

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

Minutes, Meeting of May 24, 1983

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 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of May 24, 1983

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 319, State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on May 24, 1983. The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chairman Norman B. Livermore, Jr.

1. Roll Call

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Norman B. Livermore, Jr.	Chairman
	E. C. Fullerton	Member
	Nancy Ordway	Member
	Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblyman Norman Waters	" " "
	Catherine MULLOWNEY, vice Assembly- man Jim Costa	" " "
<u>ABSENT:</u>	Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator Robert Presley	" " "
	Senator David Roberti	" " "
<u>STAFF PRESENT:</u>		
	W. John Schmidt	Executive Officer
	Alvin G. Rutsch	Assistant Executive Officer
	John Wentzel	Field Agent
	James V. Sarro	Land Agent
	Howard Dick	Land Agent
	Marylyn Gzyms	Accountant
	Alma Koyasako	Secretary
	Beth Manwaring	Stenographer
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>		
	Allen Parker	City Manager, Seal Beach
	Victor S. Grgas	Councilmember, Seal Beach
	Joyce Risner	" " "
	Russell Dowers	Padre Dam Mun. Water Dist.
	Susan Davis	Dept. of Fish and Game
	Linda Bilger	" " " "
	Eric Bourdon	L.A. Co. Dept. of Beaches and Harbors
	William C. Mechan	Councilman, San Clemente
	Karen O'Haire	Regional Water Board
	M. Lea Nunes	Marin County
	Ann E. Kuwatari	Sonoma County
	Robert S. Roan	USD-SCS-High Sierra RC&D
	Frances M. Brigmann	Marin Co. Open Space District

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2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Livermore advised that the minutes of two previous meetings of the Wildlife Conservation Board have been published and circulated and now require approval.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 1983, AND MARCH 15, 1983, MEETINGS OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS PUBLISHED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Status of Funds

Mr. W. John Schmidt, Executive Officer, provided the following status of funding as an informational item.

a. Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance at end of 3/15/83 meeting	\$3,682,409.28
Plus transfer from ERF for Heenan Lake purchase	526,619.00
Plus interest on surplus money	433,566.27
Plus Federal LWCF reimbursement	86,982.42
Plus miscellaneous revenue	5,995.90
Unallocated balance at beginning of 5/24/83 meeting	<u>\$4,735,572.87</u>

a.(1) Land and Water Conservation Fund

Due to the recent Congressional passage of the "Jobs Bill", the Wildlife Conservation Board received an allotment of \$1,126,648 in LWCF monies to be matched on a 50-50 basis with Board funds. As the bulk of these funds were a result of the "Jobs Bill", remaining federal funds (\$395,707 applied to acquisition at the March 15, 1983, Board meeting) must be used for development projects under very strict guidelines. All federal monies must be encumbered by October 1, 1983, with projects initiated by January 1, 1984, and completed by October 1, 1984, a schedule which is nearly impossible to meet with all future projects.

In an attempt to meet this schedule and take advantage of these funds, staff has made application for four qualifying projects from this agenda, as well as six qualifying projects from previous agendas (including one acquisition project) for which construction has not yet begun.

Preliminary applications have been submitted for the following projects:

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<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>\$\$ Allocation</u>	<u>\$\$ LWCF</u>
Pt. Benicia Pier	Solano	8/5/82-50/50	{ 102,000 } { 102,000 }	106,595
Redondo Beach Pier	Los Angeles	2/15/83-50/50	{ 220,000 } { 220,000 }	229,910
Oyster Pt. Pier	San Mateo	1/10/80	222,000	116,000
Lake Piru P.A.	Ventura	2/15/83	177,000	92,486
Pinto Lake P.A.	Santa Cruz	8/5/82	196,000	102,414
Santee Lakes Floats	San Diego	5/24/83	76,500	39,973
Marina Park P.A.	Ventura	5/24/83	35,500	18,549
Lake Tahoe P.A.	Placer	5/24/83	15,000	7,838
Lower Sherman Is.P.A.	Sacramento	5/24/83	37,350	19,516
Napa Marsh, Huichica Creek-Acquisition	Napa/Sonoma	3/15/83	556,500	395,707
<u>TOTAL PROJECTS</u>				<u>\$1,128,988</u>

b. Energy and Resources Fund

Unallocated balance at beginning of 5/24/83 meeting -0-

c. 1976 State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Fund

1. Coastal Wetlands

Unallocated balance at beginning of 5/24/83 meeting \$1,362,007.12

2. Interior Wetlands

Unallocated balance at beginning of 5/24/83 meeting 50,369.40

3. Development

Unallocated balance at beginning of 5/24/83 meeting 100,000.00

4. Recovery of Funds

Mr. Schmidt reported the following projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund, the 1976 State Urban and Coastal Park Bond Fund, and the Energy and Resources Fund. It was his recommendation that the total amount of \$4,507.01 be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund; \$28,797.03 (\$23,871.57 Coastal Wetlands and \$4,925.46 Interior Wetlands and Riparian Habitat) be recovered to the 1976 Bond Fund; and \$10,201.90 be recovered to the Energy and Resources Fund and the project accounts be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Goleta Fishing Pier

Allocation	\$476,500.00
Expenditure	<u>-472,632.99</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,867.01
(Federal LWCF reimbursement received -	\$237,495.96)

Vallejo Pier Rehabilitation

Allocation	\$91,355.00
Expenditure	<u>-90,715.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 640.00
(Federal LWCF reimbursement received -	\$29,761.06)

TOTAL WRF RECOVERIES \$ 4,507.01

1976 STATE URBAN AND COASTAL PARK BOND FUND

Lake Earl and Talawa, Phase 2 Expansion

Allocation	\$183,000.00
Expenditure	<u>-160,595.32</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 22,404.68

