

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

Minutes, Meeting of May 2, 1980

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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 May 2, 1980. The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Acting Chairman Elizabeth Venrick.

1. Roll Call and Election of Chairperson

PRESENT: Elizabeth Venrick
E. C. Fullerton
Roy M. Bell

Acting Chairman
Member
Member

ABSENT: Senator Barry Keene
Senator John A. Nejedly
Assemblyman Dan Boatwright

Joint Interim Committee
" " "
" " "

STAFF PRESENT:

Chester M. Hart
Alvin G. Rutsch
John Wentzel
John Schmidt
Jim Sarro
Alma Koyasako
Nancy Peevey
Maggie Parkinson

Executive Officer
Assistant Executive Officer
Field Agent
Land Agent
Land Agent
Secretary
Accountant
Stenographer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dean Kastens
Rose Takata
Donald J. Blake
Jolene Blake
T. A. Wright
Joe A. Sheehan

Solano Co. Parks Department
Dept. of Fish and Game
Blake Realty, Oroville
Blake Realty, Oroville
Dept. of Fish and Game
Dept. of Fish and Game

Because Roy Bell was detained, Mr. Fullerton moved that Elizabeth Venrick be named Chairman, with confirmation by Mr. Bell, and that the Board proceed with the agenda. It was so ordered. (This confirmation was subsequently secured.)

2. Approval of Minutes

The Executive Officer, Chester M. Hart, recommended approval of the January 10, 1980, meeting of the Board as published and circulated.

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IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE
JANUARY 10, 1980, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
BE APPROVED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Status of Funds

The following status of funds was presented by the Executive Officer for
information of the Board members.

a. Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance beginning of 1/10/80 meeting	\$ 445,356.79
Plus miscellaneous revenue	400.00
Plus interest on surplus money (July-Dec.)	237,176.08
Plus transfer of federal monies from various funds	1,228,451.79
Plus recoveries	15,728.41
Less allocations	-1,198,650.00
Plus reimbursements under Fed. LWCF Program	+1,132,683.53
Unallocated balance as of 5/2/80	\$1,861,146.60

b. Land and Water Conservation Funds

The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service recently suspended process-
ing applications for projects under this federal grant program due to the
President's recommendation to Congress that previous appropriations for the
program for this fiscal year be reduced by 50%. Congress reportedly has
until June 4th to act on the President's recommendation.

It was reported that the President also is proposing a 50% reduction in LWCF
appropriations in the 1981-82 fiscal year, with the question unresolved as
to how much would go to federal agencies and how much for grants to state
and local agencies.

From the Department of Interior representatives attending the hearing of the
House Sub-Committee on Department of Interior appropriations, it was their
understanding that the sub-committee recommended that the 1979-80 appropria-
tion be reduced from \$300,000,000 to \$225,000,000, with the \$75,000,000 reduc-
tion being deferred until '80-'81. This would add \$75M to the President's
recommended \$150M for '79-'80, or put the program at 75% of the original
funding.

The WCB had five projects totalling \$618,365 in federal funds approved at
the time of suspension, out of the original \$2,807,167 entitlement for
WCB this fiscal year.

Mr. Hart commented that these actions probably will have a fairly signifi-
cant impact upon total funding for WCB projects, although the actual extent
is unknown at present and may not be clarified for some time.

4. Recovery of Funds

a. Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries

(Mr. Bell who had just arrived was introduced.)

Mr. Hart stated that the following projects have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to the Wildlife Restoration Fund. It was recommended that the total amount of \$9,886.58 as shown below be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund and the accounts closed.

