

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

Minutes, Meeting of October 11, 1978

C O N T E N T S

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes	2
3. Status of Funds	2
4. Recovery of Funds	2 - 3
<u>SUISUN MARSH PROJECTS</u>	
5. Suisun Marsh - Hill Slough Expansion #2, Solano Co.	3 - 4
6. Suisun Marsh - Hill Slough WLA Development Levee Reconstruction, Phase 1	5 - 6
<u>WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND PROJECTS</u>	
7. Upper Otay Dam Study	6 - 8
8. Torrey Pines Artificial Reef Enlargement, S.Diego Co.	8 - 9
9. Duck Creek Wildlife Area, San Joaquin County	9 - 11
10. Embarcadero Park Fishing Pier, San Diego County	11 - 13
11. Lagoon Valley Public Fishing Lake, Solano County	13 - 15
12. Rio Vista Fishing Pier, Solano County	15 - 17
Program Statement	18

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 6031 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on October 11, 1978. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Berger Benson at 2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Berger Benson	Chairman
	E. C. Fullerton	Member
	Sid McCausland	Member
	Sandi McCubbin	Vice Senator John Dunlap, Joint Interim Committee
<u>ABSENT:</u>	Senator Dennis E. Carpenter	Joint Interim Committee
	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 Wentzel	Field Agent
W. John Schmidt	Land Agent
Alma Koyasako	Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dean Kastens	Solano County Parks Department
Fred Trull	San Diego Unified Port District
Jack Howell	Dept. of Water Resources
William Bordisso	Dept. of Water Resources
Bob Zefflemoyer	Sacramento
George Alphin	City Administrator, Rio Vista
John Duffy	Dept. of Fish and Game
Glenn Delisle	Dept. of Fish and Game
Robert J. Wirsing	Sacramento (Expo 81)
Joe Sheehan	Dept. of Fish and Game
Barbara Pepe	Wildlife Conservation Board
Ron Mikalis	Vacaville Parks and Recreation
Barbara Morris	Office of Assemblyman Vic Fazio
William L. Smith	Suisun
Larry Hill	Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

2. Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND,
THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 1978, MEETING BE APPROVED AS
PUBLISHED AND CIRCULATED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Status of Funds

Mr. Chester M. Hart, Executive Officer, reported the present status of the
Wildlife Restoration Fund as follows:

Unallocated balance at end of June 22, 1978, meeting	\$272,468.71
Plus interest on surplus money Jan./June 1978	+127,190.99
Plus unexpended balance 1975/76 staff support	+120,084.92
Plus parimutuel revenue, July 1, 1978	+750,000.00
Less 1978/79 staff support, estimated	<u>-279,713.00</u>

Unallocated at beginning of October 11, 1978, meeting . . . \$990,031.62

4. Recovery of Funds

Mr. Hart reported the following five projects as being completed and recom-
mended the total amount of \$240,665.59 be recovered to the Wildlife Restora-
tion Fund and project accounts closed.

Fields Landing Access

Allocation		\$102,250.00
Expenditures	101,781.22	
Fed. L&W Reimbursement	<u>- 36,860.62</u>	
Net WCB Cost		<u>-64,920.60</u>
Balance for Recovery		\$ 37,329.40

Heeser Drive

Allocation		\$ 1,900.00
WCB Cost		<u>- 1,900.00</u>
Balance for Recovery		- 0 -

Putah Creek Access

Allocation		\$117,645.00
Expenditures	110,054.53	
Fed. L&W Reimbursement	<u>-53,725.40</u>	
Net WCB Cost		<u>-56,329.13</u>
Previously Recovered		<u>-29,333.00</u>
Balance for Recovery		\$31,982.87

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

Upper Klamath Access

Allocation		\$85,000.00
Expenditures	83,675.76	
Fed. L&W Reimbursement	<u>-36,709.00</u>	
Net WCB Cost		-46,966.76
Previously Recovered		<u>-36,709.00</u>
Balance for Recovery		\$ 1,324.24

