

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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NOTICE OF MEETING

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

November 21, 2013
10:00 AM
1/ State Capitol, Room 112
Sacramento, California 95814

FINAL AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM NO.	PAGE NO.
1. Roll Call	1
2. Funding Status — Informational	2
3. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4—5, 7—13)	6
*4. Approval of Minutes — September 4, 2013	6
*5. Recovery of Funds	6

* Proposed Consent Calendar

1/ These facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities; more information on page vii

ITEM NO.		PAGE NO.
*6.	Strawberry Creek Riparian Restoration Humboldt County	\$0.00 11

This proposal was withdrawn from consideration at this time.

*7.	Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve, Access Easement Exchange Sacramento County	\$2,500.00 12
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To consider the exchange of an administrative access easement with The Nature Conservancy property at the Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve in southern Sacramento County. 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)]

*8.	Santa Cruz Sandhills, Zayante (Dowd and Dumas) Santa Cruz County	\$772,600.00 15
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To consider the allocation for a grant to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (LTSCC) and acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to LTSCC for a cooperative project with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation to acquire in fee 14± acres of land and a separate 37± acre conservation easement for the protection of habitat essential to the recovery of several State and federally endangered species, located in the City of Ben Lomond in Santa Cruz County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source which provides matching funds for the acquisition and protection of habitat that promotes the recovery of threatened, endangered or fully protected species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]

*9.	Amargosa - Tecopa Hot Springs Inyo County	\$56,750.00 19
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To consider the acquisition by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant to acquire 80± acres of land for the protection of wetland and upland habitat areas and linkages supporting the State and federally-listed endangered Amargosa vole and the Amargosa niterwort, located just north of the community of Tecopa Hot Springs, in Inyo County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat to protect rare and endangered species, wildlife corridors and significant natural landscapes and ecosystems. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]

ITEM NO.		PAGE NO.
*10.	Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion 28 Tulare County	\$9,000.00 23

To consider the acquisition of 7± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the protection and expansion of habitat supporting the San Joaquin kit fox and other rare species found within the Allensworth Ecological Reserve, to enhance habitat linkages and connectivity, as well as provide for future wildlife oriented public use opportunities, located near the City of Earlimart, west of State Route 99, in Tulare County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]

*11.	Pismo Creek Fish Passage Improvement San Luis Obispo County	\$563,000.00 26
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To consider the allocation for a grant to Central Coast Salmon Enhancement for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program and the County of San Luis Obispo to improve fish passage on Pismo Creek, located six miles south of San Luis Obispo in San Luis Obispo County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of riparian habitat and aquatic habitat for salmonids and trout. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f)]

*12.	Canebrake Ecological Reserve, Cap Canyon Unit, Expansion 3 Kern County	\$332,000.00 29
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To consider the acquisition of 360± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a cooperative project with the Audubon Society for the protection of riparian floodplain and adjoining upland scrub habitat supporting mule deer, mountain lions and migratory birds, located in the southern Sierra mountains, approximately 20 miles east of Lake Isabella, in Kern County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect deer and mountain lions and the preservation or enhancement of wildlife values to protect or enhance floodplain areas. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) (Proposition 1E)]

ITEM NO.	PAGE NO.
<p>*13. Arroyo Sequit Fish Passage Improvements Los Angeles County</p> <p>To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for a cooperative project with the State Water Resources Control Board for a project to remove three instream barriers to steelhead trout, providing access to 4.5± miles of good quality habitat on Arroyo Sequit Creek, located west of the City of Malibu in the Leo Carillo State Park in Los Angeles County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, protection and restoration of coastal watersheds and adjacent lands located in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. [Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a)]</p>	<p>\$209,000.00 33</p>
<p>14. Lake Tahoe Fishing Access Boat Ramp Placer County</p> <p>To consider the allocation for a grant to the Tahoe City Public Utilities District for a cooperative project with the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association to rehabilitate the boat ramp at Lake Tahoe Public Access Facility on Lake Forest Road, located two miles northeast of Tahoe City in Placer County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife compatible recreational activities. [Wildlife Restoration Fund, Local Assistance]</p>	<p>\$681,000.00 37</p>
<p>15. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Roddy Ranch) Contra Costa County</p> <p>To consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC) and the acceptance of two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Acquisition grants and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the ECCCHC for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire 1,885± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including grassland and oak woodland savannah habitat areas within the East Contra Costa County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan, located in the Diablo Mountain Range, above the City of Antioch in Contra Costa County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat for areas in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that assist in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)(SSJD-NCCP)]</p>	<p>\$ 4,846,875.00 40</p>

ITEM NO.		PAGE NO.
16.	San Joaquin River Parkway, Ball Ranch (Quarry Site) Fresno County	\$0.00 44

This proposal was withdrawn from consideration at this time.

17.	Round Valley, Pine Creek Unit Inyo County	\$0.00 45
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This proposal was withdrawn from consideration at this time.

18.	Granite Mountain Desert Research Center Improvements San Bernardino County	\$1,785,000.00 46
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To consider the allocation for a grant to the Regents of the University of California to construct a new administrative building and housing for visiting researchers, renovate a staff residence and laboratory, expand wireless network infrastructure and improve the water system at the Granite Mountain Desert Research Center, located 16± miles south of Kelso in San Bernardino County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)(3)]

19.	Goose Lake Legacy Project Kern County	\$2,348,836.00 50
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To consider the allocation for a grant to the California Waterfowl Association to acquire 1,670± acres of land for the purpose of protecting wetlands and associated upland habitat areas in the Goose Lake watershed, supporting numerous migratory birds and threatened and endangered species, located along the Pacific Flyway migratory bird corridor in the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, south of the City of Wasco in Kern County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat containing natural communities and for the protection of rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)]

ITEM NO.		PAGE NO.
20.	Ocean Trails HCPLA 2009 (Ya Yi May and Angeles LLC Properties) Los Angeles County	\$607,250.00 54

To consider the allocation for two grants to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (City) and the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the City to acquire two separate properties, 16± acres and 42± acres in size, for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages and species located within the Ocean Trails Habitat Conservation Plan and the pending Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat to help implement or assist in the establishment of an NCCP. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)]

21.	Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration Imperial County	\$1,000,000.00 58
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To consider the allocation for a grant to California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Duck Stamp Program to restore and enhance 367± acres of wetlands at CDFW's Imperial Wildlife Area, Wister Unit, located six miles northwest of Niland in Imperial County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands outside the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley]

ITEM NO.		PAGE NO.
22.	Tijuana River Valley Mesa Trails San Diego County	\$1,200,000.00 61

To consider the allocation for a grant to the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation for a project to construct and rehabilitate trails, provide signs and trailhead facilities and restore 15± acres of coastal sage habitat on the south side of the Tijuana River Estuary, located three air miles south of Imperial Beach in San Diego County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding sources, which allow for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife compatible recreational activities [Wildlife Restoration Fund, Local Assistance]; and the acquisition, protection and restoration of coastal wetlands identified in the Southern California Coastal Wetlands Inventory, located within the coastal zone, other wetlands connected and proximate to such coastal wetlands and upland areas adjacent and proximate to such coastal wetlands. [Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a)]

23.	Appraisal Review and Disclosure Policy Report	Informational/Action	65
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To report the effectiveness of the Appraisal Review and Disclosure Policy previously adopted by the Wildlife Conservation Board and to recommend minor modifications as appropriate.

24.	Strategic Plan Update	Informational	68
25.	2014 Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting Schedule	Informational	68

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact the Department's Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator Tina Johnson at (916) 651-1214 or Tina.Johnson@wildlife.ca.gov. Reasonable Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility should be received by November 1, 2013. Requests for American Sign Language Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event, and requests for Real-Time Captioners at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met.

If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but due to circumstances is no longer needed, please contact the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator immediately.

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

November 21, 2013

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Michael Cohen, Member
Director, Department of Finance

Michael Sutton, Member
President, Fish and Game Commission

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Jean Fuller
Senator Fran Pavley
Senator Lois Wolk

Assembly Member Richard Gordon
Assembly Member Anthony Rendon
Assembly Member Das Williams

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Donnelly

2. Funding Status — Informational

The following funding status depicts Capital Outlay appropriations by year of appropriation and by fund source and fund number.

(a) 2013-14 Wildlife Restoration Fund, (0447)

Budget Act	\$1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-10,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$990,000.00

(b) 2013-14 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)

Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-716,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$19,947,000.00

(c) 2012-13 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)

Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,318,717.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$19,344,283.00

(d) 2011-12 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)

Budget Act	\$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-10,110,496.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$10,552,504.00

(e) 2010-11 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)

Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-14,839,355.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$5,828,645.00

(f) 2009-10 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)
(2013-14 Reappropriation)

Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-18,325,750.82</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$2,342,249.18

(g) 2008-09 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)
(2012-13 Reappropriation)

Budget Act	\$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-15,647,079.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$5,020,921.00

(h) 2007-08 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262) (2011-12 Reappropriation)	
Budget Act	\$20,674,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-18,770,480.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$1,903,520.00
(i) 2006-07 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262) (2013-14 Reappropriation)	
Budget Act	\$20,699,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-19,437,125.30</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$1,261,874.70
(j) 2004-05 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)	
Budget Act	\$646,714.11
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-52,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$594,714.11
(k) 1999-00 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, (0005)	
Continuously Appropriated [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)]	\$36,100,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-31,224,215.42</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$4,875,784.58
(l) 2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund, (6029)	
Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650)	\$273,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-237,534,918.94</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$35,465,081.06
(m) 2002-03 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002, (6031)	
Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572), including Chapter 81, Statutes of 2005	\$814,350,000.00
2003-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
2004-05 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-4,000,000.00
2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-3,100,000.00
2006-07 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-17,688,000.00
2007-08 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-5,150,000.00
2008-09 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-672,951,919.23</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$68,460,080.77

(n)	2009-10 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2013-14 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	\$4,800,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-25,000.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$4,775,000.00
(o)	2009-10 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2013-14 Reappropriation)	
	Chapter 2, Statutes of 2009 (SB 8)	\$15,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-25,000.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$15,475,000.00
(p)	2008-09 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051), (2011-12 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055(c))	\$25,000,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-7,986,798.50</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$17,013,201.50
(q)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 , (6051) (2013-14 Appropriation)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(1))	1,279,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,082,790.00</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$196,210.00
(r)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2013-14 Appropriation)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(2))	\$1,500,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-927,437.48</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$572,562.52
(s)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2013-14 Appropriation)	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(4))	\$2,368,000.00
	Previous Board Allocations	<u>-307,874.48</u>
	Unallocated Balance	\$2,060,125.52

(t) 2006-07 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply,
FloodControl, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051)

Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055a)	\$164,700,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-86,364,247.96</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$78,335,752.04

Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055(b))	\$123,525,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	<u>-78,500,083.48</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$45,024,916.52

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund (a)	\$990,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j)	\$66,795,710.99
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (k)	\$4,875,784.58
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (l)	\$35,465,081.06
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (m)	\$68,460,080.77
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (n), (o), (p), (q), (r),(s) and (t)	\$163,452,768.10
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	\$340,039,425.50

**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
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Chapter 220, Statutes of 2009 (effective January 1, 2010) Tax credits awarded	\$0.00
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SUMMARY OF BOND CASH

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

Bond Fund	Authorized GO Bond Proceeds	Expenditures through 10/11/13	Encumbrances through 09/30/13	Cash Balances Includes Encumbrances
Proposition 12	\$12,621,973.31	\$9,241,712.56	\$587,884.00	\$2,792,376.75
Proposition 40	\$91,808,942.78	\$68,659,612.62	\$16,530,624.51	\$6,618,705.65
Proposition 50	\$127,970,436.60	\$58,755,434.02	\$41,728,551.22	\$27,486,451.36
Proposition 84	\$293,413,688.65	\$203,603,922.39	\$23,816,272.95	\$65,993,493.31
Proposition 1E	\$65,725,202.07	\$39,632,926.13	\$19,555,297.03	\$6,536,978.91
Grand Totals	\$591,540,243.41	\$379,893,607.72	\$102,218,629.71	\$109,428,005.98

3. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4—5, 7—13)

*4. Approval of Minutes — September 4, 2013

*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.

