

Corrected copy

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

Minutes, Meeting of June 25, 1981

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

Minutes, Meeting of June 25, 1981

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 6031 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on June 25, 1981. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Acting Chairman E. C. Fullerton.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: E. C. Fullerton
Susanne Morgan

Acting Chairman
Member

Greg deGiere

Vice Senator Barry Keene,
Joint Interim Committee

ABSENT: Abel C. Galletti
Assemblyman Norman S. Waters

Chairman
Joint Interim Committee

STAFF PRESENT:

Chester M. Hart
Alvin G. Rutsch
John Wentzel
John Schmidt
Jim Sarro
Howard Dick
Marylyn Gzyms
Mary Sung
Denise O'Neill
Alma Koyasako

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Richard A. Cox
Ancil Hoffman
Paul Magie
Mavis Perry

National Rifle Association
California Wildlife Federation
California Conservation Corps
" " "

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Chester M. Hart, Executive Officer, reported that the minutes of the April 23, 1981, meeting have been published and circulated and that he knew of no need for correction of those minutes.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 1981, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS PUBLISHED AND CIRCULATED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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3. Wildlife Restoration Fund Status

Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/23/81 meeting . . \$2,276,758.01

Plus reimbursements not previously reported . . . + 685,615.59
Less allocations - 486,805.00

Unallocated balance at beginning of 6/25/81 meeting . . 2,475,568.60

Mr. Hart advised that the status reflects available funds to June 30; the usual continuing appropriation from the pari-mutuel revenues plus interest on unexpended monies would make the balance in excess of \$1 million before the next meeting.

4. Recovery of Funds

The following projects have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to the Wildlife Restoration Fund or the 1976 Bond Fund. It was recommended that the total amount of \$423,207.99 be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund and \$45,305.39 be recovered to the 1976 Bond Fund, and the project accounts be closed.

Dos Palos Wildlife Area

The owner of this property, after considering the State's fair market value offer, declined to sell.

Allocation	\$390,000.00
Expenditures	0.00
Balance for Recovery	<u>390,000.00</u>

Guzzler, Statewide

Allocation	62,000.00
Expenditures	<u>33,262.36</u>
Balance for Recovery	<u>28,737.64</u>

Hill Slough Wildlife Area Levee Reconstruction, Phase 1

Allocation	93,800.00
Expenditures	<u>93,553.51</u>
Balance for Recovery	<u>246.49</u>

Upper Otay Dam Study

Allocation	7,500.00
Expenditures	<u>4,800.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	<u>2,700.00</u>

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Buena Vista Lagoon

Allocation	750.00
Expenditures	200.00
Balance for Recovery	550.00

Pacifica Pier Land Acquisition

Allocation	500.00
Expenditures	122.20
Balance for Recovery	377.80

Santa Rosa Mountains - Hidden Palms Addition

Allocation	3,500.00
Expenditures	2,903.94
Balance for Recovery	596.06

TOTAL WRF RECOVERIES - \$423,207.99

1976 Bond Fund

Merrill's Landing

Allocation	118,944.00
Expenditures	\$112,944.00
Fed. LWCF Reimbursement	-57,520.04
WCB Expenditures	-55,423.96
Previously Recovered	-57,520.04
Balance for Recovery	6,000.00

Rubicon River Acquisition, Phase 1

Allocation	311,000.00
Expenditures	274,941.37
Fed. LWCF Reimbursement	-137,541.71
WCB Expenditures	-135,399.61
Previously Recovered	-139,541.71
Balance for Recovery	36,058.63

Lake Earl/Talawa Acquisition, Phase 2 Expansion

Allocation	48,900.00
Expenditures	46,749.85
Balance for Recovery	2,150.15

Navarro River & Beach Acquisition

Allocation	153,600.00
Expenditures	152,503.39
Balance for Recovery	1,096.61

TOTAL 1976 BOND ACT RECOVERIES - \$45,305.39

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In his explanation for recovery of funds from the proposed Dos Palos Wildlife Area, it was brought out by Mr. Hart that although the Board does have authority to request the Public Works Board to exercise its eminent domain powers, it has been the policy to rely on willing sale for acquisition of lands for WCB projects.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

Dos Palos Wildlife Area	\$390,000.00
Guzzler, Statewide	28,737.64
Hill Slough WLA Levee Reconstruction, Phase 1	246.49
Upper Otay Dam Study	2,700.00
Buena Vista Lagoon	550.00
Pacifica Pier Land Acquisition	377.80
Santa Rosa Mountains - Hidden Palms Addition	596.06
Total WRF	\$423,207.99
Merrill's Landing	\$ 6,000.00
Rubicon River Acquisition, Phase 1	36,058.63
Lake Earl/Talawa Acquisition, Phase 2 Expansion	2,150.15
Navarro River & Beach Acquisition	1,096.61
Total 1976 Bond Fund	\$ 45,305.39

