field 105 on the Little Dry Creek Unit. On Howard Slough, project work will restore 37± acres of wetlands and 2± acres of riparian habitat through the construction of a perimeter levee and a series of interconnecting swales and potholes. Water control structures will be installed to provide water and vegetation management capabilities. Oak trees and other woody vegetation will be planted to restore riparian habitat along the southern and southwestern borders. A pump and associated electrical service will be installed to provide water delivery to the field. On Little Dry Creek Unit, a 51± acre wetland will be enhanced through the improvement of the exterior levee, replacement of water control structures, and the construction of interconnecting swales and potholes.

Los Banos Wildlife Area, Merced County - \$75,000.00

Two separate projects will be constructed on the Los Banos Wildlife Area: Field 56 and Mud Slough. Field 56, a 60±-acre wetland with associated riparian habitat, will be improved with new wetland swales and basins to provide additional habitat through topography diversity and to improve water conveyance efficiency. In addition, five new water control structures will be installed to maintain optimal water depths for foraging waterfowl and shorebirds and tules, willows and cottonwood trees will be planted. At Mud Slough, 400± acres of wetlands will be enhanced by improving water conveyance to wetlands by replacing three partially collapsed 48" corrugated metal water control structures with three new 36" pre-fabricated concrete flash board risers with 40' of high density poly ethylene pipe, one of which will be fitted with a Waterman screwgate. The new structures will be located at the same location as the ones removed.

Volta Wildlife Area, Merced County - \$88,000.00

This project will enhance 600± acres of wetlands by improving water conveyance from an existing low-lift pump to the Westside ditch, which supplies water to the western half of the Volta Wildlife Area. Currently, the pump cavitates during prolonged use, significantly reducing the efficiency of

the pump and requiring DFG staff to visit the pump at least twice a day to vent air from the system. This precludes the wildlife area staff from using the pump at night when pumping costs are significantly cheaper. This project will retrofit the pump with an air vent relief valve, a siphon valve and water meter, which will maximize the wetland manager's ability to irrigate the wetlands in summer and help flood the west side of the wildlife area in fall.

Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, San Joaquin County - \$254,000.00

The proposed project will help enhance, restore and provide management capability to 200± acres of the wildlife area, located primarily on the North Unit. Perimeter fencing will also be constructed or repaired on the South Unit to facilitate management of the area. Proposed work on the North Unit will include the replacement of the inoperable Hog Slough pumping station, the installation of a lift pump, the renovation of an existing concrete supply ditch, the installation or replacement of four water control structures, minor earthwork to shore up levees and excavate swales, and the replacement or repair of perimeter fences and gates as needed. In addition, the southern boundary fence of the North Unit will be moved northward to construct a vehicular pull-out along Woodbridge Road to improve public access at this very popular birding spot.

Butte Valley Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County - \$83,000

A 190± acre managed wetland unit will be subdivided into two smaller subunits by removing minor amounts of earth to create swales and potholes and creating approximately 1,400 feet of internal levee. This work will allow the wildlife area staff to completely flood this existing managed wetland area to provide additional high quality shallow wetland habitat. A new water control structure will be needed, and approximately 2,500 feet of perimeter levee along the southeastern portion of the unit will need to be raised. All new levees will be seeded with a grass/legume mixture, and gravel will be placed on approximately 5,000 linear feet of levee roads to improve stability and to provide all-weather access.

DFG will be responsible for the long-term management and maintenance of the funded improvements.

The proposed funding breakdown for the projects is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$1,061,000.00
Department of Fish and Game	10,930.00
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	34,064.00
North American Wetlands Cons. Council	<u>62,207.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</u>	<u>\$1,168,201.00</u>

Project costs will be for project design and administration; earthwork; installation of new water control structures, planting of trees and tules, new pumps and motors, erosion protection rock, air relief valve, siphon valve, water meter, fencing and gates, and herbicides.