\$0.00 to the **General Fund**
8,631.95 to the **Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water,
Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund**
\$72,078.54 to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**
\$44,879.61 to the **Wildlife Restoration Fund**
\$1,144,690.52 to the **California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe
Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal
Protection Fund**
\$1,031,965.48 to the **Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and
Supply, Flood Control, River and
Coastal Protection Fund of 2006**

GENERAL FUND

Buena Vista Lagoon, Expansion 3, San Diego County

Allocated	\$818,338.00
Expended	<u>-818,338.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Total General Fund **\$0.00**

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

Western Riverside County MSHCP (2006), Expansion 5, Riverside County

Allocated	\$10,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,368.05</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$8,631.95

Total Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund **\$8,631.95**

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Dry Creek Oak Woodland Corridor, Yolo County

Allocated	\$115,000.00
Expended	<u>-114,703.59</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$296.41

Eel River Wildlife Area (Salt River Unit), Humboldt County

Allocated	\$920,000.00
Expended	<u>-899,747.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$20,253.00

Lower Yuba River - Excelsior - Phase II (Black Swan Ranch), Nevada County

Allocated	\$549,600.00
Expended	<u>-536,346.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$13,254.00

North Grasslands Wildlife Area Gadwall Unit Wetland Restoration, Merced County

Allocated	\$575,000.00
Expended	<u>-537,797.19</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$37,202.81

Red Bank Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration, Tehama County

Allocated	\$565,000.00
Expended	<u>-563,927.68</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,072.32

Total Habitat Conservation Fund **\$72,078.54**

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Moss Landing Wildlife Area Public Access, Monterey County

Allocated	\$408,100.00
Expended	<u>-379,053.28</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$29,046.72

North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve, Public Access Trail, CEQA and Plans, Butte County

Allocated	\$117,000.00
Expended	<u>-101,167.11</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$15,832.89

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund **\$44,879.61**

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

Buena Vista Lagoon, Expansion 3, San Diego County

Allocated	\$298,662.00
Expended	<u>-2,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$296,662.00

Lucerne Fishing Pier, Lake County

Allocated	\$470,721.00
Expended	<u>-470,721.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

San Joaquin River Parkway, Jensen River Ranch Phase II Construction, Fresno County

Allocated	\$1,982,513.00
Expended	<u>-1,134,484.48</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$848,028.52

Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund **\$1,144,690.52**

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

Dry Creek Oak Woodland Corridor, Yolo County

Allocated	\$180,000.00
Expended	<u>-165,361.52</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$14,638.48

Little Chico Creek Oak Woodland Conservation Easement, and
Expansions 1 and 2 (Mott, Smith and Brigham), Butte County

Allocated	\$555,000.00
Expended	<u>-542,008.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$12,992.00

Noyo River Redwood Conservation Property, Mendocino County

Allocated	\$4,010,000.00
Expended	<u>-4,002,450.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7,550.00

San Diego County MSCP (2010) (Sloan Canyon), San Diego County

Allocated	\$1,165,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,157,687.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7,312.50

San Joaquin River Parkway, Camp Pashayan #2, Fresno County

Allocated	\$190,000.00
Expended	<u>-188,082.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,918.00

Santa Rosa Mountains, Expansions 11, 12, and 13, Riverside County

Allocated	\$146,250.00
Expended	<u>-140,332.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,917.50

Sardella Ranch Conservation Easement, Tuolumne County

Allocated	\$520,000.00
Expended	<u>-511,016.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$8,984.00

Vail Lake, Riverside County

Allocated	\$970,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,394.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$967,606.00

Wilmar Ranch, Diablo Range Oak Woodland Conservation Easement,
Monterey County

Allocated	\$275,000.00
Expended	<u>-269,953.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,047.00

Total Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and \$1,031,965.48
Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection
Fund of 2006

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| *6. | Strawberry Creek Riparian Restoration
Humboldt County | \$0.00 |
|-----|--|--------|

This proposal was withdrawn from consideration at this time.

- *7. Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve, \$2,500.00
Access Easement Exchange
Sacramento County

This proposal is to consider the exchange of an administrative access easement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) at the Cosumnes River Preserve providing access to the adjoining California Department of Wildlife (CDFW) Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve (Reserve), managed by the CDFW, is located southeast of the town of Galt in southern Sacramento and northern San Joaquin counties. The Reserve is located adjacent to the Cosumnes River Preserve (Preserve), a protected habitat area managed collaboratively by a number of conservation entities and agencies including TNC, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ducks Unlimited, Department of Water Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the County of Sacramento. The first Reserve acquisition by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) was approved May 10, 1990. Subsequently, through cooperative effort with various entities, the WCB to date has completed eleven expansions of the Reserve totaling 7,308± acres. Today the Reserve, combined with the Preserve, encompasses over 46,000 acres, representing one of the most significant habitat corridor connections between the Sacramento River Valley and the slopes of the lower Sierra Nevada Foothills. The types of habitats found within the Reserve include wetlands, riverine, riparian, irrigated pastures, vernal pools, annual grasslands and valley oak woodlands (bottomland). These areas provide habitat for a variety of federal and State listed special status species including the sandhill crane, Swainson's hawk, giant garter snake, Sacramento splittail and Chinook salmon. The Reserve also provides important wintering and foraging areas for numerous waterfowl and other migratory birds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TNC wishes to replace an existing CDFW administrative access easement across TNC lands to CDFW's Shaw property with a new administrative access easement. The proposal is for CDFW to quitclaim the current easement once it has received the new administrative access easement from TNC. Levees that were constructed for agricultural purposes on TNC land currently allow access to the CDFW's Shaw property. These levees could be breached as part of a potential future restoration project on TNC lands to expand floodplain areas, thus eliminating CDFW's current access. The proposed new access easement would provide CDFW with administrative access to the Shaw property via an existing and different route. The proposed new administrative access easement has been reviewed and approved by CDFW as being comparable and acceptable.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed exchange is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program) with the support and recommendation of CDFW. The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of CDFW, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties that can successfully sustain wildlife and provide for suitable recreation opportunities. Under this same authorization, the Board may also authorize the transfer or exchange of property and rights in property, including easements.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The replacement access easement to be granted to CDFW will ensure continued administrative access to the previously restored Shaw property. TNC will be responsible for maintaining the actual road surface over which CDFW will access the Shaw property.

TERMS

The administrative access easement being received is similar in length, value and utility to the current administrative access easement, requiring no improvements or compensation by either party. WCB staff will review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to acceptance of the proposed easement and quitclaim of its existing access.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$	0.00
Total Easement Price	\$	0.00
 Other Project-Related Costs	 \$	 2,500.00
 TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	 \$	 2,500.00

It is estimated that \$2,500.00 will be needed to cover any project-related expenses that WCB may occur as part of this exchange.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

This project is the exchange of an easement for administrative access that is already occurring on the affected property and involves no expansion of that use. The grant of easement for replacement access will be over an existing road. The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3 ("CEQA Guidelines"), Section 15061(b)(3).) The project is also categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, as the operation or permitting of existing public or private facilities and topographical features. Subject to the approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; allocate \$2,500.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

- *8. Santa Cruz Sandhills, Zayante (Dowd and Dumas) \$772,600.00
Santa Cruz County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for grants to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (LTSCC) and acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to LTSCC for a cooperative project with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF) to acquire in fee 14± acres of land and a separate 37± acre conservation easement for the protection of habitat essential to the recovery of several State and federally endangered species, located in the Sandhills in Santa Cruz County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject properties (Property) are located within the Zayante Sandhills region of Santa Cruz County, approximately 6 miles north of the City of Santa Cruz and west of the City of Scotts Valley. The Property contains unique, intact habitat communities found on rocky outcrops and slopes consisting of sandy Zayante soils. Zayante soils are derived from marine deposits occurring over 15 million years ago. These areas support diverse assemblages of endemic plants and insects, including four endemic and federally listed endangered plant species that are known to only exist in the Sandhills: the Santa Cruz wallflower, the Ben Lomond spineflower, the Ben Lomond buckweat and the silver leaf (Bonny Doon) manzanita. Located near the Property in the Sandhills are the South Ridge Conservation Area, Ben Lomond Sandhills Preserve, and the Randall Morgan Preserve - protected habitat areas managed cooperatively by Santa Cruz County, City of Scotts Valley and LTSCC.

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

Assembling a network of interconnected, protected habitat blocks will promote long-term persistence of the endangered species and unique communities within the approximately 4,000 acres of remaining Sandhills habitat. Ongoing development and encroachment into the Sandhills threatens to eliminate important habitat and irrevocably sever connectivity. Protection of the Property will increase the size and connectivity of existing protected habitat, thus facilitating dispersal, gene flow, and natural disturbance processes that maintain viable populations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Dowd

This property is 37± acres of undeveloped land with a small meadow, rising up to rolling to steep hills covered with various grasses and trees. Bean Creek, located on the southern boundary, provides a riparian corridor and supports a small population of steelhead trout. The entire property will be protected by a conservation easement in favor of the LTSCC. The conservation easement allows a 1-acre building envelope in a location that will minimize impacts to the Sandhills and riparian habitat on the property. Further restrictions on the type and size of dwelling, roads and utilities in the building envelope are also addressed in the conservation easement.

Dumas

The LTSCC will acquire fee title to this 14± acre property. The terrain consists of fairly steep hillsides vegetated with scrub, grasses and various trees. A small portion of this property was used as a quarry at one time, but this use has been abandoned and will be reclaimed with native vegetation once the property is acquired. The remaining and majority portions of the property are in a natural state, and are home to a variety of animal and bird species.

WCB PROGRAM

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The LTSCC will manage the Property in conjunction with other properties it owns in the surrounding area. The conservation easement and the WCB grant agreement require a baseline report be completed for the Dowd property to outline the specific conservation values of the Property. The baseline report will provide an accurate representation of the Property at the time of acquisition and is intended to serve as an objective information baseline for monitoring compliance with the terms of the conservation easement. The conservation easement, WCB grant agreement, and subgrant agreement require annual monitoring by the LTSCC. For both the Dowd and Dumas properties staff from WCB, CDFW, and USFWS will have access once every three years to assess compliance with the terms, covenants and conditions of the grant and subgrant agreements.