THE SUM OF \$423,207.99 IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND AND \$45,305.39 IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF THE 1976 BOND FUND.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Status Report - Federal Grant Funds

Mr. Hart provided an update of the status of federal grant funds. In regard to the rescission of this year's LWCF grant, Congress has acted to revert 25% of the original appropriated funding. However, that has to be done from the balance of funds that was unobligated at the time funds were frozen. About 90% of the WCB allocation had already been committed by the Federal Government through contract agreements, so that only 10%+ of the WCB funds from this source were lost from this rescission action. To date, no LWCF monies have been inserted in the federal budget for the 81/82 fiscal year. It could be that this would happen yet in the federal budget process, but odds are against such inclusion.

The funding picture, particularly from federal sources is getting extremely tight. To date, the Office of Coastal Zone Management funding for the Elkhorn Slough project has not been affected, and there appears to be continuing availability of funds for estuarine sanctuary purposes.

Ms. Morgan was concerned that the Silverado Field Base project approved at the last meeting might be affected by the recent fires in the area, and she was assured by Mr. Hart that it was not affected, since it is located in the floor of the valley not touched by the fires.

6. Status Report - Madera Lake Property Sale

At its June 22, 1979, meeting, the Board approved declaring this project surplus for disposal in accordance with appropriate statutes. The Board's action was upon the condition of fair market value for the property being received, with the net proceeds to be credited to the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

Due to interest of the Madera Irrigation District in the property, the surplus properties bill authorizing sale included the provision that the District would have priority for purchase.

The State Department of General Services, which carries out disposal of surplus state lands, appraised the fair market value of the 1,092.5 acre property to be \$1,040,000.

The Board of Directors of the Madera Irrigation District at its May 1, 1981, meeting approved District purchase for the \$1,040,000 value, with terms and conditions to be worked out.

The Department of General Services had not completed negotiations on terms and conditions at the time of agenda preparation, but it appears it would be on a 10% down which would be \$104,000 and the balance over a 10-year term with payments of \$162,000 per year. The interest would be 11½%, which is the present pool funding percentage charged. Under those terms and conditions, the total payment would be approximately \$1,726,000 which would provide a continuing source of revenue to the Board over the next 10 years, unless there is prepayment which would be allowed.

(Greg deGiere, sitting in for Senator Barry Keene, was introduced at this time by the Acting Chairman.)

7. Capitola Fishing Wharf Augmentation, Santa Cruz County \$51,150.00

This is a request by the City of Capitola for an augmentation of funding for renovation of the Capitola Wharf for public fishing purposes. The WCB approved the project on a matching fund basis with the City on January 10, 1980, allocating \$298,700 for 50% of the estimated \$597,400 cost.

The City has now re-estimated costs based on actually completing a little more than 50% of the work. Substantially more rot has been encountered than the pre-renovation surveys indicated which has led to the projected increase in total costs.

The main reason has been that nesting birds, primarily pigeons, were not disturbed in the pre-renovation surveys. However, when the large number of such nests existing throughout the structure had been removed in the course of reconstruction, deep pockets of rot had been found hidden under the nest material. Evidently moisture has been concentrated or retained under the nests, so that undetected rot developed in the untreated material.

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Replacement materials are treated, to preclude this from happening where structural members are replaced. The City is also considering ways of protecting untreated materials remaining where such nesting is likely to occur.

The City's breakdown of additional estimated costs totals \$102,300. A sufficient amount of the original contingency would be retained to cover any further unanticipated costs, it is felt.

On a 50-50 cost-sharing basis with the City, this would require an additional \$51,150 allocation by the WCB.

This is an approved LWCF project, so that 50% federal reimbursement will be received for the project as previously funded. However, due to the proposed elimination of such federal grant funding in the future, it may not be possible to obtain federal reimbursement for the increased amount, although this will be attempted.

It was staff recommendation that the Board allocate an additional \$51,150 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for additional costs of the Capitola Fishing Wharf project on a matching fund basis with the City of Capitola and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned, including sharing of federally reimbursed project costs with the City on a proportionate basis if such federal funds are received for the increased costs.