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Habitat Conservation Fund, which provides funding for the protection, restoration and enhancement of wetlands both inside and outside the Central Valley, and is consistent with the objectives of this project. DFG has determined that each of the seven projects funded under this proposal is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 2 or Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15302 as the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures on the same site as the structure replaced with substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, and 15304, as a minor alteration of land, and Notices of Exemption have been filed with the State Clearinghouse. In addition and subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notices of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse by the WCB.

Of the funding allocated by the Board, \$370,000 is minor capital outlay funding from DFG's Comprehensive Wetland Habitat Program (CWHP), used as fund source for the fiscal year 2008/09 Habitat Conservation Fund. The projects proposed under this item are consistent with the purposes and uses of the CWHP minor capital outlay program and have been reviewed and recommended by the DFG.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,061,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786(d) (Inland Wetlands Conservation Program) and (Wetlands Outside the Central Valley)); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Perrine introduced Mr. Mark Biddlecomb, Mr. Jeff McCreary and Ms. Virginia Gentz of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and Mr. Dean Kwasny of Department of Fish and Game, who were in the audience and available to answer questions.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Ms. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,061,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786(d) (\$978,000.00 from Inland Wetlands Conservation Program) and (\$83,000.00 from Wetlands Outside the Central Valley)); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

Mr. Donnelly welcomed Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee and stated that

he is looking forward to working with Mr. Blakeslee on Board business. Mr. Blakeslee thanked the members of the Board and stated he is looking forward to becoming more involved in business of the Board and appreciates the opportunity to serve as a legislative advisory member.

14. South Bonnyview Fishing Access Improvements, \$45,000.00
Shasta County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Redding (City) for a partnership project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Department of Boating and Waterways to complete project engineering, planning and design for a project to improve DFG's South Bonnyview Fishing Access. The project is proposed to be located on the right bank of the Sacramento River just downstream of the South Bonnyview Road crossing, in the City of Redding. Mr. Tony Chappelle of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

The WCB acquired this six acre parcel for DFG in 1986 to provide public fishing access to the Sacramento River. In 1988 and 1992 the WCB helped fund improvements to the site including a parking area, boat ramp and restroom. At the time, this public access site was considered important because this part of the river was not easily accessible due to shallows and riffles blocking access from other boat ramps in the area.

This project will complete planning studies, as well as final engineering, design plans, specifications and determine whether permits are necessary for the improvements to the South Bonnyview Fishing Access facility. These proposed improvements may include a new barrier-free fishing platform, fishing access trail, repaved and re-stripped parking lot, refurbished restrooms and picnic area, a remote camera security system and new project sign.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$45,000.00
Department of Fish and Game	\$19,000.00
Department of Boating and Waterways	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</u>	<u>\$84,000.00</u>

Project costs will be for planning, engineering, design and determination of whether permits are necessary. The project qualifies for a Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act grant that will reimburse the WCB seventy five (75%) percent of WCB's eligible project costs.

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Wildlife Restoration Fund which provides funding for the development and construction of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-oriented recreational uses and is consistent with the objectives of this project. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. This project is statutorily exempt from the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under California Code of Regulations, Article 18, Section 15262, as a feasibility and planning study. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$45,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Chappelle introduced Mr. Terry Hanson of City of Redding, who was in audience and available to answer questions.

Ms. Finn asked Mr. Chappelle to clarify the ownership of the property involved in the project. He indicated that this is a combination of State and City of Redding property. Ms. Finn expressed some concern regarding application of local assistance grant funding versus minor capital outlay funding and requested staff set a meeting with her within the next couple of weeks to discuss. Mr. Donnelly indicated that he will call her office and set a date and time.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Ms. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$45,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

15. San Joaquin Multi-Species Conservation Plan (2006), \$30,000.00
Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of a Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition Grant (Grant) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the authorization to enter into an Agreement to Subgrant the federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy) to facilitate the acquisition by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) of several properties identified in the Grant. This project will help implement the East Contra Costa County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) by protecting critical wildlife corridors and habitat for threatened and endangered species. There are approximately 1,950± acres identified in the Grant that will further the goals of the Plan. Ms. Teri Muzik of Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

In San Joaquin County, nine local agencies have partnered to implement the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSHCP). The SJMSHCP was adopted in February of 2001 and will conserve approximately 100,000 acres to mitigate for impacts to 97 covered species. The planning area encompasses more than 900,000 acres and 1,400 square miles.

