

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

1807 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 103  
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814  
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[www.wcb.ca.gov](http://www.wcb.ca.gov)

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

November 16, 2006  
 10:00 A.M.  
 1/ State Capitol, Room 4203  
 Sacramento, California 95814

**FINAL AGENDA ITEMS**

| <b>ITEM NO.</b>  | <b>PAGE NO.</b> |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call   | 1               |
| 2. Funding Status – Informational  | 2               |
| 3. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4-8)   | 5               |
| *4. Approval of Minutes – August 17, 2006 and September 8, 2006 Meetings   | 5               |
| *5. Recovery of Funds  | 5               |
| *6. DFG Land Management Plans, Central Coast Region, \$442,000.00<br>Phase II, Napa, San Luis Obispo, Solano and Sonoma Counties | 7               |

To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Wildlife Foundation to administer the funding for the preparation of two (2) land management plans for the properties owned by the Department of Fish and Game in the Central Coast Region. The properties are the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area in Solano, Sonoma and Napa Counties, and the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve in San Luis Obispo County. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650]

\* Proposed Consent Calendar

\*\* Added after the preliminary agenda was distributed

1/ These facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities

- |     |  |                |           |
|-----|--|----------------|-----------|
| *7. | Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area,<br>Napa Plant Site Restoration, Phase I, Napa County  | \$99,000.00    | <b>11</b> |
|     | To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Wildlife Foundation to assist in the planning and design of a restoration project for Wash Ponds 1, 2 and 3 at the Napa Plant Site on the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area in Napa County. [Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79572(c)]  |                |           |
| *8. | Eagle Lake Fishing Access Improvements, Phase II,<br>Lassen County   | \$120,158.00   | <b>12</b> |
|     | To consider a cooperative project with the Spalding Community Services District and the Department of Boating and Waterways to dredge and extend the north ramp and railing at the Eagle Lake Fishing Access in Spalding, located in Lassen County. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650]  |                |           |
| 9.  | Buena Vista Creek,<br>San Diego County   | \$2,155,000.00 | <b>14</b> |
|     | To consider a cooperative acquisition of 134± acres of vacant land and the acceptance of two acquisition grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, one through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the second from a Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition Grant, to be applied to the acquisition of the property. The primary purpose of the project is for the protection of several state and federally listed sensitive animal and plant species and to preserve an important habitat linkage between the Cities of Carlsbad and Oceanside. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Prop. 117), Section 2786 (b/c)]  |                |           |
| 10. | Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, Expansion 3,<br>San Diego County  | \$229,000.00   | <b>15</b> |
|     | To consider the acquisition of 313.29± acres of rural undeveloped land located approximately two miles north of the town of Dulzura in San Diego County, and the acceptance of two acquisition grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be applied to the acquisition. The property will become the third expansion of the Department of Fish and Game's Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area established for the protection of a wildlife movement corridor within the County of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Plan and the protection of habitat for sensitive species, including the California gnatcatcher. [Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(6)] |                |           |

\* Proposed Consent Calendar

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|-----|--|--------------|-----------|
| 11. | Dos Palmas Area Saltcedar Removal<br>and Habitat Restoration, Riverside County | \$610,000.00 | <b>17</b> |
|-----|--|--------------|-----------|

To consider the allocation for a grant to the United States Bureau of Land Management for a cooperative project to remove and control the non-native plant, saltcedar (tamarisk) and restore riparian and wetland areas in the Dos Palmas Area of Critical environmental concern, located in Riverside County. [Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79568]

- |     |  |                |           |
|-----|--|----------------|-----------|
| 12. | San Joaquin River Parkway, Friant Cove<br>Public Access Augmentation #2, Fresno County | \$1,664,809.00 | <b>19</b> |
|-----|--|----------------|-----------|

To consider the augmentation for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the Department of General Services, the Department of Boating and Waterways, and Caltrans to construct a car-top boat launch, vault restroom, parking lot, and barrier-free pathways on the south bank of the San Joaquin River, near the town of Friant in Fresno County. [Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.355 and California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650 (b)(5)]

- |     |   |                |           |
|-----|---|----------------|-----------|
| 13. | San Joaquin River Parkway, Habitat<br>Restoration and Public Access, Jensen River Ranch,<br>Phase I Augmentation, Fresno County | \$1,699,158.00 | <b>21</b> |
|-----|---|----------------|-----------|

To consider an augmentation to an interagency agreement with the Department of Water Resources to cover the increased costs and additional time required to complete a restoration and public access project at the Jensen River Ranch Unit of the San Joaquin River Parkway in Fresno County. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650 (b)(5)]

- |     |   |              |           |
|-----|---|--------------|-----------|
| 14. | Knoxville Wildlife Area, Riparian Habitat<br>Restoration, Phase II, Napa County | \$133,458.00 | <b>23</b> |
|-----|---|--------------|-----------|

To consider the allocation of funds to the Department of Fish and Game for a project to eradicate the non-native plant tamarisk and restore riparian vegetation along Eticuera Creek, located within the Knoxville Wildlife Area in Napa County. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650]

- |     |                          |  |           |
|-----|--------------------------|--|-----------|
| 15. | Resolution for Al Wright |  | <b>25</b> |
|-----|--------------------------|--|-----------|

THE BOARD MAY MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11126(e)(1) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, *CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, ET AL., VS. CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, ET AL.*, COLUSA COUNTY, THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, CASE NUMBERS C049919 AND C051270.

Other Business

\*\* Added after the Preliminary Agenda was distributed

(Inquiries regarding agenda items may be directed to John P. Donnelly, Interim Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, at the address and telephone number shown on the letterhead.)