Mr. Hart advised that Steve Burrell, City Manager, was present and could answer questions the Board might have. Ms. Morgan questioned Mr. Burrell as to whether or not the Coastal Conservancy was involved in this project also, and if Conservancy funds were being used for the match of Board funds. Mr. Burrell advised that the Coastal Conservancy is involved in other parts of an overall beach project but assured her that Conservancy funds were not being used for the matching funds.

Greg deGiere recommended approval of this augmentation.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$51,150 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR ADDITIONAL COSTS OF THE CAPITOLA FISHING WHARF PROJECT, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE CITY OF CAPITOLA; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Bend Bridge Public Access, Tehama County

Scope Change

On December 12, 1980, the Board allocated \$18,000 for the construction of a restroom at this fishing access project on the Sacramento River above Red Bluff.

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The Department received a surprising response when it advertised for bids in January. Twenty-two bids were received, sixteen of them below the engineer's estimate. As a result of the very favorable low bid received, other needed work on this project could be accomplished within the Board's allocation previously made.

This is a relatively low-standard fishing access, with initial land acquisition and development costs for the WCB totalling \$17,506. Initial development was completed in 1959, so that some renovation now is becoming appropriate and necessary.

Grading of the parking area is needed to correct a gradually worsening erosion problem and a gravel surface should be added. This would make parking of cars and trailers easier and improve access to the boat ramp for the public users of this facility.

A supplementary Notice of Exemption to the one previously filed for the project has been filed with the Resources Agency pursuant to CEQA. The additional work would be exempt as an activity defined under Class 4, Section 15104.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve a change in the scope of the Bend Bridge Public Access project as approved at the December 12, 1980, meeting, to include the proposed parking area improvements. No additional allocation of funds will be required as it is expected the work can be accomplished by county force account within the balance of funds remaining in the project, approximately \$9,900.

Mr. Hart advised that the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association had written a letter in support of this proposal.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CHANGE IN SCOPE OF THE BEND BRIDGE PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT, TEHAMA COUNTY, AS APPROVED AT THE DECEMBER 12, 1980, MEETING TO INCLUDE PARKING AREA IMPROVEMENTS; AND AUTHORIZE THE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. South Kibesillah Gulch Coastal Access Improvements, Mendocino Co. \$50,000.00

South Kibesillah Gulch is along State Highway No. 1 approximately 11 miles north of Fort Bragg. In 1956 the Board approved the acquisition of 4.7 acres between the highway and the ocean, and the development of a small parking area on a portion of the property, with a foot trail to the beach. The total State expenditure on the project, for both acquisition and initial development, was just \$13,000.

The project has provided excellent abalone and surf fishing opportunities and is one of the few public coastal access locations north of Fort Bragg.

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The area has been maintained by Mendocino County by agreement with the Department. About 5 years ago the County replaced their chemical toilets, which required frequent servicing, with a vault-type restroom structure. Other improvements were added by the County such as an interpretive facility, guard rails, and picnic tables. All of the improvements, both the State's as well as the County's, have become somewhat deteriorated.

The facilities that were provided by the State, now nearly 25 years old, need to be improved to make the project more safe, convenient and responsive to the public needs. The County has indicated willingness to extend the cooperative agreement for operation and maintenance for at least a twenty year term if the proposed improvements are made.

It is planned to regrade the parking area and install culverts to correct drainage and erosion problems. The parking area, which will be paved and striped is designed to provide for safer access to and from the highway. It is also planned to realign the footpath, and provide safety railing along the bluff and signs. Provisions are also to be made for an improved service road to the restroom for the county maintenance vehicles.

The Department Engineering Section has prepared plans and a cost estimate and would handle the contract administration and inspection. The cost estimate is summarized as follows:

Clearing, excavation, fill	\$9,500
Base rock, AC Paving	19,400
Drainage control structures	5,400
Curbs, striping	2,700
Barriers	4,400
Subtotal (bid contract)	<u>\$41,400</u>
Contingencies	4,100
Signs, railing, trail improvements (County force account)	<u>4,500</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$50,000

The Department, as lead agency for this project, has determined that the activity is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act, under Class 2, Section 15102 of the State Guidelines for implementation of CEQA.

It is the staff recommendation that the Board approve the South Kibesillah Gulch Coastal Access Improvement project, allocate \$50,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

Ms. Morgan asked if this would include parking for bicycles, and Mr. Hart responded that since there is a \$4,000 contingency, it could be added as an item of improvement and probably handled within the proposed funding. He acknowledged the area does get considerable bicycle use. Ms. Morgan desired addition of bicycle parking on this area and asked staff to try to work it into the plans, if possible.