Whittier Narrows Access

Allocation		\$358,500.00
Expenditures	358,500.00	
Fed. L&W Reimbursement	<u>-170,029.08</u>	
Net WCB Cost		-188,470.92
Balance for Recovery		<u>\$170,029.08</u>

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

Fields Landing Access, Mendocino Co.	\$37,329.40
Heeser Drive, Mendocino Co.	-0-
Putah Creek Access, Yolo Co.	31,982.87
Upper Klamath Access, Siskiyou Co.	1,324.24
Whittier Narrows Access, Los Angeles Co.	170,029.08

ALL OF THE SUMS TOTALING \$240,665.59 ARE TO BE RECOVERED AND RETURNED TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUISUN MARSH PROJECTS

5. Suisun Marsh - Hill Slough Expansion #2, Solano County \$17,000.00

Because Chairman Benson will not be voting on the two Suisun Marsh proposals due to a potential conflict of interest, and because Mr. McCausland's schedule requires his being excused from the meeting shortly, Chairman Berger Eenson, with approval of the Board, ordered that agenda items 11 and 12 be considered at this time.

Mr. Hart pointed out on a map displayed the parcel proposed for acquisition in this proposal. It comprises approximately 12 acres in the Suisun Marsh area recommended for acquisition by the Department of Fish and Game and by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. The parcel is an inhold- ing within a 427+ acre parcel previously acquired pursuant to Board approval at the September 6, 1977, WCB meeting.

The property is located on the easterly side of Suisun City, approximately one quarter mile south of State Highway 12, and adjacent to the west side of Grizzly Island road.

This parcel, like a large portion of the adjacent area previously acquired, was originally marsh that has been converted to salt grass pasture for livestock grazing.

The acquisition of this inholding, in addition to increasing the habitat and recreation area, will facilitate the development and management of the area previously acquired and avoid the possibility of future private development within a State Wildlife Area.

Purchase of fee title, at the appraised value of \$15,000.00, is proposed in order to realize the potentials of this property and the surrounding land for marsh restoration and management, as well as for public access and recreational uses. The area will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game as part of the Hill Slough complex.

Acquisition of this property would be eligible for 50% federal reimbursement under the Land and Water Conservation Fund program, in the same manner as the surrounding land previously acquired.

This proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements, as an acquisition of land for preservation of fish and wildlife habitat.

The sale of this parcel to the State has not yet been approved by the owner, the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District. It will be presented to the School Board at an October Board meeting for approval to sell.

A letter of support was received from Assemblyman Fazio relating to this acquisition, and it was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve the acquisition of this 12+ acre inholding as proposed, allocate \$17,000.00 for the purchase and related costs from the Suisun Marsh acquisition and development funds available for this purpose, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR SUISUN MARSH - HILL SLOUGH EXPANSION #2, SOLANO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$17,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE SUISUN MARSH ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

AYES: Mr. McCausland, Mr. Fullerton
ABSTAIN: Mr. Benson

6. Suisun Marsh - Hill Slough Wildlife Area Development \$93,000.00
Levee Reconstruction, Phase I

Mr. Hart reported that this project has been proposed by the Department of Fish and Game to enable proper management of lands acquired for Suisun Marsh protection purposes.

To date approximately 1,112 acres of land have been acquired in the Hill Slough area southeast of Fairfield-Suisun as authorized by the WCB. These purchases were made in accordance with the Nejedly-Bagley-Z'berg Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1974 (SB 1981), as well as the superseding Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977 (AB 1717).

Purchase of these lands has precluded incompatible development from encroaching on the marsh. However, a main purpose in acquiring the Hill and Peytonia Slough areas was to provide a typical segment of Suisun Marsh for public use close to existing urban areas and highways. There is general agreement that an area in such a location is highly desirable for bird-watching, fishing, nature study and observation, and other aspects of a meaningful marsh experience. This will avoid many of the problems of developing improved public access some distance into the interior of the marsh and attendant potential for increased trespass, littering and other conflicts on the largely privately-owned lands there.

