

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

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State of California  
Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**  
Minutes  
February 23, 2012

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**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

February 23, 2012

The Wildlife Conservation Board met on Thursday, February 23, 2012, at the State Capitol, Room 112 in Sacramento, California. Mr. Kevin Hunting, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Fish and Game, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Mr. John Donnelly, Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, performed the roll call. The following Board members/staff were present: Mr. Kevin Hunting, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Fish and Game; Ms. Karen Finn, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance; Mr. John Donnelly, Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board; Ms. Natalya Kulagina, Mr. Donnelly's Executive Assistant; Ms. Rachelle Caouette, Senator Fuller's representative; Ms. Katharine Moore, Senator Pavley's representative; and Assembly Member Richard Gordon.

## 1. Roll Call

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Charlton H. Bonham, Chairman  
Department of Fish and Game  
Vice, Kevin Hunting  
Chief Deputy Director, Department of Fish and Game

Ana Matosantos, Member  
Director, Department of Finance  
Vice, Karen Finn

## JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Jean Fuller  
Vice, Rachelle Caouette

Senator Fran Pavley  
Vice, Katharine Moore

Assembly Member Richard Gordon

Assembly Member Jared Huffman  
Vice, Diane Colborn

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Donnelly

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Wildlife Conservation Board Staff Present:

John P. Donnelly, Executive Director  
Dave Means, Assistant Executive Director  
Peter Perrine, Assistant Executive Director  
Cynthia Alameda, Budget and Fiscal Officer  
Scott McFarlin, Public Land Management Specialist IV  
Natalya Kulagina, Executive Assistant  
Dawn Otiz-Drown, Grant Coordinator  
Liz Yokoyama, Senior Land Agent  
Colin Mills, Staff Counsel  
Nancy Templeton, Staff Counsel  
Brian Gibson, Senior Land Agent  
Tony Chappelle, Public Land Management Specialist IV  
John Walsh, Senior Land Agent

Erin Ingenthron, Office Technician  
Jasen Yee, Associate Budget Analyst  
Terry Roscoe, Public Land Management Specialist IV  
Ken Anderson, Public Land Management Specialist IV  
Chad Fien, Public Land Management Specialist IV  
Celestial Baumbach, Office Technician  
Mary Westlake, Staff Services Analyst  
Ashley Lackey, Staff Services Analyst  
Jon Wilcox, Senior Land Agent  
Marilyn Cundiff, Public Land Management Specialist IV  
Kurt Weber, Senior Land Agent  
Bill Gallup, Senior Land Agent (RA)

Others present:

Karen Kovacs, Department of Fish and Game  
Eric Hayne, Department of Fish and Game  
Lisa Ohara, Department of Fish and Game  
Steve Burton, Department of Fish and Game  
Eric Kleinfelter, Department of Fish and Game  
James Chakarun, Department of Fish and Game  
Rachel Sherrell, Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez Office  
Mark Lovelace, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
John Ranlett, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Jim Well, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
John Carlon, River Partners  
Julie Rentner, River Partners  
Tasha Newman, CA Strategy Group  
Alan Ehrgott, American River Conservancy  
Cameron Tredenick, Western Rivers Conservancy

Ruskin Hartley, Save-the-Redwoods League  
Hary Pollack, Save-the-Redwoods League  
Catherine Elliot, Save-the-Redwoods League  
Jonathan Pilch, Watsonville Wetlands Watch  
Kris Beall, Watsonville Wetlands Watch  
Michael Miller, Mendocino Land Trust  
Winston Bowen, Mendocino Land Trust  
Steve Miller, Miller Trust  
Eric Wesselman, Tuolumne River Trust  
Patrick Koepele, Tuolumne River Trust  
Darla Guenzler, CA Council of Land Trusts  
Steve Thompson, Steve Thompson, LLC  
Ryan Wells, Northwest Regional Land Trust  
Elaine Trevino, CA Strategy Solutions  
Mark Andre, City of Arcata

Mr. Donnelly welcomed everyone to the Board meeting and introduced three new staff members of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB): Ms. Cynthia Alameda, Budget and Fiscal Officer; Mr. Kurt Weber and Mr. John Walsh, both Land Agents. Mr. Donnelly moved to the second item on the agenda.

Mr. Donnelly commented that the second item on the agenda provides the information about WCB's funding status and Capital Outlay budgets; it also has a table showing the amount of cash that WCB has available based on previous bond sales that have occurred going forward from 2009-2010.

Mr. Donnelly asked if there were any questions or comments about this item. There were none.

2. Funding Status – Informational

(a) 2011-12 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act	\$1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-259,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$741,000.00

(b) 2011-12 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-29,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$20,634,000.00

(c) 2010-11 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-2,678,284.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$17,989,716.00

(d) 2009-10 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-11,045,759.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$9,622,241.00

(e) 2007-08 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget  
(2011-12 Reappropriation)

Budget Act	\$20,674,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-13,568,306.08</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$7,105,693.92

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(f)	2006-07 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget (2009-10 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$20,699,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-12,213,358.30</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$8,485,641.70
(g)	2006-07 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget (2010-11 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$15,224,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-12,808,009.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$2,415,991.00
(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
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-29,797,243.45</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$6,302,756.55
(i)	2004-05 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund Capital Outlay Budget (2010-11 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$11,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-3,890,302.94</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$7,109,697.06
(j)	Chapter 983, Statutes of 2002, Oak Woodlands Conservation Act	
	Budget Act (2009-10 Reappropriation)	\$4,800,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-4,586,689.51</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$213,310.49
(k)	2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650)	\$273,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-217,270,099.05</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$55,729,900.95

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(l)	2003-04 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget (Section 79568) (2010-11 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act	\$32,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-21,681,299.35</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$10,818,700.65
(m)	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
	2003-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
	2004-05 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
	2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-4,000,000.00
	2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-3,100,000.00
	2006-07 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-17,688,000.00
	2007-08 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-5,150,000.00
	2008-09 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-1,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-660,530,654.65</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$80,881,345.35
(n)	2010-11 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)	\$3,380,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$3,380,000.00
(o)	2009-10 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
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-0.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$10,000,000.00

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(p)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget (2010-11 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$10,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-2,666,000.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$7,334,000.00
(q)	2009-10 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055(c))	\$10,000,000.00
	2010-11 Budget Act Reversion	-3,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-7,000,000.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$0.00
(r)	2009-10 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Chapter 2, Statutes of 2009 (SB 8)	\$24,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-4,097,646.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$19,902,354.00
(s)	2008-09 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget (2011-12 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055(c))	\$25,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-8,108,614.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$16,891,386.00
(t)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget (2010-11 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055(c))	\$25,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-14,043,156.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$10,956,844.00



(u)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget (2010-11 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(1)),	\$14,293,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-11,682,786.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$2,610,214.00
(v)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget (2010-11 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(2)),	\$14,293,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-11,628,437.48</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$2,664,562.52
(w)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget (2010-11 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(4))	\$4,762,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-2,585,339.78</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$2,176,660.22
(x)	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
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-68,316,000.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$96,384,000.00
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055(b))	\$123,525,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-78,344,544.53</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$45,180,455.47

**RECAP OF FUND BALANCES**

Wildlife Restoration Fund (a)	\$741,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (b), (c), (d), (e)and (f)	\$63,837,312.62
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (g) and (h)	\$8,718,747.55
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks	

and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (i), (j) and (k)	\$63,052,908.50
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (l) and (m)	\$91,700,046.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (n), (o), (p), (q), (r),(s), (t), (u), (v), (w) and (x)	\$217,480,476.21
<b>TOTAL – ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$445,530,490.88</b>

**RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000**

Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000 and Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004 Tax credits awarded through June 30, 2008	\$48,598,734.00
Chapter 220, Statutes of 2009 (effective January 1, 2010) Tax credits awarded	\$0.00

**SUMMARY OF BOND CASH PROCEEDS**

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

<b>Bond Fund</b>	<b>Authorized GO Bond Proceeds</b>	<b>Expenditures through 01/24/12</b>	<b>Encumbrances through 12/31/11</b>	<b>Cash Balances Includes Encumbrances</b>
Proposition 12	\$7,833,444.42	\$7,206,201.67	\$209,692.97	\$417,549.78
Proposition 40	\$52,763,470.74	\$36,032,568.35	\$30,412,480.10	(\$13,681,577.71)
Proposition 50	\$99,161,920.79	\$38,472,155.55	\$39,257,548.68	\$21,432,216.56
Proposition 84	\$185,719,637.97	\$166,682,247.99	\$39,320,557.48	(\$20,283,167.50)
Proposition 1E	\$37,485,238.22	\$14,414,973.30	\$20,904,447.32	\$2,165,817.60
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$382,963,712.14</b>	<b>\$262,808,146.86</b>	<b>\$130,104,726.55</b>	<b>(\$9,949,161.27)</b>

3. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4 – 13)

Mr. Donnelly asked the Board to adopt the Consent Calendar with the exception of item #9 (Pajaro Valley Riparian Restoration, Santa Cruz County).

Mr. Donnelly reported that we received several letters of support for item #6 (Arcata Community Forest Expansion (Schmidbauer), Humboldt County)) from the following people: Senator Pat Wiggins, CA State Senate, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro, CA State Assembly, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Supervisor Mark Lovelace, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors; Ms. Susan Ornelas, Executive Director of Jacoby Creek Land Trust; and Mr. Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of Save-the-Redwoods League.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any questions or comments about any item on the Consent Calendar. There were none.

**As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the Consent Calendar items 4—8 and 10—13 as proposed in the individual agenda explanations.**

**Motion carried.**

With the absence of Chairman Bonham at today's meeting, Mr. Donnelly requested that the Board defer consideration of item #19 (Appraisal Policy and Disclosure, Statewide) until such time when Chairman Bonham is able to be here, so he can participate in this discussion, as well as any solution or resolution that comes out from that discussion.