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The question of operation and maintenance of this facility was raised by Mr. Fullerton. He was advised by Mr. Hart that the County Board of Supervisors had passed a resolution in support of this project. The understanding is that this proposal would necessitate renewing the operation and maintenance agreement for a long term. Mr. Fullerton stated he would have no objection as long as this were part of the proposal.

Mr. deGierre stated he would like to recommend approval of this proposal.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SOUTH KIBESILLAH GULCH COASTAL ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, MENDOCINO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$50,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. South Fork Kern River (Schaeffer) Fish Barrier, Tulare Co. \$93,500.00

This proposed project was approved in principle by the Board at its April 23, 1981, meeting, with the finalized plans and cost estimates now being submitted for Board consideration.

As described at the previous meeting, this proposal is to construct a barrier to prevent upstream movement of brown trout and other non-native fish into golden trout habitat in the upper reaches of the South Fork Kern River system. Such barriers are a key part of cooperative efforts of the Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service to preserve the golden trout in this section of its native habitat area, in part through preventing predation and competition from invading, non-native species of fish.

The barrier will be a rock gabion dam constructed across the South Fork Kern River, near the end of the road extending northerly along the river from Monache Meadows. This location is a short distance outside the boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness Area. The structure would be similar to a rock gabion dam constructed by the USFS in the summer of 1980, about six miles upstream at the lower end of Templeton Meadows.

The proposal is to contract with the USFS for most of the work to utilize their experience and expertise gained in the similar project last year. The California Conservation Corps will provide work crews for the required labor force, and will need WCB funding only for transportation costs. The Department of Fish and Game will provide some coordination, assistance, and technical expertise.

The operation will entail setting up a spike camp near the road end for housing and feeding the CCC crews and other personnel working on the project. Part of the WCB cost will be for food and a camp cook, and such items of camp gear as may not be available within the agencies participating.

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A summary of estimated costs to the WCB for the work to be handled per agency is as follows:

USFS Basic Contract Costs

1. Engineering pre-design and overhead		\$13,100
2. Manpower		
Construction engineer	\$5,760	
Equipment operator	6,160	
Cook	4,000	
Blaster	960	
Transport operator	300	
Subtotal	\$17,180	17,180
3. Equipment rental		
Backhoe-loader	6,880	
Pickup truck	2,860	
Dump truck	2,700	
Transport	550	
Miscellaneous	1,750	
Subtotal	\$14,740	14,740
4. Materials and Equipment Purchase		
Filter fabric	525	
Gabions	6,750	
Misc. const. materials	500	
Hand tools, gloves, etc.	2,500	
Misc. camp gear	200	
Subtotal	\$10,475	10,475
5. Food (all construction personnel)		12,660
	Subtotal	\$68,155
6. General administration (25%)		17,039
		USFS TOTAL \$85,194

California Conservation Corps

1. Transportation - vehicle mileage	\$1,200
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Department of Fish and Game

1. Camping equipment	\$2,300	
2. Miscellaneous	500	
Subtotal	\$2,800	\$2,800
		Total 89,194
		Contingencies 4,306
		GRAND TOTAL \$93,500

The U.S. Forest Service has processed documents to comply with NEPA and a negative declaration has been processed by the Department to meet CEQA requirements. A site-specific archeological survey will be carried out by USFS before construction is initiated.

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A special use permit for the project will be issued by the USFS to provide the proprietary interest requirement for WCB projects.

It was staff recommendation that the WCB approve the South Fork Kern River (Schaeffer) Fish Barrier, Tulare County, to be constructed on a cooperative basis with the USFS and CCC, allocate \$93,500 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

Ms. Morgan asked if there was assurance CCC could accomplish this work, and both Mr. Hart and Mr. Fullerton expressed confidence that they could. It was Mr. Fullerton's contention that this was the most versatile group he has encountered and that they accomplish any task in a very efficient manner.

It was brought out that this work would be started as soon as the paperwork is completed, in July or by early August, since it must be completed by mid-October because of the weather.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SOUTH FORK KERN RIVER (SCHAEFFER) FISH BARRIER, TULARE COUNTY, TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS; ALLOCATE \$93,500 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. East Fork Carson River Fishing Access, Alpine County \$60,000.00

This proposal is to acquire approximately 40 acres of private land which is surrounded by U.S. Forest Service lands. The property which has over 1/4 mile of river frontage is located on the east fork of the Carson River approximately 6 miles northeast of Markleeville in Alpine County. From Markleeville, the property can be reached by using Highway 89 North two miles to Airport Road. A low standard Forest Service road leads from Airport Road two miles to the subject property, generally suitable for 4-wheel drive vehicles.