In Contra Costa County, adjacent to San Joaquin County on the west, eight local agencies have developed a regional conservation plan to address the potential conflict between future growth and protection of endangered species habitat. The plan proposes to conserve approximately 30,000 acres to benefit 28 covered species in the watersheds that drain the east side of Mount Diablo and flow to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta at the boundary with San Joaquin County.

Acquiring habitat land that spans the boundaries of the San Joaquin and Contra Costa conservation planning areas is important to complement the mitigation actions of the SJMSCHCP and to promote the long term survival of a variety of listed and at-risk species whose conservation is the focus of both conservation plans.

The properties identified in the Grant will ensure conservation of critical habitat and establish linkages between neighboring conservation planning areas. The acquisition focus area has very high conservation priority due to high habitat value on-site, and its potential to provide essential habitat and connectivity for multiple species that move across county boundaries or whose populations or habitat span the two counties covered by the two habitat conservation plans.

These acquisitions will help establish a northwest-southeast movement corridor for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox and will protect habitat for the conservation of the threatened California red-legged frog. The acquisition focus area supports the largest contiguous patch of annual grasslands and vernal pool habitat in the area.

The terms and conditions of the proposed Agreement to Subgrant set out the requirements each property must meet prior to acquisition. Among those requirements are written approval from USFWS and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) that the property meets the goals as set out in the Grant, an appraisal approved by both the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS, and review by the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board) of all documents related to the acquisition. The Grant allows the non-federal match to be in the form of non-federal dollars or in-kind matching properties. Staff of the Board will ensure the non-federal match meets the requirements of the Grant program. Staff of the Board will also review and approve all documents and related reports prior to disbursement of funds directly into an escrow established for each property.

It is estimated that \$30,000.00 will be needed to cover internal project-related costs by the Board. The proposed funding source for the costs allows for the protection of threatened and endangered species and is consistent with the purpose of this Grant.

The DFG has reviewed the project and recommends approval of the Grant. The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as the acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of ownership in land to preserve open space. Subject to approval by the Board, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; authorize acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$6,531,054.00 and the Agreement to Subgrant the federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy; allocate \$30,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for 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 Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Muzik introduced Mr. John Kopchik of East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy, who was in the audience and available to answer questions. Mr. Kopchik pointed out the importance and benefits of this project and thanked the Board for its consideration.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Koch that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; authorize acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$6,531,054.00 and the Agreement to Subgrant the federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy; allocate \$30,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Section 2786 (b/c) for 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 Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

16. North Grasslands Wildlife Area, Gadwall Unit, \$560,000.00
Merced County

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 133± acres of land located in Merced County. The purpose of this acquisition is to protect historic wetlands and improve distribution of waterfowl within the grassland area by adding wetland habitat to the area surrounding the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG's)

North Grasslands Wildlife Area. Ms. Teri Muzik of Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

The property is located on the south side of Highway 152 near the Santa Fe Grade and Arroyo Canal, in an unincorporated area of Merced County, within the Los Banos city limits. This property is an inholding in the DFG's North Grasslands Wildlife Area's Gadwall Unit.

The property lies in western Merced County and is part of the Grasslands Ecological Area Consolidation Conceptual Area Protection Plan (GEA), approved by the DFG. The GEA consists of six state wildlife areas, a state park, a large national wildlife refuge complex and over 160 private duck clubs. It has been recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society and American Bird Conservancy, and as one of forty Internationally Significant shorebird habitats by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The GEA typically winters about 20 percent of the waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. Acquisition of this property will help further the completion of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture's goal to protect or restore some 200,000 acres of wetlands in the Central Valley. Waterfowl, shorebirds and other waterbirds will greatly benefit from the restoration of seasonal wetland habitat found on the subject property.

The property will be managed by the DFG and staff will gather appropriate survey data to design habitat restoration and public use facilities including the necessary water conveyances, roads, trail systems and other infrastructure. Appropriate public access will be considered when the management and restoration plans are in place.

