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

Minutes, Meeting of April 10, 1985

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Minutes, Meeting of April 10, 1985

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 223 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on April 10, 1985. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chairman William Burke.

1. Roll Call

<u>PRESENT:</u>	William A. Burke, Ed.D.	Chairman
	Jack C. Parnell	Member
	Nancy Ordway	Member
	Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblyman Norman S. Waters	" " "
	Senator Robert Presley	" " "

<u>ABSENT:</u>	Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator David Roberti	" " "
	Assemblyman Jim Costa	" " "

STAFF PRESENT:

W. John Schmidt	Executive Officer
Alvin G. Rutsch	Assist. Exec. Officer
John Wentzel	Field Agent
James V. Sarro	Senior Land Agent
Howard Dick	Land Agent
Frank D. Kotey	Land Agent
Marylyn Gzmys	Accountant
Nancy Pinaglia	Stenographer
Alma Koyasako	Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kip Wiley	Senator Keene's Office
Jeff Arthur	Sen. Presley's Office
Rick Dunne	Sen. Roberti's Office
Edna Maita	Assemblyman Costa's Office
Larry Weeks	Dept. of Fish and Game
Tim Goodman	Del Norte Co. Parks & Rec. Department
Ken Hashagen	Dept. of Fish and Game
Paul Jensen	" " "
Bill Townsend	Ukiah, CA.
Michael Morford	Willits, CA
Mike Ferguson	BLM
Ron McClellan	San Mateo Co. Harbor Dist.
W. C. Caryl	" " " " "
Deborah Jensen	Dept. of Fish and Game
E. W. Mittenburg	Supervisor, Mono County
Vince Vandre	Dept. of Fish and Game

Because of the necessity to change the meeting room from the originally scheduled Room 2040, the Chairman announced that a few of the agenda items may be considered out of order to allow interested people more time to find the new room.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. W. John Schmidt, Executive Officer, advised that the minutes of the January 3, 1985, meeting have been published and circulated, and that there are no omissions or corrections to be made.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 1985, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Funding Status

Mr. Schmidt provided the following information relative to the funding status, advising that no action was necessary or required.

a. 1984/85 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$3,129,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-962,832.51
Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting .	\$2,166,167.49

b. 1983/84 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$4,038,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-3,298,695.00
Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting ...	\$739,305.00

c. 1976 State, Urban and Coastal Park Fund

1. Coastal Wetlands

Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting	\$296.79
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2. Interior Wetlands -0-

3. Development

Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting	\$32,000.00
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d. 1984/85 Environmental License Plate Fund

Governor's Budget	\$3,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,647,100.00
Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting ...	\$1,352,900.00

e. 1984/85 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund

Governor's Budget.....	\$12,100,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,999,400.00
Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting ...	<u>\$10,100,600.00</u>

4. Recovery of Funds

The following projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to the Wildlife Restoration Fund. It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the total amount of \$5,144.28 be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund and the project accounts be closed.

Pinto Lake

Allocation	\$196,000.00
Expended	<u>-195,214.02</u>
Balance for Recovery	785.98
(Federal LWCF reimbursement received - \$87,313.10)	

Camp Cady Wildlife Area Expansion

Allocation	\$36,026.30
Expended	<u>-34,965.80</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,060.50

Noyo River Fishing Access Road

Allocation	\$1,200.00
Expended	<u>-1,162.40</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$37.60

Napa Marsh - North of Fly Bay

Allocation	\$53,994.58
Expended	<u>-53,861.88</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$132.70

Tehama Wildlife Area

Allocation	\$95,000.00
Expended	<u>-93,745.70</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,254.30

Butte Slough Wildlife Area

Allocation	\$1,700.00
Expended	<u>-883.68</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$816.32

Vallejo Fishing Pier

Allocation	\$58,500.00
Expended	<u>-57,516.28</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$983.72

Antioch Bridge Pier

Allocation	\$15,000.00
Expended	<u>-14,926.84</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$73.16

TOTAL WRF RECOVERIES \$5,144.28

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

Pinto Lake, Santa Cruz	\$785.98
Camp Cady WLA Exp., S.Bdo. Co.	1,060.50
Noyo River Fishing Access Rd., Mendocino Co. ..	37.60
Napa Marsh-No. of Fly Bay, Marin Co. ..	132.70
Tehama WLA, Tehama County	1,254.30
Butte Slough WLA, Sutter County	816.32
Vallejo Fishing Pier, Solano County ..	983.72
Antioch Bridge Pier, Contra Costa Co. .	73.16

THE TOTAL SUM OF \$5,144.28 IS TO BE RECOVERED TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Public Access, Monterey County \$13,750.00
(No. 8 on the Agenda)

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Department of Fish and Game has requested the Board consider an allocation for the purpose of making improvements at the Moss Landing Wildlife Area for improved public access.

Mr. Rutsch explained the problem and the need for providing this access, using a map displayed at the meeting.

The area, a 554 acre parcel acquired by the Board last year, is adjacent to the north bank of Elkhorn Slough east of State Highway 1 and opposite the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary. It is scheduled to be formally designated as a State Wildlife Area by the Fish and Game Commission at their August meeting.

The public access development plan is to construct a 1/4 mile access road from the highway, a small parking area, a trail, several wildlife observation blinds and fencing.

As originally acquired, the property had an undeveloped legal access right-of-way off of State Highway 1, but the access is on the inside of a blind curve and poses significant traffic hazards if utilized by the general public. The Department does intend to use this access as a service entrance on an infrequent basis, but does not plan to use it at all for public access.

The adjacent landowner has generally offered to assist in this development. He has agreed to grant a permanent easement over a portion of his ranch property along the eastern border of the wildlife area, said easement to include both the road and parking area as well as the trail system. He will also donate material for some of the fencing, the viewing blinds and trail boardwalks and provide a dozer and operator to grade the road, parking area and trail.

The cost of the donated material, equipment and labor is estimated at about \$8,550, not including the value of the viewing structures and the easement, for which no figures were available.

