

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

Minutes, Meeting of August 18, 1987

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Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 127 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on August 18, 1987. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chairman Al Taucher. He advised that staff has requested, and he has so ordered, that Item 7 on the agenda relative to the Navarro River and Beach Public Access be pulled from the calendar as additional study was believed desirable before Board consideration of the proposal. He also ascertained that there were no elected officials or others who wished to have items in the agenda considered out of order.

1. Roll Call

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Albert C. Taucher, President	Chairman
	Fish and Game Commission	
	Pete Bontadelli, Acting Director	Member
	Department of Fish and Game	
	Assemblyman Norman S. Waters	Joint Interim Committee
	Dr. Jim Rote,	
	vice Senator Barry Keene	" " "
	Rick Battson,	
	vice Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	" " "
	Edna Maita,	
	vice Assemblyman Jim Costa	" " "
<u>ABSENT:</u>	Jesse Huff	Member
	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
Frank Giordano, Land Agent
Marylyn Gzys, Staff Services Analyst
Sandy Daniel, Secretary
Alma Koyasako, Executive Secretary

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OTHERS PRESENT:

James R. Crumpley	Moffatt & Nichol, Eng.
Norman G. Williams	City of Imperial Beach
Don Dimitratos	Marin Co. Parks & Rec. Dept.
Ed Smith	Dept. of Fish and Game, Reg. 4
Earl M. Luppe	" " " " , Reg. 5
Greg Wapinsky	Dept. of Boating and Waterways
Geo. Kruchler	Siskiyou County
Jack Anderson	Siskiyou County
John C. Boehm	Eastern M.W.D.
Jan Hellard	Mendocino
Douglas Bronick	Mendocino
Amity Hyde	Dept. of Fish and Game
Mike Montgomery	KXPI-FM 91
Richard Spotts	Defenders of Wildlife
Jim Collin	Office of Senator Vuich
Peggy Blair	Dept. of Fish and Game
Fred Harris	Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the May 20, 1987, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended by Executive Officer, W. John Schmidt.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 1987, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Funding Status as of August 18, 1987

(a)	<u>1987/88 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	<u>(Funds Available)</u>
	Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions - Eco Reserves..	\$1,000,000.00
	Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 417,000.00
	Governor's Budget - Minor Development Projects	\$ 400,000.00
(b)	<u>1986/87 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$1,000,000.00
	Less previous Board allocations	-63,906.77
	Unallocated Balance	\$ 936,093.23
(c)	<u>1985/86 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$750,000.00
	Less previous Board allocations	-750,000.00
	Unallocated Balance	-0-

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(d) 1986/87 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget/Chapter 1489	\$1,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-59,221.17
Unallocated Balance	\$ 940,778.83

(e) 1985/86 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-

(f) 1987/88 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$14,000,000.00
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(g) 1986/87 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$12,165,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-11,017,286.42
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,147,713.58

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

Governor's Budget	\$9,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-7,457,342.79
Unallocated Balance	\$1,542,657.21

(i) 1985/86 Parklands Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,700,950.00
Unallocated Balance	\$3,299,950.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	
Acquisition	\$ 2,353,093.23
Minor Development	\$ 400,000.00
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$ 940,778.83
<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement</u>	\$16,690,370.79
<u>Parklands Fund of 1984</u>	\$ 3,299,950.00

4. Recovery of Funds

Mr. W. John Schmidt, Executive Officer, advised that the following projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to the various funds. He recommended that the total amount of \$5,255.94 be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund, \$4,787.07 be recovered to the Environmental License Plate Fund, and \$205,943.15 be recovered to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund and the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Belden's Landing Public Access, Solano County

Allocation	\$160,000.00
Expended	-159,657.41
Balance for Recovery	\$ 342.59

Slinkard & Little Antelope Valley Wildlife Area Exp. #3, Mono County

Allocation	\$556,000.00
Expended	-552,641.90
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,358.10

Pine Creek Reservoir, Modoc County

Allocation	\$80,600.00
Expended	-79,044.75
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,555.25

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$5,255.94

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

River Spring Lakes, Mono County

Allocation	\$362,500.00
Expended	-358,057.13
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,442.87

San Jacinto Wildlife Area Expansion #2, Riverside County

Allocation	\$1,000.00
Expended	-655.80
Balance for Recovery	\$ 344.20

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries \$4,787.07

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Klamath River (Irongate X), Riverside County

Allocation	\$95,000.00
Expended	-106.50
Balance for Recovery	\$94,893.50

Big Valley/Ash Creek Wildlife Area Expansion #1, Lassen County

Allocation	\$1,314,000.00
Expended	-1,305,781.65
Balance for Recovery	\$ 8,218.35

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Blue Ridge Condor Wildlife Area, Tulare County

Allocation	\$500.00
Expended	-462.10
Balance for Recovery	\$ 37.90

Honey Lake Wildlife Area (Fleming) Expansion #1, Lassen County

Allocation	\$715,000.00
Expended	-705,592.15
Balance for Recovery	\$ 9,407.85

San Elijo Lagoon Expansion #2, San Diego County

Allocation	\$106,000.00
Expended	-105,943.25
Balance for Recovery	\$ 56.75

San Jacinto Wildlife Area Expansion #3, Riverside County

Allocation	\$446,700.00
Expended	-445,226.45
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,473.55

Springville Clarkia Eco Reserve, Tulare County

Allocation	\$42,000.00
Expended	-38,067.35
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,932.65

Suisun Marsh-Cordelia Slough, Solano County

Allocation	\$534,000.00
Expended	-452,594.20
Balance for Recovery	\$ 81,405.80

Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County

Allocation	\$4,000.00
Expended	-0-
Balance for Recovery	\$4,000.00

Hidden Valley, Riverside County

Allocation	\$30,000.00
Expended	-27,483.20
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,516.80

Total Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Recoveries \$205,943.15

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE PROJECTS AS SET FORTH BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS SHALL INCLUDE THE SUM OF \$5,255.94 TO BE RECOVERED TO THE UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$4,787.07 TO BE RECOVERED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; AND \$205,943.15 TO BE RECOVERED TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Eagle Lake Fishing Access, Lassen County \$10,000.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that this proposal is to consider the acceptance of a public access easement over 6+ miles of an existing dirt road to ensure public access through private lands to the east shore of Eagle Lake, Lassen County. The road, which begins at the end of Lassen County Road #226, is the main source of access to the east shore of the lake. It terminates at an area which is reported to be one of the better bank fishing spots available.