Suisun Marsh - Hill Slough Wildlife Area Expansion

Allocation	\$ 1,000.00
Expenditure	<u>- 379.56</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 620.44

San Elijo Lagoon Expansion

Allocation	\$ 7,500.00
Expenditure	<u>-6,653.55</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 846.45

Napa River - Rutherford Crossroad

Allocation	\$5,000.00
Expenditure	<u>- 74.54</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,925.46

TOTAL 1976 BOND FUND RECOVERIES \$28,797.03

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ENERGY AND RESOURCES FUND

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve Expansion

Allocation	\$275,000.00
Expenditure	-271,629.59
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,370.41

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve

Allocation	\$645,750.00
Expenditure	-644,837.08
Balance for Recovery	\$ 912.92

Upper Sacramento River Riparian Habitat Expansion

Allocation	\$117,400.00
Expenditure	-111,481.43
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,918.57

TOTAL ENERGY AND RESOURCES FUND RECOVERIES \$10,201.90

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

Goleta Fishing Pier	\$ 3,867.01
Vallejo Pier Rehabilitation	<u>640.00</u>

TOTAL WRF RECOVERIES \$4,507.01

Lake Earl and Talawa, Ph. 2 Expansion	22,404.68
Suisun Marsh - Hill Slough Wildlife Area	620.44
San Elijo Lagoon Expansion	846.45
Napa River - Rutherford Crossroad	<u>4,925.46</u>

TOTAL 1976 BOND FUND RECOVERIES \$28,797.03

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserv. Exp.	3,370.41
Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve	912.92
Upper Sacramento River Riparian Hab. Exp.	<u>5,918.57</u>

TOTAL ENERGY & RESOURCES FUND RECOVERIES . . . \$10,201.90

THE SUM OF \$4,507.01 IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$28,797.03 IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF THE 1976 BOND FUND; and \$10,201.90 IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES FUND.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. San Clemente Fishing Pier, Orange County \$90,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that in 1978 the Wildlife Conservation Board and the City of San Clemente completely renovated the City's pier on a matching fund basis. At that time the City and Department of Fish and Game entered into a long-term lease and maintenance agreements in accordance with the Board's requirements for cooperative fishing pier projects.

Early this year the timber pier was extensively damaged and partially destroyed during a severe storm, reportedly the strongest one since 1939. The severe damage resulted from debris created as a result of initial storm damage to the pier's end which then acted as a battering ram, destroying more piling as the storm continued.

The City has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding assistance and every indication is that the federal government will share the pier reconstruction costs on a 75% federal/25% local cost-sharing basis. This proposal is to allocate funds to share the non-federal costs with the City on a matching fund basis.

Mr. Alvin G. Rutsch, Assistant Executive Officer, provided the Board a graphic report of the extent of damage and the proposed reconstruction of the pier.

Mr. Schmidt further reported that the staff has inspected the pier and discussed the plans for the pier reconstruction with City officials and engineers. As a result of the storm, 166 piles of an original 347 are now missing. Approximately 350 feet of the outer end of the original 1,200 foot long pier was completely destroyed, and an 80 foot section is gone at the shoreline. In summary, 36 percent of the length is gone, and 48 percent of the pier piling is missing. In addition, the 800 foot standing section suffered extensive damage.

The City has determined that rebuilding the pier should proceed in three stages as follows:

Stage I - Reconstruct the 80 foot near-shore-section. It is necessary that this be done as quickly as possible in order to help support the free-standing section, and the City has already taken steps to do this work solely with city and federal funds. The cost is estimated at about \$100,000.

Stage II - Repair the still-standing 800 feet of the pier. Experienced engineers, including a FEMA task force, as well as private engineers, are being consulted to insure proper structural design, and plans for this work could be prepared for bidding this part of the work early this summer, and have it completed by September. The cost of this stage is estimated at \$160,000.

Stage III - Reconstruct the outer 350 foot section. Because of the time frames involved in Stages 1 and 2, which need to be completed for access to Stage 3, it may not be possible to commence with this final stage until the spring of 1984. Preliminary costs for reconstruction of the outer 350 feet of the pier are estimated at \$560,000.

The proposal for WCB participation involves only Stage 2 and 3. FEMA, in addition to its Stage 1 funding, is expected to fund \$540,000 of the \$720,000 cost of Stages 2 and 3. The \$180,000 balance is proposed for funding by WCB and the City on a 50/50 matching basis, requiring a WCB allocation of \$90,000, or 12.5% of the total estimated project cost.

Preliminary plans and cost estimates have been prepared by the City and reviewed by staff and found to be adequate. The City will handle all construction details, including engineering and construction supervision.

The pier repair and reconstruction is exempt from CEQA under Section 15102, Class 2, and the City has filed a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the act.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the repair and reconstruction of the San Clemente Fishing Pier on a matching fund basis with the City of San Clemente as proposed, allocate \$90,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. He stated that letters of support have been received from Assemblyman Frazee and Senator Speraw and further reported that Bill Mechan from the City of San Clemente was present and available for any questions the Board might have.

Ms. Nancy Ordway, who was recently appointed as the designate for the Director of Finance, was introduced at this time.

Mr. William Mechan from the City of San Clemente advised that the City is totally dedicated to the rebuilding of their pier, and reiterated Mr. Schmidt's comment that it is their intent to rebuild the pier to standards where this type of storm damage should not occur again. The City would be appreciative of the Board's cooperation and participation in the rebuilding process.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SAN CLEMENTE FISHING PIER, ORANGE COUNTY, ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$90,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Seal Beach Fishing Pier, Orange County \$387,777.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that this project also sustained damage during the recent winter storm. The City of Seal Beach has applied for WCB funding to rebuild the municipal pier. A 900 foot section in the middle of the 1,865 foot-long wood pier was totally destroyed. A 300 foot section at the end is still standing but suffered major damage and requires extensive replacement. There is minor railing and bracing damage along 440 feet at the shoreline.

