WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MINUTES, MEETING OF MARCH 24, 1954

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MINUTES, MEETING OF MARCH 24, 1954

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 5100, State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on March 24, 1954. The meeting was called to order by Chairman William J. Silva at 1:45 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT:	William J. Silva	Chairman
	Seth Gordon	Member of the Board
	A. Earl Washburn (substituting for John M. Peirce)	Member of the Board
	Senator Ed C. Johnson	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator Charles Brown	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblyman Frank P. Belotti	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblyman Thomas M. Erwin	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblyman Lloyd W. Lowrey	Joint Interim Committee
	Everett E. Horn	Wildlife Projects Coordinator
ABSENT:	Senator Ben Hulse	Joint Interim Committee
	John M. Peirce	Member of the Board

OTHERS PRESENT:

Harry Anderson	Department of Fish and Game
William J. Harp	" " " " "
Robert Calkins	" " " " "
Alexander Calhoun	" " " " "
Chester Woodhull	" " " " "
Ben Glading	" " " " "
Earl Leitritz	" " " " "
Lawrence Cloyd	" " " " "
John Cowan	" " " " "
Rudy Hickey	The Sacramento Bee
Harry Wilbur	California Conservationist Magazine
Robert Hanley	Calif. Farm Bureau Federation
Kurt Vincent	Calif. Dept. of Finance, Div. of Public Works & Acquisition
Ray Williamson	Attorney General's Office
Bert Wilson	Los Banos
Paul L. Pellegrini	Humboldt Wildlife Association
Nelson Rossig	Humboldt Wildlife Association

2. Approval of the Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GORDON, SECONDED BY MR. WASHBURN, THAT THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD OF OCTOBER 13, 1953, BE DISPENSED WITH AND SAID MINUTES BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. STATUS OF FUNDS

Mr. Horn reported to the Board that a sum of $10,433,373 had been allocated to 82 specific projects, up to the close of the meeting of October 13, 1953, with the following breakdown:

a.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects (17)	$ 4,360,681
b.	Warmwater and other Fish Projects (11).	279,335
c.	Flow Maintenance and Stream Improvement Projects (18) . .	474,981
d.	Screen and Ladder Projects (13)	382,690
e.	State Game Farm Projects (4)	105,644
f.	Other Upland Game Projects (4).	440,909
g.	Waterfowl Management Projects (11).	4,320,642
h.	General Projects (4).	68,491
	TOTAL (82 Projects)	$10,433,373

In addition to specific allocations above, the following reserves have been established: (1) Mendocino National Forest Stream Improvement and Flow Maintenance Program, $15,000; (2) Colorado River Recreational Development, $50,000; (3) Salton Sea Fisheries Project, $46,000.

The present unobligated balance in the Wildlife Restoration Fund is approximately $1,223,500.

Mr. Horn, upon the request of Mr. Washburn, named the four relatively minor waterfowl management projects as Buena Vista Lagoon, Honey Lake, Lake Earl, and Madeline Plains.

Assemblyman Lowrey requested a breakdown by number and amount of warmwater fish projects and the other projects considered under Item b. Mr. Horn then reported that of the 11 projects listed under this item, only two were not warmwater fish projects; the Salton Sea Project and the Shasta River Fish Counting Dam. He further reported that of the $279,335 allocated for this item $56,520 had been set for the above two projects, the balance of $222,815 was for warmwater fish projects.

Mr. Gordon asked how many of the 9 warmwater fish projects had been completed and Assemblyman Lowrey requested information as to how many of the total 11 were being actively worked upon at the present time.

Mr. Horn then informed the Board that 2 of the warmwater projects had been completed: Linda Lake and Snake Lake, and that 1, Ramer Lake was very near completion. Mr. Horn reported the Department is presently engaged on the following projects:

Avocado Lake - Fresno County: Completion of project awaits settlement of a condemnation suit by Corps of Engineers on one piece of property.

Coachella Valley Public Fishing Areas: Because of multiple obstructions, the completion of this project may not be possible, and the project may have to be dropped.

Ramer Lake: This project is in the final stages of construction and should be completed within the next two months.

Shasta River Fish Counting Dam: An engineering study has shown the original site to be unsuitable. Pending final study, the possibility exists that this project may be abandoned as unfeasible.

Turlock Reservoir Subimpoundment: Mr. Horn recommended that this original project be abandoned because of the excessive cost. An alternate plan seems entirely feasible and is being surveyed by the Department of Fish and Game and the Irrigation District.

Assemblyman Belotti requested a breakdown of the projects in Item c, Flow Maintenance and Stream Improvement Projects. Mr. Horn stated that he had prepared a report on the status of all of the WCB projects and would send Assemblyman Belotti the complete set.

In response to Senator Johnson's inquiry, Mr. Horn reported that of the three diversion dams, Sutter-Butte, Great Western, and Glenn-Colusa, only the Sutter-Butte has been completed. At Mr. Gordon's request, Mr. Fraser explained that the other two were being held up pending results of the Tracy experiments with louvre-type screens.

Mr. Lowrey asked if the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District would be included in further discussions of the proposed Glenn-Colusa screen.

Mr Fraser advised the District was cognizant of present plans and would be advised of all future meetings and plans.