Mr. Frank Giordano, Land Agent, indicated the area under consideration, and stated that it is located approximately 16 miles to the north of Susanville. He added that a public access easement rather than a fishing access easement is being acquired so that it can be opened to other activities besides fishing.

The project, Mr. Schmidt continued, was proposed by Lassen County and the Bureau of Land Management. It was their concern that public rights in this road, which has been used by the general public for many years, possibly 50 years or more, should be more firmly established. Since no official public access rights exist, continual public use and maintenance has always been questionable. In the past, maintenance has been done by either logging companies using the area, the County, the California Department of Forestry using personnel from the Susanville Correctional Facility, and even the National Guard through its training exercises. A management plan for future operation and maintenance is proposed with Lassen County.

The costs to be incurred in this transaction would include payment of \$6,500 for survey expenses, plus closing expenses and transaction review charges by the Department of General Services. In all, staff estimated the total costs necessary to acquire these rights at approximately \$10,000. Most of the landowners along this route have already agreed to transfer these easement rights to the State.

Funding for this acquisition is available from the Wildlife Restoration Fund. The project is exempt from CEQA under class 13 of Categorical Exemptions which includes acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and to provide access to public lands and waters.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$10,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for the costs of completing this acquisition and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli commented that this is a highly appropriate method of securing public access which has become a problem in some other areas. This will also assure that a project previously developed by the Board for public fishing purposes will continue to be available to the fishing public.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENTS AT EAGLE LAKE, LASSEN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$10,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND TO COVER PROCESSING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Rick Battson from Assemblyman Isenberg's office, Edna Maita from Assemblyman Costa's office, and Fred Harris from the Senate Finance Committee who were present were introduced.

6. Red Lake WLA Expansion #1, Alpine County \$322,000.00

This proposal is for the acquisition of five parcels, totaling 240+ acres, to provide improved fishing access at Red Lake and to preserve important deer habitat in the Hope Valley and Carson Pass areas of Alpine County.

In 1981 the Board purchased three parcels in this area totaling 520 acres which provide access to 1/4 mile of Red Lake and 3/4 mile of Forestdale Creek. Mr. Schmidt requested Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent, to provide background information relative to the previously acquired property and the relationship of the proposed acquisition to the Department's holdings at Red Lake.

Mr. Sarro advised that of the five parcels now proposed for acquisition, one is entirely surrounded by the previously acquired property, one is surrounded entirely by State Parks property and the remaining three are bordered by National Forest lands (El Dorado and Toiyabe).

The Department has indicated that the subject parcels are critical deer summer range and fawning grounds. Of primary importance would be the two parcels adjacent to the existing DFG lands, which provide habitat preservation, public fishing access and consolidation of DFG holdings at the lake. An 80 acre parcel, lying about 2 miles north of Red Lake, is also considered excellent deer summer range and fawning habitat. The two remaining parcels are bisected by State Highway 88, subjecting them to a higher threat of development than the other three parcels and, of course, the resulting adverse impact this would have on the habitat.

Although no listed species are known to occur on the specific parcels, bald eagles are frequent visitors to the area, and northern goshawks will utilize the timbered areas for hunting and possible nest sites.

The entire Hope Valley area is a highly valuable recreational resource for Alpine County. If current development pressures from Nevada and from the Lake Tahoe area continue, the County may be forced into allowing residential

development in the forested uplands along Highway 88. Current zoning (AG-20) protects the open meadow areas from structural development, but it allows cattle grazing. The Alpine County General Plan will allow single family residences in the forested areas under this zoning at up to one family dwelling unit per five acres, with approval of special use permit. The property's pine and fir forests, aspen groves and high sierra meadows (with such characteristic plant life as American laurel, blueberry, and varied wildflowers) provide important summer range and fawning cover for the area's deer herds. Three of the parcels lie along a well-used deer migration corridor. The primary management objective should be to preserve the parcels in their natural state in order to preserve the Red Lake ecosystem, and to protect deer habitat for the Carson River deer herd.

There would be no further capital outlay required by the Department and little, if any, operation and maintenance costs, since the purpose of this acquisition is to preserve the habitat in its natural condition. Because the property is bordered by National Forest lands, a cooperative management agreement would be useful. This acquisition will round out both Fish and Game and USFS landholdings and will greatly enhance protection of the wildlife habitat.

Because long-range plans for the county cite the Red Lake area as appropriate for planned unit development, acquisition is considered the only practical means of permanently preserving the resources on the property as well as those on adjacent Fish and Game and USFS lands.

A further consideration in this proposal is the overall effort currently underway by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to put together a large-scale, coordinated State and Federal acquisition project in Hope Valley, which is in the immediate vicinity of the subject parcels. There are three major landowners in this environmentally important valley. TPL has been able to negotiate an option with one of the three landowners which calls for TPL to acquire some 5000 acres of private lands in and around the Hope Valley area over the next 18 months. In addition, under the same agreement, TPL will acquire some 2200 acres in Mono County.

To assure the area landowners of its ability and its commitment to succeed in this project, TPL considers it to be critical that significant progress be shown this year. Timely acquisition of the Red Lake parcels by the WCB will be a cornerstone in the effort to protect these lands. TPL believes the prospects are good for Forest Service acquisition of the remaining parcels within the next nine months through a combination of exchange, previously appropriated funds, and new appropriations. The technical aspects of this federal transaction may well delay TPL's conveyance to the Toiyabe Forest. WCB's purchase of the Red Lake parcels as soon as possible would give TPL some much needed breathing room.

Meanwhile, a federal supplemental appropriations bill has recently cleared both houses of Congress, which would allow the Forest Service to spend funds for acquisition of some 390+ acres in Hope Valley. TPL is also ready to close a deal with the Toiyabe Forest on an additional 37.5 acres of Hope Valley property to be financed through the payment of mitigation by Heavenly Valley for its proposed expanded water impoundment on the Nevada side of the

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ski area. To meet the value of the remainder of these land groups, TPL and a wide variety of groups across the state are working with California's delegation in Washington toward an additional \$1.7 million dollar appropriation in fiscal year 1988 for Hope Valley acquisitions by the U.S. Forest Service.

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 preserving access to public lands and water where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

The property has been appraised and has been offered to the Board by TPL for the approved appraised fair market value of \$315,000.00. An additional sum of \$7,000.00 is estimated to be needed for the cost of escrow, title insurance, General Services review and related closing expenses. The property would be managed by the Department, potentially by way of agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, at minimal cost to the State. Funding would be available from the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$322,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to cover the purchase price and costs and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF THE RED LAKE WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #1 PROPERTY, ALPINE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$322,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Since Item 7 on the agenda, Navarro River and Beach Public Access, Mendocino County, was pulled from the calendar, the Board proceeded with the next agenda item.