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The Seal Beach Pier, located in the heart of the "old" city at Main and Ocean Streets, is the City's most prominent and well-known recreational facility. It is flanked on the east and west by gently sloping beaches, partially protected from prevailing weather by the San Gabriel River, Alamitos Bay and Long Beach breakwater on the west and the Anaheim Bay breakwater on the east. There is, however, no protection from the southerly winter storms of the type which caused the damage this year. Both the pier and the beach are historically popular year-round recreational attractions for swimmers, surfers, sightseers, clammers and anglers. The pier itself provides many hours of fishing recreation for local residents, as well as visitors from a wide area.

The pier is now closed to public use, but the City hopes that WCB and federal funds will enable the City to begin construction this year and once again restore public access to the pier by July, 1984.

Mr. Rutsch showed on the exhibit displayed at the meeting the extent of damage and the portion of the reconstruction work that would be assumed by the WCB on a cost-sharing basis.

The City has applied for federal disaster relief funds administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). At this time there is every indication that at least 58 percent of the rebuilding costs will be borne by that agency. Further review by FEMA, which is now pending, may result in federal participation up to 75%. FEMA and City engineers are still investigating the structural damage, so a firm cost estimate and the exact level of federal funding cannot be given at this time. It is felt that if the estimates increase, the federal participation will go up proportionately.

The City has received and reviewed the preliminary damage survey reports and cost estimates from FEMA and has made their own investigation of the pier. This proposal is based on these preliminary figures, with the City and WCB sharing equally the costs over and above the federal participation.

City officials have indicated their council is scheduled to act on a resolution of support for this proposal at their May 9, 1983, meeting, which will include affirming the City's intent to provide matching funds for the project in accordance with the Board's pier policy.

The preliminary figures provided by the City indicate that the costs for repair and reconstruction and the replacement of appurtenant structures and utilities, together with engineering and inspection fees will total over two million dollars. After visiting the pier site and reviewing the proposal with the City, staff concurs with the City's assessment of damage and the proposal generally appears to be suitable for WCB funding.

Replacement of appurtenant structures such as the lifeguard tower, party boat landing facilities, and concession buildings are not included in the project for WCB reimbursement, but these structures will be included at City and federal cost. The following is a summary of the project costs as submitted by the City:

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	<u>Project</u>	<u>WCB</u>
a. Pier repair and reconstruction	\$1,520,000	\$313,077
b. Appurtenant structures	256,000	19,155
c. Utilities	170,000	32,682
d. Engineering and Inspection, 5.7%	<u>111,000</u>	<u>22,863</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	\$2,057,000	\$387,777

- a. The repair work at the shoreline consists of minor railing and bracing repair over 9,000 square feet of the pier. Major repair and extensive replacement of piles and framing members is required at the outer end, covering some 10,000 square feet of pier area. The missing section in the middle requiring complete reconstruction is 900 feet long and amounts to 20,000 sq. ft. All of these costs would be eligible for WCB reimbursement on a cost-sharing basis.
- b. The appurtenant structures are catwalks along the sides of the pier to provide better fishing access; party boat landings, ladders and fender piles; lifeguard tower; bait and tackle shop building; and coffee shop-public restroom building. Of these appurtenances, only the catwalk and the restroom portion of the building would be eligible for WCB reimbursement on a cost-sharing basis as proposed.
- c. The utilities include electric, phone, lighting and light standards, water mains, fire hydrants, sewer mains and sewer pump station. All of these costs except the phone line would be eligible for WCB reimbursement on a cost-sharing basis.
- d. The engineering and inspection item is for consulting engineering fees for design, preparation of specifications, and construction inspection. The cost of engineering for damage surveys is not included. The costs of this item as given would be appropriate for WCB funding on a matching basis with the City.

The estimated City costs would be \$459,600, which is to match WCB expenditures, plus cover other costs not eligible for WCB or federal reimbursement.

Staff has been working with the City since 1979 regarding a possible cooperative pier renovation project. At that time the DFG made a fisheries evaluation supporting the joint pier renovation proposal. A re-evaluation was again made by the Department in April, and it recommends this proposal. The major fish species that are generally caught off the pier, according to the Department report, are Pacific mackerel, Pacific bonito, and various kinds of croakers and surf perches.

The City has filed a Notice of Exemption for this project under Section 15071 (a) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the Seal Beach Fishing Pier project as proposed, allocate \$387,777 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed with the

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project on a matching fund basis with the City of Seal Beach substantially as planned. He advised that the staff has received numerous letters in support of this project. In fact, this project has generated more public support than on any other project in recent years. He further advised that Allen Parker, City Manager, and Councilmembers Joyce Risner and Victor Grgas were here from the City of Seal Beach to make a presentation.

Councilmember Joyce Risner stated she was appearing today in support of the City's application to the WCB for help in rebuilding the municipal pier. She indicated the widespread local support giving rise to the "Save Our Pier Committee" which has collected over 1600 signatures and has raised \$90,000 toward the rebuilding of this regional fishing facility. She presented the petitions to the Board which read as follows:

"The undersigned citizens of the State of California hereby request the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board to financially assist the City of Seal Beach by providing funding which will assist the City's municipal Pier rebuilding effort. Since the turn of the century the City of Seal Beach has provided a sportfishing regional recreational facility, accessible to all citizens and since the storms of 1983 have destroyed the pier and resulted in annual revenue losses to the City this request is respectfully submitted."