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**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

November 16, 2006  
10:00 A.M.  
1/ State Capitol, Room 4203  
Sacramento, California 95814

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Flores, Chairman  
President, Fish and Game Commission  
Michael C. Genest, Member  
Director, Department of Finance  
L. Ryan Brodrick, Member  
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Wesley Chesbro  
Senator Sheila Kuehl  
Senator Abel Maldonado

Assembly Member Patty Berg  
Assembly Member Fran Pavley  
Assembly Member Lois Wolk

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Donnelly

\* Consent Calendar

1/ These facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities

|     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 2.  | Funding Status as of November 16, 2006  | (Informational) |
| (a) | 2006-07 General Fund Capital Outlay Budget  |                 |
|     | Budget Act .....  | \$5,000,000.00  |
|     | Less Previous Board Allocations.....  | (0.00)          |
|     | Unallocated Balance   | \$5,000,000.00  |
| (b) | 2006-07 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget   |                 |
|     | Budget Act .....  | \$20,699,000.00 |
|     | Less Previous Board Allocation .....  | (0.00)          |
|     | Unallocated Balance .....   | \$20,699,000.00 |
| (c) | 2005-06 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget   |                 |
|     | Budget Act .....  | \$20,551,000.00 |
|     | Less Previous Board Allocations.....  | (1,028,542.00)  |
|     | Unallocated Balance .....   | \$19,522,458.00 |
| (d) | 2004-05 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget   |                 |
|     | Budget Act .....  | \$20,577,000.00 |
|     | Less Previous Board Allocations.....  | (7,472,125.00)  |
|     | Unallocated Balance .....   | \$13,104,875.00 |
| (e) | 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.....  | (432,750.00)    |
|     | Unallocated Balance .....   | \$14,791,250.00 |
| (f) | 2000-01 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget  |                 |
|     | Budget Act (2006-07 Reappropriation)<br>(San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) .....                          | \$14,562,000.00 |
|     | Less Previous Board Allocations.....  | (13,141,432.92) |
|     | Unallocated Balance .....   | \$1,420,567.08  |
| (g) | 1999-00 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget |                 |
|     | Continuously Appropriated [Sec. 5096.350 (a)<br>(1), (2), (4) & (7)].....                                       | \$36,100,000.00 |
|     | Less Previous Board Allocations.....  | (27,028,521.80) |
|     | Unallocated Balance .....   | \$9,071,478.20  |

- (h) 2005-06 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget
  - Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) ..... \$1,545,000.00
  - Less Previous Board Allocations.....(0.00)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$1,545,000.00
  
- (i) 2004-05 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget
  - Budget Act
  - (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) ..... \$11,000,000.00
  - Less Previous Board Allocations.....(0.00)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$11,000,000.00
  
- (j) 2003-04 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget
  - Budget Act (2006-07 Reappropriation)
  - (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) ..... \$8,500,000.00
  - Less Previous Board Allocations.....(170,118.28)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$8,329,881.72
  
- (k) Chapter 983, Statutes of 2002 (2005-06 Reappropriation)..... \$4,800,000.00
  - Less Previous Board Allocations.....(4,660,999.23)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$139,000.77  
  - Chapter 984, Statutes of 2002 (2005-06 Reappropriation) ..... \$19,200,000.00
  - Less Previous Board Allocations.....(12,876,123.43)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$6,323,876.57
  
- (l) 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.....(130,041,980.45)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$142,958,019.55
  
- (m) 2004-05 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget (Section 79568)
  - Budget Act ..... \$13,250,000.00
  - Less Previous Board Allocations.....(12,169,751.38)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$1,080,248.62

- (n) 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..... (20,322,003.00)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$12,177,997.00
  
- (o) 2002-03 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget
  - Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572)..... \$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 Previous Board Allocations..... (625,110,227.74)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$122,451,772.26
  
- (p) 2003-04 Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget
  - Budget Act (2006-07 Reappropriation) ..... \$5,000,000.00
  - Less Previous Board Allocations..... (859,701.00)
  - Unallocated Balance ..... \$4,140,299.00

**RECAP OF FUND BALANCES**

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| General Fund (a).....  | \$5,000,000.00   |
| Habitat Conservation Fund (b), (c) and (d) .....   | \$53,326,333.00  |
| Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (e), (f) and (g) .....                     | \$25,283,295.28  |
| California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l) ..... | \$170,295,778.61 |
| Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (m), (n) and (o) .....                       | \$135,710,017.88 |
| Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund (p).....   | \$4,140,299.00   |

**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  |

- 3. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4-8)
- \*4. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of August 17, 2006 and September 8, 2006
- \*5. Recovery of Funds

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

**\$8,368.00** to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**  
**\$0.00** to the **Wildlife Restoration Fund**  
**\$8,088.00** to the **California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe  
 Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection  
 Fund**  
**\$157,290.50** to the **Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal  
 and Beach Protection Fund of 2002**

**HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND**

Fine Gold Creek, Madera County

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Allocated            | \$640,740.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-640,740.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$0.00             |

Franklin Ridge, Expansion 1, Contra Costa County

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Allocated            | \$1,010,000.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-1,001,632.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$8,368.00           |

Tulare Basin Wetland Enhancement, Phase III, Kern County

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Allocated            | \$123,000.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-123,000.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$0.00             |

**Total Habitat Conservation Fund \$8,368.00**

**WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND**

Ferry Terminal Public Pier, San Francisco County

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Allocated            | \$200,270.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-200,270.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$0.00             |

**Total Wildlife Restoration Fund \$0.00**

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

Llano Seco Rancho Conservation Area, Butte County

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Allocated            | \$2,010,000.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-2,001,912.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$8,088.00           |

Montgomery Woods, Mendocino County

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Allocated            | \$1,000,000.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-1,000,000.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$0.00               |

**Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe  
Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund \$8,088.00**

