

State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of April 9, 1975

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State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of April 9, 1975

Pursuant to the call of the Acting Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 6031 of the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, California, on April 9, 1975. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Timothy Doheny at 1:45 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Timothy M. Doheny

Acting Chairman

Roy M. Bell

Member

E. C. Fullerton

Member

Senator John F. Dunlap

Joint Interim Committee

Senator John A. Nejedly

"

Assemblywoman Pauline L. Davis

"

Assemblyman Barry Keene

"

Assemblyman Edwin L. Z'berg

"

ABSENT: Senator Dennis E. Carpenter

"

WCB Staff

Chester M. Hart

Executive Officer

Alvin G. Rutsch

Assistant Executive Officer

John Wentzel

Field Agent

Jim Sarro

Land Agent

Alma Koyasako

Secretary

Bella Applebaum

Accountant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lewis Crutcher

East Bay Regional Park District

Donald Harms

East Bay Regional Park District

Kay McQuade

Councilwoman, City of Anderson

Mickie Jakez

Vice Mayor, City of Anderson

Chas. E. Martin

City Manager, Anderson

T. A. Dutton

Assist. to City Mgr., Anderson

James L. Leiby

Dept. of Fish and Game

Bob Lassen

"

Pete Dangermond

County of Riverside

Jerome P. Tuholski

Lassen County

Jean Ziebell

Dept. of Fish and Game

M. E. Foster

"

Mary Chessher

Wildlife Conservation Board

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Joel Nossoff	Senate Comm. Natural Resources
Arthur Kramer	County of Mendocino
Kerry Snyder	" "
Jerry Mensch	Dept. of Fish and Game
Joe Sheehan	" "
Richard E. Byfield	Legislative Analyst Office
Ed McGowan	" "
Dawn Hawkins	Student
Richard Turner	Attorney
Wilson K. Lythgoe	Sacramento Bee

2. Election of Chairman

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT  
TIMOTHY M. DOHENY BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WILDLIFE CON-  
SERVATION BOARD.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT  
THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE  
OCTOBER 25, 1974, MEETING.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Recovery of Funds

Mr. Hart, the Executive Officer, advised that the following 11 projects as  
listed in the agenda have been completed or have recoveries of funds that  
can be made. The first eight project accounts can be closed and the remainder  
have reimbursements of federal Land and Water Conservation Funds which can  
be recovered with accounts to remain open. Two projects on which no expen-  
ditures have yet been made have been added to the list in the agenda for  
recovery, and it was recommended the allocated funds be recovered without  
prejudice to these projects.

Berkeley Fishing Pier

Allocation		\$40,000.00
Expenditures	\$40,000.00	
Fed. L&W Reimburse.	-19,555.00	
WCB Expenditures		-20,445.00
Previously Recovered		-19,555.00
Balance for Recovery		-0-

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Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Allocation	615,000.00
Expenditures	614,350.67
Fed. L&W Reimburse.	-299,056.50
WCB Expenditures	-315,294.17
Balance for Recovery	\$299,705.83

Mad River Hatchery

Allocation	70,000.00
Expenditures	57,922.43
Fed. Anad. Fish Reimburse.	-27,711.22
WCB Expenditures	-30,211.21
Previously Recovered	-13,730.85
Balance for Recovery	\$26,057.94

Dos Reis Fishing Access

Allocation	\$13,000.00
Expenditures	-13,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Rio Vista Fishing Access

Allocation	\$10,000.00
Expenditures	-9,952.86
Balance for Recovery	\$ 47.14

✓ South Fork Eel River Fishing Access

Allocation	\$13,400.00
Expenditures	-13,027.99
Balance for Recovery	\$ 372.01

✓ Yuba River Fishing Access

Allocation	\$35,600.00
Expenditures	-35,512.93
Balance for Recovery	\$ 87.07

✓ Feather River Access

Allocation	\$ 800.00
Expenditures	581.09
Balance for Recovery	\$ 218.91

Santa Cruz Fishing Pier

Fed. L&W Reimbursement Recovery	\$ 6,992.71
(Account to remain open)	



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Pacifica Fishing Pier

Fed. L&W Reimbursement Recovery	\$28,187.80
(Account to remain open)	

Hidden Valley Wildlife Area (SAVI)

Fed. L&W Reimbursement Recovery	\$128,236.40
(Account to remain open)	

Ellwood Fishing Pier

Allocation	\$250,000.00
Expenditures	0.00
Bal. for Recovery (without prejudice)	\$250,000.00

Lake Tahoe Fishing Access Improvement

Allocation	\$48,300.00
Expenditures	0.00
Bal. for Recovery (without prejudice)	\$48,300.00

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the total amount of \$788,205.81 as shown in the above project accounts be recovered and returned to the Wildlife-Restoration Fund; that the accounts of all of the above projects, except as noted, be closed; and that the allocations for Ellwood Fishing Pier and Lake Tahoe Fishing Access Improvement be recovered without prejudice to the projects.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS EXCEPT AS INDICATED:

Berkeley Fishing Pier	\$ 0.00
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	299,705.83
Mad River Hatchery	26,057.94
Dos Reis Fishing Access	0.00
Rio Vista Fishing Access	47.14
South Fork Eel River Fishing Access	372.01
Yuba River Fishing Access	87.07
Feather River Access	218.91
Santa Cruz Fishing Pier (Acct. to remain open)	6,992.71
Pacifica Fishing Pier (Acct. to remain open)	28,187.80
Hidden Valley Wildlife Area (SAVI)	128,236.40
(Acct. to remain open)	
Ellwood Fishing Pier (Recover without prejudice)	250,000.00
(Acct. to remain open)	
Lake Tahoe Fishing Access Improvement (Recover	48,300.00
without prejudice) (Acct. to remain open)	

ALL OF THE SUMS TOTALING \$788,205.81 ARE TO BE RECOVERED AND RETURNED TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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5. Status of Funds

Mr. Hart reported on the status of funds as follows:

Unallocated balance at close of 10/25/74 meeting	\$194,220.67
Interest on surplus money July-Dec. 1974	+135,748.74
Funds recovered in the above action	<u>+788,205.81</u>

Total available at start of April 9, 1975, meeting \$1,118,175.22

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND PROJECTS

6. Account \$2500 \$25,000.00

Mr. Hart advised that this proposal is a request for replenishment of funds in Wildlife Conservation Board Account \$2500. This account is a revolving fund established by the Board about 20 years ago to provide working funds for staff evaluation of proposed projects. It is used primarily for appraisals, but also for feasibility studies and preliminary engineering costs.

When projects are approved by the Board, any charges to Account \$2500 for initial costs for project evaluation are reimbursed from the project allocation. For those proposals which are never approved by the Board, there is, of course, no reimbursement for evaluation costs. This has slowly depleted the fund.

The \$25,000 allocated by the Board in January of 1956 is now reduced to \$4,500 so that for the first time a fund replenishment is needed.

Assemblywoman Davis, who had just arrived at the meeting, recommended that the Board allocate \$25,000 for replenishment of funds in Account \$2500.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ALLOCATE \$25,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR REPLENISHMENT OF FUNDS IN ACCOUNT \$2500.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Trinity River Fishing Access - Lewiston, Trinity County \$69,000.00

Mr. Hart advised that this is a proposal to acquire approximately 40 acres of private land for fishing access and habitat protection on the Trinity River at the town of Lewiston. The proposal is supported by Trinity County, which by resolution has agreed to maintain the area for public fishing use after acquisition.