The marsh area acquired north of Hill Slough that formerly was part of the Lawler Ranch was essentially converted to pasture for livestock grazing many years ago by development of levees and water control structures with tide gates. Last winter emergency measures by the Department were necessary to prevent overtopping and severe erosion of these levees in some areas. The water control structures also are generally inoperable and need replacement.

The Department has planned that this area be restored to marsh, and has determined that managed marsh with regulated flooding and water levels will be more productive than breaching the levees and restoring these lands to tidal marsh conditions.

This proposed project would improve levees and water control structures on the state-owned property along McCoy Creek south to its confluence with Hill Slough and thence westerly along Hill Slough to Grizzly Island Road. This would be the first phase of such reconstruction work, with other segments and related development in the interior of the area to be presented for Board consideration at future meetings. The objective here is to keep these projects small enough so that the developments can be supervised and managed by the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area group. This is much more economical and better construction can be had in that manner from the Department's experience.

Cost estimates provided by the Department and reviewed by staff are as follows:

Levee reconstruction

Restore 9,000 lineal feet of levee;
est. 590 hours dragline time @ \$110 \$64,900

Water control structures

162' of 36" dia. CMP, asbestos bonded, asphalt coated	\$8,586	
12 ea. of 36" dia. CMP couplers	1,908	
6 ea. slide flap gates	<u>9,225</u>	
		<u>19,719</u>
Subtotal	\$84,619	
Contingency	<u>8,381</u>	
TOTAL		<u>\$93,000</u>

Such reconstruction of levees and water control structures is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 2, reconstruction of existing structures and facilities on the same site and with substantially the same purpose and capacity.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve the proposed Phase I levee and water control reconstruction project for the Hill Slough area, allocate \$93,000 therefor from the Suisun Marsh acquisition and development funds available to WCB for these purposes, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned. He also noted the receipt of a letter in support of this development proposal from Assemblyman Fazio.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. MC CAUSLAND, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE PROPOSED PHASE I LEVEE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT FOR THE SUISUN MARSH - HILL SLOUGH WILDLIFE AREA, SOLANO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$93,000 THEREFOR FROM THE SUISUN MARSH ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

AYES: Mr. Fullerton, Mr. McCausland
ABSTAIN: Mr. Benson

(Mr. McCausland was excused from the meeting at this time.)

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND PROJECTS

7. Upper Otay Dam Study \$7,500.00

This project is a proposed study to be carried out by a consulting engineer to determine feasibility of modifying Upper Otay Dam in San Diego County to meet State safety requirements and maintain a water storage level suitable for fishery management purposes.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

Upper Otay Dam is owned by the City of San Diego. For a number of years it has been closed to the public and operated at a low level solely as a source of warmwater fish principally Florida largemouth bass, for stocking purposes, including other City reservoirs that are open to the public for fishing.

The Department of Fish and Game has recommended the project because this reservoir contains the only pure Florida bass population in Southern California. This strain of largemouth bass grows much larger than the northern largemouth bass previously stocked in California waters, and thus is very desirable for fishery management purposes. The Department supplies other western states and nations with Florida bass from this source, in addition to the local stocking.

The Division of Safety of Dams has determined that the dam is unsafe, and is requiring that the dam either be removed or modified to meet safety standards. Of the various alternatives it appears that notching the dam to the existing outlet, which is about 45 feet above streambed, may render the dam safe and maintain the existing small pool of less than 20 surface acres for fishery purposes.

A reputable consulting engineer has provided an estimate of \$7,500 to conduct a study of the dam to determine the feasibility of notching the structure in this manner to meet safety requirements.

The City of San Diego reportedly is willing to bear the costs of modifying the dam in this manner, but not the costs of the engineering analysis. This has resulted in the proposal for a cooperative State-City project, with the WCB funding the engineering study and the City carrying out the dam modification project if determined feasible.

From staff's analysis the proposal appears to have merit and would meet statutory requirements for a WCB project if an agreement is entered into with the City substantially as follows:

1. That the engineering analysis be carried out by the WCB.
2. Subject to a favorable determination by the engineering study and acceptance by the Division of Safety of Dams, the City will modify the dam in a manner to maintain the fishery pool.
3. The City will also agree to maintain the modified dam and fishery pool for a minimum of ten years, and will grant the Department of Fish and Game the right to utilize the impounded waters for fishery management purposes for this period of time.

