

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

Minutes of Special Meeting, August 1, 1984

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 1145 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California. Acting Chairman, Jack C. Parnell, called the special meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Jack C. Parnell Acting Chairman  
Nancy Ordway Member

ABSENT: Dr. William A. Burke Chairman  
Assemblyman Jim Costa Joint Interim Committee  
Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg " " "  
Assemblyman Norman Waters " " "  
Senator Barry Keene " " "  
Senator Robert Presley " " "  
Senator David Roberti " " "

STAFF PRESENT:

W. John Schmidt Executive Officer  
Alvin G. Rutsch Assistant Executive Officer  
Alma Koyasako Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dennis E. Johansen Commissioner, Port San Luis Harbor District  
Ken Jenkins Port San Luis Harbor District  
Mrs. Johansen San Luis Obispo

2. Avila Fishing Pier, San Luis Obispo County \$500,000.00

Mr. John Schmidt, Executive Officer of the Wildlife Conservation Board, reported that this special meeting was called to consider the Port San Luis Harbor District proposal for repair of the Avila Pier. It is a proposal to repair and reconstruct the pier on a matching fund basis under the Wildlife Conservation Board's fishing pier program. Funds for this purpose have been included in the Board's 1984/85 Major Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$500,000.

The pier is located in Avila Beach, a small unincorporated community of 800 people near San Luis Obispo. The town's population is swelled greatly by an influx of over 800,000 visitors each year, primarily during the warm summer months. The area is especially popular with young people and college students.

The pier was originally constructed in 1908 by the County of San Luis Obispo as a fishing and passenger wharf and later became part of the Avila Beach State Park. Since 1950 the County has operated the pier under a 50-year agreement with the

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State Department of Parks and Recreation, but last year the Port District assumed jurisdiction of the pier, as well as the beach and a 2½ acre parking lot by agreement with the County.

Mr. Al Rutsch provided detailed information on the proposed work for repair of the 1,635 foot-long wooden pier which was extensively damaged in the March, 1983, storm and which has been closed to the public since that time. He stated there are two complete breaches on the main stem of the pier; one is 60 feet and the other 75 feet in length. A 140 foot-long section is also missing from the end of the pier. The remainder of the pier, though basically sound, needs repairs, bracing and general renovation to bring it up to current standards and codes. He indicated that Ken Jenkins from the Port San Luis Harbor District was present if additional technical information was required.

Mr. Schmidt continued that the Avila Pier, like many of the State's coastal piers damaged in the 1983 storms, qualifies for funding assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). WCB funds, matched by the District, would be used to cover the non-federal share of the project costs. This would be the seventh such public fishing pier to be reconstructed in this manner since March, 1983. Two additional pier repair projects have funds budgeted but not yet allocated by the Board.

The pier in the past was heavily used by anglers of all ages, as well as general recreationists and sightseers. The Department's 1982 fisheries survey indicated that the nearby Port San Luis Pier was the heaviest utilized fishing pier in the County. It is expected that when reconstructed, this pier would be almost as popular for fishing as the Port San Luis (Hanford) Pier, if not more so. It should provide excellent opportunity for catching the pelagic species moving through the area, as well as those that are located there year-round.

The District is interested in completing much of the repair work this fall so as to prevent possible further loss or damage from storms this winter. They have, therefore, already received bids for the work, but will not award the contract until the Board has allocated the funds and the necessary agreements have been executed and approved.

It is expected that when reconstructed to current standards and codes as planned, the pier will be better able to survive storms such as the ones recently experienced. A portion of the pier deck will be raised four feet and batter piles will be driven for lateral support. In addition, pile stirrups and stringer clamps will be used to prevent dislocation of structural components during the unusual stresses caused by high winds and waves.

Improvements such as a restroom, fish cleaning table, and benches are also included in the project, although there will be no federal funding for these items.

The District has adopted a resolution in support of the Avila Pier reconstruction project which affirms the District's willingness to lease the structure to the Department of Fish and Game for a 25 year term and to assume all maintenance and operation responsibilities during this period. The District would also provide

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for the contract administration and engineering. As lead agency, the District has determined that this pier reconstruction effort is exempt from the CEQA process, and a Notice of Exemption has been filed in accordance with the Act.

A cost estimate has been submitted by the District which details the cost and funding breakdown as follows:

Pier repair (labor bid & materials est.) .....	\$1,200,000
Contract contingencies 15% .....	<u>180,000</u>
Subtotal, contract work .....	\$1,380,000
Contingency, undetected damage, 25% .....	345,000
Utilities, lights and water .....	<u>80,000</u>
Subtotal, pier reconstruction .....	\$1,805,000
FEMA reimbursements .....	<u>- 983,000</u>
Subtotal, non-federal costs .....	\$ 822,000
Benches & fish cleaning table .....	12,000
Public restroom (Incl. sewer line & pump) .....	<u>100,000</u>
Subtotal, District/State Construction Cost	\$ 934,000
Administration & Engineering, 7% .....	<u>66,000</u>
Total, District/State Project Cost .....	\$1,000,000
Total, WCB costs (50%) .....	\$ 500,000

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the Avila Fishing Pier reconstruction project as proposed, allocate \$500,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

Ken Jenkins was asked when the project would be finished, and he responded the repair work could be completed in eight to 10 months if the weather is mild. If there are severe storms, there would be some anticipated downtime, and stated that they would like to get as much work done before start of bad weather.

Mr. Johansen commented that there were problems relative to pier jurisdiction which were necessary to resolve before coming to the Board for funding, and that staff did everything possible to get this project on the Board agenda immediately after budget approval. They would like to avoid additional storm damage and he expressed appreciation for allowing this early special hearing.

Ms. Ordway commented that this pier repair work is in the approved Governor's budget and therefore the administration recommends it.

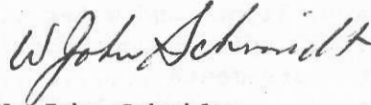
IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE AVILA FISHING PIER RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$500,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE PORT SAN LUIS HARBOR DISTRICT FOR CONSTRUCTION THEREOF; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Acting Chairman Parnell.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt  
Executive Officer