The Department estimates \$13,750 is needed for fencing and gravel to complete the project as planned. There will be no cost for labor as agreement has been reached with the California Conservation Corps to utilize a crew stationed at the adjacent Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary for the project construction.

The cost estimate breakdown is shown as follows:

Fencing	\$8,800
Gravel	2,600
Culvert	300
Signs and displays	600
Administrative costs	<u>1,450</u>
 TOTAL	 \$13,750

It has been determined that this project, consisting of small structures and minor alterations in the condition of land, water, or vegetation, is exempt from CEQA (Section 15303, Class 3 and Section 15304, Class 4) and a Notice of Exemption has been filed pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act.

The Department will supervise the development work after the easement has been obtained and maintain the project after its completion.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board approve the Moss Landing Wildlife Area Public Access project, allocate \$13,750 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and authorize staff and the Department to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE MOSS LANDING WILDLIFE AREA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT, MONTEREY COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$13,750 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Assemblyman Norman Waters and Rick Dunne who had just come in to the meeting were recognized and introduced at this time.)

6. Pine Creek Reservoir, Modoc County Scope Change
(No. 9 on the agenda)

On September 16, 1983, the WCB allocated \$68,600 to restore and improve the Pine Creek Reservoir project. U.S. Soil Conservation Service also provided \$95,300 for this project. Original project facilities, acquired by the WCB in 1957 and made operational in 1962, consisted of a diversion dam about 4,400 feet of pipeline and 14,200 feet of ditch terminating at a 12-acre reservoir.

On September 17, 1984, five bids were opened, with the lowest of the five exceeding the available funds by \$83,450. The bids were rejected.

In January, 1985, the SCS had a well drilled near the reservoir site to a depth in excess of 500 feet. From the small amount of water available, coupled with the excessive lift, it was concluded that the well would not provide a feasible water source.

It has been determined by SCS engineer, however, that storm flows intercepted by the supply ditch would be adequate to fill the reservoir in nine out of ten years. It filled in the fall of 1984 in two days.

Mr. Schmidt advised that SCS has now proposed, and staff concurs, that the project as originally approved, should again be advertised for construction, but with an alternate that would include only the work at the reservoir (silt removal, fill, parking, access, portable restrooms, fencing, and vegetation). A firm cost estimate for alternate work was unavailable but would be lower than the funds originally allocated for this project (\$68,600). It is estimated that the Board's participation would be approximately \$50,000.00.

It was recommended by Mr. Schmidt that the Board amend its previous approval of the Pine Creek Reservoir project to permit the awarding of a contract for the alternate proposal, should the bids be too high for the full scale project.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AMEND ITS PREVIOUS ACTION FOR THE PINE CREEK RESERVOIR, MODOC COUNTY, TO PERMIT THE AWARDING OF A CONTRACT FOR THE ALTERNATE PROPOSAL SHOULD THE BIDS BE TOO HIGH FOR THE FULL SCALE PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Humboldt Bay, Bracut Tidelands, Humboldt County \$750.00
(No. 11 on agenda)

This proposal is for the acquisition of 200+ acres of intertidal mudflats on the east side of Humboldt Bay, between Eureka and Arcata. The location of the subject project was pointed out to the Board members by Jim Sarro, Senior Land Agent.

The DFG has indicated this habitat type is probably the most productive in Humboldt Bay in terms of water-associated bird use. The high density of invertebrates in the substrate provides the primary food source for thousands of shorebirds that pass through or winter in the Bay. The area is also important for marine resources, including crabs, clams and some 95 species of fish. Seals and sea lions also utilize the area.

The subject 200 acres is adjacent to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Area, and its acquisition would allow greatly expanded opportunities for public use through waterfowl hunting, fishing, clamming, birdwatching and other outdoor recreational activities.

This property was offered to the Department as a donation in November of 1984, with the condition being that it be accepted before the end of the calendar year. Given the extremely difficult time constraints for formal State acceptance, staff obtained the assistance of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a qualifying organization for purposes of the donor's receiving tax-deductible donation credit. TNC accepted the property during 1984 and now has delivered the necessary papers to allow a transfer to the State. The estimated value of the property is \$30,000 (\$150 per acre). The cost to the State would be \$200 to cover TNC's out-of-pocket expenses, plus \$550 to cover the costs of State transaction review, title insurance and closing.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Management would be by the DFG, and it is contemplated that management expenses would be, at most, nominal. No development is contemplated. The acquisition of this area has been recommended by both the Department of Fish and Game and the State Coastal Commission.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$750 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund for acquisition of wetlands within the coastal zone for payment of the purchase price and costs and authorize staff to proceed substantially as outlined.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AS PROPOSED AT HUMBOLDT BAY, BRACUT TIDELANDS, HUMBOLDT COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$750 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Coastal Wetlands) FOR PROCESSING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Yellow Creek Habitat Protection, Plumas County \$13,500.00
(No. 14 on agenda)

Ms. Nancy Ordway, Chief Deputy Director of Finance, was introduced at this time.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Department of Fish and Game is seeking WCB funds to complete fencing of meadow lands in Humbug Valley on Yellow Creek, tributary of the North Fork of the Feather River in Plumas County. The location of the subject area was pointed out on a map by John Wentzel, Field Agent.

Yellow Creek has long been recognized as an outstanding trout stream and an 8 mile canyon section below the meadow lands was officially designated by the Fish and Game Commission as a "Wild Trout Stream" in 1972. More recently, the meadow portion (Humbug Valley) was designated as a "catch and release" trout stream under the Trout and Steelhead Conservation Management and Planning Act of 1979. This section of stream is presently being managed with restrictive regulations which reflect its capacity to produce large wild trout.

Meadow portions of Yellow Creek are largely owned by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) which has leased grazing rights to a cattle rancher. Grazing cattle have caused extensive damage to riparian habitat on Yellow Creek and trout production has been severely impacted as a direct result of the ensuing bank erosion.