These points have been discussed with a City representative who has indicated in a letter recently received that the City would be agreeable to these conditions and would recommend such favorable action, but that action by the City Council would be required.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

Mr. Hart stated that prior to proceeding with the study such an agreement will be executed with the City Council and recommended that the Board approve the Upper Otay Dam Study, subject to the conditions proposed; allocate \$7,500 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Benson asked if there would be a possibility of the WCB expending \$7,500 for the study and the City of San Diego then refusing to accept the responsibility for maintaining the project. Mr. Hart responded there would be a possibility of paying for the study and the consulting engineer determining the dam modification not feasible. However, it is the intent to enter into an agreement with the City for the maintenance responsibilities prior to securing the services of a consulting engineer to do the study.

In response to Mr. Fullerton's question on the fishery management purpose of the lake, Mr. Glenn Delisle of the Department of Fish and Game responded that it is used as a nursery area for Florida largemouth bass for restocking other waters in the area.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE UPPER OTAY DAM STUDY, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$7,500 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Torrey Pines Artificial Reef Enlargement, San Diego County \$18,500.00

This project has been proposed by the Department of Fish and Game, to utilize available materials for expansion of an artificial marine reef off Torrey Pines in San Diego County.

Storm damage at Mission Bay Marina has made replacement of approximately 250 - 300 concrete floats necessary. The marina owner has agreed to donate the old floats and to load them on a barge free of charge for transportation to the reef site.

Funding by the WCB is requested to cover the barge and tugboat charges to move the floats from Mission Bay to the Torrey Pines reef site, and crane services to place the concrete structures in piles of three spaced about 10 feet apart on the ocean floor. Any floats not already broken open will have holes made in them to facilitate sinking and to enable fish and other marine organisms to utilize the interior cavity area.

The existing reef covers about 13,500 square feet, and was constructed of 3,000 tons of quarry rock at a cost of approximately \$37,000 in 1975. Construction was by the City of San Diego under the guidance of the San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Parks Advisory Board.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

This reef is in about 40' of water and has developed a growth of kelp. Department of Fish and Game divers have made numerous dives in the area and state that presently more than 5,000 fish of over 29 species inhabit the existing reef.

The reef site is within the San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park, northerly of the San Diego-La Jolla Ecological Reserve. The City of San Diego maintains buoys to mark the locations of both the artificial reef and the ecological reserve.

These concrete "floats" with holes made into the inner cavity will be very similar to the concrete structures used in the initial experimental artificial reef project in Santa Monica Bay that was funded by the WCB in 1959. Generally the concrete structures were found to produce the greatest fisheries benefits of several materials tested, but were not favored for subsequent reef construction because of higher costs. The proposal is an opportunity to obtain excellent reef material at a relatively low cost.

Processing of necessary permits will be carried out prior to reef construction. The reef site is on tidelands granted in trust to the City of San Diego, so that a permit from, or agreement with, the City will be needed, as well as from the Corps of Engineers in relation to navigation, and from the Coastal Commission.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the artificial reef expansion project off Torrey Pines as proposed, allocate \$18,500 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. John Duffy, marine biologist for the Department of Fish and Game, was present, and responded to Mr. Fullerton's question about movement of these floats due to surge. It was his contention that should there be any movement of the floats, which would be placed seaward of the existing reef, such movement would be toward the reef and there would be no further movement beyond the existing reef.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE TORREY PINES ARTIFICIAL REEF ENLARGEMENT, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$18,500 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Duck Creek Wildlife Area, San Joaquin County \$400.00

This is a proposal to acquire, through a donation, a conservation easement covering an area of approximately 3,000 acres in eastern San Joaquin County, as proposed by the Department of Fish and Game.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

The property involved is located in the rolling foothills of the Sierras, approximately 12 miles easterly of the City of Lodi and 6 miles northerly of the City of Linden.

