

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

Minutes, Meeting of August 26, 1986

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Roll Call .....	1
2. Approval of Minutes .....	2
3. Funding Status .....	2 - 3
4. Recovery of Funds .....	3 - 5
<u>WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND</u>	
5. Anderson River Park, Shasta County .....	5 - 7
6. Navarro River and Beach Public Access, Mendocino County ....	7 - 8
7. Indian Valley Reservoir Expansion #1, Lake County .....	9 - 10
8. Butte Creek House Wildlife Area, Butte County .....	10 - 11
<u>1984 FISH &amp; WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND</u>	
9. Grassland Water Facility Improvement Project, Merced Co. ...	11 - 15
10. Mendota Wildlife Area Expansion (East), Fresno County .....	15 - 16
11. San Jacinto Wildlife Area Expansion #3, Riverside Co. ....	17 - 18
12. Big Valley/Ash Creek Wildlife Area Exp. #1, Lassen Co. ....	18 - 19
13. Suisun Marsh - Cordelia Slough, Solano County .....	19 - 21
14. Honey Lake Wildlife Area - Fleming Unit Exp. #1, Lassen Co.	21 - 22
15. Suisun Marsh Habitat Enhancement Project, Solano County .... (AB 2090)	22 - 25
16. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Engineering Survey, Monterey Co.	25 - 26
17. San Elijo Lagoon Expansion #2, San Diego County .....	27 - 28
18. Rusch Creek Steelhead Habitat Enhancement, Trinity Co. ....	28 - 30
19. Springville Clarkia Ecological Reserve, Tulare Co. ....	30 - 31
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND</u>	
20. Magnesia Canyon Ecological Reserve Exp. #1, Riverside Co. ..	31 - 32
Program Statement .....	33

State of California  
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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of August 26, 1986

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 2040 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on August 26, 1986. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Acting Chairman Jack Parnell.

1. Roll Call

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Jack Parnell, Director,	Acting Chairman
	Dept. of Fish and Game	
	Nancy Ordway, Chief Dep. Dir.,	Member
	Department of Finance	
	Jim Rote,	Joint Interim Committee
	vice Senator Barry Keene	
	Edna Maita,	" " "
	vice Assemblyman Jim Costa	

<u>ABSENT:</u>	Brian J. Kahn	Chairman
	Senator Robert Presley	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator David Roberti	" " "
	Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	" " "
	Assemblyman Norman S. Waters	" " "

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
Frank Giordano	Land Agent
Marylyn Gzyms	Accountant
Sandy Daniel	Secretary
Alma Koyasako	Executive Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robert M. Stoddard	Stoddard & Associates -
	Civil Engineer
Don Marciochi	Grassland Water District
Jeff Kerry	Realtor, San Leandro
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Pard	Long Beach, Montanita Del Sol
Dan Chapin	Calif. Waterfowl Association
Spike Naylor	Dept. of Fish and Game, Reg. 1
Pete Bontadelli	" " "

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board  
August 26, 1986

Mike Lewis  
Michael Block  
Ellsworth Young  
Steve Hall  
Peggy Blair  
Richard Spott  
Clyde Archibald  
R. A. Williams

Suisun Resource Conserv. District  
Mason Loudy Trust  
State Coastal Conservancy  
Land Preservation Assn.  
Dept. of Fish and Game  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Sacramento  
Dept. of Water Resources

2. Approval of Minutes.

Mr. W. John Schmidt, Executive Officer, requested that the minutes of the May 6, 1986, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board be corrected as follows: On page 15 in the title "McNear's Beach Fishing Pier, Marin County", the amount shown should be changed to \$275,000, which is the amount actually allocated by the Board. Also, in the cost breakdown, the same correction should be made indicating that WCB cost, which is 50% of the total cost (\$550,000) is \$275,000. With this correction, the minutes can be approved.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WILD-LIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF MAY 6, 1986, BE CORRECTED ON PAGE 15 TO REFLECT THE ACTUAL WCB PARTICIPATION AND COST WHICH IS \$275,000. WITH THIS CORRECTION, THE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Funding Status as of August 26, 1986

Mr. Schmidt indicated this item is for information only and required no action.

- (a) 1986/87 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget (Funds Available)
- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions .....         | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Governor's Budget - Minor Development Projects..... | 750,000.00     |
- (b) 1985/86 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget
- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions ..... | \$750,000.00 |
| Less previous Board allocations .....       | -452,798.80  |
| Unallocated balance.....                    | \$297,201.20 |
- (c) 1984/85 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget
- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions ..... | \$1,394,000.00 |
| Less previous Board allocations .....       | -1,376,747.78  |
| Unallocated balance .....                   | \$17,252.22    |
- (d) 1986/87 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget
- |                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Governor's Budget ..... | \$500,000.00 |
|-------------------------|--------------|

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

Governor's Budget .....	\$3,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-2,221,244.28
Unallocated balance .....	\$778,755.72

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

Governor's Budget .....	\$3,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-3,000,000.00
Unallocated balance .....	-0-

(g) 1986/87 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Cap. Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$12,265,000.00
-------------------------	-----------------

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

Governor's Budget .....	\$9,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-5,026,747.35
Unallocated balance .....	\$3,973,252.65

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

Governor's Budget .....	\$12,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-9,994,755.06
Unallocated balance .....	\$2,005,244.94

(j) 1985/86 Parklands Fund of 1984

Governor's Budget .....	\$5,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-1,060,100.00
Unallocated balance .....	\$3,939,900.00

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 \$17,984.00 be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund, \$4,708.37 be recovered to the Environmental License Plate Fund, and \$6,101.15 be recovered to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund and the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area, Merced Co.

Allocation	\$23,500.00
Expended	-17,915.64
Balance for Recovery	\$5,584.36



Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board  
August 26, 1986

Upper Sacramento River Riparian Habitat - Pine Creek Exp.,  
Butte/Glenn Counties

Allocation	\$251,575.00
Expended	-248,058.80
Balance for Recovery	\$3,516.20

Surprise Valley Wildlife Area Addition, Modoc Co.

Allocation	\$22,500.00
Expended	-20,479.50
Balance for Recovery	\$2,020.50

Butte Valley Wildlife Area, Siskiyou Co.

Allocation	\$50,000.00
Expended	-48,842.06
Balance for Recovery	\$1,157.94

Samoa Public Access, Humboldt Co.

Allocation	\$30,000.00
Expended	-29,295.00
Balance for Recovery	\$705.00

Hume Lake, Fresno Co.

Allocation	\$15,000.00
Expended	-10,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries ..... \$17,984.00

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

Abbott Lake Wildlife Area Exp. #1, Sutter Co.

Allocation	\$620,000.00
Expended	-615,291.63
Balance for Recovery	\$4,708.37

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries ..... \$4,708.37

FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Moss Landing Wildlife Area, Monterey Co.

Allocation	\$56,000.00
Expended	-53,160.50
Balance for Recovery	\$2,839.50

Lake Earl Wildlife Area - Southern Addition, Del Norte Co.

Allocation	\$52,000.00
Expended	-50,349.70
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$1,650.30</u>

Wilson Valley Wildlife Area, Lake Co.