The Department of Fish and Game has recommended purchasing the property for the purpose of ensuring public access to the East Fork of the Carson River. This is the only road access to a significant portion of the east fork of the Carson River between Markleeville and the Nevada stateline, with the road leading to a river access being used by the public at the tolerance of the private owner. Acquisition of the parcel would insure permanent public access to this valuable fishery in future years when a new owner may not be as accommodating.

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The 40 acre parcel was appraised for \$56,000. At the time of preparation of the agenda, the appraisal review by the Department of General Services had not been completed, but staff has now received approval of the appraised value. With the addition of sale costs, estimated to be approximately \$4,000, the total necessary allocation for this acquisition would be \$60,000.

Funding for this project is available from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and the acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 13 Categorical Exemption for acquisition of lands for wildlife.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this parcel, allocate \$60,000 for its purchase and related costs from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Morgan asked about the sort of improvement that would be planned for the area, and Mr. Hart advised that there are no improvements contemplated here, leaving it in its natural state which will prevent over-utilization of the area and degrading the fishing experience.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE EAST FORK CARSON RIVER FISHING ACCESS PROJECT, ALPINE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$60,000 FOR ITS PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Knownothing Creek Dam Fishway, Siskiyou County \$8,400.00

Knownothing Creek is a tributary of the South Fork Salmon River and has runs of both salmon and steelhead. Knownothing Creek Dam is located about one mile above the creek's mouth on Klamath National Forest property, and a dam in this location has probably been in existence since the turn of the century. The structure is 30 feet wide and 10 feet high and is used to divert water for several residences in the vicinity. The dam also effectively blocks salmon and steelhead from using an additional four miles of good spawning and nursery habitat above the dam.

An auxiliary dam constructed below the main dam by the Department of Fish and Game and a local water user in 1952 provided temporary fish passage until the winter of 1954-55 washed out the structure. It was rebuilt and provided fish passage until the winter of 1964 when both dams washed out.

The dam was rebuilt after the 1964 flood, but for some reason the Forest Service Special Use Permit did not require that fish passage facilities be included. The Forest Service has been unable to solve the fish passage problems to date. Rather than risk the possible loss of a substantial portion of the spawning runs, the DFG has recommended WCB funding of a fishway at the dam. The Department will obtain the necessary proprietary interest from the Forest Service.

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The fishway will be of Alaska steepass design fabricated out of Cor-ten steel by DFG personnel. The cost estimate has been reviewed and found satisfactory by WCB staff and is as follows:

Material	\$6,300
Explosives	100
Equipment rental and service	1,200
Subtotal	7,600
Contingencies	800
TOTAL	\$8,400

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve this project, allocate \$8,400 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Hart further advised that the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association had written the Board a letter supporting this project.

Mr. deGierre recommended approval on behalf of *Senator Keene.* (per 9/2/81 WCB meeting) ~~the legislative members.~~

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE KNOWNOTHING CREEK DAM FISHWAY, SISKIYOU COUNTY; ALLOCATE FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND \$8,400 FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary, Monterey County
Initial Management and Development Project, Second Year \$50,000.00

The Department of Fish and Game has again proposed that the Wildlife Conservation Board provide state matching funds to enable a federal grant of \$50,000 to be secured for the second year of the initial management and development of this project. Such funds are available from the federal Office of Coastal Zone Management for such federally approved estuarine sanctuary project.

The \$50,000 in federal funding would be utilized to continue payment of the salary and operating expenses of the estuarine sanctuary manager.

The WCB funding would provide the required state match for the federal funds, but would be utilized for capital outlay and contractual services needed for initial planning, development and management of the estuarine sanctuary, as follows:

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a. Construction, maintenance and demolition of building and support facilities	\$25,000
b. Road maintenance and surfacing	10,000
c. Engineering services, water control structures, and construction for wetland restoration project	8,000
d. Upgrading water supply systems (domestic and irrigation)	5,000
e. Surveying services for topographical mapping for wetland restoration and other planning	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	\$50,000

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

This would be the same arrangement as approved by the Board on May 2, 1980, for the first year funding of the initial management and development project.