4. Review of Wildlife Conservation Board Program and Future Program of WCB

Coordinator's Report

Progress of the "California Fish and Game Program" and capital investment by the Wildlife Conservation Board has created some highly pertinent problems that should be met.

The furnishing of capital facilities by the Board has presently outstripped the financial and physical ability of the Department of Fish and Game to operate the expanded program.

During the year ending June 30, 1953, the Department operated at a deficit of some $260,000. Estimates of the deficit for the year ending June 30, 1954, were originally placed at $700,000 but are now stated at about $574,390. The deficit for the year ending June 30, 1955, is now estimated to be about $537,106.

Such expenditures in excess of income are caused primarily by increased operating costs of the new hatcheries, waterfowl areas and other expanded facilities; and the decreased purchasing power of the dollar.

Public reaction has been varied. The Organized Sportsmen have opposed an increase in license fees, and the Southern Council, Ocean Fish Protective Association, and Associated Sportsmen passed resolutions to cut the hatchery - catchable trout program back to the 1953 level. Later these same sportsmen recommended proceeding at the 1954 level until the costs of catchable trout production and distribution can be thoroughly analyzed.

George Difani as spokesman for the Organized Sportsmen has voiced opposition to the Waterfowl Management Program.

The California Fish and Game Commission at its January 8, 1954, meeting passed the following resolution:

> WHEREAS, It appears to this Commission that the Department of Fish and Game may not have sufficient funds to operate and maintain all of the presently authorized Wildlife Conservation Board projects when completed; and
>
> WHEREAS, It appears that there is approximately $1,200,000 in unallocated funds presently remaining in the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and
>
> WHEREAS, It appears that certain additional projects are presently requested of the Board which, when completed, will require the expenditure of little if any funds for maintenance and operation; now therefore be it
>
> RESOLVED, That this Commission respectfully recommends to the Wildlife Conservation Board, and to the legislative interim investigating committee participating with said Board, that until funds have been made available from other sources for the management and operation of completed projects no further allocations be made from the presently unallocated funds of the Board for any projects other than projects which will require no appreciable outlay of money for management and operation when completed, and other than projects under construction; and be it further
>
> RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, all members of the legislative interim investigating committee, and to the chairmen of the Assembly and Senate Committees on fish and game.

This resolution has much to commend it for serious consideration. The Wildlife Board during the first few meetings decided the waterfowl program was number one priority. Then the fish hatcheries and catchable trout program was accepted as high priority. These projects were to be completed and others of lesser priority then undertaken.

It appears good business to take stock of progress and adopt a policy of action geared to present conditions. Either a cut back in Department operations or increased Department revenues will be needed to balance the Department budget. To this end the following suggestions are presented:

a. Hatcheries and Catchable Trout

The Board's attention was then called to the State's fish hatchery system, and the increase in production of catchable trout from 1948 to the proposed 1954 level.

Status of Trout Hatcheries

In full production

1. Mt. Shasta
2. Prairie Creek
3. Crystal Lake

4. Darrah Springs (Not to highest production 1954)
5. Yosemite
6. Hot Creek (Being expanded)
7. Fish Springs
8. Black Rock Rearing Ponds (Expansion completed)
9. Mt. Whitney
10. Sequoia
11. Moorehouse
12. Kern River
13. Fillmore
14. Mojave

In various stages of construction

1. Moccasin Creek (Complete but will not be in production this year)
2. San Joaquin (Under construction)
3. Cedar Creek (Experimental) (Plans completed by Div. of Architecture. Bids will be advertised.)

No action

1. American River (No immediate plans)
2. San Gabriel (No present plans)

Being abandoned

1. East Side Rearing Reservoir

The Board was then advised that if the proposed American River, San Gabriel, and Tahoe Hatcheries were constructed, and the San Joaquin and Moccasin Creek Hatcheries go into full production, the state-wide hatchery operation and maintenance costs would approximate $2,000,000 annually.

In view of the deficit financing by the Department of Fish and Game, it appears desirable for the Board to consider the advisability of not authorizing any additional hatcheries, other than those now under way, until a decision is reached regarding the operating funds of the Department.

In view of the deficit financing by the Department of Fish and Game, and the resolution passed by the Fish and Game Commission January 8, 1954, Mr. Horn recommended that all hatcheries now under construction be completed, but that no additional hatcheries be considered until such time as needs for additional catchable trout are determined and means of financing the operation of all facilities could be determined. Mr. Horn respectfully requested the Board give consideration to these problems.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Gordon reported that the O.F.P.A. and the Southern Council had modified the intent of their resolutions, and had informed him that they were in favor of completing the presently programmed projects, but that the production level be determined by the funds available. Mr. Gordon expressed his opinion that it would be prudent to complete the plans presently underway.

Mr. Horn explained that the problem of deterioration of hatcheries would have to be faced if projects now partially completed were abandoned.

At Mr. Silva's suggestion, Mr. Horn read a portion of the resolution requested by Commissioner Wente and passed by the Commission at its meeting of January 8, 1954. (Set forth in full in the Coordinator's report)

Chairman Silva reported that the Fish and Game Commission is aware of the problems now confronting the administrative branch of the Department and that it is expedient to give every consideration to this matter before available funds are depleted. Mr. Silva presented three proposals to the Board as a solution to the problem: (1) Money be obtained from the General Fund; (2) The license fees be raised; (3) Curtail the present program. He further advised that the matter required serious and careful consideration. Mr. Silva stated that he had no objections to the completion of projects now under construction, but felt that no new projects should be attempted until operating funds are available.