The property is presently used for cattle grazing. Under terms of the easement, it will continue to be used for this purpose, or for other agricultural or agricultural related uses that will not adversely affect fish and wildlife habitat. The property owners are granting full development rights to the State, except for improvements necessary for forage production and livestock grazing, or for alternative agricultural uses as noted above.

The benefits to the landowner will be similar to a permanent Williamson Act contract. The State will benefit from permanent protection of the existing wildlife habitat values of the area.

The property supports a wide variety of wildlife. There are four ponds of approximately 50 surface acres each, which provide a nucleus for nesting by resident mallards, as well as resting area for migratory waterfowl. Small rodent and black-tailed jackrabbit populations support numerous raptors, including red-tailed hawks. Lands of this type provide feeding areas for numerous species of small birds including mourning doves, and are capable of supporting sizeable populations of California quail with development of brush cover or brush piles. Coyotes exist in the area to the extent that the landowners feel the need to retain rights for depredation control in accordance with legal procedures in order to protect livestock.

Acceptance of this donation will protect this habitat from increasing threats of eventual subdivision development. Management of this conservation easement will be assumed by the Department of Fish and Game. However, this will probably be limited to leaving the parcel in its existing condition with some minor habitat improvements possible in the future. The easement does not include the right of public access over the property but does give the Department the right of access to manage the habitat.

The only obligation to the Department will be to appropriately post the area as a State wildlife area that is not open to hunting.

The proposal falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and preserving access to public lands and water where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

Mr. Hart mentioned that land for the Fay Canyon Deer Winter Range in Alpine County was purchased from the Lewallen Land and Cattle Company, the owners of this parcel in San Joaquin County. They are interested in habitat protection, so it is possible that the previous acquisition may have had some effect on their willingness to donate this conservation easement. It was his recommendation that the Board approve the acceptance of a conservation easement by

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

donation of an area to be negotiated, allocate \$400.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for related processing costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Fullerton questioned the hunting rights being retained by the owners, and there was discussion on this point. It was the consensus that hunting rights should be secured by the Department or that the terms of the conservation easement include the provision that the Department or the Fish and Game Commission would retain the right to determine whether hunting could be allowed. This would prevent the development of a private hunting club in the area to capitalize on possible public expenditures for habitat improvement, but would not preclude public hunting in the future if the landowner and the Department or Commission so desired. Staff was directed to negotiate such a provision in the easement.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONATION FOR THE DUCK CREEK WILDLIFE AREA, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$400 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR RELATED PROCESSING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Embarcadero Park Fishing Pier, San Diego County \$201,000.00

The San Diego Unified Port District has proposed the construction of a fishing pier at the Embarcadero Marina Park, on the northeast shore of San Diego Bay near the city's central business district.

The pier will be located on the bay side of a newly placed peninsula which was constructed in 1976 to create a park and marina, an element of the district's Embarcadero Development Project. Staff has met with port district officials to discuss this proposal, review the basic project requirements, and inspect the site.

The project would be undertaken on a matching fund basis with the district, in accordance with the WCB pier policy. A resolution adopted by the district affirms that the necessary funds have been appropriated for the district's share of construction costs. The district agrees to assume the responsibility for operation and maintenance of the pier and to transfer the necessary interest in land to satisfy the Board's proprietary interest requirement. The land and water areas involved in the park and pier are State tidelands managed in trust by the district.

Gill net sampling conducted by the Department of Fish and Game at the proposed site produced a variety of fish which are forage for larger predatory species such as kelp, barred and spotted bass, halibut and possibly barracuda. It is likely the presence of a pier at this site could provide an additional

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

attraction for opaleye and pile perch. Catches might also include striped bass and silver salmon, if the current efforts at stocking these species in San Diego Bay are successful, it was also pointed out in the Department's favorable recommendation.

The department's fisheries evaluation was conducted shortly after the new fill and quarry rock riprap was placed and the area was still recovering from the construction activities. Biologists expect that a larger and more diverse fish population than shown by the sampling will be attracted to the area in the future.

