

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

Minutes, Meeting of February 25, 1986

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of February 25, 1986

Pursuant to the call of the Acting Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 2040, State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on February 25, 1986. The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Brian Kahn at 10:10 a.m.

1. Roll Call.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Brian Kahn	Acting Chairman
	Nancy Ordway	Member
	Jack Parnell	Member
	Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblyman Norman S. Waters	" " "
	Mary Morgan	Vice, Senator Barry Keene
	Edna Maita	Vice, Assemblyman Jim Costa

<u>ABSENT:</u>	Senator Robert Presley	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator David Roberti	" "

STAFF PRESENT:

W. John Schmidt	Executive Officer
Alvin G. Rutsch	Assistant Executive Officer
Clyde S. Edon	Field Agent
Jim Sarro	Chief Land Agent
Howard Dick	Land Agent
Alma Koyasako	Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Kuritsubo	USDI, Bur. of Land Mgt.
Richard Spotts	Defenders of Wildlife
Paul Jensen	Dept. of Fish & Game
Val Bramblett	County of Sacramento

2. Approval of Minutes.

W. John Schmidt, Executive Officer, recommended approval of minutes of the November 26, 1985, meeting which have been published and circulated.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 26, 1985, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS PUBLISHED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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3. Funding Status as of February 25, 1986

The Executive Officer provided the following information relative to the various funds available to the Wildlife Conservation Board, and stated there was no action required.

(a) 1985/86 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget.....	\$1,700,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-511,991.64
Unallocated balance.....	\$1,188,008.36

(b) 1984/85 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget.....	\$3,109,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-2,750,046.92
Unallocated balance	\$358,953.08

(c) 1983/84 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget.....	\$4,023,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-3,699,500.00
Unallocated balance	\$323,500.00

(d) 1985/86 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$3,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-703,783.80
Unallocated balance	\$2,296,216.20

(e) 1984/85 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$3,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-2,974,153.92
Unallocated balance	\$25,846.08

(f) 1985/86 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget.....	\$9,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-3,717,143.25
Unallocated balance	\$5,282,856.75

(g) 1984/85 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$12,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-7,187,333.14
Unallocated balance	\$4,812,666.86

(h) 1985/86 Parklands Fund of 1984

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-376,500.00
Unallocated balance	\$4,623,500.00

4. Recovery of Funds

The following projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to the various funds. It was recommended by Mr. Schmidt that the total amount of \$70,258.04 be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund, \$5,069.42 be recovered to the Environmental License Plate Fund, and \$11,195.90 be recovered to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund and the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Redondo Beach Pier Fishing Promenade, Los Angeles County

Allocation	\$220,000.00
Expended	-156,798.93
Balance for Recovery	\$63,201.07

Butte Valley (Meiss Lake) Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$20,000.00
Expended	-19,185.06
Balance for Recovery	\$814.94

Camp Cady Wildlife Area Addition, San Bernardino County

Allocation	\$47,000.00
Expended	-43,404.75
Balance for Recovery	\$3,595.25

Kinsman Flat Wildlife Area Expansion, Madera County

Allocation	\$256,000.00
Expended	-253,353.22
Balance for Recovery	\$2,646.78

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries.....	\$70,258.04
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ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve Expansion, Riverside County

Allocation	\$300.00
Expended	-173.70
Balance for Recovery	\$126.30

Thornton Wildlife Area, San Joaquin County

Allocation	\$389,000.00
Expended	-384,315.92
Balance for Recovery	\$4,684.08

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Desert Tortoise Natural Area, Kern County

Allocation	\$600.00
Expended	<u>-340.96</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$259.04

Total Environmental License Plate Recoveries \$5,069.42

FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Harrison Grade Natural Area, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$60,000.00
Expended	<u>-55,728.30</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,271.70

Snag Lake, Butte County

Allocation	\$104,000.00
Expended	<u>-97,075.80</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$6,924.20

Total Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Recoveries \$11,195.90

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

Redondo Beach Pier Fishing Promenade, L.A. Co.	\$63,201.07
Butte Valley (Meiss Lake) WLA, Siskiyou Co.	814.94
Camp Cady WLA Addn., San Bernardino Co.	3,595.25
Kinsman Flat WLA Expansion, Madera Co.	2,646.78

Total WRF Recoveries \$70,258.04

Coachella Valley EcoReserve Exp., Riverside Co.	\$126.30
Thornton Wildlife Area, San Joaquin Co.	4,684.08
Desert Tortoise Natural Area, Kern Co.	259.04

Total ELPF Recoveries \$5,069.42

Harrison Grade Natural Area, Sonoma Co.	\$4,271.70
Snag Lake, Butte County	6,924.20

Total F&W Habitat Enhance. Fund Recoveries \$11,195.90

THE SUM OF \$70,258.04 IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$5,069.42 IS TO BE RECOVERED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; AND \$11,195.90 IS TO BE RECOVERED TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Cliff House Public Access, Sacramento County

\$51,000.00

This item was to allocate funds to provide for erosion protection and to upgrade facilities at an existing WCB public fishing access. Mr. Schmidt provided some background information to help put this Sacramento County operated proposal into perspective.

In 1962 WCB acquired a 1.92 acre parcel on the left (east) bank of the Sacramento River, about one mile north of State Highway 12, from the State Reclamation Board as a public fishing access site. A 1.09 acre adjacent parcel was also leased from Sacramento County for access to the site from the levee road, State Highway 160. The Board subsequently developed a paved parking area and access roads from the highway.