Assemblyman Belotti advised the Board that he was not aware of any dissatisfaction on the part of the sportsmen in his district with the plans for the expansion of the catchable trout program, and that, on the contrary, he believed they desired the present program to be accelerated and expanded further than that now planned. Assemblyman Belotti further stated that it was his feeling that these sportsmen would have no objections to an increased license fee for the privilege of enjoying the sport, and that this indicated the need for state-wide sportsmen's opinions before any action was taken.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Gordon offered his comments stating that he believed the resolution adopted by the Southern Council at the insistence of the O.F.P.A. and the A.S.C. came about because the group felt that the expansion of the program was progressing too rapidly, without giving full consideration to expected operating and maintenance costs, and that available funds would be depleted by increased operating costs. Mr. Gordon then advised the Board of his belief that the formation of the new California Wildlife Federation would furnish them with a clearer state-wide picture of the attitude of the sportsmen. Mr. Gordon stated that he had been informed by other states that they, too, were faced with similar financial difficulties, not because of expanded construction programs, but because of high and rising operating costs. It was his thinking that this was our problem and not that our program was running beyond a reasonable approach.

The Board was informed by Mr. Horn that spokesmen for two civic groups (not affiliated with sportsmen's clubs) in the Bay Region had called him asking that he extend their appreciation and thanks to the Chairman for the proposed trout planting program in their vicinity.

Assemblyman Lowrey was of the opinion that the remaining funds should be used on projects such as check dams, stream improvement, and small warm-water projects. He felt that by using the unallocated balance of funds on such projects, more people would be put into the field without great overhead and upkeep costs and no expensive maintenance expenses. Assemblyman Lowrey stated he believed that if an increase in license fees were called to meet the increased cost of the catchable trout planting program, the trout fisherman alone should be taxed and not other sportsmen.

The Chairman observed that it might be a feasible plan by selecting the counties in which large quantities of catchables were planted and then levying a tax to fish in those counties.

Senator Johnson stated that he understood Darrah Springs hatchery was now producing one crop of catchables per year. The Senator inquired as to the cost of producing two crops per year at this same hatchery.

Mr. Calhoun advised the Board that a two-crop annual production would reduce the cost per unit, but that consideration must be given to the fact that if two crops were now produced, the one to come out of the hatchery in January and February could not now be utilized judiciously. He stated that the planting should be done at the peak of the fishing season, and over a period of several years they would undoubtedly develop good means of using a second crop, but that at the present time they should go along on a one-crop schedule.

Senator Brown commented that he had received no recommendation from sportsmen in his district.

Mr. Washburn questioned Mr. Calhoun as to the possible survival rate of catchables if two crops were produced and one crop planted in January.

Mr. Calhoun reported that catchables survive only a few weeks after planted.

Assemblyman Belotti asked Mr. Silva if the Commission deemed it necessary for the Board to render a decision at this time.

The Chairman urged that the Board give serious thought to the matter and that it would be presented again at its next meeting. He stated that the Commission would appreciate a definite recommendation from the Board at an early date. Mr. Silva felt that further allocations should not be made at this time unless they were urgently needed items.

Upon the request of the Chairman, Mr. Horn stated the survey of hatcheries and catchable trout ordered by the Board at their meeting of April 16, 1953, was nearing completion. He pointed out the importance of completing the survey, now well under way, before a final decision was reached on the catchable trout and hatchery program. He mentioned that at present a transportation study was being conducted concerning the moving of the fish from hatcheries to the planting sites and waters.

4. b. Waterfowl Management Areas

The Wildlife Conservation Board, at one of its first meetings, decided that the management of waterfowl was the number one priority problem facing the Board and the Department.

Subsequently, the Board accepted, and allocated funds for the acquisition and development of 7 key waterfowl management areas. At that time the Department of Fish and Game stated they had sufficient funds for operation and maintenance of the areas.

Because of increased costs of operations, the Department now advises adequate funds are not available for all of these areas.

It was suggested that only 4 key Wildlife Board Waterfowl areas be carried through at this time, and that the following action be taken:

1. Cancel the Butte Sink Area (Project No. 507) and withdraw the remaining $5,000 of allocated funds.

   There is little or no justification for a waterfowl area in this location. The Sacramento, Colusa, and Sutter National Wildlife Refuges are only a few miles distant to the northwest, west and southeast respectively, and the expanded State Grey Lodge Waterfowl Management Area is just east of this proposed area. Need for an additional waterfowl area in the Sacramento Valley could well await full development and operation of the four existing areas.

2. Select one area in the San Joaquin Valley instead of the three originally planned.

   If but one area is to be acquired it should be located most advantageously to best serve the three-fold purpose of such areas: i.e. (1) to provide living space for waterfowl; (2) to protedt agricultural crops; and (3) to provide public shooting grounds.

   Los Banos Refuge is now being developed for food production and public shooting. In addition, the San Luis Wasteway, located a few miles west of Los Banos Refuge is leased from the Bureau of Reclamation and operated as a public shooting area. These two areas partially meet the requirements of waterfowl areas in this section of the San Joaquin Valley.