To help offset the costs associated with the stewardship of the Property, the LTSCC also has available \$30,000 in funding provided by RLFF.

TERMS

The Dowd 37± acre conservation easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$925,000.00. The Dumas 14± acre fee acquisition has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$470,000.00. Some of the costs associated with the planning and appraisal work for the project were funded by the RLFF. The appraisals have been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The Property owners have each agreed to sell their property interests for its approved fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by the WCB grant agreements and funds from the LTSCC. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grants and USFWS subgrants to the LTSCC provide that staff of WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for each acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the grant, or, in the case of Dumas fee acquisition, require the grantee to transfer a conservation easement to WCB or another qualified holder.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the projects is as follows:

Dowd Property (Conservation Easement)	
WCB	\$473,000.00
RLFF	156,000.00
USFWS subgrant funds	<u>296,000.00</u>
Total Purchase Price	\$925,000.00

Dumas Property (Fee Title)	
WCB	\$239,600.00
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County	19,000.00
RLFF	61,000.00
USFWS subgrant funds	<u>150,400.00</u>
Total Purchase Price	\$470,000.00
Other Project Related Costs	60,000.00
TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	\$772,600.00

It is estimated that an additional \$60,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including appraisal costs and DGS appraisal review. Under the terms of the USFWS grants, the WCB may seek partial reimbursement of these costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; allocate \$772,600.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code section 2786 (b/c) for the grants and to cover internal project-related expenses; accept the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$446,400.00 and authorize the subgrant of these funds to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish these projects; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

- *9. Amargosa - Tecopa Hot Springs \$56,750.00
Inyo County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant to acquire 80± acres of land in Inyo County for the protection of wetland and upland habitat areas and linkages supporting the State and federally-listed endangered Amargosa vole (Vole) and Amargosa niterwort (Niterwort).

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject properties (Property) consist of two non-contiguous parcels under the same ownership, located in the community of Tecopa Hot Springs which is approximately 2 miles north of Tecopa and 65 miles southeast of Death Valley National Park off the Death Valley Road/Highway 127 in the Mojave Desert. The community of Tecopa Hot Springs was established because of the abundant natural hot springs occurring in the area. These natural springs, hot and cold, support wetland habitat required by both the Vole and Niterwort.

The Property is adjacent to the eastern shore of Grimshaw Lake which provides important wetlands for migrating waterfowl and is surrounded by meadows, marshes and pastures. The lake watershed eventually drains two miles south into the Amargosa River. Historically, the Amargosa River corridor has been the primary location for the Vole, but due to habitat modification, invasive species such as salt cedar, water diversion and groundwater withdrawals along the river, only a fraction of the suitable vole habitat remains. In August of 1999, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved \$250,000 for riparian habitat restoration along the Amargosa and Mojave rivers to restore them back to a proper functioning condition by removing large quantities of the invasive salt cedar and restoring native riparian vegetation.

Most of the land surrounding the community of Tecopa Hot Springs has been subdivided into relatively small residential lots. Many of these sites are developed with winter homes and trailers that are mostly occupied during the cooler winter, fall and spring months. Due to this development and its impact on habitat, the CDFW developed the CDFW Amargosa /Tecopa Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) that identifies 213 acres of some of the last remaining wetland habitat areas in the vicinity of Tecopa Hot Springs. All of these identified properties could be disked, filled, or burned, or have structures erected at any time that could impact habitat. Another habitat conversion threat comes from the common practice of drilling wells for natural hot spring water. This lowers the water table and reduces the water available for endangered species and their habitat.

The CAPP integrates with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Amargosa River Area of Critical Environmental Concern land management and protection strategy, which encompasses 21,552 acres and creates a larger targeted corridor of interconnected habitat that water and wildlife can move through in the Amargosa River Basin area. The BLM, along with the Amargosa Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, is responsible for the management of over 5,000 acres of protected lands that surround the Property. The parcels proposed for acquisition are two of the largest and highest priority acquisitions within the CAPP. The acquisitions will also help create linkages with other protected habitats and reduce habitat fragmentation.

The project is also consistent with action proposed under CDFW's California Wildlife Action Plan. The project is located within the Mojave Desert Region. One of the recommended conservation actions called out for this region is to secure wet habitats in the Amargosa River Basin to help protect the Vole.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Each property is square in shape and approximately 40 acres in size. The topography is fairly flat with gently rolling slopes. Neither property is improved. The outer surrounding landscape is predominately desert habitat with numerous mountain ranges. The parcels host the spring brooks of three larger springs and several small seeps, ponded areas, and approximately eight acres of Vole core habitat, defined as areas dominated by bulrush and wetlands. The Vole was listed as a California endangered species in 1980 and as a federal endangered species in 1984. The Vole is considered to be one of the most narrowly distributed subspecies of mammals known. It has been estimated that no more than one square kilometer (247 acres) of habitat for this species remains (Murphy and Freas, 1988).

The Property also supports approximately 17 acres of wet and transitional alkaline flats that contain the Niterwort. The Niterwort is a small, erect perennial plant ensuing from an extensive, heavy, underground rootstock that requires wet alkaline flats with extensive salt crust surface soil development. The Niterwort was listed as a California endangered species in 1979 and a federal endangered species in 1985.

WCB is currently exploring other potential acquisitions identified in the CAPP. CDFW desires properties acquired within this CAPP to be designated as an ecological reserve by the California Fish and Game Commission. Ecological reserves are designed to conserve areas for the protection of threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, aquatic organisms and specialized habitat types and to provide areas for education and research.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisitions for this project are being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) to acquire areas that can successfully sustain wildlife and provide for suitable recreation opportunities. Under the Program acquisition activities are carried out in conjunction with the CDFW, evaluating the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/ CAPP. The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and approval and later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by CDFW as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition Grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CDFW Regional staff plans to adopt a management plan based on regular site visits to study, monitor and inventory habitat resources. Personnel and operations cost are estimated to be \$1,000.00 annually. Common tasks related to the management of the Property include general site condition monitoring, exotic plant control, reporting, posting signs and biotic surveys. There is a potential for future public use opportunities that could include nature viewing, birding, photography, and educational and scientific uses. The CDFW Regional staff is exploring the possibility of a cooperative management agreement with the Amargosa Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy for the Property. Both conservancies hold numerous conservation easements in the area and have established stewardship programs that monitor and protect the habitat qualities of their lands.

TERMS

The Property was appraised as having a fair market value of \$70,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by the WCB. The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition and USFWS 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.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$36,750.00
USFWS grant funds	<u>\$33,250.00</u>
Total Purchase Price	\$70,000.00
 Other Project-Related Costs	 \$20,000.00
 TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	 \$56,750.00

It is estimated that an additional \$20,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including environmental site assessment, appraisal, and DGS appraisal review, escrow and title insurance costs. Under the USFWS grant, the WCB can seek reimbursement for these costs from USFWS.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$56,750.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) to cover the non –federal match for the acquisition and other internal project related expenses; accept the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$33,250.00; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

- *10. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion 28 \$9,000.00
Tulare County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 7± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the protection of habitat supporting the San Joaquin kit fox and other rare species found within the Allensworth Ecological Reserve (Reserve), to enhance habitat linkages and connectivity, as well as provide for future wildlife oriented public use opportunities.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located northwest of the City of Delano, southwest of the City of Pixley, west of State Route 99, near the community of Earlimart in Tulare County. The Property lies in an area where portions of the Reserve are comprised of small parcels typified as open land, with sparsely vegetated and dominated by grassland and valley sink areas. Much of surrounding areas outside the Reserve have been or are currently being converted to extensive agricultural uses including alfalfa, grapes or orchard use.

Located west of the Reserve is the Colonel Allensworth State Park. To the north are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, and to the southwest is the USFWS Kern National Wildlife Refuge.

Over the last 15 years, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has approved projects to help acquire and protect nearly 3,000 acres of land in and around the Reserve. The valley sink and saltbush scrub plant communities found at the Reserve represent some of the highest quality examples of these plant communities in the San Joaquin Valley. There are also a number of vernal pools found within the Reserve, supporting vernal pool fairy shrimp.

The Reserve is important to the survival and recovery of several endangered or sensitive species such as the State threatened and federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox, the State and federally endangered Tipton kangaroo rat, San Joaquin pocket mouse and blunt-nosed leopard lizard; the State threatened San Joaquin antelope squirrel and the federally threatened Hoppings blister beetle. Other rare and important species that either reside in or frequent the Reserve include badger, greater sandhill crane, merlin, Swainson's hawk and the western pond turtle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a rectangular 7± acre parcel, with fairly level to slightly undulating topography. It is currently zoned for agricultural use and is being utilized as pastureland. The dominant vegetation is native grass. Once acquired, the Property will be managed as part of the Reserve, expanding open space and habitat areas for wildlife species. The acquisition of the site will also help improve habitat connectivity between the Reserve and the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge located to the north.

WCB PROGRAM

This project is being proposed under WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the CDFW, grant funds to other government 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. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the CDFW, 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 CDFW's Regional Operations Committee for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property proposed for acquisition represents a nominal addition to the Reserve and can be readily absorbed into existing CDFW operations. CDFW, as fee title owner of the Property, will be able to manage and monitor the Property within its existing budget.

TERMS

The Property owners have agreed to sell the Property for its appraised fair market value of \$4,000.00, which has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition 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.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$4,000.00
Total Purchase Price	\$4,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	\$9,000.00

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

All or a portion of the funding for this project may be reimbursable from the California, Department of Corrections Statewide Electric Fence Project mitigation fund assigned to CDFW. The funds were made available to CDFW to offsets the impacts associated with electric fences constructed around correctional facilities in the San Joaquin Valley. The CDFW has determined acquisition of the Property is eligible for this funding and is currently working WCB to develop a mechanism for obtaining reimbursement.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

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 land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; allocate \$9,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) to cover the acquisition cost and internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

- *11. Pismo Creek Fish Passage Improvement \$563,000.00
San Luis Obispo County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Central Coast Salmon Enhancement (CCSE) for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program and the County of San Luis Obispo to improve fish passage on Pismo Creek, located six miles south of San Luis Obispo in San Luis Obispo County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) box culvert and associated defective fish ladder is located on the mainstem of Pismo Creek approximately 5.3 miles upstream of the ocean. The bridge and box culvert were constructed in 1927. Riparian habitat along Pismo Creek is relatively intact, with long stretches of native habitats on both banks.

The proposed project is on private land held by Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas. Current zoning and the Master Plan Designation land use category is agricultural/rural. Lands adjacent to the project site and to Pismo Creek upstream of the project site are mostly small farms and vineyards, moving into grazing lands, oak woodlands and forest farther upstream. State and federally listed southern steelhead trout use the lower portion of Pismo Creek but only rarely make it past the UPRR box culvert. The mainstem of Pismo Creek, as well as all three tributaries, has been designated as critical habitat for the recovery of steelhead trout in the South-Central California Coastal Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Pismo Creek has incised and undercut the downstream end of the culvert's concrete footing over the decades following the construction of the culvert in 1927. UPRR later installed a concrete step-pool fish ladder. As the channel elevation continued to degrade, the fish ladder also became undercut and eventually collapsed. A second ladder was installed in 1972. The ladder is now considered defective by the CDFW due to ongoing sediment and debris accumulations that result from poor design of the ladder. As a result, the existing box culvert now creates an approximately eleven-foot high barrier to migrating steelhead trout.