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

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1, Orange County

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Allocated            | \$65,150,000.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-65,064,866.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$85,134.00           |

Duarte Hills, Los Angeles County

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Allocated            | \$4,010,000.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-4,008,883.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$1,117.00           |

Habitat Restoration, Goat Canyon, San Diego County

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Allocated            | \$1,800,260.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-1,800,037.00</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$223.00             |

Solstice Creek Steelhead Barrier Removal, Los Angeles County

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Allocated            | \$200,000.00       |
| Expended             | <u>-129,183.50</u> |
| Balance for Recovery | \$70,816.50        |

**Total Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 \$157,290.50**

- \*6. DFG Land Management Plans, Central Coast Region, Phase II, \$442,000.00  
Napa, San Luis Obispo, Solano and Sonoma Counties

This proposal is to consider an allocation for a grant to the California Wildlife Foundation, Inc. to provide project administration for preparation of two land management plans for the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Central Coast Region's high priority wildlife habitat lands. The DFG is the public trust steward of properties acquired throughout the State by the Wildlife Conservation Board for various purposes, and as such, follows policies relating to management and enhancement of wildlife and the habitats on which they depend, while providing appropriate public use on those lands. Because of the rapid rate of acquisitions over the last decade (most due to voter-approved bonds), some properties have gone without planning and have been minimally managed. In order to assess resources, involve the public and provide guidance to the Department's programs that relate to land management, land management plans are necessary.

The Central Coast Region has selected the following two sites for this project:

Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area (NSMWA): Napa, Sonoma, and Solano Counties totals approximately 14,000 acres (consisting of Huichica Creek Unit, Napa River Unit, American Canyon Unit, White Slough Unit, Wingo Unit, Ringstrom Bay Unit, Napa Plant Site, Tolay Creek Unit, and Stanley Ranch) and is located at the northeast edge of San Pablo Bay. Habitats consist of 12,000 acres of tidal, diked, and seasonally flooded wetland, sloughs, rivers, salt ponds and diked agricultural fields west of the Napa River. The Napa Plant Site (NPS) is located on the east side of the Napa River near the Vallejo Airport and is approximately 1,400 acres of mainly salt ponds, levees, and water conveyance channels with small areas of tidal marsh, seasonal wetland, and uplands.

Stanley Ranch is approximately 260 acres, acquired in June 14, 2004 and “North” Stanley Ranch is approximately 170 acres. The Stanley Ranch properties encompass wetlands and historic tidal wetlands along the Napa River north south of the bridge for State Highway 29. Currently, the property functions as grazed pasture and seasonal and permanent wetland. The sites have tremendous potential for restoration to native marshland habitat once water circulation is restored.

The NSMWA supports populations of fish and wildlife, including endangered species, migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and fish. Federal and state threatened and endangered species including the California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*) and California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), and salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) can be found here. In October 2005, restoration efforts began on several ponds in the Napa River Unit. Once complete, the NSMWA Wetland Restoration Project will have restored and enhanced approximately 9,850 acres of former salt ponds, remnant slough and marsh habitat creating a greater variety of slough channel sizes, a large increase in slough habitat, and greater connections among San Pablo Bay, Napa River, and the tidal salt marsh, which would benefit estuarine fish, including listed species Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and other aquatic species, such as the Dungeness crab (*Cancer magister*). It will also provide a natural, self-sustaining system that could adjust to naturally occurring changes in physical processes, with minimum ongoing intervention.

Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve: San Luis Obispo County, is over 39,500± acres in size, comprised of the Chimineas Unit (30,196± acres), the Panorama Unit (2,897± acres), the American Unit (6,341± acres) and the Elkhorn Unit (160± acres).

The DFG and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have partnered for almost twenty years to acquire the various units of the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve. The Elkhorn Unit was the founding parcel, 160± acres on the Elkhorn Plain, acquired by DFG in 1971. In the late 1980s, TNC and the DFG collaborated on acquisition of both the Panorama and American Units (2,897± and 6,341± acres respectively). These three units are within the boundaries of what used to be known as Carrizo Plain Natural Area, largely owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and managed by a partnership of TNC, the DFG and the BLM. The Carrizo Plain Natural Area was designated as the Carrizo

Plain National Monument in January, 2000. The three units are now within the boundaries of the National Monument and are comprised of annual grassland, some with a perennial grass component and a shrub savannah type which is endemic to the southern San Joaquin valley and inner coast ranges, locally termed "Upper Sonoran sub-shrub scrub". These vegetation types are typical of the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and provide habitat for a number of state and federally listed species such as the San Joaquin kit fox (state threatened and federally endangered), giant kangaroo rat (state and federally endangered), blunt-nosed leopard lizard (state and federally endangered), San Joaquin antelope squirrel (state threatened), California jewel flower (state and federally endangered), and San Joaquin woolly-threads (federally endangered). Other sensitive species associated with these habitats include American badger, short eared owl, burrowing owl and grasshopper sparrow, as well as species of interest to the DFG such as pronghorn antelope and Tule elk.

In May 2002, the southern half of the Chimineas Unit was purchased, adding 14,314± acres to Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve; in September 2004, purchase of the northern half of the Chimineas Unit added another 15,882± acres. The Chimineas Unit is a 30,196± acre property in San Luis Obispo County, California that links the Carrizo Plain National Monument to the Los Padres National Forest. The property features a diverse mosaic of native plant communities, including oak woodlands, native and non-native grasslands, coastal scrub, chaparral and juniper woodland.