Allocation	\$453,872.00
Expended	-452,260.65
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$1,611.35</u>

Total Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Recoveries ..\$6,101.15

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

Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area, Merced Co. ....	\$5,584.36
Upper Sacramento River Riparian Habitat-	
Pine Creek Exp., Butte/Glenn Counties .....	3,516.20
Surprise Valley WLA Addn., Modoc Co. ....	2,020.50
Butte Valley Wildlife Area, Siskiyou Co. ....	1,157.94
Samoa Public Access, Humboldt Co. ....	705.00
Hume Lake, Fresno Co. ....	5,000.00

Total WRF Recoveries ..... \$17,984.00

Abbott Lake Wildlife Area Exp. #1, Sutter Co. .... 4,708.37

Total ELPF Recoveries ..... \$4,708.37

Moss Landing Wildlife Area, Monterey Co. ....	2,839.50
Lake Earl WLA-Southern Addn., Del Norte Co. ....	1,650.30
Wilson Valley Wildlife Area .....	1,611.35

Total F&W Habitat Enhancement Fund Recoveries ..... \$6,101.15

THE SUM OF \$17,984.00 IS TO BE RECOVERED TO THE UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$4,708.37 IS TO BE RECOVERED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; AND \$6,101.15 IS TO BE RECOVERED TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

5. Anderson River Park, Shasta County \$16,400.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Department of Fish and Game has requested WCB funds to construct barriers to control vehicle movement in this existing WCB project on the Sacramento River in Anderson.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board  
August 26, 1986

The Board acquired some 232 acres of land along the right bank of the river for public access and riparian habitat preservation, starting with the first acquisition in 1956 of two acres for a boat ramp site. Later acquisitions in 1966 and 1969 added about 3,000 feet of river frontage. The City of Anderson acquired an additional 165 acres adjacent to the Department property for park purposes.

Mr. Al Rutsch, Assistant Executive Officer, described the project and summarized that the purpose is to put up barriers to keep vehicles out of the natural areas so that public use will not destroy the riparian habitat.

Mr. Schmidt continued the staff presentation and advised that the project provides access to excellent salmon and steelhead fishing in the river, as well as fishing for bass and other warmwater fish in converted gravel operation pits on the property. Improvements authorized and funded by the Board consist of the boat ramp, a parking area, access roads, fencing and a restroom facility. The City has added landscaping and picnic facilities, among other improvements.

Much of the area, both City and Department-owned lands, is heavily wooded and has significant riparian wildlife values. The Department's agreement with the City for operation and maintenance designates these sections as natural areas where public use is "permitted to the extent compatible with preservation of wildlife habitat and other natural values, with development and motor vehicle use to be limited to the minimum necessary for such purposes."

This proposal specifically is to construct post and cable barriers at strategic locations in this 397 acre park to provide controls needed for the protection of the natural areas. DFG plans to purchase the material and equipment and arrange for the installation of the barriers by California Conservation Corps workers.

The cost estimate for materials and equipment as prepared by the Department and reviewed by staff is summarized as follows:

Railroad ties (p.t.) 600 .....	\$4,800
Wire rope (3/4" cable) 4,800 l.f.....	6,800
Metal gates, 4 .....	2,800
Equipment rental .....	2,000
Total .....	\$16,400

The City will maintain the gates and barriers as required by the existing cooperative agreement between the City and Department for this project. The City has adopted a resolution of support for these improvements as proposed.

The work is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301(i) and staff has filed a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the Act.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve the Anderson River Park improvements as proposed, allocate \$16,400 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT ANDERSON RIVER PARK, SHASTA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$16,400 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Navarro River and Beach Public Access, Mendocino County \$65,000.00

It was explained by Mr. Schmidt that this is a proposal to enhance the existing Navarro River and Beach Public Access by adding a parking area and restroom facilities.

The County of Mendocino has proposed the construction of a parking area on this existing WCB project at the mouth of the Navarro River. The County, by agreement with the Department, manages and maintains the area as required for such public use projects.

One of the primary purposes of the Navarro project is public coastal fishing access. A paved access road was envisioned by the WCB when it first approved the Navarro project in 1975, and in 1982 the Board allocated funds for this road to the beach. The parking area to be located at the end of the access road is the logical extension of that development. Because of the heavy public use (about 14,000 visitor days a year) and sandy conditions of the site, a hard surfaced parking area is considered a necessary and desirable improvement.

The location and proposed improvements for the project were explained by Mr. Rutsch.

Plans for this work have been prepared by the Department Engineering Section. A soil-cement mixture has been called for in the design of the parking area, using local material that will blend in with the beach environment and also result in economy of construction. The finished grade is to be slightly above the existing natural grade so as to minimize sand drifts on the parking area. Barriers are to be installed to prevent indiscriminate vehicle access to the beach.

It is planned to continue to operate this facility for free public day use access, but provisions have been made for a limited number of overnight parking spaces. The agreement with the County provides that it may in the future charge a fee for the overnight use only. No water or other services will be provided, so the fee would be nominal. If fees are imposed, they would be used only to help defray county maintenance costs on this project.

Portable-type restrooms on a concrete pad, with privacy baffles and a trash can enclosure are included. Sand dunes will be constructed to hide the restrooms from the beach and parking area.

The Department engineers would bid out and supervise the construction of this project. The total cost, as estimated by the engineers, is \$65,000 broken down as follows:



Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board  
August 26, 1986

Mobilization .....	\$ 2,400
Grading and site preparation .....	4,400
Soil cement .....	18,500
Striping and wheel stops .....	2,900
Bollards .....	6,800
Restroom facility .....	23,300
Signs .....	800
Subtotal .....	\$59,100
Contingencies, 10% .....	5,900
Total estimated cost.....	\$65,000

The parking area is a minor change in grade using existing materials on site (sand) and there will be no change in public use. The activity is therefore considered to be exempt from CEQA (Section 15304, 15311(c)), and a Notice of Exemption has been filed in accordance with the Act.

The County has, by resolution, approved the plan and has agreed to include the maintenance of the parking area, access road and other public use improvements under the provisions of its cooperative agreement with the Department for operation and maintenance.

It was staff's recommendation that the Board approve the Navarro River and Beach Public Access, Mendocino County, as proposed, allocate \$65,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that support for this project was received from Senator Keene in the form of a letter placed before the Board members.

Jim Rote, representing Senator Keene, expressed his concern that the County of Mendocino may drop their budget for park maintenance, and wanted assurance that this project will proceed contingent on continued agreement for maintenance. Mr. Schmidt stated that staff was recently made aware of this also and indicated staff will check this out. He asked that approval of this project be made contingent upon assured continued operation and maintenance by Mendocino County.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NAVARRO RIVER AND BEACH PUBLIC ACCESS, MENDOCINO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$65,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED AND CONTINGENT UPON MENDOCINO COUNTY'S AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PROJECT.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Indian Valley Reservoir Expansion #1, Lake County \$63,000.00

This proposal is for an expansion of the Department's 1,184-acre Indian Valley Reservoir Wildlife Area, which lies about 25 miles north of Clear Lake, off Bartlett Springs Road, and which surrounds the entire reservoir. Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent, pointed out on a map the earlier acquisition and its relation to the new acquisition proposal before the Board.

Early in the 1980's, Mr. Schmidt reported, the property was proposed for public auction sale by the owner, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. In order to maintain the shoreline for public fishing access, WCB acquired most of the District's ownership in 1984, which included about 39 miles of shoreline. At that time, the District retained two parcels, comprising 113+ acres at the northeast end of the wildlife area, where the reservoir is fed by the North Fork of Cache Creek. Both parcels are bisected by Bartlett Springs Road and both provide excellent access to and front upon the creek. The District has now offered both parcels to the State for the 1984 appraised value of \$60,000.

Both parcels were highly recommended by DFG for purchase in the first acquisition, but they were not offered as part of that transaction. Because of their accessibility (only 6 of the 27 District parcels actually front on the county road), the subject properties are considered among the most readily developable sites in the area. A current review by the Department has again resulted in a strong recommendation for the purchase of these parcels in order to alleviate management problems which would result from development and also to provide much-improved public fishing access potential.

Due to the reservoir's remote location and a general lack of public awareness of its fishery resources, fishing pressure has been light. However, as the reservoir gains in popularity, there has been an increasing fishery use. The rainbow trout fishery is already judged to be of excellent quality, and it is anticipated that the warmwater game fish will attain a similar level in the future.