The project involves the removal of the defective fish ladder that leads to the existing box culvert and the construction of a series of steps and pools that provide fish passage up to the box culvert on Pismo Creek. The project will restore reliable access to 7.3 miles of critical steelhead habitat upstream of the barrier and improve habitat immediately downstream of the barrier where the roughened channel will be constructed. The barrier modification will provide passage for all steelhead life stages and in all flows. The roughened channel includes a series of steps and resting

pools that will allow fish to migrate to and upstream of the box culvert. The restoration will result in a total of 8 pools along approximately 900 linear feet of creek or approximately 200,000 square feet of wetted in-channel habitat. Riparian habitat disturbed during restoration construction will be restored.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for native fisheries restoration and in-stream restoration projects including removal of fish passage barriers and other obstructions.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Pre- and post-construction monitoring of the site will occur to evaluate steelhead passage at the project site and to provide data that can be used to inform future fish passage project design decisions by environmental protection and regulatory agencies. At a minimum, monitoring will occur one year before and three years after construction. Monitoring will include survey work to document physical and habitat conditions, flow monitoring to assess passage conditions, and fish utilization of the site.

The project, once completed and vegetation is fully established, will require minimal ongoing maintenance. CCSE and CDFW both have a long-established record of working in the Pismo Creek watershed and both organizations will have long-term involvement with the project site.

If at any time during the life of the project CCSE or the landowner do not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires CCSE to refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

Task Summary	WCB	CCSE	FRGP	SLO County	TOTAL
1. Project Management	\$24,901	\$2,710	\$191,435	\$4,124	\$223,170
2. Permits	\$1,820	\$169	\$28,211	\$500	\$30,701
3. Project Monitoring	\$70,770	\$169	\$24,255	\$500	\$95,695
4. Final Engineering	\$23,716	\$339	\$63,532	\$1,000	\$88,586
5. Mobilization	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
6. Construction	\$441,793	\$0	\$1,067,883	\$3,876	\$1,513,551
TOTALS	\$563,000	\$3,387	\$1,475,316	\$10,000	\$2,051,703

Project costs will be for excavation of existing material, placement of slope rock, erosion control, construction of weirs and pools, placement of habitat logs, riparian habitat restoration, and project management and permits.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f), which allows for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of riparian habitat and aquatic habitat for salmonids and trout and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

CDFW, as the lead agency, has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has considered the MND and prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Following the Board's approval of the project, staff will file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$563,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f); authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

- *12. Canebrake Ecological Reserve, Cap Canyon Unit, \$332,000.00
Expansion 3
Kern County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of 360± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a cooperative project with the National Audubon Society (NAS) for the protection of riparian floodplain and adjoining upland scrub habitat supporting mule deer, mountain lions and migratory birds, located in the southern Sierra Mountains.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located in the southern portion of the Sierra Mountains, approximately 20 miles east of Isabella Reservoir, north of State Route 178 in the Canebrake area of Kern County. The town of Onyx is located approximately four miles to the southwest of the site. The balance of the Property is bordered by vacant and unimproved lands owned by private parties, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and CDFW's Canebrake Ecological Reserve (Reserve). Located south and bordering the Property are a number of 10-acre residential ranchettes. These types of development represent the biggest threat to conversion of the habitat on the Property. Other nearby land uses include irrigated pasture and cultivated agricultural lands. The Property is also located in the Chimney Creek watershed that flows west to Canebrake Creek and on into Isabella Reservoir, which are all part of the upper watershed of the Kern River.

The Reserve is comprised of three main units, the Canebrake Creek Unit, Scodie Canyon Unit and Cap Canyon Unit, containing a combined total of approximately 2,500 areas of protected lands. The Property is located within the Cap Canyon Unit of the Reserve and is considered a priority CDFW acquisition within the Canebrake Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The Reserve provides and protects floodplain, riparian, wetland and upland scrub habitats that support State and federally listed threatened and endangered species and a number of larger mammals, such as deer and mountain lion. The Reserve adjoins federally managed lands providing connectivity and habitat linkages with protected lands to the north, south and east. In addition, these protected conservation areas help protect watershed and groundwater resources and enhance the resiliency of the Reserve to climate change by providing a variety of habitat and elevation gradients for species to move between. The Reserve also contains avian migration corridors that run through its southeast-northwest oriented canyons, linking the desert regions in the southeast to the inland valley areas in the northwest.

Located west of the Reserve and bordering Isabella Reservoir is NAS's 3,000 acre Kern River Preserve. Other conservation partners and land

managers in the area include the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These managed areas include a combination of habitat reserves along with managed public lands open for public outdoor recreation uses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is comprised of five legal parcels and has two zoning designations: A – Exclusive Agriculture and A-1 – Limited Agriculture together with a secondary “combining” district zoning. “Combining” zoning allows landowners to combine and cluster residential development on their property, based in part on the maximum amount of development allowed on the entire property, based on current zoning. Part of the Property is situated within Chimney Creek flood plain, with the majority of the site designated as either Flood Zone A or X. Flood Zone A areas are subject to inundation by a 1-percent-annual-chance flood, generally requiring flood insurance. Flood Zone X are areas of minimal flood risk and located outside a 200 year flood plain. The Property is mostly vacant except for an abandoned 468± square foot uninhabitable single family dwelling that the landowner will remove from the Property prior to the close of escrow. A Phase 1 environmental site assessment was completed on the Property, including the abandoned structure, showing no release or threat of release of hazardous materials on the Property.

Traveling south to north, the topography of the Property is initially level then gradually changes to a more uneven surface towards the center of the site where it becomes part of the Chimney Creek floodplain. The northerly portions of the Property extend into a rugged mountainous area with steep slopes that level off at the Property’s northeasterly boundary. Habitat areas include riparian, floodplain and upland scrub. There are several rare species known to frequent the Property and surrounding areas including the southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo and western pond turtle. Other resident species include mule deer, mountain lion, bear, dove, chukar and quail.

WCB PROGRAM

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

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be maintained and managed by CDFW as an addition to the Reserve. CDFW staff will manage the parcels as part of the Reserve's upland habitats. Due to the arid landscape that characterizes these upland areas, active management needs are expected to be minimal. The Property is surrounded by fences that can be posted with signs to help protect the site from unauthorized uses or trespass. CDFW also plans to expand special hunting opportunities onto the property, similar to those already held on other units of the Reserve. Due to the juxtaposition of the Property to an existing CDFW ADA compliant trail, CDFW staff hopes to plan an extension of the ADA trail onto the Property to create additional accessible wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities. The cost of management for the Property will be absorbed under the current management budget for the Reserve.

In addition, CDFW maintains a partnership with NAS's Kern River Preserve staff, and the Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council, a local non-profit, to help eradicate noxious weeds on the Reserve and other areas in the region, as well as provide management guidance for native and sensitive bird species.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$320,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the property for the approved appraised fair market value. WCB staff will 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. Once approved by the WCB, the transaction must also be reviewed and approved by the DGS.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$302,000.00
National Audubon Society	<u>18,000.00</u>
Total Purchase Price	\$320,000.00
 Other Project-Related Costs	 \$30,000.00
 TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	 \$332,000.00

It is estimated that an additional \$30,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including Phase I - Environmental Site Assessment, appraisal, DGS appraisal, transaction, and environmental reviews, escrow and title insurance costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) and 2786(a) (Proposition 1E), which allows for the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, to protect deer and mountain lions and the preservation or enhancement of wildlife values to protect or enhance habitat within a flood plain protection corridor or bypass.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project 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 recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$132,000.00 from both the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)(Proposition 1E) and \$200,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

- *13. Arroyo Sequit Fish Passage Improvements \$209,000.00
Los Angeles County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for a cooperative project with the State Water Resources Control Board for a project to remove three in-stream barriers to steelhead trout, which will provide access to 4.5± miles of good quality habitat on Arroyo Sequit Creek, located west of the City of Malibu in the Leo Carrillo State Park in Los Angeles County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

This project is located along a one-mile reach of Arroyo Sequit Creek upstream of the Pacific Coast Highway bridge in Leo Carrillo State Park, located west of the City of Malibu in Los Angeles County. The site has been a State park since 1953 and was previously ranchland. Elevations onsite range from sea level to 100 feet. Inland, the creek is narrow and steep but widens out into a broader floodplain for the last half mile before entering into a small lagoon at its mouth. The wider floodplain consists of terraced floodplain, on which a developed campsite has been constructed on the generally flat upper terraces.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area extends along Arroyo Sequit Creek from the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) bridge to one mile upstream at an existing check dam. The project site includes all aquatic and riparian habitat along this section of creek.

The most downstream 0.9-mile of Arroyo Sequit Creek between the PCH and the Upper Group Campground Crossing (Upper Crossing) is intermittent/ephemeral. Both the Lower Campground Crossing (Lower Crossing) and Upper Crossing are located within this zone. Habitat in this reach is dominated by bare creek channel where cobbles and gravel dominate; larger boulders are prevalent at the upper crossing. Islands of sporadic mulefat scrub are found within the braided channel for this entire reach and along both banks. A small grove of non-native blue gum eucalyptus and developed Mulholland Highway are found above the western top of bank of the creek, while western sycamore alder riparian woodland and associated campground and developed areas are prevalent along and above the western top of bank and ultimately transition to Venturan coastal sage scrub/chaparral outside of the project area.

A biological assessment and wetland delineation were completed in July 2013. Protocol surveys for the Federally Threatened and CA Species of Special Concern least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) were conducted in 2012. As part of the preparation for design, topographic and cross sectional surveys, geotechnical surveys, and a hydrology and hydraulics analysis were completed in late 2012 and early 2013. CEQA review,

which includes cultural resource review, was also completed.

Through the removal of three instream barriers with free span bridges, the proposed project will provide immediate access to 4.5 miles of “moderate to good quality” habitat along Arroyo Sequit Creek. The 4.4-mile increase in accessible steelhead habitat along Arroyo Sequit Creek will result in a new total of 11.5 linear miles of habitat becoming available in the Santa Monica Mountains, which is a 62% increase.

The implementation of this project will result in the entire Arroyo Sequit watershed being accessible to this imperiled species up to their natural limits. Removing these barriers would also eliminate three sources of stream channel downcutting and sediment loading to downstream habitats, resulting in improved water quality and substrate embeddedness for steelhead trout and the benthic macro-invertebrate community. This project will also restore riparian habitat associated with one-mile section of Arroyo Sequit Creek via removal of invasive weeds, re-planting areas disturbed by construction activities with native riparian vegetation, and re-contouring the creek bottom in the areas where the Arizona crossings are being removed to a more natural condition.

The proposed project also provides needed public safety and access improvements. The existing Arizona road crossings are currently flooded during high flow events and result in restriction of visitor access, access by DPR and emergency personnel to portions of the park and beach.