Councilmember Victor Grgas provided information on the extent of economic losses suffered as a result of the January 27 and March 1 storm damage to the pier and indicated there is a \$200,000 annual revenue loss to the City as a result of the storm damage. This, he indicated represents 5% of the City's total budget. Assemblyman Waters who had just made his appearance, asked about the significance or importance of this pier, for a facility of this type could never be constructed, for instance, in Lake Tahoe. Mr. Grgas indicated the pier was an extension of the main street and many of the merchants there rely on the traffic generated by pier users. He also advised that there are additional businesses - bait and tackle shops, sport fishing facility, and restaurant - located at the end of the pier so it does have other implications other than fishing. Assemblyman Waters commented that the WCB function and responsibility is to provide fishing and related recreational facilities for the general public. Ms. Risner responded that the concessions located at the end of the pier basically deals with fishermen and believed that this pier is more oriented to the fisherman than any other facility on the Southern California coast.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SEAL BEACH FISHING PIER PROJECT, ORANGE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$387,777 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE CITY OF SEAL BEACH SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Santee Lakes Public Access, San Diego County \$76,500.00

The Santee Lakes Regional Park and Campground is an existing public recreational development of the Padre Dam Municipal Water District. It is located on the west edge of the City of Santee, about 10 miles northeast of downtown San Diego.

Mr. Rutsch showed on a map displayed at the meeting the facilities proposed for construction. A chain of seven small lakes totaling 65 acres is the major feature of the 190 acre park. The lakes are a direct result of the utilization of a portion of the treated effluent from the District's sewage treatment facilities. This demonstration of total water use has aroused widespread interest among recreation and technical experts from other communities in this country and abroad.

Improvements for camping, fishing, day use activities, as well as hiking and equestrian trails, have been gradually added over the years by the District. A cooperative fish stocking program with the Department of Fish and Game has been in effect since 1976, and the District has stocked in excess of 20,000 pounds of catchable channel catfish in the lakes each year under this program.

Each of the seven lakes afford good angler access around their perimeters. However, accessibility could be greatly improved, it is felt, by the installation of fishing floats in three of the lakes and bridges to two islands in a fourth lake. The District has proposed a cooperative WCB project for the purchase, installation and maintenance of the three floats and two bridges.

The Department of Fish and Game has evaluated and recommends the proposal. Their report stressed the need for better fishing access for the many elderly and handicapped anglers who frequent this part. The Department also noted the District's better-than-average success in maintaining a high quality fishing experience in this urban environment.

This development will carry out an element of the District's major expansion effort for which the District filed a Negative Declaration in 1980. That environmental review included the concept expressed in this proposal thereby fulfilling the CEQA requirement.

The District has also adopted a resolution in support of the proposal and pledging full cooperation to carry out a coordinated project by agreement with the DFG in accordance with WCB requirements. The District will handle all construction details including engineering and construction supervision.

The fishing floats and bridges are to be of prefabricated aluminum construction with polyurethane-filled pontoon flotation for the floats. They are also designed for handicapped use. The cost estimate provided by the District is as follows:

3 fishing floats, 8'x100' (tee shaped) with gangway	\$32,300
1 pedestrian bridge, 6' x 65'	13,100
1 pedestrian bridge, 6' x 71'	14,100
Installation (by District force account)	6,600
Approaches & graded trails on islands (force account)	<u>3,400</u>

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Subtotal, materials & labor	\$69,500
Contingencies, 10%	<u>7,000</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$76,500

Because of this project's recreation potential, it is expected that it will qualify for federal reimbursement of 50% of costs under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. Staff will make application for such reimbursements.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board, in consideration of the Negative Declaration, approve the Santee Lakes Public Access project as proposed, allocate \$76,500 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the DFG to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

Assemblyman Waters asked if there were any opposition to this project, and when he was advised that there was none, he recommended moving it out.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, APPROVE THE SANTEE LAKES PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$76,500 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Livermore halted proceedings at this point to introduce the members arriving after roll call: Assemblyman Waters, Assemblyman Isenberg, and Nancy Ordway representing the Director of Finance.

Mr. Schmidt called attention to the fact that letters of support from a number of local agencies and groups were received, and said that Russ Dowers from the Padre Dam Municipal Water District was present and was appreciative of Board's approval of the project.

8. Marina Park Public Fishing Access, Ventura County \$35,500.00

The City of Ventura has proposed a cooperative WCB project for a fishing access improvement in Ventura Harbor at the City's Marina Park. The development would consist of the installation of a new float in the park where a previous one had been located. The old float had proved to be a popular attraction for anglers of all ages until it had to be removed because of its deteriorating condition.

Marina Park, situated just north of the harbor, is about a mile from the Seaward Avenue connection with Highway 101. The park is fully improved. There are access roads, parking areas and public restrooms close to the fishing float location. The location and particulars of the proposal were shown on a map displayed at the meeting and were pointed out by Mr. Rutsch.

Existing concrete guide piles for the old float are in good condition, having been put in by the City in 1977. The existing gangway is also still useable. The new float, 8 feet wide by 160 feet long, would be equipped with railings, benches, lights and a fish cleaning sink.

City officials have indicated it is the intent to utilize the float entirely for fishing purposes. Boating classes and other boating activities which took place on the old float will be relocated to another area away from this facility.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the fisheries benefits of this proposal and recommends the project. The evaluation notes that bank fishing for white croaker and black surf perch is a popular activity in this arm of the harbor which is isolated from boat traffic. Occasional catches of California halibut will be made here also. The harbor is slated to be dredged next year and this area is included in the dredging plan which will be an added benefit for the fisheries.

The City has filed a Notice of Exemption for the project under Section 15102, Class 2 of CEQA Guidelines. A resolution has also been adopted by the City agreeing to enter into agreements with the DFG for long-term lease of the area and maintenance of the facilities. Contracts for the installation would be administered by the City.