- \*4. Approval of Minutes – July 26, 2011 and December 8, 2011

**As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the Minutes of the July 26 and December 8, 2011 meetings.**

**Motion carried.**

- \*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.

**\$9,960.00 to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund**

**\$25,257.00 to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe**

**Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection  
Fund**  
**\$140,504.50** to the **Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and  
Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal  
Protection Fund of 2006**

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

Baxter Ranch, Sonoma County

Allocated	\$2,360,242.00
Expended	<u>-2,350,282.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$9,960.00

**Total Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund \$9,960.00**

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

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, Expansion 18, Monterey County

Allocated	\$220,000.00
Expended	<u>-205,522.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$14,478.00

Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander, Larkin Valley, Santa Cruz County

Allocated	\$60,000.00
Expended	<u>-49,221.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10,779.00

**Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund \$25,257.00**

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

Arcata Community Forest Expansion ( Morris), Humboldt County

Allocated	\$1,956,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,952,328.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,671.50

Carlsbad/Northwest San Diego County MHCP HCPLA/NCCP 2010 (Perkins),  
San Diego County

Allocated	\$1,256,250.00
Expended	<u>-1,251,250.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, Tenaja Corridor, Expansion 1-10  
Riverside County

Allocated	\$145,000.00
Expended	<u>-23,167.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$121,833.00

Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, Rudnick Ranch, Kern County

Allocated	\$5,010,000.00
Expended	<u>-5,000,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10,000.00

**Total Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, \$140,504.50  
Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006**

**As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the Recovery of Funds for the projects listed on pages 7 through 9 of the agenda and close the project accounts. Recovery totals include \$9,960.00 to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund; \$25,257.00 to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund; and \$140,504.50 to the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006.**

**Motion carried.**

- \*6. Arcata Community Forest Expansion \$650,000.00  
(Schmidbauer)  
Humboldt County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the City of Arcata for a cooperative project with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to acquire in fee 22± acres of land for the expansion of the Arcata Community Forest, a mixed conifer working forest. The project will also protect riparian areas, the upper watersheds of salmonid streams, preserve wildlife area linkages and offer potential future opportunities to develop and expand wildlife oriented public uses in the area.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located east of the City of Arcata (City) in close proximity to and accessible from Fickle Hill Road. North of the Property is the Arcata Community Forest (Community Forest), a 793-acre protected working forest and park area managed by the City. To the south is the 175-acre Sunny Brae forest property that the City purchased in August of 2007, funded in part by a grant allocation from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB/Board) and a donation under the WCB's Natural Heritage Tax Credit Program. Acquisition of the Property will help link the Sunny Brae Forest with the Community Forest and provide a potential future opportunity to expand public access and connection between these two protected areas. Further south is the Jacoby Creek watershed, a major salmonid stream and tributary into Humboldt Bay. The WCB has made a number of grants to the City and the Jacoby Creek Land Trust for acquisitions within the Jacoby Creek watershed.

The land use near the subject property has been slowly undergoing a change from working forests to subdivision and development of single family residences on small acreage parcels. More intensive residential and commercial development has occurred to the west of the Property, which eventually merges with the City.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is irregularly shaped and consists of two assessor parcels totaling 22± acres in size. The Property has high quality coastal redwood, Douglas fir, aquatic and riparian habitat and contains portions of the headwaters of both Beith and Grotzman Creeks. It has historically been a working forest as have most of the surrounding properties. Currently the Property and streams are threatened by degradation through a number of potential uses, including intensive logging, subdivision and conversion to residential use. The proposed acquisition of the Property will address these threats through the permanent protection of the property.

These practices will help preserve coastal redwood habitat and reduce the degradation of streams and watersheds fed by the Property, providing additional downstream benefits to the tributaries and eventually Humboldt Bay. Improved water quality will provide species benefits to salmonids, including Coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead, as well as other aquatic species within the tributary streams and Humboldt Bay. Acquisition of the site will also protect habitat for a number of species that are common to the area including the red tree vole, a California species of special concern (CSSC), northern spotted owl (CSSC), Del Norte salamander (CSSC), red-legged frog (a State threatened species), Cooper's hawk (CSSC), sharp-shinned hawk (CSSC), Pacific fisher (CSSC), and ring-tailed cat.

### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant for this project is being considered under the WCB's Forest Conservation Program (Program). Program grant proposals are evaluated and selected for funding by WCB staff based on established criteria approved by the Board on November 17, 2007, utilizing a peer review process involving biological and forestry expertise, and input from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The Program seeks to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through conserving, preserving, and restoring 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 and wildlife and plants found on these lands. One of the primary objectives of the Program is the protection and conservation of working forests and productive managed forest lands. Selected projects promote the restoration and/or maintenance of the ecological integrity and economic stability of the property in the context of the surrounding landscape and regional economy.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

If approved, the Property will be managed as an expansion to the City's Community Forest. Management objectives include harvesting timber on a sustainable basis, maintaining and enhancing the integrity of the watershed, preserve wildlife, fisheries, and plant resources, and providing potential future recreation and educational opportunities for the community. The sustainable timber harvesting will provide revenue to assist in the development of parkland and recreational facilities in the City. Potential future public access opportunities include linking the Property to trail systems already established on other adjoining Arcata Community Forest properties.

### TERMS

The property owners have agreed to sell the Property at the Department of General Services (DGS) approved appraised value of \$630,000.00. Under the terms of the grant, WCB staff is responsible for review of all acquisition-related

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

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$630,000.00</b>
Other Project-Related Costs	<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$650,000.00</b>

It is estimated that an additional \$20,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review. The City and project proponent will fund the environmental assessment, appraisal, escrow, and title insurance costs.

**FUNDING SOURCE**

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

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



STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$650,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; 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. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$650,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Motion carried.**

- \*7. Swiss Ranch Conservation Easement, \$555,000.00  
Expansion 4  
Calaveras County

This proposal was to consider the acquisition on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) of a conservation easement (Easement) over 468± acres of private land to prevent fragmentation of and protect important habitat for the migratory Rail Road Flat deer herd. The Easement will also conserve and help protect oak woodland, hardwood-conifer, mixed chaparral, and riparian habitats and contribute to habitat linkages and corridors connecting upper and lower Sierra mountain and foothill areas. The DFG will hold and monitor the Easement.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

This privately owned property is located in central Calaveras County, west of Summit Level Road and north of Swiss Ranch Road, approximately 18± miles northeast of San Andreas between the communities of Mountain House and Rail Road Flat. The property is within the approved Railroad Flat Deer Winter Range Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) and contains the headwaters for Esperanza Creek. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB/Board) allocated funding in 1985, 1988, 1998 and 2010, for the purpose of acquiring approximately 2,350 acres of conservation easements on lands immediately south and west of the subject property. Acquisition of this conservation easement will help to complete the linkage between the Eagle Ridge and Swiss Ranch protected areas to the immediate west with federal forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land to the immediate east. The BLM land extends to federal forest land to its east and south with DFG managed Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area. Non-contiguous, but in close proximity, are the Calaveras Big Trees State Park and other protected federal forest land located further east and southeast of the subject property.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The subject property is essentially vacant, undeveloped, mountainous to hilly land, containing a variety of different habitats such as oak woodland, hardwood-conifer, mixed chaparral, and riparian. Protection of the land will help establish habitat corridors and connectivity between adjacent protected lands. The key species benefiting from this proposed Easement is the migrant California mule deer, with the entire property providing winter foraging habitat for large numbers of migrating mule deer. According to the DFG's Railroad Flat deer herd management plan, 75 percent of the winter range of this herd is located on privately owned lands. Private land uses in the area are gradually changing from large acreage cattle ranches to small acreage ranchettes. This change in use is fragmenting and reducing the size of these once large deer migration corridors and foraging areas, making public protection of these areas critical to maintaining

viable deer herd populations. The ranch also supports a variety of other wildlife, including black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, and California quail and will also provide benefits to ringtail cats and golden eagles that have been observed in and around the property.

### WCB PROGRAM

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

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

This project provides the DFG with an opportunity to protect important habitat, benefiting a host of wildlife species, while incurring very little management costs. The Easement will be held by DFG and monitored in conjunction with its existing Swiss Ranch and Eagle Ridge conservation easements. DFG estimates that 1-2 person days per year would be needed to conduct an onsite inspection to monitor the conservation easement area. DFG will hold title to the Easement and will monitor the property on an annual basis to ensure that conservation easement conditions are being met.

### TERMS

The Easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$540,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The property owner has agreed to sell the conservation easement to the DFG for the DGS approved appraised fair market value of \$540,000.00. The terms and conditions of the proposed property acquisition agreement provide that staff of the WCB will review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition.

PROJECT FUNDING

The WCB will fund the entire purchase price of the Easement, which is \$540,000.00. It is estimated that an additional \$15,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including appraisal costs, DGS review costs and escrow fees, bringing the total recommended allocation for this proposal to \$555,000.00.

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$540,000.00</b>
Other Project-Related Costs	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL WCB Allocation</b>	<b>\$555,000.00</b>

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) that provides funding for protection of deer, mountain lion, and oak habitats and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$555,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), to cover 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.