In recognition of the importance of Yellow Creek as a wild trout resource, California Trout, a private non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of California's trout resources provided about \$32,000 of private monies to erect 2.4 miles of cedar split-rail fence, along 1.2 miles of stream. The project was completed in 1984 in cooperation with DFG personnel and a work crew from the California Conservation Corps (CCC). Most of the work, including supervision of CCC crews, was performed by outside personnel. A map showing fenced and unfenced portions of meadow stream and a picture of a portion of stream fenced in 1984 was provided to the Board members for review at the meeting.

The DFG, Cal Trout and voluntary help solicited by Cal Trout will provide all labor and equipment needed to complete this fencing project. Verbal permission to construct remaining fences has been obtained from both PG&E and the cattle rancher, and board staff will obtain the necessary easement from the landowner prior to construction.

Because of the voluntary help and the fact that some 380 cedar posts remain from the work conducted in 1984, this proposal presents a unique opportunity to improve habitat on an important meadow trout stream at nominal cost. It is expected that all work can be completed by early summer.

The cost of fencing the remaining one mile of stream in the meadow and of obtaining the necessary land rights as prepared by the DFG is as follows:

Easement processing costs and tractor rental....	\$ 650
Cedar posts and rails	12,200
Wire, hardware and miscellaneous	650
Total Estimated Cost ..	\$13,500

This project is exempt from CEQA provisions under both Class 1 and Class 13, and the Notice of Exemption has been filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve the Yellow Creek project, allocate \$13,500 therefor from the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund of 1984 as designated for the restoration of waterways, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned,

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PARNELL, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE YELLOW CREEK HABITAT PROTECTION PROJECT, PLUMAS COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$13,500 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUNDS (Waterway Restoration); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve Expansion, Riverside Co. \$300.00
(No. 17 on agenda)

This proposal is for the acquisition of 35+ acres of inholding adjacent to the DFG's existing ownerships within the Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve. The reserve is located about 10 miles southeast of Palm Springs and consists primarily of blowsands which are the habitat of the endangered Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard.

Mr. Sarro advised that the WCB, utilizing various available funds, has acquired about 610 acres for the reserve to date. Currently, various local agencies, developers, and most particularly, The Nature Conservancy, are vigorously proceeding with an acquisition plan which will expand the reserve to a contemplated size of about 10,000 acres, all utilizing private funding sources.

The particular 35 acres in this proposal is bounded on three sides by DFG property and actually serves to tie together two of DFG's currently non-adjointing ownerships. It is being granted to the State by Southern

California Edison Company (SCE) as a mitigation measure pursuant to an agreement between SCE and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The value of the property is estimated to be \$105,000, based on sales of similar lands in the immediate vicinity. The cost to the State is estimated to be \$300, which consists of State processing and acquisition expenses.

Funding for these costs is available from the 1984/85 Environmental License Plate Fund, and the purchase is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes.

Interim management of the property would be by the Department, which foresees the future management to be by cooperative agreement with the various agencies involved in the overall Ecological Reserve project.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$300 from Environmental License Plate Funds to cover the expenses of the acquisition and authorize staff to proceed substantially as outlined.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE COACHELLA VALLEY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE EXPANSION, RIVERSIDE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$300 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR PROCESSING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Del Norte County Public Access Projects
(No. 5 on the Agenda)

Mr. Schmidt reported that the WCB acquired land and developed three projects in Del Norte County in the early 1960's at the request of numerous local organizations and the County. The projects were designed, engineered, and, after construction, maintained by the County through a normal WCB cooperative agreement. With over 20 years of public use, the agreements have expired and the projects are now in need of major renovations for which the County is seeking WCB funding assistance. The County has prepared preliminary plans and cost estimates, has obtained or will obtain the necessary permits and will bid out and supervise all of the construction. By resolution, the County has agreed to operate and maintain the three areas for a new 25-year period.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the three Del Norte County projects as detailed below, allocate the necessary funds for their reconstruction, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Tim Goodman, Director of the Del Norte County Parks and Recreation Department, was introduced, and he provided a brief description and benefits to be derived for upgrading the three projects.

a. Pebble Beach Fishing Access \$24,100.00

This 8.5 acre site is located adjacent to the ocean, a short distance west of the City of Crescent City. The development was completed in 1964 and included a restroom and water system, parking, walkway, and stairway to the beach. Clamming, surf fishing and rock fishing are popular at this site, which also offers spectacular ocean views from the parking area.

Severe storms the past few years have caused damage to the restroom, the sidewalk leading thereto, and to the concrete stairs to the beach. It is planned to replace the restroom with a waterless sanitation unit, thereby eliminating the need for a septic system.

The County has determined the project is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 1(d), and has filed the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

Staff has reviewed the plans and cost estimate prepared by the County and found them adequate. The estimate is as follows:

Site preparation.....	\$ 2,500
Restroom	11,000
Access walk and stair	4,000
Railing and fence	2,200
Parking area, reseal	1,500
Signs and waste receptacles	700
Subtotal	<u>\$21,900</u>
Admin. and Engineering, 10%	<u>2,200</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$24,100

The County will continue the maintenance of project facilities, free to the public, and at no further cost to the State after completion.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE RECONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES AT PEBBLE BEACH FISHING ACCESS, DEL NORTE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$24,100 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Point St. George (North Beach) Fishing Access \$27,650.00

This two acre site, a few miles northwest of Crescent City, was acquired and developed in 1961 and consisted of grading and graveling an access road and parking area, installing drainage facilities and fencing. The site provides access to the nearby North Beach, which extends north for several miles and produces very good clamming, mainly razor clams, one of the most desirable species for eating, and surf fishing.