Additionally, the Arizona crossings are narrow and shared by both pedestrians and vehicular traffic. The new free span bridges are wider and will reduce conflicts between pedestrians and automobiles. The scour and sediment deposition resulting from the existing crossings contributes to buildup of a sandbar in the stream channel and the redirection of the stream towards its eastern bank. This has caused increased erosion along the eastern bank of Arroyo Sequit Creek, resulting in the loss of at least five adjacent campsites (and the associated recreational opportunities and revenues), and threatens additional park infrastructure, including utilities and septic system leach lines.

A final key element of the project is that it would also improve 12 acres of riparian habitat associated with Arroyo Sequit Creek via invasive weed removal.

The project will result in the following:

- Steelhead access to the entire Arroyo Sequit Watershed (4.4 miles) will result in a new total of 11.5 linear miles of habitat becoming available in the Santa Monica Mountains, which is a 62% increase.
- 12 acres of improved riparian habitat (western sycamore alder riparian woodland, mulefat scrub, and Coast live oak riparian woodland) through invasive weed removal.

- Increase of 1,300 sq. ft/ 0.03 acres of riparian habitat via removal of three in-stream barriers. This includes 58 linear feet along Arroyo Sequit Creek.
- Increased public access and safety during flood events to beach and park areas.

The proposed project schedule is April 15, 2014 to March 31, 2015. Existing crossing demolition and new road and bridge construction are anticipated to last two-three months, one month of that involves waiting for the cement poured for the bridge abutments to cure. Work within California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional areas will be dictated by project permits, but is anticipated to be between April 15 - Nov 1, 2014, or when surface water (and steelhead trout and other aquatic species) are not present at the two Arizona crossings. For areas above the low-flow channel that require re-vegetation, plantings would be installed during the rainy season (likely November 1, 2014 or later) after the first wetting winter rains, and installation is anticipated to be completed by March 2015. To avoid noise and other impacts on park visitors, construction work hours at the site will be as follows:

- M-Th: 7:30 am-7 pm.
- Fri: Haul/cement trucks 7:30 am- 3pm, all other work 7:30 am-7:00 pm
- Weekends and Holidays: No haul or cement trucks or loud activities like demolition/jackhammering are permitted; 8:00 am-6:00 pm for other activities.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for native fisheries restoration and in-stream restoration projects including removal of fish passage barriers and other obstructions.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

DPR will replace two in-stream barriers with two freespan bridges. The third in-stream barrier will simply be removed. The two bridges will be maintained as part of DPR's ongoing facilities maintenance program, overseen by the Angeles District Maintenance Chief. Bridges will likely require less maintenance than the existing Arizona crossings. DPR will continue to maintain the areas where weeds are removed and the riparian zone as a whole as part of its ongoing resource management efforts managed by the Senior Environmental Scientist. Riparian plantings will occur in areas directly disturbed by project construction, and it is anticipated that 3-5 years of maintenance will ensure establishment. After the native plantings are well established, weed removal will occur as needed in these areas as part of DPR's ongoing invasive weed management program. DPR has agreed, pursuant to the grant agreement, to maintain the site for the 25-year life of the project.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Item	WCB	SWRCB	DPR	TOTALS
Personnel Services	\$0	\$156,500	\$25,000	\$181,500
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$7,000	\$14,000	\$21,000
Construction Monitoring	\$0	\$21,000	\$20,000	\$41,000
Construction Contracts	\$209,000	\$1,270,500	\$ 129,887	\$1,609,387
TOTALS	\$209,000	\$1,455,000	\$ 188,887	\$1,852,887

Project costs will be for project design, engineering and planning, construction management, removal of two Arizona crossings and a small check dam, installation of two bridges, weed removal, and planting of riparian vegetation.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a), which provides funding for the acquisition, protection, and restoration of coastal wetlands, upland areas adjacent to coastal wetlands and coastal watershed lands in southern California, and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

CDFW 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 15302, Class 2, as the replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities at the same site and with substantially the same purpose and capacity and Section 15304, Class 4, as a minor alteration to land, water and/or vegetation 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 recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$209,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

14. Lake Tahoe Fishing Access Boat Ramp \$681,000.00
Placer County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Tahoe City Public Utilities District (TCPUD) for a cooperative project with the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association to rehabilitate the boat ramp at Lake Tahoe Public Access Facility on Lake Forest Road, located two miles northeast of Tahoe City in Placer County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

Lake Tahoe is the second largest alpine lake in the world, after Lake Baikal. It is an extremely popular place for California residents and visitors to recreate. Eighty percent of the Tahoe Basin is in public ownership, which allows for access to many parks, beaches, and undisturbed shoreline.

The Lake Forest Boat Ramp, located two miles northeast of Tahoe City, offers the public safe and convenient access to Lake Tahoe where they can fish, swim, view wildlife, and recreate. The boat ramp also provides the greatest launch capacity in North Lake Tahoe and the greatest depth, so the public can still access Lake Tahoe in drought years. The boat ramp is also near other public facilities including the adjacent Pomin Park, an 11-acre site that includes a ball field, a large lawn area, picnic tables, restrooms, and a campground that are all open to the public and heavily used. Many California residents and visitors regularly use the Lake Forest Boat Ramp, campground, and Pomin Park based on its proximity to the lake and amenities.

The Lake Forest Boat Ramp is the most heavily used public launching facility and is open longer in the season than any other boat ramp in North Tahoe. Annual boat launches at this facility have a 10 year average of 3,425 launches. There is a public pier that is fully accessible pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act providing access to fishing and viewing wildlife while enjoying the spectacular view of Lake Tahoe. Additionally, the project area is surrounded by the most heavily populated portion of the North Tahoe region, and the boat ramp and park serve a broad base of the community and visitors. In the peak of summer, over 5 million visitors come to Lake Tahoe annually. The Lake Forest Boat Ramp is the closest public boat ramp to Interstate 80, which provides easy access to users from all over the State.

Over the years, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has been involved in several rehabilitation projects on the site, having replaced the restroom, rehabilitated the parking lot, and constructing a fishing pier and breakwater to better protect boaters when high winds can produce dangerous boat retrieval conditions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Lake Forest Boat Ramp rehabilitation project includes the design, permitting, and construction of a new concrete boat ramp and the dredging of sediment from the toe of the ramp to return the lake bottom to the original design elevations. The proposed new construction has a greater footprint than the existing ramp. The current boat ramp is approximately 4,384 square feet, and the proposed boat ramp will be larger at 5,965 square feet.

The existing boat ramp at Lake Forest was constructed in 1963, has significant structural deterioration, and is at the end of its useful life. The primary components of the boat ramp (the boat ramp layout, lane width, the head of ramp, the toe of ramp and the slope) will be constructed according to California Department of Boating and Waterway's Handbook design criteria. The new ramp will still have three launching lanes, but they will be designed to current standards. The new lanes will be wider, 15 feet wide, which is enlarged from the current width of 12 feet to allow for safer launches and retrievals at Lake Forest during the busiest weekends. The new ramp will be designed with robust side cutoff walls for erosion control to prevent any undermining of the ramp. The project also includes the removal of the accumulated sediment at the toe of the ramp to return the basin to the previous dredging elevation of 6,219'. This will enable boating operations at lower lake levels, allowing the facility to remain open during drought conditions.

WCB PROGRAM

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The TCPUD will provide long-term management of the project. The property is owned by the State of California, and TCPUD has been maintaining the Lake Forest Boat Ramp on behalf of WCB since 1973 and will continue to do so for the 25-year life of the project. TCPUD is responsible for the daily operations and maintenance of the Lake Forest Boat Ramp, keeping the facility open for recreational use all year long. Operation of the facility is funded with both user fees collected at the site for parking, and property tax revenues. All user fees collected by TCPUD are used to maintain the facility. TCPUD's annual park maintenance and operations budget is just over \$2 million annually.

If at any time during the 25-year life of the project the TCPUD does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that the TCPUD refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

Project Task	Total Costs	WCB	NLTRA	TCPUD
Design Consultant Services	\$98,570	\$0	\$35,000	\$63,570
TCPUD Design Oversight	\$14,430	\$0	\$0	\$14,430
Construction Oversight	\$104,000	\$104,000	\$0	\$0
Ramp replacement	\$452,000	\$452,000	\$0	\$0
Dredging	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$794,000	\$681,000	\$35,000	\$78,000

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Wildlife Restoration Fund, which allows for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife compatible recreational activities and is consistent with the objectives of this project. WCB staff have applied for assistance through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act. If successful, the SFRA will reimburse WCB for 75% for project costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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 15302, Class 2, as the replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities at the same site and with substantially the same purpose and capacity and Section 15304 as a minor alteration of land. Subject to approval of this proposal by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$681,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

15. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Roddy Ranch) \$ 4,846,875.00
Contra Costa County

The proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC), as well as the acceptance of two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grants and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the ECCCHC for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to acquire 1,885± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including grassland and oak woodland savannah habitat areas within the East Contra Costa County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (ECCC HCP/NCCP), located in the Diablo Mountain Range.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located at the base of the Diablo Mountain Range, west of Deer Valley Road, south of and partially within the City of Antioch and partially within unincorporated Contra Costa County. This acquisition is a priority acquisition within the ECCC HCP/NCCP. It would protect a critical and central piece of the wildlife corridor connecting Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve to Marsh Creek State Park, Round Valley Regional Preserve and Los Vaqueros Reservoir watershed lands. Surrounding land uses include existing natural park lands, wildlife mitigation lands, private cattle ranching and a golf course that is an in-holding within the Property boundaries. There are also several other small ranch in-holdings within the Property. Urban uses have been encroaching over the last 20 years on open space heading toward, and are currently within 1 mile east of the Property.

The ECCC HCP/NCCP designates the Property as a high priority for acquisition and protection due to its location within a critical linkage between previously conserved areas within the ECCC HCP/NCCP. Over the past several years the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), USFWS, ECCCHC and EBRPD have partnered to acquire just over 9,000± acres of habitat within the ECCC HCP/NCCP, helping protect essential habitat and connectivity for multiple wildlife species. The project is also consistent with action proposed under California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Wildlife Action Plan. The project is located within the Central Valley and Bay Delta region within the plan. One of the recommended conservation actions called out for this region is protection of upland linkages and reducing the risk of habitat isolation in the eastern San Francisco Bay area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is 1,885± acres in size and is currently operated as a cattle ranch. The terrain includes three broad valleys separated by two well-defined ridges. Elevations along the valley floors range from 250 to 500 feet. The northerly ridge elevations range from about 460 to 860 feet, while the southerly ridge elevations range from approximately 660 to 1,020 feet. Habitat types found on the Property include alkali grassland, alkali wetland, chaparral, grassland, oak savanna, oak woodland, pond, seasonal wetland, and wetland. This varied terrain of the Property also provides benefits to wildlife in terms of future climate change resiliency.

The size and terrain, including three distinct sub-watersheds, provide major ecosystem benefits to species both on and off the Property by linking wildlife areas and providing habitat corridors. These linkages include a northwest-southeast movement corridor for the State threatened and federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox. Acquisition of the Property will protect suitable habitat for the conservation of the California-listed threatened red-legged frog and a variety of other rare and important wildlife species, including California tiger salamander, golden eagle, western burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, Alameda whipsnake, silvery legless lizard, western pond turtle and covered fairy shrimp.