The Cooperative Operation and Maintenance Agreement and the Lease Agreement with the County have now expired. However, the County has continued to maintain the area pending Department of Fish and Game determination as to whether the project offered sufficient public benefits to warrant its continued use as a public fishing access project. Much shoaling along the riverbank has reduced fishing success, but there continues to be quite a lot of clamming along the sand bar off-shore at low tides. The County reported 12,500 visitor days of use in 1984.

The Department ultimately determined it would be in the best public interest to retain the site, and in March, 1984, acquired title to the 1.09 acre leased parcel by donation from the County.

The County has, by resolution, indicated it would be willing to enter into a new agreement to maintain the area, provided funds are allocated to upgrade and improve the public facilities as proposed. A cost estimate of such improvements has been provided by the County and reviewed by staff. If funds are allocated for this purpose, the County will assume responsibility for administering the contract to complete the project.

The Assistant Executive Officer, Al Rutsch, described the work to be accomplished and provided the following cost estimate for the proposed project.

Pave & stripe existing parking area	\$13,000
Wheel stops on pavement	400
Concrete slab & fence screen for portable restrooms	600
Concrete steps to beach	1,000
Gates and fencing	4,000
Rock slope protection on levee	19,000
Trash containers/signs/trees/windbreak	2,400
Site survey	2,000
Subtotal	<u>\$42,400</u>
Contingencies, 10%	4,300
Administration & engineering, 10%	<u>4,300</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$51,000

The County has determined that the proposed activity is exempt from CEQA and has filed a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the Act.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board approve the Cliff House Public Access Improvements as proposed, allocate \$51,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. He advised that Val Bramblett from Sacramento County Parks was present if there were any questions and also that Paul Jensen, Regional Manager of Region 2, was present to respond to any questions the Board might have relative to the Department's responsibilities. He also indicated that prior to start of any work, the area will again be inspected, in view of the recent storms.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CLIFF HOUSE PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS, SACRAMENTO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$51,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Lake Jennings, San Diego County \$94,300.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Helix Water District has proposed the development of a fishing access at Lake Jennings for handicapped or senior anglers. Such facilities are very limited in this area, and there is currently no suitable access at all for the handicapped at this reservoir.

Lake Jennings is located near Lakeside, about 24 miles northeast of San Diego. It has a surface area of 176 acres at its maximum storage capacity of 9,790 acre-feet. Its average depth is 80 feet. An aeration system maintains good quality water in the reservoir for distribution to the cities of La Mesa, El Cahn, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley.

According to the Department of Fish and Game which reviewed and endorses this proposal, Lake Jennings has viable populations of largemouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish, with suitable numbers of threadfin shad for forage. Significant numbers of channel and blue catfish have been planted by the District and there is enough reproduction in the reservoir to sustain these species.

The Department does not stock fish in Lake Jennings; however, the District plants from 1,200 to 2,000 pounds of large catchable trout each week. Anglers catch 60 to 70 percent of the planted trout during the times the District has the reservoir open for fishing, which is three days a week from October 1st to May 31 each year.

Most anglers fish from the lake's 3 1/2 miles of shoreline. Agility is required, however, as the banks are mostly steep and rocky. Some rental boats are available and a ramp is provided for trailered boats. A speed limit is enforced for all boats. Water contact sports, such as water skiing

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or swimming, are not permitted. A County maintained campground is also located on the lake.

The development as proposed by the District would consist of widening the existing perimeter road at the access location so as to provide parallel parking for about 12 cars. A gentle paved path would be constructed down the slope from the parking area to the high water level, where a series of abutments would be constructed to secure the 40' gangway and fishing floats at the different water levels. The access path and gangway would meet the established state standards for handicapped access, in terms of surfacing, slope, width and railings.

The fishing float itself will measure 8'x48' at the end of a 8'x92' access float from the end of the gangway. The float assembly will be held in place by anchor cables which would be lengthened or shortened by winches as required.

The District has by resolution agreed to the WCB lease and operation requirements and has complied with the CEQA requirements by the filing of a Notice of Exemption. If the project is approved as proposed, the District would carry out the project development and maintain the facility by agreements with the Department.

The District engineers have submitted a preliminary plan which was displayed at the meeting and explained by Mr. Rutsch. Cost estimate breakdown for the proposed access development is as follows:

Grading, access road & parking	\$16,600
Paving and striping	16,600
Drainage culvert	6,600
Ramp and handrail	4,700
Abutments and anchors	5,500
Slope seeding	600
Floats and gangway	27,500
Signs	500
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Subtotal	\$78,600
Admin. & engineering, 10%	7,900
Contingencies 10%	7,800
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Total Project Cost	\$94,300

It was staff recommendation the Board approve the Lake Jennings fishing access as proposed, allocate \$94,300 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 FISHING ACCESS DEVELOPMENT AT LAKE JENNINGS, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$94,300 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Nancy Ordway, Chief Deputy Director of Finance, who had just come in to the meeting, was introduced.

7. Election of Chairman.

Mr. Parnell requested the Board at this time to consider agenda item No. 2, election of a chairman. It was so ordered.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PARNELL, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT
MR. BRIAN KAHN, PRESIDENT OF THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION, BE
ELECTED TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kahn thanked the Board members and on behalf of the members of the Fish and Game Commission expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the on-going high level of interest and personal involvement of the representatives and staff of both houses.

8. Caliente Mountain Access Trail, San Luis Obispo County \$3,500.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Bureau of Land Management has proposed that the Board allocate funds to share the cost of construction of a public hunting access trail into the Caliente National Wildlife Cooperative Area (CNWCA). The balance, or approximately one-half of the project cost (\$3,000) will be provided by the San Luis Obispo Sportsmen Association, Inc. with project construction and maintenance being administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

The Caliente National Wildlife Area was established on April 6, 1961, and consists of 58,000 acres of BLM land located north of the Cuyama Valley in southeastern San Luis Obispo County. Caliente Peak, the highest point in San Luis Obispo County (5,106') is located in this wildlife area. This area was pointed out by Clyde Edon, field agent, using a map displayed at the meeting.