7. Summary of Wildlife Conservation Board Projects Report \$1,500.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that in 1974 the Board prepared a report entitled "A Summary of Wildlife Conservation Board Projects" which listed all the projects the Board had participated in to that time. This report, which contained a brief description of each project including costs, Board approval dates and managing agencies, is extremely valuable to Board staff as well as other governmental and private organizations. However, its usefulness is decreasing as the years go by because of the many projects funded since its preparation.

It was now proposed that the Board take this year, its 40th anniversary, to update this report. It was further suggested that it be updated every five years, with the annual reports supplementing its usefulness in the interim years.

The cost to print 200 copies of the report, which will contain approximately 200 pages, back-to-back is estimated at \$1,500, if printed by the Department of Water Resources. This would include spiral binding and hard stock covers (no pictures).

Because it was felt that this is an extremely useful tool for staff and others, Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve this proposal as presented, allocate \$1,500 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for this purpose and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli commented that the timing for updating this report is highly appropriate, this being the 40th anniversary of the WCB, to make sure that we understand what has been done and what is available to date. It will also become a basis for Department staff in preparing additional information to make sure the public knows where the facilities are so that wider use of the areas may become available.

Dr. Rote asked about the format of the report itself as well as the timing for completion of the report, and Mr. Schmidt responded that the report is set up by categories or types of projects and then indexed by both county and types of projects. He pointed out that the report was already done on the word processor and estimated that printing should be accomplished within a month.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE UPDATE OF THE SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD PROJECTS AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,500 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR PRINTING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Imperial Beach Fishing Pier, San Diego County \$500,000.00

The City of Imperial Beach has requested WCB assistance in reconstructing the Imperial Beach Fishing Pier. The Board's involvement in this project dates back to 1962 when it allocated \$150,000 on a matching fund basis for the original pier construction. Since that time an additional \$74,000 has been allocated for repairs and pier improvements.

Mr. Al Rutsch, Assistant Executive Officer, explained the proposed reconstruction and the redesign of the structure which will gradually increase the height and the configuration of the westerly end which would help to strengthen the structure and increase available space at the more optimum ocean depths.

As a result of severe winter storms in 1980-81, the westerly end (approximately 250') of the 1200' pier was destroyed. Before repairs could be made the pier sustained an additional 180' loss as a result of storms in the winter of 1983. These storms have left this pier in a weakened condition with the majority of its remaining length currently closed to public use.

Mr. Schmidt continued that in its continuing efforts to rebuild this pier the City formed a committee, which included an engineering firm experienced in pier construction, to develop a plan for reconstructing the pier as well as its appurtenant shoreline facilities. Based on this committee's recommendation the City is proposing to repair the inboard 693 feet of the remaining pier and reconstruct an additional 798 feet for a new pier length totaling nearly 1,500 feet.

A 5,766 square foot platform is proposed on the westerly end unlike the original tee-end design. To reduce the probability of future storm damage to the pier an important feature of the new design is its gradual increase in height from the original pier height of 22 feet to a new height of 31.5 feet (above ocean surface at mean low water level). The waves which caused the major destruction were estimated to be about 24 feet high. In addition, the plans call for steel piles to be used in place of the more traditional wood pile for added strength and longevity. Also included in the pier design are public restrooms, fish cleaning facilities, and a boat launching facility to accommodate sport fishing boats.

The Department of Fish and Game has provided staff with a favorable recommendation for this proposal. This recommendation fully supports the additional 300 feet proposed to be added in this project as it will provide anglers with pier access to deeper and calmer waters. Water depths at a 1200 foot length are estimated at 12 feet while the new design will reach depths of 20 feet. It should be noted that in 1964 the Board funded an artificial reef near this pier and in later years an accidental barge spill created yet another reef near the pier, both of which add to the fisheries in this area. Pier users can expect to catch up to 22 different species of fin fish including barred and walleye surfperch, Pacific mackerel, yellowfin croaker and corbina.

The City of Imperial Beach has submitted a resolution in support of this proposal as well as attesting to the City's willingness to enter into the necessary agreements with the Department of Fish and Game to insure the City's operation and maintenance of the project for a 25 year period. They have also complied with the California Environmental Quality Act with the adoption of a Negative Declaration for the pier reconstruction. Adequate parking for pier users will be available as a result of the shoreline improvements presently underway.

A funding strategy is being pursued by the City to finance the estimated \$1,440,000 project cost, which includes a combination of federal disaster funds, local funds and the proposed WCB allocation. The proposed funding by source is as follows:

Federal Emergency Management Agency	\$280,236.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$500,000.00
City of Imperial Beach *	<u>\$659,764.00</u>
(Certificates of Participation)	
TOTAL	\$1,440,000.00

* Excluding support facilities to be added at City cost.

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A cost estimate breakdown has been prepared by the city's engineer and reviewed by staff. It is summarized as follows:

Piling - remove, replace	\$431,400.00	
Decking, caps, stringers	641,000.00	
Railing	43,800.00	
Electrical, water, sewer	65,000.00	
Miscellaneous	20,800.00	
	<u> </u>	
	SUBTOTAL	\$1,202,000.00
Contingency, 20%		238,000.00
		<u> </u>
Estimated Construction Cost		\$1,440,000.00

Mr. Taucher asked if the increase in height was a step up or a gradual increase, and Mr. Rutsch advised that it was a gradual increase to a new height of 30+'. He further explained that engineers have had a lot of experience, and recent oceanographic studies indicate that this height will better withstand highest waves on top of the highest tides and wind conditions.

Dr. Rote asked about the status of the Corps of Engineers permit for this longer pier which might present some problems, and Mr. Jim Crumpley with the engineering firm of Moffatt and Nichols indicated that he has been in contact with the Corps of Engineers in regard to this pier construction and although the permit has not yet been secured, there is no navigational hazard where this pier is located.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve the Imperial Beach Pier project as proposed, allocate \$500,000 therefor from the Parklands Fund of 1984 as appropriated to WCB for coastal fishing piers, on a matching fund basis with the City of Imperial Beach, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned. He reported that a letter in support of this project had been received from Assemblywoman Mojonnier and Senator Deddah.

Mr. Bontadelli asked that the Board members be provided a report regarding the various permits secured prior to the time the money is spent.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPERIAL BEACH FISHING PIER, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$500,000 THEREFOR FROM THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984, AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL FISHING PIERS, ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Dana Point Fishing Pier, Orange County \$66,950.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that Orange County, through its Environmental Management Agency, has requested WCB assistance in their efforts to rehabilitate the Dana Point Fishing Pier. This 304 foot pier is located in the Dana Cove Park area of the Dana Point Harbor and is known to receive heavy fishing use.