As indicated, the fair market value of the property is \$60,000. It is estimated that further closing costs and administrative expenses will be about \$3,000. Funding is available from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and the acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, land acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes and access to public lands.

Management would be carried out through cooperative agreement between the Department and the Bureau of Land Management, owners of most of the properties adjacent to the wildlife area.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$63,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for the purchase price and related expenses, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.



IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR INDIAN VALLEY RESERVOIR EXPANSION #1, LAKE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$63,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Butte Creek House Wildlife Area, Butte County \$128,600.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that this proposal is for the acquisition of 320+ acres of land in northeastern Butte County for the preservation of wet mountain meadow and riparian habitat, critical deer summer range and fawning area, as well as for protection of brook trout spawning area in Butte Creek. The subject property is located on Humbug Road in the mountain area north of Stirling City in the northerlymost portion of the County. It is approximately 40 miles north of Oroville, the county seat. Location of this proposal and other identifying landmarks were pointed out to the Board by Mr. Sarro.

The area is characterized by moderate to steep mountain terrain with heavy tree cover. Access is over U.S. Forest Service and county roads, primarily Humbug Road, a good quality graded road. The road is paved to Inskip, 6-8 miles south of the subject, and is kept open to that point all year.

Primary uses in the area are timber production, recreation, and summer livestock grazing. There is one small, older subdivision, Colman Camp, located several miles southwest of the subject.

The property itself is set at an elevation of approximately 6,000 feet above sea level and consists of a large meadow, bisected by the headwaters of Butte Creek and the bordering mountains. The meadow area is relatively flat and is crisscrossed by the various channels of Butte Creek. Vegetation is primarily native meadow grasses with scattered coniferous growth. The bordering mountains include a sparsely treed area on the northeast (Southern exposure) and more heavily timbered slopes on the south.

The property provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species dependent upon mountain meadows, chaparral, streams, and red fir-lodgepole pine forests. Bear, Canada geese, furbearers, raptors, and trout are some of the many wildlife types present. Bird species of special concern utilizing the area include goshawk, sharpshinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, merlin, golden eagle, and yellow warbler. The area also provides good habitat for the locally present, threatened, Sierra red fox. Unsubstantiated reports of the endangered great gray owl exist for the area, which certainly provides suitable habitat for this species. The subject property includes one of the two largest meadows in Butte County, an area where most meadows are privately owned.

Department supports the purchase of this property to allow enhancement of, and to preserve, its wildlife uses, including trout propagation, deer fawning, bird breeding and nesting and all the activities of permanent resident species. The acquisition will also allow the Department the

opportunity to do stream protection and enhancement work in this area which is not presently possible on this privately owned parcel. In addition, the acquisition would allow for public hunting and fishing opportunities on the land, which are not currently available. Nonconsumptive uses would include hiking, sightseeing, photography and other low-impact activities.

The property would be managed by the Department in conjunction with its nearby (less than two miles away) Snag Lake and Coon Hollow Wildlife Areas.

The property has been offered to the State for its appraised value of \$300,000. In a separate agreement, however, the Department has negotiated a contribution of \$176,400 by PG&E toward the State's acquisition of wet meadow habitats in this vicinity, and this contribution would reduce the Board's payment for this property to \$123,600 plus the estimated costs of appraisal, closing, title insurance and General Services review charges in the amount of \$5,000.

The acquisition is categorically exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$128,600 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for the State's share of the purchase price and costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Parnell noted that a letter of support was received from Mr. Richard Spott for Defenders of Wildlife.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE BUTTE CREEK HOUSE WILDLIFE AREA, BUTTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$128,600 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR THE STATE'S SHARE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE AND COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 1984 FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

9. Grassland Water Facility Improvement Project, Merced County \$450,000.00

This proposal is to consider funding to assist in enhancing the water supply system serving the Grassland wetlands area in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The work proposed to be done would be carried out by the Grassland Water District, using funding from the Department of Water Resources, the District and WCB as herein proposed.

Before proceeding with the staff report which follows, Mr. Schmidt requested Mr. Clyde Edon, Field Agent, to provide the Board with a visual recapitulation of Phases 1 and 2 which are complete, and the third phase of the Interim Water Utilization Plan, which is the proposal before the Board today.

The Grassland Water District includes about 50,000 acres in the Los Banos area, consisting primarily of native pasture and wetlands utilized for duck clubs and wildlife conservation. The District obtains water supplies, part of which is drain water, from various sources and maintains about 125 miles of canals for supplying water to District lands, including the 3,200 acre Los Banos Wildlife Area. Until 1985, a mixture of agricultural drainage water and Central Valley Project water was used to flood most lands in the District for waterfowl habitat and agricultural uses.

In 1985, the presence of selenium in the drainage water became recognized as a potential threat to waterfowl and other wildlife in the wetlands. To preserve the wetlands an Interim Water Utilization Plan was developed to separate fresh water deliveries from agricultural inflow so that flooding of the marsh could be accomplished with fresh water only. The plan is intended to remain in effect until a long term plan for drainage is implemented. Construction is partially completed on the Interim Water Utilization Plan. Completion is scheduled for the fall of 1987.

The Interim Water Utilization Plan is divided into three phases. Phase 1, termed the "Santa Fe Canal/Mud Slough Bypass", and Phase 2, "South Grassland Main Channel Inlet Modifications", have been completed utilizing state (Resources Agency) and local funding. Phase 3 is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 1987 provided the District obtains the necessary funding.

The Santa Fe Canal/Mud Slough Bypass was constructed to allow intermittent bypass of drainage water. The Bypass frees the Santa Fe and San Luis Canals, downstream of their confluence, for deliveries of fresh waters to approximately 9,000 acres in the easterly portion of the Northern Division of the District. The 9,000 acres can then be flooded with fresh water. The Los Banos Wildlife Area is one of the primary beneficiaries of this phase.

The South Grassland Main Channel Inlet Modifications provide for separation of fresh water and drainage water in the Southern Division of the District. The separation allows the District to alternate conveyance of fresh water and drainage water between the two canal systems, allowing the wetlands to receive fresh water while drainage flows continue to pass through. Phase 2 construction modified the inlets to the two main District canal systems, such that all incoming drainage water could be diverted to one or the other system. The third phase is for the enlargement of these two canal systems. Enlargement will allow the delivery of fresh water, undiminished in quality, to the wetlands served by the two canals.

Flow separation is accomplished by alternating the fresh and drainage water streams between the Agatha-Geis Canal system and Camp 13 Ditch system. When fresh water deliveries are to be made from the Camp 13 Ditch, agricultural drainage water will be diverted into the Agatha Canal. The Camp 13 Ditch will then deliver fresh water from the Main Canal to wetlands served by the system.

Once fresh water deliveries from the Camp 13 Ditch are completed, agricultural drainage water will be diverted to the Camp 13 Ditch and fresh water will be supplied to the Agatha Canal from the Helm Canal.



When Phase 3 is completed, all necessary construction to augment the "Interim Water Utilization Plan" will be complete, and the wetlands will be protected from degradation by agricultural drainage.

Following is a brief description of the work to be completed under Phase 3.

#### MAIN CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS

CAMP 13 DITCH - REACH 1 - Reach 1 begins at the headworks of the Camp 13 Ditch at the Main Canal and terminates at Almond Drive, approximately 4.2 miles north. The first 2.2 miles of channel has the capacity to carry the design flow of 225 cfs. The remaining 2.0 miles will have to be enlarged.

Within Reach 1, four reinforced concrete control structures with CMP culverts and the Almond Road crossing must be replaced to increase system capacity. The new control structures will include three, parallel 54-inch diameter asphalt-coated, corrugated steel pipes with reinforced concrete inlet control structures. The Almond Drive crossing will be replaced with three 54-inch diameter asphalt coated corrugated steel pipes fitted with hand wheel operated canal gates.