The area has excellent habitat for upland game and supports deer and numerous species of nongame wildlife. The Department of Fish and Game has maintained guzzlers (watering tanks) in the region for many years, some of them funded by WCB in 1962.

The CNWCA is surrounded by private land and until recently had no public access roads or trails serving it. The San Luis Obispo Sportsmen Association, Inc., Department of Fish and Game and BLM have been negotiating with private landowners for such access for over twenty years. BLM has finally been successful in acquiring a 100 foot wide easement over some three miles of private land, which will provide the long-sought public access into the area. BLM had originally intended to construct the public access trail at their cost, but due to the lack of funds they have had to seek assistance from other sources.

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As proposed, the trail will start at milepost 50/50 located approximately 12 miles west of New Cuyama on Highway 166 in San Luis Obispo County. Project development will consist of posting private lands along the highway as well as the trail easement, construction and placement of regulatory and informational signs; stretch panels at fence crossings; and construction of approximately 3 miles of trail using CCC crews. The trail is designed for walking or horseback riding and will be constructed to the standards of the Pacific Crest Trail.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the access trail plan and recommends it for WCB funding as proposed. The San Luis Obispo County Fish and Game Commission and the Sportsmen's Council of Central California are also in full support of this project.

The construction of this trail was included in the BLM Coast/Valley Planning Area and Environmental Impact Statement, September, 1984, pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. A copy of the EIS is on file with the WCB.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve the Caliente Mountain Access Trail project as proposed, allocate \$3,500 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Kahn noted the involvement of the San Luis Obispo Sportmen Association in this project and asked how this came about. Mr. Schmidt responded that it was the sportsmen's group that proposed this to the Board staff and also pointed out the involvement of the Bureau of Land Management whose representative, Amy Kuritsubo, was in attendance.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PARNELL, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CALIENTE MOUNTAIN ACCESS TRAIL, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$3,500 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR THE STATE'S SHARE OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Sacramento River Access - South Bonnyview Road, Shasta Co. \$79,000.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that this is a proposal to consider the acquisition of a 6.01+ acre triangularly shaped parcel of land in the City of Redding on the west bank of the Sacramento River, on the south side of South Bonnyview Road. South Bonnyview Road is a major connector road which bridges the Sacramento River between Interstate 5, east of the river, and Highway 273 which serves the Redding area on the west side of the river. The property contains approximately 1,100 feet of frontage on South Bonnyview Road and approximately 500 feet of river frontage. This acquisition will provide excellent access to the Sacramento River from this heavily traveled road. This property was pointed out to the Board members by Howard Dick, land agent.

It is anticipated that a boat launching ramp and related facilities will be constructed on the property and should it be acquired, a proposal for portions of this development may be proposed at a future meeting. The City of Redding has done some preliminary planning for the site and should the property be developed, the City has indicated a willingness to manage the area. The property currently has good riparian growth along the river and for the most part is wooded.

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

The property has a fair market value of \$75,000 as approved by the Department of General Services. The City is willing to sell the property to the State for the appraised value even though it very recently purchased the property from the previous owner for \$90,000. This was done in prior consultation with WCB staff in anticipation of an eventual sale to the State. In addition to the \$75,000 for purchase of the property, it is estimated an additional \$4,000 will be required for appraisal, escrow, and processing costs. A reimbursement of up to 75% may be possible through the Dingell-Johnson Program. This reimbursement has been applied for, and should the application be approved, the cost of this acquisition will be substantially reduced through a reimbursement.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board approve the acquisition of this 6.01+ acre property and allocate \$79,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Funds to cover acquisition and related costs and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

The legislative members recommended approval of this acquisition as proposed.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR SACRAMENTO RIVER ACCESS - SOUTH BONNYVIEW ROAD, SHASTA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$79,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Huntington Beach Artificial Fishing Reef, Orange Co \$30,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Department of Fish and Game has proposed the construction of an artificial reef using surplus concrete rubble, which can be obtained from the Port of Los Angeles' demolition of the Signal Street viaduct. Presently the Port has budgeted funds to cover the cost of transporting the viaduct rubble to a landfill site. The proposed allocation from the Board would cover the Port's added cost to transport the concrete by barge to a proposed reef site along the Los Angeles-Orange County coastline.

Artificial reefs have long been recognized as useful tools for increasing densities of fishes and other marine life in waters with sandy bottoms. For example, following installation of the Pendleton Reef in San Diego County, biologists reported densities of kelp bass, barred sand bass, and sheephead were 200 to 300 times those occurring in natural kelp beds in the area.

The Wildlife Conservation Board developed the first artificial fishing reefs in California in 1960, utilizing old street cars, auto bodies, quarry rocks and concrete forms. These reefs were placed in Santa Monica Bay under supervision of Department of Fish and Game marine biologists. This experimental project was successful, but both street car and auto bodies disintegrated in a few years, and quarry rock was determined to be the most feasible reef material.

Six more ocean reefs were developed by WCB in waters from Ventura County to San Diego County from quarry rock during the 1960-1966 period. Then, because of the benefits achieved from a reef placed around the Imperial Beach Pier in 1964, the Board approved a package project for rock reefs around seven other fishing piers in 1966. Located in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties, these reefs were all constructed with quarry rock obtained from Catalina Island.