Staff has reviewed the plans and cost estimate prepared by the City Department of Parks and Recreation and has inspected the site with the City. The estimate is given as follows:

Aluminum float, 8' x 160', with handrail	\$22,220
Installation (float, gangway, utilities, fish sink)	10,000
Contingency, 10%	<u>3,280</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$35,500

It is expected this project will qualify for 50 percent reimbursement of costs under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program and staff plans to submit an application for such reimbursements.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the Marina Park Public Fishing Access project, allocate \$35,500 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

The legislative members recommended approval of this project and the following motion was made.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE MARINA PARK PUBLIC FISHING ACCESS PROJECT, VENTURA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$35,500 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Bob Overstreet with the City of San Buenaventura Department of Parks was present and Mr. Schmidt thanked him for his attendance and support.

9. Lake Tahoe Public Access, Placer County \$15,000.00
Parking and Drainage Improvements

At the March 10, 1982, meeting the Board approved a proposal allowing the State Department of Parks and Recreation access across the Lake Tahoe Public Access project area as well as joint use of some Wildlife Conservation Board project facilities.

As was explained at that meeting, Parks has acquired land immediately to the west of the WCB project and is now in the process of developing it for public use through agreements with the Tahoe City Public Utility District. Pursuant to Board approval, staff has negotiated a cooperative agreement whereby Parks would be allowed access over the WCB facility, as well as the right to use the parking lot for overflow parking in accordance with a schedule designed to avoid conflicts of peak usage between the two projects.

A part of this agreement requires Parks, at their cost, to modify the existing access road and parking lot to provide for compatible joint use, and to develop a road to Parks' land. This will actually result in less paved parking area, but because of the improved traffic flow, a gain in parking spaces will be realized.

During the planning process for this work, TCPUD was informed by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board that the WCB project area must comply with new drainage requirements adopted by Lahontan. The purpose of the new requirements is to protect the water quality of Lake Tahoe from possible pollutants carried by runoff water from upland developments such as the parking lot. Staff has determined that corrective measures would have to be taken to reduce direct runoff from the parking lot whether the lot were modified as planned or left as it is.

Inasmuch as this drainage work is necessary on the WCB project and cannot reasonably be considered Parks' responsibility, it is recommended that the Board allocate funds for the storm drainage portion of the proposed access and parking lot modification. As the parking lot modification will directly enhance boating use of this area, it is also recommended that WCB fund directional signs and new parking striping for the lot. It is highly desirable that all of the work be done at the same time.

Mr. John Wentzel, Field Agent, provided the Board detailed information about the proposed work, indicating on a map displayed at the meeting the areas being modified by Parks and Recreation, and the WCB area of responsibility.

Plans and cost estimate prepared by the District have been reviewed by both WCB and Parks' staffs and have been found adequate. The cost is as follows:

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Remove AC and construct concrete drain, 140 l.f.	\$9,000
Pretreatment tanks w/rock splash pad, 3 required	1,900
Striping, 3,100 l.f.	1,400
Signs w/sign posts, 8 required	1,200
Contingency, 10%	<u>1,500</u>
TOTAL .	\$15,000

Parks has \$20,000 budgeted for their share of the work to be accomplished, and the District share of costs will be almost \$21,000. The District will handle all bidding and contract details and engineering supervision. The District has found that the project will not have a significant impact upon the environment and has filed a Negative Declaration to comply with CEQA requirements.

Because of the recreational values of this project, it is felt that it will qualify for 50% participation, on a reimbursement basis, by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. A preliminary application for these funds has been made by staff.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board, with consideration of the Negative Declaration, authorize the improvements at the Lake Tahoe Public Access as proposed, allocate \$15,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund therefor, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Chairman Livermore asked about the maintenance of the treatment tanks over the course of the years, and he was informed that the Tahoe City Public Utility District would be responsible for the maintenance of the area and would provide for pump-out of the tank or whatever other maintenance is required.

Assemblyman Waters recommended approval of this project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, AUTHORIZE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE LAKE TAHOE PUBLIC ACCESS, PLACER COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$15,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Lower Sherman Island Access, Sacramento County \$37,350.00
Road Restoration and Erosion Protection

On April 15, 1966, the Board allocated funds to develop a timber boat launching ramp, parking area, access road, floats, and sanitary facilities at Lower Sherman Island. This area of approximately 3,100 acres reverted to the State many years ago for non-payment of taxes after levee breaks and reflooding, and was placed

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under the management of the Department of Fish and Game because of its high values for fish and wildlife.

The Department of Fish and Game first proposed this development to provide improved access primarily for the fishing and waterfowl hunting opportunities on the State-owned area and nearby sections of the lower Delta. The County of Sacramento has operated the project, free to the public since December, 1966. Use has shown a steady increase since opening.

In February of 1979, the Board allocated funds to provide erosion controls and road restoration of a washed-out section of road caused by high water and wind conditions. In 1981 a new concrete boat ramp was constructed by the Department of Boating and Waterways to replace the deteriorated original wood ramp. The past two record winters have caused additional erosion in the area not protected by the February 1979, riprap project. Present use of the area is restricted because of its limited access, and until the area is restored, its condition presents a potential liability.

Mr. Wentzel showed on a map displayed at the meeting the areas which will require filling and riprap to make the area accessible to the public.

This proposal by the County is to fill existing washouts where the river has undermined the pavement, fill the area washed out in the roadway itself, raise the roadbed somewhat, repair existing rock protection and provide additional riprap. The County has determined the work will have no adverse effect upon the environment, is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 1 of the State Guidelines, and has filed the necessary Notice of Exemption.

