

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

Minutes, Meeting of September 16, 1983

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

Minutes, Meeting of September 16, 1983

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 317, State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on September 16, 1983. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on September 16, 1983, by Chairman Norman B. Livermore, Jr.

1. Roll Call

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Norman B. Livermore, Jr.	Chairman
	Don Carper	Member
	Catherine Hackney, vice Assembly-	Joint Interim Committee
	man Jim Costa	
<u>ABSENT:</u>	Nancy Ordway	Member
	Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator Robert Presley	" " "
	Senator David Roberti	" " "
	Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	" " "
	Assemblyman Norman S. Waters	" " "

STAFF PRESENT:

W. John Schmidt	Executive Officer
Alvin G. Rutsch	Assistant Executive Officer
John Wentzel	Field Agent
Howard Dick	Land Agent
Alma Koyasako	Secretary
Beth Manwaring	Stenographer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. and Mrs. Richard O'Sullivan	Landowners
Gary Rominger	Sacramento County Parks
Burt Bundy	Tehama County Supervisor
Susan Rogers	Port of Oakland
Pete Weber	Rancher
Joe Sheehan	Dept. of Fish and Game
Jeff Shellito	Legislative Analyst

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. W. John Schmidt, Executive Officer, advised that minutes of the May 24 and August 8, 1983, meetings of the Wildlife Conservation Board have been published and distributed and now require approval.

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IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 24, 1983, AND AUGUST 8, 1983, MEETINGS OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS PUBLISHED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Funding Status

a. Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance at end of 5/24/83 meeting	\$4,049,452.88
Plus miscellaneous revenue	1,915.00
Plus reduced 82/83 FY staff benefits	9,583.00
Plus interest on surplus money fund	115,311.74
Plus 1980/81 FY unexpended support budget	<u>121,725.64</u>

Present unallocated balance in Wildlife Restoration Fund . \$4,297,988.26

(Available for allocation by WCB pursuant to 83/84 Budget - \$3,943,000.00)

b. 1976 State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Fund

1. Coastal Wetlands

Unallocated balance at beginning of 9/16/83 meeting \$1,122,723.16

2. Interior Wetlands

Unallocated balance at beginning of 9/16/83 meeting 24,794.86

3. Development

Unallocated balance at beginning of 9/16/83 meeting 70,000.00

4. Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area, Fresno County \$6,000.00

Mr. John Wentzel, Field Agent, indicated on a map the general location of the wildlife area, and explained briefly the proposed improvement.

Little Panoche Wildlife Area consists of a 780+ acre parcel of land along Little Panoche Creek, about four miles west of Interstate 5. The area is in the low intercoastal foothills and is vegetated with grass and scattered shrubs. A dam on Little Panoche Creek forms a 35+ acre reservoir within this wildlife area. Principal wildlife species in this area are doves, quail, cottontail, and some ducks.

Over the years the reservoir has silted in so that the water depth is now less than 10 feet, and the resultant cattail-tule encroachment around the lake's perimeter has severely limited shore fishing access. This growth is 20 yards wide and from 6 - 12 feet high. In the past the reservoir has received heavy seasonal use and has provided fair to good fishing for catfish, crappie, and bass, with an occasional lunker to over eight pounds.

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The Department has requested funds to raise the level of the lake. This would be done by installing 44 concrete stop logs in the overflow structure which would raise the level 11 feet and add 15 surface acres under normal conditions. This raise in water level will not approach the holding capacity of this reservoir and is not opposed by the Division of Safety of Dams. Logs to do this project are already stockpiled at the site.

Some fluctuation of the water level would occur since the stop logs would not be water tight. The increased water level will inundate the cattails and tules, eventually killing them, thus solving the fishing access problem to the shoreline of the lake. The fluctuating water level will allow the option of mechanical or chemical control if cattail encroachment continues to be, or again becomes a problem.

The increased water elevation will also greatly improve fish habitat and provide the opportunity to irrigate the back portion of the wildlife area, and in so doing provide increased wildlife cover, as well as an increased food supply. Riparian cover along the lake's inlet will also be increased. The Department of Fish and Game has highly recommended this project and will supervise all necessary work to complete it.

Installation of the stop logs will be performed by constructing a jetty as a work platform for a crane which is necessary to move the stop logs into place. It is estimated that it will take three days of crane rental to complete the project -- one day to move in and set up and two days to remove the protective grates, place the stop logs and replace the protective grates. It will take a crane with a 100' boom, a 15' jib and the capacity to lift 5,000 pounds. Department personnel will be available for hooking up and unhooking the grates and stop logs. The cost for this project is estimated at \$6,000 for the crane rental and operator.