On April 4, 1975, the WCB approved the sinking of a Liberty Ship to form an artificial reef in Santa Monica Bay. This was accomplished on September 13, 1977. Two other Liberty Ship reefs were also authorized for Ventura County and the Newport Beach area in Orange County, but because of a drop in the scrap steel market the conversion of surplus ships for reefs became uneconomical. Eventually a change was authorized by the Board to allow the use of either quarry rock or concrete rubble for these two reefs. The Ventura County reef was completed in May, 1984. Also in 1984, the Board allocated \$133,000 to enlarge the Marina Del Rey artificial reef in Santa Monica Bay. This reef project was completed in June, 1985.

The proposed reef complex represents a new habitat development for this area and can be expected to increase fish numbers and improve public fishing opportunity. Use of these surplus materials to construct a fishing reef in the ocean environment is an excellent and inexpensive way to enhance nearshore recreational fishing in this area.

Mr. Edon advised that the reef will be located approximately three (3) nautical miles southwest of Bolsa Chica State Beach. Materials will consist of 5,200 cubic yards (10,500 tons) of clean concrete rubble arranged in eight piles (modules) each measuring approximately 100 feet long x 50 feet wide x 6 feet high. Modules will be arranged in a rectangular pattern approximately one mile long and 1/2 mile wide. The modules will be positioned in a magnetic north/south-east-west orientation in depths ranging from 70 to 100 feet. The exact location and configuration of the reef will be determined after coordination with and consideration of shipping and boating activities in the area.

This proposal is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 4, Section 15304, minor alterations in land or water which results in habitat improvement for fisheries. A Notice of Exemption has been filed and posted with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in accordance with CEQA. Various permits such as Coastal Commission, State Lands, etc., will be obtained by the Department prior to project construction.

Information received from the Port of Los Angeles indicates additional funds needed to place the material at sea in lieu of placement at a landfill site would be approximately \$30,000.

It was staff recommendation the Board approve the Huntington Beach Reef project as proposed, allocate \$30,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, 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 CONSTRUCTION OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH REEF, ORANGE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$30,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Delta Islands - Webb Tract Berms, Contra Costa County \$1,000.00

This proposal is for the acceptance of a donation of an estimated 285.16+ acres of scattered berm islands surrounding Webb Tract in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Webb Tract is located just north of Franks Tract State Recreation Area and Bethel Island in Contra Costa County in the western Delta within an hour's drive from the Bay Area. Access to the berm area is by boat.

The Department of Fish and Game has found that these numerous small islands are providing excellent wildlife habitat and are good examples of delta riparian vegetation which they recommend be preserved from possible development. The DFG plans to manage these islands by keeping them in an "as is" condition. Acceptance of this donation would assure State protection of this prime riparian habitat.

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 estimated value of the islands is \$279,000+ or roughly \$1,000/acre. The only costs which would be incurred in this transaction would be closing expenses and General Services Department review costs, an estimated total of \$1,000. Funding for this transaction is available from the Environmental License Plate Fund.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of this donation as proposed, allocate \$1,000 to cover processing costs therefor from the Environmental License Plate Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Both Ms. Ordway and Mr. Parnell voiced their concerns for the liability that the Department might be faced with in the event of high waters such as was experienced recently which would inundate the islands. Mr. Schmidt advised that the management responsibilities for the Department would be merely to inspect the area occasionally. There would be no need for repairing levees or anything of that nature, since the islands are to be acquired for wildlife habitat preservation, and when high waters recede, the islands would resurface.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PARNELL, SECONDED BY MS. ORDWAY, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR DELTA ISLANDS - WEBB TRACT BERMS, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,000 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND TO COVER PROCESSING COSTS THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Baldwin Lake Ecological Reserve, San Bernardino County \$432,000.00

Mr. Schmidt presented this proposal for the purchase of 125+ acres of land, three contiguous parcels, at the north end of Baldwin Lake, about 40 miles east of San Bernardino. The location of these parcels was pointed out to the Board members by Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent. The subject parcels were acquired in 1981 and 1983 by The Nature Conservancy as part of that organization's ongoing efforts to preserve the varied habitats in the Baldwin Lake and Big Bear Lake region. TNC has now offered these parcels for sale to the State with a commitment that the proceeds of the sale would be utilized by TNC in its continuing preservation activities in the Baldwin/Big Bear Lake region.

Most of the land surrounding Baldwin Lake possesses unique geological and botanical features. The Big Bear and Baldwin Lake region supports sixteen rare and endangered plants, eleven of which are endemic to the basin. The other five occur in only a few other sites in Southern California mountains. This is the largest assemblage of rare plants to be found anywhere in California, and perhaps in the entire continental U.S.

The natural community that most of these plants grow in is called Pavement (or Pebble) Plains, an "A"-ranked natural community ("A" means communities or species with fewer than 20 sites worldwide) tracked by the Natural Diversity Data Base. Pavement Plains are found in five locations around the Lake.

A second natural community consisting of moist meadows, harbors other rare and endangered species. Remnant sites of moist meadow occur at the edges of the Lake. Prior to the construction of Big Bear Lake the meadows were relatively extensive. Inundation of Big Bear Meadows and subsequent development

of the margins of both lakes has significantly reduced habitat available for the endemic meadow species. The North Baldwin Lake area is the best example of both Pavement Plains and moist meadow found together and has a great wealth of botanical diversity beyond the rare species. Over 300 species of flowering plants have been located on The Nature Conservancy parcels to date.

The tract proposed for purchase encompasses both habitat types and is home to nine of the endemic plants. It is the best remaining, most viable and protectable occurrence of the bird-footed checkermallow and the slender-petalled mustard, two moist meadow species listed as both State and Federal endangered species. Properties adjacent to the parcel contain two more of the endemics making the north and northwest shore preserve land of Baldwin Lake the location for 70% of the special plants in this area.

