

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MINUTES, MEETING OF MARCH 19, 1949

C O N T E N T S

<u>Item</u> <u>No.</u>		<u>Page</u> <u>No.</u>
1.	Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting of January 24, 1949.	1
2.	Item 245, 1947-48 Budget Bill, Report on Current Status of.	2
3.	Rescinding Action on Wishon Project	2
4.	Revising Action Taken November 12, 1947, on Item 245.	2-3
5.	Hatchery Projects, Recommended	3-4
6.	Hatchery Program, Action With Regard to	4-5
7.	Field Inspection Trip	5
8.	State Engineer Presented.	5
9.	Waterfowl Projects Recommended.	5-7
10.	Waterfowl Program, Action re.	7-8
11.	Employee Filling Exempt Position.	8
12.	Date for Next Board Meeting	8-9

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Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in the Board Room of the Public Works Building, Sacramento, on March 19, 1949. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Silva at 10:10 A.M.

PRESENT:	Wm. J. Silva	Chairman
	James S. Dean	Member
	E. L. Macaulay	Member
	Senator Ralph E. Swing	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator Ben Hulse	" " "
	Senator George J. Hatfield	" " "
	Assemblyman Lloyd W. Lowrey	" " "
	Assemblyman S. L. Heisinger	" " "
	Assemblyman Thomas M. Erwin	" " "
	Seth Gordon	Consultant
	Everett E. Horn	Special Consultant
	C. R. Knight, Jr.	Field Agent

The following persons were present and participated in the deliberations as required:

General Warren T. Hannum	Director of Natural Resources
Edwin L. Carty	Fish and Game Commission
Paul Denny	" " " "
Harvey E. Hastain	" " " "
D. H. Blood	Deputy Director-Comptroller
Ralph W. Scott	Deputy Attorney General
Edward Hyatt	State Engineer, Water Resources
A. D. Edmonston	Asst. State Engineer, Water Resources
Honorable Clyde A. Watson	Member of the Senate
A. C. Taft	Bureau of Fish Conservation
Earl Leitritz	" " " "
Ben Glading	Bureau of Game Conservation
Richard Croker	Bureau of Marine Fisheries
Robert E. Reedy	Administrative Assistant, Division of Fish and Game
Kramer A. Adams	Public Information Officer

Numerous representatives of the press, sportsmen's groups, and others, were also in attendance.

1. Approval of Minutes

It was regularly moved and seconded that the reading of the minutes of the Wildlife Conservation Board meeting of January 24, 1949, be dispensed with and said minutes approved as written. Passed unanimously.

2. Item 245, 1947-48 Budget Bill

Mr. Reedy gave a report on the current status of Item 245 of the 1947-48 Budget Bill. He stated that the Board gave blanket approval to all items in Item 245, totaling \$1,387,825, on November 12, 1947, excepting those items determined by the Attorney General not to be proper charges against the Wildlife Restoration Fund. Certain items were also disapproved by other authorities. Active projects now total \$444,373, and pending projects (including requested increases due to revised estimates of cost, etc.) \$306,852. Therefore a revised approval was requested in the amount of \$751,225, reducing the former approval by \$636,600.

Mr. Reedy read a suggested motion to accomplish these changes, which would have had the effect of rescinding the previous approvals granted and otherwise changing former actions. General discussion followed regarding the propriety of proceeding in the manner suggested. Deputy Attorney General Scott recommended that the word "rescinded" in the suggested motion be changed to "modified", as he thought the Controller might have some objection to rescission of authorization for funds expended. It was brought out that the action taken August 28, 1948, with regard to Moorehouse Springs-Wishon (Tule River) Projects should be rescinded.

Mr. Dean asked if the Fish and Game Commission was in accord with the revised approval requested and if the revisions were in accord with the future program. Mr. Reedy stated that the Commission had taken official action at its meeting of March 18, 1949, to request the Board to grant the revised approval. Mr. Gordon said that the amount requested for the Cedar Creek Hatchery should be reduced from \$150,000 to \$125,000, because plans for this project had been revamped. Also, that there was some doubt about the Sacramento River Weir and a few other items, but the money should be left budgeted until further studies were made.