**As one of the consent items heard at the beginning of the meeting, it was moved by Ms. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$555,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a), to cover 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.**

- \*8. North Grasslands Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration \$327,000.00  
Merced County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., for a project to restore approximately 140± acres of wetland, associated upland, and riparian habitat on Department of Fish and Game (DFG) owned land commonly known as North Grasslands Wildlife Area, Gadwall Unit, located 2 miles east of the City of Los Banos; and to ensure dependable water supplies to approximately 1,200± acres of wetland habitat by reinforcing security measures at the pump station at North Grasslands Wildlife Area, China Island Unit, located 3 miles east of the town of Newman, in Merced County.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

This project is located on DFG's North Grasslands Wildlife Area, Gadwall Unit and China Island Unit. The properties lie in western Merced County and are part of the Grasslands Ecological Area (GEA). The GEA encompasses over 160,000 acres of wetlands and associated grasslands. The GEA typically winters about twenty percent of the waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. The restoration project will help further the completion of the Central Valley Joint Venture's goal to protect or restore about 200,000 acres of wetlands in the Central Valley. Historically, the property was leveled and farmed. More recently the property has been idle, and for the last few years this unmanaged property has grown only weeds. Traditionally, the property, like most properties within the GEA, has been hunted for waterfowl.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will restore approximately 140 acres of wetland, upland, and riparian habitats at the Gadwall Unit, as well as secure dependable water supplies to approximately 1,200 acres of existing wetland habitat by reinforcing security measures at the China Island Unit pump station. At the Gadwall Unit, the project will restore wetland topography, install water control structures, restore native grasses, install riparian vegetation, and install public access infrastructure in the form of hunting blinds, gravel access trails, and fencing. At the China Island Unit, the project will install security caging around a pump station to prevent further vandalization and allow the pump station to continue to provide water to wetland habitat for wintering migratory species.

The project will benefit waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife by providing wintering and migratory wetland habitat. The project will also benefit adjacent landowners by controlling noxious weeds and providing habitat connectivity. Lastly, the project will also benefit the general public by providing a linkage corridor of habitat with the surrounding landscape for migratory species and it will allow access to a portion of the property during the waterfowl hunting season.

Waterfowl, shorebirds and other water birds will greatly benefit from the restoration of seasonal wetland habitat on the subject property. In addition, the property floods naturally during flood events, and once restored, will provide additional flood storage capacity.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Inland Wetland Conservation Program and meets the program's goal of assisting the Central Valley Joint Venture's mission to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated habitats.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project will be on a portion of DFG's North Grasslands Wildlife Area, Gadwall Unit and China Island Unit, and management of this project will be incorporated into the existing management of North Grasslands Wildlife Area. The project will result in a modest increase in management cost and staff time for the DFG. Annual maintenance costs include habitat manipulations by DFG staff and the acquisition of water for the habitat. The multiple benefits of the project, including public access, the removal of weeds that could invade adjacent landowners' properties and habitat for the diverse wetland wildlife species in the area outweigh the additional management costs.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$327,000.00</b>
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	5,440.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$332,440.00</b>

Project costs will be for earthwork, water control infrastructure, public access infrastructure, vegetation restoration, and project management and administration.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(Proposition 1E), Inland Wetlands Conservation Program. This funding allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands within a floodplain or flood corridor in the Central Valley, and is consistent with the objective of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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 WCB,

the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$327,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(Proposition 1E), Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game 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. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$327,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(Proposition 1E), Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game 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.**

9. Pajaro Valley Riparian Restoration \$263,000.00  
Santa Cruz County

This item was pulled from Consent Calendar for discussion per Mr. Donnelly's request.

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW) for a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, the City of Watsonville and the Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District to restore 6± acres of riparian habitat located along Struve Slough, West Struve Slough and Hanson Slough in Santa Cruz County. Mr. Anthony Chappelle of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The project is located in the lowlands of the Pajaro River Valley in southern Santa Cruz County both inside and just outside the City of Watsonville on three sites owned by four landowners: the DFG (Watsonville Slough Ecological Reserve Complex), WWW and the City of Watsonville (Tarplant Hill), and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (Watsonville Slough Farms). All three sites border one or more of the six fingers of the Watsonville Sloughs system and are on land protected by City, County and State zoning designations as open space and/or agriculture. Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) was a funding partner in the acquisitions of all three properties.

The Watsonville Sloughs system is recognized as the largest wetland system on the California Coast between the Elkhorn Slough watershed and the Pescadero Marsh, and is one of the largest freshwater wetland systems on the California Coast. This unique complex of sloughs is comprised of 800 acres of seasonal wetlands, open water marsh, mudflats, brackish marsh, and adjoining wet meadow and seep spring habitats. The Sloughs system supports 279 known bird species and serves as foraging, dispersal, and breeding habitats for five federally-listed and sixteen State-listed species of special concern. The sloughs provide a critical fall and spring migratory stop as well as summer and winter habitat for a diversity of bird species. In total, 27 of the State's list of bird Species of Special Concern utilize the Watsonville wetlands, including northern harrier, short-eared owl, burrowing owl, and loggerhead shrike. Several bird species nest in the Watsonville Sloughs and the associated marsh and riparian habitats that are local species of concern, including savannah sparrow, horned lark, American avocet, and yellow warbler.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Historically, nearly the entire Watsonville Sloughs system, which originally formed a wide floodplain on the lower portion of several coastal streams and was



an overflow area of the Pajaro River, was drained and farmed, resulting in a significant loss of wetlands and their associated riparian and upland habitats. As a result of decades of this draining and farming, as well as relatively recent high urban growth rates, the remaining riparian areas have been greatly degraded. These areas, once teeming with wildlife, are now largely comprised of invasive plant species and lacking in both structural and plant diversity. While the sloughs continue to provide important habitat areas for wildlife species, changes to the adjacent riparian habitats have resulted in declines of many species, in particular nesting birds of special concern.

The proposed project will restore 6.31 acres of native riparian habitat in three locations along Struve Slough (Tarplant Hill), West Struve Slough (Watsonville Slough Ecological Reserve) and Hanson, Struve, Watsonville and Harkins Sloughs (Watsonville Slough Farms) with the goal of restoring lost wildlife habitat and enhancing the existing biological communities of the Watsonville Sloughs. Riparian habitat restoration on these properties will create important habitat linkages and compliment ongoing and previous riparian habitat restoration and enhancement projects within the Watsonville Sloughs system.

Currently the riparian areas to be restored on the Watsonville Slough Ecological Reserve and Tarplant Hill properties are a monoculture of the invasive weed poison hemlock. Restoration will remove the hemlock and replace it with a diverse assemblage of native plants, resulting in greatly improved habitat with diversified structure and flowering plant species. The project at Watsonville Slough Farms will involve pulling agricultural fields and farm roads away from the Hanson Slough riparian corridor and restoring native riparian vegetation before hemlock establishes.

The proposed restoration methods have been used successfully over the last five years in the Watsonville Sloughs system and have been shown to be highly effective in restoring riparian habitats. This technique involves removal of existing stands of hemlock in the fall, roto-tilling the soil to remove remaining tap roots, long term suppression of hemlock seedlings with the application of a thick wood chip mulch layer, and installation of a diversity of native plants once the winter rains saturate the soil. Native plants will be installed in order to create a multi-storied riparian canopy, a diverse understory, and low stature wet meadow habitat. Species will include native sedges, rushes, grasses and flowering herbaceous plants such as marsh goldenrod and Pacific oenante, as well as a variety of trees and shrubs such as willow, cottonwood, elderberry, and snowberry. The project will utilize community volunteers, students from local schools, local job training programs, and the California Conservation Corps, serving to increase community support and education in the process. This is a three-year project in order to accommodate the time needed for site preparation,

native plant installation and maintenance (weed control and watering) during the establishment period.

Approximately 200 acres of protected habitat areas will be indirectly enhanced through the work of this project, with a wider benefit to over 1,000 acres of freshwater wetlands, grasslands, and riparian corridors within the Watsonville Sloughs watershed and their associated wildlife species. Species that will directly benefit from the project include the California red-legged frog, tricolored blackbird, northern harrier, loggerhead shrike, savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, and a diversity of other raptors and songbirds that utilize the riparian areas for nesting, forage, and wintering habitat.

The three sites were identified in the *Watsonville Sloughs Resource Conservation and Enhancement Plan (2002)* as regionally important areas for conservation. They are currently being actively managed and restored under existing or nearly completed management plans, which outline threats and proposed management strategies. This project is one of several restoration and public access projects that have been completed recently, are underway or being considered pursuant to these plans. Watershed-wide objectives that are reflected in the work on these properties include replacing exotic, invasive vegetation with native vegetation and increasing public access and educational opportunities. This project will help relieve environmental stressors, restore riparian habitat, buffer wetlands and sensitive areas from land use impacts, and further the restoration of ecosystem functions within the Watsonville Sloughs. The primary benefit of this project is the restored and enhanced riparian and associated wetland habitats. Additional project benefits include water quality improvement and protection of aquatic habitats. In addition, the project provides for and promotes regional collaboration.

#### WCB PROGRAM

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

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

All three project sites were acquired for the purpose of conserving, restoring and enhancing natural resources. The Grant Agreement has been signed by all the landowners and requires them to protect the habitat improvements for 25 years. WWW, the Grantee, will perform regular maintenance and monitoring over that period, controlling weeds and any other factors that could jeopardize the restored habitat. If at any time during the life of the project, the landowners or WWW do not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement

requires WWW to refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

WWW sits on the Watsonville Sloughs Critical Coastal Areas Regional Group that meets regularly to discuss protection, conservation, and enhancement of the Watsonville Sloughs and identifies projects that support water quality improvement. *The Watsonville Sloughs Conservation and Enhancement Plan* lists both Tarplant Hill and the Watsonville Sloughs Ecological Reserve as restoration priorities.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$263,000.00</b>
Watsonville Wetlands Watch	96,193.00
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County	26,411.00
City of Watsonville	36,100.00
Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District	<u>600.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$422,304.00</b>

Project costs will be for materials; nursery and nursery contracts; installation of a sign; contract services; contingencies; and project administration.