The pier, which was constructed some 35 years ago, is in extremely poor condition, mainly due to natural deterioration. In fact, a small boat access to the pier has been closed to public use because of the hazards it presents.

Mr. Rutsch explained the proposal provides for a major renovation of the pier including guard rail removal and replacement; replacement of decking; replacement of necessary pilings, stringers and beams; and construction of a new gangway. Also proposed is the construction of a fish cleaning sink, new water system and lighting, as well as a new gangway and float for small boat access.

Mr. Schmidt continued that the shoreline facilities already provided by the County include restrooms and parking lot of sufficient size to accommodate pier users as well as park users. A snack bar and bait and tackle shop is currently located on the pier. However, the County proposes to relocate this facility to the shore thereby providing more usable pier space as well as making the snack bar more usable for all waterfront visitors.

The Department of Fish and Game has provided a favorable recommendation for this project. They indicate that fishing at this location is good with catches expected to include pile perch, white croaker, queenfish, spotted sand bass and an occasional halibut.

Orange County has submitted a resolution in support of this proposal as well as attesting to their willingness to enter into the necessary agreements with the Department of Fish and Game which include a lease to the Department and an agreement to operate and maintain this project for a 25 year period. The City has also complied with the California Environmental Quality Act with the adoption of Negative Declaration for the pier renovation.

Cost estimates as provided by the County indicate a total project cost of \$133,900.00. As is normal with pier projects funded by the Board, the County has agreed to 50-50 cost match. Funding for this project is proposed as follows:

Mobilization	\$ 6,500.00
Structural Work	78,700.00
Water and electrical	12,500.00
Guardrail	7,800.00
Fish sink, concrete slab	3,000.00
Gangway & Float	13,200.00
Subtotal	<u>\$121,700.00</u>
Contingency, 5%	6,100.00
Admin. & Engr., 5%	6,100.00
Total Project Cost	<u>\$133,900.00</u>
WCB Share, 50%	\$ 66,950.00

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve the Dana Point Fishing Pier project as proposed, allocate \$66,950.00 therefor from the Parklands Fund of 1984 as designated for coastal fishing piers, on a

matching fund basis, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

With the comment that he was particularly pleased that the concessionaire building is to be relocated to the shore making available more rail space for the fishing public, Mr. Bontadelli made the following motion:

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RENOVATION OF THE DANA POINT FISHING PIER, ORANGE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$66,950 THEREFOR FROM THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984, AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL FISHING PIERS, ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH ORANGE COUNTY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. McNear's Beach Fishing Pier, Marin County \$82,000.00

Mr. Schmidt explained that this item is for additional funds to supplement those approved by WCB on May 6, 1986, for the McNear's Beach Pier Project which is being developed on a matching fund basis in cooperation with Marin County. The original allocation was for \$275,000.00, based on the county's \$550,000.00 estimate.

The County Department of Public Works prepared plans and called for bids on June 30, 1987. Six bids were received with the low bid coming in at \$632,737.00. Since five of the bids were very close, they appear to reflect actual costs and rebidding is not advised. The County recommends awarding the contract to the low bidder, which will require an additional allocation of \$82,000.00 from WCB, to be matched by the County, so the project can be constructed as planned.

The County's analysis comparing the low bid against the estimate has been reviewed by staff and the differences appear to be accountable. Mobilization and pile driving costs were underestimated because they were based on design assumptions which later had to be changed for various reasons. Also, some work was added to meet Corps of Engineers permit requirements, and contractor's liability insurance premiums escalated sharply, all of which contributed to the higher cost.

At present, the project requirements are \$664,000 which represents the low bid plus 5% for contingencies. \$500,000 is available for construction since \$50,000 of the original funding is for engineering design, inspection and contract administration. The supplemental WCB allocation requested is one half of the \$164,000 shortfall. This is summarized as follows:

Low Bid:	\$632,737.00
5% Contingency	31,263.00
	<u>\$664,000.00</u>
Less Remainder of	
Original Allocation:	-500,000.00
Shortage:	<u>\$164,000.00</u>
Marin County:	\$ 82,000.00
WCB:	\$ 82,000.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that Mr. Don Dimitratos from the Marin County Parks and Recreation Department was present to answer questions from anyone. He further advised that the County would be handling the construction contract and will be operating and maintaining the project for a 25 year period when completed.

He recommended the Board allocate \$82,000.00 from the Parklands Fund of 1984 on a matching fund basis with the County of Marin for the McNear's Beach Fishing Pier to augment funds previously approved, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE AUGMENTATION OF FUNDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR THE MC NEAR'S BEACH FISHING PIER, MARIN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$82,000 THEREFOR FROM THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984 ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE COUNTY OF MARIN; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Lake Shastina Public Access, Siskiyou County \$115,000.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that the County of Siskiyou has applied for WCB funds to construct an access road to a proposed new boat ramp at Lake Shastina. The County has applied for a Department of Boating and Waterways grant for the ramp and parking area. The total cost of the facilities is estimated at \$232,700.00.

As described by Mr. Rutsch, Lake Shastina is located near Weed, 86 miles north of Redding. The lake is owned by the Montague Water Conservation District but the surrounding lands are controlled by Lake Shastina Properties, Inc., the developers of the Lake Shastina Subdivision. The lake is some 1,850 acres in size at its maximum water surface elevation of 2805 feet. The subdivision is sparsely populated with a mix of permanent and seasonal residents in its widely scattered homes.

As a condition of approval for development in 1970 the subdivision was required to allow public access to the lake. However, only one public ramp was ever constructed. It is unusable during five months of the year when the reservoir is at lower levels, mostly during the most popular recreation period. This project is the culmination of nearly eighteen years of effort by public and private interests pursued through the courts, which finally resulted in the dedication of a right-of-way for the new ramp and access road.

The Department of Fish and Game recommends approval of this access proposal, noting the excellent trout and warmwater fishery that exists there. Sampling by the department indicates that the lake has one of the best bass populations in northern California and tremendous numbers of brown bullhead that are of a size attractive to anglers. Both the bullhead and bass populations could support much heavier angling pressure than is now being exerted.

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The new ramp and parking site is on Milkhouse Island, not far from the existing ramp and county park. This site will permit boat launching at the lower reservoir levels. The access road from the county park to the ramp will be a two lane graveled surface roadway about 2,500 feet long. The road and ramp will not be used at the higher reservoir levels.