The project is exempt from CEQA under Class 4 of the State Guidelines, and the necessary Notice of Exemption has been filed with the Secretary for Resources.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve the Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area project, allocate \$6,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE LITTLE PANOCHES RESERVOIR WILDLIFE AREA PROJECT, FRESNO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$6,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND BUDGETED IN THE 1983/84 FISCAL YEAR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Butte Slough Wildlife Area, Sutter County \$1,700.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that in 1977 the Department of Fish and Game acquired the 173 acre Butte Slough Wildlife Area through a 50-year lease from the State Reclamation Board. The land is comprised of oak grassland and heavy riparian

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vegetation. The location and the proposed improvement were pointed out to the Board members by Mr. Wentzel.

In recent years the area has grown in popularity for dove hunting, pheasant hunting for both pen-raised and wild pheasants, as well as for some waterfowl hunting during high water periods. Blacktail deer are also scattered throughout the general area and provide some hunting opportunity.

Vehicle access to the site is via a 30-foot wide state-owned road from West Butte Road. A locked gate owned by the Santa Fe Drilling Company precludes vehicles from parking on the State area. This gate is necessary as a working gas well is located on the State land. Because of the increased popularity, parking problems are developing on the adjacent private land. This project which has been proposed by the Department of Fish and Game will allow for continued public hunting opportunities on this area, alleviate the public nuisance on adjacent lands, as well as isolate the gas well from the public use area.

The Department is requesting funds to purchase gates, wire, posts, gravel and for equipment rental and other miscellaneous items in order to construct a graveled, fenced parking area on the State property. The funding request is for materials only. Labor will be provided by Department personnel.

The project cost estimate as prepared by the Department of Fish and Game and reviewed by staff is as follows:

Fence posts	\$ 315.00
50 ea. - heavy duty steel "T" posts	
24 ea. - 8" pressure treated round posts	
14 ea. - 6" x 4" x 4" redwood posts	
Wire	95.00
Steel pipe gates (2 - installed)	600.00
Post hole auger (rental)	75.00
Road base (90 tons Butte Rock)	340.00
Miscellaneous materials (lathe, staples, etc.)	75.00
Subtotal	\$1,500.00
Contingencies	200.00
Total Estimated Cost:	<u>\$1,700.00</u>

One question raised during the briefing sessions was the use of lease revenue from the gas well for this fencing, and it was learned that the State does own the mineral rights, but any revenue from the leases are handled by the State Lands Commission and such revenue go into the General Fund or the Tideland Trust Fund. Use of these funds can be made only through special legislation.

The work to be done is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA under Class 3, construction of new, small facilities or structures. The Notice of Exemption has been filed with the Secretary for Resources.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve the improvements to the Butte Slough Wildlife Area, allocate \$1,700 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Although the total dimensions of the fencing was not available, staff promised the Chairman that the cost breakdown of the fencing would be provided for his information, since this information is available in the file.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE BUTTE SLOUGH WILDLIFE AREA, SUTTER COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$1,700 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND BUDGETED IN THE 1983/84 FISCAL YEAR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

✓ 6. Butte Valley Wildlife Area (Water System), Siskiyou County \$50,000.00

This proposal is for the development of a domestic water system and the installation of an agricultural pump facility at the Meiss Lake Wildlife Area.

A phased acquisition of this 13,200+ acre Meiss Lake Wildlife Area was authorized by the Board at its December 12, 1980 and June 25, 1981 meetings. This wildlife area is located in Butte Valley, near Highway 97, about 14 miles south of the Oregon border. Mr. Schmidt also indicated the subsequent improvements approved by the Board which included a parking lot and habitat improvement. The location of the wildlife area was pointed out on a map displayed at the meeting.

The property has extremely high waterfowl values (in addition to other wildlife values) due to its existing waterfowl habitat and its location in the heart of the Pacific Flyway. During the fall migration, up to 60,000 ducks and 30,000 geese are estimated to use the lake and surrounding lowlands. An average of 260 pairs of ducks and 1,800 Canada geese nest on the property annually. With certain habitat improvements, these numbers can be increased several-fold. Use by other wildlife species will also be increased.

On August 5, 1982, the Board allocated funds for road improvements and construction of three small parking areas. This was done primarily to allow an initial, but limited, public hunting program. The Department of Fish and Game area manager has reported very good hunting results during the recent season.