Sacramento River Salmon Spawning Gravel Replenishment

Allocation	\$100,000.00
Expenditures	<u>94,979.16</u>
Balance for Recovery	5,020.84

Anderson (Sacramento River) Fishing Access - Acquisition

Allocation	\$ 48,000.00
Expenditures	<u>46,912.95</u>
Balance for Recovery	1,087.05

Anderson Fishing Access - Improvements

Allocation	\$ 22,600.00
Expenditures	<u>18,821.31</u>
Balance for Recovery	3,778.69

Total for recovery	<u>\$9,886.58</u>
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IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

Sacramento River Salmon Spawning Gravel Replenishment, Shasta Co.	\$5,020.84
Anderson (Sacto River) Fishing Access - (Acquisition) Shasta County	1,087.05
Anderson Fishing Access -(Improvement), Shasta County	<u>3,778.69</u>
	<u>\$9,886.58</u>

ALL OF THE FUNDS TOTALLING \$9,886.58 ARE TO BE RETURNED TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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4. b. 1974 Bond Act

The State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1974 contained provisions that funding would remain available for encumbrance by individual agencies until July 1, 1980.

Projects included in this agenda together with the Elkhorn Slough acquisition approved by the Board on January 10, 1980, enable the remaining 1974 Bond Act monies to be expended, except for some funds for the Wild Trout, Salmon and Steelhead Habitat project. Processing is well underway on a project to utilize the remaining Wild Trout funds, with Board consideration planned at a meeting to be scheduled in June.

This overall process requires recoveries of unexpended balances of 1974 Bond Act funds in some project accounts and transfers to accounts from which actual expenditures are made. For projects where the Board authorized funding from both 1974 and 1976 Bond Acts, any remaining expenditures would be charged to the 1976 Act. Staff recommended Board authorization of a similar procedure for those projects that were funded only from 1974 Bond funds and will remain active after June 30, 1980.

In most cases the recoveries and transfers involved are relatively minor unexpended balances, but there are three projects involved that have been inactive for some time due to unwilling sellers. For these projects, including Suisun Marsh-Joice Island, Agua Hedionda Lagoon, and Napa Marsh-Steamboat Slough, staff recommended recovery of the funds without prejudice. If any of these lands should become available, acquisition could be from 1976 Bond Act funds that are still available.

Mr. Hart recommended that the WCB (1) authorize recovery and transfer of unencumbered balances of 1974 Bond Act funds to active projects, including Elkhorn Slough, for encumbrance or expenditure before July 1, 1980; (2) approve payment from 1976 Bond Act funds of any further costs that may become necessary for affected projects; and (3) consider the recovery of funding for the Suisun Marsh-Joice Island, Agua Hedionda Lagoon, and Napa Marsh-Steamboat Slough projects to be without prejudice.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD (1) AUTHORIZE RECOVERY AND TRANSFER OF UNENCUMBERED BALANCES OF 1974 BOND ACT FUNDS TO ACTIVE PROJECTS FOR ENCUMBRANCE OR EXPENDITURE BEFORE JULY 1, 1980; (2) APPROVE PAYMENT FROM 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS OF ANY FURTHER COSTS THAT MAY BECOME NECESSARY FOR AFFECTED PROJECTS; AND (3) CONSIDER THE RECOVERY OF FUNDING FOR THE SUISUN MARSH-JOICE ISLAND, AGUA HEDIONDA LAGOON, AND NAPA MARSH-STEAMBOAT SLOUGH PROJECTS TO BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Lagoon Valley Fishing Lake, Solano County

\$50,000.00

Mr. Hart provided the following summary of the problems facing the Board and the County of Solano in proceeding with construction of this fishing lake project.

This is a cooperative project with Solano County and the City of Vacaville to construct a 105 surface acre, warmwater fishing lake and related public access facilities, as approved by the WCB at its meeting on October 11, 1978.

Solano County completed design and other necessary work for the project and opened bids on March 13, 1980. The lowest bid of 15 received was \$1,273,326, in comparison to the \$880,000 funding for the project by the County and WCB.