The County, as lead agency for this project, has filed a Negative Declaration indicating no significant environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity as required by CEQA, but mitigation measures were made a condition of approval. These basically require that there be no excavation or fill below the maximum water storage elevation so as to insure against possible loss of water or storage capacity. The mitigation measures are considered by staff to be acceptable to the State.

The County has submitted a resolution in support of this proposal declaring their willingness to lease the project site to the Department of Fish and Game for a twenty-five year term and to maintain and operate the improvements for public fishing access purposes for the lease term.

The cost estimate for the total project development as submitted by the County is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Ramp & Parking</u> (DBW)	<u>Access Road</u> (WCB)
Clearing & grubbing	\$ 4,000	\$ 10,500
Excavation & fill	11,100	55,000
Road & parking area rock	7,600	13,000
Parking area grading	14,000	
Concrete ramp	48,000	
Boarding dock	9,000	
Drainage culvert		8,500
Rock slope protection	<u>6,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Subtotal	\$ 99,700	\$ 97,000
Contingencies, 10%	10,000	10,000
Engineering & Admin., 8%+	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$117,700	\$115,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$232,700	

Mr. Schmidt advised that if funding is approved as summarized above, the Department of Fish and Game and Department of Boating & Waterways would enter into an agreement with the County for the purposes of carrying out the work. The County Department of Public Works' responsibilities would include design, preparation of bid documents, contract administration and construction inspection.

It is expected that this project will qualify for 75% reimbursement of costs to the respective fund sources under the federal Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Dingell-Johnson Act (Sportfishing Restoration Account) and an application will be filed for that purpose if approved as proposed.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board, with consideration of the Negative Declaration prepared and filed by the county, approve the Lake Shastina Public Fishing Access Project as proposed, allocate \$115,000 therefor from the Parklands Fund of 1984, conditional on approval of the budgeted Department of Boating and Waterways funding for this project, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. He noted that in attendance from Siskiyou County were Mr. Jack Anderson, Deputy Director of Public Works, and Mr. George Kruchler, and Mr. Greg Wapinsky from the Department of Boating and Waterways, who could respond to any questions the Board members may have.

Mr. Bontadelli stated that he had viewed the area recently and noted that this project would clearly provide the access needed at this time of the year and requested staff to pursue the request for reimbursement of funds under the D-J program.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAKE SHASTINA PUBLIC ACCESS, SISKIYOU COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$115,000 THEREFOR FROM THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984, CONDITIONAL ON APPROVAL OF THE BUDGETED DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Los Banos Wildlife Area Expansion #2 (Salt Slough), \$1,465,000.00
Merced County

This proposal is for the acquisition of 929+ acres of wetland habitat referred to as Phase 2 of the Los Banos Wildlife Area Expansion. Phase 2 is located adjacent to the northwest boundary of the existing wildlife area. The Board, at its March 3, 1987, meeting, approved the first phase of this expansion project which consisted of the acquisition of 1,329 acres. At that meeting the Board was advised that this was a proposed two phased project. Approval included direction to staff to acquire an option for this second phase.

To furnish the Board members a review the phased acquisition proposal, Mr. Howard Dick, Land Agent, provided a general run-down of the project. He stated the Los Banos Wildlife Area is located in Merced County approximately five miles northeast of Los Banos. The property involved in this proposal is bounded on the south by the wildlife area, on the west by Mud Slough, and on the north by Salt Slough, a tributary to the San Joaquin River. Access to the area is provided by Wolfsen Road which joins Highway 165 (Mercey Springs Road) near the westerly boundary of the subject.

Mr. Schmidt reported that key habitat types found within the proposed acquisition include riparian, seasonal wetlands, and improved and native pasture. Riparian habitat within the ranch is found along the courses of Salt Slough and Mud Slough, which flows out of the Los Banos Wildlife Area. These two sloughs provide the major source of water for the entire area.

Salt Slough also acts as a major buffer to intensive agricultural activities. Vegetation along the course of these sloughs include round stem tule, willows and cottonwoods. Wildlife use and diversity within Salt and Mud Sloughs is excellent. Species of specific importance include the State-listed threatened Swainson's hawk and great horned owls, which actively nest in the area. Other avian species of importance occurring there include loggerhead shrike, willow flycatcher and yellowthroat, all sensitive species dependent upon this habitat type.

Seasonal wetlands, the second habitat type found on the area, accounts for 20% of the property as it is currently managed. This area is utilized for hunting and cattle grazing, which has provided historical vegetation control. Principal plant species found in this habitat type include swamp timothy, spikerush, jointgrass, tule and cattail. Wet areas are dispersed throughout this habitat, separated by native grassland. The major wildlife use of the wetlands is by migratory fowl, both game and non-game species. Principal waterfowl species include geese, mallards, green-winged teal and American widgeon. Non-game species include shorebirds, white-faced ibis and greater and lesser sandhill cranes. (Greater are State-listed as threatened.) Cranes and geese use the wetlands as roost sites. Some nesting by ducks and pheasants occurs during the summer, however, predation has limited the success of this use.

Improved and native pasture are the largest vegetative communities on the ranch. The vegetation consists of a mix of introduced and native grasses and forbs, as well as stands of alkali sacaton, a bunch grass native to the valley. Both grassland types have had a long history of intensive grazing which has helped maintain the short grazed character of the area.

Wildlife specifically benefiting from the grassland community include: Pacific white-fronted geese, Ross and snow geese, cackling Canada geese and Aleutian Canada geese, the latter of which is Federally-listed as endangered. Sandhill cranes also utilize this habitat heavily during the winter months. Both geese and cranes forage in the upland grassland and use the adjacent seasonal marsh as roosting sites.

The grassland community is also known to be important to the threatened San Joaquin kit fox. At least one active den is known to exist on the nearby San Luis National Wildlife Refuge.

Migratory wildlife use of the area generally occurs from mid-August through late March each year and includes use by ducks, geese and shorebirds. Populations peak at approximately 15,000 ducks and 10,000 to 15,000 geese. This property is considered a very important grazing area for geese. Sandhill crane use exceeds 1,500 birds while over 200 white-faced ibis also use this area annually. The improved and native pasture area provides for ground-nesting birds -- primarily duck and pheasant. The riparian area also provides for nesting and roosting raptors.

A key consideration for this acquisition is the quality and quantity of water available in Salt Slough for management purposes. Existing rights to divert water from Salt Slough will be transferred with the property proportionate to the area acquired. The Department of Fish and Game intends to

manage the area primarily as seasonal wetlands. Permanent ponds would not exceed 50 acres. In reality, nearly the entire acquisition area could be restored to wetlands. However, a management plan will probably see a portion of the higher ground maintained as goose pasture and most of the lower areas irrigated in the spring to produce duck food, left dry during the summer, and flooded in the fall for waterfowl use. Management would encourage native marsh species through water control.