The County has determined the project is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 1(d), and has filed the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

Plans and cost estimates prepared by the County have been reviewed by staff and found to be in order. The estimate is as follows:

Pave and stripe parking area	\$17,500
Pave access road	7,500
Refurbish sign	100
Admin. and Engineering, 10%	2,550
TOTAL	<u>\$27,650</u>

After construction, the County would continue to maintain project facilities free to the public and at no additional cost to the State.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE RECONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES AT POINT ST. GEORGE (NORTH BEACH) FISHING ACCESS, DEL NORTE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$27,650 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Smith River Fishing Access \$49,900.00

This three acre site was acquired and development completed by the WCB in early 1964. Included were a two-lane boat launching ramp, restroom, well and water system, parking area, electricity, and fencing.

The Smith River is renowned state-wide for its very large salmon and steelhead fishery. In fact, the record California steelhead was caught in this stream. Although located in an extremely heavy rainfall belt, the Smith clears up rapidly after storms and is fishable when most other coastal rivers remain murky. The existing site is the only publicly owned launching facility on the Smith, and needless to say, is heavily used by local and visiting fishermen.

It is proposed to make general improvements to this facility including a new restroom that would be equipped with handicapped accessible features, improve water system, shore-up ramp, and seal parking area.

The County has determined the project is exempt from CEQA under Class 1 (d), and has filed the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

Preliminary plans and cost estimate submitted by the County have been reviewed and approved by staff. The cost estimate is as follows:

Site preparation	\$ 2,200
Restroom	30,000
Pumphouse	1,000
Parking area, reseal	3,000
Riprap	3,000
Fencing	3,000
Utilities	2,000
Signs and litter cans	1,100
Subtotal	<u>\$45,400</u>
Admin. and Engineering 10%	<u>4,500</u>
 TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	 \$49,900

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE RECONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES AT THE SMITH RIVER FISHING ACCESS, DEL NORTE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$49,900 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Pillar Point Fishing Pier, San Mateo County \$160,000.00
(No. 6 on Agenda)

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is for the development of a fishing access on an inner breakwater of Pillar Point Harbor and includes a walkway on the breakwater and three short piers extending from the walkway into the outer harbor waters.

The San Mateo County Harbor District has requested WCB funding for this development under the Board's cooperative fishing pier program, and has submitted a resolution agreeing to match WCB funds, lease the project lands to the DFG, and maintain the project in accordance with program requirements.

Pillar Point Harbor, located just three miles north of Half Moon Bay and 18 miles south of San Francisco on the San Mateo County coast, is expanding its marina and commercial fishing services to meet the demands of the growing San Francisco peninsula and greater Bay Area community. The expanding marina activities in the protected inner harbor and on the existing Johnson Pier have reduced fishing access opportunities for the shore or pier angler. This project would rectify this situation by providing a new and safe area exclusively for fishing purposes.

Mr. Rutsch described the proposed pier as a 725 foot long, 5-foot wide concrete walk to be constructed on the crest of the north inner rock breakwater, leading from Capistrano Road, which directly connects with State Highway 1 a short quarter mile to the east. Three identical short piers will be constructed along the walkway each being 50 feet long by 8 foot wide with an 18-foot octagonal end platform. The piers will have wood decks and handrails supported by laminated wood girders on pre-cast concrete or steel piles.

Each pier will be modestly equipped with two benches, a fish cleaning table, water and lighting. In addition to providing fishing access to such species, (according to DFG) as rock crabs, surfperch, jacksmelt and anchovies, the piers will offer opportunities for passive observers of the harbor environment, including its wildlife and other activities.

The walkway and piers will be accessible to the handicapped, either from Capistrano Road or from an adjacent parking area. For safety, the walkway will have a rail along both sides and will also be lighted. A public restroom, presently under construction, is conveniently located between the parking area and the pier access walkway.

Mr. Schmidt continued the report by stating the Department has commented favorably on this proposal and has included the recommendation that the walkways be extended even further out and that additional piers be constructed into the deeper water at the end of the breakwater. Expansion of the project is not being recommended at this time, however, because of cost considerations. If there is a demonstrated need for extension of the walkway or piers after a period of use, and if the District so desires, plan for such extension could later be presented for Board consideration.

The total cost of the project as estimated by the District is \$320,000, with the WCB share \$160,000. If federal Land and Water Conservation funds are available, staff would plan to apply for reimbursement of the joint project costs and share such reimbursement with the District on a proportionate basis.

The cost breakdown for the walkway and three piers in 1984 costs, with an allowance for cost escalation is given as follows:

Mobilization	\$15,000
Piling, 14" diam. x 40'	11,100
Structural concrete (caps)	13,500
Timber girders, decking & railing	79,500
Electrical-conduit,wire & fixtures	27,900
Water line and fixtures	12,700
Fish cleaning tables	1,500
Benches	6,000
Concrete walkway	24,800
Walkway railing	26,500
Subtotal	<u>\$218,500</u>
Contingencies, 15%	33,000
Admin. & Engineering, 10%	22,000
Inflation allowance, 2 yrs.@ 8% .	46,500
Total Estimated Cost	<u>\$320,000</u>
WCB Share, 50%	\$160,000

Preliminary plans have been prepared by the District. If approved as proposed, agreements for the construction as well as the lease and maintenance of the project would be entered into in the usual manner, and the District would complete final plans and bid out the project. Any WCB funds remaining after project completion would be recovered by the Board at a later date.

The Harbor District has adopted and filed a final EIR for the harbor expansion project currently underway. Since the pier project is an element of that document, the CEQA process has been satisfied.

Mr. Schmidt noted that staff from the San Mateo County Harbor District were present to respond to any questions the Board might have and then made the recommendation that the Board, with consideration of the EIR filed in compliance with CEQA, approve the Pillar Point Fishing Pier project as proposed, allocate \$160,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund on a matching basis with the San Mateo County Harbor District, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE PILLAR POINT FISHING PIER, SAN MATEO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION \$160,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Assemblyman Phil Isenberg, who had just come in to the meeting, was introduced.)