The two existing public piers on San Diego Bay, one to the north at Shelter Island and one south at National City are consistently popular spots for anglers. The Department predicts that the Embarcadero Park pier would provide angling success at about the same rate as these two piers.

The pier would be well located to serve existing low to moderate income groups in the southeast San Diego area. Being in a growing urban waterfront development, the pier could also provide angling opportunities to the future residential population envisioned in the redevelopment plans for downtown San Diego.

The district will develop a 124 space parking lot, bait shop, restroom and picnic areas on the peninsula adjacent to the pier and extensively landscape the 20 acre park at their cost.

The district's preliminary plans for the pier show an elongated tee-shaped concrete and wood structure, with the tee measuring 300 feet long and 20 feet wide. The approach stem from shore is 95 feet long. Water depths surrounding the pier average 15 feet. Lights and appurtenances such as benches and trash receptacles will be provided on the pier.

The following cost estimate has been prepared by the district. Any funds in excess of those needed for the project as described will be recovered by the Board in the usual manner.

Structure and appurtenances	\$293,000
Pier Lighting	11,000
Subtotal	<u>\$304,000</u>
Contingencies, 20%	61,000
Subtotal, pier construction cost	<u>365,000</u>
Design, contract admin. & Inspec., 10%	37,000
Total estimated costs	<u>\$402,000</u>
WCB project cost, 50%	\$201,000

The project should qualify for 50% reimbursement under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program, and it is intended to apply for these funds to be shared with the District as has been the WCB practice for such cost-sharing projects.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

The District has filed a Negative Declaration for the Embarcadero Park and fishing pier in compliance with the CEQA. The pier is also embodied in the overall Embarcadero Development Plan for which an environmental impact report was filed.

The San Diego Coast Regional Commission has approved the project and the district has applied for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit.

A very thorough presentation of the proposed pier project and its potential for recreationists was given by Mr. Trull. He also provided the Board members with a brochure providing additional pictures and letters of support from various organizations in the area.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board, with consideration of the Negative Declaration, approve the project as proposed, allocate \$201,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for this purpose to be matched by the District; and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as proposed, including sharing of federally reimbursed project costs with the District on an equal basis.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, APPROVE THE EMBARCADERO PARK FISHING PIER, SAN DIEGO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$201,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED. STAFF IS AUTHORIZED TO SHARE WITH THE SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT ANY REIMBURSEMENT RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Lagoon Valley Public Fishing Lake, Solano County

\$440,500.00

The County of Solano has proposed a cooperative project for construction of a warmwater fishing lake and related public access facilities at Lagoon Valley. This location is about two miles southwest of Vacaville along Interstate Highway 80. By resolution of the Board of Supervisors, the County has agreed to participate in the project on a matching fund basis, as well as to operate and maintain the area open to the public.

The City of Vacaville has an interest in the project and owns the adjacent 32 acre Pena Adobe Historic Site, which may be incorporated into the regional park complex contemplated for the area.

The County has previously purchased the proposed lake site, and would lease the cooperative project portion of its 278 acre holding to the State for the required proprietary interest for WCB projects.

Historically Lagoon Valley was subject to annual flooding and had a year-round lake in it. In the 1890's the natural outlet channel was deepened to drain the lake for agricultural purposes, although the area where the lake will be formed does fill with water for a period each year.

The proposal is to create a lake of about 105 surface acres with an average depth of 8 to 9 feet. Records show there would be ample runoff of water from the surrounding watershed to fill the lake during normal years. Supplementary water needed to take care of evaporation will be obtained by the County from the Solano Irrigation District and from a well to be drilled near the west side of the lake. These sources would be most heavily utilized during dry years.

Preliminary investigation reveals that suitable material for the low dam required can be excavated from the lake's bottom. Part of the surplus material would be used to contour the western shoreline and to form an island near the center of the lake. The southerly end will be left shallow to create a marshy area. In addition to providing a nursery area for young fish, this will enhance waterfowl habitat and should encourage more nesting by water associated birds.