The TNC lands in question were acquired primarily to preserve the habitat of Sidalcea pedata and Thelypodium stenopetalum (State and Federal endangered plant species). The TNC parcels also include a portion of Baldwin Lake wetland habitat. The majority of Baldwin Lake is USFS land. The TNC parcels are contiguous with these USFS lands and are included within the San Bernardino National Forest. It is our understanding that TNC acquired an additional 400 acres this past summer which are also contiguous to the subject parcels.

There is little doubt that the Baldwin Lake habitat values will continue to experience threats from various interests in the future. However, the Department and your staff are convinced that partial ownership by the State and the continuing presence and activity of The Nature Conservancy in the area will go a long way toward preservation of these scientifically valuable and rare resources. In fact, the Department has indicated that WCB participation might very well be necessary in the future.

The subject properties have an appraised value of \$500,000 and have been offered by TNC for \$425,000 with TNC's commitment, as indicated, to use these proceeds solely for their Baldwin/Big Bear Lake preservation program. Such an acquisition would establish the State as an interested landowner and would also enable the TNC to continue its efforts in the area.

Funding is available for this purchase from the Environmental License Plate Fund and, as an acquisition for wildlife habitat conservation purposes, this action would be exempt from CEQA requirements. The Department would most likely work out a cooperative management agreement with The Nature Conservancy or U.S. Forest Service.

It was staff recommendation the Board approve this purchase, allocate \$432,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund to cover the purchase price and the \$7,000 estimated closing costs and administrative expenses, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE BALDWIN LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$432,000 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE

DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Abbott Lake Wildlife Area Expansion #1, Sutter County \$126,500.00

This proposal, Mr. Schmidt advised, is for the purchase of 83+ acres of Feather River wetlands and riparian habitat as an expansion to the existing State-owned Abbott Lake Wildlife Area. The subject property is located on the west bank of the Feather River, about nine miles downstream from Yuba City. This area is about one-quarter mile off the Garden Highway. This area was shown on a map displayed at the meeting and Mr. Sarro indicated the nearby towns for better orientation.

The Abbott Lake area is an excellent example of well preserved interior wetlands and riparian habitat. This parcel is unique as it is relatively unspoiled and contains a large number of cottonwood trees along with dense undergrowth of other native riparian species. It is also the last unimproved parcel separating O'Connor Lake Eco-Reserve and the existing Abbott Lake Wildlife Area. The area provides significant habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl as well as for resident deer, several species of raptors, beaver, upland birds, small mammals, and assorted furbearers. The area is considered a prime location for yellow-billed cuckoo and Swainsons hawk, both State-listed threatened species. It also provides cover for numerous species of passerine birds.

Waterfowl use of Abbott Lake is very high, being one of the last remaining such wetland areas in the Feather River bottom. As noted, this parcel adjoins the Department's existing holdings, which are accessible by road and river. It will, in fact, provide 950 feet of additional river frontage for this wildlife area complex.

The Department has recommended acquisitions in this area as high priority in order to preserve this prime riparian habitat from almost certain conversion to agricultural uses. Upon purchasing this addition, the Department will manage the property in its natural condition along with the existing DFG holdings. The acquisition will actually facilitate management of the adjacent properties.

The parcel has been appraised and the owners have agreed to sell at the approved fair market value of \$120,800. Appraisal costs, escrow fees and Department of General Services review charges are expected to be about \$5,200. Funding for these expenditures is available from the Environmental License Plate Fund.

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, allocate \$126,500 from the Environmental License Plate Fund to cover the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Assemblyman Waters noted that there were at least three items on the agenda which proposed the acquisition of property for habitat preservation for endangered plants and animals. He felt there were other better uses for these funds, such as acquisition of critical deer winter range. The increasing of fishing and hunting opportunities, he pointed out, generates revenues for the Department through increased license sales. It was pointed out by Ms. Ordway, however, that these acquisitions were from Environmental License Plate Funds (ELPF), which are to be used for rare or endangered species habitat.

In response to Mr. Kahn's question as to the limitations placed on ELPF monies, Mr. Schmidt advised that these funds, as set forth in the legislation, were designated for rare and endangered or unique habitat and would not include deer winter range. He further advised that at one time these monies were appropriated to the Department of Fish and Game, and the Board staff, after going through the Public Works Board for approval, only did the actual acquisition work. This proved to be a cumbersome process, and the legislature placed the responsibility for such acquisitions in the hands of the WCB with Board staff proceeding with acquisition after approval.

Mr. Parnell believed that the concerns expressed were legitimate. However, when the overall expenditures of funds by the Board is considered, he believed it did not constitute a significant amount of the total. From time to time there appears to be a distortion in favor of rare and endangered species. He stated that after these projects go through scrutiny of the Department and Board staff, he felt relatively comfortable that we are expending those monies in the best way possible.

Mr. Kahn requested staff to provide the Board members with a report giving a break-out of these monies and how they relate to the overall expenditures of the Board. In relation to this, Assemblyman Waters stated he would also like to have a clarification on the use of ELPF monies setting forth definitions of terms used in the legislation.

In response to Mr. Kahn's question about the budget, Ms. Ordway explained the budget process, indicating that hearings begin in early March to appropriate money for projects for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 1986. The budget act cannot change the purposes for which ELPF monies can be used; this can be accomplished only through separate legislation to change the language to permit the use of ELPF for other than endangered species habitat. Mr. Kahn stated there would be significant controversy if there is an attempt to change the language of that legislation, but he would personally like to discuss this with members of the Commission to see if that limitation is totally appropriate.