12. Glenn-Colusa Fish Screen, Glenn County \$40,900.00
(No. 7 on agenda)

This is a funding request by the Department of Fish and Game to modify the Glenn-Colusa fish screen on the Sacramento River near Hamilton City. A natural shift in the channels of the Sacramento River has impaired operation of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District pumping plant and disrupted the DFG's fish screens effort there.

Due to the lack of bypass water, the screen, built at a cost of 2.6 million dollars in 1972, was essentially inoperative in 1984 and it appears unlikely this situation will improve in the future. A significant portion of the downstream migrant chinook salmon fingerlings produced in the Sacramento River and the production from Coleman Hatchery are subject to loss in this two to three thousand c.f.s. diversion that takes about twenty-five percent of the river's flow.

John Wentzel explained in detail the problems involved here in attempting to save the downstream migrant salmon fingerlings, and the function of the fish screen and fish trap.

Mr. Schmidt continued that although the DFG will continue to explore ways to correct the bypass water problem with the Bureau of Reclamation and the District, the best solution at this time is to build a fish trap in one of the bays of the fish screen. The first phase of the plan is to replace one of the 40 rotary drum screens with a stationary trap. The trap will consist of a 32-foot section installed in a single screen bay and an 8 by 16 foot floating section attached to that. The floating section can be disconnected and moved to bank access where fish will be

transferred to a waiting truck. The fish will be hauled to a downstream location with equipment supplied by the Feather River Hatchery.

Once the trap is fully operational, test will be conducted to determine overall efficiency. If a significant number of salmon fingerlings are successfully trapped in the April-June 1986 period, a larger, more permanent unit, possibly utilizing four screen bays, might eventually be needed to complete the screen modification project. This would include funds to either build a pipeline to divert the fish to the river or to purchase a fish truck.

It is planned to have the trap fabrication and installation work done by department personnel at the Glenn-Colusa Fish Screen and Elk Grove Screen Shop and to complete the project by late summer.

The following cost estimate was prepared by the department and reviewed by staff:

Materials and Equipment

Stationary trap	\$5,500
Wiper system	4,500
Floating trap	3,200
Rotary drum screen	2,400
Fish pump (Nielsen or Aqua-harvester)	15,300
Total materials and equipment	<u>\$30,900</u>

Labor

1920 hours seasonal aid	<u>\$10,000</u>
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TOTAL COST	\$40,900
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The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA under Class 1(h) maintenance or repair of fish screens, and the Notice of Exemption has been filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve this project, allocate \$40,900 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Assemblyman Isenberg recommended approval of this project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE GLENN-COLUSA FISH SCREEN, GLENN COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$40,900 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Slinkard/Little Antelope Valley Wildlife Area Expansion, \$277,200.00
Mono County (No. 10 on the Agenda)

This proposal is to acquire a privately owned inholding located within the Slinkard/Little Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, Mono County. The original acquisition containing 10,800+ acres was approved by the Board at its April 24, 1978, meeting. This additional acquisition has been given a very high priority recommendation by the Department of Fish and Game.

The parcel proposed for purchase is located within the Little Antelope Valley portion of the wildlife area and contains a total of 160+ acres. The wildlife area, as Frank Kotey, Land Agent, indicated on a map displayed at the meeting, lies on the lower, eastern slopes of the Sierra-Nevada mountains, in northern Mono County, centered about 20 miles northerly of Bridgeport. State Highway 395 is located about 1 1/4 miles east of the property.

Overall, the wildlife area extends about 14 miles in a north-south direction. Access is available to all parcels via State Highway 395, county roads and USFS roads. It includes mountainous and mountain meadow or valley terrain and has natural springs and/or streams on all portions.

The parcel proposed for acquisition includes a part of the winter range for the West Walker deer herd. A decrease in this deer populaion has been recorded in recent years. Part of this decrease has been attributed to the increase in cattle grazing and the conversion of native vegetation to grassland for livestock grazing on these parcels. However, the property still supports important browse plants for deer including bitterbrush, big sage, and desert peach, and there is a potential for restoration of such native plants.

This parcel has been considered for subdivision and there is no doubt that such use would eventually be approved if public acquisition is not completed. This, of course, would seriously degrade the natural values of this area for deer and other wildlife habitat, and for public use, and would have a detrimental effect on much of the existing wildlife area.

In addition to protecting deer winter range values, this acquisition will provide additional recreational opportunities to the public, such as deer and other hunting, fishing, hiking, and various other outdoor recreation.

This property will be managed by the Department of of Fish and Game as part of the existing wildlife area, possibly on a cooperative basis with BLM and/or the USFS in view of the adjacent landownership of these agencies. It appears that little, if any, additional development of the property will be necessary for management and recreational purposes.

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 and preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition. Funding for this purchase is available in the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

The owners of the parcel are receptive to nothing less than conveyance of their full interest in the property upon payment of fair market value. Said value (\$272,000) is based on an appraisal prepared at the request of the State by an independent fee appraiser. The Department of General Services appraisal is \$248,000, and they would not approve the fee appraiser's valuation which is 8% more, a difference which is considered insignificant by staff in real estate negotiations. Mr. Schmidt noted there are several alternatives: (1) commission another appraiser to appraise the property which would serve no purpose and would cost more; (2) do nothing, which would continue the management problems faced by the Department presently; or (3) institute condemnation action which is against Board policy and would ultimately cost more. He recommended the Board authorize staff to seek an administrative settlement to avoid any future problems and possible future litigation. He acknowledged that this is an unusual situation, but believed the settlement of \$272,000 as the equitable purchase price would be in the best interest of the State.