   The one recommended management area might best be located farther south in the Middle San Joaquin Valley. Rice acreage from South Dos Palos to beyond Tranquility has increased from about 7,000 acres in 1942 to in excess of 40,000 acres in 1953.

   Waterfowl, herded from the rice fields between South Dos Palos and Oxalis generally fly north onto the southern portion of the grasslands, but few of them travel as far north as the Los Banos Refuge. Birds between Oxalis and Tranquility fly to the vicinity of Mendota Pool.

   Thus, to give greatest protection to crops and more equitably distribute public shooting, the one area might well be located in the general vicinity of Mendota Pool.

   The proposed Tupman, or Upper San Joaquin Waterfowl Management Area, while highly desirable in the over-all state management plan, is not so vital and might well be held to a future date for consideration.

   Mr. Horn recommended the Butte Sink, Tupman, and San Luis Island areas be cancelled and the balance of funds remaining in allocations to these projects either be recovered or transferred to one San Joaquin Valley area reserving enough from the San Luis Island account to meet any attorney's fees that may be awarded Robinson & Germimo.

In response to inquiry by the Chairman as to the availability of water and the purchase price of lands in this area, Mr. Horn reported that the Department had been offered 7 or 8 large blocks of land in the general area in question. Of these, two were not being considered because of the high asking price. For two others, the purchase price has recently been dropped to a more reasonable level. As to the water available on the latter two, the Bureau of Reclamation could furnish water on one, especially if H.R. 4213 is passed by the Congress, and the other property would be supplied with water from existing wells.

Assemblyman Erwin then asked if anything had been done as far as selecting another site as a substitute.

Mr. Horn advised that all of the sites offered had been inspected and that he was prepared to submit a report and recommendations upon request of the Board.

Mr. Vincent of the Division of Public Works and Acquisition, reported to the Board that his and the Attorney General's offices had been negotiating with the attorneys of the owner of the San Luis Island property and that inasmuch as they had now made a reasonable offer, approximately $935,000 to purchase the property, he felt that his office and the Attorney General's office could now recommend purchase on this basis. Mr. Vincent pointed out that if this action were taken by the Board, it would serve as a settlement of the case now pending for the attorneys fees and that no further costs and/or fees would be chargeable to the S State under such settlement. Mr. Williamson of the Attorney General's office stated that they were advised that there is a new judge on this case and it would probably be heard some time in April.

Mr. Gordon then reminded the Board that they had already voted to abandon this project.

Mr. Horn explained that if just one management area is now selected in the San Joaquin Valley he did not believe the San Luis Island site suitable for the following reasons:

(1) The water conditions are not good
(2) Waterfowl management areas would be bunched together too closely into one portion of the valley
(3) Irrigation districts have informed him that they would oppose, by every legal means, the taking of water from Salt Slough. If we went ahead with the project, took the matter to court to get water from Salt Slough, and lost, we would have dry land.
(4) The cost of leveling the land and putting in water control structures would be about $100 per acre. There are approximately 6,000 acres to be considered.

Mr. Horn then reported that the site recommended in the vicinity of the Mendota Pool would best serve the objectives of the three objectives previously considered. Also that much of the land is now leveled to grade. The portion that is still rough leveled could easily be developed as ponds.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Silva briefly reviewed the steps taken towards the acquisition of the San Luis Island property and brought the matter up to date. He mentioned also that it had been

decided to allow the money allocated to the San Luis project to remain until a suitable substitute had been found, at which time it would be transferred to the new site.

Mr. Gordon reported that the late Assemblyman Heisinger had strongly felt that it would be a bad blunder upon the part of the Board not to establish a waterfowl management area in the Mendota Pool-rice field area.

Assemblyman Erwin stated that he felt that there should be no further negotiation on the San Luis Island property and that it should stand as an abandoned project.

> MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN ERWIN AND SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN LOWREY THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD THAT IT REITERATE ITS STAND THAT THE SAN LUIS ISLAND PROPERTY PURCHASE BE ABANDONED AND THAT THE COORDINATOR MAKE A STUDY OF THE AREA AND RECOMMEND A SUBSTITUTE SITE TO THE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING.
>
> PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Washburn then stated he felt the Board should move to abandon all three of the projects rather than take action on only one.

Mr. Glading suggested that the Board consider the abandonment of the Upper San Joaquin (Tupman) and San Luis Island projects, and reactivate the Madera waterfowl management area.

The Board was informed by Mr. Vincent that the Division of Water Resources had informed his office that water conditions on the San Luis Island site were such as to permit a waterfowl management area program there.

Mr. Washburn called attention to the fact that it would still require approximately $100 per acre to prepare the land, and Mr. Silva felt that the cost of preparing a substitute site would be considerably less than that amount.

> MOVED BY MR. GORDON, SECONDED BY MR. WASHBURN, THAT THE BOARD REITERATE ITS POSITION OF ABANDONMENT OF THE SAN LUIS ISLAND PROPERTY AND THAT THE PROPOSED UPPER SAN JOAQUIN PROJECT ALSO BE ABANDONED AT THIS TIME.
>
> PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Coordinator then recommended to the Board that the Butte Sink Project be dropped and the $5,000 balance allocated to it be recovered.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of those present on the Joint Interim Committee and the Wildlife Conservation Board that a joint motion accomplish this action.