The items in question were disposed of by the two motions below.

3. Rescinding Action on Wishon Project

It was regularly moved and seconded that the action taken by the Wildlife Conservation Board on August 28, 1948, transferring \$20,000 for Moorehouse Springs to the Wishon (Tule River) site, be rescinded. Passed unanimously.

4. Revising Action Taken November 12, 1947, on Item 245

After hearing the explanations given by Mr. Reedy and others, Senator Hatfield suggested that the members of the Interim Committee recommend to the Board that the blanket approval of Item No. 245, in the amount of \$1,387,825, granted November 12, 1947, be amended and modified as suggested. Members of the Interim Committee were polled and agreed unanimously with the recommendation.

Thereupon, it was regularly moved and carried, all members of the Board voting therefor, that the blanket approval of Item 245, in the amount of \$1,387,825, granted November 12, 1947, be amended and modified by the Board to include only the following projects in the amount set opposite their respective

names, and that all other items previously approved be deleted from the blanket approval of said date:

Deer Creek Fish Screen	\$15,000
Merced River Fish Screen	10,000
Mendota Fish Ladder.	20,000
Salt Slough Fish Ladder.	25,000
Central Laboratory	5,000
Moorehouse Springs Hatchery.	25,000
Glenn-Colusa Hatchery.	30,000
Kern County Hatchery	51,600
Cedar Creek Hatchery	125,000
Crystal Lake Hatchery.	140,000
Experimental Pond Construction	20,000
Sacramento River Weir.	18,000
Brawley Game Farm.	28,000
Chico Game Farm.	33,000
Marysville Game Farm	26,000
Porterville Game Farm.	19,000
Honey Lake Waterfowl Management Area	22,125
Madeline Plains Waterfowl Mgt. Area.	32,500
Doyle Winter Range	12,250
Imperial Valley Waterfowl Mgt. Area.	20,000
Desert Quail Development	44,000
Coast Counties - Quail Habitat	<u>4,750</u>

\$726,225

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that the Fish and Game Commission be authorized to construct such facilities for said projects as may be suitable therefor. Passed unanimously.

5. Recommended Hatchery Projects

Mr. Gordon presented his report on recommended key trout production projects. He stated that assistants who have studied the trout problems of California are of the opinion that there are basic programs of far-reaching future importance which should be given preference over hatchery projects. It is realized, however, that the Fish and Game Commission has made commitments concerning the rearing of large quantities of catchable-sized fish that must be fulfilled. Among the basic long-term projects which must be given attention as promptly as field studies and preliminary cost estimates can be completed are such matters as (a) fish ladders and screens; (b) many flow maintenance (check dam) projects throughout the national forests and elsewhere, both of which will in the long run be more important than restocking; and (c) warmwater fishing projects to provide more angling opportunities near large urban communities. These have not been studied enough yet to make estimates as to the funds required. He said the studies covering these fundamental items will not be overlooked; however, since it had been agreed on several occasions that the hatchery program should be given immediate attention, the key projects are now being presented for consideration.

Mr. Gordon recommended total additional expenditures to expand the hatchery program as follows: Cedar Creek - \$125,000; Darrah Springs - \$231,000*; Fillmore - \$20,000; Fish Springs - \$135,000*; Moccasin Creek - \$250,000*;

Moorehouse Springs - \$25,000; Mojave - \$42,700; Mt. Shasta - \$205,000; San Joaquin - \$260,000*; Tule River - \$100,000; and Willow Creek - \$120,000*. Total estimated cost of construction - \$1,513,700. (Those designated with an asterisk (*) are new projects, Cedar Creek having previously been tentatively approved.)

He listed other hatcheries which should be continued as they are for the present, some of them only recently having been expanded or considerably improved. He also recommended that 11 hatcheries with a manpower requirement of 30 people be discontinued as rapidly as possible because their continuance cannot be justified. This would then leave 22 hatcheries which would be operated with an estimated 151 regular employees, an increase of only 30 over the present, at an estimated cost of \$541,708. The recommended program would produce almost 13,000,000 catchable fish, about 12,000,000 fingerlings, and 1,020,500 pounds of fish annually compared to 4,652,000 catchable, something over 20,000,000 fingerlings, and 429,000 pounds of fish produced under the old system. It was believed that this increased production should meet the demands made upon the Division of Fish and Game to supply fish for the next decade without further expansion, but that most of the installations to be retained and the new ones proposed could be considerably expanded and production increased to almost double the estimates given if that became necessary.