**FUNDING SOURCE**

The proposed funding sources for this project the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f)(Proposition 1E). This source provides funding for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of riparian habitat statewide to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION**

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

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$263,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f)(Proposition 1E); authorize staff and

the Department of Fish and Game 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. Jonathan Pilch, Restoration Director, and Ms. Kris Beall, Chair of the Board, both from Watsonville Wetlands Watch, who were in the audience and available to answer questions.

Ms. Finn asked who will do the long-term monitoring of the project's improvements. Mr. Donnelly responded that the life of the project is 25 years. The habitat will be created by the project over a three-year term, and the responsibility to monitor and manage the project is a 25-year commitment by the Watsonville Wetlands Watch.

Mr. Donnelly reported that a couple weeks ago he had the pleasure and honor of representing the WCB at a function at Pajaro Valley. WCB was one of 11 partners for the Watsonville Wetlands Complex who received the Coastal America Partnership Award. Mr. Donnelly went on to explain that this award is the highest award given out of the Department of Interior, and it is issued out of the President's Office. Mr. Donnelly said that he was quite pleased and thankful that the WCB was recognized along with the other partners. Mr. Donnelly added that we received a plaque and Congressional Recognition, as well as a letter from Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Donnelly congratulated the Wildlife Conservation Board saying that this award comes not only for this particular project but for the entire wetlands complex.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any additional questions or comments about this project. There were none.

**It was moved by Mr. Hunting that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$263,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f)(Proposition 1E); authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game 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. San Joaquin River Parkway, \$200,000.00  
Lewis S. Eaton Trail River West CEQA, EIR Augmentation  
Fresno County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for an amendment to an existing grant to the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) for a cooperative project with the City of Fresno to implement environmental review and facilitate public participation for a proposal to extend the Lewis S. Eaton Trail from its terminus in the City of Fresno's Woodward Park through the Conservancy's River West property located immediately west of State Highway 41 in Fresno County.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Parkway is defined in State Legislation as approximately 5,900 acres on both sides of a twenty-two mile long reach of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam in the east and State Route 99 to the west, in Fresno and Madera Counties. 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 Parkway.

The proposed project is within the 360± acre River West property (Property), located within the San Joaquin River Parkway, west of Highway 41 and Woodward Park, south of the San Joaquin River. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved the purchase of the Property at its August 2001 Board meeting. The Property was purchased for preservation, restoration and enhancement of habitat and to provide appropriate public recreational and educational opportunities.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project calls for an amendment to an existing grant to expand the scope of work in order to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed extension of the Lewis S. Eaton Trail from its terminus in the City of Fresno's Woodward Park through the SJRC Spano property pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The original project was authorized by the SJRC Board on May 10, 2007, and by the WCB on August 23, 2007. The SJRC entered into an agreement with the City of Fresno (City) to perform the project in February 2008. By late 2008, the City and its consultants had completed the resources assessment of the site, developed a conceptual plan, and held a well-attended public workshop. In December 2008, however, the project was suspended due to the State freeze on bond fund expenditures and awards.

The City and the SJRC began to reinstate the project in mid 2010. A series of agreement time extensions, a City Council reappropriation, and other administrative processes were necessary before City staff and consultants could re-assess the project, its scope of work and budget.

In June 2010, at the request of the SJRC, the WCB authorized an additional \$40,000.00 in funds for the project to provide for Planning Department Review, additional public meetings, and reassessment of the biological resources of the project site, since the previous assessment was considered out of date and potentially invalid. Once the new potential impacts were begun to be assessed, it became clear that an EIR would be the appropriate level of environmental review for the project.

The SJRC and City project management staff have discussed the project with City elected officials and developed revisions in the project proposal to address concerns raised by the public. The amended agreements with the City and the WCB will include a time extension to December 31, 2013, to complete the project.

#### WCB PROGRAM

The WCB's Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and Public Access Program provide the basis for WCB's ability to restore habitat and provide public access statewide. In addition, funds were allocated to the WCB within California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5), to be provided to the SJRC for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of land and water resources.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The EIR that results from this project will identify all management objectives and needs, and the City of Fresno has agreed to manage and maintain the site once it is constructed.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>
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Project costs will be an augmentation of \$200,000.00 for an existing project to expand the scope of work in order to complete an EIR pursuant to CEQA for extension of the Lewis S. Eaton Trail south through the SJRC's River West property. The augmentation will bring the total amended budget to \$400,000.00.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5), that allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of lands located within the boundaries of the SJRC.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project calls for an amendment to an existing grant to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed extension of the Lewis S. Eaton Trail from its terminus in the City of Fresno's Woodward Park through the SJRC Spano property pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project is included among the high priority projects recommended by the Interagency Project Development Committee, whose role is to evaluate projects to be considered by the SJRC Board. The project was accepted by the SJRC Board, which includes a representative with the DFG, on November 9, 2011.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5); 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. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b)(5); 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. DFG Land Management Plans, Central Coast Region, \$259,000.00  
Phase II, EIR Augmentation  
San Luis Obispo County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for an amendment to an existing grant to the California Wildlife Foundation to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the Land Management Plan for the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve located in San Luis Obispo County.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve (CPER) in 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 CPER is located in eastern San Luis Obispo County, approximately halfway between the Cities of San Luis Obispo to the west and Bakersfield to the east. The nearest community to the area is the small town of McKittrick, approximately 20 miles to the east.

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have partnered for many 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, the WCB, TNC and DFG collaborated to acquire 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, DFG and BLM. The Carrizo Plain Natural Area was designated as the Carrizo Plain National Monument (National Monument) in January, 2000. The three units of the CPER are now within the boundaries of the National Monument.

These three original CPER units are comprised of annual grassland, with some perennial grasses, 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 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 DFG such as pronghorn antelope and tule elk.



In 2002 and 2004, WCB acquired the Chimineas Unit on behalf of DFG, adding another 30,196 acres to the property and linking the National Monument to the Los Padres National Forest. The Chimineas Unit 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 is managed by the DFG as an ecological reserve to maintain and enhance the native species and communities for which it was acquired. The vegetation of the unit is very diverse, including annual grassland, oak woodland, juniper woodland, Upper Sonoran sub-shrub scrub, sage scrub and riparian vegetation 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 on-going, and it is expected that a number of sensitive plant species will also be encountered on the Chimineas Unit.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The DFG is the steward of properties throughout the State that are managed for wildlife and their habitats, while providing appropriate public use opportunities. Many of these areas are managed pursuant to existing Land Management Plans (LMP), but some areas either have never had LMPs developed for them, or are managed under plans that are out of date. As such, in 2002, the WCB was granted the authority to provide funding to prepare LMPs for those areas acquired in fee by the WCB. In 2006, under this program, the WCB granted funds to the California Wildlife Foundation to prepare a LMP for the CPER.

The existing agreement provided sufficient funding for an initial study and mitigated negative declaration for the management plan project. However, DFG identified potentially significant environmental effects and determined that an EIR would be the more appropriate CEQA document for the project. This proposal will provide the additional funding necessary to complete an EIR.

#### WCB PROGRAM

Under Proposition 40, the WCB received funding specifically to prepare management plans for properties acquired in fee by the WCB.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The WCB is the sole source for funding the Project. Project costs of \$259,000.00 will be for the preparation, circulation, and finalization of the EIR under the California Environmental Quality Act for the LMP for the CPER.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(5). The source provides funding to prepare management plans for properties acquired in fee by the WCB and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project calls for an amendment to an existing grant to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Land Management Plan for the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$259,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650; authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and 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. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$259,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650; authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Motion carried.**

- \*12. Santa Rosa Mountains, \$145,000.00  
Expansions 14 and 15  
Riverside County

This proposal was to consider the acquisition in fee of two separate properties totaling 30± acres by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) as an expansion to the DFG's Santa Rosa Wildlife Area. This expansion is part of a larger cooperative project with Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect Peninsular bighorn sheep (PBS) habitat and provide future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The properties are located south of the City of La Quinta and west of Interstate 10 along the eastern slopes of the Santa Rosa Mountains. The properties are irregularly-shaped, with terrain varying from higher mountainous areas to lower elevation alluvial fans and desert floor areas. Acquiring these properties is part of a larger conservation strategy by USFWS, DFG, and CVMC to link together public and private lands to create a landscape-scale reserve that will protect extensive sheep corridors and prevent habitat fragmentation. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) previously approved a number of grants for Expansions 1 through 10 within the Santa Rosa Mountains. If approved, these two acquisitions would increase the total number of acres protected within the area of the Santa Rosa and Santa Jacinto Mountains National Monument to over 116,000 acres.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The two expansions proposed for acquisition under this proposal are Expansion 14, a 20± acre vacant, undeveloped parcel, and Expansion 15, a 10± acre vacant, undeveloped parcel. The subject parcels would provide core habitat, linkages, and transport corridors which are important for the PBS. Placement of this area in public ownership would add a significant buffer from the developing residential lands to the east and north, including the proposed. The residential Travertine planned development area overlays the subject properties. The subject properties have multiple species values including habitat for the State and federally-listed as threatened desert tortoise, the State and federally-listed as endangered least Bell's vireo, and the State-listed as endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. There is also potential habitat for several bat species of special concern such as the western yellow bat, pallid bat, California leaf-nosed bat, spotted bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, and western mastiff bat. Protection of the property would also benefit a number of other animal species that inhabit the area including mountain lion, mule deer, golden eagle, and prairie falcon.

WCB PROGRAM

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The DFG has identified the subject property as being within a Significant Natural Area and has recommended the purchase of the property which DFG would incorporate into the Santa Rosa Wildlife Area and manage in conjunction with other existing wildlife areas and ecological reserves in the region. It is anticipated that the subject properties will offer both passive and consumptive recreational uses.