The parcel covers both sides of the river and includes about 1.7 miles of shoreline. A county road and bridge provide access near the center of the property. Part of the Trinity River special flyfishing area is included within the proposed take line. This special program is very popular with local and visiting fishermen.

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The Department of Fish and Game recommends the project, noting that about 11,000 adult king and silver salmon pass through the area annually on their spawning run. This section of the river contains important spawning gravels and holding water for summer salmon. The Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Reclamation have been working cooperatively to improve salmon spawning conditions in this stretch of the river, and efforts are continuing to restore the formerly abundant steelhead runs.

This area is also the starting point of the Lewiston Raft Race, an annual event that draws many people to Lewiston for this popular summer activity.

Long-time public use of the area for fishing and other recreation has been claimed. However, in recent years there has been increasing public conflict with attempts by the landowners to control trespass, including legal action.

There is general agreement that public acquisition is a desirable solution, and the property owners have indicated their willingness to sell to WCB for \$57,516, which is the approved price based upon an appraisal of fair market value and an evaluation of all pertinent information.

No development of the property is planned at this time other than fencing to delineate part of the parcel to be acquired from the remaining property of the owners.

Cost estimates are as follows:

Property purchase	\$57,516
Appraisal, title insurance and other escrow costs	7,000
Fencing	3,400
Subtotal	\$67,916
Contingencies	1,084
TOTAL	\$69,000

State acquisition of this property for protection of natural values and existing public use would have no significant environmental effect and is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 13 of categorical exemptions.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve this project, allocate \$69,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for acquisition and fencing costs, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned, including authorization to apply for matching Land and Water Conservation Funds. He noted that a letter of support was received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association.

Assemblywoman Davis recommended approval of this project and allocation of the required funds.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE TRINITY RIVER FISHING ACCESS - LEWISTON, TRINITY COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$69,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR ACQUISITION OF LANDS AS DESCRIBED AND FOR FENCING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED. THE STAFF IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS UNDER THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Liberty Ship Artificial Reef Pilot Project

\$75,000.00

This item is a proposal to acquire and sink a Liberty ship in Santa Monica Bay as a pilot project of this type in WCB's continuing artificial reef program to improve fishing and marine habitat in coastal waters. The Board on October 25, 1974, directed staff to develop the proposal for consideration at this meeting.

To briefly review the reef program, Mr. Hart advised that the Wildlife Conservation Board financed development of the first artificial fishing reefs in California in 1960, utilizing old street cars, auto bodies, quarry rocks, and concrete forms. These reefs were placed in Santa Monica Bay under supervision of Department of Fish and Game marine biologists at a cost of \$18,000. This experimental project was successful and observation by DFG divers for a number of years showed that fish populations at the reefs were much higher than in surrounding waters. Both street car and auto car bodies disintegrated in a few years, and quarry rock was determined to be the most feasible reef material at that time.

Six more ocean reefs were developed by WCB in waters from Ventura County to San Diego County from quarry rock at a cost of \$60,000 during the 1960-1966 period.

Because of the benefits achieved from a reef placed around the Imperial Beach Pier in 1964, the Board approved a project for rock reefs around seven fishing piers in 1966. These were built in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties from quarry rock obtained at Catalina Island. The cost was \$162,000.

In general, WCB reefs have provided significant fisheries benefits. However, in recent years costs of constructing quarry rock reefs have increased to the point that this method is no longer economically feasible.

In 1972, the Board approved a program to provide funding assistance to local agencies in constructing reefs around ocean piers from old tires which was expanded in 1974 to include other materials and locations. Four tire reefs at piers have been completed at a cost of about \$2,000 each. Tire reefs show promise for some piers and certain inshore waters. However, there are many practical problems in accumulating, transporting, and processing the great number of tires needed for an offshore reef large enough to provide significant benefits.

A new potential for reef construction developed with enactment of HR 5741 which provided that surplus World War II Liberty ships in certain reserve



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(moth ball) fleets could be made available free to states for reef construction. The Department of Fish and Game has recommended a WCB project utilizing such Liberty ships for reef development in southern California waters. Sinking one ship initially in a pilot project to better determine costs and related problems was generally agreed upon as the most desirable approach.

The only Liberty ships presently available in California consist of three located in Suisun Bay. The U.S.S. Cheleb was selected for the proposed pilot project.

It was planned to award a contract for the necessary work on the basis of competitive bids. The contractor would be responsible for delivering the ship from the U.S. Maritime Commission Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay to the reef site in Santa Monica Bay, together with required work in preparation for sinking. This would include removal and cleaning of oil and other potential pollutants, removal of the superstructure and other designated or salvageable portions of the ship, and cutting holes in the deck, bulkheads and hull to facilitate sinking.

The planned site for the proposed ship reef is in 120 feet of water about .2 miles west of the existing Redondo Canyon reef developed in 1960. This location is less than one mile from the nearest harbor and public launching facilities at Redondo Beach.

The ocean bottom at this site is now a barren mud-sand habitat with few fish present. It is expected that sinking the ship so that two dissimilar reefs are located relatively close together will greatly increase both numbers and species of fish concentrated in this area, thereby greatly improving fishing.

The Department of Fish and Game has acted as lead agency and processed a Negative Declaration to comply with CEQA requirements and received no adverse comments. The Department is also securing necessary permits for the project.

Mr. Hart stated the Department proceeded with preliminary preparations for this proposal and bids were opened yesterday in the Long Beach office. There was only one bid for the amount of \$266,211, less \$5,250 salvage value for a net cost to the State of \$260,961 for one ship. Contacts with other states which have been involved in this program, specifically Mississippi and Alabama which have both sunk five ships, indicate that there has been a net gain of \$5,000 for each ship. Texas is planning to sink 12 ships with bid opening on April 15, and anticipates it will net \$3,000 to \$5,000 per ship.

As the bidding experience indicated, Mr. Hart believed that the project may not have been approached in a manner which would be most economically feasible--that there is a possibility another ship would provide more salvage value or more of the ship could have been made available for salvage purposes rather than retaining as much as was specified for reef purposes.

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In the agenda it was reported that a staff recommendation would be developed based on the bids received. If costs amount to over \$100,000, it appeared to Mr. Hart that other materials might be more feasible for reef construction than Liberty ships. It was therefore his recommendation that the Board approve a Liberty ship reef project and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed with the project within a reasonable financial limitation of, say \$75,000, to pay for sinking of a ship.

There was discussion on the various possibilities open to the Board in order to proceed with this project. There are other ships which have Liberty ship hulls, but fitted out as repair ships, which could have greater salvage value than the Liberty ships. The recommendation of the Executive Officer would allow for flexibility in determining and proceeding with what would be the best deal in developing a Liberty ship reef.

Assemblywoman Pauline Davis recommended that the staff be directed to make an investigation of what might be available for \$75,000, and to proceed with development of a Liberty ship reef in Santa Monica Bay without delay. The staff is given the flexibility to negotiate within the \$75,000 recommended for allocation.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, AFTER REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LIBERTY SHIP REEF IN SANTA MONICA BAY; ALLOCATE \$75,000 THEREFOR; AND STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME IS AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Navarro River and Beach Fishing Access, Mendocino County \$84,500.00

Mr. Hart presented this proposal to acquire two parcels totaling approximately 55 acres for coastal and river access and marsh habitat preservation at the mouth of the Navarro River.