The project as previously approved by the Board included \$781,000 for direct construction costs, with an additional \$99,000 for engineering, soil testing, permits, etc., and \$500 for signs and miscellaneous items. This came to a total of \$880,500, of which Solano County provided \$440,000 and the WCB the remaining \$440,500. This project has been approved under the LWCF program, which will provide 50% federal reimbursement for project costs.

There has been considerable consultation by the engineering firm handling this project for Solano County with the low bidder and the Division of Dam Safety, with subsequent discussions between Solano County representatives and WCB staff.

The result has been a recommendation that a contract with the low bidder for the project proceed on essentially the following basis:

	<u>Cost Reduction</u>
(1) Reduce excavation and embankments to decrease lake depth 6"	\$83,240
(2) Reduce riprap protection	100,800
(3) Revise spillway	55,800
(4) Revise inlet structure	200
(5) Revise lagoon weir structure	6,500
(6) Delete paving, curbs, gutters and striping for road-way and parking area	162,722
(7) Delete breakwater for launching ramp	<u>45,000</u>

Total reduction \$454,262

A revised summary of costs and funding requirements is as follows:

Original low bid	\$1,273,326
Total reductions	- 454,262
Proposed contract price	\$ 819,064
Previous allocation for construction	- 781,000
Deficit	\$ 38,064

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Thus, in order to proceed with the basic lake construction project and have a modest contingency for possible unanticipated items, additional funding of approximately \$50,000 is needed. It would be planned to use any funds remaining from the contingency to assist in graveling the road and parking area surface in lieu of the deleted paving.

In addition, the following approved project items were not included in the bid package discussed, or were deleted in the cost reductions proposed above:

	<u>Est. Cost</u>
Water and sewer systems	\$80,300
Well and Power	17,000
Restroom	27,300
Roadway and parking area paving, striping, curbs, gutters	<u>162,722</u>
TOTAL	\$287,322

Solano County will be carrying on development of adjoining lands for a regional park on a long-term basis as funds are available, and these items can be handled by the County as part of that process. However, the County presently does not have available funding to provide matching monies as part of the \$50,000 augmentation needed for the basic lake construction contract.

Staff's recommendation, which is agreeable to County representatives, is as follows:

- (1) The WCB allocate an additional \$50,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to enable the basic lake construction contract to be awarded.
- (2) The scope of the project for which state funding would be provided would be reduced to delete the items described which total \$287,322.
- (3) The scope of the LWCF project remain as originally planned, to enable federal funding to be provided if available.

In summary, this would enable the lake to be constructed to a slightly shallower (6" less) depth than originally planned, but functional and with low standard public access to make the project useable except perhaps in wet weather periods. Solano County would provide chemical toilets on an interim basis, and would carry out the remaining project development without WCB participation as funding became available.

Mr. Hart noted that Mr. Dean Kastens, Solano County Parks Director, was present to respond to any questions.

Mr. Fullerton questioned the legality of amending the bid for the reduced project to this extent. Mr. Hart advised that the legality of this process would be faced by the county which is under contract to the State to construct the project in any way that is legal for them to do so, so long as

the Board has authorized this change in scope. He advised that this reduction in scope has been worked out with the county, and the contractor is willing to proceed on this basis. This was corroborated by Mr. Dean Kastens. He further related that they are ready to go before the County Board of Supervisors May 6 with a bona fide contract which has been reduced to this amount.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MODIFY THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$50,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND TO PROCEED WITH AWARDED OF THE CONTRACT TO THE LOW BIDDER; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING SHARING OF FEDERALLY REIMBURSED PROJECT COSTS WITH SOLANO COUNTY ON A PROPORTIONATE BASIS.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kastens expressed the County's appreciation and gratitude to the WCB for their action not only this morning, but past action in support of this project, and personally thanked the WCB staff and Dept. of Fish and Game biologists who have given them support and technical assistance. He believed that in the near future there would be many thousands of people who would be expressing gratitude to the Board for its forethought and support of this project.