In view of the fact that Richard Spotts had requested time to discuss the ELPF program later on in the agenda, Mr. Kahn asked for action on this particular agenda item at this time.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE

ABBOTT LAKE WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #1, SUTTER COUNTY, AS PROPOSED;
\$126,500 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR
PURCHASE AND RELATED COST; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT
TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Sacramento River Riparian Habitat - Wilson Landing, \$260,500.00
Glenn County

Mr. Schmidt presented this proposal which is for the acquisition of 260+ acres located in Glenn County, approximately 5 miles north of Hamilton City. The property consists of two parcels and is currently under single ownership. Both parcels lie in the flood plain of the Sacramento River. The larger parcel consists of 195+ acres which has essentially been isolated from the main ranch operations by river action which occurred in the late 1970's and is accessible through adjacent private lands. The smaller parcel consists of 65+ acres and is a river island having only boat access.

The two parcels proposed for acquisition include the typical riparian habitat features common to the Sacramento River system. The island is a river wash gravel bed with annual vegetation and blackberries. The peninsula consists of a large open area (formerly farmed) with a dominant cover of Johnson's grass and other grasses. This open area is ringed on the west, north, and east by a slough and associated riparian jungle with dense stands of cottonwood, black walnuts, willow and blackberries.

Primary reasons for acquisition include protection of the riparian forest and associated meadow from agricultural development, public access for fishing and possibly hunting and potential of the area to provide roosting or nesting sites for the yellow-billed cuckoo and Swainson's hawk, both State-listed threatened species. Also considered is the fact that should the larger parcel not be protected by acquisition, private parties would undoubtedly eventually purchase it and convert it to agricultural use as has historically been the case when such lands are made available on the market.

The parcel has been appraised and the owner has agreed to sell at the approved fair market value of \$250,250 (260+ acres). Appraisal costs, escrow fees and Department of General Services review charges are expected to be about \$10,000. Funding for these expenditures would also be from the Environmental License Plate Fund.

This purchase is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Management of the property in its natural state would be by the Department.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board approve this purchase, allocate \$260,500 from the Environmental License Plate Fund to cover 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 PROPERTY FOR THE

SACRAMENTO RIVER RIPARIAN HABITAT - WILSON LANDING, GLENN COUNTY,
AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$260,500 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE
FUND FOR PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE
DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Elk Creek Wetlands, Del Norte County \$702,000.00

Mr. Schmidt stated this proposal is for the acquisition of 228+ acres in Del Norte County, located easterly and adjacent to the city limits of Crescent City. The general area is known as Elk Valley. That area of Elk Valley proposed for acquisition is primarily Elk Creek and its associated marshes, swamps and riparian areas. Several open water ponds also exist on the site. The majority of the area is in a relatively natural condition, although part of it has been grazed seasonally and part of it is cutover redwood forest. This area has excellent public access and the creek empties into the bay. The proposal actually consists of 17 separate parcels under six ownerships.

Elk Valley provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife including deer, bear, coyote, bobcat, fox, raccoon, otter, mink and smaller mammals. Numerous species of birds occur in the various habitat types including waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, raptors and songbirds. Resident rainbow trout, coastal cutthroat and steelhead trout and silver salmon are found in Elk Creek.

The main utilization of the area is intended to provide fish, waterfowl and other wildlife production through maintenance and enhancement of the fish and wildlife resources. Fishing access can be improved and some sport trout and salmon fishing provided by Elk Creek. The area has high potential as well for passive recreation and nature study. Public hunting value on the site is low because of its proximity to Crescent City and nearby development on its perimeter.

The Department of Fish and Game and the Coastal Commission have placed acquisitions in Elk Creek very high on their priority lists for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond funding consideration.

The appraised value of this property, as approved by the Department of General Services, is \$689,500. Processing and closing costs for this transaction are estimated at \$12,500. Total costs as estimated above are \$702,000.

This acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. It is contemplated that management would be by the Department.

It was recommendation of staff that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed, allocate \$702,000 for the acquisition and related costs from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, as designated for coastal wetlands, 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 PROPERTY AS PROPOSED FOR THE ELK CREEK WETLANDS, DEL NORTE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$702,000 FOR PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Coastal Wetlands); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County \$4,000.00

It was pointed out that this proposal is to consider acceptance of a donation of approximately 200+ acres of private land at the easterly end of Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County. Public acquisition of this area has been given a high priority recommendation by the Department of Fish and Game. The donation is being granted as a part of a permit granted to the owners for developing the remaining portion of their property.

Agua Hedionda Lagoon is located on the Southern California coastline, approximately 32 miles north of the City of San Diego. More specifically, the lagoon is located south of El Camino Real and east of Interstate 5 on the northeasterly shore of Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

The entire lagoon includes a total of about 430+ acres, of which approximately 230+ are under water and remaining 200+ acres are salt marsh and mudflats. A major portion of the westerly end of the lagoon is presently owned by the San Diego Gas and Electric Company and provides a water source for cooling purposes in their power generating plant located adjacent to the beach.

This proposed acquisition includes the easterly 200+ acres of this lagoon and some uplands. The majority of the wildlife use of the lagoon, which is an integral part of the Southern California portion of the coastal Pacific Flyway, occurs on this area. Fifty-five species of water-associated birds have been recorded in the area and the immediate environs. The area has high values for rare and endangered species, especially as nesting sites for California least tern. Twenty-five species of mammals, several species of amphibians and reptiles also use this parcel and its riparian and chaparral environs.