The property owner has agreed to sell the property for \$532,000.00, the fair market value as determined by an appraisal approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). It is estimated that an additional \$28,000.00 will be needed to cover project costs, including the appraisal, title and escrow fees and review charges by the DGS, bringing the total proposed allocation for this project to \$560,000.00. The proposed funding sources allow for the protection of inland wetlands to benefit waterfowl.

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 under Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. Subject to approval by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$560,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, (Proposition 117), Section 2786(d) (Inland Wetland Conservation Program) for the acquisition and internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements as necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Ms. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$560,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, (Proposition 117), Section 2786(d) (Inland Wetland Conservation Program) for the acquisition and 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 Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

17. Tulare Basin Wetland Enhancement, \$451,000.00
Kern County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with the Landowners and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance 815± acres of wetland habitat on three separate privately-owned properties and 429± acres of wetland habitat on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Kern National Wildlife Refuge, located west of the City of Delano in Kern County. Mr. Peter Perrine of Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

The Tulare Basin was historically the largest single block of wetlands west of the Mississippi River, estimated at more than 500,000 acres. With fewer than 15,000 acres remaining, this area has suffered the worst loss of wetlands anywhere in the U.S., a reduction of over 97 percent. The original expansive wetlands were drained over many decades to provide water and land for new agriculture fields. To this day, water remains the single most critical need, especially in dry years when most streams never reach the lower basin. During these years, most wetland managers must rely on water pumped from deep wells to flood their properties in the winter.

Over the last 15 years, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has allocated funds three times to enhance privately-owned wetlands and to provide infrastructure to deliver surface water in the subject area. The WCB partnering with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service has helped protect, restore and enhance more than 2,500 acres of wetlands in the immediate area. This work has proven to be quite successful and many other landowners are now looking to restore and enhance their properties as well. Still, water supply remains critically important, and typically, surface water is available only in the summer when water is delivered to end users; whereas, in the winter when water is most needed by migratory birds, most of this water is diverted and stored in lakes.

Three specific properties will be enhanced through this proposal and are identified as Kahala, La Cienega de Chicca, and Widgeon. They will be upgraded

to allow them to be flooded every winter, in wet or dry years. On the Kahala property, a new deep well will be drilled to provide water to 150± acres of wetlands and a pipeline will be installed to provide water to 429± acres on the adjacent Kern National Wildlife Refuge. The 434± acres of wetlands on La Cienega de Chicca will be supplied with a new recirculation system and lift pump to use whatever water is available more efficiently, along with rehabilitating an existing well on the property. On the Widgeon property, 231± acres of wetlands will be enhanced through the addition of approximately 5,700 feet of pipeline that will be connected to a well, recently installed by the landowners.

Even with the reduced amount of wetland habitat in the basin, Tulare continues to be critical to many species of waterfowl and other wetland species. The remaining wetlands attract tremendous concentrations of shorebirds and waterfowl every year. While total numbers may be a fraction of the vast flocks that once used this basin in the winter, it continues to be winter home to thousands of waterfowl, especially northern pintail and green winged teal. Tens of thousands of shorebirds use the area as a stopover in longer migrations or as a winter destination; species include long billed dowitchers, western sandpipers and many others.

The landowners have agreed to maintain the infrastructure and wetland habitat and to flood the wetlands in winter for 25 years. If at any time during the life of the project, the landowners are unable to manage and maintain the project improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$451,000.00
Landowners	129,600.00
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<u>12,600.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</u>	<u>\$593,200.00</u>

Project costs will be for mobilization and demobilization; a new well and pump; the rehabilitation of an existing well; a new lift pump and electrical hook-up; pipelines and necessary connections and valves; earthwork; a water control structure; and project design, construction supervision and administration.