1974 AND 1976 BOND ACT PROJECTS

6. Deer Winter Range Acquisition Project \$72,500.00
Bass Hill Wildlife Area, Lassen County

At two previous meetings the Wildlife Conservation Board approved the acquisition of a total of 2,078+ acres of private land in Lassen County for protection of the Bass Hill Deer Winter Range. These lands were subsequently acquired and turned over to the Department of Fish and Game for management. This proposal is to expand this deer winter range area through the acquisition of an additional 140+ acres of private land. This acquisition, which is proposed under the 1976 Bond Act Project approved for Big Game acquisitions, has been favorably recommended by the Department of Fish and Game.

Bass Hill is located approximately 5 miles southeast of Susanville near State Highway 395, at the westerly end of a small, low elevation range (around 4,500 feet maximum) about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide at the widest point. This range generally is critical winter habitat for deer that spend the remainder of the year at higher elevations on primarily U.S. National Forest lands to the west. The parcel proposed for purchase is heavily vegetated with bitterbrush, which provides excellent winter food and cover for deer.

The locale is on the edge of Honey Lake Valley, with adjacent lands either farmed, utilized as both dry and irrigated pastures for livestock grazing, or in progress of being developed for residential use. The general area is also seeing a significant amount of land splitting and development

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mostly for residential purposes. Indications are that the present growth trend will continue which will further interfere with deer migration and use, as well as destroy more of the remaining range. This 140+ acre proposal, when added to the existing BLM ownership, and the past State acquisition which adjoins it, will give a total protected area of wildlife habitat of more than 6,217+ acres.

This parcel is listed as a high priority deer range acquisition by the DFG. In addition to protecting critical winter range for over 2,000 migratory and resident Rocky Mountain mule deer, it will provide additional habitat protection for a large variety of wildlife including California quail, chukar partridge, rabbits and mourning doves.

This property also has significant potential for additional public recreational uses as part of the overall area. Such potential uses include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and nature observation by individuals and organized groups.

It is planned that the overall property will be managed by the DFG on a cooperative basis with BLM in the same manner as the original purchases. No development is considered necessary.

The proposed acquisition is within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. The owners have indicated a willingness to sell this property to the State for the appraised value of \$70,000.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this 140+ acres as proposed, allocate \$72,500 for the purchase and related costs from any unencumbered '74 Bond Act funds and from 1976 Bond Act funds available for such purposes and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Hart advised that letters of support have been received from Senator Ray Johnson and John Reginato of the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association relative to this proposal.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR EXPANSION OF THE BASS HILL WILDLIFE AREA, LASSEN COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$72,500.00 FOR PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FROM ANY UNENCUMBERED 1974 BOND ACT FUNDS AND FROM 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PURPOSES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Deer Winter Range Acquisition Project
Antelope Valley, Sierra County

\$535,000.00

This proposal is for the acquisition of approximately 2,080 acres at about 5,000' elevation in Antelope Valley lying generally between Sierraville and Loyalton. The land has historically been used as deer winter range, and according to the Department of Fish and Game, is comparable to the best winter ranges in Sierra County. In addition, deer migration trails that exist within the southern portion of the property are considered to need protection from encroaching developments. The subject property has recently been considered for subdivision lots for homesites.

The DFG indicates that the loss of this land would result in a serious impact on the well-being and future numbers of deer in the Loyalton/Truckee herd. Therefore, the Department has recommended acquisition of the particular property under consideration. This will enable the preservation of the winter range and migration trails and will also allow the Department to take affirmative steps in enhancement of the habitat values in this area.

The landowner, who owns 4,480 acres in the valley and adjacent uplands, has agreed to sell 2,080 acres of the most critical habitat for its appraised fair market value of \$516,000. Costs of sale, appraisals, and escrow are expected to be approximately \$19,000 for a total requested allocation of \$535,000. Staff intends to apply for federal LWCF funds, assuming such are available.