In addition to protecting a valuable wildlife habitat from future degradation, public acquisition of this parcel will provide additional public access to this area for a variety of recreational and educational uses, such as bird watching, nature study, and scientific study, in addition to shoreline hiking.

No development is proposed for this parcel by DFG. It is planned that it would be managed in essentially the existing state by the Department. The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code

Section 1580, and preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

It is estimated that processing costs will amount to \$4,000 to cover escrow and Department of General Services charges.

It was staff recommendation that the Board approve acceptance of this donation, allocate \$4,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Funds as designated for coastal wetlands acquisition, 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 ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF PROPERTY FOR AGUA HEDIONDA LAGOON, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$4,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Coastal Wetlands) TO COVER PROCESSING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. Lake Earl Wildlife Area - Southern Addition, Del Norte Co. \$52,000.00

Mr. Schmidt presented this proposal to acquire one privately owned parcel containing 26.63+ acres on the easterly shore of Lake Earl, Del Norte County.

The Wildlife Conservation Board at its June 22, 1979, meeting approved the concept of acquiring certain lands to protect and preserve Lakes Earl and Talawa as proposed by the Department of Fish and Game, in coordination with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the State Lands Commission.

In accordance with specific authorizations made by the Board over the last six years, staff has acquired a total 2,218+ acres within or adjacent to Lakes Earl and Talawa. An additional 2,600 acres has been leased from the State Lands Commission, which has placed a total of over 4,800 acres under Department of Fish and Game management.

The proposed acquisition of this ownership has been highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game in its attempt to obtain control of properties up to the 10 foot elevation. When this is accomplished, it will be possible to better maintain the water levels of these lakes for better management of the existing fish and wildlife resources.

The acquisition of this parcel will provide additional protection to the riparian habitat along the bank of Lake Earl. As part of the acquisition process, any claims of the State Lands Commission to underlying lake bed areas will be recognized and, on that basis, such lands would be leased by the Commission to DFG for a long term period.

This area is on the Smith River plain, which extends southward from the mouth of the Smith River to Crescent City, the county seat of Del Norte County.

The Smith River plain is an integral part of the coastal arm of the Pacific Flyway. The waters of Lakes Earl and Talawa are critical to the existence of significant waterfowl populations, such as the Aleutian Canada goose. This species is presently listed by the State and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered. The waters of Lake Earl also support the highest wintering population of canvasback ducks north of San Francisco Bay. The overall floodplain, lakes and surrounding uplands support over 250 species of birds, most of them water-associated, and 58 species of mammals.

In addition to protecting valuable and ecologically significant wildlife habitat, this acquisition will help ensure additional public access to the Lake Earl area for a wide variety of compatible recreational and educational uses such as fishing, bird watching, nature and scientific study, hiking and horseback riding. The lakes harbor 15 species of fish, including salmon and trout, and as much as 3,000 user days have been expended on these lakes during the waterfowl season.

The proposed acquisition by WCB falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements, which include acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes.

This parcel has been appraised for \$50,000, and the property owner has agreed to sell for the appraised value. An additional \$2,000 is estimated to be required for appraisal, escrow and processing costs.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve purchase of this parcel as proposed, allocate \$52,000 for the purchase and related costs from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Funds available for coastal wetlands acquisitions, 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 PROPERTY FOR THE LAKE EARL WILDLIFE AREA - SOUTHERN ADDITION, DEL NORTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$52,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT FUND (Coastal Wetlands) FOR PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. San Jacinto Wildlife Area Expansion, Riverside County \$754,000.00

This is a proposal for the acquisition of about 194 acres of land in Riverside County for expansion of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Mr. Schmidt reported.

During 1981 and 1982, the Board's staff assisted the DFG in the acquisition of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, about 3,300 acres of private lands, using funds provided by the Department of Water Resources as mitigation for environmental losses caused by the State Water Project. The area acquired lies adjacent to and easterly of Perris Reservoir and on the north side of the town of Lakeview. The Department is presently carrying out plans for the area for numerous types of habitat enhancement and development for

consumptive and non-consumptive public uses. Mr. Sarro explained in detail the wildlife area complex, indicating the need for this parcel.

Among the properties which were proposed for acquisition in 1981/82 was the subject tract, which fronts directly on the north side of the Ramona Expressway for a length of about 1 1/2 miles. However, the funding provided under the DWR/DFG mitigation agreement was insufficient to complete the project.

The Department has now strongly recommended the use of rare (threatened) and endangered species funds from the 1984 F&W Habitat Enhancement Bond Act to acquire this property. The reasons for this recommendation are numerous:

1. In 1983, the subject property was found to contain a population of the threatened species, Stephens' kangaroo rat.
2. As part of an overall development, the private landowner has planned a 400-acre housing and shopping center on the subject property and on the south side of the expressway.
3. If the subject property can be placed in public ownership, the expressway would serve as a buffer between the threatened species habitat and the severe negative impacts a housing development would have on the habitat, such as the presence of cats and dogs.
4. The acquisition would, because of the property's strategic location, greatly facilitate the Department's management of the adjacent wildlife area by regulation of access and the control of trespassing off-road vehicles, spotlighting and other illegal activities.

The subject property has been appraised, and the owners have agreed to sale for its fair market value of \$821,000. Staff has been advised by the local Audubon Society chapter, that it will contribute \$75,000 of this price toward the State's purchase, with no strings attached. This would reduce the WCB's expenditure to \$746,000 plus estimated closing and administrative costs of \$8,000.