TERMS

The owners have agreed to sell their properties for the appraised fair market values of \$300,000.00 for Expansion 14 and \$150,000.00 for Expansion 15, both approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The USFWS will provide Recovery Land Acquisition Program grant funding, in an amount not to exceed \$315,000.00 to be applied toward the purchase price of the properties. The terms and conditions of the proposed grants provide that staff of the WCB will review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board, Expansion 14</b>	<b>\$ 90,000.00</b>
USFWS Section 6 Grant 2011 Peninsular Bighorn Sheep	<u>210,000.00</u>
Total	\$300,000.00

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board, Expansion 15</b>	<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>
USFWS Section 6 Grant 2012 Peninsular Bighorn Sheep	<u>105,000.00</u>
	150,000.00
Total	\$450,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	\$10,000.00
<b>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$145,000.00</b>

It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS review costs, bringing the total recommended allocation for this proposal to \$145,000.00.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(5), which provides matching funds for the acquisition, restoration, or protection of habitat or habitat corridors that promote the recovery of threatened, endangered, or fully protected species.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of a Recovery Land Acquisition Program grant from USFWS in the amount of \$315,000.00; allocate \$145,000.00 for the acquisition of the two fee interests and the internal project-related expenses from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(5); authorize staff to enter into 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. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of a Recovery Land**

**Acquisition Program grant from USFWS in the amount of \$315,000.00; allocate \$145,000.00 for the acquisition of the two fee interests and the internal project-related expenses from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(5); authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Motion carried.**

- \*13. Upper Mission Creek / Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area, Expansions 1—4 Riverside County \$20,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) to acquire in fee four separate properties totaling 235± acres. These acquisitions would allow for the protection of desert dune and blowsand habitats threatened by development occurring in the southern and western reaches of the Coachella Valley and which are essential for recovery of the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (CVFTL), a State endangered and federally threatened species. The properties will also help expand on efforts to protect habitat linkages, fluvial and Aeolian sand transport corridors, alluvial fan habitat, and desert mountain habitat areas.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The properties are located just west of the City of Desert Hot Springs, north of Highway 10 and approximately 5 miles north of the City of Palm Springs. The properties are located within the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area, a conservation area located within the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan area approved for the Coachella Valley portion of Riverside County.

The surrounding topography is mostly desert dunes, with blowsand habitat areas, found primarily within the Coachella Valley. Historically, these habitat areas have been eliminated or degraded by the direct and indirect effects of urban and residential growth that has occurred throughout the Coachella Valley. These effects include ongoing building and related infrastructure development, off-road vehicle use, and the introduction of non-native invasive species. The encroachment of these structures and non-native plant species within the Coachella Valley restrict what were once free-moving sand deposits, which prevents replenishment of the blowsand habitats. Placement of the subject properties into public resource stewardship will help expand on existing protective buffers from the surrounding residential and agriculture lands. With the support of other natural resource partners, the State and the federal governments have helped conserve approximately 48,000 acres within the Coachella Valley MSHCP.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of four separate properties (expansions). Specifically, Expansion 1 is 66± acres in size, Expansion 2 is 7± acres in size, Expansion 3 is 74± acres in size, and Expansion 4 is 88± acres in size, for a total acreage of 235± acres. All four expansions consist of vacant desert land zoned for

residential development. The acquisitions will protect the properties from residential subdivision in perpetuity, providing core habitat, linkages, and fluvial and aeolian sand transport corridors which are important for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (CVFTL). The land also provides habitat for several other rare and important endemic species, including the federally endangered Coachella Valley milk-vetch, the Palm Springs pocket mouse - a California species of special concern, the Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel, flat-tailed horned lizard, Barrow's dune beetle, Coachella giant sand-treader cricket, Coachella Valley grasshopper, and the Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket.

### WCB PROGRAM

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

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

If acquired, the properties would be managed by the CVCC in conjunction with other properties managed by the CVCC, located within the Coachella Valley MSCHP. Management and use of the properties may include passive recreational uses, if those uses are appropriate and compatible with resource values and protection.

### TERMS

CVCC proposes to purchase the properties from the owners based on four separate fair market appraised values (FMV), shown below, with a total value of \$2,185,000.00, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The proposed Agreement to Subgrant the federal funds provided by the USFWS Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant would provide the entire purchase price. The non-federal funds requirement will be provided by the



CVCC through the encumbrance of in-kind match properties. The CVCC will cover all escrow-related expenses including title insurance and escrow fees. The terms and conditions of the proposed subgrants to the CVCC provide that staff of the WCB will review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

**PROJECT FUNDING**

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Exp. 1, USFWS Section 6 subgrant & FMV	\$620,000.00
Exp. 2, USFWS Section 6 subgrant & FMV	60,000.00
Exp. 3, USFWS Section 6 subgrant & FMV	770,000.00
<u>Exp. 4, USFWS Section 6 subgrant &amp; FMV</u>	<u>735,000.00</u>
Total, USFWS Section 6 subgrants & FMV	\$2,185,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	\$20,000.00
<b>TOTAL WCB Allocation</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>

It is estimated that an additional \$20,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS appraisal review costs.

**FUNDING SOURCE**

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

The acquisition has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to

preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of a Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of \$2,185,000.00 and approve the Agreement to Subgrant of these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission; allocate \$20,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(c) for internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into 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. Finn that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; approve the acceptance of a Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of \$2,185,000.00 and approve the Agreement to Subgrant of these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission; allocate \$20,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(c) for internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Motion carried.**

14. Ash Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Restoration \$1,154,000.00  
Modoc and Lassen Counties

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the Pit River Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the California Department of Conservation, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the California Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore 1,500± acres of wetland and riparian habitats, protect 1,085 intact wetland and riparian habitats from increased headcutting, and integrate the existing water delivery system to continue to satisfy the rights of downstream water rights holders and provide management of seasonal wetlands on DFG's Ash Creek Wildlife Area (ACWA), located in Lassen and Modoc Counties. Ms. Terry Roscoe of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

In 1985 the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) initially acquired 11,525± acres northeast of Bieber and west of Adin to protect a variety of habitats, including riparian forest, wet meadows, sage steppe, and native upland grasslands. Since then, the ACWA, owned and managed by the DFG, has grown to nearly 15,000 acres. In 1988, 2005 and 2006, the WCB funded projects to enhance wetlands located within the ACWA and to allow the DFG to better manage the property.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For well over a century the area was manipulated to drain wet meadows in an effort to improve grazing conditions by straightening gullies, installing culverts, and digging channels to drain the area. These efforts have resulted in incised channels and a dry landscape with reduced habitat values. Data collected in the mid-90s shows the extension of headcutting extending nearly 5000 ft. Currently, the floodplain, which historically flooded every year, is wet only during extreme flood events.

The project is designed to repair current damage and avoid further long-term habitat degradation by stabilizing eroding gullies. The project will enhance habitat for migratory birds and wildlife through construction of water retention ponds and improve instream habitat for native Pit River fishes by enhancing groundwater recharge. The designed channel location follows existing remnant channels, will match historic stable conditions, and will function as it did prior to channel alteration. This technique is often referred to as "pond and plug" methodology, and has been implemented in numerous projects in California. Some of these projects have been monitored over fifteen years and results have shown that these systems are stable over a range of flood regimes.

Other existing ACWA structures also need attention, the most critical of which is the levee and road system along Elkins Lane. This system currently functions to impound water for seasonal wetland development, and raises the water elevation so that it can be transported to canal and stream channel on the north side of the floodplain. These existing diversions deliver water to nearby private agricultural lands and to ACWA seasonal wetlands that are managed for wildlife nesting, foraging, and roosting. The levee system and elevated Elkins Lane constricts and redirects the natural flow of Ash Creek, and the bridges and culverts associated with these structures have caused degradation of the meadow system and alter the natural form and function of Ash Creek and its floodplain. These structures will be removed to allow the meadow to function naturally. Pipelines will be installed to continue to provide irrigation water to managed wetlands on the ACWA and to nearby landowners, as required by existing water rights.

Due to increased floodplain width, flood flow levels after project completion are expected to closely mimic historic conditions and will not significantly effect flood water surface elevations. Restoring the groundwater storage capacity of the meadow and eliminating the draining affect of the deeply incised gullies is expected to improve instream conditions for native fish species.

The project will primarily provide habitat for aquatic, riparian, and meadow associated species including redband trout, greater sandhill crane, Forster's tern, black tern, white-faced ibis, migratory waterfowl (e.g. green-winged teal and white fronted geese) and nesting waterfowl (cinnamon teal, mallard, northern pintail, ruddy duck, gadwall, northern shoveler), migratory shorebirds (dowitchers, western and least sandpipers, black-bellied plovers, greater yellow-legs) and nesting shorebirds (Wilson's phalarope, killdeer, willet, American avocet, black-necked stilt, long-billed curlew). Additionally, the riparian-deciduous shrub community along Ash Creek in the upper portions of the project area is expected to increase in stature and diversity, and provide habitat for numerous song birds. Expected species to colonize include warbling vireo, Lincoln's sparrow, Wilson's warbler, yellow warbler, black-headed grosbeak, and northern oriole. Other riparian species currently present but in low numbers (lesser goldfinch, song sparrow, common yellow-throat, house wren) will also likely benefit. The ACWA also supports up to 50 pair of breeding greater sandhill cranes, a State-listed threatened species.