Public use programs could be similar to existing activities already allowed on State wildlife areas. Hunting, warmwater fishing, camping, hiking, sightseeing and nature study are all available. It is believed that public hunting values for ducks, geese and pheasants will be exceptionally good, and the concentrations of waterfowl, sandhill crane and other non-game wildlife will attract large numbers of bird watchers during the winter and spring. The fact that the area is contiguous with the Los Banos Wildlife Area will facilitate wildlife and public use management. The existing staff at the wildlife area should be able to maintain hunting and non-hunting public use programs on the area without additional manpower.

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 waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

As part of the first phase of this acquisition the owners signed an option to sell the land to the State at the appraised fair market value of \$1,453,300. An additional \$11,700 is estimated to be needed for related acquisition and processing costs which bring the total allocation necessary to an estimated \$1,465,000.

This acquisition is very consistent with SCR 28 passed in 1979 by Senator Keene in that it would establish new wetlands or restore lands that have been converted to agricultural lands. A provision of SCR 28 was that the State try to establish an additional 50% of wetlands in California by the year 2000.

It was the recommendation of staff that the Board approve the acquisition of Phase 2 of this project, authorize allocation of \$1,465,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (\$1,165,000 from funds designated for interior wetlands and \$300,000 from funds designated for rare and endangered species habitat), and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Both Mr. Battson and Dr. Rote asked about any connection this project would have to the Kesterson Wildlife Refuge and if there would be any agricultural drain waters going to the wildlife area. Mr. Ed Smith from the regional office responded that this new acquisition does not receive any agricultural drain waters -- it receives good quality water and would continue to receive good quality water. Kesterson is to the north and a portion of that area has been used as an evaporation basin for drain waters so the two areas are totally different in operation. It was brought out that the area will have

water that will come with the acquisition and water available from the San Luis Canal Company and also that a bypass system was provided earlier by the WCB to take out all the drain waters without putting it on the Los Banos Wildlife Area so that only good quality water is available for the area.

Mr. Schmidt pointed out that the Defenders of Wildlife have provided a letter in support of this project as well as a number of other projects.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE PHASE 2 OF THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #2, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,465,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (\$1,165,000 FROM FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS AND \$300,000 FROM FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Los Banos Wildlife Area Expansion #3, Merced County \$210,000.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that this proposal is for the acquisition of a 120 acre parcel of land for expansion of the Los Banos Wildlife Area. This L-shaped property is bounded on three sides by the wildlife area and is currently planted in alfalfa. The west side borders the existing wildlife area and the north and east sides abut Phase I of the wildlife area expansion, which was approved by the Board on March 3, 1987 and described in the previous agenda item. The property is within the San Luis Canal Company water district and receives 160+ acre feet of water yearly.

The Department of Fish and Game, which has highly recommended this acquisition, plans to convert the existing cultivated lands to native pasture and seasonally flooded wetlands. Conversion of lands to wetlands is consistent with SCR-28 passed by the legislature in 1979 and the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Bond Act passed by the voters in 1984.

Public use programs could be similar to activities already allowed on State wildlife areas, including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, sightseeing and nature study. It is believed that public hunting values for ducks, geese and pheasants will be exceptionally good, and the concentrations of waterfowl, sandhill crane and other non-game wildlife will attract large numbers of bird watchers during the winter and spring. The fact that the area is contiguous with the Los Banos Wildlife Area will facilitate wildlife and public use management. The existing staff at the wildlife area should be able to maintain hunting and non-hunting public use programs on the area without additional manpower.

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 waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

The owners have agreed to sell the land to the State at the appraised fair market value of \$206,000. An additional \$4,000 is estimated to be needed for related acquisition and processing costs which bring the total allocation necessary to an estimated \$210,000.

It was staff's recommendation that the Board approve this acquisition, authorize the allocation of \$210,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (from funds designated for interior wetlands), and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #3, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$210,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. San Jacinto Wildlife Area/Water Supply, Riverside County \$1,150,000.00

Mr. Schmidt declared that this item is a very unique proposal, a first for this Board and possibly for the Department of Fish and Game to use secondary treated water to develop a wildlife area. He advised that the Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the Eastern Municipal Water District, is proposing to construct a pipeline to convey reclaimed water from the San Jacinto-Hemet treatment plant to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The pipeline will transport secondary treated water which will provide the wildlife area with a permanent source of low cost water for the development and maintenance of wildlife habitat. It is anticipated that at least 1,000 acres of new wetland habitat may be created as a result of this project. This is certainly consistent with SCR-28 (1979) which calls for the implementation of a plan to increase wetlands in California by 50%, by the year 2000.

Mr. Clyde Edon, Field Agent, reported that the 4,668 acre San Jacinto Wildlife Area, near Lakeview, Riverside County, was acquired to mitigate, in part, for losses of wildlife and wildlife habitat that occurred with the construction of State Water Project facilities in southern California. Funds for acquisition, development and operation of the area have been provided by the Department of Water Resources and water users in southern California under the terms of an October 1979, agreement between the Department of Water Resources, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Department of Fish and Game and the Wildlife Conservation Board, as well as through donations. Additional funds being used to develop the area include Federal Land and Water Conservation grants, State Duck Stamp project monies, and private donations by both Ducks Unlimited and Southern California Ducks, a sportsmen's organization.

The wildlife area will be managed to provide for optimum public use and enjoyment of wildlife, consistent with the primary goal of conserving and enhancing a wide diversity of wildlife and plant populations native to the

San Jacinto Valley. The location of the wildlife area, within 3 hours driving time for more than ten million people, assures a high demand for public use, both appropriate and non-appropriate.

A prerequisite for the development of wildlife habitat on this property and the subsequent public recreation that will be generated, is a dependable, affordable water supply of adequate quality and quantity. The Department of Fish and Game has had an analysis prepared, by the Department of Water Resources, of five potential water sources for the wildlife area. One of the water sources considered was surface runoff and precipitation. The wildlife area receives an average of about 11-12 inches of rain annually. Historically, a small lake (Mystic Lake or San Jacinto Lake) existed just to the east of the easternmost boundary of the wildlife area. In years of exceptionally heavy rainfall, the former lakebed is flooded, creating a shallow lake which is up to 1/2 mile wide and 2 miles long and which comes very close to the wildlife area boundary. Informal discussions with landowners who farm the lakebed area have indicated that it would be to their advantage if the State were to pump the lake dry and use the water on the wildlife area, thereby making it possible to farm the lakebed several months sooner than would otherwise be possible. Even though it is nonexistent in many years, the lake could provide at least 1,000 acre-feet of inexpensive, good quality, supplemental water in some years. The four 10-acre ponds constructed on the area in November 1984 were excavated to a depth of 4 feet below existing ground level to capture and store runoff and pumped lake water when it is available. Unfortunately, surface water and precipitation cannot be depended upon to meet the wildlife area's total water requirements, even though it can meet a part of that requirement in years of average or above average rainfall.