It is anticipated that for the third and succeeding years of this operation that the Department will be able to include provisions for O&M in its normal budgeting process. The WCB would continue to provide the capital outlay funding necessary to match the previous federal grant for acquisition and development of the approved 1,510 acre estuarine sanctuary, by specific Board action as individual acquisitions and development matters are ready for Board consideration.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the second year funding of the initial management and development project for Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary as proposed, allocate \$50,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Additional information about what facilities were slated for construction and demolition was provided. In response to Mr. deGierre's question about the necessity of using WCB funds rather than Fish and Game funds for this matching money, Mr. Fullerton pointed out that this would be a General Fund expense and would be extremely difficult to secure. Mr. Hart added that securing WCB funds for the first two years provided the lead time necessary to get this operation into the Fish and Game budget process, and that he understood that funding for the operation and maintenance of Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary is to be included in next year's F&G budget.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SECOND YEAR FUNDING OF THE INITIAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR ELKHORN SLOUGH ESTUARINE SANCTUARY AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$50,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION

FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Butte Valley (Meiss Lake) Wildlife Area, Phase II, Siskiyou Co. \$1,916,640.00

This proposal is to acquire a parcel of privately owned land in northern California's Butte Valley, Siskiyou County. At its December 12, 1980, meeting the Board approved the acquisition of 7,920+ acres of a 13,200+ acre ownership known as the Meiss Ranch. This proposal is to acquire the remaining 5,280+ acres of this ownership.

Mr. John Schmidt, Senior Land Agent, pointed out on a map displayed on the wall, the completed first phase and proposed second phase acquisitions. The project is located in northern Siskiyou County, approximately 14 miles from the California/Oregon border. The community of Macdoel is located about one mile to the east of the subject proposal. The acquisition will also include three houses and quite a large inventory of farm equipment estimated to be in excess of \$750,000.

The property contains extremely high waterfowl values due to its existing waterfowl habitat and to its location in the heart of the Pacific Flyway. Estimates during fall migration have shown 50,000 to 60,000 ducks and 20,000-30,000 geese using the lake and surrounding lowlands. An average of 260 pairs of ducks (nine different species) and 1,800 Canada geese nest on the property annually, producing their young in and around this lake. The lake area is known for its abundance of Canadian geese, the only goose which commonly nests in the State of California.

The waterfowl use given above is with the property being managed primarily for agricultural purposes. With development and more intensive management for wildlife purposes by the Department of Fish and Game as intended, use by waterfowl and other wildlife should increase several-fold.

Meiss Lake, which totals about 2,200 acres, is included within the boundaries of the 13,200 acre parcel. Approximately 2,080 acres of this lake was acquired in the original acquisition. The remaining lake area, as well as lands containing a high potential for marsh restoration are included within this proposal. Also included in this proposal are lands presently in grain crops, some of which could be retained as food sources for wildlife.

Water is available to this property from the numerous creeks, springs, and wells located on the property. This water, in addition to keeping lake levels up, provides water for the many upland game and non-game species, and their food sources, located on the property.

The overall property contains a deer population, as well as a population of antelope. It provides both winter and summer grazing for these species and serves as a prime kidding area for antelope. In addition, the area

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serves as a wintering area for the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, as well as other raptors. A small population of pheasants is also located on the property.

State ownership of this area would insure the preservation of this unique ecosystem which could be destroyed through extensive recreational development such as a large scale recreational subdivision. Even intensive agricultural development could lead to the eventual destruction of the high wildlife values of this property.

The acquisition of this property will not only protect this prime wildlife habitat but will also afford public recreational opportunities including hunting, hiking, nature observation, primitive camping, photography, as well as many educational opportunities. It will also add additional open space protection, as well as additional access to adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands.

The property has been recommended for acquisition by the Department of Fish and Game as well as by the U.S. Forest Service. The area would be managed by the Department of Fish and Game.

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

As a condition of the first phase acquisition, staff was able to secure an option to acquire the area contained in this proposal at the appraised value of \$1,843,140. This option must be exercised by July 10, 1981. The owners also agreed to include various items of personal property as part of the transfer to the State. This property includes certain farming and irrigation equipment, as well as some shop and office equipment.

In addition to the purchase price, approximately \$73,500 will be required for related acquisition costs, including relocation benefits to the tenants of the two residences and the agricultural operation located on the property, appraisals, title insurance, archeological surveys, and related processing costs.

In response to Mr. Fullerton's question about LWCF funding for this project, Mr. Hart responded that there is \$1,600,000 available for this acquisition and would constitute a partial match. He further pointed out that there has been communication from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association in support of this acquisition.

It was the Executive Officer's recommendation that the Board approve purchase of this property as proposed, allocate \$1,916,640 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. deGierre was of the opinion that this is a good project. He believed everybody here understands the importance of wetlands in the food chain and pointed out that Senator Barry Keene has been more active than anyone else in the legislature in trying to protect and restore wetlands. He asked if it was necessary to acquire the two houses and Mr. Schmidt stated that the houses are included as a total package, since the absentee owners did not wish to retain them. Mr. Hart pointed out that housing would be needed for the managers of the wildlife area and would be used for that purpose.