Historically used for dryland farming and cattle grazing, the Chimineas Unit will now be managed by the DFG as an ecological reserve to maintain and enhance the native species and communities it was acquired in order to protect. The vegetation of the unit is very diverse, including annual grassland, oak woodland, juniper woodland, Upper Sonoran sub-shrub scrub, sage scrub and riparian associated with streams, seeps and ponds. This diversity of habitats support a wide array of animal species, including several special status species such as southwestern pond turtle, California red-legged frog, grasshopper sparrow, short eared owl, tri-colored blackbird, giant kangaroo rat and San Joaquin kit fox, as well as important ungulates such as pronghorn and tule elk. An inventory of the plant life is ongoing, and it is expected that a number of sensitive plant species will also be encountered on the Chimineas Unit.

### Scope of Plans

The management plans are to be prepared per DFG guidelines, A Guide and Annotated Outline for Writing Land Management Plans (Guide), and other local or Federal agency requirements as necessary. They will be written to fulfill CEQA, CESA, NEPA, and ESA requirements as necessary. State Clearinghouse review will be used. Tasks that may be required to complete the plan, depending upon individual plan circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- Evaluate existing biological and cultural resource data to determine what type of inventory work needs completion or updating
- Conduct minor resource inventory and mapping, which may include soils, sensitive plants and animals, and other wildlife resources

## Scope of Plans Continued

- Habitat mapping
- Identify all leases and easements that may occur on or pass through property
- Prepare a noxious weed management component
- Prepare a cultural resource assessment and management element for the plan
- Conduct literature searches as necessary
- Prepare an educational component
- Prepare fire management component, including past fire history
- Prepare a public use component which shall include a discussion of current public uses and their potential impact on the resources of the property
- Prepare a restoration component, including identification of areas in need of restoration, a priority ranking, and a proposed timeline for completion
- Prepare a monitoring component to evaluate restoration and management effectiveness over time
- Evaluate the existing Department water rights on the property

Information needed to prepare the plans may include:

- Hydrologic and topographic information
- Climate data
- Archaeological and historical site surveys or information
- Descriptions of all wildlife habitat types and vegetation community types currently found on the property
- Historical wildlife habitats, land use practices, or other natural resources which provide a historical context to the property
- Inventories of animal and plant species occurring or likely to occur on the property
- Fire history

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The Department or selected subcontractors will complete all California Environmental Quality Act requirements and obtain all necessary permits.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$442,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

- \*7. Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, \$99,000.00  
Napa Plant Site Restoration, Phase I, Napa County

This proposal is to consider an allocation for a grant to the California Wildlife Foundation to assist in the planning and design of a restoration project for Wash Ponds 1, 2, and 3 at the Napa Plant Site on the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Napa County. This grant will allow the current scope of the restoration planning and design portion of the Phase I restoration project to be expanded to include the “wash pond” area.

Historically, the Napa Plant Site (NPS) was predominantly tidal marsh in the floodplain on the east side of the Napa River. Around the turn of the century the area was levied for agricultural purposes. Commercial salt production at the Napa Plant Site began in the early 1950s, and continued into the 1990s. The state acquired the site in 2003, as part of the larger South Bay Salt Ponds acquisition. The purchase was made primarily with funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board. Additionally, Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) contributed \$20 million towards the purchase price of \$100 million for the north and south bay properties. As a condition made by the contributors, the restoration of the sites would occur in a timely manner. To facilitate timely restoration the contributors have provided funding through the RLF to prepare a restoration and management plan for the NPS.

At the time of the initial purchase, \$899,000.00 was committed to the restoration planning and design at the NPS. The RLF has used these funds to hire a contractor to prepare the plan, environmental documents, obtain necessary permits and prepare final plans and specifications. As the planning process moved forward it became clear that the Phase 1 restoration project should be expanded to include restoration planning and design for the “wash pond” areas on site.

The purposes of the Napa Plant Site restoration project are to provide habitat for a broad range of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, marsh-dependent birds, mammals, fish and other aquatic organisms, and threatened and endangered species; foster connectivity among habitats on the site and with adjacent sites to enable wildlife movement, create a design that can adjust to changes in the Napa River estuarine environment with minimal ongoing intervention, provide wildlife-oriented public access and recreation, and maintain existing levels of flood control.

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The Department or selected subcontractors will complete all California Environmental Quality Act requirements and obtain all necessary permits.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$99,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79572(c); 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.

- \*8. Eagle Lake Fishing Access Improvements, Phase II, \$120,158.00  
Lassen County

This proposal is to consider a cooperative project with the Spalding Community Services District (District) and the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to improve public access at the District's Eagle Lake Fishing Access located in the community of Spalding Tract in Lassen County.

In 1975, the Board funded construction of a concrete boat ramp, boarding floats, sanitary facilities, and a parking area at the Spalding Fishing Access on the north-western shore of Eagle Lake. At this time the site was owned and operated by Lassen County. In 1990, the Board funded the extension of the ramp and boarding floats to facilitate launches at low water levels. Title to Eagle Lake Fishing Access was acquired by the District from Lassen County in 1999. At this time the District took over operation and maintenance responsibilities of the existing facilities. In 2002, the Board partnered with the District and the DBW to widen and replace the existing boat ramp, construct a second boat ramp, expand and repave the existing parking area, and construct a new restroom, a new barrier free fishing float, public courtesy dock, and pedestrian walkways.

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

In the summer of 2005, after several consecutive drought years, Eagle Lake reached what may have been an all-time low in terms of water level. These extreme low water conditions rendered the northern boat ramp and public courtesy dock unusable to much of the public. At their current positions, the facilities will continue to be difficult if not impossible to use when water levels in the lake are very low. The current proposal before Board will improve the situation by extending the northern ramp by 8.5 feet and dredging the launching area and approaches to the ramp. Furthermore, a 32 foot section of dock will be added to the public courtesy mooring extending it further into the lake and thus into deeper water. These improvements will allow the facilities to continue to be usable in low water years.