For many years there have been repeated proposals from the public and from Mendocino County for WCB acquisition for public access purposes in this area. However, staff efforts to negotiate purchase of suitable property for fair market value were not successful.

WCB now has an opportunity to acquire two key parcels of property that provide ocean and river access, as well as estuarine marsh habitat.

One parcel encompasses approximately 43 acres in a narrow strip primarily between the river and county road, extending from near the river mouth upstream about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles to Highway 1 bridge. Also included is an island of nearly 2 acres. Staff has secured an option from the private owners to purchase this parcel at appraised fair market value of \$81,300.



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The other parcel consists of approximately 12 acres of adjoining beach and ocean front property which the owners will donate to WCB. This property was the subject of one of the landmark cases (Dietz vs. King) which determined that prescriptive rights of the public to use the beach had been established.

Since the court decision, Mendocino County has provided and maintained chemical toilets and litter cans to accommodate the public use. Continued operation and maintenance of this type by the County is proposed should the Board approve this acquisition. At present no development is planned or considered necessary.

The Department of Fish and Game evaluation of this proposal points out that this property provides significant opportunity for abalone hunting, sightseeing, surf and shore fishing, and skiff fishing. The estuary also is a feeding and resting area for shore birds, waterfowl and other water associated birds, as well as being an important feeding area for raptors, including the osprey.

Action by WCB to acquire these parcels to maintain this area essentially in its present natural state and conditions of existing public use would not significantly affect the environment and is exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 13.

Appraisal, title insurance, escrow and other related costs for acquisition of the two parcels are estimated at \$3,200, which will bring total costs to an estimated \$84,500.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve acquisition of both parcels, that is, purchase of 44 acres and acceptance of the donation of the 12 acre beach and ocean front property, allocate \$84,500 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for purchase and related costs, and authorize staff to proceed, including authorization to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund monies.

Mr. Arthur Kramer with the County of Mendocino Parks Department advised that the County Board of Supervisors has directed him to encourage the WCB to consider some development at the project in the near future, especially the paving of a road from the end of the County road to the beach.

It was Assemblywoman Davis' recommendation that the Board approve the acquisition and acceptance of the gift deed and allocate the necessary funds therefor.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE NAVARRO RIVER AND BEACH FISHING ACCESS, MENDOCINO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$84,500 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR ACQUISITION OF LANDS UNDER OPTION; ACCEPT A GIFT DEED OF THE 12 ACRE BEACH AND OCEAN FRONT PROPERTY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED. THE STAFF IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS UNDER THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senator Nejedly who had just come in was introduced. The presence of Mr. Richard Turner, attorney for the property owner at Navarro River, was also acknowledged.

10. Anderson (Sacramento River) Fishing Access Expansion and Revision, Shasta County \$48,000.00

The Chairman introduced Assemblyman Z'berg, a new member on the Board, who had just entered the meeting room.

- A. Mr. Hart presented for Board consideration the proposal to expand WCB ownership at this existing project in the city of Anderson and revision of the project purposes to include wildlife habitat preservation.

By use of a large map of this area, Mr. Hart indicated the three purchases of land previously made by the WCB. These acquisitions include a 2 acre parcel in 1957, developed by WCB with boat launching facilities; a 130 acre parcel in 1967; and 100 acres immediately downstream, purchased in 1969. These WCB lands are in a relatively narrow strip along the right bank of the Sacramento River, consistent with the initial objective of providing fishing access. The area has a total of 2.2 miles of river frontage. Total funds allocated or expended by the Board includes \$252,366 for acquisition and minor development.

The City of Anderson operates and maintains this WCB project for public fishing purposes under a cooperative agreement with the State. The City also has purchased adjoining property inland, and has developed and operated the overall area essentially as a regional park which receives heavy public use.

It now appears that the original evaluation of this area and the WCB objective of providing fishing access only did not give adequate consideration to riparian habitat and related wildlife values. Although some of the property has been disturbed by gravel extraction and farming activities, it contains significant areas of riparian, oak woodland, and marshy habitat supporting varied wildlife populations. Habitat of this type along the Sacramento River has been disappearing rapidly in recent years and is reaching a critical shortage in many areas.

Some of the best riparian habitat is on a 30 acre parcel in City ownership immediately adjacent to the State-owned land. Part of this parcel is also cleared and farmed to produce revenue for the City.

This cleared, farmed area has been proposed for intensive development at various times, being suitable because it is cleared, level, and above the high flow level of the Sacramento River. The 1967 City Master Plan showed a concessionaire center and trailer camping area as potential future development of this parcel. It now appears such development would be detrimental to wildlife values on the immediately adjacent WCB lands.

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Furthermore, the cooperative agreement for City development, operation and maintenance of the WCB project area identifies fishing access as the only project purpose, and does not obligate the City to maintain or protect the project's significant wildlife values.

From staff discussions with City representatives the following proposal for project revision has been developed, which the Anderson City Council by resolution has approved:

1. That the WCB purchase the 30 acres of City-owned land for the City's purchase price of \$45,615, which is less than the present appraised fair market value of \$50,000. State ownership of the property will better ensure long-term protection and restoration of the riparian wildlife habitat.
2. That the City agree to reinvest in the project the funds received from the State purchase for further land acquisition or development.
3. That the State-City cooperative agreement for the project be revised to include wildlife habitat preservation as a project purpose, and to designate appropriate areas to be maintained, restored or developed essentially as natural areas, similar to the present City master plan for the area.

The Department of Fish and Game favorably recommends this proposal, stating that the 30 acre parcel has exceptionally high wildlife values and is classified as a "high terrace type" of riparian vegetation, much of which has been lost or is threatened by agricultural development.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board authorize purchase of the 30 acre parcel from the City of Anderson as proposed, allocate \$48,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for purchase and related costs, and authorize staff to proceed substantially in accordance with project revisions as proposed.

Mr. Chas. E. Martin, City Manager of the City of Anderson, introduced Vice Mayor Mickie Jakez and Councilwoman Kay McQuade and declared that the City proposes to utilize the amount allocated plus another \$6,000 to \$8,000 to acquire an additional 15 acres when City funds become available July 1.

Strong support of this proposal was received from the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association as well as the Shasta County Board of Supervisors.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN DAVIS, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN Z'BERG, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ANDERSON FISHING ACCESS EXPANSION AND REVISION, SHASTA COUNTY, AS PRESENTED BY STAFF AND ALLOCATE THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ANDERSON FISHING ACCESS EXPANSION AND REVISION, SHASTA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$48,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROJECT REVISIONS AS PROPOSED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Anderson Fishing Access - Hawes Settlement

Mr. Hart reviewed that in March of 1969 the WCB acquired 50 acres of real property along the Sacramento River for inclusion in the Anderson City Park for fishing and other recreational uses. The purchase price was \$75,000.00. In conjunction with this purchase, the landowners quit-claimed to the WCB an island containing another 50 acres for the sum of \$10,000. Subsequently, a third party filed an action to quiet title to the island property and to compensate them for what they claim to be a wrongful taking of the island property.

It is the opinion of the Attorney General's staff that the available information supports the plaintiff's claim of ownership.

A tentative settlement of the lawsuit has been reached which would allow the WCB to obtain clear title to the island at a total cost which is within the fair market value of the property. The settlement would be as follows:

1. Plaintiffs would give the WCB a grant deed to the island;
2. Title would be insurable in the name of the State of California as owner;
3. Plaintiffs would dismiss the action against the State;
4. WCB would pay the plaintiffs \$8,500.