#### WCB PROGRAM

This project is funded through the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program and the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the programs' goals of increasing riparian and wetland habitats, and improving floodplain connectivity by implementing proven habitat restoration techniques.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The ACWA is managed by the DFG to provide wildlife habitats as shown above, and to provide public use including hunting during waterfowl season, and recreational hiking and bird watching during other times of the year. The proposed project will allow the DFG to continue to manage the improved and more stable habitats with no increase in workload.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$1,154,000.00</b>
Pit River RCD	83,800.00
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	1,048,600.00
Department of Water Resources	1,039,000.00
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	200,000.00
Department of Conservation	4,000.00
NFWF	<u>103,715.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,633,115.00</b>

Project costs will be for the installation of irrigation pipelines; installation of water control structures; earthmoving; revegetation; acquisition and installation of rock erosion control; the seeding of all disturbed areas; and project design, construction supervision, project monitoring, and administration.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding sources for this project are the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), and Section 2786(e/f)(Proposition 1E). These sources provide funding for the restoration or enhancement of wetland and riparian habitats statewide, as well as aquatic habitats for trout resources, and are consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The DFG, 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 prepared proposed written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,000,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section

2786(d) (Proposition 1E) and \$154,000.00 Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117) Section 2786(e/f)(Proposition 1E); authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game 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. Roscoe introduced Mr. Steve Burton, Mr. Eric Haney, Mr. James Chakarun, and Ms. Karen Kovacs, all from the Department of Fish and Game, Region 1, who were in the audience and available to answer questions.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any questions or comments about this item.

Ms. Karen Kovacs, Wildlife Program Manager with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Region 1, introduced herself before the Board and spoke in support of this project. Ms. Kovacs stated that this project has been four years in the making from its inception to where we are today, and it is a very exciting project from the stand point of land management. Ms. Kovacs went on to explain that there is a great cooperation of partnerships in this project, including both Modoc and Lassen Counties as well as surrounding communities. Ms. Kovacs said that the purpose of this project is to restore the floodplain and explained that land use practices in the past have been really effective in draining the property, and, as a result, those channels have managed to erode farther and farther dropping the ground water table and interfering with natural processes. Ms. Kovacs recognized the following staff from DFG Region 1 for their hard work on this project: Mr. Steve Burton, who supervises the northern Region's land program; and Mr. Jim Chakarun, Wildlife Habitat Supervisor II. Ms. Kovacs also thanked the staff of the WCB for their assistance in getting this project to this point, and asked the Board to approve the project.

Mr. Hunting and Mr. Donnelly thanked Ms. Kovacs for her comments.

Mr. Donnelly pointed out that in the Staff Recommendation section of the agenda for this project it indicates to "allocate \$1,054,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), (e/f)(Proposition 1E)", and clarified that the amount of allocation for the grant is \$1,154,000.00 of which \$1,000,000.00 will be coming from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(Proposition 1E), and \$154,000.00 will be coming from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f)(Proposition 1E).

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any additional questions or comments about this item. There were none.

**It was moved by Mr. Hunting that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,000,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(Proposition 1E) and \$154,000.00 Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117) Section 2786(e/f)(Proposition 1E); authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game 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 introduced and welcomed Ms. Diane Colborn, Assembly Member Huffman's representative, who joined the meeting at this moment.

15. Miller Forest \$1,228,750.00  
Humboldt County

Mr. Donnelly reported that several letters of support for this project were received from the following people: Ms. Virginia Bass, Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors; Mr. Tyrone Kelley, Forest Supervisor, USDA Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest; Mr. George Yandell, North Coast Project Director of The Nature Conservancy; and Ms. Jennifer Kalt, Conservation Chair, North Coast Chapter, California Native Plant Society.

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust (NRLT) to acquire a conservation easement over 1,622± acres of land for the protection of the property's diverse native forests and riparian habitat areas for the conservation and protection of managed forest lands and forest reserve areas that include one of the most southern viable populations of Port Orford cedar and to protect wildlife habitat corridor linkages that benefit numerous wildlife species. Ms. Liz Yokoyama of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Miller Forest property (Property) is located within the Willow Creek watershed, a salmonid stream and tributary to the Trinity River, just north of State Route 299, approximately 30 miles east of the City of Arcata and roughly five miles west of the community of Willow Creek. The Property is comprised of ten parcels in two contiguous holdings and is accessible from an existing road directly off of Highway 299. The general area is rural in nature and includes land parcels ranging from a few acres to several hundred acres. The Property includes portions of Willow Creek and four of its tributaries (Three Creeks, Summit Creek, Low Gap Creek, and Panther Creek). Willow Creek flows eastward into the Trinity River, one of the largest and most important tributaries of the Klamath River. The Property also abuts the East Fork campground, a popular public summer campground managed by the US Forest Service, and lies adjacent to the Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF). Other surrounding uses include privately managed forest lands.

The Property is part of the larger Six Rivers to the Sea Initiative, which works to protect working ranches and forest lands located between the SRNF and the Pacific Ocean. The property acts as an important inholding and habitat linkage connecting to small, disconnected holdings of the SRNF, providing greater continuity of habitat protection across multiple ownerships within the SRNF and the Willow Creek watershed.



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is situated on gentle to steep sloping hillsides, heavily forested with coniferous timber cover, which includes Port Orford cedar and Douglas fir. The Port Orford cedar is considered one of the world's most valuable timber species, which has special cultural significance for Native American tribes along the Pacific north coast. The property supports large, healthy stands of Port Orford cedar that have not been exposed to *Phytophthora lateralis*, a soil-borne plant pathogen that causes cedar root disease. The Port Orford cedar is listed as "Vulnerable" on the World Conservation Union's Red List of Threatened Species. The landowners would implement protective measures under the terms and conditions of this project to provide further assurances that the risk of exposure will be minimized. Furthermore, the Property acts as a buffer for the nearby US Forest Service Port Orford cedar management areas, thereby ensuring a contiguous linkage that supports unbroken Port Orford cedar stands and greater hydrologic integrity for Willow Creek and its tributaries.

The subject property lies in a Timber Protection Zone that allows a variety of legally permissible uses, including rural residential development and continued timber production. Subdivision and development of the Property would have not only a detrimental effect on the watershed processes and ecological benefits of the property, but would also adversely affect the conservation values of neighboring properties located downstream near the confluence of Willow Creek and the Trinity River. The Miller Forest conservation easement would restrict future landowners from over-harvesting or subdividing the land, thus protecting and sustaining the forest and its associated environment in perpetuity.

The conservation easement includes management provisions for a working forest, while setting aside multiple strategic forest reserve areas located along riparian zones that will benefit wildlife that is dependent on multi-aged, multi-species forests. Several perennial streams, springs, and creeks run through the property, which include Summit Creek (a tributary to Three Creeks) and other tributaries to Willow Creek that contain sensitive aquatic species, such as Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and steelhead, which are all State or federally-listed as threatened or endangered. Other wildlife species supported by the Property include mountain lion, black bear, bald eagle and several California-listed species of special concern, such as the northern spotted owl and the red tree vole.

### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant for this project is being considered under the WCB's Forest Conservation Program (Program). Grant proposals are evaluated and selected for funding by WCB staff based on established criteria approved by the Board on November 17, 2007, in most cases utilizing a peer review process involving biological and forestry expertise, while also including the DFG. The Program

seeks to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through conserving, preserving, and restoring 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. One of the primary objectives of the Program is the protection and conservation of working forests and productive managed forest lands. Selected projects promote the restoration and/or maintenance of the ecological integrity and economic stability of the property in the context of the surrounding landscape and regional economy.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Under the terms of the conservation easement, the landowners will be allowed to continue uneven aged selective harvesting in accordance with a Forest Management Plan, and all applicable State and federal forestry laws, practices, guidelines, and regulations. The selective harvesting of trees would be consistent with sustainable and restorative forest management practices, including forest thinning that will benefit both forested and riparian areas within the conservation easement.

The NRLT will hold, manage, and be responsible for the monitoring of the easement in perpetuity per the WCB grant terms. If this project is approved, a baseline report will be completed by the Grantee and approved by the WCB. The conservation easement deed permits access to the subject property by both NRLT and WCB staff for monitoring purposes.

#### TERMS

The property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$1,625,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The property owners have agreed to sell the property for \$1,218,750.00, which is less than its appraised market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to NRLT provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the grant or require the grantee to transfer the conservation easement to WCB or another qualified holder.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$1,218,750.00</b>
TOTAL	\$1,218,750.00
Other Project-Related Costs	\$10,000.00
<b>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$1,228,750.00</b>

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

FUNDING SOURCE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,228,750.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Yokoyama introduced Supervisor Mark Lovelace from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors; Mr. Ryan Wells from the Northcoast Regional Land Trust; and Steve and Yvonne Miller, the property owners, who were in the audience and available to answer questions.

Ms. Finn asked to clarify that we are purchasing a conservation easement as it says in the agenda that “the property owner agreed to sell the property.” Ms. Yokoyama confirmed that we are providing a grant to the NCRLT to purchase a conservation easement.

Supervisor Mark Lovelace from Humboldt County Board of Supervisors spoke in support of this project. Supervisor Lovelace stated that he is here today on behalf of Humboldt County Board of Supervisors which took up this issue of the Miller Forest conservation easement on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 and voted to support it. Supervisor Lovelace went on to explain that this project is very important because of its proximity to areas which have seen significant subdivision and development in recent years. Supervisor Lovelace added that conserving this property is critical to the continued uses of natural resources in Humboldt County. Supervisor Lovelace also thanked the Board for the approval of agenda item #6 (Arcata Community Forest Expansion (Schmidbauer), Humboldt County)).

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any additional questions or comments about this item. There were none.