Funding is available from the rare and endangered species category of the 1984 Bond Act and, as indicated, management would be by the Department in conjunction with the operation of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, the acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$754,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Funds as designated for rare and endangered species for the purchase price and costs, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ORDWAY, SECONDED BY MR. PARNELL, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$754,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT FUND (Rare and Endangered Species Habitat) TO COVER PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. Other Business

a. Resolution Honoring Wm. A. Burke, Ed.D.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION
HONORING FORMER CHAIRMAN DR. WILLIAM A. BURKE BE ADOPTED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DR. WILLIAM A. BURKE

WHEREAS, Dr. William A. Burke is concluding two terms as chairman
of the Wildlife Conservation Board, representing the Fish and Game
Commission on the Board since March 12, 1984; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burke's keen interest and extensive experience in
wildlife conservation matters have contributed greatly to the Board's
work during this period; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burke's leadership ability and wise counsel, always
tempered with good humor, were highly valued by the Board and staff as
it began its most active acquisition and development program ever; Now
therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board,
the Joint Legislative Interim Advisory Committee, and the Board staff
convey to Bill Burke our sincere appreciation for his considerable
contribution to the work of the Board and the cause of wildlife
conservation in California; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the official
minutes of this Board and that Dr. Burke be provided with a suitable
copy of this resolution as a memento of this occasion.

19b. California Condor Habitat

Mr. Schmidt advised that this is an informational item relative to recent
action of the Fish and Game Commission recommending the Board authorize
\$500,000 for purchase of California condor habitat.

Mr. Kahn reported that the policy of the Fish and Game Commission in
relation to the California condor remains one of commitment to a viable wild
population some time in the future. It is believed the captive flock will
be able to function to produce sufficient viable offspring to achieve that
objective at some point. There have been some recent setbacks with a sharp
increase in wild mortality. The worst aspect of that is the elimination of
viable breeding pairs, so the main reason for leaving some birds in the
wild, which was to continue to generate eggs under natural circumstances is
no longer functional.

A key point of controversy is whether or not the federal government will
follow through to purchase the Hudson Ranch. Congress has appropriated \$9
million for the acquisition of critical historical foraging habitat. The
Department of Interior has held off on pursuing that acquisition. Mr. Kahn

believed the issue is reaching a critical point because with Gramm-Rudman, the likelihood of continual reappropriation from Congress becomes less likely. The Fish and Game Commission recently unanimously reiterated its support for acquisition of Hudson Ranch by the Department of Interior utilizing the funds allocated. In order to provide encouragement to them to move, the Commission on a 4-1 vote encouraged the WCB to commit \$500,000 toward that purchase if the federal government is willing to proceed. That communication was sent to Assistant Secretary Horn. There has been no response to that and therefore Mr. Kahn believed there is nothing to come before the Board at this time.

In response to Assemblyman Isenberg's question, Mr. Schmidt asserted that the WCB has made some acquisitions for condor habitat, as well as for many other species, in Tulare County, although not in the area of Hudson Ranch.

There was discussion as to advisability of the Board's making a commitment, and as to whether or not the Board staff could provide a recommendation at this time. The consensus was that the Board staff cannot at this time make a recommendation, inasmuch as the Department proposal has not been received, nor have the usual customary procedures, including securing of appraisal reports, been followed. Mr. Schmidt believed that by the time of the next meeting, scheduled for May 6, the staff could have a recommendation on possible Board involvement in this project.

As information of interest to the Board members, Mr. Schmidt noted that this agenda called for the allocation of \$2,589,000 for projects, but that through negotiations the Board has received \$1,397,000 in donations and assistance on these projects, in effect stretching our dollars by 58%.

19c. Environmental License Plate Fund Program

Mr. Schmidt advised that Mr. Richard Spotts, California representative of Defenders of Wildlife, has requested time today to discuss the license plate fund.

Mr. Spotts stated that he wanted the Board to know of the Defenders of Wildlife's great disappointment that the Governor's 86-87 proposed budget recommends a 5/6 reduction in ELPF for endangered species and natural areas habitat acquisition -- \$500,000 in contrast to \$3,000,000 approved in each of the last two years. The amount proposed in the budget did not appear to be an equitable apportionment for the purposes set forth in the Resources Code. Mr. Spotts believed there should be some rough proportionate allocation of funds for these purposes in the budgeting of these funds. There should be some accountability to the public for the expected use of funds generated by purchase of specialized license plates. If there is some dislocation, the brochures published by DMV advising the public of this program should be changed and the Resources Code amended.

Assemblyman Isenberg stated he would be interested in knowing the historic division over the years of ELPF by percentages and activities. He felt this would be one way to show a shift in funding for this program. Staff was requested to provide this information to the Board members.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
February 25, 1986

Mr. Kahn thanked Mr. Spotts for his presentation. Inasmuch as there was no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. John Schmidt

W. John Schmidt
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on February 25, 1986, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$86,273,365.89.

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, the 1974 Bond Act, and the General Fund. Projects funded under the 1976 Bond Act will be included in this statement after completion of this program.

a.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$15,913,501.65
b.	Fish Habitat Development	5,561,620.27
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .	\$2,990,821.39
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	476,115.44
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	500,503.32
	4. Marine Habitat	650,198.23
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	943,981.89
c.	Fishing Access Projects	22,662,768.76
	1. Coastal and Bay	\$1,899,665.61
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	5,897,719.97
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	4,501,282.15
	4. Piers	10,364,101.03
d.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects	35,521,156.43
	1. Wildlife Areas (General)	32,472,270.53
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ...	1,205,528.10
	3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Rare & Endangered)	1,843,357.80
f.	Hunting Access	546,069.66
g.	Miscellaneous Projects	5,757,050.77
h.	Special Project Allocations	164,303.86
	Total Allocated to Projects	\$86,273,365.89