Mr. deGierre asked if Senator Johnson who represents this area had been notified of this proposed acquisition. He was advised that Senator Johnson, as well as Assemblyman Stathem, have been notified and that such notification to legislators is given routinely of any proposals in their respective districts. Mr. Fullerton also mentioned that since it would be managed as a wildlife management area, in-lieu taxes would be paid, so that there will be no property tax loss to Siskiyou County.

Mr. deGierre recommended approval of this project.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE BUTTE VALLEY (MEISS LAKE) WILDLIFE AREA, PHASE II, SISKIYOU COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$1,916,640 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR ACQUISITION AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Project \$170,000.00
San Dieguito Lagoon, San Diego County

At the February 7, 1979, meeting, the Board approved the acquisition of three parcels of land containing approximately 124 acres in San Dieguito Lagoon, San Diego County.

Pursuant to this approval, staff was successful in acquiring one parcel containing 10.6+ acres. Negotiations have continued in an effort to acquire the remaining two parcels. As 2½ years have passed since the properties were originally appraised, an updated appraisal of one parcel, containing 88+ acres was recently obtained. The update, which has been approved by the Department of General Services indicates an increase in value from \$300,000 to \$470,000. The owner has now agreed to sell this 88+ acre parcel to the State at its current appraised value.

San Dieguito Lagoon is located on the Southern California coastline approximately 20 miles north of the San Diego Civic Center partly within the city limits of both Del Mar and San Diego.

The total lagoon area is approximately 407 acres, with about half consisting of channels, ponds, and marsh, and the remaining half made up of upland transition grasslands. It has long been cut off from regular tidal influence, but does get occasional fresh water inundation from the flood waters of San Dieguito Creek.

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According to the Department of Fish and Game, the remaining undeveloped lands of San Dieguito Lagoon have high resource values for a wetland area of this size. Sixty-three species of water oriented birds have been recorded in the area in a single winter period. The area is extremely important for the California least tern, an endangered species. An estimated 10% of the entire existing population of this bird has been observed roosting and feeding in the lagoon.

In addition to protecting a valuable wildlife habitat from further degradation, these acquisitions may make it possible for restoration of some of the historical nesting sites of the least tern. State ownership would also provide public access to this area for a variety of recreational and educational uses including fishing, bird watching, nature study, and scientific and educational observation. Because of the potential recreational uses of the area, this acquisition has previously qualified for matching federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

No development is presently proposed for any of these parcels. Management by the Department of Fish and Game is planned, with the land being kept in essentially its existing state except for minor habitat improvements previously mentioned.

The proposed acquisitions fall within Class 13 of 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.

Based on this new appraisal and willingness to sell by the current owners, an additional allocation of \$170,000 will be required in order that staff might proceed with this acquisition. The funding is available from 1976 Bond Act funds scheduled for coastal wetland acquisition.

The City of Del Mar has written a letter supporting WCB acquisition. It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board reaffirm the authorization to purchase the second parcel of land at San Dieguito Lagoon, San Diego County, as proposed, allocate an additional \$170,000 from the 1976 Bond Act funds available for coastal wetlands acquisition and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Morgan asked if there would be any inconsistencies with the public use of the race track and fair facility and this project. Mr. Schmidt advised that the fair facility itself would be all the way across the lagoon from this parcel and would not have any bearing on it at all.

Mr. deGierre recommended approval of this coastal wetlands acquisition.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD REAFFIRM THE AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE THE SECOND PARCEL OF LAND AT SAN DIEGUITO LAGOON, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED;

ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$170,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COASTAL WETLANDS ACQUISITION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Red Lake Wildlife Area, Alpine County \$788,188.00

This proposal is to acquire approximately 520+ acres of private land in the high Sierras, Alpine County.

More specifically, the property is located on the east side of the Sierras, at about the 8,000 foot elevation, approximately 100 miles easterly of Sacramento and 20 miles southerly of Lake Tahoe. It has frontage on California Highway 88, an all-year trans-Sierra route.

The acquisition would actually include three separate parcels. Included within the boundaries of the largest parcel (360+ ac.), although not part of it, is Red Lake, an 85 acre lake which is an extremely popular lake for trout fishing. Acquisition will provide access to the entire shoreline of this lake as well as almost 1/4 mile of Red Lake Creek as it leaves the lake. The other two parcels contain 80+ acres each and are connected by common property corners. Together these parcels provide approximately 3/4 mile of frontage on both sides of Forestdale Creek, also a very popular area for trout fishermen because of its brook, rainbow and brown trout fishery. In addition to its high fisheries value, the property contains prime deer summer range, fawning areas, wetland meadows, and other habitat for upland game and furbearing animals.