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Habitat Conservation Fund, which provides funding for the protection, restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Central Valley and is consistent with the objectives of this project. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. This project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration of land. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$451,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786(d) (Inland Wetland Conservation Program)); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Finn stated she understood the benefits associated with these types of projects conducted on private lands and asked whether we do a lot of these kinds of projects. Mr. Perrine replied that the WCB does a number of its projects on private lands and secures commitments from private landowners to cover the costs associated with operating and maintaining water wells and pumps, which often times are substantial. He went on to add that in the Tulare basin, there is not a lot of protected areas, and most of the wetland areas exist on private lands, making it necessary to work with private landowners on these types of projects. Ms. Finn further asked who would assume the responsibility for monitoring the project. Mr. Perrine responded that WCB staff, along with DFG staff and employees of the California Waterfowl Association will conduct long-term monitoring of the project.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Koch that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$451,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Section 2786(d) (Inland Wetland Conservation Program)); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

18. Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Public Access Bridge, \$200,000.00
Augmentation and Fund Shift, Orange County

Mr. Donnelly reported that several letters of support were received for this project from the following people: Senator Tom Harman, Assembly Member Jim Silva, Mr. Paul Arms, President, Bolsa Chica Land Trust, and Mr. David Carlberg, President, Amigos de Bolsa Chica.

This proposal was to consider the allocation for an augmentation to the California Wildlife Foundation and to consider a fund shift for a previously approved grant for a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the Bolsa Chica Conservancy, and the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, to install a public access footbridge near Warner Avenue, across the outer channel of the existing Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach, Orange County. The footbridge will span the Outer Bolsa Channel and connect the DFG parking lot at the Pacific Coast Highway and Warner Avenue with an existing designated trail on the reserve. The bridge will provide safe pedestrian access over the bay outlet for reserve visitors who now must walk on the high-

traffic shoulder of Warner Avenue to reach the trail system on the east side of the reserve. This project will also complement the adjacent 880± acre Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration coordinated by the State Lands Commission. Ms. Bonnie Turner of Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

The DFG actively manages the ecological reserve, which includes over 1,300 acres of publicly owned wetlands. Recent activities include the acquisition of two additional upland parcels totaling 120± acres in 2004 and 2005 funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). A multi-agency major coastal wetland restoration project was completed in 2006, funded in part by the WCB, returning full tidal flow to 370± acres of the reserve that had been severely degraded by development over the last 100 years. Wildlife is abundant on the reserve and several listed species nest there each year: Western snowy plover, California least tern, Belding's savannah sparrow, and the light-footed clapper rail. Migratory waterfowl, sea and shore birds are abundant throughout the seasons of migration, and bring many bird watchers to the reserve. Over 320 species of Orange County's 400+ bird species have been spotted at the reserve in the last ten years.

Numerous visitors come to enjoy the reserve and the interpretive center, operated by the Bolsa Chica Conservancy, on a year round basis. This includes a trail system that brings visitors close to wildlife and allows them a unique opportunity to experience California's coastal wetlands first hand. To access the trail system to the northeastern and upland portions of the reserve visitors must park in a lot and walk out to the heavily traveled Warner Avenue, walk along a 120 feet narrow asphalt bike lane over the channel, with no protection to pedestrians, and then back onto the reserve and trailhead located on the other side of the bay outlet across from the parking lot. This access crossing is used by individuals, schools and other large groups that visit the reserve yearly. Improving and providing safe pedestrian access at this location is one of DFG's and the local community's main priorities.

The proposed project will improve a walkway that leads directly from the parking area onto the proposed footbridge and connects with the trails on the other side of the bay outlet. The single span bridge will be constructed of steel and coated to resist corrosion. Foundations will be installed away from the bank and will be used to minimize impacts to bank stability. The bridge and access trail which leads to the bridge will be constructed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act specifications. The bridge will be maintained and operated by the DFG and local volunteers.

The WCB considered this project and approved an allocation of \$141,900 in 2004 from bond funds available under Proposition 50. Since then the project has experienced a number of delays, due to a large part in the unexpected time needed to gather and complete permits, environmental compliance, designs, the bid process and most recently the State's "Bond Freeze". The original total cost estimate for the entire project was \$214,800, in 2004. Due to inflation over the last five years the total cost has now risen to \$555,000. These new costs have

been reviewed and verified by staff and are reflected in the augmentation requested by this item.