The property, as indicated on the map displayed, is reached by County Road 885, proceeding south from State Highway 49. Public use opportunities include hunting and general outdoor recreation. It is planned that the Department will manage the entire parcel for both habitat protection and compatible uses.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 13, Categorical Exemption for acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the Antelope Valley Deer Winter Range acquisition as proposed, allocate \$535,000 from any unencumbered 1976 Bond Act funds available for Big Game Habitat acquisition and whatever Wildlife Restoration Funds are necessary to cover this acquisition, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE ANTELOPE VALLEY DEER WINTER RANGE, SIERRA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$535,000 FROM ANY UNENCUMBERED 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR BIG GAME HABITAT ACQUISITION AND WHATEVER ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS ARE NECESSARY TO COVER THIS ACQUISITION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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8. Interior Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Acquisition Project
Coon Hollow Wildlife Area, Butte County \$185,000.00

This item is a proposal for the purchase of two parcels approximately 449 acres of high elevation riparian habitat and meadowlands in Butte County, as proposed by the DFG.

The property is located along Coon Creek at an elevation of about 5,500 feet, approximately 40 miles north of Oroville and reached by U.S. Forest Service roads, including Humburg Road and Coon Hollow Road.

Riparian habitat values are considered most important, but the property supports a wide variety of fish and wildlife habitat and has a similar variety of public use opportunities. It includes about a mile of frontage on a creek that supports a trout fishery. There is utilization by deer, mainly as a summer range and fawning area. The great gray owl, which is being proposed for rare and endangered status, has been sighted on the property. The parcel also has year round use by fur-bearers, including beaver and pine marten, and summer use by many migratory mammals and bird species. In regards to public use, trout fishing occurs throughout the general season. Moderate deer hunting occurs early in the season. Some mountain quail hunting occurs and perhaps blue grouse hunting. Possibilities for other types of recreational use include hiking, sightseeing, and nature photography.

The property has been placed on the market by the landowner and he has agreed to sell it to the Board for its appraised fair market value of \$400 per acre. This value does not include timber rights, which are not owned by the seller. However, the property was logged fairly recently and the remaining trees are fairly small, so that it will be a long time until a possible next logging operation.

The Department has recommended purchase without timber rights, considering that the property has substantial wildlife values, and that proper logging in the future should not significantly reduce overall values for wildlife.

Funds are available for this purchase from the 1974 and 1976 Bond Acts under the WCB's acquisition program for Interior Wetlands and Riparian Habitat. The total purchase price would be \$179,600. Costs, including appraisals, escrow and closing, will be about \$5,400.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 Categorical Exemptions from CEQA. It is planned that the property will be managed essentially in its existing state by the DFG.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the Coon Hollow Wildlife Area project as proposed, allocate \$185,000 from any unencumbered 1974 Bond Act funds and 1976 Bond Act funds available for the acquisition and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bell asked Mr. Fullerton if there would be any problem created by not acquiring the timber rights. Mr. Fullerton responded that there would be no problem, inasmuch as the Department would have control over the logging practices. Logging would be done perhaps many years down the line and even though we do not have the timber rights and they have the right to come in and log, we would have control over how the logging was done and in that manner we would protect the wildlife habitat in that process.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE COON HOLLOW WILDLIFE AREA, BUTTE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$185,000 FROM ANY UNENCUMBERED 1974 BOND ACT FUNDS AND FROM 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE ACQUISITION AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition
Lower Box Canyon, Siskiyou County

\$172,000.00

This proposal is for the acquisition of a conservation easement, parking area, foot trails and fishing access along the upper reaches of the Sacramento River. The parcel under consideration is an ownership comprised of 137 acres of potentially developable lands about two miles from the heart of Mount Shasta City and includes 3,200+ feet of frontage on the Sacramento River below Box Canyon Dam. The rights to be acquired are as follows:

1. Proposed parking area - 1 acre in fee simple.
2. Foot trails from the parking area to the river - an easement.
3. 100 feet strip along the river the entire length of this property - an easement for fishing access.
4. A conservation easement over the remainder of the property.