The County has prepared plans and a cost estimate which have been reviewed by staff and the Department engineering section and were found to be adequate. The County will handle all construction details, including engineering and construction supervision. The cost estimate is as follows:

1. Clearing and earth fill	\$1,000
2. 675 c.y. 1/4 ton type rock at \$40 c.y.	27,000
3. 80 tons aggregate base at \$15 per ton	1,200
4. 90 tons asphalt concrete at \$35 per ton	3,150
5. Engineering, design, surveys, contract administration, inspection	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	\$37,350

Because of this project's recreational potential, it is felt that it will qualify for federal reimbursements of 50% of costs under the Land and Water Conservation Fund program. Application for these funds will be made by staff.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board approve the project, allocate \$37,350 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

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When it was determined that there was no objection to this proposal, the legislative members recommended approval of the project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ROAD RESTORATION AND EROSION PROTECTION FOR THE LOWER SHERMAN ISLAND ACCESS PROJECT, SACRAMENTO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$37,350 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Bear River Fishing Access, Bank Protection, Placer County \$25,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reviewed that in 1967, the WCB acquired 264 acres of land along the Bear River near Colfax, including approximately 4½ miles of stream frontage. A modest allocation was also provided for brush clearing and minor road work. In 1968 the County of Placer took over operation of the Bear River Fishing Access and developed day use and camping facilities with their own funds. The area has been very popular with fishermen and other outdoor recreationists for many years.

In wet winters, high flows in the river have caused severe erosion along the riverbanks. A stretch of over 1,800 lineal feet has been damaged, including loss of trees, campground area, and some road erosion. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service developed a plan to protect the stream bank and prevent further loss of land, and possibly developments, through the placement of gabions on the property in 1981. The 1981 and 1982 winters were severe and thus far the gabions have withstood high flows well.

Mr. Wentzel advised that SCS proposed placement of about 350 lineal feet of additional gabion work as a cooperative project with Placer County and WCB during the summer of 1982. On March 10, 1982, the Board approved this project and allocated \$6,500 as the WCB share.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to carry out that project, since gabions must be installed under fairly dry conditions as much of the work is done by hand. Because of high energy prices, the utility companies controlling water releases into Bear River are reluctant, for obvious financial reasons, to lower the water level for the time that would be required to place the gabions.

In the interim, SCS has secured additional funding and has proposed an alternate plan that would protect the remaining 1,700 lineal feet by using rock riprap. River flows would be lowered for the time necessary to divert the river to the north bank by a temporary diversion dam. Riprap and gravel backfill would then be put in place by loader or other mechanical means. There will be four access points included in the project and revegetation to stabilize the area.

Mr. Schmidt reported that SCS has prepared plans and cost estimates which have been reviewed by Board staff and found to be in order. SCS will handle

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all construction details, including engineering and construction supervision. The federal share of project costs will be 80%, with Placer County and WCB supplying the 20% non-federal funding. The cost estimate as submitted by SCS is as follows:

Rock riprap, 4,600 tons at \$8.00/T	\$ 36,800
Installation - labor & equipment	<u>209,800</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$246,600

The non-federal share of the total estimated cost is \$49,320. Of this, the suggested share for WCB is \$31,500, requiring an additional Board allocation of \$25,000. Additionally, Placer County will supply manpower and equipment to vegetate the area at an estimated cost of \$5,000. Plant materials costing approximately \$2,000 will be supplied by SCS.

The SCS has prepared an environmental assessment of the proposal and determined that no significant impact would result from the work. A FONSI, the federal equivalent to a negative declaration, has been processed at both national and state levels. The DFG has commented favorably upon the proposal and indicates both improved water quality and an improved fishery should result from stabilized banks.

Staff recommended that the Board, with consideration of the environmental document (FONSI), approve the project, allocate \$25,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Both Assemblyman Waters and Assemblyman Isenberg recommended approval of this proposal.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (FONSI), APPROVE THE BANK PROTECTION PROJECT AT BEAR RIVER FISHING ACCESS, PLACER COUNTY; ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$25,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Venice (Los Angeles) Fishing Pier, Los Angeles County \$23,500.00

The Venice (Los Angeles) Fishing Pier, an existing WCB project developed jointly with the City of Los Angeles in 1961, sustained damage during the January storms requiring its closure to the public. This pier has provided heavy public use since its construction. In fact, an average of 320,000 visitor days have been recorded over the past three years.

The County Department of Beaches which has assumed responsibility for O&M of the pier from the City has applied for disaster relief funds from FEMA to repair the damage. The County is also requesting matching WCB funds for the portion of the estimated repair costs not covered by FEMA.

Fortunately, structural damage occurred only at the pier abutment and approach section. This damage was caused by abnormally high surf conditions which eroded the beach around the pier approach, thereby causing the approach to collapse. The major part of the concrete pier apparently suffered little damage. If federal and state funds are provided as proposed, it is expected the repairs can be completed this summer, and the pier reopened to public use. The City will handle the engineering and construction administration of this project.

The total cost to rebuild the pier approach and repair the abutment is estimated at \$171,000. Federal funds are expected to cover 75% of this or \$128,250. An allocation of \$23,500 (12.5% of construction cost plus 10% contingency) matched by the county would provide the balance of funds needed. A resolution has been adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in support of this proposal.

The work is exempt from CEQA under Sec. 15102, Class 2, of the State Guidelines and a Notice of Exemption has been filed by the County. Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the request for matching funds to repair the Venice Pier, allocate \$23,500 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund on a matching basis with the County of Los Angeles, and authorize staff and the Dept. to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE VENICE (LOS ANGELES) FISHING PIER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES; ALLOCATE \$23,500 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Schmidt acknowledged Mr. Eric Bourdon's attendance from Los Angeles and thanked him for his support.

13. Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area, Sonoma County \$30,000.00
Habitat Modifications

This 1,844 acre portion of the Petaluma Marsh was acquired by the Board in 1978 as part of the Department's priority program to preserve threatened coastal wetlands. Coastal marshes are considered to be very important ecosystems for many wildlife and plant species.

The Petaluma Marsh is the second largest block of contiguous marsh in the San Francisco Bay Area. It supports several species of migrating and over-wintering waterfowl and provides nesting habitat for resident species. Four state and federally listed rare or endangered species occur within the Petaluma Marsh wetlands complex. The California clapper rail, California black rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, and soft-haired bird's beak have all been confirmed to inhabit the marsh.