In general discussion with regard to the recommended hatchery program it was brought out that the \$205,000 budgeted by the Division of Fish and Game for the Mt. Shasta Hatchery in 1949-50 should be deleted from the budget as it was included in the program. Also, that Cedar Creek, in the amount of \$125,000, and Moorehouse Springs, in the amount of \$25,000, should be deleted from the list above as they were included in Item 245 of the 1947-48 Budget Bill as revised. (These projects had been included to give a composite estimate of future manpower and other requirements, also production estimates.)

It was agreed that the \$30,000 project at Black Rock Rearing Ponds which the Fish and Game Commission had requested be given immediate consideration should be included in the hatchery program, but that the \$10,000 request for Stream Improvement, North Coast Area, be passed back to them. Senator Hatfield recommended that the latter item be referred to the Senate and Assembly Committee as he questioned the propriety of using Wildlife Restoration funds for this purpose. Mr. Scott stated that it was doubtful that this item would be a proper charge against Wildlife Restoration funds.

Assemblyman Lowrey questioned the policy to be followed on budget requests for funds for improvements at any of the 11 hatcheries to be discontinued. Mr. Gordon replied that no appropriations for improvements should be made unless they were absolutely necessary to keep the hatchery in operation until the new program was functioning, or unless they were portable and could be used elsewhere at a later date.

6. Action With Regard to Hatchery Program

Upon motion of Senator Swing, seconded by Senator Hatfield, it was moved that the Interim Committee agree to recommend to the Board that funds be allocated from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and made available immediately for recommended new or expanded fish rearing projects as listed, involving a total expenditure of \$1,393,700 to carry these projects into execution and that said sum be allocated

to the Fish and Game Commission; that the State Public Works Board proceed to acquire any land found necessary to complete these projects; and that the Fall Creek, Burney, Almanor, Feather River, Yuba River, Alpine, Basin Creek, Brookdale, Madera, Kings River, and Kaweah hatcheries be discontinued and abandoned as rapidly as possible. Upon polling the members of the Interim Committee the vote was as follows:

AYES: Senators Hatfield, Hulse and Swing; Assemblymen Erwin and Heisinger

NOT VOTING: Assemblyman Lowrey
Motion carried.

Thereupon, by motion regularly made, seconded and unanimously adopted by the members of the Board, it was agreed that funds be allocated from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and made immediately available to the Fish and Game Commission for recommended new or expanded fish rearing projects as follows: Darrah Springs - \$231,000 (new); Fillmore - \$20,000; Fish Springs - \$135,000 (new, auxiliary to Mt. Whitney); Moccasin Creek - \$250,000 (new); Mojave - \$42,700; Mt. Shasta - \$205,000; San Joaquin - \$260,000 (new); Tule River - \$100,000; Willow Creek - \$120,000 (new); and Black Rock Rearing Ponds - \$30,000 (existing auxiliary to Mt. Whitney), involving a total of \$1,393,700; that the Fish and Game Commission be authorized to acquire any land found necessary to complete these projects; that the State Public Works Board be requested to handle such acquisitions for the Fish and Game Commission except where the use of the required land may be obtained by lease; that the Fish and Game Commission be further authorized to construct such facilities for said projects as are suitable therefor, and to put them into operation; and that the Fall Creek, Burney, Almanor, Feather River, Yuba River, Alpine, Basin Creek, Brookdale, Madera, Kings River, and Kaweah hatcheries be discontinued and abandoned as rapidly as possible.

auth for acquisition

Meeting recessed at 12:20 P.M.; reconvened at 2:00 P.M.

7. Field Inspection Trip

Mr. Croker spoke on a proposed one-day field trip for members of the Board to view some of the more important proposed sites for fish screens and ladders. He suggested the third week in May as the most desirable date when all the canals would be operating at capacity. After discussion, it was agreed that a date for this trip would be set at the next Board meeting.