Assemblyman Isenberg and Kip Wiley from Senator Keene's office, voiced approval of this recommendation.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE SLINKARD/LITTLE ANTELOPE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION, MONO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$277,200 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS TO EFFECT ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENT THAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE FAIR AND EQUITABLE TO BOTH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PROPOSED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Elkhorn Slough Wetlands, Monterey County \$185,000.00
(No. 12 on agenda)

This proposal is to acquire a 54.56+ acre parcel located on the east bank of Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County. More specifically, the parcel is located on the westerly side of Elkhorn Road, between two existing WCB projects, Kirby Park Public Access to the north and Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary to the south. Most of the property is marsh-pasture (46.31 ac.) and the remaining 8.25 acres is upland which generally bound three sides of this rectangularly shaped ownership. The entire property is currently used for grazing cattle. Although this parcel adjoins the Sanctuary, it will not be included within the boundaries of the Sanctuary for identification purposes since these boundaries were limited during the original Federal funding process. It will, however, be identified and managed by the Department of Fish and Game as a wildlife area.

Howard Dick pointed out on a map the various ownerships in Elkhorn Slough, a shallow estuary located in northern Monterey County, about 100 miles south of San Francisco. The estuary joins the ocean at Moss Landing Harbor, a man-made small craft harbor, located on Monterey Bay, halfway between the communities of Monterey and Santa Cruz.

Mr. Schmidt advised that the subject property is very valuable as part of the overall Elkhorn Slough ecosystem. Elkhorn Slough, an integral part of the coastal arm of the Pacific Flyway provides habitat for a large number of migratory and resident water-associated birds. Over 90 species have been identified from this area. One endangered species, the California clapper rail, has been found to nest in this area and large numbers of brown pelicans rest and feed in this area on a regular basis. Census numbers indicate that Elkhorn Slough ranks among the several most important of the California coastal marshes. The area also supports high populations of invertebrates and is an important nursery and feeding area for many sport and commercial fish species.

In addition to the high wildlife value contained within the boundaries of this property and the fish and wildlife values of the adjoining slough, the property also provides very good recreational potential. This includes recreational uses of both a consumptive as well as non-consumptive nature. It will provide waterfowl hunting opportunities as well as public fishing access to the slough. In fact, the parcel has historically provided good private waterfowl hunting opportunities. In addition to these consumptive uses, this parcel as well as the whole slough area provides non-consumptive uses for such purposes as nature study, scientific research, and birdwatching, the latter of which is and will continue to be an extremely popular use of this area.

The Department of Fish and Game has placed this parcel very high on their list of coastal wetland areas which should be acquired for the future protection of its valuable resources. It has also been identified by the Coastal Commission as a priority acquisition area. Should it remain in private ownership, no assurance can be given for its continued protection.

The approved appraised value of the property is \$177,500 and it is estimated an additional \$7,500 will be required to cover processing costs including appraisal cost, title and escrow charges and General Services review costs. Funding for this acquisition is available from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Funds.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the acquisition of this 54.56+ acre parcel, allocate \$185,000 to cover the estimated acquisition and related costs from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Funds, as designated for coastal wetland projects, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Assemblyman Isenberg indicated his approval of the proposal.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE ELKHORN SLOUGH WETLANDS, MONTEREY COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$185,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUNDS (Coastal Wetlands) FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Mendota Wildlife Area - West, Fresno County \$318,000.00
(No. 13 on agenda)

This item is to consider the proposed acquisition of a total of 150+ acres of land in Fresno County, adjacent to the west side of the Mendota Wildlife Area.

The Mendota Wildlife Area, as explained by Mr. Howard Dick, is located approximately 30 miles west of Fresno via Highway 180 (Whitesbridge Road) and about 2 miles southeast of the town of Mendota. The wildlife area has frontage on Highway 180 and Santa Fe Grade Road. The acquisition of this property will provide an additional 150+ acres of land which can be easily and economically restored to wetlands, a primary goal of Proposition 19, (the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Act of 1984) which was passed by the voters in June, 1984. According to DFG, the acquisition of the 150+ acres will not increase management costs, since it can be incorporated into the existing wildlife area with existing staff. It will also provide access to an additional water source, a Westlands Water District irrigation lateral, and will prevent the area's development to incompatible uses (the property is currently zoned for seven rural residences). The property is currently used for growing irrigated row crops.

The owner has agreed to sell the property to the State at its fair market value, reserving the rights to the property's 379.89 acre feet per year water allocation from Westlands Water District for five years. This can be accomplished at no cost to the State by annually transferring its allotment to the grantor for this five year period, since it is anticipated the State will need this source of water for this period of time.

The appraisal of the property is \$315,000, including the right to use an allocation of water from the Westlands Water District. Exercise of this right would be charged to the user on an annual basis.

The Department does not consider its use of the water rights critical to the acquisition at this time, but would like to have the water rights for possible future use. Therefore, the 5-year reservation of water rights by the owner appears to be appropriate and has the DFG's endorsement.

The staff recommends the Board authorize the purchase of this 150+ acre parcel for a maximum of \$315,000, with the authority to have the Westlands Water District allocation transferred to the landowner on an annual basis for the next five years. In addition to the appraised value, acquisition costs, including appraisal costs, escrow fees, and Department of General Services review costs are estimated to be \$3,000 which would bring the total allocation necessary to the maximum figure of \$318,000.

This purchase is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board approve this purchase and allocate \$318,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund (as designated for interior wetland projects) to cover the purchase price and costs and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Assemblyman Isenberg recommended approval of this proposal.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA-WEST, FRESNO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$318,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUNDS (Interior Wetlands) FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Van Arsdale Fish Screen, Mendocino County \$350,000.00
(No. 15 on agenda)

The Department of Fish and Game requested a WCB allocation of funds to remove an ineffective fish screen at Cape Horn Diversion Dam (Van Arsdale Reservoir) and replace it with an inclined plane perforated plate screen. It is hoped this will eliminate the heavy losses of chinook salmon and steelhead smolts occurring at this facility.

The Van Arsdale diversion is a unit of Pacific Gas and Electric's Potter Valley project on the Eel and Russian Rivers in northeastern Mendocino County. The Potter Valley project diverts Eel River water into the Russian River for power production and irrigation purposes. An upstream storage dam and reservoir (Lake Pillsbury) and the Potter Valley Powerhouse below Van Arsdale, are the other major units of the system.