Mr. Hart reported that it is the recommendation of the Attorney General's representative and it was also his recommendation that the WCB approve the proposed terms for settlement, allocate \$9,500 for the settlement and related costs, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as proposed.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN DAVIS, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN Z'BERG, THAT THE WCB APPROVE THE TERMS FOR SETTLEMENT AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS AS PROPOSED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.



IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE TERMS FOR SETTLEMENT AS PROPOSED; ALLQATE \$9,500 FOR SETTLEMENT AND RELATED COSTS OF OF THE QUIET TITLE ACTION FOR ANDERSON FISHING ACCESS PROJECT, SHASTA COUNTY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PROPOSED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Bolsa Chica Marsh Re-Establishment Project, Orange County \$701,000.00

With the use of a large map exhibited at the meeting, Mr. Hart explained the Department of Fish and Game proposal to re-establish part of Bolsa Chica Marsh and to provide initial facilities for appropriate public use of the area. He explained that this was an historic estuary in southern California between Huntington Beach and Seal Beach. Originally there was an opening to the sea and this was a natural bay and estuary area which had high wildlife values until about 1900. Man's conversion of the area first for duck club purposes and later for oil and gas production has largely eliminated its original values for fish and wildlife resources. The proposed project is believed to be the first effort to restore a coastal wetlands area of this type to natural conditions after it had been "reclaimed" by man.

Under a settlement agreement with Signal Properties approved in 1973 by the State Lands Commission and the Fish and Game Commission, the State obtained fee title to 327.5 acres and a 14 year free lease on 230 acres of adjacent land. The settlement resolved complex issues of land ownership and rights in the Bolsa Chica area, and has been reported on fully in three documents published in March, 1974, by the Department of Fish and Game:

- Volume 1 - Bolsa Chica Marsh Re-Establishment Project
- Volume 2 - Bolsa Chica Marsh Re-Establishment Project, Draft EIR
- Volume 3 - Bolsa Chica Reconnaissance Level Study and Conceptual Master Plan

The lands acquired in fee have been leased by the State Lands Commission to the Department for a 66 year period.

The proposed project basically is to construct an earth dike around approximately 150 acres suitable for marsh restoration, removing some existing dikes now preventing flooding; develop islands for bird resting and nesting areas; construct a storm drainage collection and pumping system; improve or modify the entrance channel to increase tidal flows and prevent erosion; and provide public use facilities including parking, walkways, observation stations, and fishing areas.

The earth borrowing, grading, and diking will be planned to create a desirable interspersed of water channels, mudflats, cordgrass-pickleweed and other marsh, and uplands. Added to the existing 50 acre remnant of Bolsa Bay, it is expected that a viable and productive bay and salt marsh ecosystem will be restored.

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Wildlife use is expected to more than triple, to exceed 1,500,000 bird-days use annually. Significant increases in fisheries and other marine life are also anticipated.

Public recreational uses will include various aspects of nature observation, together with fishing and clamming.

The project will also provide unique educational and scientific opportunities. Educators from a number of southern California colleges and universities have expressed keen interest in monitoring floral and faunal re-colonization as the ecosystem is re-established. Elementary and high schools are also expected to use the area for nature study.

The development is expected to enhance recreational opportunities and use at Bolsa Chica State Beach, with the two State areas separated only by the Pacific Coast Highway.

Long range, conceptual plans for the area include possible development of additional marsh and public use facilities, a marina, and a direct channel entrance from the ocean. However, the initial development proposed for WCB consideration would stand on its own and would be complemented or expanded by such future developments if they should be carried out.

The Department of Fish and Game reports that of the original 21,000 acres of coastal wetlands in Orange and Los Angeles counties, only 1,600 acres remain, a 92 percent reduction. The proposed project would increase this critical habitat type in these two counties by nearly 10 percent.

The State Office of Architecture and Construction prepared preliminary plans and cost estimates about a year ago, but an updated cost estimate could not be obtained from O.A.C. for this meeting. The revised cost estimate published in the agenda was largely an update by the Department of Fish and Game engineering section and was approximately \$200,000 greater.

Mr. Hart explained that after release of the agenda, he had reviewed the project on the ground again with engineering and other personnel from the Department. From this additional review it was considered feasible to reduce costs as follows:

Part 1 - Initial Public Use Facilities

To be developed by Department of Fish and Game

Parking	\$47,000
Trails	27,740
Fencing	5,500
Signs and miscellaneous	6,000
Contingency	5,860
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92,100</b>



Part 2 - Dike and Drainage System

To be developed through Office of Architecture & Construction

Dikes, islands, and related construction	\$302,000
Storm drain system	87,400
Contingency	10,000
OAC Admin. costs	61,100
TOTAL	\$460,500

Part 3 - Water Controls

To be developed as needed by Department of Fish and Game

Water control structures	\$45,000
Contingency	5,000
TOTAL	\$50,000

Part 4 - Channel Improvements

To be developed as needed by Department of Fish and Game

Channel excavation, lining and gabions	\$83,400
Contingency	15,000
TOTAL	\$98,400

GRAND TOTAL \$701,000

An explanation of the proposed developments was given by the Executive Officer who then recommended that the Board approve the project in the four parts which would be carried out as four separate but related projects, one of which would be handled by OAC, the other three by the Department. Proceeding in this manner would be advantageous in that there would not only be a savings of overhead costs, but the project could be expedited as it was his understanding OAC has a backlog of other work.

The Department of Fish and Game has acted as lead agency in complying with CEQA requirements for the proposed project. A draft EIR was prepared and circulated by the Department, with the final EIR adopted in November, 1974.

In addition to the EIR process, there has been considerable exposure to the public of the conceptual plan. In 1972, the Interagency Task Force held more than 25 meetings with affected or interested governmental agencies and other organizations. Public hearings before the State Lands Commission and the Fish and Game Commission resulted in no expression of public opposition. The EIR had been made available to the Board and Mr. Hart noted that Board action would be with consideration of that report.

Assemblywoman Davis asked Mr. Fullerton what it cost to make up this EIR and Mr. Fullerton responded that it was approximately \$5,000. She then requested that her office be provided with the number of EIRs the Department

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has made and the cost for the preparation of such reports.

Assemblyman Z'berg expressed concern that there might be heavy building, either residential or industrial, just outside the marsh area. He felt he would be more confident in expending these funds if there could be some assurance or guarantee that the property around the area were not going to be developed, either by providing a buffer zone or by securing a firm commitment from the City or County which has jurisdiction over those properties. Mr. Hart stated that he could not give such assurance, but noted that practically all of these lagoon areas that remain in southern California and which still receive substantial amount of wildlife use are surrounded closely by residential and other developments. There are no areas left in southern California that are not surrounded by this type of development to a degree, but there are still substantial wildlife values and wildlife use of these properties. In spite of possible encroaching developments, it was his belief that there would still be substantial value to redeveloping this marsh area.

Mr. Fullerton thought that zoning of the surrounding area is presently residential except for one area which belongs to the City of Huntington Beach. The County and City are both part of the planning team for this project, and it was his contention that the County, after putting in this effort, would not allow heavy industrial use in the area, although he could not assure Mr. Z'berg that the zoning would not be changed.

It was suggested that possibly parts 3 and 4 of the proposed development plan might be considered by the Board at a later date if needed. However, Mr. Hart advised that the Department should be able to proceed without delay on these segments, and there was matching Land and Water Conservation Funds available in this year's allocation to the Board. It was his recommendation that the complete development project be considered at this time.