8. State Engineer Presented

Mr. Macaulay introduced State Engineer Edward Hyatt of the Division of Water Resources and his assistant, Mr. A. D. Edmonston, and welcomed them to the meeting.

9. Recommended Waterfowl Projects

Mr. Gordon next submitted initial recommendations for the waterfowl program. He said that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service looks upon California as the No. 1 Waterfowl Problem in the whole United States and will do its utmost to bring about necessary remedial action. He stated that a detailed joint survey of waterfowl needs was made by Everett Horn, Special Consultant for the

Wildlife Conservation Board, D. E. Woodward of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Roland Curtis of the Bureau of Game Conservation, most of the actual spade work being done by Messrs. Horn and Curtis, because Mr. Woodward was busy acquiring land under the Lea Act.

Mr. Gordon further stated that the Federal Director of the Budget has recommended a \$250,000 appropriation for next year under the Lea Act, to be matched by State funds, and that there is a gentleman's agreement that the same amount will be included for the year following, making a total of \$750,000. There is a possibility that this amount may be further increased if found necessary. He recommended that appropriations to match Lea Act funds for the entire three years be set up now, with as much more as the Board is willing to earmark for that purpose. Also, that acquisition of certain key units in the proposed waterfowl program be approved now lest the needed lands become unavailable. Mr. Horn was presented to submit the recommendations.

Mr. Horn then presented the joint preliminary report on the waterfowl needs. He stated that in surveying areas for acquisition for waterfowl management they had considered the established flight of the birds in California, the location of existing State and Federal refuges and management areas, and the location of private duck lands. Serious consideration was also given to the relation of these areas to various types of crops surrounding the sites. They sought first to determine the needs of waterfowl, and then to fit those requirements into the overall economic picture in the State.

He said that the Central Valleys have, from the start of recorded history, been a major wintering ground for birds of the Pacific Flyway. The west side of the Sacramento Valley seems to be adequately taken care of by existing refuges; however, the east side is in need of further management areas. The existing Grey Lodge Refuge should be enlarged to provide lands on which crops could be raised, also for public shooting. Another unit is badly needed in the upper Butte Creek section, south of Chico. To meet the urgent requirements of the Lower San Joaquin Valley, he suggested the acquisition of one unit for the northern end, and one unit at the southern end of the Grasslands. He also recommended that consideration be given to the acquisition and development of one or both of two areas in the upper San Joaquin Valley.

In summarizing, he stated that alternate areas were suggested for upper Butte Creek, Lower San Joaquin, and the south end of the Grasslands, represented by Mendota Pool and an area designated as Madera County. The higher cost alternate was used as the basis for estimating funds required, even though the lower one may be finally acquired.

Class I Priority Waterfowl Areas

Lower Butte Creek	\$537,036
Upper Butte Creek	710,000
Lower San Joaquin	512,400
Mendota-Madera.	621,000
	<u>\$2,380,436</u>

Mr. Horn stated that the two upper San Joaquin Valley areas are also suggested as Class I, depending upon water availability, as well as an additional area in the Central Valley in the southern Solano County, Yolo Bypass, or Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta section.

He said studies are being continued and further recommendations will be made later.

It was brought out in discussion that there was a possibility, where alternate areas were suggested, of both areas being acquired - one by the State and one by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Also, that the limiting factor in the development of waterfowl areas was water.

State Engineer Edward Hyatt stated that the Water Resources Board is making a statewide investigation, called the Statewide Water Plan, which will come out in a series of reports in two or three years, and in which fish and wildlife should be an important part. He requested the cooperation of the Board on wildlife matters.

Assistant State Engineer A. D. Edmonston also spoke on the Statewide Water Plan. He stated that in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys together there is just about enough water to support full agricultural development and that if this area is to be used for recreation, fish and wildlife will have to be coordinated with the irrigation development for agriculture. He invited the Board to participate in studies regarding dams and reservoirs to provide improved recreational advantages in the north coast area.