In 1972 PG&E installed the present screen on its Van Arsdale diversion pursuant to a Fish and Game Commission order. The screen design selected, a horizontal traveling type, was new and virtually untried -- supposedly "state of the art" at that time. However, since its construction by PG&E and acceptance by the Department, the screen has been beset with numerous operation difficulties and has been totally inoperative for over a year. PG&E cannot be required to replace the screen since conditions at the site have not changed from the time of its initial acceptance by the Department (F&G Code Section 5989).

In 1975, due to continuing high maintenance costs and low efficiency of the traveling screen, an experimental vertical louver fish screen was installed, but this was only partially successful. Adult fish counts at the Van Arsdale fish trap on the Eel River have declined dramatically in recent years, in part due to the ineffectiveness of the screen. A total of 994 chinook salmon were trapped here in 1948, but until recent improvements in the flow regime, it was not uncommon for no chinook to reach the trap. Likewise, steelhead counts have declined from a high of 9,528 to runs counted in the hundreds.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recently issued a fifty year license to PG&E to operate the Potter Valley Project. Terms of this license are expected to substantially increase the potential for anadromous fish losses at this diversion unless improvements are made to the screen. Runs of adult steelhead are expected to approach 5,000 fish and chinook salmon to approach 400 fish in the area upstream from the diversion. This would result in 1 million steelhead smolts and 1/4 million chinook smolts passing the diversion site each year. In the absence of an effective fish screen, some 30 to 40 per cent of these could be lost annually.

In 1982, as part of the Potter Valley Project FERC relicensing settlement, the Department agreed to replace the screen in exchange for improved water releases from Van Arsdale Reservoir and improvements to the fish ladder over Cape Horn Dam. Recent budget cuts have prevented the Department from carrying out its part of the agreement.

The Department recommends that the Board allocate funds from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (Proposition 19) for screen replacement costs as a continuing restoration measure under the waterways restoration program. This is considered an appropriate use of these funds for the following reasons:

1. The Department's proper screening of diverted salmon and steelhead smolts and their return to the Eel River system (as required by the DFG/PG&E Agreement) will help restore the Eel salmonid population.
2. PG&E's diversion of 300 c.f.s. of water from the Eel to the Russian River (also as required by the Agreement) is needed to maintain suitable water flows and temperatures during critical low flow periods.
3. If the Department cannot carry out its part of the Agreement, PG&E's water diversion could be reduced, and this would have a detrimental effect on the Russian River and its salmonid populations.
4. Adequate screening would improve the Eel as well as the Russian River, thus doubling the benefits and the justification for the use of Proposition 19 funds.

The Department's cost estimate for this screen replacement project is \$350,000, based on some of the work being done by the Department's screen and ladder shop. Any contracts would be bid out and supervised by the Department. The estimate is detailed as follows:

Remove existing screen	\$15,000
Modify existing structure	13,000
Foundation piles	60,000
Floor slab	67,000
Walls, steel	52,000
Screen	83,000
Bypass pipe and pumps	60,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST.....	\$350,000

This activity is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1, (1) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff has reviewed the cost estimate and concurs with the Department's findings. Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the Van Arsdale Fish Screen project, allocate \$350,000 therefor from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Funds, as designated for stream restoration, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

With this report and recommendation, Mr. Schmidt asked Larry Weeks, Fisheries Biologist from Region 3, Yountville, to provide additional history and explanation of the need for this project.

Larry Weeks explained the physical characteristics of the present fish screen and the need for the Department to replace it at this time. The specific terms of the original PG&E agreement which was quoted by him, placed the responsibility for replacement of the ineffective fish screen on the Department, as provided in Section 5989 of the Fish and Game Code. He believed it was incumbent upon the Department to repair the screen as soon as possible with the new, better designed screen which will do the job, and added they anticipate no problems with this new design.

There was some discussion relative to the provisions of Section 5989 of the Fish and Game Code which Assemblyman Isenberg believed should not be included in the provisions of other such contracts or agreements with such entities as PG&E. Mr. Parnell stated he did not believe the provisions of this section precluded the Department from writing future agreements differently. He believed, however, that the present situation is critical and one that needs to be addressed at this time and recommended approval.

Mr. Bill Townsend, Chairman of the Mendocino Fish and Game Committee, agreed that there was a need for the screen because of the loss of fish life, but also requested that the bypass, which has no screen, also be provided with screening.

Mr. Parnell stated that the emergency bypass issue has been brought to his attention, and assured Mr. Townsend that this matter will be addressed as a separate issue along with the problems relative to the emergency opening of the unscreened bypass system.

Mike Morford agreed that there is a need for a fish screen at Van Arsdale, but raised the question as to whether PG&E should be made to contribute some monies for the screen reconstruction. He also questioned the appropriateness of using Prop. 19 funds to do this work and of "subsidizing PG&E."

It was the consensus that screening of the diversion dam is a State responsibility, in view of the agreements which have previously been entered into, and that other issues such as screening of the bypass and work on the riverbed should be considered by the Department and addressed

as a separate issue. It was also the consensus that this proposal is proper for Prop. 19 funding as it does result in continuation of adequate flows in the Russian River and does add to protection of the fisheries in both the Eel and Russian River.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE VAN ARSDALE FISH SCREEN, MENDOCINO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$350,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUNDS (Waterway Restoration); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Senator Presley came in to the meeting at this time.)

17. Kaweah Brodiaea Ecological Reserve, Tulare County \$148,500.00
(No. 16 on the agenda)

This proposal is for the acquisition of two parcels of land totaling 98.09+ acres to establish an ecological reserve for the California listed endangered Kaweah Brodiaea (Brodiaea insignis).