CAMP 13 DITCH - REACH 2 - Reach 2 begins at the outlet of the Almond Road Crossing and terminates approximately 3.5 miles north at the head of the Mud Slough Bypass Channel. The first 1.6 miles of Reach 2 will be enlarged. The remaining 1.9 miles have adequate capacity to carry the design flow. No structure replacement is required in Reach 2.

CAMP 13 DITCH - REACH 3 - Reach 3 begins at the head of the Mud Slough Bypass Channel and terminates approximately 4.6 miles northwest at the headworks of the Santa Fe/Mud Slough Bypass (Phase 1). The first 0.9 mile of Reach 3, the Mud Slough Bypass, has adequate capacity to handle the design flow of 225 cfs. The remaining 3.5 miles of Reach 3 is part of the Santa Fe Canal. This portion of the project has adequate capacity to handle the design flow of 315 cfs.

Where the Mud Slough Bypass Channel crosses Santa Fe Grade Road, three existing 54-inch diameter culverts carry the flow under the roadway. A fourth 54-inch pipe with an inlet structure is to be installed to meet design flow requirements.

#### AGATHA - GEIS IMPROVEMENTS

AGATHA CANAL - The portion of the Agatha to be utilized begins at its headwaters and terminates approximately 4 miles north at the headworks of the Geis Ditch. Approximately 3.5 miles of the 4-mile reach will be enlarged to handle the design flow of 225 cfs.

In addition to channel excavation, three reinforced concrete control structures with CMP culverts, a culvert road crossing, and the Mallard Road crossing must be replaced to increase system capacity. New control structures will consist of reinforced concrete inlet structures followed by three 54-inch diameter asphalt coated corrugated steel pipes. The culvert road crossing will be replaced with a flat-car bridge. The Mallard Road crossing

will be replaced with three 54-inch diameter asphalt coated steel pipes. Immediately downstream of the Geis Ditch, a reinforced concrete weir is to be installed in the Agatha Canal.

GEIS DITCH - The Geis Ditch-Agatha Canal confluence is located approximately 1,000 feet north of Mallard Road. It terminates approximately 3.4 miles west at its confluence with the Camp 13 Ditch.

The Geis Ditch requires enlargement along its entire length to carry the design flow of 225 cfs. Structural replacement includes: two reinforced concrete weirs, three culvert crossings with inlet control structures to be replaced with flatcar bridges and two culverts replaced with reinforced concrete weirs.

Estimates for the proposed work indicates a cost between \$1,474,000 and \$1,594,450. The Department of Water Resources 1986/87 budget provides for funding in the amount of \$985,000 toward this project. This is conditioned upon local agencies input of at least 10% of the total project cost. Furthermore, the Budget Act requires that DWR "try to insure that the area affected by this project is maintained as wetlands, acceptable to the Department of Fish and Game, for at least 10 years."

A proposed cost participation breakdown, based on the high estimate is therefore:

Department of Water Resources	\$985,000
Local agencies (or 10% of Project cost)	159,450
WCB	450,000
TOTAL .....	\$1,594,450

Assuming the project can be completed at a lesser amount, the local agency and WCB cost would be reduced accordingly.

The Department of Fish and Game has recommended this project. In fact, without its completion, a good water supply to an estimated 1,280 acres of the 3,200 acre Los Banos Wildlife Area could be in jeopardy. It is proposed that the work be carried out by the District under a cooperative agreement.

The project qualifies for funding under the interior wetlands portion of the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as an enhancement measure to habitat for "wildfowl and other wildlife benefitted by a marsh or aquatic environment".

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve this project as outlined above, allocate \$450,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as designated for interior wetlands, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned. He advised that Don Marciochi, Manager of the Grassland Water District, was present to respond to any questions the Board might have.

Ms. Ordway asked for clarification as to whether the drainage water is being blended or being removed in this process. Mr. Edon explained that the facilities placed in Phase 2 provide for separation of drain water from fresh water, enabling the drawing of fresh water as needed. Mr. Rote asked about the proximity of the highly contaminated Kesterson Reservoir to the Los Banos Wildlife Area. Both areas were pointed out on a map by Mr. Edon and it was explained that it is all part of the same system, but that with the separation of the drainage water and the fresh water supply, the situation would be helped tremendously.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE GRASSLAND WATER FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$450,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Interior Wetlands); AND CONDITIONAL ON COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA REQUIREMENTS, AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Mendota Wildlife Area Expansion (East), Fresno County \$2,852,000.00

This item is to consider the proposed acquisition of two parcels of land totalling 1,373.23+ acres in Fresno County. The land, which is adjacent to the Mendota Wildlife Area, is located approximately 30 miles west of the City of Fresno via Highway 180 (Whitesbridge Road) and about two miles southeast of the town of Mendota. Mr. Howard Dick, Land Agent, pointed out on a map the previous acquisitions in this area and its relation to the proposal being considered at this time.

Mr. Schmidt advised that the acquisition will round out Department of Fish and Game's holdings at Mendota within the physical boundaries of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks on the east and Fresno Slough on the south. In addition, substantial riparian and scheduled water rights are a part of this proposal. Almost all of the acreage proposed for purchase is used for growing irrigated row crops; however, DFG plans to restore the property to its historical wetland habitat if acquired. The acquisition will provide an additional 2 to 3 miles of frontage on Fresno Slough and an unnamed tributary. Acquisition of this property has been highly recommended by DFG for many years.

Migratory waterfowl utilize the area from October through February with numerous resident species of birds (egrets, heron, pheasant, quail) and mammals occurring year-round. In fact, there is an active heron rookery on the area at this time. In addition, migrant bird species become abundant seasonally, e.g., dove in summer and various songbirds and raptors in winter.

After conversion to wetlands, DFG believes that under its management the property could support from 8-10 million duck-days use a year plus abundant populations of other forms of wetland wildlife. Of course, this conversion would also provide recreational uses, including waterfowl hunting in winter along with pheasant, dove and rabbits. Waterfowl hunting pressure during



fall months is expected to be high. Dove, pheasant and rabbit hunting pressure is expected to be light to moderate. Fishing would be another major consumptive use for the area during spring and summer. Non-consumptive use would also be significant and will include sightseeing, birding, photography, hiking and group tours.

Enhancement of the area for game species, principally waterfowl, dove and pheasant will no doubt increase recreational opportunities during the fall months. It is believed that the waterfowl hunter quota could be increased substantially on the Mendota Wildlife Area with the acquisition and development of the area with only minor changes in manpower to operate the check station as the present Mendota check station could be used.

The two properties have an approved appraised fair market value total of \$3,144,384. The owners have agreed to sell the properties for \$2,841,384. This amounts to a donation to the State of \$303,000. In addition, an application has been made to secure a reimbursement of up to \$367,883 under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. It is estimated that acquisition costs, including appraisal, escrow and review costs, will amount to approximately \$10,000. The total allocation necessary to complete this acquisition is therefore estimated at a rounded cost of \$2,852,000. Net cost after federal reimbursement would be \$2,484,117. Funding is available for this acquisition in the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund for interior wetlands and waterfowl habitat.

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. As indicated, the DFG would manage the property as part of its Mendota Wildlife Area management activities.

It was staff recommendation that the Board approve purchase of this parcel as proposed, allocate \$2,852,000 for the purchase and related costs from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Funds available for interior wetland acquisitions, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Parnell advised that letters of support have been received from Senator Rose Ann Vuich and Defenders of Wildlife.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION (EAST), FRESNO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$2,852,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Interior Wetlands) TO COVER PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. San Jacinto Wildlife Area Expansion #3, Riverside County \$446,700.00

This proposal is for the acquisition of a parcel consisting of 293+ acres, adjacent to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area near the town of Lakeview, just east of Perris Reservoir. Prior WCB and DFG acquisitions comprise about 3,750 acres for the wildlife area. The overall wildlife area provides habitat for many wildlife species including waterfowl, quail, dove, cottontail and jackrabbits, golden eagles, black shouldered kites, hawks, coyotes, deer and approximately 150 other species of non-game birds. The area is being planned as a public hunting area for waterfowl and upland game species.