Assemblywoman Davis then recommended that the Board staff be directed to ascertain from the County and City as to whether or not they would make a commitment on the zoning question, and if it were to remain compatible, that the Board staff proceed with the project substantially as planned, including application to the federal government for matching Land and Water Conservation funds. This project will be reconsidered if staff determines that the potential development of the surrounding area would be adverse to the marsh. There was general consensus that this would be a desirable course of action.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, AFTER REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, APPROVE THE BOLSA CHICA MARSH RE-ESTABLISHMENT PROJECT, ORANGE COUNTY, IN FOUR PARTS AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$701,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED WHEN IT HAS BEEN ASCERTAINED FROM THE COUNTY AND CITY THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ADJACENT AREAS WILL NOT BE

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REZONED TO PERMIT INCOMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT. THE STAFF IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS UNDER THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senator Dunlap who had just arrived at the meeting was introduced. He indicated that he could stay for just a short period since he was expected at another legislative committee hearing shortly.

1974 BOND ACT PROJECTS

The Board at its October 25, 1974, meeting, approved four major projects to be funded by initial appropriations from the \$10,000,000 allocated to the WCB program in the State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1974. As required by the bond act provisions, these projects and planning funds were submitted as authorized by the Board for inclusion in the 1975-76 budget as follows:

Bighorn Sheep Range Acquisition Project	\$ 500,000
Deer Winter Range Acquisition Project	1,000,000
Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Project	3,000,000
Interior Wetlands & Riparian Habitat Acq. Proj.	1,500,000
Project Planning	75,000
	<u>\$6,075,000</u>

The planned procedure is that from the above appropriations, the Board will allocate funds for the individual acquisitions it approves under the above projects as they are presented for Board action. In accordance with long-standing WCB policy, acquisitions will be on a basis of willing, negotiated sale.

There is an urgency for Board consideration of some proposed acquisitions at this time. Provisions of options staff has been able to obtain for key purchases will require immediate action to exercise after July 1, or as soon as the budgeted funds are available, if the Board approves acquisition. For such reasons, staff requested Board consideration of the following proposed acquisitions and allocation of funds therefor, subject to Bond Act funds being made available as requested in the 1975-76 budget. Mr. Bell reported that a letter requesting inclusion of the above projects in the budget has been sent to the legislative committees.

12. Bighorn Sheep Range Acquisition  
Martinez Canyon, Riverside County \$362,000.00

The Board at its October 25, 1974, meeting approved a \$500,000 project for acquisition of critical range of the bighorn sheep, with main emphasis on the rare peninsular bighorn in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains of southern California. This first proposed purchase under that project

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consists of approximately 4,741 acres of private land in the Martinez Canyon area of the Santa Rosa range. WCB purchase has been proposed by the Department of Fish and Game. Public agency acquisition of these lands has been advocated for several years by a number of conservation organizations.

This property consists of eight sections in a checkerboard pattern with federal BLM lands, so that WCB acquisition will block up in public ownership a much greater area than is being purchased. Private development or incompatible use of these eight sections, if not acquired, could result in loss of a high percentage of the remaining rare peninsular bighorns. Such development is taking place in some parts of the Santa Rosa range.

Martinez Canyon is located approximately 30 miles southeast of Palm Springs, draining easterly to the desert. Terrain is generally rugged but includes some gentle slopes and benchlands, with semi-desert vegetation. Elevations of the private lands vary from approximately 2,000 to 6,000 feet.

This canyon has been described by the Department of Fish and Game as the heartland of the bighorn in this mountain range, with more bighorn counted there than in any other drainage in the Santa Rosa Mountains. Permanent springs are located in a number of the tributary canyons. Quail, doves, and other wildlife are plentiful near available water, and some deer are found in the higher elevations of this area.

Staff has obtained purchase rights with the cooperation and assistance of Nature Conservancy. Such rights include options to purchase one section from Nature Conservancy for their direct acquisition costs, and seven sections from the landowner, with both purchases within the appraised fair market value. Both acquisitions will, in effect, involve donating part of the property to the State.

It is anticipated that the property will be managed on the basis of a cooperative agreement between the Department of Fish and Game and BLM. Preliminary plans are that uses compatible with the continued well-being of the bighorn sheep will be permitted. Such potential uses may include nature observation, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and primitive camping. Primary restrictions expected are on vehicular access and incompatible development.

The proposed acquisition falls under Class 13 of categorical exemptions from CEQA requirements.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve the proposed acquisitions including authorization for exercise of the two options, allocate \$362,000 for such purposes from 1974 Bond Act funds, subject to such funds being available in the 1975-76 budget, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned, including authorization to apply for Land and Water Conservation Funds.

Letters of support for this project were received from Assemblyman Walter Ingalls and Assemblyman Jerry Lewis, the Desert Protective Council, Southern



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Chapter of Nature Conservancy, Dr. Loren Lutz with the Society for Preservation of Bighorn Sheep, and from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Hart also noted the presence of Mr. Pete Dangermond, Parks Director for the County of Riverside.

Assemblyman Z'berg advised that on all park acquisition projects in last year and this year's budget, there was included language to look at the project from the standpoint of prescriptive rights. The Attorney General is to make a determination that there are not prescriptive rights that would decrease the cost of the acquisition and asked if this is encompassed in this and the other acquisition projects. He assumed that such language could be included in the budget, and Mr. Bell agreed that since these items follow the Parks Bond projects directly and is the WCB portion of the bond program, the same language would apply. Assemblyman Z'berg wanted to be certain that the State does not pay more than it is obligated to pay in acquisitions of this type and indicated that the subcommittee hearing this project should be reminded to include such language to consider prescriptive rights.

There was discussion as to whether inclusion of such language as proposed by Assemblyman Z'berg would create any additional costs or problems. It was brought out that if additional review by the Attorney General were not required there would be no additional cost to the WCB since this criteria is observed by the Department of General Services, Real Estate Services Division, which reviews documents for land acquisition transactions of the Board. Assemblywoman Davis was not agreeable to a blanket approval of this additional cumbersome language being included by Subcommittee 3 until the Board has had an opportunity to review this carefully to make certain that it does not increase the cost of the acquisition. On the consensus of the Board, the Chairman so ordered.

In response to Senator Nejedly's remark that General Services is obligated to follow this mandate, Mr. Hart stated that staff has received letters from the Department of General Services apprising it of this requirement. It is standard policy of the Board staff to investigate the prescriptive right possibilities and this is done routinely.

Assemblyman Keene was introduced at this time.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN DAVIS, SECONDED BY SENATOR NEJEDLY, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVAL OF THE BIGHORN SHEEP RANGE ACQUISITION PROJECT AT MARTINEZ CANYON, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE BIGHORN SHEEP RANGE ACQUISITION PROJECT AT MARTINEZ CANYON, RIVERSIDE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$362,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES AS PROPOSED UTILIZING

1974 BOND ACT FUNDS SUBJECT TO SUCH FUNDS BEING MADE AVAILABLE IN THE 1975-76 BUDGET; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED. THE STAFF IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS UNDER THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Interior Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Acquisition  
Hidden Valley Area, Riverside County , \$1,260,000.00

This proposal is to complete acquisition of the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area on the Santa Ana River near the City of Riverside. This 1,267 acre area includes one of the largest remaining areas of riparian habitat in southern California, with nearly four miles of frontage on a flowing river and with numerous ponds. The area supports an abundance and wide variety of wildlife, as well as a good potential for fisheries. In addition to its high value as wildlife habitat, the area provides considerable opportunity for compatible recreational uses. Riverside County is purchasing adjoining lands, and has agreed to provide development, operation and maintenance of the WCB purchased area at no cost to the State.