The property is unusually varied. It includes a wide variety of land types that have both wildlife habitat and scenic values that would be protected by the conservation easement.

The property runs to the center of the Sacramento River, which in this reach includes low falls, a number of pools and several runs and riffles. Large boulders in the channel form several white water areas.

The Department indicates that the river in this area has a very high fishery value. Vegetation on the property includes willows, alders, oaks, conifers, cedar, fir, manzanita, and meadow grass. There is an estimated 750,000 board feet of commercial timber on the property. The area was selectively logged in the early fifties, but no ground disturbance is evident today.

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The subject property rights have been appraised and the fair market value is \$263,100, rather than the lower figure indicated in the agenda. The landowner has agreed to convey these rights to the State for \$167,000 which is \$96,100 below market value, or 63% of fair market value.

Funding for this project is available from the 1974 and 1976 Bond Act under the Board's program of Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition. Costs of sale, escrow, appraisals and engineering services will add about \$5,000, for a total required allocation of \$172,000.

It is planned that the Department will manage the parcel. Staff intends to apply for federal LWCF funds, assuming such are available. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 13, Categorical Exemption for acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Hart advised that letters in support of this acquisition have been received from Senator Ray Johnson and the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association. He recommended that the Board approve the Lower Box Canyon Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition as proposed, allocate \$172,000 from any unencumbered 1974 Bond Act funds and 1976 Bond funds available for the acquisition and related costs and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bell commented that it was rather encouraging to see our securing easements in areas of this nature where it is only costing 63% of the appraised value. Quite often conservation easements run as high as 80% or 85% which raises the question of why we don't go to full fee acquisition. He felt this is a very attractive project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BELL, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF FEE TITLE AND EASEMENTS AS PROPOSED FOR THE LOWER BOX CANYON WILD TROUT, STEELHEAD AND SALMON HABITAT ACQUISITION, SISKIYOU COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$172,000 FROM ANY UNENCUMBERED 1974 BOND ACT FUNDS AND 1976 BOND FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE ACQUISITION AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dr. Venrick asked if the owner would continue to pay taxes on the property where we have a conservation easement, and Mr. Hart responded that the owner would have the underlying fee and would still pay property taxes. However, the property should be reassessed downward, and it would be an issue to be resolved between the county tax assessor and the owner as to how much downward it should be reassessed.

10. Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Project
Goleta Slough, Santa Barbara County

\$224,535.00

This proposal is to acquire two parcels of land which were recently declared surplus by Caltrans.

The parcels, which total 33.4+ acres, are located in Goleta immediately north of the University of California Santa Barbara campus, and are separated into two separate parcels by Los Carneros Road. The Santa Barbara

Municipal Airport is located to the north of the subject properties.

These parcels include some uplands, but the majority of the property is at elevations below ten feet and subject to periodic flooding and tidal action. Generally the property lies within the upper end of Goleta Slough. Because of the relationship to the slough, these parcels have very high wildlife values and have been highly recommended for acquisition by the Department of Fish and Game. The slough, with its vegetated shoreline and islands of marsh vegetation, provides feeding, nesting and resting area for both land and shore birds and waterfowl.

The acquisition of these parcels will not only add to the overall protection of this slough, but will provide public access to this area for compatible recreational uses including nature observation, hiking, photography, as well as educational opportunities. No development of this area is proposed. The parcels would be managed in essentially their existing state by the Department of Fish and Game.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of the Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of acquisitions of land for fish and wildlife habitat, establishment of ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and preservation of access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

The properties have been appraised for a total of \$223,535. Caltrans has agreed to transfer them at this amount. Approximately \$1,000 will be required for processing costs.