To help cover the shortfall and provide the necessary funds to assure project completion within the project's proposed budget, staff is proposing that the WCB approve an augmentation of \$200,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to cover the increase in overall project costs (\$108,695.00) as well as provide for the un-expended balance of the Proposition 50 funding authorized in 2004 (\$91,305.00). This is being proposed due to the significant safety and urgent needs of the project and the current volatility of the State's bond funds. As a result, the WCB wants to take all necessary steps to ensure there are no further delays in the construction of the bridge, by providing a more secure funding source. The supplanted Proposition 50 funds will be returned to their original source and will be available to fund future Proposition 50 eligible projects.

The total contribution by the WCB for this project if approved will be \$250,595.00, as shown below, consisting of the previously expended \$50,595.00, plus the \$200,000.00 augmentation proposed by this item.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$250,595.00
Bolsa Chica Land Trust	75,000.00
Bolsa Chica Conservancy (Pacific Life, Orange County)	91,000.00
DFG	<u>138,405.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</u>	<u>\$555,000.00</u>

WCB costs will be for project management, construction, transport, and installation of the bridge.

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Wildlife Restoration Fund which provides funding for the development and construction of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-oriented recreational uses and is consistent with the objectives of this project. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB. The DFG, as lead agency, has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and has completed all other required permits. Staff has considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration and has prepared written findings documenting the WCB's compliance with CEQA.

Staff recommended that the WCB adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to cover additional construction costs and to supplant \$91,305.00 previously approved allocated funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Section 79572(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the DFG to proceed

substantially as planned.

Ms. Turner introduced Ms. Flossie Horgan, Executive Director of Bolsa Chica Land Trust and Ms. Amy Larson of CA Wildlife Foundation, who were in the audience and available to answer questions. Ms. Horgan pointed out the importance and benefits of this project and thanked Mr. Donnelly and Ms. Turner for their help in finding solutions to get this project completed.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Koch that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (Minor Capital Outlay) to cover additional construction costs and to supplant \$91,305.00 previously approved allocated funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Section 79572(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Motion carried.

19. Resolutions Honoring Senators Darrell Steinberg and Lois Wolk, and Richard Rogers, Board Chairman and President of Fish and Game Commission

Mr. Donnelly reported that the following resolutions were submitted for enactment by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Senator Darrell Steinberg

WHEREAS, Senator Darrell Steinberg, in his capacity as a Member of the Senate and Chair of the Natural Resources and Water Committee, has served as a dedicated member of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, Senator Steinberg's commitment and personal devotion to protecting and preserving California's natural resources and environmental health, coupled with his sound judgment and experience with California's wildlife resources, has greatly assisted the Board on numerous occasions in carrying out its duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Steinberg passed nationally recognized legislation to reduce carbon emission from automobiles through smart planning; Senator Steinberg's SB 375, which was signed into law in 2008, is the first bill in the nation that links land and use decisions in transportation and housing to greenhouse reduction goals, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge Senator Steinberg's contributions to the work of the Board through his personal support, advice and leadership, as well as that of his great staff; 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 Senator Steinberg our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Board, and express our best wishes to him and his family; 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 Senator Steinberg.

Senator Lois Wolk

WHEREAS, Senator Lois Wolk, in her capacity as an Assembly Member, served as a dedicated member of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wolk served four years as Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and brought heightened attention to important topics including flood protection, the crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, water management and climate change, land use, state parks, fisheries, and invasive species; Senator Wolk represented the Assembly on the Delta Protection Commission, charged with protecting Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's environmental, agricultural and recreational values; Senator Wolk helped to allocate funding for important environmental projects throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wolk's personal devotion and commitment to protecting and preserving California's natural resources and environmental health, coupled with her sound judgment and experience with California's wildlife resources, has greatly assisted the Board on numerous occasions in carrying out its duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge Senator Wolk's contributions to the work of the Board through her personal support, advice and leadership, as well as that of her great staff; 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 Senator Wolk our sincere appreciation for her noteworthy contributions to the Board, and express our best wishes to her and her family; 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 Senator Wolk.