The Board gave general approval to acquisition of this wildlife area at its May 1, 1973, meeting. The magnitude of the project made phased acquisition at that time a necessity because of WCB's limited financial resources. WCB has made two purchases to date totaling 449 acres at a cost of \$740,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and has an option to purchase the remaining 818 acres at the appraised fair market value of \$1,252,965.70.

Staff proposes that the area remaining under option be purchased with 1974 Bond Act funds under the \$1,500,000 project for acquisition of interior wetlands and riparian habitat, in order to complete the acquisition and obtain possession at the earliest possible date. To obtain an incremental purchase option on the SARDCO property, it was necessary to allow the present owners to retain possession until purchase of the entire property was completed. Also, State purchase was to be subject to existing hunting club and agricultural leases on the property extending through 1977.

Staff recently was able to renegotiate the purchase agreement to provide that if WCB proceeds with purchase of the remaining property in July, 1975, the State will obtain possession within 90 days, with the present owners buying out the leases at no additional cost to the State.

Proceeding with a July, 1975, purchase free of the existing leases also is necessary to obtain matching Land and Water Conservation Funds. Clearing the leases on this schedule is required to receive \$239,000 in matching federal funds for the previous purchase, as well as to ensure eligibility for a fifty percent reimbursement on the final acquisition.



This acquisition falls under Categorical Exemption Class 12 in relation to CEQA requirements.

It was the staff's recommendation that the Board approve exercise of the option to complete purchase of the Hidden Valley area, allocate \$1,260,000 in 1974 Bond Act funds for the purchase and related costs, subject to such funds being made available in the 1975-76 budget, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned, including authorization to apply for federal Land and Water Conservation Funds.

There were messages of support from Assemblymen Ingalls and Lewis, Riverside County Board of Supervisors, Southern California Chapter of Nature Conservancy, and Mr. Schmidt, Chairman, Riverside County Park Advisory Committee.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN KEENE, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN DAVIS, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE INTERIOR WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN HABITAT ACQUISITION PROJECT AT HIDDEN VALLEY, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE INTERIOR WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN WILDLIFE HABITAT ACQUISITION PROJECT AT HIDDEN VALLEY, RIVERSIDE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$1,260,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES UNDER OPTION, UTILIZING 1974 BOND ACT FUNDS SUBJECT TO SUCH FUNDS BEING MADE AVAILABLE IN THE 1975-76 BUDGET; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED. THE STAFF IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS UNDER THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Pete Dangermond, Parks Director, Riverside County, thanked the Board for the action taken and stated this was the fourth time he has appeared before the Board relative to this particular project and that this will now complete the project.

14. Deer Winter Range Acquisition  
Kinsman Flat, Madera County

\$42,000.00

Kinsman Flat is an historic deer winter range area located approximately 40 miles northeast of the City of Fresno. It is the primary wintering area for an estimated 4,000 - 5,500 deer of the San Joaquin deer herd. Some of the Department's earliest experimental work to improve deer range was carried out here in recognition of the area's importance as wildlife habitat.

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There are several parcels of private land totaling nearly 770 acres at Kinsman Flat, with the surrounding area in federal ownership in the Sierra National Forest. Two private parcels are presently being developed, with a potential that all of these properties could be developed within a few years. Such development will directly occupy key winter range as well as interfere with deer use on adjacent lands. It also could form an effective barrier to deer migration to or from lower portions of the winter range.

The Department of Fish and Game is working cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service towards maintaining a viable deer winter range in the Kinsman Flat area. It has recommended WCB purchase of such private lands as may be necessary and appropriate for State acquisition under this cooperative effort.

In accordance with Departmental recommendation, staff has obtained an option to purchase a key parcel of 80 acres which is surrounded on three sides by public land at its appraised fair market value of \$40,000. In addition to deer winter range values, the parcel provides habitat for quail and other wildlife found in mixed timber, brush and grassland at the 3,000 - 4,000 feet elevations of the western Sierra Nevada slopes. Management responsibility would be assumed by the Department, either directly or through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.

This proposed acquisition is within Class 13 of categorical exemptions from CEQA requirements.

It was the staff's recommendation that the Board approve exercise of the option for purchase of 80 acres at Kinsman Flat, allocate \$42,000 for purchase and related costs subject to such funds being available in the 1975-76 budget, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN DAVIS, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN KEENE, THAT THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE DEER WINTER RANGE ACQUISITION PROJECT AT KINSMAN FLAT, MADERA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE DEER WINTER RANGE ACQUISITION PROJECT AT KINSMAN FLAT, MADERA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$42,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES UNDER OPTION UTILIZING THE 1974 BOND ACT FUNDS, SUBJECT TO SUCH FUNDS BEING MADE AVAILABLE IN THE 1975-76 BUDGET; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PREVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

15. Eagle Lake - Spaulding Fishing Access, Lassen County - A Review and Preview

Mr. Hart advised that staff has two projects for preview purposes. It has been customary in the past that when staff encounters a project that involves a new concept or a change from established policy or procedure, it is previewed with the Board to get their feeling before much time and effort is expended in working out details for the proposal. The first is the Eagle Lake - Spaulding Fishing Access proposal which involves joint funding with a federal agency which has not previously participated in WCB projects.

To review, some 25 years ago it appeared the distinctive Eagle Lake trout was threatened with extinction. Spawning conditions had deteriorated in the lake's main tributary, Pine Creek, and rough fish were providing severe competition for the declining numbers of young trout naturally produced. Other trout do not survive in this lake's alkaline waters, so that planting the usual species of hatchery-reared trout offered no solution.

One of WCB's early projects in 1949 aimed at perpetuating this unique trout through construction of the Pine Creek Flow Maintenance Dam to improve spawning conditions. When it became apparent that the Eagle Lake trout needed additional help, a plan was developed by the Department of Fish and Game to trap and artificially spawn wild trout from the lake as they ascended Pine Creek, rear the young trout under hatchery conditions, and return them to the lake at a size large enough to compete with the rough fish population.

The WCB approved implementation of this plan through the Eagle Lake Trout Preservation Project, and allocated funds for a weir and egg collecting station near the mouth of Pine Creek, and four raceway ponds for rearing at Crystal Lake Hatchery. These facilities were completed in the period 1958-61. With operation and management by the Department of Fish and Game, the program has been an outstanding success in restoring trout numbers and providing a trophy trout fishery. WCB's total costs were \$47,050 for the trout preservation facilities.

With the improved trout fishery, Lassen County requested WCB development of a fishing access site at Stone's Landing near the north end of Eagle Lake. This facility was approved by the Board, completed in 1963 at a cost of \$40,653, and has been operated and maintained by the County since then.

The WCB project at Stone's Landing supplemented the boat launching facilities developed by Department of Navigation and Ocean Development in 1961 at Gallatin Beach, at the U.S. Forest Service campground and recreational area at the southern end of the lake.

Lassen County has recently requested WCB consideration of a fishing access development on County-owned property at the Spaulding Tract on Eagle Lake, near the middle of the lake on the western shore. This proposal was made for several reasons.