In this case, the owners of a former duck club have offered the subject property to the State for inclusion in the wildlife area. The parcel abuts the State property for a distance of about three-fourths of a mile on the east side of the wildlife area and would afford potential for expanded public use. The owners have offered the property for the State-approved valuation of \$878,000.

Mr. Schmidt advised that the WCB will be able to purchase this property for \$440,700 through agreements reached with the Department of Water Resources and Hemet Fair Board by staff and the Department of Fish and Game. This process was explained by Mr. Sarro as follows: The Department of Water Resources was to transfer a 107 acre parcel of DWR lands at the foot of Perris Reservoir to the Department of Fish and Game as mitigation for certain habitat damage which was caused during construction of the State Water Project. The Hemet Fair Board, however, has expressed an interest in that same 107+ acre parcel for use as a site for its Farmers' Fair. Negotiations between DWR, DFG, WCB, and the Fair Board resulted in an agreement whereby DWR would transfer the mitigation property to the Fair Board (rather than DFG) and the Fair Board would contribute \$437,300 toward the proposed acquisition of this San Jacinto Wildlife Area expansion. This is the sum estimated to be the market value of the 107-acre site plus the cost of habitat enhancement on the subject 293 acres as necessary to provide habitat values equalling those of the 107-acre site. The result would be that WCB would pay a total of \$440,700 for the \$878,000 value property. In the future, the Department would plan to seek Board funding of about \$135,000 for enhancement of the subject property for wildlife habitat improvements. Staff estimates closing costs would be about \$6,000.

Mr. Schmidt continued his report, stating that the subject property would be managed as part of the existing area at minimal additional departmental cost and this purchase would be exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Funding would be from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund.

It was staff recommendation that the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$446,700 for the purchase price and costs from the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as designated for interior wetlands, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Parnell noted that a letter of support had been received from Senator Presley and verbal support was received from Assemblyman David Kelley.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #3, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$446,700 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Interior Wetlands) FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Big Valley/Ash Creek Wildlife Area Expansion #1, \$1,314,000.00  
Lassen County

Mr. Sarro described the former total ownership of the two owners of Ash Creek, the area which is known as "Big Swamp" and which is considered historic wetlands by the Corps of Engineers, and the 1,630+ acres now being considered for acquisition.

In 1985, Mr. Schmidt reported, the Board authorized purchase of 11,525 acres from two ranches in Lassen and Modoc counties for establishment of what is now known as the Ash Creek Wildlife Area. Both ranches had been offered to the State in their entireties at the time, but funding constraints limited the Board's ability to acquire all of the properties involved.

The owner of the remaining westerly Big Valley Ranch has now offered an additional 1,630+ acres to the State for expansion of the wildlife area to take in all of the balance of the historic wetlands known as "Big Swamp". This historic wetland is, of course, the key to the Ash Creek/Big Valley area's excellent quality wildlife habitat. The wildlife uses of the Big Valley Ranch seem, at times, almost limitless. Bald eagles, golden eagles, Swainson's hawks, kestrels, peregrine falcons, prairie falcons, waterfowl, black backed kite, California quail, a few pheasants, antelope, Rocky Mountain mule deer, muskrat, mink, badger, coyotes, several species of rodents, several species of owls, black tailed jackrabbits, a variety of shorebirds, buteos and accipiters, are among species using the property. And beyond this, studies by the DFG have indicated that in 1981 and 1982, nearly 20% of all known nesting sites of greater sandhill cranes in northeastern California were situated within the Big Valley complex. The cranes, which are State listed as "threatened", nest in northeastern California, and then winter in the Central Valley.

Development of the subject 1,630+ acres to more intensive agriculture has been planned for some time, and has actually begun on parts of the property now being proposed for purchase.

The Department strongly supports this acquisition on two bases. First, it would greatly reduce the annual maintenance costs for replacement of fences at the southerly boundary by allowing their permanent installation at locations outside the actual wetlands. Secondly, the acquisition would allow restoration and enhancement of the outstanding wildlife habitats within the 1,630 acres.



Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board  
August 26, 1986

The Office of Space and Real Estate Services (OSRES) has reviewed the 1985 appraisal data and has approved the value of \$1,288,000 for the lands now being offered. Staff estimates closing and related expenses at \$6,000 and potential relocation of the landowner's irrigation ditches and facilities at \$20,000.

This acquisition would be categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 13, acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and the Department would manage the property as part of its Ash Creek Wildlife Area. Funding is available from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve this proposed acquisition, allocate \$1,314,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as designated for interior wetlands, for the purchase price and related costs and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as outlined.

Mr. Parnell advised that support for this project in the form of letters from Assemblyman Stan Statham and Dan Chapin of the California Waterfowl Association had been received.

Mr. Chapin stated that earlier there was discussion as to whether or not some water rights in the reservoir were attached to this property and wanted to know if this had been clarified. He was advised by Mr. Schmidt that this matter was checked into by staff, and it was determined that water rights do not automatically go with the property. It is necessary to buy the water separately, and that it is actually in the form of stock in the water company. Acquisition of the stock will be looked into as a possibility in this transaction.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE BIG VALLEY/ASH CREEK WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #1, LASSEN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,314,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Interior Wetlands) FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Suisun Marsh - Cordelia Slough, Solano County \$534,000.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that this proposal is to acquire 320+ acres located in the west Suisun Marsh area, lying adjacent to State Highway 680, approximately three miles south of the intersection of Highway 680 and I-80 in Solano County. In addition to the 320+ acres to be purchased, it is proposed that the Board accept a conservation easement donation of 48+ acres to be used as a buffer area for the main acquisition. The ownership, consisting of 560+ acres, is currently operated as a duck club with some haying done on the upper acreage. The location of this proposed acquisition was pointed out to the Board members by Mr. Frank Giordano, Land Agent.

The property contains habitat of particular importance to migratory waterfowl of the Suisun Marsh and Pacific Flyway. Numerous other species of wetland oriented wildlife also use the area. These include herons, egrets, and shorebirds as well as small mammals. Currently the property is provided some protection through county zoning, land use planning and the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act provisions. However, without this purchase, the need for a permanently protected refuge in this area of the marsh cannot be assured.

The parcel is of area-wide importance as a refuge for waterfowl on the west side of the Suisun Marsh. The primary purpose of this acquisition, in relation to other Department of Fish and Game owned parcels in the marsh, is to provide a resting area for wintering waterfowl, thereby increasing waterfowl use in the west Suisun Marsh. In addition, nesting waterfowl and other wetland birds and mammals also use the area as breeding and nesting habitat. As a refuge, it is anticipated that this area may accommodate 7,000 to 10,000 waterfowl with an estimated 20-70 pairs of ducks nesting annually. In addition, the upper area (buffer) has been used heavily for many years by resting and grazing Canadian geese, a use which is expected to continue with the acceptance of a conservation easement over this buffer area.

The Department indicates that the area will originally be set up as a refuge with no hunting. However, if the need arises there may be limited hunting in the future. The property would also provide fisherman access to Goodyear Slough. The area could support an estimated 400 fisherman days and 250 nonconsumptive user days annually. Nonconsumptive uses would be limited to nature study, bird watching and group educational opportunities.

The parcel has been appraised and the owner has agreed to sell at the approved fair market value of \$512,000. In addition, the 48+ acre conservation easement donation is valued at \$70,000+. Appraisal and survey costs, escrow fees and Department of General Services review charges are expected to be about \$22,000. Funding for these expenditures is available from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund. Management of the property would be by the Department along with its other holdings in the Suisun Marsh.