A second problem to be remedied by the proposed project is related to the barrier-free ramps leading from the parking area to the public courtesy mooring. The project was constructed with railing on only one side of each of the ramps. However, in order to satisfy the Americans with Disabilities Act, there must be railing on both sides of these ramps. So this project will add seventy-five feet of required railing opposite the existing railing on the barrier free ramps.

Should this proposal be approved, the District will complete an Initial Study and will likely file a Mitigated Negative Declaration in order to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. The District will also be acquiring all of the permits necessary to complete the project. The District has also agreed to operate and maintain the project thru 2027, and has entered into a Lease and Operating Agreement with the State to this end.

Total cost for this project is estimated to be \$235,000.00. The DBW will also be funding part of the project. The WCB funds will be used for permitting and CEQA costs, extending the public courtesy dock and installing the new handrails. The DBW funds will be used for extending and dredging the boat ramp.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Wildlife Conservation Board         | \$120,000.00      |
| Department of Boating and Waterways | <u>115,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING             | \$235,000.00      |

In addition to the costs listed above, an additional \$158.00 will be required for the Department of General Services review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the Board's portion of the project to \$120,158.00.

It is anticipated that the project will qualify for federal reimbursement under the Sport Fish Restoration Act. Following approval by the Board, staff will file an application with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which, if approved, will reimburse 75% of Board's and the DBW's qualifying project costs.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$120,158.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650; 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.

9. Buena Vista Creek, \$2,155,000.00  
San Diego County

This proposal is to consider the cooperative acquisition of 134± acres of vacant land in northern San Diego County and the acceptance of funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and from a Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition Grant, to be applied toward the purchase of the property. The primary purpose of the project is for the protection of several state and federally listed animal and plant species and to preserve an important habitat linkage between the Cities of Carlsbad and Oceanside.

The Buena Vista Creek area is located on the south side of State Route 78, west of El Camino Real and east of Interstate 5. The property is primarily located in the City of Carlsbad; however, a small fraction of the site is in the City of Oceanside.

The property is identified as a high priority for acquisition in the City of Carlsbad's Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP), one of the regional Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) that has been developed and approved by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) in San Diego County. The DFG has also approved a Conceptual Area Protection Plans for the area and recommends acquisition of the property.

The City of Carlsbad's Habitat Management Plan (HMP) identifies the subject property as part of a core area of habitat. The plan also allows for up to 25% development so long as adequate connectivity with the regional gnatcatcher corridor is retained and wetlands are conserved. The northern part of the HMP is already fragmented and further development on the subject property could significantly disturb this corridor and disrupt habitat dispersal routes. Acquisition will preserve the entirety of important habitat and ensure that the regional corridor/linkage will be retained without compromise.

Habitat types on site include Diegan coastal sage scrub, non-native grassland, coastal and valley freshwater marsh and southern arroyo willow riparian forest. Sensitive animals include the state and federal listed least Bell's vireo, federal listed California gnatcatcher, and the loggerhead shrike and yellow-breasted chat. The property comprises part of an important habitat linkage between the Cities of Carlsbad and Oceanside that is especially important for ensuring continued federal listed California gnatcatcher dispersal.

The DFG will hold fee title to the property and proposes to work cooperatively with the Center for Natural Lands Management to enter into a management agreement. An endowment will be available to assist in management activities by the Center. The NFWF will provide \$928,000.00 to establish the endowment through the USFWS's mitigation requirement funds. The Preserve Calavera, a non-profit public benefit corporation, has offered to contribute an additional \$50,000.00.

The market value of the property is \$8,000,000.00, as determined by an appraisal and as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The property owner has agreed to sell the property to the State for the approved appraised value. The USFWS, through the NFWF, and from a Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition Grant, has agreed to provide \$855,000.00 and \$5,000,000.00, respectively toward the acquisition. It is proposed that the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board) approve an allocation in the amount of \$2,145,000.00 to make up the balance of the purchase price. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover acquisition-related expenses, including review charges by the DGS, bringing the total proposed allocation for this project to \$2,155,000.00.

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

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,155,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Prop. 117), Section 2786 (b/c), for the acquisition and related project expenses; authorize acceptance of two acquisition grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the amount of \$5,855,000.00, and approve the use of those funds to be applied toward the purchase prices of the property; 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.

10. Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, Expansion 3, \$229,000.00  
San Diego County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 313.29± acres of vacant land, in southeastern San Diego County, for the long-term protection of habitat for sensitive species and a wildlife movement corridor. This proposal also requests authorization to accept two acquisition grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the approval to apply the grant funds toward the purchase price of the property.

The property is situated about three miles east/northeast of State Route 94 (Campo Road) by way of Honey Springs Road and about two miles due north of the town of Dulzura. The town of Jamul is located approximately four miles west of the property and the rural community of Deer Horn Valley is located less than three miles to the east.

The subject property is surrounded on the north, south and west by the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) 5,261± acre Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area), protected through acquisitions approved by the Board between the years 2000 and 2003. Acquisition of the subject property would result in the permanent public protection of a very large contiguous block of wildlife habitat consisting primarily of lands managed by the DFG. In addition, the acquisition will improve and ensure access throughout the Wildlife Area via the Honey Springs Truck Trail. The trail is a dirt road extending north from Honey Springs Road through the Wildlife Area, continuing through the subject property, and connecting with the Wildlife Area in the north.

The property is located within a wildlife movement corridor identified in the County of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), a DFG-approved Natural Community Conservation Plan. The acquisition property will assure the long term protection of this corridor extending from the DFG's 5,751± acre Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve immediately to the south of State Route 94 (Campo Road) and the Wildlife Area, and extending to the north through other already protected habitat linkages, eventually connecting to the Cleveland National Forest to the east.