Mr. Dick reported that the properties are located in the Three Rivers area of Tulare County, approximately 25 miles east of Visalia. The two ownerships have frontage on the east side of South Fork Drive, approximately 10 miles from its junction with Highway 198. South Fork Drive generally follows the South Fork of the Kaweah River. Property uses along South Fork Drive are gradually changing from large acreage cattle grazing holdings to rural residential ranchettes containing over 40 acres. The two properties are adjacent to one another at the intersection of the paved 2-lane South Fork Drive and a well graded dirt fire control road which separates the two ownerships. Battle Creek, an intermittent creek, traverses one of the properties. The highest and best use of each of the two properties is single family mountain residential homesite.

Mr. Schmidt advised that the Department of Fish and Game has recommended acquiring these properties to protect habitat for the Kaweah Brodiaea which is found only along the Kaweah River and its tributaries, Salt Creek and Squirrel Creek, upstream from Three Rivers. The brodiaea habitat is being threatened by development of rural residences and second homes, according to DFG. The properties will be utilized and managed to maintain existing brodiaea populations. It was noted that Deborah Jensen from the Department was present if there were any questions about this species.

The proposed acquisitions fall 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.

The owners of the properties have agreed to sell them to the State at their appraised value of \$91,000 (\$1,600+ /ac.) for the 56.91+ acre property and \$53,500 (\$1,300+ /ac.) for the 41.18+ acre parcel totalling \$144,500 for 98.09+ acres. In addition to the market value of \$144,500, it is estimated that an additional \$4,000 is necessary to cover related acquisition costs such as appraisals, title insurance and processing costs. Funds for these acquisitions are currently available from the 1984/85 Environmental License Plate Fund.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve these acquisitions, allocate \$148,500 from the Environmental License Plate Fund for the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES FOR THE KAWEAH BRODIAEA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, TULARE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$148,500 THEREFOR FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. Santa Rosa Mountains Bighorn Sheep Habitat, \$683,500.00
Rancho Mirage Area, Riverside County

This proposal is to acquire approximately 2,560 acres of unimproved private land consisting of four total sections in the Santa Rosa Mountains in Riverside County. The sections of land are in a checkerboard pattern and are located immediately westerly of the community of Rancho Mirage, and are considered by many as prime areas for some future development.

These sections, when combined with adjoining BLM land whose ownership is also in a checkerboard pattern, will give contiguous public ownership (with reduced inholdings) that will allow continued and undisturbed access for wildlife and for the public seeking this area for recreational opportunities. This entire area is prime habitat for bighorn sheep and will serve the purpose of adding to the overall protection of this species.

Ownership interests in these properties are vested in four different groups. Each is interested in conveying nothing less than full fee interest in the property upon payment of fair market value. The value is based on an independent appraisal, approved by the State, in the amount of \$672,000 for the four sections.

The Department has recommended these acquisitions for the purposes of consolidating its holdings in the area and precluding development and use that could be detrimental to wildlife. The Department of Fish and Game will assume management responsibility for this property in the same manner as with other Santa Rosa Mountain acquisitions. DFG contemplates entering into cooperative agreements with the U.S. BLM, owners of the adjacent holdings. Preliminary plans are that public uses compatible

with the continued well-being of the bighorn sheep will be permitted. Such potential uses may include nature observation, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and primitive camping.

Funding is available from the 1984/85 Environmental License Plate Fund. It is contemplated that the cost of processing the sale, escrow and closing will be approximately \$11,500. The purchase is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 13, acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve this acquisition proposal, allocate \$683,500 from the Environmental License Plate Fund to carry out the individual purchase as available and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that he was aware of Senator Presley's interest in this area and asked for his comments. Senator Presley indicated his great interest in bighorn sheep and his desire to see that they are protected, and recommended approval of this acquisition.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT, RANCHO MIRAGE AREA, RIVERSIDE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$683,500 THEREFOR FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. Other Business

a. Funding Status at end of 4/10/85 meeting

1. 1984/85 Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting	\$2,166,167.49
Less allocations at 4/10/85 meeting	-519,300.00
Unallocated balance at end of 4/10/85 meeting	<u>\$1,646,867.49</u>

2. 1983/84 Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting	\$739,305.00
Less allocation at 4/10/85 meeting	-69,641.70
Unallocated balance at end of 4/10/85 meeting	<u>\$669,663.30</u>

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3. 1976 State Urban and Coastal Park Fund

Coastal Wetlands

Unallocated balance at end of 4/10/85 meeting \$296.79

Development

Unallocated balance at end of 4/10/85 meeting \$32,000.00

4. 1984/85 Environmental License Plate Fund

Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting \$1,352,900.00

Less allocation at 4/10/85 meeting -\$832,000.00

Unallocated balance at end of 4/10/85 meeting \$520,900.00

5. 1984/85 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund

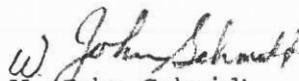
Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/10/85 meeting \$10,100,600.00

Less allocation at 4/10/85 meeting -867,250.00

Unallocated balance at end of 4/10/85 meeting \$9,233,350.00

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Burke at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


W. John Schmidt
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on April 10, 1985, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$78,059,235.43. 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, the Pittman-Robertson Program, and the Estuarine Sanctuary Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act, the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund, the Bagley Conservation Fund, and the 1974 Bond Act. Projects funded under the 1976 Bond Act will be included in this statement after completion of this program.

a.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$15,819,485.80
b.	Fish Habitat Development	5,441,111.27
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .	\$2,981,312.39
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	456,115.44
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	439,503.32
	4. Marine Habitat	620,198.23
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	943,981.89
c.	Fishing Access Projects	21,827,030.46
	1. Coastal and Bay Access	\$1,854,322.36
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	5,928,385.50
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	4,414,100.93
	4. Piers	9,630,221.67
d.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects	33,366,717.47
	1. Wildlife Areas (General)	30,705,089.37
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ..	1,205,528.10
	3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Rare & Endangered)	1,456,100.00
f.	Hunting Access	546,069.66
g.	Miscellaneous Projects	747,622.42
h.	Special Project Allocations	164,303.86
	Total Allocated to Projects	\$78,059,235.43