> MOVED BY MR. GORDON, SECONDED BY MR. WASHBURN, THAT THE PROPOSED BUTTE SINK WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA BE ABANDONED.
>
> PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. c. Other Categories of Projects

Mr. Horn reported that initially the Board's program included other types of projects that were somewhat secondary and were to be undertaken as the program progressed. All of these have been started, allocations made and some projects completed.

These categories of projects involve somewhat low capital investment and small or no operation and maintenance cost to the Department. The return to sportsmen will be quite high.

It is recommended that until the Department budget is balanced, future allocations for new projects be to:

(1) Warmwater Fish Projects
(2) Stream Flow Maintenance
(3) Coastal Angling Access

Consideration should be given to any additional funds required to complete projects already under way.

Suggestion to be considered by the Board.

5. American River Hatchery - Project No. 103

On August 24, 1952, the Board allocated $40,000 for the purchase of land as a site for a trout hatchery on the American River below Nimbus Dam. Later the Federal government agreed to provide a site for a salmon-steelhead hatchery to be built and operated by the Federal agencies. The State can use this site upon which to construct a trout hatchery if desired.

The outlet structure and pipe from the dam to the hatchery or hatcheries is soon to be constructed. If a trout hatchery is ever to be constructed, it would be far cheaper to make an enlargement of the outlet and pipe to carry 20 c.f.s. of water now, rather than after the dam is finished. Bureau of Reclamation officials advise that a 33 inch diameter outlet and pipe is being planned for the salmon hatchery to carry 30 c.f.s. By enlarging this to about 36" diameter it would carry 50 c.f.s., at an additional cost of about $2 per linear foot. The pipe line is 1100 feet long - a cost of $2,200 for the increased capacity. Other charges would be incurred for the enlarged outlet and valves - Bureau of Reclamation estimate total increase would be about $7,500 to $10,000.

Even though no immediate recommendation is made for a proposed American River trout hatchery, it is requested that authority be granted to use up to $10,000 of the previously allotted $40,000 for the enlargement of the water supply outlet and pipe, sufficient to carry 50 c.f.s.

There is very good indication that this hatchery will be wanted in some future year. A considerable saving would be made by installing adequate outlet facilities before the dam is finished.

MOVED AS A JOINT MOTION BY ASSEMBLYMAN ERWIN, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN BELOTTI, THAT AN AMOUNT UP TO $10,000 OF THE $40,000 PREVIOUSLY ALLOTTED FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAND AS A SITE FOR A TROUT HATCHERY ON THE AMERICAN RIVER BELOW NIMBUS

DAM BE USED TO COVER THE INCREASED COST OF ENLARGING THE OUTLET AND PIPE FROM THE DAM TO THE HATCHERY TO CARRY 50 C.F.S. INSTEAD OF THE 30 C.F.S. NOW PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Fillmore Hatchery - Modernization of Fish Food Storage and Preparation Facilities

Region V of the Department has requested modernization of the food storage facilities of this hatchery.

The walk-in refrigeration boxes for storage of fish food are no longer capable of maintaining temperatures required to prevent spoilage or loss of nutrient value of frozen fish foods. Repair of these old boxes would cost about as much as replacement with modern equipment.

Modernization would be within the existing and sound 32' x 47½' frame food preparation building.

The existing boxes - one, 12' x 24' Navy surplus, and an 8' x 10' box would be replaced by a 12' x 24' x 8' walk-in freezer capable of holding 20 to 25 tons of food at -10°F temperature at all times.

Present boxes are only capable of maintaining the following temperatures:

BOX	SUMMER	WINTER
12' x 24'	24°F	18°F
10' x 18'	24°F	10°F
8' x 10'	20°F	10°F

A constant temperature of -10°F is desired.

In addition an ice making machine is requested. At present it is necessary to make frequent trips to Oxnard, 20 miles distant, for ice to cool the fish planting tanks during the planting season.

These replacements will permit purchase, storage, and use of fish food in large quantities, instead of the several shipments now required.

Operation and maintenance costs will be considerably reduced, and a better quality of fish can be delivered to the streams.

Engineers Dry and Barbour of the Department have inspected the building and proposed equipment and estimate the following costs:

(1)	Walk-in freezer 12' x 24' x 8', installed. . . .	$8,000.00
(2)	Ice making machine capable of 1200 pounds of ice per 24 hour period, installed	5,000.00
	TOTAL	$13,000.00

MOVED BY MR. GORDON, SECONDED BY MR. WASHBURN, AS A JOINT MOTION, THAT THE SUM OF $13,000 BE ALLOCATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE WALK-IN FREEZER TO COST INSTALLED $8,000, AND ONE ICE-MAKING MACHINE CAPABLE OF 1,200 LBS. OF ICE PER 24-HOUR PERIOD TO COST INSTALLED $5,000; THE ABOVE EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED AT THE FILLMORE HATCHERY.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Hot Creek Hatchery - Reapportionment of Wildlife Conservation Board Expansion Fund - Project No. 34

On October 13, 1953, the Board approved a certain expansion of Hot Creek Hatchery and allocated $96,000 for such work, apportioned as follows:

New Hatchery Building	$60,000
New Brood Ponds	11,000
Two New Residences	25,000
	$96,000

The present request for reapportionment based upon detailed plans and bids secured by Engineer Dry is as follows:

	WCB Apport.	Bid	Change to
Brood Ponds	11,000.00	12,899.00	13,500.00
Hatchery Building	60,000.00	16,778.68	20,000.00
Water supply & electric	- -	14,250.75	15,000.00
House No. 1	12,500.00	12,445.00	15,000.00
House No. 2	12,500.00	12,445.00	15,000.00
Electric supply	- -	- -	2,000.00
Fencing	- -	- -	3,000.00
Contingencies, balance for if necessary			12,500.00
	$96,000.00		$96,000.00

It will be noted no increase of funds is requested, and in all likelihood a saving will be made. This is a request for adjustment of apportionment so the Board and Department of Finance may have full knowledge of the expenditures.