The primary purpose of acquiring the subject property is to protect threatened and endangered wildlife, native plants and special habitats found within this western mountain range of San Diego County. The property supports the federally-threatened California gnatcatcher and the locally sensitive San Diego horned lizard. In addition, sensitive plant species found within the Wildlife Area and on the property include coastal sage scrub communities including rush-like bristleweed and San Diego sunflower. There is also a high potential for San Diego thornmint and Dean's milkvetch to occur on the property. Other sensitive wildlife species known or expected to occur in the coastal sage scrub habitats within the property include the Quino checkerspot butterfly, Dulzura California pocket mouse and orange-throated whiptail. Other major wildlife species known to occur within the wildlife area include deer, mountain lion, coyote, bobcat, gray fox, badger, golden eagle, California quail and numerous raptor species.

The DFG proposes to manage the property as the third expansion to the Wildlife Area. The primary management objective is the preservation and enhancement of an important habitat linkage for the MSCP and public lands to the east. The improved public access to the Wildlife Area will enhanced the DFG's management abilities and increase public access. Compatible with management of the resources on the site, recreational opportunities will be expanded for hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, scientific study and education.

The property owners have agreed to sell the property at the appraised, fair market value of \$1,235,000.00. Two acquisition grants have been made available by the USFWS, providing a portion of the funding in the amount of \$1,031,115.00. It is staff's recommendation that the Board authorize the acceptance of the grants and approve the use of the funds to be applied toward the purchase of the property. It is also staff's recommendation that the Board approve an allocation in the amount of \$204,885.00 to cover the balance of the purchase price. It is estimated that an additional \$24,115.00 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 \$229,000.00.

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

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$229,000.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.350 (a)(6); authorize acceptance of two acquisition grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the amount of \$1,031,115.00 and approve the use of those funds to be applied toward the purchase price of the property; 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.

11. Dos Palmas Area Saltcedar Removal and Habitat Restoration, \$610,000.00  
Riverside County

This proposal is to consider an allocation for a grant to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a partnership project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Center for Natural Lands Management to remove and eradicate the non-native plant, salt cedar (*tamarix spp.*) from riparian and wetland habitats within the 14,300± acre BLM designated Dos Palmas Oasis Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and to restore those habitats through natural regeneration or active replanting with native plants. The restored areas include 1,500 acres of monotypic salt cedar stands along with areas of salt cedar intermixed with native riparian vegetation. An ACEC is the highest level of administrative protection within the BLM. The Dos Palmas ACEC contains public lands administered by the BLM, the State Lands Commission Lands (State School Lands), and adjacent private lands, including lands owned and managed by the Center for Natural Lands Management. It is located approximately one mile east of the Salton Sea in Riverside County.

The current project is part of a coordinated effort to control salt cedar on public lands in the desert areas of California involving the BLM, National Park Service, and the DFG. The Board approved funding on August 25, 2005 for a grant to assist the BLM in the removal of salt cedar from desert springs located within their management district in the eastern Mojave Desert. That project is currently under way.

The Dos Palmas Oasis ACEC is one of the most significant wetland habitats in the Sonoran Desert. The generous supply of fresh water results from seepage through earthquake faults and supports a large number of diverse riparian plant and wildlife species including; the federally endangered and state threatened Yuma clapper rail, the federal and state endangered desert pupfish, the federal and state endangered least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher. Salt cedar has invaded the freshwater habitats in the Dos Palmas Oasis ACEC, and has reduced the natural diversity of these habitats (salt cedar, if left uncontrolled, will form a dense monoculture that prevents native plants from growing). These invasive plants also use much more water than native plants, and their foliage and flowers do not attract or support as many wildlife species.

Once the salt cedar is removed, it is assumed that groundwater and surface water conditions will improve, and that native plants will regenerate naturally. The BLM began work on salt cedar in the Dos Palmas ACEC with the completion of their management plan in 1998. Several techniques are being used to control and remove salt cedar from the Dos Palmas ACEC, including cutting stems and applying herbicide to the stump, removal of the entire plant, and follow up treatment with herbicides to control re-sprouts. Cleared tamarisk plants will be piled and burned at appropriate locations. The BLM is also investigating the use of specialized equipment that will masticate the plants on site and eliminate the labor intensive cutting of each stem.

Prior experience has proven that natural regeneration of native plants is quite aggressive in Dos Palmas due to abundant native plant seed sources and water. All salt cedar control sites will be monitored for native plant regeneration. If this does not prove to be successful, natural regeneration will be augmented by planting containerized mesquite and/or pole plantings of cottonwood and willow.

This project will allow the partners to restore the valuable habitat at the Dos Palmas Oasis and maintain its habitat in good condition. This work will benefit the wildlife species listed above, along with many other species that are dependent upon desert riparian and wetland habitats. Maintaining healthy desert riparian and wetland habitats will benefit current and future generations of the American public and the citizens of the State of California. This property is open for public use for hiking and viewing the wildlife and natural wonders of this unique desert wetland area.

To date approximately 850 acres has already been treated. The proposed project will continue this effort through the year 2010, treating an additional 640± acres; and retreating and vegetating areas already worked on in prior years.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wildlife Conservation Board         | \$610,000.00          |
| Bureau of Land Management           | 484,000.00            |
| Department of Fish and Game         | 40,000.00             |
| Center for Natural Lands Management | <u>200,000.00</u>     |
| <b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</b>      | <b>\$1,334,000.00</b> |

Project costs will be for project management, administration and coordination, salt cedar removal, herbicide, supplies and materials, monitoring, contingency and project signs.

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 to land. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The BLM has agreed to manage and maintain the property for twenty-five years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$610,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Prop. 50), Section 79568; 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.

