

The Resources Agency of California
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Minutes, Special Meeting of January 31, 1963

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Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in a special meeting, in Room 2196, State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on January 31, 1963. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jamie H. Smith at 3:55 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT:	Jamie H. Smith	Chairman
	W. T. Shannon	Member
	Daniel Luevano	Member, Vice Mr. Hale Champion
	Senator Aaron W. Quick	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblywoman Pauline L. Davis	" " "
	Chester M. Hart	Assistant Executive Officer
	Alma Koyasako	Secretary
ABSENT:	Frank P. Belotti	Joint Interim Committee
	Raymond J. Nesbit	Executive Officer
OTHERS PRESENT:		
	James A. Lew	Div. Small Craft Harbors
	George D. Difani	California Wildlife Federation
	James Leiby	Dept. of Fish and Game
	Ray Chapman	" " " " "

2. Accelerated Public Works Program

Chairman Smith explained the need for the special meeting which had been called to consider WCB participation in the Accelerated Public Works Program.

Under this program, federal aid monies are being made available to the states for certain types of fish and wildlife projects. California has the opportunity to qualify for \$191,246 of such funds, and perhaps more later. These federal aid funds must be matched with state funds which have not been planned and budgeted for the current fiscal year. Unallocated monies in the Wildlife Restoration Fund fall in this category and could be utilized. However, the projects must be located within, and for construction utilize labor from, certain eligible areas. A determination must be made as to whether or not the WCB should participate in this program.

In response to Chairman Smith's request, Mr. Hart, the Assistant Executive Officer, gave the following counties as eligible areas:

Del Norte	Stanislaus	Fresno
Lassen	Trinity	Humboldt
Mendocino		San Diego
Plumas		San Joaquin
San Benito		Shasta
Sierra		
Siskiyou		

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The first group of counties, it was brought out, are in the Area Redevelopment Administration program, and the second group are newly designated counties to be considered in the accelerated public works program.

It was Assemblywoman Davis' understanding that there is only one county in California in the above group of counties that has available matching funds. These counties, she felt, would not be designated in this category if they were financially able to match funds; they are precluded from the benefits because of the requirement to find new monies.

Mr. Luevano related that the public works acceleration program specifically was intended to generate projects on the ground in the designated areas. One of the requirements in this program is that in order to qualify for federal funds, the counties must find newly provided money to match these funds. It was brought out that San Diego tried to raise funds through bonds. Humboldt and San Joaquin has found money from storm damage or other funds.

Mr. Shannon pointed out that the Department of Fish and Game would be precluded from participating in the program because of the many restrictions, one of them being that funds must not have been previously budgeted. Because the funds are not budgeted, Finance approval for deficiency budget would need to be secured. WCB funds are considered new, not budgeted, funds, and are readily available.

Senator Quick asked what would be the effect on the other phases of the WCB program -- for the state in general -- in committing these funds to only the designated counties. It was Mr. Smith's feeling that the use of \$191,000 will in no way adversely affect present WCB funds and their use. Mrs. Davis agreed and further added that the projects to be considered would be, in due time, taken care of out of the annual \$750,000. What is contemplated now is using matching funds or picking up \$191,000 which would otherwise not be available.

Mr. Luevano advised it is a requirement that the projects proposed to Washington must be projects which are contemplated for construction in the future.

Some inquiry was made of the projects to be included in the program. Mr. Hart advised that although some projects have been considered, none have been completely engineered nor investigated as to feasibility. Prior to the meeting in mid-March, all such projects would be investigated and staff recommendation given.

Mr. Shannon stated that we have gone as far as we can at the moment. A reply must be made by February 17 to advise the Fish and Wildlife Service, the administering agency for the Federal Government in this program, of our intentions and our financial ability to participate in the program.

Assemblywoman Davis moved that the WCB match the \$191,246 Federal funds and that an evaluation of specific projects by the staff proceed.

Mr. Hart advised that Assemblyman Belotti had previously submitted a letter recommending WCB participation in the program. He further advised that some of the states will not be able to utilize matching federal funds and these

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funds will revert. A second allocation to the states therefore can become available. It is necessary to advise the Federal Government at this time if we can match the \$191,000 and how much additional funds could be matched if these became available.