WCB PROGRAM

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

When acquired, the Property will be managed by the EBRPD. Funding of future management activities for this Property will be provided by ECCCHC and EBRPD, in part through wind turbine and communication tower lease revenue from prior acquisitions within the ECCCHC HCP/NCCP area. It is anticipated that the area will offer opportunities for future passive recreational uses that are allowed under the ECCCHC HCP/NCCP. The habitat will be maintained in conjunction with other properties acquired by EBRPD.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$14,245,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the USFWS. The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by EBRPD, foundation funds and a WCB grant to ECCCHC. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and the USFWS subgrant to the ECCCHC 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 and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

WCB Grant	\$ 4,841,875.00
USFWS subgrant funds	\$ 4,841,875.00
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (see Note)	\$ 1,000,000.00
East Bay Regional Park District	<u>\$ 3,561,250.00</u>
Total Purchase Price	\$ 14,245,000.00
 Other Project-Related Costs	 \$ 5,000.00
 TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	 \$ 4,846,875.00

Note: The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation funding has been requested but is not yet approved at this time. EBRPD will provide these funds if the Foundation cannot.

It is estimated that an additional \$5,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS appraisal review costs. Under the terms of the USFWS grant, the WCB may seek partial reimbursement of these costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with 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) (SSJD-NCCP) that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat for areas in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that assist in the establishment of NCCPs.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; allocate \$4,846,875.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(c)(SSJD-NCCP) for the grant to East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy and to cover the project-related costs; approve the acceptance of Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant funds from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$4,841,875.00 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff proceed substantially as planned.

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| 16. | San Joaquin River Parkway, Ball Ranch (Quarry Site)
Fresno County | \$0.00 |
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This proposal was withdrawn from consideration at this time.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 17. Round Valley, Pine Creek Unit
Inyo County | \$0.00 |
|--|--------|

This proposal was withdrawn from consideration at this time.

- 18 Granite Mountain Desert Research Center Improvements San Bernardino County \$1,785,000.00

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Regents of the University of California to construct a new administrative building and housing for visiting researchers, renovate a staff residence and laboratory, expand wireless network infrastructure, and improve the water system at the Granite Mountain Desert Research Center, located 16± miles south of Kelso in San Bernardino County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

Positioned on the eastern slopes of the Granite Mountains, the 9,000-acre Granite Mountains Desert Research Center (GMDRC) rises from desert up through pinyon- and juniper-covered ridges to Granite Peak (6,800 ft.), the highest peak in the Granite Mountains. From there, large watersheds descend precipitously to the north and east into the sandy alluvial valleys of Bighorn Basin, Cottonwood Basin, and Granite Cove. The lower slopes are characterized by fractured granitic canyon walls and outlying boulders, giving way to the east to densely vegetated alluvial fans and washes. Springs and seeps with associated wetland plants and invertebrates are common throughout the reserve.

The Granite Mountains played a significant historical role in the development of the University of California Natural Reserve System (NRS). In the 1960s, UC professors Ken Norris (UCLA) and Wilbur Mayhew (UC Riverside), through their field courses at Granite Mountains, developed the idea that eventually led to the creation of the Statewide NRS in 1965. The Granite Mountains Reserve was formally added to the NRS in 1978. In 1987, the University of California entered into a long-term cooperative agreement with the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management encompassing both University and federally owned public lands, which expanded the reserve to approximately 9,000 acres (2,200 acres of which are UC-owned). The agreement provided the University of California with non-exclusive use of the federally owned lands for the purposes of conducting research and educational activities in accordance with the charter of the NRS. The 9,000-acre reserve was recognized in the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, which also transferred the federally owned lands to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. In 1995, the University renamed the reserve the Jack and Marilyn Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Every reserve is unique in the services it provides, its capabilities, and what is emphasized in its mission. What the GMDRC offers to visiting researchers and classes, as much perhaps as any field station in the western U.S., is a tremendous natural area that is pristine, diverse, and

expansive. The GMDRC is located in the eastern Mojave Desert of San Bernardino County, a region of unparalleled biological and geological diversity in California. Embedded within millions of acres of federal wilderness, landscape-level ecological processes are still functioning here. And while it is the quality of this natural area that represents the single greatest asset of the field station, the facilities and infrastructure are vital to its operation.

Over the past three decades, overall use of the GMDRC has steadily increased. Research use has grown exponentially with more than 375 academic research projects that have generated over 500 peer-reviewed publications. Development of research programs was initially slow, taking 20 years to reach 50 active research projects. In 2010, after nearly a third of a century of growth, the number of current and active research projects at the GMDRC numbered 168.

As is always the case, rapid growth is often accompanied by a concurrent demand for additional facilities and associated infrastructure. The existing administration building is not large enough for the increased staff. The sixty-year-old buildings, built by the original homesteaders, need to be refurbished and more housing is needed for visiting researchers. Just as important, however, is the need to upgrade the water supply system (wells, pumps, conveyance and storage) that services Granite Cove and to update the wireless network to allow researchers access to remote sensing devices.

WCB PROGRAM

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The management of this project will be incorporated into the existing management at Granite Mountain Desert Research Center and, pursuant to the Grant Agreement, will be maintained by GMDRC for thirty years.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Work Task/Category	Cost	UCR	WCB	NSF
Design Engineering and Planning	\$433,000	\$100,000	\$333,000	\$0
Construction	\$1,683,000	\$311,000	\$1,339,000	\$33,000
Operation and Maintenance	\$98,000	\$98,000	\$0	\$0
Endowment Principle for O&M	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0
Contingency	\$156,000	\$43,000	\$113,000	\$0
Total Project Cost	\$3,570,000	\$1,752,000	\$1,785,000	\$33,000

UCR- University of California- Riverside

WCB- Wildlife Conservation Board

NSF- National Science Foundation

Project costs will be for project design, engineering and planning, construction, operation and maintenance. Construction activities will include: 1) Improvements to the water system though well development and associated infrastructure; 2) Construction of a new 2,100 sq. ft. Administrative Building to provide administrative offices, meeting room, interpretive displays and museum collections; 3) Addition of cellular towers to improve the wireless network on the reserve; 4) Renovation of the existing laboratory to rodent-proof the building; 5) Construction of a 280 sq. ft. duplex to increase lodging opportunities for an additional four researchers; 6) Renovation of the staff residence by replacing dilapidated trusses, rafters, and rooftop, updating sixty year old electrical and plumbing materials and rodent proofing the building by sealing walls and entry points.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15301 and 15303, as maintenance of existing facilities and construction of new small structures. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The project was vetted through the University of California Natural Reserve System's Ad Hoc Subcommittee and recommended for funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,785,000.00 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(b)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

19. Goose Lake Legacy Project \$2,348,836.00
Kern County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) to acquire 1,670± acres of land for the purpose of protecting wetlands and associated upland habitat areas in the Goose Lake watershed, supporting numerous migratory birds and threatened and endangered species.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located approximately 30 miles northwest of Bakersfield, south of the City of Wasco in Kern County. Interstate 5 borders much of the western boundary of the area. The adjoining lands consist of primarily irrigated agriculture including pistachios, almonds, pomegranates, cotton, etc. In addition to agriculture, nearby lands and linkages include protected wetland conservation areas enrolled in Natural Resources Conservation Service, federal easement Wetland Reserve Program. The Kern National Wildlife Refuge is located approximately ten miles north of the Property.

The Goose Lake region is an area that historically (pre-1850's) was covered by a vast expanse of shallow flooded wetlands. Flooding of these wetlands occurred through natural rain and snow run-off each spring. This natural inundation of wetlands occurred not only in the Goose Lake region, but also in the neighboring Tulare, Kern, and Buena Vista Lake beds. In total, the historic wetland complex comprised roughly 500,000 acres and formed the largest freshwater marsh west of the Mississippi River. The expanse provided a major stopover area within the Pacific Flyway for numerous migratory waterfowl and other bird species flying between northern and southern habitat regions. It also provided wintering area for vast numbers of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds and year-round habitat for numerous resident terrestrial and aquatic-dependent species. Wetlands in the region remained in their natural state until the late 1850's when main tributaries of the basin were diverted for irrigating farmland. In 1905, full scale reclamation of the wetland habitat was underway with the construction of levees and water diversions, which eventually reduced this habitat base to less than 15,000 acres. Since the natural hydrology of the area has essentially been eliminated, wetland habitat must now be maintained with artificial water supplies. Today, the majority of the remaining wetlands are located on federal wildlife refuges, water district managed lands, and private lands.

The Property is a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regional priority and listed within CDFW's Goose Lake Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The Goose Lake area is also important for waterfowl conservation plans such as the Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV), which is tasked with implementing the North American Waterfowl

Management Plan (NAWMP). Under these plans some of the major priorities for the area are protection and restoration of palustrine emergent habitats and wetland enhancement activities to increase wetland resource values. Habitat enhancements within the Goose Lake area will improve foraging areas opportunities that will help improve the overall body condition of waterfowl in preparation for the return migration north and for the breeding season, which in turn leads to increased reproductive success.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The acquisition consists of two non-contiguous properties which are rectangular in shape and the general terrain is fairly level. Approximately 50% of the Property acreage is alkali sink, managed seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands including mud flats, open water, emergent vegetation, shrubs and trees. The other 50% includes associated uplands and grassland area. Water conveyance systems run throughout the Property to deliver water to managed wetlands units.

In addition to the numerous waterfowl, shorebirds and other migratory bird species that utilize the Property, it also provides habitat for a number of rare, threatened, and endangered species including the state threatened and federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox, state and federally endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard and Tipton kangaroo rat, and the state threatened San Joaquin antelope squirrel.

WCB PROGRAM

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

CWA, a non-profit hunter-supported conservation organization, will be responsible for managing the Property according to the terms of the grant, which provides that the Property will be used to further protect and manage the wildlife habitat, and facilitate public access, recreation and outreach through conservation programs primarily administered by CWA.

CWA is working with the Property owner to develop a stewardship fund (Fund), to be funded by the proceeds from this acquisition. The Fund will establish and help guarantee that baseline funding levels are available to meet future operating and maintenance costs.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$2,338,836.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to CWA provide that staff of the WCB must 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:

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$2,338,836.00
Total Purchase Price	\$2,338,836.00
 Other Project-Related Costs	 \$ 10,000.00
TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	\$2,348,836.00

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, Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c), which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat containing natural communities and for the protection of rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$2,348,836.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) 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.

20. Ocean Trails HCPLA 2009 \$607,250.00
(Ya Yi May and Angeles LLC Properties)
Los Angeles County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for two grants to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (City), as well as the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the City to acquire two separate properties, 16± acres and 42± acres in size, for the protection and preservation of existing wildlife linkages and species associated with the Ocean Trails Habitat Conservation Plan (OC HCP) and the pending Rancho Palos Verdes Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (RPV NCCP).