12. San Joaquin River Parkway, Friant Cove Public Access, \$1,664,809.00  
Augmentation #2, Fresno County

This proposal is to consider an augmentation for an existing grant to the San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) to construct a car-top boat launch, restroom, parking area, barrier-free path, and service road on property owned by the Conservancy adjacent to the San Joaquin River at the corner of North Fork Road and Millerton Road in Fresno County.

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved the acquisition of this 5.78 acre property on the left bank of the San Joaquin River in 1998 and subsequently transferred the land to the Conservancy. The purpose of the acquisition was to provide public access and eventually construct a public access project like the one presently proposed. The project proposal includes a stabilized, compacted gravel ramp for hand launching small boats, an approximately 60 space parking area, a vault restroom, a barrier free pedestrian path to the riverbank to accommodate mobility impaired individuals, and a service road for maintenance and emergency vehicles. Landscaping, an educational kiosk, a picnic area, a drinking fountain, an entry sign, lighting and

security gates are also planned. The Conservancy will be responsible for maintenance and operation of the facility for the next twenty-five years. This facility is envisioned to become a visitor "hub" at the terminus of the San Joaquin River Parkway. The parking area will also function as a park and ride facility. The site is already used informally for fishing access and launching of kayaks and small boats.

Preliminary project design was funded by a federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grant, as well as a 1999 WCB allocation. Construction of the proposed project will be funded by a Congestion Management Air Quality grant, a Department of Boating and Waterways grant, a Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) grant, and the existing WCB grant and augmentation.

The San Joaquin River Parkway is defined in state legislation, as approximately 5,900 acres within a twenty-two mile long stretch between Friant Dam and State Route 99 along the San Joaquin River. The San Joaquin River Conservancy was created in 1992 to preserve and enhance the San Joaquin River's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its valued cultural and natural resources and provide educational and recreational opportunities to the local communities. The WCB's 2006-07 budget contains Proposition 12 monies with control language directing that these funds be used for Conservancy programs.

On August 21, 2003, the Conservancy Board approved a request asking the WCB to allocate funds from Proposition 12 to the Conservancy for the proposed project which was subsequently approved by the WCB on May 13, 2004. Following the original allocation, the Conservancy received an updated project cost estimate from the Department of General Services which indicated a significant shortfall in available funding. On November 4, 2004 the Conservancy Board approved changes in the project design which significantly reduced the shortfall while maintaining the original project scope. The changes included reducing Department of General Service's construction inspection costs, reducing fill dirt cost estimates, reducing the size of perimeter boulders, eliminating barbecues, changing the method of grass seed application, and replacing colored concrete with conventional concrete. Along with the approval of these changes, the Conservancy Board approved a request for funding from the WCB to cover the small remaining funding shortfall.

In July 2006, the Department of General Services put the project out to bid and received a low bid which was significantly higher than the available funding. The contractor which provided the low bid has agreed to extend the bid until the Conservancy can secure enough funding to cover it. On September 14, 2006, the Conservancy Board approved a request to the WCB to extend and augment the grant agreement to cover the funding shortfall and allow additional time to complete the project. The funding shortfall includes the shortfall in construction costs, as well as additional contingency costs (7% of construction costs). The expected project completion date is now October 2007.

The Conservancy has secured \$386,500 in other grants for the project. Of these grants, two are Caltrans grants (TEA and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality – CMAQ) totaling \$336,500. Originally it was thought these funds would be available to assist in paying for the project as it was being constructed. It has since been learned that these funds are only eligible as reimbursement after the project is completed. Therefore, in addition to the construction and contingency shortfall, this augmentation includes \$336,500 which will be reimbursed when the project is complete.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Wildlife Conservation Board (first allocation) | \$351,000.00       |
| Wildlife Conservation Board (augmentation #1)  | 5,900.00           |
| Wildlife Conservation Board (augmentation #2)  | 1,664,809.00       |
| Conservancy (other grants)                     | <u>50,000.00</u>   |
| <br>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING                    | <br>\$2,071,709.00 |

The Conservancy has completed the environmental review of the project and filed a Mitigated Negative Declaration in compliance with CEQA. The Conservancy will obtain all permits that may be necessary to complete the proposed work.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,328,309.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Prop. 12), Section 5096.355; and allocate \$336,500.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Park, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650(b)(5); acceptance of Caltrans TEA and CMAQ grants as reimbursement; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

- 13. San Joaquin River Parkway, Habitat Restoration and Public Access, Jensen River Ranch, Phase I Augmentation, Fresno County \$1,699,158.00

This proposal is to consider an augmentation to an interagency agreement with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to increase funding and extend the expiration date for one year on an ongoing cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC). The project includes infrastructure construction at the SJRC-owned, 167± acre Jensen River Ranch property, approximately one half mile upstream of the Highway 41 Bridge in Fresno County.

The project includes preparing bid specifications and securing contractors, excavating artificial oxbows, constructing a pipeline tie-in to a storm drain to deliver water via gravity to the oxbows, installing a riparian pump and an irrigation system to bring water to future restored grassland and woodland areas, providing fencing for managed grazing and to discourage public intrusion into restored areas and performing project management and environmental compliance oversight.

The Parkway is defined in State Legislation, as approximately 5,900 acres within a twenty-two mile long stretch between Friant Dam and State Route 99 on the San Joaquin River. The SJRC was created in 1992, to preserve and enhance the San Joaquin River's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its valued cultural and natural resources and provide educational and recreational opportunities to the local communities. The SJRC's mission includes both public access and habitat restoration within the San Joaquin River Parkway. Other public access/habitat restoration projects similar to the one currently outlined, have been completed within the Parkway and include the Wildwood Native Park and Camp Pashayan projects.