In answer to Senator Quick's question as to the legality of WCB participation, Mr. Luevano stated it is proper for the State of California to make application to the Federal Government for funds.

Chairman Smith gave the following information relative to the status of the Wildlife Restoration Fund as of January 31, 1963:

Balance after meeting of December 10, 1962 .	\$458,744.39
Recoveries from sale of surplus property and equipment.	40,506.28
Recoveries from projects that could be closed	8,700.00
Recoveries that could be made from established reserves	
Upper American River Development	100,000.00
Colorado River Recreational Development. .	<u>23,219.30</u>
Total that can be made available for allocation	\$631,169.97

Mr. Shannon commented that it would be desirable, at the time these specific projects are acted upon, to allocate the entire amount for the project, subject to the 50% Federal reimbursement.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN DAVIS, SECONDED BY SENATOR QUICK, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND A REPLY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BE AUTHORIZED BY THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD EXPRESSING THE INTEREST OF THE BOARD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACCELERATED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS, UP TO AN INITIAL AMOUNT OF \$191,246 IN STATE FUNDS AND TO AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 OF STATE FUNDS IN THE 1962-63 FISCAL YEAR.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Luevano stated that he would be in favor of this motion, assuming that the source of funds is from the Wildlife Conservation Board, that the staff has affirmed the requirements of the Public Works Acceleration Act, and that there be some liaison between the staffs of the WCB and the ARA which is responsible to the Federal Government, as well as the PWA. Mr. Smith and Mr. Shannon felt these assumptions were desirable and correct.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. SHANNON, SECONDED BY MR. LUEVANO, THAT A REPLY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BE AUTHORIZED EXPRESSING THE INTEREST OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACCELERATED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS UP TO AN INITIAL AMOUNT OF \$191,246 IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS AND TO AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 OF WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS IN THE 1962-63 FISCAL YEAR.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Mr. Hart informed the Board of the timing involved in this program. A reply must be made by February 17 as to our ability to participate; by April 1, fully engineered projects must be submitted to the Federal Government for their review and approval. It was brought out that projects involving land acquisition cannot be considered at the present time because of the deadlines imposed, but that such feasible projects involving acquisition of land should be looked into for possible inclusion in the 63-64 projects.

Mr. Luevano mentioned that the nine counties in the ARA program could be helped by giving projects high priority and accelerate work therefor in those counties which provide additional revenue through gas tax, etc. Mr. Smith agreed that this is very important and should be considered.

Mr. George Difani, representing the California Wildlife Federation, asked if some game range improvement work is contemplated, as he felt it would fit into this program. Assemblywoman Davis advised that this is actually under consideration by the WCB staff as a possible accelerated public works project.

Mr. Hart mentioned that a full-scale meeting to consider individual projects would be desirable by mid-March. Mr. Smith stated that a meeting date would be set after canvassing all Board members. Senator Quick felt that an evening meeting would be more convenient, and all concerned stated this would be agreeable.

Senator Quick asked that the Board consider at some future date the possibility of securing more funds for the WCB, due to the extra costs of developing these areas and the increased costs in general. It was the consensus of the group that although additional funds would be desirable, it was not timely to give consideration of it at this particular time.

3. Authority and Policy re. Condemnation Proceedings

Mr. Hart requested the Board's thoughts and suggestions in regard to the authority and policy of the Board relative to condemnation proceedings. He advised that Mr. Ford B. Ford, Executive Secretary, Senate Natural Resources Committee, had called regarding proposed legislation for the Recreation Bond Act, and requested the Board's policy with respect to acquisition procedures. It had been explained to Mr. Ford that the legal authority for condemnation proceedings were limited and that the Board preferred negotiated purchase.

Mr. Smith requested that the staff contact Mr. Ford and advise that the policy of the Board has been and will continue to be one of negotiated purchases, and it is intended that condemnation would be exercised only if it were absolutely necessary and if the project were absolutely necessary.

4. Review of Program

In answer to Mr. Luevano's question regarding the work of the special consultant hired by the Board, Mr. Hart made the following comments. The special consultant was hired to assist the staff in compiling information regarding the review and future program of the Wildlife Conservation Board. This individual will not make the actual recommendations -- it would be the

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recommendations of the staff. It was requested that the actual report which would be available for a future meeting be supplied sufficiently in advance so that careful review may be made of it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.