At the February 15, 1983, meeting, the Board funded an initial improvement project on the area by approving the purchase of 55 gallon drums and other material necessary to construct goose nesting platforms and also to purchase plants, shrubs and miscellaneous grass seed for initial development of wildlife habitat.

The first part of the proposal currently before the Board is to fund a new domestic water system at the headquarters area of this wildlife area. It would serve DFG employees living on the area, as well as the visiting public. The present well has been determined to be severely contaminated by State Health Department officials. While the coliform count of the water in the present well is in excess of 16, safe standards have been determined to be between 0 and 2.2. Therefore, employees must often carry their drinking water from outside sources.

DFG engineers have estimated that a new well and pump will cost \$10,000. The new well will have a sanitary seal for at least the first 50 feet to preclude

the entry of surface waters into the system, a feature the present well does not have. Department engineers estimated that a new pump, between 1½ - 2 h.p. depending on final well depth, will also be required.

The second part of this proposal is to fund an agricultural lift pump to evacuate approximately 2,500 acres of farm ground. The cost of this facility which will evacuate approximately 30,000 gallons per minute, is estimated at \$40,000 by Department of Fish and Game engineers. Presently there are three, old and extremely limited, lift pumps used to evacuate water from this 2,500 acres of agricultural land west of Meiss Lake. Two of these pumps lift water into a perimeter ditch where it flows by gravity into Meiss Lake. The other pump discharges directly into the lake.

It is proposed that this new pump be located so that it will discharge the water from the entire 2,500 acres directly into the lake. There have been times over the past several winters when the Department was unable to discharge waters from the farm land into the perimeter ditch because of high runoff flows. Pumping directly into the lake will overcome this problem. This past spring the Department borrowed a pump, of the type proposed herein, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was able to evacuate this area, as proposed, in time for spring planting. However, the Department cannot rely on the availability of their pump. The possibility of borrowing pumps from various sources was investigated but was found to be infeasible and impractical.

The obvious result of the water sitting on the farm land is a delay in the drying of land with a commensurate delay in planting of grain crops and a potential reduction in yield. If such a reduction in yield occurs, the lessee may no longer be able to operate as a share cropper (10% of crop is left on site), and a resultant loss of wildlife food would occur. The alternative, of course, would be for DFG to farm this area themselves, but the need to evacuate the fields would still exist. In addition, an obvious cost of planting would be incurred by the Department on an annual basis.

Both parts of this proposal have been highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game. The Department would handle the contract administration for all work required. The project is categorically exempt from CEQA requirements as one portion is a replacement project and the other for minor habitat enhancement.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project, allocate \$50,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as proposed.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEM AND AN AGRICULTURAL PUMP FOR THE BUTTE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA, SISKIYOU COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$50,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND BUDGETED IN THE 1983/84 FISCAL YEAR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Pine Creek Reservoir Public Access, Modoc County

\$68,600.00

Pine Creek Reservoir is located nine miles southeast of Alturas at about 5,000 feet elevation. The reservoir and associated facilities were constructed in the early 1900's to provide hydroelectric production. For the next 40+ years, the reservoir has been very popular for trout fishing.

Mr. Wentzel advised the Board members of the WCB involvement in this access project and the improvements which consisted of a diversion dam on Pine Creek, about 4,400 feet of 24" pipeline and 14,200 feet of open ditch terminating at the 12 acre reservoir. When the power company decided to discontinue its Pine Creek hydro operation, the pipeline-penstock, which served the powerhouse below the reservoir, was removed and the other facilities were offered to the State for 25% of the salvage value of the pipeline supplying the reservoir. On November 15, 1957, the WCB allocated funds for acquisition of the project facilities, plus some minor restoration work on the reservoir dam. The project was officially opened in 1962, under operation of Modoc County as a cooperative WCB project.

In 1965 the Board authorized repair to a number of WCB projects in northern California that had sustained damages from the severe 1964-65 flooding. About \$1,000 was expended to rehabilitate the water supply ditch and shore up part of the pipeline at Pine Creek. This was the last work performed at this project by the Board.

Mr. Schmidt explained that over the years the pipeline and diversion dam have deteriorated to the point where they are no longer functional. The ditch is in good condition, but the reservoir has partially silted in. This siltation occurred primarily during the period when large volumes of water were diverted into and out of the reservoir for power operations, but more recently (on a smaller scale) during heavy storm runoffs. Flows under current and proposed operation of this area will be much smaller, thereby minimizing any future siltation problems. The reduced water depth is encouraging an ever increasing growth of aquatic plants and increased possibility of fish die-off due to winter freezing.