The SJRC's 167± acre Jensen River Ranch was acquired with the help of a WCB grant in 1997. It is predominantly irrigated pasture with a narrow belt of riparian woodland along a 0.5 mile-long stretch of river frontage. Phase I, consists of work by the DWR south of the D/K storm water channel that divides the property into north and south halves. Implementation of this project will include:

- Site preparation, including clearing and grubbing; demolishing a concrete barn slab foundation, shed, and flood irrigation system of below-ground pipelines and properly disposing the wastes; and grading the swale enhancement, trail slopes, ripping planting areas, and other earthwork necessary to prepare the site.
- Installation of an irrigation system, fed by a new riparian pump (the land has a riparian holding contract and has been irrigated with river water for many years).
- Diversion of nuisance flows in the storm drainage system into excavated "oxbow" wetlands. The project requires close coordination with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to tie into a storm drainage pipeline above the bluff and bring the water source via gravity through control valves to the oxbows. The water will be returned to the storm water quality treatment channel on the site via outfall culverts beneath the MacMichael Trail. The created wetlands will be designed to minimize mosquito nuisances, and allow for routine maintenance to abate mosquitoes and remove storm water-borne sediments.
- Installation of split-rail fencing throughout the site around trails and barbed wire fencing around planting cells to discourage public intrusion into restored habitat, and provide for long-term prescribed grazing for weed control and fire suppression.

The original cost of Phase I was \$2,118,100.00 with the Board funding the entire amount. The augmentation amount is for \$1,699,000.00. This augmentation is the result of increased costs of construction. In addition to the costs listed above, an additional \$158.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, making the total augmentation for the project \$1,699,158.00.

The SJRC, as the landowner, will be responsible for managing the property after the project is complete, as it does at present. For all of its properties, the SJRC maintains fences and gates, maintains grazing and other leases, removes illegal dumping and nuisances, addresses citizen complaints, coordinates with the local mosquito abatement districts, performs fire prevention activities, and maintains access licenses with stewardship and educational groups. The proposed project will not significantly increase current management demands.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been adopted by the SJRC for the Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement and Public Access Plan. In April 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a letter of concurrence that the project would not adversely affect critical habitat for the federal listed endangered valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,699,158.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650 (b)(5), for project and General Services review costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

14. Knoxville Wildlife Area, Riparian Habitat Restoration, Phase II      \$133,458.00  
Napa County

This proposal is to consider an allocation for an interagency agreement to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for a project to eradicate the non-native invasive plant, tamarisk (*tamarix spp.*), and actively restore native riparian vegetation along four and a half miles of Eticuera Creek, within the Knoxville Wildlife Area in northwestern Napa County. Other partners in the project include the California Department of Forestry (CDF).

The Board approved funding for a similar project on the 8,078 acre Knoxville Wildlife Area in November of 2002 (Riparian Habitat Restoration, Knoxville Wildlife Area, Napa County). That project involved eradication of tamarisk from the upper reach of Eticuera Creek, located in the original portion of the wildlife area. The project was completed in March of 2005, and the native riparian habitat is recovering nicely. In 2004, the Board acquired an additional 12,575 acres of adjacent land (Knoxville Ranch Wildlife Area, Expansion 1) that was added to the wildlife area. That addition includes the downstream reach of Eticuera Creek.

The DFG plans to manage the eradication of tamarisk from the downstream portion of Eticuera Creek, using the DFG staff and the CDF work crews. This second phase project will be completed within three years, with the majority of the work occurring between the months of November through March. This project will benefit many common riparian wildlife species, including raccoons, black bears, Sonoma chipmunks, black-tailed deer, belted kingfisher, northern dipper, swallows, mergansers, egrets, wood ducks, mallards and herons. Native fish such as the California roach, Sacramento sucker and Sacramento pike minnow, will also benefit from the project.

The Knoxville Wildlife Area is open to the public for many uses, including hunting during the open seasons for deer, turkey, and quail as well as hiking, horseback riding, bird watching and botanical studies.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wildlife Conservation Board    | \$133,300.00        |
| Department of Fish and Game    | <u>162,500.00</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</b> | <b>\$295,800.00</b> |

Project costs will be for project management and supervision of work crews; labor costs for work crews; herbicide and other supplies; installation of a sign; and a contingency fund. In addition to the costs listed above, an additional \$158.00 will be required for Department of General Services' review costs, bringing the allocation necessary for the Board's portion of the project to \$133,458.00.

The DFG has reviewed the proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board. The DFG has determined that 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 to land.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$133,458.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Prop. 40), Section 5096.650; 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.

15. Resolution for Al Wright

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wright as of September 16, 2006, served nearly six years as Executive Director for the California Wildlife Conservation Board and after more than 34 years with the Bureau of Land Management, it is appropriate at this time to highlight his many achievements and extend special public recognition and commendations to him for his professional and civic leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wright has greatly assisted the Board and its staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wright has supported the Board's many programs throughout his tenure, making preservation, enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat a true priority; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wright has recognized the importance of working collaboratively with divergent interest groups and the public in seeking consensus-based solutions to resource issues throughout the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wright has utilized his tremendous leadership and communication skills, his ability to form partnerships with private, local, state, and federal partners, resulting in the protection and management of natural resources in a manner that is respectful and recognizes the social, economic and environmental values of local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge Mr. Wright's contributions 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. Wright our deep appreciation for his dedication and contributions to the people of the State of California, and convey best wishes for all the richness and rewards of an active and productive retirement; 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. Wright.

\*\*16. Executive Session (Not Open to the Public)

THE BOARD MAY MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA

GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11126(e)(1) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, *CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, ET AL., VS. CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, ET AL.*, COLUSA COUNTY, THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, CASE NUMBERS C049919 AND C051270.

Other Business

\*\* Added after the Preliminary Agenda was distributed