The estimated cost of the remaining four water sources are listed below. Water cost totals noted are based on today's prices with no consideration given for expected increases and should therefore be considered conservative.

(Development plus purchase of 4,500 acre feet per year for 25 years.)*

1. Ground Water Pumping	\$ 7,250,000.00
2. Colorado River Water	\$32,625,000.00
3. State Water Project Water	\$33,575,000.00
4. Reclaimed Water (Project Proposal)	\$ 2,275,000.00

* Because of a phased development the total 4,500 A.F./year will not be required for several years.

Methods 1-3 are not only unaffordably expensive, but there is also a good chance that 4,500 A.F./year will not be available from those sources for a continued long term program of operating this area.

The proposed project will be engineered, designed and constructed by Eastern Municipal Water District and will consist of approximately 53,000 feet of 36", 33", 30" and 27" diameter pipeline and appurtenant facilities. While the pipeline will be owned, operated and maintained by the District, the

State will be granted a reserved capacity right in the pipeline of 6.5 mgd (20 A.F./Day) during the nine month period from September 1 through May 31 each fiscal year for the life of the project.

The initial term of the project agreement between the State and the District is proposed to be for a 25 year period. However, providing water for the San Jacinto Wildlife Area is considered a long term mutually beneficial program for both the State and the District, one that will result in the production of valuable wildlife habitat that will support resident and migratory populations of wildlife and provide long term benefits to the public.

All water delivered by the District shall comply with Reclaimed Water Producers Requirements established by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, or its successor agency. In order to insure that no detrimental effects occur to wildlife, the quality of all water delivered to the wildlife area shall also satisfy the Effluent Quality Limitations specified in EPA's Quality Criteria Standards for Water 1986. In addition, when possible the State will circulate water received from the pipeline through a set of receiving ponds which will act as an additional step to breakdown and process water before it is transported to other uses within the area. The receiving ponds and associated conveyance system is being designed and will be constructed under cooperative agreement with Ducks Unlimited using State Duck Stamp Funds.

The State's cost for delivered water will be \$10 per acre feet for the first 5 years, to be adjusted for each fiscal year thereafter based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index. However, total cost during the initial 25 year term of the project shall not exceed \$15 per acre foot.

The joint financing of the pipeline facility by State and District is based on the following (capacity/length) proportion of cost allocation:

Estimated initial capital cost of pipeline \$3,029,800.00.

Pipeline Segment	Estimated Cost	Design Capacity (in mgd)	DF&G Reserved Capacity (in mgd)	% of Estimated Cost Alloc. to DF&G	Cost Initially Allocated to DF&G
1-2	\$2,116,620	17.00	6.50	38.24	\$ 809,395
2-3	167,400	11.50	6.50	56.52	94,614
3-4	276,120	9.00	6.50	72.22	199,414
4-5	469,660	6.75	6.50	96.30	452,283
Total Initial DF&G Allocation (before "time share" adjustment) say					\$1,555,706 \$1,555,700

"Time Share" Adjustment (to reflect DF&G's proposal to use its reserved capacity entitlement only nine months each year -- and allowing the District to fully use the entire capacity during the remaining three summer months to serve other customers):

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Adjusted DF\&G Allocation} &= \text{Total Initial DF\&G Allocation} \times \frac{270 \text{ days}}{365 \text{ days}} \\ &= \$1,555,700 \times .7397 \\ &= \$1,150,751 - \text{ say } \$1,150,000 \end{aligned}$$

(Equivalent to 37.96% of the total estimated cost):

State Share	\$1,150,000
District Share	\$1,879,800
TOTAL	\$3,029,800

Eastern Municipal Water District has completed and certified a Final EIR for the proposed pipeline project to comply with CEQA. This project qualifies for funding under the interior wetlands portion of the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as an enhancement measure to develop habitat for wildfowl and other wildlife benefited by a marsh or aquatic environment.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve this project as outlined above, allocate \$1,150,000 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.

Mr. Taucher asked for the reasoning for using the pipeline only nine months of the year, for he believed there was need for water for green feed for upland game during the summer months. Mr. Edon responded that by relinquishing our capacity during the summer months it would reduce the cost of our share by \$350,000 to \$400,000. Wildlife area use of water would be concentrated during September-May. However, in preparation for the summer months, water would be stored in ponds on the area. He added also that the Department is not precluded from buying water during the summer months, although the price would be increased.

Mr. Bontadelli advised that there will be sprinkler irrigation options available, specifically designed for upland game and other species outside of the winter or the waterfowl season. He went on to say that he believed it was a tremendous job of negotiating to secure a cap at \$15 per acre foot at 25 years, given the price of water in this water-deficient area.

Since this was secondary treated water, Dr. Rote wanted to know if there were health concerns in the use of this water. Mr. Edon responded that the delivered water must meet specified standards of the EPA and the regional water control board and that this is spelled out in the agreement to be entered into between the Department and Eastern Municipal Water District. Also, where the public may come in contact with the water such as in ponds for waterfowl hunting, the water will be chlorinated first. There will be included in the system a chlorination station to provide the proper retention period before water is allowed to spill into the pipeline and is included in the system designed by EMWD. This is a part of the project cost. He added that this treated water is 100% household domestic use water -- not runoff water from agricultural or industrial wastes -- and would therefore not present some of the problems of the other waters.

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Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. John Boehm from Eastern Municipal Water District was in attendance if anyone wished to address questions to him.

In regard to SCR 28, Mr. Battson wanted to know how close we are to achieving the 50% increase in wetlands and who is keeping track of the numbers of acres acquired to meet this objective. Mr. Schmidt stated we are not even close to meeting this goal, but that Prop. 19 has been the best source of funding we have had to re-create or protect wetlands. He stated that the number of acres acquired could be estimated at 10,000 to 20,000 acres presently.