Staff recommends that the Board approve this project as proposed, allocate \$224,535 from the 1976 Bond Act funds available for this purpose for payment of the purchase price and processing costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE GOLETA SLOUGH COASTAL WETLANDS PROJECT, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$224,535 FROM THE 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ACQUISITION AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary, Monterey County

a. Acquisition Project \$28,443.00

This proposal is to acquire two privately owned small parcels located within the boundaries of the planned 1,510 acre Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary. This is the third acquisition for this purpose to be considered with the Board previously approving acquisition of 984 acres. Escrow has just been closed on these two acquisitions.

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The properties proposed for purchase at this time are located approximately five miles northeasterly of Moss Landing. More specifically, they lie easterly of Elkhorn Road on the south side of Strawberry Canyon Road. Together, these parcels total 6.29+ acres (2.35+ acres plus 3.94+ acres).

For the most part, these properties are marshy, extending from an approximate elevation of sea level to a high of approximately 10 feet above sea level. As such, these parcels include a portion of one of the many "fingers" of Elkhorn Slough, and have been subject to historical tidal action which has been controlled through the use of tidegates located westerly of Elkhorn Road.

The properties are valuable as part of the overall Elkhorn Slough ecosystem and the estuarine sanctuary project. The slough and its adjoining tidal flats and salt marshes support many wildlife species. Over 90 species of water-associated birds have been observed and identified in the area. The waters of the slough also provide an important nursery and feeding area for many sport and commercial fishes, in addition to supporting a rich fauna of bottom and mud-dwelling organisms.

Management of the parcels by the Department of Fish and Game is planned as part of the estuarine sanctuary, which is primarily for scientific and educational purposes.

Because of their inclusion within the planned sanctuary, these acquisitions will qualify for federal funding participation from the Office of Coastal Zone Management.

The Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Department of Fish and Game have prepared and processed a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the acquisition and management of the estuarine sanctuary, which has previously been provided to the Board and meets CEQA requirements.

The property owners have agreed to sell these properties to the State for their appraised fair market values totaling \$20,443. (\$7,638 and \$12,805) Approximately \$8,000 is needed for appraisal, survey, title insurance, and processing costs.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board, with consideration of the FEIS for the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary, approve the purchase of these parcels as proposed, allocate \$28,443.00 for the purchases and related costs from the 1976 Bond Act funds available for these purposes, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE FEIS FOR THE ELKHORN SLOUGH ESTUARINE SANCTUARY, APPROVE ACQUISITION OF THE TWO PARCELS AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$28,443 FOR THE PURCHASES AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THESE PURPOSES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.b. Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary
Initial Management and Development Project \$50,000.00

The Department of Fish and Game has proposed a project to meet criteria of the Office of Coastal Zone Management for a federal grant for initial operation of the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary. OCZM will provide grants of \$50,000 per year for up to three years for such estuarine sanctuary purposes, on the basis that matching state funds would be provided.

The proposed project has been formulated on the basis that the \$50,000 in federal funding would be utilized to pay the salary and operating expenses of an estuarine sanctuary manager.

It is further proposed that the WCB provide the state match through funding a project for the capital outlay and contractual services needed for initial planning, development and management of the estuarine sanctuary. This includes the following items.

1. Materials and labor for boundary posting, fencing, & signs	\$5,000
2. Maintenance of building and existing facilities	10,000
3. Debris cleanup, including removal of old buildings or other surplus facilities	20,000
4. Engineering services for topographical or other data needed for marsh restoration planning and for facilities planning	10,000
5. Equipment rental for road, levee, and other facilities maintenance or modification	5,000
TOTAL	<u>\$50,000</u>

No contingencies are included, on the basis that transfer of funds between items would be permitted as circumstances prove necessary.

The original grant project for acquisition included provisions for boundary surveys where needed, and for a cultural survey to determine archeological and historical values and recommendations for protection thereof. No significant disturbance of the area would be carried out until after cultural surveys were made and appropriate actions were considered and authorized in accordance with the FEIS and agreements with the State Historical Preservation Office.