The North Cal-Neva Resource Conservation and Development Area of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, along with the County of Modoc, have made engineering studies to determine the best method of restoring the project. The SCS has come up with an acceptable proposal, has indicated federal cost sharing funds will be available, and has adopted a measure plan for the proposed project.

The proposed plan is to rebuild the diversion dam, replace the existing pipeline with 8" pipe, remove sediment from the reservoir and rehabilitate the dam. It is also proposed that a fourteen space, fenced parking area be constructed and that a portable restroom be provided. The overall project would enhance the public fishing opportunities of this reservoir which has historically provided over 3,000 fisherman days use per year, as well as habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species.

SCS has also prepared a FONSI, the federal equivalent of a "Negative Declaration", after determining that there would be no significant impact resulting from the development. This is to comply with the National Environmental Policy

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Act (NEPA). Further, the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 1 and 2 of the State Guidelines, and the necessary categorical exemption has been filed with the Secretary for Resources as required in this Act.

There has been one protest to the project proposal from a rancher who is a downstream water user in this area. The protest was filed with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights. In general, the protest questions the State's right to use of the water from Pine Creek for project purposes. A response to this complaint has been filed with the Division of Water Rights. At the time of agenda preparation, a decision had not been reached by the Division of Water Rights. Project approval should therefore be contingent on confirmation of the State's continuing water rights to this reservoir.

The cost estimate as prepared by SCS has been reviewed by staff and found to be acceptable. The cost is as follows:

Mobilization of equipment	\$5,000
Diversion structure	11,400
8" steel pipe in place (\$15.57/ft. x 4370 ft.)	68,000
Silt removal and earth fill, l.s.	36,000
Parking and access	3,000
Portable restroom	1,900
Fencing	2,300
Vegetation	2,000
Subtotal	\$129,600
Engineering	15,600
Administration	16,200
Land and/or Water Rights	2,500
Total Estimated Cost	\$163,900

Of this, the SCS would fund a total of \$95,300, leaving the WCB portion at \$68,600.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association has written a letter of support for this proposal and recommended the Board, with consideration of the environmental document, approve the project, allocate \$68,600 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Hackney asked if the recommendation should include the provision that approval be conditional upon clarification of the water rights issue, and Mr. Schmidt agreed that it should include the provisions as outlined in the agenda.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (FONSI), APPROVE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PINE CREEK RESERVOIR PUBLIC ACCESS, MODOC COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$68,600 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS BUDGETED IN THE 1983/84 FISCAL YEAR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, CONDITIONAL UPON AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND CLARIFICATION OF THE WATER RIGHTS ISSUE.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Tehama Wildlife Area Expansion, Tehama County

\$225,000.00

This is a proposal to acquire a conservation easement over a 2,947.58+ acre inholding within the Tehama Wildlife Area. Mr. Howard Dick, land agent, advised that the Tehama Wildlife Area is located in eastern Tehama County south of the community of Paynes Creek, northeast of Red Bluff (via Highway 36). Hogsback Road, the only other east-west road south of Highway 36 in Tehama County, runs through two miles of the subject parcel. In addition, the property has over 3 miles of stream frontage on Antelope and Cameron Creeks.

Wildlife uses of the property include the eastern Tehama deer herd's use of the north rim of Antelope Creek as a major holding area during movements to and from their winter range. The range supported 328 deer-days use per acre as noted in samples taken in 1973-74 and 1974-75. Upland game species include valley quail and tree squirrels. The area also has potential for Rio Grande turkeys. Mourning dove nesting occurs here and Lewis' woodpeckers are seasonal visitors. Resident and migratory salmonids occur in Antelope Creek and the rim associated with Antelope Creek is an important habitat for raptors and furbearers, including bald eagles. The riparian plant community along Antelope and Cameron Creeks is important habitat for resident wildlife.

The property is currently used for winter and spring grazing of cattle. The owners wish to continue this use but have been approached by developers who wish to purchase the property and subdivide the ranch into smaller acreage recreational properties, a move that could be detrimental to the stability of the local deer herd. In order to preserve the property in its current state, the owners have offered to sell a conservation easement over the property which would prevent its development and would limit future improvements to only those necessary for continued operation of the cattle ranch. The easement provides for public fishing and hunting except when cattle are grazing on the property which is generally after hunting season. The DFG has reviewed the language of the conservation easement and recommends we proceed with the acquisition to preclude possible development within this wildlife area.

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.