State ownership of this area will not only protect this prime habitat but will also afford public recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, hiking, nature observation, cross country skiing, primitive camping, nature photography, as well as many educational opportunities. It will also add additional open space protection, as well as provide public access to this land as well as adjoining U.S. Forest Service lands. It would also preclude potential subdivision for recreational homesites which could destroy this unique habitat and spectacular Sierra Nevada setting.

Although Red Lake itself is not included in this acquisition, staff is continuing in its endeavors to acquire some rights therein. The Department of Fish and Game has recommended that we proceed with this acquisition and continue negotiations for the lake to provide the additional protection afforded by its acquisition. The Department feels that this proposal by itself is extremely important.

The property has been recommended for acquisition by the Department of Fish and Game as well as the U.S. Forest Service and various sportsmen and environmental organizations. It is planned that the area would be managed by the Department of Fish and Game in its existing condition.

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The proposed acquisition is within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including 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.

Staff has secured an option to acquire this area at the approved fair market value of \$768,188. An additional \$20,000 will be required for related acquisition costs including appraisals, title insurance, archeological surveys, and processing costs. Because of the high recreational values of this property, it is felt that the acquisition should qualify for matching funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Application under this program has been submitted through a transfer of federal funds from a now defunct project that had LWCF approval.

This purchase would utilize the remaining funding available for the Wild Trout, Salmon and Steelhead project under the 1976 Bond Act. This source would provide the majority of the funding required, but with supplementation necessary from the Wildlife Restoration Fund. This mix of funding appears appropriate in that both wild trout and general wildlife benefits would result from the acquisition.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve purchase of this property as proposed, allocate \$788,188, or as much as available thereof from the 1976 Bond Act funds for Wild Trout Habitat Acquisition estimated to be approximately \$377,000+ to be supplemented as necessary with funds from the Wildlife Restoration Fund (approx. \$410,400), and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned. He advised that we have received a letter in support of this project from the Motherlode Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Ms. Morgan asked about on-going maintenance costs for the Department. Mr. Hart advised there is a county road which provides public access, and no development or maintenance is required for the project. Mr. Fullerton added that there would be need for litter pick-up, but that since it is surrounded by Forest Service lands, there would be possibility for cooperative or joint maintenance of the area.

On learning that Assemblyman Waters was fully aware of this project and that he is a new member of the Board, Mr. deGierre stated he saw no problems in this proposal.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RED LAKE WILDLIFE AREA, ALPINE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$788,188, OR AS MUCH AS AVAILABLE THEREOF FROM THE 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS FOR WILD TROUT HABITAT ACQUISITION, TO BE SUPPLEMENTED AS NECESSARY WITH FUNDS FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. Morgan asked when we are going to have a meeting in a site away from the Capitol Building. She stated she is only half teasing, because she felt it would be very helpful for her to see the projects to enable her to better understand the program. Mr. deGierre welcomed the Wildlife Conservation Board in Eureka or anywhere up in that area if there are any proposals on the agenda located in that region, and said that this was a sincere invitation.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chester M. Hart

Chester M. Hart
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on June 25, 1981, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$50,499,241.05. 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	\$10,598,006.73
b.	Fish Habitat Development	4,998,231.95
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$2,779,019.19
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	431,492.19
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	439,503.32
	4. Marine Habitat	502,135.36
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders & Weir Projects	846,081.89
c.	Fishing Access Projects	15,180,009.81
	1. Coastal and Bay Access	1,579,680.04
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	3,719,896.51
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	3,303,255.14
	4. Piers	6,577,178.12
d.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e.	Wildlife Habitat Development and Improvement Projects	18,312,339.35
	1. Wildlife Areas	17,570,668.58
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	741,670.77
f.	Hunting Access	549,036.81
g.	Miscellaneous Projects	631,221.91
s.	Special Project Allocations	83,500.00
	Total Allocated to Projects	<u>\$50,499,241.05</u>

STATUS OF FUNDS WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/23/81 meeting	\$2,475,568.60
Plus reimbursements under Federal LWCF Program	162,554.06
Plus recoveries	423,207.99
Less allocations	-2,645,389.66
Less 80/81 FY retro pay and increase in Support	<u>-33,231.00</u>
Unallocated balance at end of 6/25/81 meeting	\$382,708.99