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Eagle Lake is 13 miles long and about four miles in width. It is a long trip for small boats from either the north or south end to some of the productive fishing waters near the middle of the lake, and sudden, high winds can make such lengthy trips hazardous.

In recent years boating use from the Spaulding Tract area has increased greatly, and with no developed launching facilities at this site, boaters launch and retrieve with considerable difficulty at scattered locations along the shore.

Eagle Lake has an estimated 3,500 pairs of western and eared grebes, believed to be the largest breeding colony of such grebes in California and perhaps the western United States. Almost all of these water birds nest in the tules along the Spaulding Tract shoreline. Random boat launching, retrieving and movement is disturbing the nesting activities.

A permanent boat ramp would offer easier, safer access to the central part of the lake and would concentrate launching and retrievals in one area. In anticipation of this, the County has enacted an ordinance to restrict boating use so as to minimize disturbance of the main nesting ground.

Furthermore, run-off during the past several years has raised the lake's level to a point where WCB's ramp at Stone's Landing is barely useable and the Department of Navigation and Ocean Development is considering re-doing its facilities at Gallatin Beach. If the lake continues to rise, such a Spaulding Tract ramp might be the only useable launching facility until redevelopment of these facilities or the lake level lowers again.

The project, as envisioned by the County, would be jointly financed, with WCB allocations matched by federal funds provided by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service through the North Cal-Neva Resource Conservation and Development Project. The County would act as the sponsor of the project and would provide operation and maintenance at no cost to the State.

Field work by staff of the three agencies has enabled the Department of Fish and Game engineering section to prepare a preliminary development plan. Resource Conservation and Development Project procedure requires public hearings, and the proposed project was discussed at a public meeting of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors in Susanville on March 11, 1975. The WCB staff and the Department of Fish and Game and Soil Conservation Service were represented at this meeting where the preliminary plan was discussed. The concept appeared acceptable to all who spoke at the packed house meeting.

The tentative cost estimate for the proposed project is approximately \$115,000, but escalating construction costs may well increase this figure by the anticipated time of construction in 1976.

The Soil Conservation Service has assumed the lead agency position for environmental requirements and with assistance from the State and County is preparing a Negative Declaration in compliance with CEQA regulations.



This proposal was presented on a preview basis for the Board's information and such guidance from the Board as may be appropriate, primarily because the proposed financing arrangement is new for a WCB project. However, as the Board is aware, WCB has participated in cost-sharing projects under several other federal programs. Staff review has indicated that both WCB and Soil Conservation Service requirements can be met.

Mr. Jerry Toholski, Lassen County Director of Public Works, was present, and Mr. Hart pointed out that Mr. Toholski could answer any question or provide additional information if needed. The proposal would be brought back to the Board for consideration after finalized cost estimates, plans, and agreements are worked out.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN DAVIS, SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN Z'BERG, AS A JOINT MOTION, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH PLANNING AND EVALUATION OF THIS PROPOSAL AND BRING IT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION WHEN FINAL PLANS, COST ESTIMATES, AND AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Point Pinole Fishing Pier - A Preview

The East Bay Regional Park District and the WCB staff have for a number of years been exploring the possibilities for the construction of a fishing pier in the Richmond - Point Pinole area. This is an area of the San Francisco Bay which has been identified as being in most critical need of fishing access for the non-boaters.

Two years ago the District acquired 928 acres for a regional park at Point Pinole, at one time the site of the old Hercules Powder Company. The park is primarily water oriented and has nearly four miles of San Pablo Bay shoreline. It is unique in that while essentially undisturbed from its natural state, it is within the city limits of Richmond, with highly industrialized and densely populated areas nearby. Upon completion of the acquisition of this area from the Bethlehem Steel Company, the district requested staff and department assistance in evaluating the feasibility of a joint WCB fishing pier project at this site.

The district has engaged the services of a consulting engineering firm experienced in marine structures. Several pier alternatives have been studied, including the restoration of an old pier at the site which was used for loading dynamite on barges for transfer to ocean-going vessels anchored in the San Francisco - San Pablo Bay channel. It has been determined that the old structure could not feasibly be converted to a public pier, considering the cost of the required reconstruction and the probable limited useful life it could be expected to serve.

The Department of Fish and Game has evaluated the concept of a fishing pier in this general area, and has indicated reasonably good fishing can be expected for the usual species caught in San Francisco Bay, including striped bass and flounders.

It appears that all of the WCB statutory and policy requirements for fishing pier projects, including matching construction funds and operation and maintenance for free public fishing by East Bay Regional Parks, can be met with one exception. This is the Board's policy requirement that parking for anglers be provided within a reasonable distance.

To preserve the distinctive natural values of this park, the District has restricted car and motorcycle entry to peripheral parking lots. Visitors proceed from there by walking, bicycling, or by riding free on a tram service.

Mr. Lou Crutcher and Mr. Don Harms, representatives of East Bay Regional Park District, gave a slide presentation to provide the Board members a clearer understanding of the park setting and proposed pier location. Mr. Crutcher stated that the Regional Park District's policy to prohibit cars in the park proper evolved after lengthy public hearings. Additional lands were purchased outside the area for car parking. Mr. Crutcher also pointed out that the cost of constructing a 2-lane road into the area would approximate the cost of development, acquisition and operation of an internal transportation system. He also mentioned that the runs of salmon and stripers moving past the Point into Carquinez Straits have long provided good catches for the anglers that visit the area.

There was general agreement by Board members that under the Point Pinole circumstances, the District's plans for parking and related transportation were satisfactory and appropriate for the proposed pier.

The Chairman thanked the district representatives for their fine presentation and directed that staff proceed with detailed planning for this proposal and bring it back for consideration and allocation of funds at a future meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

#### 17. Annual and Special Reports

Since inception of the WCB program, staff has prepared an annual report in mimeographed form presenting a summary of all approved or completed WCB projects to date. With the program in its 28th year, the number of projects has exceeded 300 and now is increasing by an average of approximately 20 - 25 annually.

Preparation of this report has become a substantial and increasingly larger workload for the small WCB staff. Mr. Hart stated that a change in this annual report system is needed now or in the near future.

Another annual report is prepared by staff and published in Outdoor California, the bi-monthly publication of the Department of Fish and Game. This report summarizes WCB accomplishments during the previous calendar year, giving program highlights and a listing of pertinent information for each project completed or approved during the year.



A special report presenting the objectives and achievements of the WCB program for the period 1947-1963 was published in 1964 which to date is the only report of this nature put out by WCB.

At its July 29, 1971, meeting, the Board authorized preparation of a 25-year report of the WCB program. This was to be a 32-48 page booklet, with estimated printing costs to not exceed \$5,000 for a run of 20,000. However, the press of other higher priority work prevented staff from proceeding as authorized.

Many requests are received for information on the WCB program, including location and facilities. Nearly all projects provide public use opportunities, and information relative to the program and such projects should be made available to the public. Even without such dissemination of information, annual public use of WCB projects now is in excess of 10,000,000 user days, approximately one-fourth as great as for the total State Park System.

Mr. Hart recommended Board consideration of changes in the annual report system and the authorized program report to better meet the public interest and to minimize workload and costs.

It appeared that the 27th annual report is suitable to provide an adequate and continuing record of WCB projects to July of 1974. Staff recommendation was that such future reports be in effect an annual supplement to this report. The annual WCB report now printed in Outdoor California can be obtained in reprint form for approximately \$100 for 2,000 copies. This reprint augmented by such other summary information as may be desirable should adequately serve annual report needs, and staff recommended change to this system.