The property owners have agreed to sell a conservation easement over this 2,947.58+ acre property for an approved fair market value of \$221,000. The easement value represents 50% of the property's fee value. An additional \$4,000 will be required for related acquisition costs, including appraisals, title insurance and processing costs.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve this purchase of a conservation easement as proposed, allocate \$225,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned. He advised that the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association has written a letter of support for this proposal and that the property owners, Mr. and Mrs. Dick O'Sullivan, were present if there were any questions the Board members might have.

Ms. Hackney asked if there is any time of the year when cattle grazing and hunting season coincide and if so, how is it reconciled. Mr. Schmidt explained that as long as there is cattle on the property, hunting would not be allowed. Normally, cattle are off the area when hunting season is on.

There was discussion about the terms of the conservation easement, which included the provision for the State to have first right of refusal if the owners decided to sell.

Supervisor Burt Bundy of Tehama County stated the County is in complete support of this proposal and asked if there were other efforts being made to procure other conservation easements for this area. Mr. Schmidt advised there is currently no funding for this purpose and that the staff is not actively pursuing it.

Mr. Livermore asked about the discrepancy in the total holdings figure in the Tehama Wildlife Area as indicated in the text (22,946 acres) and the map (43,605 acres), and it was determined that the 22,946 acres was the total acreage acquired by the WCB for the Tehama Wildlife Area and the 43,605 acre figure was the total acreage owned by the Department of Fish and Game.

Ms. Hackney recommended approval of the proposal.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE PURCHASE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE TEHAMA WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION, TEHAMA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$225,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS BUDGETED IN THE 1983/84 FISCAL YEAR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. South Fork Kern River (Templeton) Fish Barrier, Tulare County \$32,700.00

This proposal is to reconstruct one, in a series of three, fish barriers located along the South Fork of the Kern River. This structure, which is located at Templeton Meadows, was severely damaged as a result of the heavy runoff (about 314% of normal) caused by the abnormally high snowfall during the 1982/83 winter. The locations of the three barriers were pointed out by Mr. Wentzel.

The upper stretches and tributaries of the south fork of the Kern River make up much of the original habitat of the golden trout. This trout is the official state fish, native only to a limited area in the southern Sierra Nevada mountains.

The golden trout has been transplanted to other waters, as well as outside the State, but hybridizes rather readily and does not maintain a pure strain where it can intermix with rainbow trout.

The Department of Fish and Game in recent years has increasingly focused efforts on protecting and restoring the pure strain of this unique trout in

its native habitat to ensure its perpetuation. This is a cooperative effort with the U.S. Forest Service, which manages the public lands generally encompassing the area involved. Special status and added protection to most of this area were provided fairly recently through the establishment of the Golden Trout Wilderness Area.

A serious problem to the perpetuation of golden trout here has been intrusion of brown trout that have worked their way up the South Fork Kern. Such brown trout come from populations that became established from inadvertent stocking in the lower stretches of this fork many years ago. The brown trout grow larger, are highly piscivorous, and soon dominate invaded areas to the virtual exclusion of the golden trout.

Sufficient efforts have been made to control this problem by constructing barriers to upstream passage of fish, and then removing the brown trout upstream from the barrier to demonstrate that this system will work. However, the original barriers tried were essentially low-cost, makeshift affairs that were not substantial enough to last through heavy runoff periods. One exception is the Ramshaw rock barrier which is located in a favorable site in a gorge just above Ramshaw Meadows. This barrier was built in the early 1970's by blasting rock to create a more natural and permanent structure.

The Templeton barrier was constructed by the U.S. Forest Service in 1980. At the time of its construction, it was felt that it was designed to withstand extra high runoffs, but runoffs of this year's magnitude were not anticipated. At its June 25, 1981, meeting, the Board authorized the construction of another such structure, known as the Schaeffer Fish Barrier. This structure did not sustain any damage during the recent heavy runoffs. Much of this success is owed to the fact that the river banks at this location are of solid rock, thereby allowing for a more stable and permanent anchor for the barrier sides. However, the Templeton barrier only has solid rock on the west bank (which did not fail). The east bank will require redesign which will include a larger apron faced with a separate rock-filled gabion. This will, in essence, artificially create a similar condition which exists at the Schaeffer barrier.

A series of three such structures, the Schaeffer, Templeton and Ramshaw barriers, are felt necessary to provide the margin of safety needed in case one barrier fails. If reliance is placed on protection by a single main barrier, all gains would be lost if the barrier should somehow fail. It is a slow, laborious and expensive project to remove all brown trout in the stream system above the barrier sites.