**It was moved by Mr. Hunting that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,228,750.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Motion carried.**

16. Noyo River Redwood Conservation Property \$4,010,000.00  
Mendocino County

Mr. Donnelly reported that several letters of support for this project were received from the following people: Senator Noreen Evans, CA State Senate, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro, CA State Assembly, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Assembly Member Jared Huffman, CA State Assembly, 6<sup>th</sup> District; Supervisor Kendall Smith, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, 4<sup>th</sup> District; and Mr. Robert J. Pinoli, owner of Skunk Trail.

This proposal was to consider the allocation of a grant to the Mendocino Land Trust for a cooperative project with Save-the-Redwoods League to acquire in fee 428± acres of mixed conifer working forest lands (Property). The project will protect significant stands of redwood and Douglas fir forests as well the riparian corridor of the upper Noyo River and its tributaries which contain spawning areas for both salmonid and steelhead fish species. The project would also provide some potential public access via the Mendocino Railway (Skunk Train) which owns and operates about 6 miles of tracks running through the subject property. Mr. Bill Gallup of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the property and its location.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Property is located about 4 miles westerly of the City of Willits (City) and northerly of State Highway 20 in Mendocino County. The Property is within the upper portions of the Noyo river watershed that drains directly into the Pacific Ocean. The 50,000 acre Jackson Demonstration Forest lies to the southwest encompassing a large portion of the south fork of the Noyo River. The Property has historically been a working forest similar to most of the surrounding properties. Some subdivision of the larger working forests into smaller tracts with residential and agricultural development have taken place in areas to the west near Fort Bragg and to the east near Willits.

Primary access to the Property is via the Mendocino Railway or “Skunk Train” that meanders through about 6 miles of the Property in a generally east/west direction. The operators of the Skunk Train maintain an easement that runs through the Property. The Skunk Train rail line was originally constructed to help log the Property and other nearby working forestlands along and near the rail line. As logging demand diminished, the rail was used more and more to transport visitors on site seeing tours through the forested areas by rail, running between the Cities of Fort Bragg on the coast and Willits, located approximately 25 miles inland. The operations of the Skunk Train are expected to continue after this acquisition and possibly expand as additional public use opportunities are made available to the passengers on the train through the management of the Property by the Mendocino Land Trust. A potential public use could be the

establishment of areas where passengers could disembark the train in order to access, hike, and visit sites on the Property.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is irregularly shaped and consists of six assessor parcels totaling 428± acres. The Property has high quality coastal redwood, Douglas fir, aquatic and riparian habitat along the Noyo River, with about 120 acres of old growth redwood trees and extensive stands of late seral redwood and Douglas fir forest areas. Other habitat elements include hardwood tree forests and forest meadows. The Property and streams are threatened by degradation from intensive logging, or possible conversion to other non-forest management uses. There are approximately 25 State or federally-listed species identified on or adjacent to this Property, such as the red tree vole, a California species of special concern (CSSC), sharp-shinned hawk (CSSC), purple martin (CSSC), Foothill yellow-legged frog (CSSC), northern spotted owl - a federally-listed threatened species, Pacific fisher (CSSC), Cooper's hawk (CSSC), northern steelhead - a federally-listed endangered species, and Coho Salmon - a State and federally-listed endangered species. The Property also supports a number of rare and important native plant species, such as Baker's meadowfoam, few-flowered navarretia, coast fawn lily, coast lily, and the Oregon goldthread.

### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant for this project is being considered under the WCB's Forest Conservation Program (Program). Grant proposals are evaluated and selected for funding by WCB staff based on established criteria approved by the Board on November 17, 2007, in most cases utilizing a peer review process involving biological and forestry expertise and including the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The Program seeks to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through conserving, preserving, and restoring 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. One of the primary objectives of the Program is the protection and conservation of working forests and productive managed forest lands. Selected projects promote the restoration and/or maintenance of the ecological integrity and economic stability of the property in the context of the surrounding landscape and regional economy.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned and managed by the Mendocino Land Trust for multiple resources uses and values, including harvesting timber on a sustainable basis, maintaining and enhancing the integrity of the watershed, wildlife, fisheries, and plant resources, while also providing some limited recreation and

educational opportunities for the public. The sustained timber harvesting will provide revenues to assist in the management of the Property.

TERMS

The Property owners, Save-the-Redwoods League, have agreed to sell the Property at the bargain price of \$4,000,000.00. The Department of General Services (DGS) has reviewed the appraisal as well as the review provided by an independent reviewer and registered professional forester (RPF) of the timber valuation. The total value of the land and timber was approved at \$7,000,000.00 by the DGS. Under terms of the grant, WCB staff is responsible for review of all acquisition-related documents prior to disbursement of grant funds. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$4,000,000.00</b>
Other Project-Related Costs	\$ 10,000.00
<b>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$4,010,000.00</b>

It is estimated that an additional \$10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review and independent timber review. The Mendocino Land Trust and Save-the-Redwoods League will fund the environmental assessment, appraisal, and escrow and title insurance costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate a total of \$4,010,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Gallup introduced Ms. Catherine Elliot (Land Program Manager), Mr. Ruskin Hartley (Executive Director), Mr. Harry Pollack (General Counsel and Chief Program Officer), all from Save-the-Redwoods League; Mr. Will Bowen (President Board of Trustees), and Mr. Michael Miller (Big River Program Manager), both from Mendocino Land Trust, who were in the audience and available to answer questions.

Mr. Hartley from Save-the-Redwoods League thanked the Board for considering this project. Mr. Hartley said he is always pleased to come to the Board meetings to see a variety of projects the Board is engaged in. Mr. Hartley stated that this project is an example where a local community group, such as Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County and the local businesses, came together to help bring this project to where it is today. Mr. Hartley added that this project is about protecting those old-growth redwood trees, and having people go to enjoy them.

Mr. Hunting thanked the Save-the-Redwoods League, Mendocino Land Trust, and other local land trusts for their role in this kind of conservation partnerships that are happening all over the State.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any other comments or questions about this item. There were none.

**It was moved by Mr. Hunting that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate a total of \$4,010,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section**



**75055(a) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Motion carried.**

17. Salmon Falls Reserve, \$2,370,000.00  
Expansion 2  
El Dorado County

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the American River Conservancy (ARC) for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency to acquire in fee 605± acres of oak woodland, chaparral, riparian and grassland habitat to prevent habitat fragmentation and protect habitat of State and federally threatened and endangered species. The subject property (Property) will also provide opportunities for expansion of public outdoor uses by connecting with hiking trails and other public recreational uses available in the area and on adjoining properties. Ms. Liz Yokoyama of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Salmon Falls Property is located east of Interstate 80 and lies directly north of and adjacent to the City of Folsom, along the north shore of Folsom Lake near the confluence with the south fork of the American River. The Property is accessible from Salmon Falls Road and offers views of Folsom Lake from its hilltop locations. The Property borders other protected lands including areas managed by ARC, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. These protected lands provide public recreational uses and include public access developed areas that support fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and boating activities. The Salmon Falls American River Trail, one of the more popular multi-use trails in the region, lies adjacent to the Property along its southeastern border.

On November 1, 1990, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB/Board) approved the acquisition of a 40± acre parcel for the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) located on the east side of Folsom Lake about five miles south of Pilot Hill. The acquisition represented DFG's first step in acquiring properties for the Salmon Falls Ecological Reserve. A subsequent 40± acre parcel was approved by the Board on February 13, 1990 (Expansion #1) to expand the Reserve. Since that time, numerous acquisitions by various federal, State, and non-profit conservation groups, including the ARC, have been made in the Salmon Falls area in an effort to protect the area's rich ecological values which include rare plants, riparian species, and scenic values. The ultimate goal is to create a network of protected lands in the Salmon Falls area that could encompass as much as 5,000 acres. Located south of the Property and part of this 5,000 acres area is the DFG Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, comprised of four separate sites totaling approximately 400 acres, which was acquired and funded in large part by the WCB.

Other surrounding properties include both improved and unimproved parcels that range from five acres to larger parcels over 100 acres and are used either for agriculture or residential use. Large residential estate homes are interspersed and scattered throughout this area, which is considered desirable due to its close proximity and scenic views of the American River and Folsom Lake. To the south and west of the Property are major residential and urban developed centers, including the communities of Folsom and El Dorado Hills.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is currently used for livestock grazing and is comprised of five parcels totaling 605± acres, zoned as AE – Agriculture Exclusive. One of these parcels totaling 320 acres is subject to a Land Conservation contract under the Williamson Act. The Property is comprised of gently sloping to moderately steep terrain with vegetation consisting of scattered brush, oak trees, mixed chaparral, and grasslands that are currently used for grazing. The site contains exceptional panoramic views of the town of Folsom and Folsom Lake, which are visible from several vantage points on the Property.

The Property will be acquired by the ARC for purposes of protecting the Property from habitat fragmentation that has occurred to the south and to maintain habitat linkages and corridors with adjoining and nearby protected properties. The Property will also protect habitat for a number of large mammals, such as deer, mountain lion, and bobcat, as well as 17 animal and plant species designated as State or federal species of concern, threatened, or endangered, such as the sharp-shinned hawk, a California species of special concern (CSSC), Cooper's hawk (CSSC), foothill yellow-legged frog (CSSC), northwestern pond turtle (CSSC), California horned lizard (CSSC), bank swallow (a State-listed threatened species), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (federally-listed endangered species), Laynes ragwort (State and federally-listed threatened species), El Dorado bedstraw (federally-listed endangered species), and Pine Hill Ceanothus (federally-listed endangered species), and provides potential habitat expansion for the tricolored blackbird (CSSC).

#### WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the DFG, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property, or rights in real property, and accept federal grants to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program the WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of land and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation

opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the DFG, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE) Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The maintenance, conservation, security, and caretaker services on the Property will be managed by the ARC, a nonprofit California public benefit corporation, which has been in existence for over 20 years. The ARC manages a number of properties in the area for habitat preservation and public use by relying on a combination of employees, volunteers, partners, and members to support this effort. The ARC has built more than 27 miles of public recreational trails in the area, including the new South Fork American River Trail located between Salmon Falls Road and Highway 49. This acquisition will provide an opportunity for ARC to expand its recreational trail system onto the Property.

#### TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,722,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and took into consideration the existing Land Conservation contract. The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for less than the approved appraised fair market value for \$2,646,800.00. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to the ARC provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$2,365,000.00</b>
California Natural Resources Agency	251,800.00
American River Conservancy	<u>30,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,646,800.00</b>
Other Project-Related Costs	\$5,000.00

**TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION**

**\$2,370,000.00**

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

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(1), which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat to protect rare and endangered species, wildlife corridors and significant natural landscapes, ecosystems and other significant habitat areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,370,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(1), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Yokoyama introduced Mr. Alan Ehrgott, Executive Director of the American River Conservancy, who was in the audience and available to answer questions.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any questions or comments about this item. There were none.

**It was moved by Mr. Hunting that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,370,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(1), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.**

**Motion carried.**

18. Dos Rios Ranch \$5,509,000.00  
Stanislaus County

Mr. Donnelly reported that we received 38 letters of support for this project and highlighted the following supporters: Congressman Jeff Denham; Congressman Dennis Carodza; Senator Diane Feinstein; Senator Barbara Boxer; Assembly Member Greg Aghazarian; Assembly Member Cathleen Galgiani; Assembly Member Tom Berryhill; Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors; Supervisor Jeff Grover, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors; Mayor Jim Ridenour, City of Modesto; Mayor Anthony Canella, City of Ceres; Mayor John Lazar, City of Turlock; Mayor William Broderick-Villa, City of Waterford; and Mayor Becky Campo, City of Patterson.

This proposal was to consider the allocation for a grant to the River Partners for a cooperative project with the California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources, U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Public Utility Commission, US Bureau of Reclamation, and Tuolumne River Preservation Trust to help acquire in fee 1,603± acres of valley floodplain and riverine habitat for protection of special status species habitat including Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and riparian brush rabbits, and to provide future wildlife oriented public use and recreational opportunities. Mr. Jon Wilcox of the Wildlife Conservation Board briefly described the project and its location.

#### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located 20 minutes west of Modesto, south of Paradise Road and west of Shiloh Road. The ranch lies between the Tuolumne River Regional Park, located upstream to the east, and the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge to the west, along a stretch of river proposed for the Lower Tuolumne River Parkway. This acquisition will build on approximately 10,000 acres of existing habitat, parks, and recreation projects along both the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers.

Upstream of the Property is a large stretch of the San Joaquin River that is targeted for major restoration under a collaboration of federal, State, and conservation groups. The goal of this effort is to provide a comprehensive long-term effort to restore flows to the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence with the Merced River and restore a self-sustaining Chinook salmon fishery in the river while also reducing or avoiding adverse water supply impacts from restoration flows. Protection of the Property will compliment this restoration effort and help ensure resources and riverine habitat located downstream remain as viable and functioning habitat areas, and enhance efforts to reestablish Chinook salmon runs upstream from the Property.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Dos Rios project will provide protection for a diverse mix of habitat communities, including riparian corridors, wetlands, migratory and resident bird habitat, and riverine habitat that supports a naturally reproducing population of Chinook salmon and steelhead. The diverse habitat types and special habitat elements found across Dos Rios ranch provide potential breeding and migratory habitat for many federally and State threatened and endangered listed species including the least Bell's vireo (State and federal-listed endangered species), the San Joaquin kit fox (federal endangered and State threatened species), riparian woodrat (federal endangered species) and the riparian brush rabbit (federal and State endangered species).

The project will help expand public recreation and educational opportunities in the San Joaquin River valley region by providing a protected site with potential public access to both the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers suitable for fishing, boating, bird watching, and hiking. The Property will also expand on existing wetland habitats becoming an integral part of the Pacific Flyway, supporting waterfowl and waterfowl hunting opportunities.

This project would also enhance the Central Valley Flood Control System by protecting a large flood corridor from non-compatible development, allowing both the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers room to flood in a non-damaging way. Flooding of the Property is compatible with the habitat and resource goals of this project. In terms of the entire floodplain, the project expands on approximately 1,500 acres of existing floodplain easements located directly upstream, and 6,700 acres of protected floodplain areas held by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge.

### WCB PROGRAM

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

submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

When acquired, this Property will be managed by the River Partners, with agricultural activities continued on an interim basis until long-term habitat and recreational activities can be fully planned and developed. River Partners will be responsible for monitoring and managing the Property according to the terms of the grant agreement. The revenues from the farming activities will be used to offset the cost of Property management and monitoring.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$21,800,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	<b>\$5,491,736.00</b>
Tuolumne River Preservation Trust	806,736.00
(Via grant from USBR/USFWS Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program)	
River Partners	50,000.00
San Francisco Public Utility Commission	2,000,000.00
NRCS	6,904,740.00
California Natural Resources Agency	2,619,400.00
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1,000,000.00
<u>Department of Water Resources</u>	<u>2,927,388.00</u>
TOTAL	\$21,800,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	\$17,264.00
<b>TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$5,509,000.00</b>



It is estimated that an additional \$17,264.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

#### FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source, Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 1E), that allows for the acquisition and protection of wetland and riparian habitat as well as habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

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

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$5,509,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 1E) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Wilcox introduced Mr. John Carlon, Executive Director of the River Partners; Mr. Patrick Koepele, Deputy Director of the Tuolumne River Trust, and Mr. Bill Lyons, the landowner, who were in the audience and available to answer questions.

Mr. Koepele from Tuolumne River Trust spoke in support of this project. Mr. Koepele said that this project is a model of public and private partnership that is accomplishing multiple objectives, including species recovery and habitat restoration, flood management and public access and recreation. Mr. Koepele added that the Tuolumne River Trust has participated in a coalition of local agencies and organizations that are advancing a vision for the lower Tuolumne River Parkway. The Tuolumne River Parkway consists of mosaic of recreation and habitat projects, and is a multi-object vision that is intended to improve recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, flood damage reduction and water quality. Mr. Koepele added that Dos Rios Ranch is a crown jewel of the lower Tuolumne River Parkway. Mr. Koepele stated that this project proactively addresses critical

habitat needs for these mammals, fish, and birds in the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Koepele thanked the Board for considering this project.

Ms. Karen Retford, teacher from Empire Elementary School, spoke in support of this project. Ms. Retford said that students in rural and semi-rural schools are from families of working poor and they do not get out into their surroundings, and Tuolumne River Trust's program that educates fourth-graders about their backyard, has given an opportunity to take students out to the river and get to know where their water comes from. Ms. Retford went on to explain that through this program and with the help of the Department of Fish and Game, her fourth-graders raised chinook fry, and this has given the students the opportunity to see an endangered species and to learn about what role they played in ties to the school's social studies curriculum. Ms. Retford added that they also do the environmental education initiative program that integrates social studies, science, and place-based education, and this project will provide an outdoor classroom, where students can get safely near the river and do hydrology studies using globe protocols; it will also give students an opportunity to do riparian habitat restoration.

Mr. Hunting thanked Ms. Retford for her comments and asked if there were any more comments or questions about this item.

Mr. Donnelly thanked Ms. Retford for her comments and added that this is very important for the kids, who are our future conservation generation, to get out and see what the natural world is all about. Mr. Donnelly reported that at the next Board meeting we will be doing a presentation on what we did with Santa Margarita School District under WCB's Oak Woodlands Conservation Program, and the educational component of how that project has exceeded our expectations.

Mr. Donnelly said that he first went on side tour of Dos Rios Ranch in 2007, and since then we have been through many ups and downs, such as bond freeze, appraisal issues, conservation easement negotiations issues, and thanked the Lyons family for their patience.

Mr. Hunting asked if there were any additional comments or questions about this item. There were none.

**It was moved by Mr. Hunting that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$5,509,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 1E) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary**



PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on February 23, 2012, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$2,390,827,517.65. 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. The tax credits are not reflected in the total amount allocated to projects.

A. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects .....	\$18,264,719.06
B. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement .....	45,183,887.73
Reservoir Construction or Improvement .....	5,605,699.00
Stream Clearance and Improvement.....	31,683,077.09
Stream Flow Maintenance Dams.....	542,719.86
Marine Habitat .....	3,191,619.07
Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects .....	4,160,772.71
C. Fishing Access Projects.....	54,435,164.96
Coastal and Bay .....	4,861,013.11
River and Aqueduct Access .....	18,423,175.38
Lake and Reservoir Access .....	10,398,123.43
Piers .....	20,752,853.04
D. Game Farm Projects.....	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Development and Improvement.....	2,199,007,675.58

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Wildlife Areas (General) .....	419,203,409.74
Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development .....	32,472,243.45
Wildlife Areas/Ecological Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat) .....	766,597,062.39
Land Conservation Area .....	12,992,940.18
Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements ....	25,957,977.87
Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements ....	81,240,934.78
Other Wildlife Habitat Grants .....	860,543,107.17
F. Hunting Access Projects .....	1,366,898.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases) .....	30,609,485.92
H. Special Project Allocations.....	2,011,372.89
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects .....	39,272,963.38
State Owned .....	2,286,884.42
Grants .....	36,986,078.96
J. Sales and/or exchanges .....	528,455.07
K. Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act (tax credits awarded)...	(48,598,734.00)
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 .....	(28,588,435.93)
 Total Allocated to Projects	 \$2,390,827,517.65