IT WAS MOVED BY SENATOR BROWN, SECONDED BY SENATOR JOHNSON AS A JOINT MOTION, THAT THE SUM OF $96,000 ALLOCATED FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE HOT CREEK HATCHERY, BE REAPPORTIONED BASED UPON DETAILED PLANS AND BIDS SECURED BY THE DEPARTMENT ENGINEER.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Development - Lower Butte Creek Waterfowl Management Area - Project No. 548

The Coordinator requested the Board to hold this item over for the next meeting,

9. Hatchery and Fish Planting Needs

Mr. Horn asked Mr. Woodhull to give the Board a report on the catchable trout plantings as shown on the wall charts. At the request of the Chairman, however, this item was held over until the next meeting. Mr. Silva then asked Mr. Horn to proceed with Item 11, and return to Item 9 later.

11. San Joaquin Valley Waterfowl Area

Mr. Horn briefly reviewed the background on the proposed system for land acquisition and options. He mentioned that a request had been made to the Attorney General for an opinion on this matter as instructed by the Board, October 13, 1953, but as yet one had not been received. He proposed that a system be set up whereby the Board would allocate a sum of money for water study, title search, appraisal, etc. The first request for money would be approximately $15,000 for title search, water survey, and appraisals, then an option might be secured. The Board would thereby have a firm proposal on which to act.

Mr. Horn mentioned the Grey Lodge property and a letter received from Mr. Vincent stating that approximately $75,000 to $80,000 additional would be needed to complete the acquisition. He stated that three requests for additional funds had been made in the past. If it were possible to obtain a clear cut option, stating a definite sum of money within the appraised price, it would eliminate undue delay and avoid repeated requests for allocations for a single project. The Coordinator further pointed out that if the Board could carry out the purchases and acquisitions under this system, of a number of smaller warmwater fish projects that had been planned, it might greatly expedite the completion of the projects.

Mr. Gordon then stated that it was his understanding that the Attorney General's office had opined that the Department could acquire lands if the Board allocated funds, but as yet had not rendered an opinion on the matter of options. He summarized that $15,000 was now being requested for preliminary appraisals, water survey and title search and that after this had been completed, the site selected would be offered for the Board's approval and further allocation of funds.

Assemblyman Lowrey emphasized the need for good public relations with regard to property appraisers sent out by the Department of Finance to appraise private property, and the importance of their requesting permission from landowners before making appraisals on their property.

Mr. Washburn replied that they in the Department of Finance were very much aware of the importance of good public relations in these instances but pointed out that often the appraisers sent out were not State employees, and there was no control over their actions.

Assemblyman Lowrey inquired as to the approximate cost of a substitute site for the Upper San Joaquin, and was informed that asking prices varied but one tract of 6,146 acres was offered at $755,000.

The Chairman proposed that the funds presently allocated for the Upper San Joaquin be transferred to the substitute site.

Mr. Gordon suggested that the money presently allocated to the San Joaquin be left as it was and pointed out that $5,000 could be recovered from the Butte Sink project, and that $112,000 remaining in the allocation for the Madera area.

In the discussion that followed, it was suggested by Senator Brown and the Chairman that these monies should be transferred to a new project, rather than placed back into the unallocated funds.

Mr. Gordon suggested that such balance as may be left, after attorney's fees, from the San Luis Island project and the balance remaining in the Tupman project be transferred to the remaining San Joaquin Valley project, somewhere in the vicinity of the Madera waterfowl management area.

The Coordinator then expla ined to the Board that the property now in question was not recommended when this area was previously being considered only because it was not for sale at that time.

Assemblyman Erwin remarked that the Commission resolution recommending that funds not be allocated for new projects at this time was not binding and that the Board could act to the contrary if they so desired.

> IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN ERWIN, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN LOWREY, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD THAT THE SUM OF $15,000 BE ALLOCATED AT THIS TIME TO BE USED FOR TITLE SEARCH, APPRAISAL COSTS, AND WATER SURVEYS IN CONSIDERATION OF THE SELECTION OF A SUBSTITUTE SITE FOR THE UPPER SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATERFOWL AREA.
>
> PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
>
> MOVED BY MR. WASHBURN, SECONDED BY MR. GORDON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ALLOCATE THE SUM OF $15,000 TO BE USED FOR TITLE SEARCH, APPRAISAL COSTS, AND WATER AND ENGINEERING SURVEYS, IN THE SELECTION OF A SITE TO REPLACE THE PROPOSED UPPER SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATERFOWL AREA PROJECT.
>
> PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
>
> IT WAS MOVED BY SENATOR BROWN, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN ERWIN, THAT THE $5,000 BALANCE ALLOCATED TO THE BUTTE SINK PROJECT AND THE $60,560 BALANCE ALLOCATED TO THE TUPMAN (UPPER SAN JOAQUIN) PROJECT BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PROPOSED MADERA WATERFOWL AREA PROJECT.