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

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve this purchase and accept the donation, allocate \$534,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund designated for interior wetlands to cover the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Rote asked if there is any development pressure in that area along Highway 680, and Mr. Giordano responded that there definitely was, as new subdivisions are going in on the west side of 680. Mr. Rote then advised the Board of Senator Keene's strong support for this project.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT OF A BUFFER ZONE FOR SUISUN MARSH - CORDELIA SLOUGH, SOLANO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$534,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Interior Wetlands) FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Honey Lake Wildlife Area - Fleming Unit Expansion #1, \$715,000.00  
Lassen County

This proposal is to acquire a 480+ acre parcel, located adjacent to the Honey Lake Wildlife Area in Lassen County. The property is located about 17 miles southeast of Susanville via Highway 395, and is accessible through the Fleming Unit. This unit of the Honey Lake Wildlife Area bounds the proposed acquisition on the west side. The location and its desirability as an adjunct to the present Honey Lake Wildlife Area were pointed out by Mr. Giordano.

Mr. Schmidt reported the Department of Fish and Game has highly recommended acquisition of this property since it is capable of being easily incorporated into the existing wildlife area and being managed with existing manpower and equipment. Secondary objectives would include providing food for migrating waterfowl with seasonally-flooded ponds. In addition, two prime benefits of this proposal are the expanded waterfowl hunting opportunities, and the fact that only one private ownership will remain between the Fleming Unit and the Dakin Unit of Honey Lake. The primary objective would be to provide nesting habitat for upland nesting species of ducks and pheasants.

Although the levee between this parcel and Honey Lake presently has a break in it, flooding a portion of the area, the land is normally fully diked and consists of high quality soil which can be utilized by the Department for creating wetlands as well as growing feed for waterfowl. The cost of repairing this levee has been deducted from the appraised value of the land as has been the cost of relevening this previously laser levelled field.

The entire 480 acres proposed for acquisition could be restored to good quality wetlands at little cost to the State. However, since food crops are extremely important to the operation of a waterfowl area, the Department proposes to put about half of the area into cereal grain production (wheat or barley) and nesting cover (alfalfa and wheatgrass). The balance of this area will be restored to wetlands, including nesting islands. Because of the high quality of the soils on this area, it is felt that crop production will far exceed production on this 135 acres of land presently farmed within the boundaries of the existing Fleming Unit. The Department therefore plans to restore this 135 acres to good quality wetland habitat and transfer the farming operations to a portion of the new parcel. Acquisition of this area will therefore provide a net 375+ acres of newly restored wetlands, as well as a net 105+ acres of higher quality croplands within the Honey Lake Wildlife Area.



Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board  
August 26, 1986

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 and establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580.

The property has an approved market value of \$703,000. There are no improvements of value on the property.

It is estimated that in addition to the property's appraised value, an estimated \$12,000 will be required for related acquisition costs, including appraisals, title insurance and processing costs.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve the purchase of this property as proposed, allocate \$715,000 therefor from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, as designated for interior wetlands, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

It was reported by Mr. Parnell that Assemblyman Stan Statham has submitted a letter in support of this project.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR HONEY LAKE WILDLIFE AREA-FLEMING UNIT EXPANSION #1, LASSEN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$715,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Interior Wetlands) FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Suisun Marsh Habitat Enhancement Project, Solano County \$165,000.00  
(AB 2090)

This proposal, Mr. Schmidt advised, is to consider an allocation to fund marsh habitat development and enhancement work on privately owned duck clubs within the primary management area of the Suisun Marsh, as provided for in Assembly Bill No. 2090, Hannigan.

The Suisun Marsh comprises approximately 85,000 acres of tidal marsh, managed wetlands, and waterways in southern Solano County. It is the largest remaining wetland around San Francisco Bay and includes more than ten percent of California's remaining wetland area. The Marsh is also a wildlife habitat of nationwide importance. It plays an important role in providing wintering habitat for waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway, and because of its size and estuarine location, supports a diversity of plant communities. These provide habitats for a variety of fish and wildlife, including several rare or endangered species.

Recognizing the threats to the Suisun Marsh from potential residential, commercial, and industrial developments, and the need to preserve this unique wildlife resource for future generations, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed in September, 1974, the Nejedly-Bagley-Z'berg Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1974. The Act directs the San Francisco

Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Department of Fish and Game to prepare the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan "to preserve the integrity and assure continued wildlife use" of the Suisun Marsh. The Protection Plan was completed and sent to the Legislature in December, 1976. AB 1717, Fazio, a bill designed to implement the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, was approved in September 1977. This act, called the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, in addition to other items, provided for the following:

"District means the Suisun Resource Conservation District."

"The district shall have primary local responsibility for regulating and improving water management practices on privately owned lands within the primary management area of the Suisun Marsh in conformity with Division 19 (commencing with Section 29000) and the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan."

"A management program prepared by the Suisun Resource Conservation District designed to preserve, protect, and enhance the plant and wildlife communities within the primary management area of the marsh, including, but not limited to, enforceable standards for diking, flooding, draining, filling, and dredging of sloughs, managed wetlands, and marshes."

The management program for the marsh and management plans for the duck clubs within the primary management area have been completed and approved.

The Legislature, desiring to provide continued support for the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, approved AB 2090, Hannigan, in September, 1982. This act provides for funding support for the Suisun Resource Conservation District to aid private marshland owners to develop and enhance their duck club property to comply with the provisions of the management plan approved for their property. The act provides for the following:

9965. (a) The Legislature finds that compliance with the mandated regulations of the district will produce public benefits by improving wildlife habitat in the primary management area and that providing public funds to partially offset the costs of complying with those regulations would serve a valid public purpose. Assistance under this section shall not be treated as taxable income to a private landowner.

(b) Each year the district shall submit to the department an estimate of an amount sufficient to reimburse the private landowners in the primary management area for 50 percent of the operation and maintenance costs which it anticipates they will incur the following fiscal year in carrying out this chapter and Division 19 (commencing with Section 29000). Funds for this purpose shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per individual ownership. The funds shall be included in the budget of the department payable from the Wildlife Conservation Fund and shall be available to the department for disbursement to the private landowners in accordance with subdivision (c).

(c) Each fiscal year, any private landowner in the primary management area who desires to qualify for the assistance provided by this section shall, by December 31, submit to the district a claim for those costs incurred that calendar year in carrying out the operation and maintenance activities specified in that landowner's individual ownership management program. Each claim shall be accompanied by substantiating documents, as determined by the district. The district shall review each claim to determine its appropriateness by, including, but not limited to, an onsite inspection to establish that the physical improvements or management procedures for which a claim is submitted have been satisfactorily completed. The district shall submit the individual ownership claims to the department for review and approval for payment equal to 50 percent of each claim. However, no payment shall exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). In any fiscal year in which the funds appropriated for purposes of this section are insufficient to pay 50 percent of each claim, the department shall pay all approved claims on a pro rata basis. In any fiscal year in which no funds are appropriated for purposes of this section, the department shall pay no claims.

In order to meet the legislative intent of the funding referred to in AB 2090, \$165,000 has been included in the 1986-87 budget bill for this purpose for expenditure in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947.

Mr. Schmidt stated that the District and the Department of Fish and Game will review all applications received from the duck club owners and will determine that the work planned will conform to the prescribed approved management plans and will result in additional wetland development or enhancement as required for Prop. 19 funding before such funding is approved. Such work may include, but is not limited to, levee construction or restoration (not including normal maintenance), water conveyance systems or water control structures. The District has requested the Board to approve this proposal, and by Resolution agrees to support the program and enter into the necessary agreements with the Department of Fish and Game to implement the program.