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The two subject properties (Property) are located within Malaga Canyon, in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Malaga Canyon consists of undeveloped open space in the northern part of the City within the Grandview neighborhood. The Canyon runs primarily in a north-south direction crossing under Montemalaga Drive and flowing into the City of Palos Verdes Estates. The first site, referred to as the “Angeles LLC” property, consists of 42± acres and is located along the northern and southern side of Montemalaga Drive west of Basswood Avenue. The second site, called the “Ya Yi May” property, consists of 16± acres and is located along the northern and southern sides of the undeveloped Mossbank Drive in the upper (southern) portion of Malaga Canyon.

The Property is located about two miles north of the 463± acre Portuguese Bend Nature Reserve acquisition, which was partially funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in 2005, and the 163± acre Forrestal Reserve acquisition, which was also partially funded by the WCB in 1996. Surrounding land uses include single family residences, several schools and parklands.

The project is also consistent with action proposed under California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) California Wildlife Action Plan. The project is located within the South Coast region within the plan. One of the recommended conservation actions called out for this region is that wildlife agencies and local governments should work to implement regional NCCPs, which is the primary purpose process to conserve habitat and species in the region’s rapidly urbanizing areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Angeles LLC Property

The Angeles LLC property consists of five tax parcels grouped into three non-contiguous areas totaling 42± acres. The property is mostly coastal sage scrub with areas of grassland on steeply sloping land. There are no improvements on the property.

Ya Yi May Property

The Ya Yi May property consists of two contiguous tax parcels totaling 16± acres. The property terrain is rolling to steep hills with acreage on both sides of Mossbank Drive. The entire ownership is identified as grassland vegetation. There are no improvements on the property.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula contains the last remaining and most northern block of habitat supporting a viable coastal California gnatcatcher population on the coast in California. Acquisition of the Property will contribute to the conservation of one of the most intensely studied gnatcatcher populations in California. Combined with properties already protected within the proposed RPV NCCP, conservation of these parcels will contribute to a north-south linkage between populations of the federally listed threatened coastal California gnatcatcher and provide potential habitat for the federally listed endangered Palos Verdes butterfly, the coastal cactus wren and other rare species found on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. In addition to providing protection to existing habitat, acquisition of the Property by the City would facilitate the potential future implementation of several segments of the Malaga Canyon Trail identified in the City's Conceptual Trails Plan.

WCB PROGRAM

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

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

When acquired, the City may enroll the Property in the RPV NCCP preserve, called the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve (Preserve). The Preserve area spans some 1,400± acres with over 30 miles of trails through rolling hills, steep canyons and rock outcrops, with significant habitat and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. The Preserve is made up of ten habitat reserves and is owned by the City and managed by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC). PVPLC will fund its management obligations within the Preserve, and the City would meet its ownership obligations (fuel modification, safety, etc.). It is anticipated that the area will be managed for protection of habitat areas and may also provide opportunities for passive recreational uses.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of \$1,114,500.00. Specifically, the Angeles LLC property has an appraised fair market value of \$659,500.00, and the Ya Yi May property has an appraised fair market value of \$455,000.00. The appraisals have been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the USFWS. The Property owners have each agreed to sell their Property for its approved appraised fair market value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by the WCB grants to the City. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grants and the USFWS subgrants to the 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 each acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the City to encumber the Property with a conservation easement and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

WCB Grant (Angeles)	\$ 329,750.00
USFWS subgrant funds (Angeles)	<u>\$ 329,750.00</u>
Total Purchase Price	\$ 659,500.00
 WCB Grant (Ya Yi May)	 \$ 227,500.00
USFWS subgrant funds (Ya Yi May)	<u>\$ 227,500.00</u>
Total Purchase Price	\$ 455,000.00
 Other Project-Related Costs:	 \$ 50,000.00
 TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	 \$ 607,250.00

It is estimated that an additional \$50,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including appraisals and DGS appraisal review costs. Under the terms of the USFWS grants, the WCB may seek partial reimbursement of these costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisitions have been reviewed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and each 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, Notices of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the project as proposed; allocate \$607,250.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Section 75055(c) for the grants to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and to cover the project-related costs approve the acceptance of a Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$557,250.00 and approve the subgrant of the federal funds to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

21. Imperial Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration \$1,000,000.00
Imperial County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the California Waterfowl Association for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Duck Stamp Program to restore and enhance 367± acres of wetlands at CDFW's Imperial Wildlife Area (IWA), Wister Unit, located six miles northwest of Niland in Imperial County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

Millions of years ago the area surrounding the Salton Sea was part of the Gulf of California. Over time sediment deposited by the Colorado River cut off the area from the Gulf, and a large freshwater lake was formed. Over hundreds of thousands of years, changing climate and realignment of rivers would result in the lake alternately forming, then drying out and reverting to desert. The last time the lake formed was in 1905, when the Colorado River was accidentally diverted into the basin during construction of the All-American Canal, and the Salton Sea as we know it was formed.

The IWA is located on the southeastern shoreline of the Salton Sea north of the City of Niland. The IWA was established in 1954 to provide over 6,000 acres of safe haven for migrating birds that visit the Salton Sea region every winter. Over the years, many seasonal and permanent wetland units were developed to provide habitat for wildlife, as well as recreational activities for the public. Over the last six years alone, six State-funded projects totaling more than \$770,000 restored 1,300± acres of wetlands on the IWA. Five of the projects were funded through CDFW's Duck Stamp Program, and one project was funded through the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). Three U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants through the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) totaled nearly \$1,500,000 helped restore an additional 2,570± acres of wetlands.

This restoration project will be taking place near the northern boundary of the IWA. The areas to be restored are currently sitting idle, but prior to acquisition by the State these areas were used to impound water for fish production. The site contains heavy clay soils that hold water well - probably one of the reasons for its use in fish production in the past.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Because of the great regional importance of Imperial Valley's wetlands to wildlife and migrating birds of all species, the Sonoran Joint Venture identified the IWA and surrounding Salton Sea as a designated focus area in need of habitat protection, enhancement and expansion. In addition, the WCB, NAWCA council, and CDFW have dedicated a significant

amount of funds over the last six plus years for the restoration and enhancement of the area's wetlands, including those at the IWA's Wister Unit. The potential to increase the acreage of high quality wetland habitat for wildlife while also increasing the availability of usable acreage for the general public will successfully provide benefits to the goals and objectives of all the partners involved.

In total, the project will restore an estimated 207 acres of wetland habitat and establish a 5-acre permanent fishing unit, which will be incorporated into the IWA's overall public use program. At the same time, 160 acres will be enhanced with improved water conveyance infrastructure.

Currently, many of the existing wetland units on the subject site are extremely narrow, with failing perimeter levees, poor or no drainage capabilities, and have areas that cannot be flooded. This project will remove unneeded levees, refurbish existing levees, establish drainage swales, install new water control structures, and install a new pipeline to deliver water efficiently to the restored and enhanced wetlands. These activities will maximize management capabilities and increase habitat quality.

This portion of the IWA receives water from the Imperial Irrigation District. The Wister Unit is located at the end of the line for much of the Imperial Valley agricultural drain water, as well as for deliverable water diverted from the Colorado River. Both sources are currently used to flood and irrigate the Wildlife Area. The water supply is a prescribed supply and is tied to the property. The new pipelines will reduce water costs, evaporative loss, runoff, and vegetative loss associated with open ditch water delivery systems. The re-contouring and development of wetland units will reduce water usage during fall flooding and spring irrigations, as units will be developed in such a way that water will be distributed evenly and efficiently across the wetland units. The project will also clean up and remove dilapidated buildings and old fish farm infrastructure.

This project will help to expand and increase the quality of the existing habitat within the IWA, expand hunting and fishing opportunities for the public, and provide a more enjoyable experience for all visitors who come to the IWA to appreciate the thousands of birds and other wildlife that call this place home.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the program's goal of providing for the restoration of wetlands that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Inland Wetland Conservation Program.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project will be on a portion of CDFW's IWA, and management of this project will be incorporated into the existing management of IWA, pursuant to the Land Management Plan for the Wildlife Area. The improved water management capabilities associated with this wetland enhancement will allow the CDFW managers to provide improved wetland habitat through more efficient water delivery and drainage, with less staff time.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Item	Cost	Duck Stamp	WCB
Earth Work/Debris Cleanup	\$744,000	\$115,000	\$629,000
Water Control Structures/Signage	\$234,000		\$234,000
Project Management	\$125,000		\$125,000
Contingency	\$12,000		\$12,000
TOTAL	\$1,115,000	\$115,000	\$1,000,000

Project costs will be for construction, site cleanup and debris disposal, and project management. Construction costs are associated with acquisition and installation of water control structure (e.g. pipelines, valves, and screwgates) and earthwork. Site cleanup and debris disposal costs include reservoir demolition, removal of dilapidated building, and disposal fees.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley, which provides funding for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands outside the Central Valley and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15304 Class 4, as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The CDFW has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$1,000,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley; authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

22. Tijuana River Valley Mesa Trails \$1,200,000.00
San Diego County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation for a project to construct and rehabilitate trails, provide signs and trailhead facilities, and restore 15± acres of coastal sage habitat on the south side of the Tijuana River Estuary, located three miles south of Imperial Beach in San Diego County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Tijuana River watershed covers approximately 1,700 square miles, 75% of which is located south of the US-Mexico border. The entire watershed empties into the Pacific Ocean through an eight square mile area north of the border, referred to as the Tijuana River Valley. The area is mostly rural or protected natural habitats and includes the Tijuana River Estuary, the Border Fields State Park, the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge, and various local parks. The proposed project falls within the County of San Diego's 1,800-acre Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP), which lies in the central area of the valley. In 2003, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) assisted with a restoration project in Goat Canyon, which lies immediately west of the proposed project.

The TRVRP is near the densely populated communities of San Ysidro, Imperial Beach, Nestor and Tijuana, Mexico. The TRVRP contains diverse natural habitats, ranging from dense riparian forests along the Tijuana River to coastal maritime sage scrub. The project site is located within the TRVRP on two mesas overlooking the valley, adjacent to the US-Mexico border.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The TRVRP planning documents propose over 22 miles of multi-use trails and recreation improvements for County residents, which have been constructed or will be constructed in segments from multiple funding sources. Improvements will also contribute to sediment control and wildlife and habitat enhancement. An extensive trail network will support healthy living through outdoor recreation, allow visitors to enjoy natural resources, and prevent damage to sensitive habitat. TRVRP trails also connect to the regional Bayshore Bikeway and the statewide California Coastal Trail. Many of these projects have already been implemented and are being enjoyed by thousands of visitors.

The project currently proposed is to implement further improvements to public access and for habitat restoration in the TRVRP on two mesas, known as Spooner's Mesa and Monument Mesa. This project will implement approximately five miles of the proposed TRVRP multi-use trail network. This area will provide a unique trail experience overlooking Border Field State Park, the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research

Reserve, and the Pacific Ocean. These trails will provide important access to the mesa tops and encourage visitors to explore and appreciate the natural areas located within the TRVRP.