Since escrow has now been closed on the initial 984 acres of acquisition, it is timely that provisions for such initial management and development activities be made. Also, the federal acquisition grant contained requirements that staffing and management of the estuarine sanctuary be implemented.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the proposed initial management and development project for Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary, allocate \$50,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bell wanted to know what happens after OCZM grant funds run out in three years. Mr. Hart responded that once the estuarine sanctuary is set up and facilities are established, it could be possible perhaps to contract

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with the Moss Landing Marine Lab or someone else to handle most of the management of much of the operation there and the Department's role minimized, at least as far as the cost of maintenance is concerned. There was agreement that this would be a good possibility.

Mr. Hart believed it imperative that it be determined at this time what the long term management needs would be. It is clearly recognized that there is a need for a manager to be on the ground to do this planning and get the whole thing started for the scientific and educational purposes envisioned for the sanctuary.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE INITIAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR ELKHORN SLOUGH ESTUARINE SANCTUARY; ALLOCATE \$50,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Resolution Honoring Mr. Sherman Chickering

Mr. Hart recommended that an appropriate resolution recognizing and honoring the participation of Mr. Sherman Chickering as past chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board be adopted as is the customary WCB practice.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MR. BELL, THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION HONORING MR. SHERMAN CHICKERING BE ADOPTED AND READ INTO THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

WHEREAS, Sherman Chickering ended his third term as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board on January 10, 1980, having previously served in 1971 and 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chickering, as a member of the Fish and Game Commission and the Wildlife Conservation Board has given unstintingly of his time, experience and talent to further the cause of wildlife conservation and wise use of all of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chickering has always graciously provided excellent guidance and counsel which is hereby gratefully acknowledged; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of this Board to convey to Mr. Chickering its hope that he will continue his leadership role in the field of wildlife conservation; Now therefore be it

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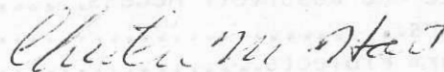
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Interim Committee, and the Board staff convey to Mr. Chickering our appreciation for his leadership, wise counsel and guidance; and be it further

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

There was informal discussion about WCB matching funds for piers which has held to the \$500,000 maximum, and which has not exceeded that amount in recent years, since most cities cannot afford more than that. Most cities that have piers, Mr. Hart pointed out, are looking to patching them up rather than constructing new piers from the bottom up. The costs of constructing new, reinforced concrete piers in oceans waters are practically prohibitive.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chester M. Hart
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 2, 1980, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$43,680,588.83. This total includes \$6,448,313.02 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.....	\$10,606,706.73
b. Fish Habitat Development.....	4,773,906.95
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement....	\$2,781,719.19
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement.....	337,992.19
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams.....	439,503.32
4. Marine Habitat.....	377,010.36
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects..	837,681.89
c. Fishing Access Projects.....	14,927,183.37
1. Coastal and Bay Access.....	1,530,189.61
2. River and Aqueduct Access.....	3,570,270.09
3. Lake and Reservoir Access.....	3,311,978.98
4. Piers.....	6,514,744.69
d. Game Farm Projects.....	146,894.49
e. Wildlife Habitat Development and Improvement Projects.....	12,082,538.17
1. Wildlife Areas.....	11,386,129.76
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Development..	696,408.41
f. Hunting Access.....	472,436.81
g. Miscellaneous Projects.....	612,422.31
s. Special Project Allocations.....	58,500.00
Total Allocated to Projects.....	\$43,680,588.83

STATUS OF FUND

Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance at beginning of 5/2/80 meeting	\$ 1,861,146.60
Plus recoveries	+ 9,886.58
Less allocations	- 527,752.47
Unallocated balance at end of 5/2/80 meeting	\$ 1,343,280.71