All marsh enhancement and development work will be in compliance with the construction and management standards described in "The Suisun Resource Conservation District's Management Program to preserve, protect and enhance the plant and wildlife communities within the primary management area of the Suisun Marsh", which was certified by BCDC in 1981 according to the procedures established in AB 1717. In addition all of the development work authorized by the District will be covered under appropriate permits. The District has determined that this action is exempt from CEQA under Section 15101, Class 1(i), and has filed a categorical exemption in accordance with the Act.

It was staff recommendation therefore that the Board approve the marsh development enhancement program authorized under AB 2090, allocate \$165,000 therefor from the 1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (Interior Wetlands), and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.



Senator Keene's strong support for this project was reported by Mr. Rote.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SUISUN MARSH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT, SOLANO COUNTY, AS AUTHORIZED UNDER AB 2090 (1982); ALLOCATE \$165,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Interior Wetlands); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Engineering Survey, Monterey County     \$32,000.00

This proposal is to consider the allocation of funds to conduct an engineering study, including aerial photos and topographic mapping, of the Moss Landing Wildlife Area to facilitate future salt marsh habitat restoration.

The Moss Landing Wildlife Area, the subject of this proposal, was pointed out on a map displayed at the meeting, and its relationship to Moss Landing and the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary was explained by Mr. Edon.

Mr. Schmidt explained that the area is a Department owned parcel, acquired by the WCB in March of 1984. The initial acquisition was for 554 acres, which was followed by the purchase of an additional 62 acres in November, 1985. The area is located on the north bank of Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County. More specifically the parcel is located in the community of Moss Landing, just easterly of State Highway 1. The Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary, a 1,240+ acre Board-acquired sanctuary, is located on the opposite bank of the Slough. For the most part, the wildlife area is comprised of marsh land and former salt ponds used by the previous owners for salt and brine shrimp production.

Elkhorn Slough is 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 manmade small craft harbor, located on Monterey Bay, halfway between the communities of Monterey and Santa Cruz.

The wildlife area 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 also rest and feed in this area on a regular basis. Census numbers indicate that Elkhorn Slough ranks among the several most important 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 values contained within the boundaries of this wildlife area, as well as the adjoining slough, the area also provides very good recreational opportunities. The subject area provides waterfowl hunting opportunities as well as public fishing access. 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.

One of the major functions of the area will be to provide salt marsh and tidal flat habitat for the various wildlife species that frequent the site. As a first step in this process the Department is developing a management plan for this wildlife area. The proper placement and dimensions of levees, water control structures, nesting islands, drainage canals, observation blinds and other facilities associated with the management of this area is dependent upon accurate elevation data and other topographical engineering information. Therefore the Department proposes to contract for an engineering survey to provide the needed data, including aerial photos and topographic mapping of the area.

This proposal was submitted by the Department of Fish and Game. This action is exempt from CEQA under Section 15306, basic engineering data collection, and a Notice of Exemption has been filed pursuant to the Act.

Proposition 19 provides funding for development or enhancement of marshlands inside the coastal zone for habitat for wildlife benefited by a marsh or aquatic environment. This engineering survey is the first step toward completion of the habitat enhancement planned for the area.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve this project as proposed, allocate \$32,000 therefor 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.

Mr. Rote asked about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's involvement there, and he was advised by Mr. Schmidt that they were going to acquire everything on the west and north bank, which is now being pursued by the State as the Moss Landing Wildlife Area. However, after making one appraisal six years ago, they walked away from it, apparently deciding instead to concentrate their efforts in Tijuana Slough estuary instead.

Mr. Parnell stated that he has seen the area and termed it the epitome of a wildlife area. He found it absolutely gorgeous and teeming with wildlife.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE MOSS LANDING WILDLIFE AREA ENGINEERING SURVEY, MONTEREY COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$32,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Coastal Wetlands); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. San Elijo Lagoon Expansion #2, San Diego County \$106,000.00

This proposal is to acquire a 21.0+ acre parcel in San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego County. The Board has previously approved the acquisition and staff has acquired 270+ acres in San Elijo Lagoon. The previously acquired property and the subject acquisition were indicated on a map by Mr. Howard Dick, Land Agent.

Mr. Schmidt advised that San Elijo Lagoon consists of approximately 530 acres of coastal wetlands located about 15 miles north of the City of San Diego, between the unincorporated communities of Cardiff-by-the-Sea and Solana Beach. The property presently proposed for purchase is located on the east side of Highway 101 between the highway and the Sante Fe Railroad tracks. The Department of Fish and Game has highly recommended this acquisition in a continuing effort to acquire the remaining privately owned wetlands in San Elijo Lagoon.

While the mouth of the lagoon is periodically open to the sea and to tidal action, the lagoon also floods from freshwater runoff fed primarily from Escondido Creek. These conditions provide a combination of salt and freshwater marsh habitats for a wide variety of wildlife species. In addition to supporting a sizeable resident population of wildlife, the lagoon provides important seasonal habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

San Diego County has planned a regional park for the lagoon and general surrounding area, with emphasis on preserving and enhancing its estuarine wetland ecosystem. The County has already acquired in excess of 500 acres, mainly in the east basin of the lagoon, and has entered into a cooperative agreement to manage the property acquired by the WCB as a wildlife area within the regional park. At its September 18, 1980, meeting, the Board allocated \$202,560 for marsh restoration and habitat improvement in the east basin in a cooperative project with San Diego County. This restoration, which included dredging, creating two islands, removing cattail and tule vegetation, rebuilding levees and installing water control structures, is essentially completed.

The owners agreed to sell this property to the State for its appraised fair market value of \$105,000. Due to time constraints, the State Coastal Conservancy agreed to pre-purchase the parcel (which they have done) for eventual sale to WCB. They anticipated they would get reimbursed by WCB and they intend to transfer the property to WCB via a Transfer of Control and Possession Agreement. It is estimated that an additional \$1,000 is needed to pay for the Office of Space and Real Estate Services review.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemption 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 was staff recommendation that the Board approve acquisition of this property for expansion of the San Elijo Lagoon Wildlife Area as proposed, allocate \$106,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as available for coastal wetlands acquisitions, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR SAN ELIJO LAGOON EXPANSION #2, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$106,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Coastal Wetlands); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. Rusch Creek Steelhead Habitat Enhancement, Trinity County \$15,000.00

The Department of Fish and Game has proposed that the Board allocate funds for the enhancement and rehabilitation of steelhead rearing habitat in the lower portion of Rusch Creek, from the mouth upstream for approximately 1/2 mile.

Mr. Edon showed the location of the project and explained the purpose of the project which is to improve the rearing habitat in the stream for the juvenile steelhead so that a larger percentage will survive to migrate to the ocean.

Mr. Schmidt advised that Rusch Creek is a medium sized, perennial stream tributary to Hayfork Creek in Trinity County. The project site is approximately 4 miles west of the town of Hayfork on land owned by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Rusch Creek lies within the South Fork Trinity River Drainage and falls under the scope of the Model Steelhead Stream Demonstration Project Plan (MSSDP). The MSSDP plan is a basin-wide approach to bring about the restoration of the anadromous fish stocks in the drainage through the improvement of the physical habitat and through biological enhancement. The plan is a long term commitment on the part of Cal Trout, Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service. This project includes two areas noted in the original Rusch Creek Fish Habitat Improvement Project (FHIP) proposal submitted to the Department of Fish and Game and is part of the larger project plan. The Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game have already funded and completed portions of the habitat improvements identified in the FHIP. This proposed work will complement the instream work already completed.

The 1964 flood, which produced record high flows in many waterways in Northern California, caused serious damage or completely destroyed miles of productive salmon and steelhead habitat. Many streams were gutted by the force of the flood flows. In addition to thousands of cubic yards of debris and sediment being deposited in the lower gradient sections of the streams, miles of flood riffles were also created by the high flood waters.