The barrier will be located about five miles upstream from the last project and about six miles downstream from the Ramshaw barrier. Because of the project location in a wilderness area, access is limited to hiking or pack animals. In addition, all work to reconstruct this facility will be by hand labor only.

Like the Schaeffer barrier project, this proposal is to contract with the USFS for most of the work to utilize their experience and expertise gained in the previous projects. It is anticipated that the USFS will administer all project work and will provide a seasonal work crew for the required labor force. The Department of Fish and Game will provide some coordination, assistance, and technical expertise.

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The operation will entail setting up a spike camp near the project for housing and feeding the 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.

A summary of estimated costs to the WCB for the work to be done is as follows:

USFS Basic Contract Costs

Site preparation	\$ 800
Gabions	1,000
Equipment rental and mileage (Helicopter)	1,200
Food supplies	6,000
Pack animals	1,200
Labor	16,000
On-site engineer & miscellaneous costs	<u>6,500</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS \$32,700

Mr. Schmidt advised that we were not able to use CCC labor because of their commitment to other high priority jobs and, also, it was learned that there was a bill recently passed that requires CCC forces be paid the same as other labor and the costs for this construction would therefore be the same as for other labor.

The Department of Fish and Game has highly recommended this project to avoid further damage to this structure which would only result in higher costs and, of course, further jeopardize the golden trout population.

The project, being a repair to an existing project, is exempt from CEQA requirements.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve this project, allocate \$32,700 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Hackney noted that the labor costs seemed disproportionately high, particularly because it does not require highly skilled labor, and she asked that staff monitor closely the labor costs and report back at a later meeting as to final costs for this project. Mr. Schmidt acknowledged that the costs were estimated high, because it is necessary to get the job done this year and there would be no time to come back to the Board for supplemental allocation if needed. Costs would be closely monitored and any funds remaining in this allocation would be recovered and restored to the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

The Chairman requested that the final costs of labor and helicopter use be included in a final accounting of the project and provided at a future meeting.

With Ms. Hackney's recommendation for approval, the following motion was made:

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SOUTH FORK KERN RIVER (TEMPLETON) FISH BARRIER, TULARE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$32,700 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORA-

TION FUNDS BUDGETED IN THE 1983/84 FISCAL YEAR; AND AUTHORIZE
STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Mouth of Mill Creek Public Access, Tehama County

\$46,000.00

The Mouth of Mill Creek Access is an existing Wildlife Conservation Board fishing access on the left bank of the Sacramento River near Los Molinos. The project, developed in 1968 by the Board, consists of a single-lane timber boat ramp, access road, parking area, restroom and fencing. These project facilities were pointed out on a map by Al Rutsch, Assistant Executive Officer.

Early this year the boat ramp was partially destroyed by high flood waters and floating debris. There was no damage to other improvements. The County has requested WCB funding to reconstruct the ramp and has also applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance, which, if approved, could amount to a maximum of 75% of the cost of reconstruction.

Staff recently inspected the facility with the county engineer. The timber type of boat ramp is well-suited to this location and there have been relatively few problems with this ramp during the fifteen years since its construction. There is general agreement that the ramp failure was due to very unusual conditions and not the result of poor siting or design. The county engineer recommends it be rebuilt as it was originally, with only some modifications for additional lateral strength. Staff concurs with the County's recommendation.

The confluence of Mill Creek nearby makes this one of the most popular fishing spots along the upper Sacramento River, and this access project is considered to be the most important and strategically located place in the county to launch a boat. The County reported the facility received 40,000 visitor days of use last year, and public inquiries are received almost daily as to when the ramp will be rebuilt.

The cost estimate for the reconstruction of the ramp is derived from the original construction cost updated to current prices using the Engineering-News Record construction cost index. Although not the entire structure needs to be rebuilt, this derivation is considered appropriate because the most expensive part of the structure, the underwater portion, is the part that needs to be replaced. To this an amount has been added for demolition of the remnant damaged structure and for contingency. A summary is given as follows:

Remove debris, l.s.	\$ 2,000
Reconstruct 70 x 18 section (5 spans)	
\$14,000 (1968) x 2.86	40,000
Contingency	<u>4,000</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$46,000

As in other projects where FEMA reimbursements might be received, the agreement with the County for this reconstruction work, if approved, will stipulate that any such reimbursements received be placed in the project account for recovery by the Board.

This project is exempt from environmental review under Section 15102, Class 2, of the State CEQA Guidelines since it involves reconstruction of an existing structure with no increase in size or use.