The Department of Fish and Game has recommended the project and indicates the lake should provide a productive fishery for black bass, panfish, and catfish, further stating that good warmwater fisheries near metropolitan areas are in great demand. There will be both bank and boat fishing, but it is planned that motors will not be allowed.

In addition to the dam, spillway and related facilities previously mentioned, the cooperative project includes an access road, parking area, small launching ramp, and restroom with water supply and sewer systems.

There will be a swimming area and picnic facilities provided at County expense. The County plans to add other facilities and possibly provide for overnight use of the area at a later date.

The County, as lead agency for the project, has prepared and processed a final EIR to comply with CEQA. A plan and cost estimate have also been prepared by the County and reviewed by staff. The estimate is as follows:

Clearing and grubbing	\$20,000
Excavation & embankment	409,400
Riprap, spillway, outlet, inlet	143,000
Roadway, parking and ramp	84,000
Water and sewer systems	80,300
Well and power	17,000
Restroom	27,300
Subtotal	781,000
Engineering, soil testing, archeology	99,000
	\$880,000
Co. 50%	440,000
WCB 50%	440,000
Signs & Misc.	500
WCB total	440,500

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

This is similar to other previous projects that have qualified for 50% reimbursement under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. It is intended to apply for these funds with the reimbursement to be shared with the County as has been the practice for other cost-sharing projects.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board, with consideration of the EIR, approve the Lagoon Valley Public Fishing Lake, allocate \$440,500 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund on a matching fund basis with the County of Solano, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed with the project substantially as planned, including sharing of federally reimbursed project costs with the County on an equal basis. He indicated letters of support have been received from Senator Dunlap and Assemblyman Fazio and that Dean Kastens, Solano County Parks Director, was present if the Board had any questions regarding this proposal.

Mr. Dean Kastens assured the Board that both the water supply and water quality would be more than adequate to support a fish population in the proposed lake. Plans for the fishing lake were developed with the cooperation of the Solano Irrigation District, Department of Fish and Game biologists, and WCB staff. He wanted to call attention to the fine cooperation he has received from the staff of the various agencies in the two years he has been working on this project.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE EIR, APPROVE THE LAGOON VALLEY PUBLIC FISHING LAKE, SOLANO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$440,500 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE COUNTY OF SOLANO; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING SHARING OF FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENTS WITH THE COUNTY.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Rio Vista Fishing Pier, Solano County

\$71,000.00

This is a small fishing pier project, as proposed by the City of Rio Vista and the Department of Water Resources, to be on a cost-sharing basis with DWR.

The Department of Water Resources has selected a point on the Sacramento River just below the west end of the Rio Vista Bridge as a site for one of their water quality monitoring stations. These stations require a small building over the water to house water monitoring gauges and equipment and a means of access thereto. DWR requirements would place the station approximately 170 feet from the bank where normal water depth is about 18'.

Access to the facility would be across City of Rio Vista lands leased to the DFG for the Rio Vista Riverbank Public Access project, which was developed cooperatively by City and WCB in 1971.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

On learning of DWR's plans, the City suggested the access pier might be enlarged to serve as a public fishing pier as well as access to the monitoring station. WCB and DWR staff feel this is an excellent suggestion, as it provides an opportunity to develop a dual purpose facility at a substantial saving in public funds.

The parking area and public access improvements along the river bank already completed at the site by the City and WCB, together with the soon to be completed public restroom being constructed by the City with funds allocated by the Board last year, offer advantages to such a facility which are not found at other available sites in this vicinity.

Accordingly, DWR has agreed to the construction of an 8 foot wide 170' long timber pier on a matching fund basis. Two 12 by 20 foot extensions at the end of the pier are planned, one to provide space for the water monitoring station and the other for additional public fishing area.

The cost of the monitoring station, its electric service and equipment, as well as that extension of the pier, will be funded entirely by DWR. WCB funds will cover the cost of the other extension. With the exception of the monitoring station, the entire pier will be accessible to the public.