Flood riffles are broad, shallow stream sections composed primarily of 6 to 8 inch cobbles or boulders. Fisheries biologists commonly refer to sections of streams with this type of habitat as "bowling alleys". These areas lack pools and provide little if any spawning or rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. Flood waters also caused the loss of bank stability and associated streamside shade canopy which is needed to maintain cooler summer water temperatures required for survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead.

Since anadromous fish spend the juvenile portion of their life cycle in their natal stream, the need for adequate rearing habitat is a significant factor relative to the overall status of a population. This is especially true for steelhead since they spend up to two years in the stream before migrating to the ocean.

Rusch Creek is typical of many north state anadromous streams in that rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids is limited. Spawning habitat for steelhead is good and Rusch Creek typically produces more steelhead than can be successfully reared within the stream. However, the type of habitat needed to successfully rear steelhead to the one and two year old class is very limited. The objective of this project is to improve rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead through the development of pool structure and cover. This will increase the amount of available habitat for 1 and 2 year old steelhead, thereby improving the overall fish production of this stream. The improvement of spawning habitat for steelhead and salmon will be a secondary benefit.

The rearing habitat improvement work planned will be completed by instream installation of structures using boulder weirs, gabion wing deflectors, log weirs, log deflectors and boulder groups. The instream work will utilize natural materials and will be constructed during low flow conditions to minimize short term impacts. As many structures as can be completed with these funds will be constructed, with ten units being the maximum number planned for this 1/2 mile reach of stream. The Forest Service will complete this work under contract and will provide supervision and construction support. They have also agreed to maintain the habitat structures and continue to manage the stream for the benefit of anadromous fish.

As indicated, this is a cooperative project between the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game and has been recommended to the Board by the Department. The project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15304, maintaining fish habitat to protect fish. A Notice of Exemption for the project has been filed and posted with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in accordance with CEQA.

Proposition 19 (Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Act of 1984) specifically identifies funds generated by the bond issue for the restoration of waterways for the management of fisheries. It is proposed that this project be funded from that source.

It was staff recommendation therefore that the Board approve this stream habitat enhancement proposal, allocate \$15,000 therefor from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (Stream Restoration and Enhancement), and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board  
August 26, 1986

Mr. Parnell noted that a letter of support has been received from Assemblyman Statham.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RUSCH CREEK STEELHEAD HABITAT ENHANCEMENT, TRINITY COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$15,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Stream Restoration and Enhancement); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. Springville Clarkia Ecological Reserve, Tulare County \$42,000.00

This proposal, Mr. Schmidt reported, is for the acquisition of approximately 4.46 acres to establish an ecological reserve for the California listed endangered plant - Springville clarkia (*Clarkia springvillensis*). The plant is under consideration for listing as Endangered or Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is considered to be rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society and is treated as a sensitive species by the U. S. Forest Service.

Mr. Dick advised that the property is located in the Springville area of Tulare County, about 10 miles northeast of the City of Porterville and some 25 miles southeast of the City of Visalia, the county seat of Tulare County. The main access to the area is provided by Highway 190 which goes easterly to Springville from Porterville and the southern San Joaquin Valley. The Springville area is a low density population area comprised of two major land uses which are large acreage cattle grazing operations and small acreage foothill homesites ranging from two to ten acres in size.

According to the Department of Fish and Game, the Springville clarkia is restricted to five remaining small occurrence ranging from 40 to 200 plants at each site. The total known range for this endemic species covers an area of only six miles in diameter. The major threat to this species is the development of parcels for mobile homes and ranchettes. One population has already been destroyed by this type of development. Irrigation and heavy grazing pressure which follow this type of development severely reduce the habitat available for the species. Roadside spraying and other fire prevention measures, such as mowing during flowering, adversely affect reproduction.

The subject property is classified as a rural homesite and is currently listed for sale. A domestic well has been drilled on the property so it is almost certain that a rural residence would be constructed if it were sold. The property is located on the northerly side of Bear Creek Road, approximately eight miles northeast of Springville via Balch Park Road and Bear Creek Road.

The Department of Fish and Game has indicated that although the proposed acquisition is small in size, it is readily supportable based on its environmental significance, and will require little maintenance other than



boundary fencing and posting. The site is adequate for long-term management for protection of the endangered plant species. Other operational costs may include a survey and occasional inspections by the unit biologist and warden. An added attraction for this particular site is the fact that a large parcel across Bear Creek Road from the subject site is owned by the County of Tulare and operated as an outdoor educational program in science and conservation (SCICON) for elementary school students. The focus of this program is environmental awareness of natural resources and this land use complements the use of the proposed acquisition.

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.

The owners of the property have agreed to sell to the State for its approved appraised fair market value of \$37,000. It is estimated that an additional \$5,000 is necessary to cover related acquisition costs such as appraisals, title insurance and processing costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$42,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as designated for rare and endangered species habitat for the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

The receipt of a letter in support of this project from the Defenders of Wildlife was noted by Mr. Parnell.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE SPRINGVILLE CLARKIA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, TULARE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$42,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (Rare and Endangered Species Habitat); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

#### 20. Magnesia Canyon Ecological Reserve Expansion #1, Riverside Co. \$435,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is for the purchase of 1,141+ acres adjacent to the Department's Magnesia Canyon Ecological Reserve for preservation of the range of bighorn sheep in the Santa Rosa Mountains.

Mr. Sarro pointed out on a map the Magnesia Canyon Reserve, which is adjacent to the westerly city limits of Rancho Mirage, between Palm Springs and Palm Desert, and which was acquired and established in 1977. In 1985, the Board authorized the purchase of an additional 2,560+ acres to the west



of the reserve holdings to afford additional protection to this critical bighorn sheep habitat. The currently-proposed acquisition would include properties to the immediate north and southeast of the reserve and would, when coupled with prior WCB purchases and Bureau of Land Management lands, place all the mountain lands adjacent to the Rancho Mirage city limits in public ownership, a block of ten sections of land. This would also afford additional protection around Magnesia Springs, a major sheep watering hole.

Mr. Schmidt advised that the Department strongly supports this purchase and the ongoing efforts of the Board, BLM, and private conservation organizations to preserve the bighorn sheep range and would include these properties in its management plan for the Magnesia Canyon Ecological Reserve and surrounding properties in the Santa Rosa Mountains.

The properties have been appraised and the owner has offered them to the State for their approved valuation of \$428,000. Staff estimates an additional allocation of \$7,000 would be needed for escrow, title insurance, appraisals and General Services review expenses.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Funding for this ecological reserve expansion is available from the Environmental License Plate Fund.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve this purchase, allocate \$435,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund to cover the purchase price and related costs and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as outlined. He indicated Mr. and Mrs. Pard, the owners, were present and thanked them for their attendance and interest.

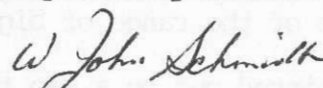
Mr. Parnell noted Senator Presley's support of this acquisition as evidenced by a letter from his office.

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE MAGNESIA CANYON ECOLOGICAL RESERVE EXPANSION #1, RIVERSIDE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$435,000 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Parnell at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt  
Executive Officer

# PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on August 26, 1986, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$86,771,085.44.

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 .....	5,538,187.84
	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	920,549.46
c.	Fishing Access Projects .....	22,917,303.15
	1. Coastal and Bay .....	\$1,993,960.61
	2. River and Aqueduct Access .....	6,028,319.97
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access .....	4,530,921.54
	4. Piers .....	10,364,101.03
d.	Game Farm Projects .....	146,894.49
e.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects	35,787,774.02
	1. Wildlife Areas (General) .....	32,738,888.12
	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 .....	<u>164,303.86</u>

Total Allocated to Projects ..... \$86,771,085.44