The county engineer has prepared the plans and specifications. If approved, the County would bid out the work and administer the construction contract. This is the procedure that was followed in the original construction. The County will continue to provide operation and maintenance of this facility, and as is the usual procedure, the O&M agreement will be extended for a long-term period.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the Mouth of Mill Creek Public Access ramp reconstruction as proposed, allocate \$46,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed with the project substantially as planned. He noted that numerous letters of support have been received, including one from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association, Los Molinos Chamber of Commerce, and various petitions with a total of 60 signatures. He also mentioned the presence of Supervisor Burt Bundy who is in support of this proposal.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE MOUTH OF MILL CREEK PUBLIC ACCESS, TEHAMA COUNTY, RAMP RECONSTRUCTION AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$46,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS BUDGETED IN THE 1983/84 FISCAL YEAR; AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Hogback Island (Steamboat Slough) Public Access, Sacramento County \$8,000.00
Funding Augmentation

In 1967, basic recreational facilities, including access road, parking, boat ramp, loading float, etc., were developed at Hogback Island in the Delta area by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the State Reclamation Board in conjunction with the construction of a unit of the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. The location of this public access was pointed out by Mr. Wentzel on a map displayed at the meeting.

After these developments, the Wildlife Conservation Board completed the public access project with other improvements, including a well and water system, and in 1968 arranged for operation and maintenance of the area through a cooperative agreement with the County of Sacramento. The area receives very heavy use in the spring through fall period and provides productive fishing most of the year.

In 1982, the well became inoperable due to a sand strata that had worsened over the years. It was recently learned that sometime during the high waters, the pump was stolen. The County prepared plans and a cost estimate for restoring the water system, filed the necessary Notice of Exemption to comply with CEQA, and on August 5, 1982, the Wildlife Conservation Board allocated \$24,000 for a new well and appurtenant facilities.

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Because of unusually high water flows, the County did not open bids for this project until June, 1983. Of the two bids received, the low bid exceeded the estimate by \$12,000.

Much of the cost overrun can be attributed to moving the pressure tank and other equipment to the new location. The County has redesigned the project, and has again gone out to bid. It is believed that the new design which includes the relocation of the well, but not the appurtenant equipment, will result in more favorable bids.

The County readvertised and opened bids yesterday with the low bid coming in with a project savings from their June bid of \$4,000, so there is now an \$8,000 shortage. Staff believes it is a much needed improvement to make this overall public use facility a viable operation which provides tremendous fishing opportunities. It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that an augmentation of \$8,000 be made to this project from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and authorize staff and the County to proceed with the project. From the County, to respond to any questions the Board might have, was Gary Rominger of the Parks Department.

In response to Mr. Livermore's question about the low estimate at the time of the original allocation, Mr. Schmidt attributed it to the economy which has improved to the point that there are not as many people looking for work as there was a year or two ago. This has been the experience for other projects not only in the state but throughout the country. At the time the estimate was made, it was considered adequate; however, bidding had to be postponed because of the high waters, and the allocation became insufficient to cover the bids.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ALLOCATE \$8,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS BUDGETED IN THE 1983/84 FISCAL YEAR TO MEET THE ADDITIONAL COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH RESTORATION OF THE WATER SYSTEM FOR THE HOGBACK ISLAND (STEAMBOAT SLOUGH) PUBLIC ACCESS, SACRAMENTO COUNTY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Franklin D. Roosevelt Pier, Alameda County
(Clay Street Pier)

Project Name Change

The Port of Oakland, the local agency responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Clay Street Pier, has requested that this pier be renamed the Franklin D. Roosevelt Pier.

This change is desirable as the pier will, in addition to providing public fishing opportunities, also provide berthing for the U.S.S. Potomac, the late President's personal yacht. This use was cleared with the Board at the time funding was authorized for this project. The Port of Oakland, through the Association for the Preservation of the Presidential Yacht Potomac, a recently formed non-profit corporation, is currently restoring this historical ship for public viewing.

