

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

Minutes, Meeting of September 6, 1977

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 2117 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on September 6, 1977. The meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairman, Mr. E. C. Fullerton, at 1:06 p.m.

PRESENT: E. C. Fullerton Acting Chairman
Sid McCausland Member

ABSENT: Berger Benson Chairman
Senator Dennis Carpenter Joint Interim Committee
Senator John F. Dunlap " " "
Senator John A. Nejedly " " "
Assemblyman Dan Boatwright " " "
Assemblyman Barry Keene " " "
Assemblyman Tom Suitt " " "

STAFF PRESENT:

Chester M. Hart Executive Officer
Alvin G. Rutsch Assistant Executive Officer
John Schmidt Land Agent
Alma Koyasako Secretary
Bella Applebaum Accountant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Francis Lindsay Suisun Resource Conserv. Dist.
William L. Smith Solano Ranch Co.
Elizabeth Lawler Ashley Lawler Ranch
George Dirkes Lawler Ranch
Joe Sheehan Dept. of Fish and Game
Dan Chapin Suisun Resource Conserv. Dist.
Don Lollock Dept. of Fish and Game

Mr. Hart explained that Chairman Berger Benson was unable to be present today and that therefore Mr. Fullerton is continuing as Acting Chairman. The purpose of the meeting, he explained, was to provide the Board an opportunity to give further consideration to acquisition of lands in Suisun Marsh to expand the previously acquired Hill Slough area. The Board met on June 21 and again on August 4 to give consideration to this. The Board action to date has been the establishment of a reserve of \$2,993,000 for acquisition. There have been meetings by the principals involved in the acquisition proposal which is related to the bill AB 1717 sponsored by Assemblyman Fazio, and it now appeared that a revised proposal is in order.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
September 6, 1977

It was Mr. Hart's understanding that AB 1717 has been amended to allow development on a portion of the Lawler property. Basically, the staff and Department recommendation now was for acquisition of approximately 427 acres between Highway 12 generally and the previously acquired Lawler property, excluding 327 acres within which development would be permitted by the amended legislation. A map was shown with the proposed acquisition boundaries. The approximate 427 acres has an appraised fair market value of \$1,035,429. Escrow, title insurance, and other related acquisition costs will require approximately \$4,571, so that an allocation of \$1,040,000 would be necessary from the reserve established on June 21 to complete this acquisition.

The limited acquisition proposal now will reduce the cost to the State by approximately \$1,938,000 and will also save \$5,000 for relocation costs for a family that is living in the northerly portion of the property in the area now proposed for development in AB 1717. In the bill as amended, Mr. Hart explained, is a provision for a maintenance road, a 10 ft. chain link fence, and a strip at least 100 feet wide that would be vegetated to provide a buffer area outside the development area at the edge of the property that the State would acquire.

Mr. McCausland stated that Assemblyman Boatwright who was present at the last meeting of the Board expressed considerable concern over the proposed acquisition and asked if there have been any reports as to his acquiescence to this revised proposal for acquisition. Mr. Hart responded that the staff has not heard directly from his office. However, a letter was directed to all Board members and legislative advisers last week describing this proposal in general terms and asked for comments by the time of this meeting, but staff has received nothing from their offices.


There were no further comments from the Board members or the audience.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 427 ACRES AS PROPOSED FOR THE SUISUN MARSH - HILL SLOUGH EXPANSION; ALLOCATE \$1,040,000 FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE RESERVE ESTABLISHED FOR SUCH PURPOSES ON JUNE 21, 1977; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, WITH THE BALANCE OF THE JUNE 21, 1977, RESERVE TO BE RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL SOURCES.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Chester M. Hart
Executive Officer