In general, waterfowl use is limited because of a lack of food available to the ducks. Vegetation surveys conducted by the Department indicated that the marsh is composed predominately of pickleweed, providing little feed for waterfowl. In order to increase the use of the area by waterfowl, the Department is proposing to repair and/or replace existing water control structures on three selected ponds. These ponds and the other proposed work were pointed out on a map by Mr. Wentzel. One intake control and one outlet control will be installed at each pond. In addition, about 6,000 feet of inlet and outlet channels will be cleared and/or

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created using hand labor, "Sprite" ditching (a ditching machine used by the County Mosquito Abatement District), and possibly some blasting or combination of any or all of these methods to increase circulation to these ponds. Some deepening of the ponds is also proposed in order to have more flexibility in controlling pond water levels and increase the ability to take in and drain water rapidly. It is proposed that the material for this project will be transported to the site by using a helicopter as access by barges is extremely limited. This is the least costly method of transporting materials.

Information gained from studies and from information developed on several DFG wildlife areas supports the Department's contention that emphasis should be placed upon growing native marsh plant species, such as alkali bulrush, which provides a good waterfowl food source, rather than introducing new species. Alkali bulrush is highly salt-tolerant when established but is sensitive to salt at time of germination. Alkali bulrush would be more prevalent in the ponds within the marsh if soil salinity were lower. Therefore, leaching will be necessary to reduce salinities prior to seeding of the ponds. The proposed habitat modifications will provide the control necessary to manipulate water for leaching or other purposes.

Once the ditches and new water control structures are in place and functioning, alkali bulrush plants will be collected from nearby areas and hand planted into portions of each pond. In other sections of the ponds, bulrush seed will be planted and water levels manipulated to provide for sprouting and growth of the bulrush.

Three ponds have been selected for planting and seeding; one pond is in the northern portion of the area, one near the middle, and one at the southern end. Water quality (i.e., salinity) differences are anticipated at each pond due to varying distances from the influence of San Pablo Bay. The overall variation in water quality will be measured in the selected ponds and intake and outlet channels.

If waterfowl food plants can be encouraged to grow in some of the ponds in the Petaluma Marsh, then waterfowl use in the marsh should increase. The increased food sources will expand the areas around San Francisco Bay which would receive heavy use by migrating and wintering waterfowl.

The estimated cost of the habitat improvement as determined by the Department is as follows:

Pipe and water control structures	\$15,500
Lumber and hardware	1,150
Explosives	7,500
Ditching	4,400
Helicopter rental	1,250
Seed	200
TOTAL ...	\$30,000

The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 4(d), minor alterations in land upon a wildlife area, resulting in improved habitat. The Notice of Exemption has been filed with the Secretary for Resources.

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Staff recommends the Board approve the Petaluma Marsh project as proposed, allocate \$30,000 from the 1976 Bond Funds available for this purpose and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Fullerton recalled that this project was pulled from a previous agenda at his request because it was his belief that there had not been proper planning. The Department has carried out additional study and had come back with a request for a \$30,000 project rather than the \$100,000 previously requested.

The legislative members expressed approval of the proposal.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AT THE PETALUMA MARSH WILDLIFE AREA, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$30,000 FROM THE 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Camp Cady Wildlife Area Addition, San Bernardino County \$27,500.00

This proposal is to acquire up to 31.76 acres from an ownership located along the Mojave River in San Bernardino County, adjacent to the 1223 acre Camp Cady Wildlife Area, which was authorized at the April 16, 1979, Board meeting. This original acquisition left some "inholdings" within the area, and this proposal is to acquire a portion of these inholdings.

Mr Howard Dick, Land Agent, advised that the Camp Cady Wildlife Area is located approximately 25 miles easterly of the City of Barstow, and is readily accessible from Harvard Road. This road, which is served by two interstate freeways (I-40 is 7 miles to the south and I-15 is 3 miles to the north), provides convenient public access to this area.

The wildlife area includes approximately three miles of river frontage and is composed of areas within the river bottom, floodplain, and some adjacent uplands. The area provides a desert oasis setting, unique to this area. These circumstances are created by the surfacing of the Mojave River at this point and unique geological substrata formations which bring subsurface waters from nearby mountains. This combination of "spring" water and river water has created prime riparian habitat found nowhere else in this vicinity of the Mojave Desert.

The overall habitat supports a variety of both game and nongame species. Resident and migratory waterfowl, as well as other water associated species, occur in the ponded area located within the wildlife area. Numerous quail, doves, and other species of birds are present in the upland and wooded areas. Various hawks, owls, and other raptors use the tall trees as roosting and nesting areas while a variety of reptiles are found in the drier sandy wash areas. Bighorn sheep have been observed obtaining water from the easterly end of the property.

In addition to protecting this unique habitat from degradation by almost certain development, the acquisition of this area would provide the public with additional area for many compatible recreational opportunities, such as nature observation, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, picnicking, and primitive camping.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition. It is anticipated that this parcel will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game in its present condition, as part of the overall wildlife area.

The owners of this 31.76 acre "inholding" have decided to sell this property at its approved appraised value of \$25,408.00 (or \$800/acre). Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the acquisition of the entire 31.76 acre parcel as proposed, allocate \$27,500 to cover the estimated acquisition and related costs from the 1976 Bond Act funds available for interior wetland acquisitions, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AS PROPOSED FOR THE CAMP CADY WILDLIFE AREA ADDITION, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$27,500 FROM THE 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ACQUISITION AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Petaluma Marsh, Rush Creek, Marin County \$260,500.00

This item is a proposal to purchase 136+ acres of coastal marshland habitat in the Petaluma River Marsh complex. The property is located about halfway between Petaluma and San Rafael, just to the east of the City of Novato along U.S. Highway 101. It is bounded by Basalt Creek on the north and Rush Creek on the east. The parcel was pointed out on a map by Jim Sarro, Land Agent.