Mr. Vincent of the Division of Public Works and Acquisition reminded the Board that part of the fund allocated for the San Luis Island project had already been spent for appraiser's fees and other charges.

Mr. Silva explained that the balance remaining could still be transferred to a substitute project, and that the Board should either take this action or place the balance back into unallocated funds.

> ASSEMBLYMAN ERWIN AMENDED THE PREVIOUS MOTION. MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN ERWIN, SECONDED BY SENATOR BROWN, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD THAT THE REMAINING BALANCES ALLOCATED TO THE UPPER SAN JOAQUIN (TUPMAN), THE SAN LUIS ISLAND, AND THE BUTTE SINK PROJECTS, $60,560, $112,000, AND $5,000 RESPECTIVELY, BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MADERA WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA PROJECT.

Assemblyman Lowrey stated that he did not believe it was justified spending this sum of money on ducks and that other projects such as stream clearance, etc. should be considered.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: MESSRS. BROWN, BELOTTI, ERWIN (JOHNSON HAD LEFT THE MEETING)
NO: ASSEMBLYMAN LOWREY

MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. WASHBURN, SECONDED BY MR. GORDON, THAT THE REMAINING BALANCES OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE BUTTE SINK, TUPMAN (UPPER SAN JOAQUIN), AND SAN LUIS ISLAND PROJECTS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MADERA WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA PROJECT, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED WOULD BEAR THE COST OF ATTORNEYS' FEES WHEN THE PENDING COURT CASE FOR SAN LUIS ISLAND IS SETTLED.

Correct balances as carried on books in Acct

$5,000 Butte Sink
60,328.35 Upper San Joaquin
682,053.90 Lower San Joaquin
$747,382.25 Total transferred to the Madera (Mendota) WMA (532)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Hatchery and Fish Planting Needs

The Coordinator reported that in the course of the study and survey of the hatcheries and catchable fish planting program, considerable planning has been done with members of the Branch of Inland Fisheries endeavoring to develop a program of distribution of fish during the 1954 season.

Based upon production at the various hatcheries, and planting schedules, it was found that the Department will be hard pressed to carry on an orderly distribution and planting of fish with the trucks and tanks that are now available. A careful estimate has been made of the additional equipment needed and it is set forth as follows:

Three 150-gallon tanks, complete with 3/4 ton pickup trucks

Justification: These three tankers are needed for use in Region II, where it is necessary to distribute 450,000 catchable fish in a 58 working day period. This will require 312 truck days of operation. Planting will be from Darrah Hatchery through the Feather River, Bear River, and South Fork of the American River planting bases.

In addition, 100,000 fingerlings are to be planted, requiring 12 truck days.

In summary, the needs are:

7 tankers required
4 tankers available
3 additional needed

This does not provide for any standby equipment in case of breakdown or accidents.

Three 500-gallon tanks

Justification: 175,000 catchables to be hauled to various lakes in Alpine, Amador, Eldorado, Nevada, Butte, Plumas, and Sierra Counties. This will require one 500 gallon tanker working 58 days.

180,000 catchables to be planted during 60 days in streams direct from Darrah Hatchery to western Plumas, Butte, Colusa, and Glenn Counties. Some of these trips will be short haul and two trips can be made per day. One 500-gallon tanker will be required for this work.

A third 500-gallon tanker will be needed for general use in southern California in distributing fish from Hot Creek, Fish Springs, Black Rock, and Mojave Hatcheries, as peak loads demand.

1500-gallon tanker

A tank of this size is used for distribution from the hatchery to various planting bases. Equipment of this type on hand is not quite sufficient to carry the workload, and it is also highly desirable to have a standby in the event existing equipment breaks down or is wrecked.

All of this equipment will be needed and some additional will be required when Moccasin Creek and San Joaquin Hatcheries are completed and all of the hatcheries are placed in full production.

Estimated Cost

3	150 gallon tankers @ $1900	$ 5,700
3	500 gallon tankers @ 3600	10,800
1	1500 gallon tanker @ 9500	9,500
	Total Cost	$26,000

Assemblyman Lowrey questioned the right of the Board to allocate funds for equipment. He mentioned that requests of this type had previously been presented to the Board and had not been granted. He stated that if this exception were made, he felt that it would be a change in the Board's policy.

Mr. Silva reported that the Attorney General's office had rendered an unofficial opinion to the effect that the Board could allocate money for equipment.

Mr. Anderson pointed out that such equipment had been purchased in the past from WCB funds, and Mr. Horn mentioned equipment purchased in the form of tractors, etc., for farming waterfowl management areas.

Senator Brown stated that the Board had at this meeting approved the allocation of funds for the purchase of equipment, i.e., the ice-making machine for the Fillmore Hatchery.

Mr. Anderson reported that this was considered a renovation purchase and that similar purchases had been made for the Hot Creek and Black Rock Hatcheries when they were expanded.

Senator Brown remarked that the expenditure still was not for capital outlay.