Richard Rogers, Member, Fish and Game Commission

WHEREAS, Mr. Richard B. Rogers has, in January 2009, completed two years of service as the Chairman of the California Wildlife Conservation Board and as President of the California Fish and Game Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rogers, with his intense interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, coupled with his sound judgment and experience in California agriculture and rangelands, his commitment 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. Rogers, as Chairman 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. Rogers have appreciated his consistent support, leadership, comments and advice, and have especially appreciated the personal and pleasant manner in which he has conducted the business of the Board and listening with keen interest to the public, all of which have earned for him the love, 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 Mr. Richard Rogers our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Board, and express our best wishes to him and his family; 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. Richard Rogers.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the resolutions as proposed; that they be made a part of the official minutes of this Board; and that copies of the resolutions be provided to Senators Steinberg and Wolk, and Fish and Game Commission Member Rogers.

Ms. Gustafson asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Koch that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve these resolutions as proposed, that they be made a part of the official minutes of this Board meeting and that copies of these resolutions be furnished to Senators Steinberg and Wolk and Fish and Game Commission Member Rogers.

Motion carried.

20. Closed Session (Not Open to the Public)

Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126, the Board met in closed executive session at 11:20 A.M. to discuss pending litigation, *Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley v. California Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, et al.*, Riverside County, Fourth District Court of Appeal, Case No. E045894 (Riverside County Superior Court Case No. RIC477696) (California Environmental Quality Act)

The Board returned from closed session at 11:50 A.M.

Mr. Donnelly reported that the Board conferred with legal counsel on the issues being litigated under agenda item 20 above. No formal action was taken.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Donnelly
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 28, 2009, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$2,110,189,410.71. This total includes funds reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Accelerated Public Works Program completed in 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Anadromous Fish Act Program, the Sport Fish Restoration Act Program, the Pittman-Robertson Program, and the Estuarine Sanctuary Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act, the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund, the Bagley Conservation Fund, the State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1974, the General Fund, the Energy Resources Fund, the Environmental License Plate Fund, the State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Act of 1976, the 1984 Parklands Fund, the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Act, the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988, California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act of 1996, the Natural Resources Infrastructure Fund, the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, Forest Resources Improvement Fund, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond, Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Fund, California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund, Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, and the Wildlife Restoration Fund. In addition to projects completed with the above funding sources, this statement includes tax credits awarded under the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000. The tax credits are not reflected in the total amount allocated to projects.

A. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$16,006,219.06
B. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement	43,072,760.90
Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 5,605,699.00
Stream Clearance and Improvement.....	29,653,422.68
Stream Flow Maintenance Dams.....	542,719.86
Marine Habitat	3,046,619.07
Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	4,224,300.29
C. Fishing Access Projects.....	52,936,035.95
Coastal and Bay	\$ 4,612,013.11
River and Aqueduct Access	17,008,441.93
Lake and Reservoir Access	10,362,815.87
Piers	20,952,765.04
D. Game Farm Projects.....	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development and Improvement.....	1,936,584,717.62
Wildlife Areas (General)	\$397,206,617.24
Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development.....	16,387,787.32
Wildlife Areas/Ecological Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	700,400,457.00
Land Conservation Area.....	12,988,962.18

Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	24,841,960.64
Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	63,141,919.63
Other Wildlife Habitat Grants	721,617,013.61
F. Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	19,990,244.12
H. Special Project Allocations.....	1,712,294.13
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	38,727,202.80
State Owned	\$1,813,406.19
Grants	36,913,796.61
J. Sales and/or exchanges	528,143.07
K. Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act (tax credits awarded)...	(48,241,234.00)
Statutory plans	(0.00)
Corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat, streams and riparian habitat	(6,234,658.00)
Agricultural lands	(13,775,640.07)
Water and water rights.....	(0.00)
State and local parks, open space and archaeological resources	(28,230,935.93)
 Total Allocated to Projects	 \$2,110,189,410.71