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The 1981/82 budget language appropriating ERF funds to the Wildlife Conservation Board for this project and the September 2, 1981, WCB action authorizing the project, specified the name Clay Street Pier. Formal action of the Board in changing the project name is therefore considered necessary. It is felt that this name change is unique and should qualify as an exception to the Board's policy of naming projects after geographical locations.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve changing the name from Clay Street Pier to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Pier as proposed, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed accordingly.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CHANGE OF NAME FROM CLAY STREET PIER TO THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PIER AS PROPOSED; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED ACCORDINGLY.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Other Business

a. Resolution in Honor of E. C. Fullerton

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION HONORING E. C. FULLERTON BE INCLUDED IN THE RECORD OF THIS MEETING.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mr. E. C. (Charlie) Fullerton, as Director of the Department of Fish and Game, served as a member of the Wildlife Conservation Board for over eight years; and

WHEREAS, through his knowledge and interest in wildlife matters he has furthered the objectives of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the welfare of the wildlife resources of the State; and

WHEREAS, his counsel, advice and leadership drawn from a long career in State service will be missed by the many people associated with the work of the Board; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Interim Committee and the Board staff convey our sincere appreciation to Mr. Fullerton for these noteworthy contributions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we express our best wishes as he continues his career with the Department of Fish and Game; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board, and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Mr. Fullerton.

b. Legislation affecting the Wildlife Conservation Board

Mr. Schmidt provided the following report on legislation affecting the WCB.

The first such legislation was AB 927 which the Board members had requested staff to pursue in November of 1982 to provide continuous appropriation for the WCB and which Assemblyman Norman Waters had agreed to carry. This bill went all the way through the legislature to the Governor's desk, and then it was vetoed on the recommendation of the Department of Finance. Mr. Schmidt asked if it was the desire of the Board members to have staff pursue the securing of continuous appropriation for the WCB. Ms. Hackney believed it would be appropriate for staff to continue working with the legislature on such legislation, and it was the consensus of the other Board members that staff pursue it at the next legislative session.

The second piece of legislation, AB 2099, Assemblyman Sam Farr, which provides \$25 million for general wildlife habitat acquisition, has passed the Assembly and is now sitting in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. It will not be heard now until January. It was Ms. Hackney's contention that the administration has not taken a position to oppose AB 2099. They have not yet resolved the ceiling or overall funding amount or the distribution of the funds within the bill. There is open dialogue relative to provisions of the bill, and the administration would appreciate hearing from affected entities. She suggested staff be allowed to testify for the \$25 million provided in this bill. The Board members expressed concurrence in this suggestion, and the Chairman ordered that the Executive Officer testify on behalf of the Wildlife Conservation Board.

The third bill, SB 512, ^{Senator Gary Hart} ~~Senator Sam Farr~~, the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Issue which provides \$55 million for the WCB of the \$85 million total bond issue has passed both houses and is on its way to the Governor's office for action. The administration has taken a neutral position on the bill. On the suggestion of Ms. Hackney and the consensus of the Board, staff was requested to prepare for the Board Chairman a letter to the Governor recommending signing of this bill.

Mr. Carper stated that in connection with the continuous appropriation legislation, an effort be made to increase the funding from the \$750,000 which is the amount set up almost 30 years ago.

In view of the comments made by the Board members, the Chairman ordered staff to prepare for the Wildlife Conservation Board letters in support of AB 2099 and SB 512 and to make an effort to have legislation introduced which would provide continuous appropriation for support of the Board program.

Ms. Hackney asked to make a comment in regard to Item 5 of the agenda, the Butte Slough Wildlife Area proposal. She believed we may want to look closer on the use of WCB funds to build fences around gas wells, and suggested consideration be given to secure legislation if that were necessary to reimburse the WCB for such purposes.

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Mr. Schmidt indicated the purpose of that fencing was not to fence the gas wells, but to fence the parking area to preclude the public's cars from getting to the wells and also with relocation of the gate, it would permit the public to park in appropriate places on the wildlife area without precluding the servicing of the gas wells.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Livermore at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. John Schmidt

W. John Schmidt
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on September 16, 1983, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$54,497,812.30. 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	\$10,793,030.47
b. Fish Habitat Development	5,103,637.42
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$2,891,712.39
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	404,082.62
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	439,503.32
4. Marine Habitat	497,957.20
5. Fish Screens, Ladders & Weir Projects	870,381.89
c. Fishing Access Projects	17,799,748.05
1. Coastal and Bay Access	1,773,428.74
2. River and Aqueduct Access	4,209,374.26
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	3,936,166.50
4. Piers	7,880,778.55
d. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e. Wildlife Habitat Development and Improvement Projects	19,389,464.30
1. Wildlife Areas	18,599,170.00
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	790,294.30
f. Hunting Access	546,069.66
g. Miscellaneous Projects	635,467.91
s. Special Project Allocations	83,500.00
Total Allocated to Projects	\$54,497,812.30

STATUS OF FUNDS

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Unallocated balance at beginning of 9/16/83 meeting	\$4,297,988.26
Less allocations	- 438,000.00
Unallocated balance at end of 9/16/83 meeting	\$3,859,988.26