Senator Hatfield asked Mr. Hyatt about the possibilities of Water Resources making a survey of water development on waterfowl projects. Mr. Hyatt replied that if the projects depend on water in which the Federal Government is concerned the Reclamation Bureau should be consulted; however, if it were necessary to pump water, it would be a matter of State law. He stated that the reports are not very lengthy, nor expensive. Mr. Dean asked if any investigation had been made to assure the Board's getting water. Mr. Hyatt replied that Water Resources had extensive records of water supplies in the State and that he believed they could make a report.

Mr. Horn suggested that on waterfowl projects where alternates are proposed it might be wise to request the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire the area for which it is most difficult to secure water because the Reclamation Service is a Bureau in the same Federal Department.

10. Action re Waterfowl Program

Mr. Gordon brought out the need for the Board or the Commission to employ a good, experienced land acquisition man. Senator Hatfield stated that the Board could recommend the acquisition of land, but the actual acquisition should be made under the direction of the Division of Fish and Game or the Commission. Mr. Dean suggested that the acquisition of land might be done by the Public Works Board and Senator Hatfield concurred. General Hannum offered the services of the Land Acquisition Section of the Division of Beaches and Parks. Mr. Scott advised that any land purchases could be made either by the Commission or by the State Public Works Board, whereupon the following motions were made:

Upon motion by Senator Swing, seconded by Senator Hatfield, it was moved that members of the Interim Committee recommend to the Board that the Imperial Waterfowl Management Area (no additional financing required); Lower Butte Creek; Upper Butte Creek; Lower San Joaquin; and Mendota-Madera, be approved as No. 1 Projects for waterfowl.

Members of the Interim Committee were polled, the vote being as follows:

AYES: Senators Swing, Hulse, and Hatfield; Assemblymen Lowrey, Heisinger and Erwin

NOES: None

Passed unanimously.

Thereupon, by motion regularly made, seconded, and unanimously adopted by the members of the Board, it was determined that the Imperial Waterfowl Management Area, Lower Butte Creek, Upper Butte Creek, Lower San Joaquin, and Mendota-Madera Area be and the same were approved as No. 1 Projects for waterfowl.

It was then moved by Senator Swing, seconded by Assemblyman Heisinger, that the Interim Committee recommend to the Board that a total of \$2,380,436 be allocated to the Fish and Game Commission from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and made available immediately to said Commission to acquire lands, equipment and facilities for projects as follows: Lower Butte Creek - \$537,036, Upper Butte Creek - \$710,000, Lower San Joaquin - \$512,400, and Mendota-Madera - \$621,000, which amount shall include necessary equipment and facilities; and that all of said sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary shall be used to match appropriations by the Federal Government under the provisions of the Lea Act; it being further agreed that purchases of lands necessary shall be made by the State Public Works Board. On polling the members of the Interim Committee the vote was as follows:

AYES: Senators Hatfield, Hulse and Swing; Assemblyman Heisinger

NOT VOTING: Assemblymen Erwin and Lowrey

Motion carried.

Thereupon, by motion regularly made, seconded and unanimously adopted by the members of the Board, the sum of \$2,380,436 was allocated from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to the Fish and Game Commission, such monies to be available immediately, for the purpose of acquiring lands and constructing facilities as may be suitable therefor, and to put them into operation on projects as follows: Lower Butte Creek - \$537,036, Upper Butte Creek - \$710,000, Lower San Joaquin - \$512,400, and Mendota-Madera - \$621,000; that all of said sum, or as much thereof as may be necessary shall be used to match appropriations by the Federal Government under the Lea Act; and that the acquisition of lands needed for such projects be handled by the State Public Works Board.

*Pub. Works Bd.
agrees to pay
land.*

11. Employee Filling Exempt Position

It was regularly moved and seconded that the employee filling the exempt position authorized by the Wildlife Conservation Board be granted vacation and sick leave rights commensurate with those granted civil service employees. Passed unanimously.

12. Date for Next Meeting

By motion made by Senator Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Erwin, it was recommended by members of the Interim Committee that the next meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board be held in Sacramento

at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, April 22, 1949, instead of April 16,
as previously agreed upon.

Thereupon by motion regularly made, seconded, and adopted by the
members of the Board, it was agreed that the next meeting of the
Wildlife Conservation Board shall be held in Sacramento, at
10:30 A.M. on Friday, April 22, 1949.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.