Currently, the two mesas are crisscrossed with many unauthorized and unplanned use trails that have appeared over the last few decades. These trails are a major cause of sedimentation in the estuary and damage the native habitats on the hillsides. The proposed trail work will include identifying which, if any, of the existing use trails can be rehabilitated to eliminate the erosion that is currently occurring and developing a new trail system. Construction of the new trail system will include installation of stable trail surfacing, fencing, trail heads, interpretive components such as signs or overlooks, directional and facility signs, and trail amenities such as benches and bike racks. Trail construction is anticipated to be performed by the California Conservation Corps (CCC).

The proposed project will also include restoration and enhancement of native habitat on both mesas. Abandoned use trails will be restored to native habitats. In addition, most of Spooner's Mesa was historically used for agriculture, and the habitat impacts from that use are still prevalent at the site. Invasive plant species dominate much of the area. The goal of the project is to restore these degraded areas to Diegan coastal sage scrub and maritime succulent scrub.

Construction of trails and restoration of habitat will help reduce erosion, sedimentation, and habitat degradation problems currently facing the Tijuana River Valley. The project will also result in improved wildlife species use and preservation of existing sensitive plant species.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Public Access Program and the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program and meets the programs' goals of providing public access for hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation statewide and providing for restoration of wetlands and adjacent uplands that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Inland Wetland Conservation Program such as coastal, tidal, or fresh water habitats, coastal scrub, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitats.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (SDDPR) manages over 300 miles of trails within the County park system. Ongoing trail maintenance will be done using a combination of existing staff and contract workers as needed. Currently, the TRVRP is staffed with four full time staff and one seasonal. The TRVRP staff is responsible for the maintenance and operations within the park including such activities as erosion control, weed abatement, trail clearing and related tasks. SDDPR

also contracts with the CCC for trail maintenance work. Trail maintenance is included in the current operating budget for the park and is projected to be included in future budgets.

Additionally, SDDPR partners with the South West Interpretive Association (SWIA), the Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association (TRVEA) and WildCOAST. These non-profit organizations assist the County of San Diego in invasive plant removal, trail maintenance, and park clean up events.

SDDPR also has a Trail Crew specifically assigned to open space trail construction and trail maintenance. The crew is highly knowledgeable and skilled in the planning, development, and maintenance of all forms of recreational trails.

Habitat restoration will be performed by contracted restoration specialists who will ensure ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the restored areas during the first three years of the project. Long-term management of the restored areas will be assumed by SDDPR. SDDPR will manage the areas in accordance with the Resource Management Plan for the TRVRP. The Resource Management Plan was prepared as a guidance document to preserve and manage the biological and cultural resources within TRVRP while balancing the need to provide appropriate passive recreational opportunities. SDDPR promotes natural and cultural resource management strategies that ensure environmental preservation, quality of life, and economic development.

The project will close unauthorized trails and direct visitors to maintained trails, which will preserve biological and cultural resources and support the City of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan and Subarea Plan, while preserving local residents' recreational needs. The adaptive management plan for TRVRP ensures a balance between preservation of resources with the County obligation to provide recreational opportunities for the public within TRVRP. This project will improve recreational opportunities in this unique area and provide improved habitat for many species of wildlife that use the coastal scrub and the estuary below.

If at any time during the life of the project the SDDPR does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires that the SDDPR refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

Work Task/Category	WCB	LWCF	County GF	Total
Trail Construction	\$278,930	\$278,930		\$ 557,860
Spooner's Restoration	\$325,000	\$210,000		\$535,000
Monument Restoration	\$210,000	\$210,000		\$420,000
3-Year Maintenance	\$154,000			\$154,000
3-Year Biological Monitoring	\$117,700	\$ 31,200		\$148,900
SUBTOTAL	\$1,085,630	\$730,130		\$1,815,760
Project Oversight	\$5,807	\$55,770	\$120,000	\$181,576
Contingency	\$108,563	\$73,013		\$181,576
TOTAL COSTS	\$1,200,000	\$858,913	\$120,000	\$2,178,912

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding sources for this project are the Wildlife Restoration Fund, Local Assistance, and the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a). The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding sources, which allow for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife compatible recreational activities, and for the acquisition, protection and restoration of coastal wetlands identified in the Southern California Coastal Wetlands Inventory and upland areas adjacent and proximate to such coastal wetlands.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

As lead agency, the SDDPR has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has considered the EIR and prepared proposed, written findings documenting WCB's compliance with CEQA. Subject to WCB approval of the project, staff will file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this project as proposed; allocate \$309,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration fund; allocate \$891,000.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), Water Code Section 79572(a); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

23. Appraisal Review and Disclosure Policy Report Informational/Action Item

This item is to provide a report to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) on the Appraisal Review and Disclosure Policy (Policy) adopted by the WCB during its meeting of May 2012, and subsequently amended March 2013. It also is to consider minor modifications as herein proposed.

The Policy developed a process and set guidelines for when the WCB would contract for, and seek an independent appraisal review of, appraisals for projects considered “Substantial Acquisitions” and then disclose this review to the public no less than 30 days prior to taking action to award funding. As defined in the Policy, “Substantial Acquisition” means the grant or use of State bond funds to acquire an interest in real property for which the WCB proposes to allocate five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) or more of State funds.

At the March 2013 Board meeting, staff was instructed to report back on the effectiveness of the new Policy after 12-18 months. Specifically, the report is to provide information represented as a percentage about the number of projects, the WCB dollar allocations impacted by the Policy, and provide a cost benefit analysis. The cost benefit analysis was to include information on the cost associated with implementing the Policy, any impact the Policy has had on staff workload necessary to complete a project, any impact the Policy has had on the appraisal industry and availability of WCB to commission appraisers and independent reviewers, and any indicators of public satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the nature of the appraisal reviews.

Since adoption of the Policy, 32 acquisition projects have been approved and \$36,000,000 has been allocated by the WCB, none of which has been subject to the new Policy. While these numbers do not include the current proposed projects in this agenda, none of them are subject to the Policy either. Therefore, in terms of the number of projects and the dollar amount of allocations impacted by the Policy to date is zero.

Currently, WCB staff has under evaluation approximately 100 acquisition projects. Of these, there are 4 projects currently underway that are considered substantial acquisitions and are subject to the Policy. Therefore, for the cost benefit analysis, some information on the costs can be provided in terms of the cost and time needed to contract out the appraisal and independent appraisal review for the four projects currently being evaluated; however, no information in terms of benefits is available at this time. It is assumed the benefits would manifest through the increased review of the appraisal, increased transparency and public involvement and comment on projects prior to Board consideration that has yet to occur.

For the four projects potentially impacted by the Policy, staff has contracted out two appraisals; bids are being requested for a third, and the fourth is pending. All four are expected to be presented to the Board in 2014. Because the Policy requires WCB to contract out these appraisals, the combined costs of the appraisals can be shown as the total appraisal cost attributed to the Policy. The estimated cost of the three appraisals being contracted by WCB is approximately \$92,000.00. It should be noted that these three appraisals also include an additional cost attributed to requiring a separate special value component, such as water, timber or mineral values. The fourth appraisal pending should not include this additional cost, and is estimated to cost \$17,500.00. The combined total for all four appraisals would be \$109,500.00.

One question to ask is, whether or not the Policy was in place, would the WCB have contracted for the appraisal for any of the projects subject to the Policy? Since one of the projects was initiated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)/WCB, it is reasonable to assume the WCB would have contracted for one appraisal, leaving the other three appraisals to be secured by our project partners. Consequently, if you deduct the one appraisal, the net total savings to the WCB would have been \$90,000.00.

Of the two projects currently appraised, one independent review has been contracted out, and the other is pending. The total cost of the four independent reviews is estimated to be approximately \$28,000.00. In terms of actual net costs to the WCB, we have considered the cost of three appraisals plus the independent reviews for all four for a total estimated cost at \$118,000.00 (\$90,000+\$28,000).

In terms of time added to project delivery, there are two potential scenarios described below:

- Time needed to contract an independent appraisal review only; 60-90 days (2 to 3 months) - This scenario assumes the WCB would have contracted out the appraisal regardless of the Policy and the only additional time needed was the time needed to contract out an independent appraisal review;
- Time needed to contract an appraisal and independent appraisal review; 150 to 210 days (5 to 7 months) - This scenario covers cases where a valid appraisal may have existed (completed by project partners and prepared by a qualified and licensed appraiser) at the time the project was presented to the WCB staff, but staff had to contract a new appraisal due to the Policy requirements and then contract out an independent appraisal review afterwards.

The cost-benefit analysis was also to consider any impacts the Policy has had on the appraisal industry and availability of WCB to commission

appraisers and independent reviewers and any indicators of public satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the nature of the appraisal reviews. In general, most appraiser comments and responses, as can be expected, have tended to indicate displeasure with the Policy seeing it as a denunciation on their profession and credibility. This negative response could be the reason the WCB has seen a decline in the pool of qualified and experienced resource land appraisers willing to bid on projects.

Over the period of this report, the average cost of appraisals has risen by 35%, from \$6,300.00 to \$8,500.00. Looking at costs preceding the Policy, the cost of appraisals prior to the Policy was fairly stable, so the relatively rapid increase is noteworthy. Also noted was the average cost of the Department of General Services (DGS) appraisal review, which has risen by 45%, and the number of appraisals rejected has also increased from approximately 22% prior to the Policy to 35% currently. Although there should be no direct relationship between these DGS increases in costs and rejections to the Policy, it could be a symptom of the reduced pool of qualified and experienced appraisers available to WCB and indirectly due to the additional scrutiny that was placed on the DGS review process. It should be noted the increased rejections by DGS and time needed to reappraise or meet DGS stated appraisal review concerns, has impacted and delayed all WCB projects, anywhere from 1 to 9 months. In some cases a new appraisal has been required.

The Policy has also created some confusion and frustration with partners, because all other State Resource Agencies apply one set of rules regarding appraisals and disclosure while the WCB maintains a different set of rules. One related and common concern among many land trust and resource partners is figuring out and applying the different approaches and methods used by agencies to evaluate and fund resource projects. In many cases these different applications are driven by funding requirements and statutes and are difficult to alter to create uniformity. However, in certain cases, as with the Policy, most stakeholders would prefer to see unanimity among the funding agencies, rather than varying or unique policies.

To help reduce some of the impacts of the Policy, as stated above, staff is recommending the following actions by the Board.

- 1) Amend the Policy by taking out the current requirement that WCB contract out the appraisal for Substantial Acquisitions, essentially allowing other project partners to contract out appraisals consistent with current law. This would eliminate confusion over who must conduct and pay for appraisals, potentially saving 90 to 120 days in project delivery, and saving WCB capital expenditures by allowing WCB to use appraisals already contracted out and paid for by other partners.

2) Continue with the remaining provision of the Policy as it relates to the independent review and disclosure for Substantial Acquisitions. Require staff to report back in no less than 12 months when the four Substantial Acquisitions have completed going through the process. This will provide a better indicator of the benefits to WCB in maintaining a separate Policy.

24. Strategic Plan Update Informational

Staff will provide an update and highlight work completed during the Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Planning workshop held on October 22, 2013.

25. 2014 Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting Schedule Informational

The Board will consider and possibly adopt its 2014 meeting schedule.

February 27, 2014
May 30, 2014
August 28, 2014
November 20, 2014