Staff further recommended Board reconsideration of the 25-year program report authorized in 1971. It appears public interest could best be met by instead putting a summary of WCB program and project information with a map in foldout format similar to the striped bass fishing map of the Department of Fish and Game. Preparation could be handled by staff with assistance of the Department. Printing costs in black and white are estimated at approximately \$3,000 for 20,000 copies, which should last for several years. Updating and reprinting at intervals of approximately five years probably would be desirable.

Mr. Hart presented a mock-up of the proposed annual report supplement and a fold-out type used by the Department of Parks and Recreation in lieu of the program report previously authorized and requested Board approval of the change to the proposed formats.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN Z'BERG, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, AS A JOINT MOTION, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD (1) APPROVE CHANGE IN THE ANNUAL REPORT AS PROPOSED BY STAFF; AND (2) AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH PLANNING A PROGRAM REPORT IN FOLD-OUT FORMAT AS PROPOSED, TO BE PRESENTED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AT A FUTURE MEETING.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. Program and Policy Review

The Wildlife Conservation Board program is in its 28th year and has been widely recognized as compiling an outstanding record of accomplishments in the wildlife conservation and related recreational field. The program has always been carried out with minimum overhead and otherwise obtaining maximum benefits for the expenditure of State funds.

The success of the program has been due largely to the policies, procedures, and statutory authority of the Board, which are rather unique in State government. These provide flexibility to meet new priorities and needs, and also to work cooperatively with other governmental agencies, particularly local government, in a timely and mutually beneficial manner.

At present most members of the Board and the Legislative Advisory Committee are relatively new to the program. It has been suggested that a review of the WCB program, policies, and procedures would be beneficial for informational purposes and such updating as may be desirable.

Mr. Hart stated that staff could prepare written material on this and/or schedule approximately half-hour per meeting to review the program, policies and procedures, and requested Board direction in this regard.

It was generally agreed that staff should be asked to review for Board consideration these program and policy matters. Assemblywoman Davis suggested that rather than to discuss the entire subject matter at one time, it would be well to schedule it over a period of several meetings so that everyone on the Board would have an opportunity to make inquiry and be specifically clear on what the policies are. Mr. Doheny so ordered.

19. Resolutions

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS HONORING MESSRS. PETER T. FLETCHER, G. RAY ARNETT, EDWARD M. FRYER, SENATOR LAWRENCE WALSH, AND ASSEMBLYMAN WALTER POWERS.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution Honoring  
Mr. Peter Fletcher

WHEREAS, Mr. Peter Fletcher retired as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board on January 15, 1975; and

WHEREAS, His willingness to give of his time and talent in furthering the cause of wildlife conservation has been recognized to be of great benefit to the people of California; and

WHEREAS, During his term as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board, Mr. Fletcher's experienced leadership provided valuable guidance in various ongoing and new programs of the Board; Now therefore be it

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RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Interim Committee, and Board staff, convey to Mr. Fletcher our appreciation for his dedicated efforts and contributions to the work of the Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished Mr. Fletcher.

Resolution Honoring  
Mr. G. Ray Arnett

WHEREAS, Mr. G. Ray Arnett has decided the time has come for him to move on as Director of the Department of Fish and Game and member of the Wildlife Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, He has unstintingly given his time and energy to the building of a better California through the wise use and efficient management of our fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Wildlife Conservation Board since February of 1969, he has carried out his responsibilities well, drawing on broad experience and intense interest in the field of wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS, His sage counsel, generously accompanied by quick wit, and good humor will be sorely missed by us all; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Interim Committee, and the Board staff convey our sincere appreciation to Mr. Arnett for his contributions in furthering the program of the Wildlife Conservation Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our very best wishes for the future and our hopes for his continued good health, as well as good fishing and hunting; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of the Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished Mr. Arnett.

Resolution Honoring  
Mr. Edward M. Fryer

WHEREAS, Mr. Edward M. Fryer has resigned from State service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fryer has served the State as Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Finance and as a member of the Wildlife Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, By his good judgment and wise counsel, Mr. Fryer has advanced the program of the Board; Now therefore be it

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RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Interim Committee, and the Board staff convey to Mr. Fryer, our appreciation for his services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished Mr. Fryer.

Resolution Honoring  
Senator Lawrence E. Walsh

WHEREAS, Senator Lawrence E. Walsh has served as a member of the Joint Legislative Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board since 1971; and

WHEREAS, The Board benefited greatly from Senator Walsh's guidance and fine judgment during his term on the Committee; and

WHEREAS, The services of Senator Walsh will be missed both in the legislature and on the Joint Legislative Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Committee, and the Board staff, express our sincere appreciation to Senator Walsh for his contributions in behalf of wildlife conservation and the program of the Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished Senator Walsh.

Resolution Honoring  
Assemblyman Walter Powers

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Walter Powers left the legislature on January 1, 1975, after serving 12 years in the Assembly, the last two years as a member of the Joint Legislative Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Powers has provided wise counsel to the staff and to the members of the Board during their deliberations; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Powers' sound judgment and earnest effort have advanced the program of the Wildlife Conservation Board; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Committee, and the Board staff, convey to Assemblyman Powers our sincere appreciation for his contributions to the work of the Board; and be it further



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RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished Assemblyman Powers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chester M. Hart*  
Chester M. Hart  
Executive Officer

### PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on April 9, 1975, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$36,800,570.97. This total includes \$4,746,991.42 reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Accelerated Public Works Program completed in 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Anadromous Fish Act Program, and the Pittman-Robertson Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act. Projects funded under the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund and the Bagley Conservation Fund will be included in this statement after completion of these programs.

a.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects . . . . .	\$10,216,443.90
b.	Fish Habitat Development and Improvement Projects . . . . .	3,991,316.23
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement . . . . .	\$2,125,338.63
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement . . . . .	243,013.03
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams . . . . .	439,503.32
	4. Marine Habitat . . . . .	345,779.36
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects . . . . .	837,681.89
c.	Fishing Access Projects . . . . .	10,824,087.84
	1. Coastal and Bay Access . . . . .	1,171,577.56
	2. River and Aqueduct Access . . . . .	3,173,726.25
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access . . . . .	2,734,753.25
	4. Piers . . . . .	3,744,030.78
d.	Game Farm Projects . . . . .	146,894.49
e.	Game Habitat Development and Improvement Projects . . . . .	10,689,469.39
	1. Wildlife Areas . . . . .	10,251,020.27
	2. Miscellaneous Game Habitat Development . . . . .	438,449.12
f.	Hunting Access . . . . .	472,436.81
g.	Miscellaneous Projects . . . . .	401,422.31
s.	Special Project Allocations . . . . .	58,500.00
	Total Allocated to Projects . . . . .	\$36,800,570.97

### STATUS OF FUNDS Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance at close of 10/25/74 meeting . . . . .	\$ 194,220.67
Interest on surplus money July-Dec. 1974 . . . . .	+135,748.74
Miscellaneous revenue . . . . .	+ 13,721.38
Unallocated balance at start of 4/9/75 meeting . . . . .	\$ 343,690.79
Plus recovery of funds . . . . .	+788,205.81
Less allocations . . . . .	-1,012,000.00
Unallocated balance at close of 4/9/75 meeting . . . . .	\$119,896.60