It is proposed also at this time to add minor improvements to the area for basic convenience facilities for the public. These would consist of an area light, electric service to the restroom, a fish cleaning sink, hose bib installation at the pier, benches and trash receptacles. These costs would be borne by WCB alone.

The Department's evaluation of this proposal is favorable, noting that the pier would provide valuable additional access to the Sacramento River for the non-boating anglers. When tide and current conditions are favorable, it is expected that a simulated troll-type fishery would be made available to land-bound fishermen which would add diversity to their angling opportunities.

The City of Rio Vista has indicated their willingness to assume operation and maintenance responsibilities for the public portion of the pier. This can simply be done by amendment to the existing Cooperative Agreement between the City and DFG. State lands will be leased to the City and DFG to satisfy the long-term proprietary interest requirement.

The proposal is in substantial compliance with the Board's pier policy. Both the City and DWR will act as cooperating agencies, one meeting the requirement for operation and maintenance, and the other the requirement for matching funds.

The DWR, Central District, will provide the engineering contract administration and construction inspection for the project. DWR engineers and the City have provided cost estimates as follows:

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
October 11, 1978

Pier stem, 169' x 8'	\$69,000
Contingencies	14,000
Engineering, contract admin., inspec.	22,800
Total joint Project costs	<u>\$105,800</u>
WCB share, 50%	\$52,900
Pier extension, 20' x 12'	13,500
Electrical - area light, restroom panel	1,000
Pier appurtenances - hose bib, trash containers, bench, fish cleaning sink	<u>4,800</u>
Total WCB Project Costs	<u>\$71,000</u>

It is planned to submit the public fishing pier portion of the project for 50% federal reimbursement under the Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

The Department of Water Resources is acting as lead agency for this project in compliance with CEQA, and has filed a Negative Declaration.

It was the staff's recommendation that the Board, with consideration of the Negative Declaration approve the Rio Vista Fishing Pier project, allocate \$71,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund on a partial matching fund basis as proposed, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

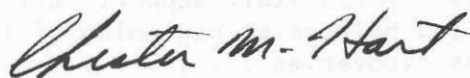
Mr. Hart advised that Assemblyman Fazio has written a letter in support of this proposal, and noted that Rio Vista representative Mr. George Alphin and Department of Water Resources representatives were also present, should the Board have any questions.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, APPROVE THE RIO VISTA FISHING PIER PROJECT, SOLANO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$71,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND ON A PARTIAL MATCHING FUND BASIS AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Benson at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chester M. Hart
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on October 11, 1978, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$40,623,001.81. This total includes \$5,905,147.34 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, the Bagley Conservation Fund, and the 1974 and 1976 Bond Acts will be included in this statement after completion of these programs.

a. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$10,286,304.24
b. Fish Habitat Development and Improvement Projects	4,571,096.79
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$2,673,619.19
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	243,013.03
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	439,503.32
4. Marine Habitat	377,279.36
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	837,681.89
c. Fishing Access Projects	13,169,192.70
1. Coastal and Bay Access	1,243,539.61
2. River and Aqueduct Access	3,555,562.10
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	3,216,196.30
4. Piers	5,153,894.69
d. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e. Wildlife Habitat Development & Improvement Projects	11,517,154.47
1. Wildlife Areas	10,870,505.35
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development	646,649.12
f. Hunting Access	472,436.81
g. Miscellaneous Projects	401,422.31
s. Special Project Allocations	58,500.00
Total Allocated to Projects	<u>\$40,623,001.81</u>

STATUS OF FUND Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance after June 22, 1978, meeting	\$272,468.71
Plus interest on Surplus Money Jan/June 1978	+127,190.99
Plus unexpended balance 1975/76 staff support	+120,084.92
Plus Pari-mutuel Revenue, July 1, 1978	+750,000.00
Less 1978/79 staff support, estimated	<u>-284,678.00</u>
Unallocated balance at beginning of 10/11/78 meeting	\$985,066.62
Plus recoveries	+240,665.59
Less allocations	<u>-738,900.00</u>
Unallocated balance after 10/11/78 meeting	\$486,832.21