Assemblyman Erwin felt that the requested allocation was a suitable one and in the best public interest. He stated that it was necessary to move the fish from the ponds into the streams and that the operation could not be completed without the means of making such a transfer. He reported on the low cost of the planting of catchables as compared to that of planting fingerlings and reiterated that it would be in the best public interest to provide these tankers, and that they could properly be considered capital outlay items.

Senator Brown concurred with Assemblyman Erwin's views, but expressed the necessity for a firm Board policy regarding these matters.

Mr. Silva then explained to the Board that an idea had been proposed to him that instead of spending large sums for the purchase of expensive truck and trailer units, tanks and trailers only could be purchased and when the time came to move the catchables, trucks and drivers could be rented, thereby effecting a substantial savings to the Department.

Assemblyman Lowrey inquired if these were the tanks and trailers for which funds were being requested now.

In reply to his question, Mr. Horn stated that money was now being requested for smaller units which represent the minimum equipment presently needed to move this year's crop of catchables, and was not for the larger trailer units discussed by Mr. Silva.

In response to a question by Mr. Washburn, Mr. Anderson explained that the Department of Finance had never questioned the Department's purchase of tanks, trailers and similar equipment in the past.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN ERWIN, SECONDED BY SENATOR BROWN THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD THAT IT ALLOCATE $26,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE SEVEN TANKERS REQUESTED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GORDON, SECONDED BY MR. WASHBURN, THAT THE REQUEST FOR $26,000 TO BE ALLOCATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEVEN TANKERS BE APPROVED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Coastal Angling Access

Mr. Horn requested instructions from the Board as to whether or not this project should be abandoned, or should the Board staff proceed with the planning of access roads. He stated that a conference had been held with the Division of Beaches and Parks regarding this matter, and that no access roads are being considered in areas where Beaches and Parks plan to acquire property.

Mr. Gordon reported that the Division of Beaches and Parks could take over some of these programs and have so reported. They had stated, however, that there are some that they would not do. Mr. Gordon further informed the Board that some local counties had expressed their willingness to take over the maintenance, if the Department would undertake the construction of the access roads.

Mr. Silva cautioned the Board to maintain a careful approach regarding this matter. He mentioned that the Division of Beaches and Parks should bear a share of this responsibility and also believed that the counties themselves should provide the access roads. Mr. Silva felt that the Department could probably construct some in certain locations, but that careful thought should be given before establishing a spiralling precedent.

Mr. Washburn suggested that Mr. Horn provide the Board with a few specific locations where access roads could be constructed by the Department.

The Chairman then instructed Mr. Horn to review the matter and later inform the Board as to specific locations (two or three) of proposed Department-constructed access roads.

12. Authority to Hire Additional Staff Employees for Short Time Assignment

The Coordinator requested authority to hire an engineer and one helper to make engineering determinations, cost estimates, and hydrologic studies of proposed warmwater fish projects.

While the Department of Fish and Game now has a very efficient Branch of Engineering, the work load is so large that they cannot, physically, handle all of it and give the additional time requested for Board projects.

A field party is needed to make the necessary surveys and estimates so that sound figures and recommendations may be presented to the Board.

If approved and men can be found for a short period of employment, their activities would be coordinated with the Branch of Engineering.

In response to a query by Assemblyman Lowrey as to the number of such projects and their cost, Mr. Horn reported that there are a large number of such smaller projects and that probably $2 or $3 million could be spent for them.

Assemblyman Erwin stated that perhaps tidelands money could be spent for projects of this type.

> IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN LOWREY, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN ERWIN, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD THAT THE COORDINATOR'S REQUEST TO HIRE TWO ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES FOR SHORT TIME ASSIGNMENTS BE GRANTED.
>
> PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Silva suggested that a limitation be placed on the request concerning the time and cost, and Mr. Horn replied that the duration could be made for two or three months, or limited to 90 days, actual working time.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GORDON, SECONDED BY MR. WASHBURN, THAT THE REQUEST TO HIRE TWO ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES FOR SHORT TIME ASSIGNMENTS BE GRANTED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Other Business

Messrs. Paul Pelligrini and Nelson Rossig, representing the Humboldt Wildlife Association presented to the Board for its consideration, a proposal to purchase a parcel of land on South Humboldt Bay which would be used as a feeding and resting area for waterfowl, and also as a public shooting ground.

The Chairman stated that this matter could not be considered by the Board at this meeting, and asked that the gentlemen confer with the Coordinator. Mr. Silva explained that this was the usual procedure for consideration of projects and that if, after study by Mr. Horn, the project seemed a suitable one he would present it to the Board at a later meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Allocations and Unobligated Balances

Unobligated Balances and allocations as of March 24, 1954 Board action.

a.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects (17)	$4,399,681
b.	Warm Water and Other Fish Projects (11)	279,335
c.	Flow Maintenance and Stream Improvement Projects (18)	474,981
d.	Screen and Ladder Projects (13)	382,690
e.	State Game Farms (4)	105,644
f.	Other Upland Game Projects (4)	440,909
g.	Waterfowl Management Projects(8)	4,335,642
h.	General Projects (4)	68,491
		$10,487,373

In addition to specific allocations above, the following reserves have been established:

1. Mendocino National Forest Stream Improvement and flow maintenance program, $15,000;

2. Colorado River Recreational Development, $50,000;

3. Salton Sea Fisheries Project, $46,000.

The present unallocated balance in the Wildlife Restoration Fund is about $1,169,500.

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