The major portions of the land area consist of historical bay plain marsh and wetlands draining portions of Novato, Mount Burdell and Pinheiro Ridge. Near the turn of the century a system of levees and dikes were constructed to protect the lands from the intrusion of brackish waters and extended periods of winter flooding. This has permitted the growing of some oat hay and fodder but primarily grazing over large portions of the land. With the exception of a strip of land along the west side of the parcel which is slightly higher ground, the property's elevation is between 0 and 1 foot below mean sea level.

Studies by the Department of Fish and Game indicate that economic pressures and urbanization have brought on reclamation and conversion of much of the San Pablo Bay area marshes to residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses. This has resulted in the destruction of key habitat and various rare and endangered species, such as the California clapper rail

and salt marsh harvest mouse, as well as the loss of other important natural values of the area. In fact, a study by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1980 indicated that total wetland losses due to various forms of development had reached 80% of the historic marshes. Generally, marshes and estuarine areas are considered the most important and productive habitat overall for fish and wildlife.

To date, the Board has acquired nearly 2,000 acres for preservation of the remaining Petaluma Marsh habitat.

The proposed acquisition is part of a coordinated effort involving the Marin County Open Space District, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. In addition, funds are being sought from the San Francisco Foundation, and assistance in the negotiations for adjacent lands is being received from the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, both of which are private, non-profit organizations. The overall 635-acre project calls for acquisition of conservation easements and fee title. The WCB's activity would be limited to purchase of the subject property and in the near future, possibly two low-lying parcels on the south and east, consisting of about 113 more acres. Interests in the remaining 383+ acres would be acquired by the other project participants. Eventually, parking, foot-trails, water control structures and ponds would be constructed to accomplish several important objectives:

1. Reverse the degradation of the once-extensive Petaluma River Estuary, and complement existing state and federal owned lands in creating the largest contiguous habitat remaining in San Francisco Bay.
2. Provide a permanent open space buffer between Sonoma and Marin Counties by eliminating development pressure on agricultural land and historic wetland areas zoned for industrial development.
3. Provide access opportunities and associated educational benefits through a series of public improvements, creating a model effort for the combination of habitat restoration, agricultural land protection, and public use of the shoreline.

Engineering and construction costs would be borne by the other participants in the project. WCB's involvement is limited to the purchase of lands as outlined here.

The management of the lands will be by the Department of Fish and Game, and it is presently contemplated that the Department would enter into an agreement with Marin County whereby the County would operate and maintain the properties as part of the overall project.

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The property has a fair market value of \$254,500, as approved by the Department of General Services, and staff is in a position to offer this sum to the landowners with WCB approval. Appraisal costs, escrow and closing expenses are estimated to be \$6,000. Funds are available for this purchase from the 1976 Bond Act for coastal wetlands acquisitions.

This acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of categorical exemptions.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve this acquisition as outlined, allocate \$260,500 for the purchase and related costs from the 1976 Bond Act funds available for coastal wetland acquisitions and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Sarro advised that Lea Nunes, representing the landowners, was present, and that it has been her desire to have the State make an official offer. For whatever reason, it has not been possible to secure an agreement from the owners prior to presenting the proposal to the Board, although there is every indication that the owners would agree to sell if an offer were made to them. Until Board approval and allocation of funds therefor, staff is not able to make the offer.

In response to Mr. Fullerton's question as to whether or not this would qualify for LWCF, Mr. Schmidt advised that because of the "Jobs Bill", all of the monies must be allocated to development projects. However, because it provides substantial amount of bird use and habitat for two endangered species, it has been highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game. In regard to the financial commitments by the Marin Open Space District and the State Coastal Conservancy, it was reported by Ms. Brigmann and Mr. Sarro that all those funds have already been committed to this proposal.

Assemblyman Isenberg recommended approval of the acquisition proposal.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AS PROPOSED FOR PETALUMA MARSH, RUSH CREEK, MARIN COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$260,500 FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Other Business

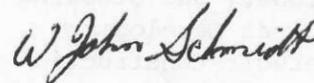
Ms. Katherine Mallowney stated that Assemblyman Costa was very appreciative, and expressed his great pleasure, in being appointed to this body and looks forward to serving on it. He also wanted to call to the attention of the Board members the provisions of AB 2099 introduced by Assemblyman Farr which is of particular significance to this Board. That is the 1984 Parklands Bond Act and in its current form provides for a \$25 million allocation to the WCB, \$10 million of which is earmarked for habitat for rare and endangered species. She closed by stating that whatever assistance the Board members may provide would be welcomed by the author.

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Mr. Schmidt commented that AB 927, the continuous funding bill for the Wildlife Conservation Board, has been introduced by Assemblyman Waters and requested everyone's support of that particular legislation.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Livermore at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 24, 1983, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$53,691,812.30. This total includes funds 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		\$10,597,762.93
b. Fish Habitat Development		5,036,856.95
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$2,817,644.19	
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.		17,377,748.05
1. Coastal and Bay Access	1,727,428.74	
2. River and Aqueduct Access	4,201,374.26	
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	3,936,166.50	
4. Piers	7,512,778.55	
d. Game Farm Projects		146,894.49
e. Wildlife Habitat Development and Improvement Projects		19,179,766.47
1. Wildlife Areas	18,349,995.70	
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	829,770.77	
f. Hunting Access		549,036.81
g. Miscellaneous Projects		635,467.91
s. Special Project Allocation		<u>83,500.00</u>
TOTAL ALLOCATED TO PROJECTS		\$53,691,812.30

STATUS OF FUNDS

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Unallocated balance at beginning of 5/24/83 meeting.	\$4,735,572.87
Plus recoveries	4,507.01
Less allocations	<u>-690,627.00</u>
Unallocated balance at end of 5/24/83 meeting	\$4,049,452.88