Mr. Taucher asked Mr. Earl Lauppe, Wildlife Management Supervisor from Region 5, about the possibility of using the \$200,000 set up for a pipeline, the availability of which was due to expire in 1988, to cover part of the costs of this project. It was determined that this was a Land and Water Conservation Fund project and the expiration of funds would not be until September 30, 1988. It was hoped that the Engineering Section would be able to contract it out and complete the project within the one year's time still available. Mr. Bontadelli commented that an update of the overall operation of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area is to be provided to the Commission at an upcoming meeting in San Luis Obispo so that additional information will be available at that time.

Assemblyman Norm Waters who had just arrived at the meeting was introduced by Mr. Schmidt.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONSTRUCTION OF A PIPELINE FOR THE SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,150,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. San Dieguito Lagoon/Scripps Bluff, San Diego County \$160,000.00

This proposal, Mr. Schmidt reported, is to acquire an 85% interest in approximately 23.41 acres of coastal wetland habitat with adjacent uplands at the mouth of the San Dieguito River. This proposal has received a high priority recommendation for acquisition by the Department of Fish and Game. Funds were allocated by the Board for this purchase at the February 7, 1979, meeting but subsequent negotiations failed and the funds were recovered at a later meeting.

The San Dieguito River flows through the San Dieguito Lagoon which is located on the Southern California coastline approximately 20 miles north of the San Diego Civic Center and is located partly within the city limits of both Del Mar and San Diego. This property, which is split into two separate parcels by Camino Del Mar (old Highway 1), lies between the railroad and the Pacific Ocean. Mr. Sarro indicated this area on a map displayed at the meeting.

The total lagoon area is approximately 407 acres, with about half consisting of channels, ponds, and marsh, and the remaining half made up of upland transition grasslands. It has long been cut off from regular tidal influence, but does get occasional fresh water inundation from the flood waters of San Dieguito River.

According to the Department of Fish and Game, the remaining undeveloped lands of San Dieguito Lagoon have high resource values for a wetland area of this size. Sixty-three species of water oriented birds have been recorded in the area in a single winter period. The area is extremely important for the California least tern, an endangered species. An estimated 10% of the entire existing population of this bird has been observed roosting and feeding in the lagoon.

In addition to protecting a wildlife habitat from further degradation, this acquisition would provide the Department with easy access to the river mouth, which regularly closes and must be manually reopened for better management of the remaining lagoon. State ownership would also assure public access to this area for a variety of recreational and educational uses including fishing, bird watching, nature study, and scientific and education observation, in addition to the beach use which is currently very popular on portions of this property. No development is currently proposed for this parcel. Management by the Department of Fish and Game is planned, with the land being kept in essentially its existing condition except for some minor habitat improvements. Some portions of this property could be considered for joint management by the City of Del Mar, to better utilize its compatible recreational opportunities.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of acquisitions of land for fish and wildlife habitat, establishment of ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and preservation of 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 85% interest in this property have not, as of the time this agenda was prepared, agreed to sell to the State. Approval of this item would provide staff with the opportunity to make a firm offer and be in a position to proceed if the offer is accepted. If we are successful in the endeavor, efforts will begin to acquire the remaining 15% interest. The proposed offer of \$150,000 for this property is based on an appraisal prepared by the Department of General Services. However, because of State Lands Commission claims to this area WCB staff sought a second review by Commission staff. Based on this review, the value as noted by General Services was adjusted to \$150,000 to reflect these State claims. An additional \$10,000 is estimated to be needed to cover related acquisition costs including the appraisal, escrow fees and General Service's review fees.

Mr. Schmidt advised that Scripps has received an offer and it is in escrow for \$250,000 which is \$100,000 higher than the State's offer. However, he proposed that the Board approve this proposal as presented, allocate

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\$160,000.00 from the 1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (as designated for coastal wetlands) for the 85% interest and related costs and authorize staff and the Department to make a backup offer to the owners. He had reason to believe that we would be successful in spite of the problems.

In response to Dr. Rote's question as to what would happen to the site if the other offer carries, Mr. Schmidt advised that the buyer proposes to offer that parcel to the City of Del Mar in exchange for something else. If that happens, it would be held in public ownership. There was a City Council meeting last night to consider this proposal; however, staff has not been apprised of the outcome of that meeting. It was his understanding that the City is not happy with the exchange proposal. Discussions with the party purchasing the Scripps parcel disclosed that they might be willing to offer it to us for our offer of \$150,000. In either event, it appeared that the area would be in public ownership, either by the Department of Fish and Game or the City of Del Mar.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF AN 85% INTEREST FOR THE SAN DIEGUITO LAGOON/SCRIPPS BLUFF, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$160,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS, FOR THE 85% INTEREST AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Kerman Ecological Reserve, Fresno County \$595,000.00

Mr. Schmidt advised that this proposal is for the purchase of 978+ acres of land, together with an option to purchase an additional 800+ acres of adjacent property for protection of habitat for several listed species. The property is located in Fresno County approximately 12 miles west of the town of Kerman and is largely undeveloped valley grassland, with a remnant shrub population. The location and description of the area under consideration was provided by Frank Giordano, Land Agent.

The primary purpose of the acquisition is to protect one of the last remaining viable habitats for the Fresno kangaroo rat, a state and federally-listed endangered species. Also found on the property is the Atriplex vallicoln (Lost Hills Saltbush), a federal candidate for listing, Northern Claypan Vernal Pools, and the Alkali Sink Scrub. Other species that may occur are two federally-listed endangered species, the San Joaquin kit fox (State-threatened) and the Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (State-endangered). Records from various sources, including DFG staff and the Natural Diversity Data Base, indicate this is one of the few remaining examples of native San Joaquin Valley habitat.

The area is also used by the other wildlife associated with dry grassland, such as the badger, coyote, jackrabbit, ground squirrel, kestrel, red-tailed hawk, burrowing owl, shrike, meadowlark and mourning dove. Waterfowl and

shorebirds also use the alkali pools in the late winter and early spring.

Overall management objectives would, of course, be directed at the retention of Fresno kangaroo rat habitat and perpetuation of the Fresno kangaroo rat. Management would also include enhancement of areas where native vegetation now exists to the point of sustaining populations of the blunt-nosed leopard lizard and San Joaquin kit fox. Although access should be restricted, the degree of restriction will be determined through management experience and research. Nonconsumptive uses such as sightseeing, photography and education may be permitted.

The potential for this parcel's development to agriculture is high. In fact, the adjacent property is currently used for cotton and grape crops. This parcel has only remained undeveloped due to ownership by the Mendota Irrigation District, and if not acquired can be expected to be converted to farm land in the near future.

This portion of the subject property has been appraised for \$587,000. The owners have also offered an option to purchase the remainder at the same per acre cost. Closing and Department of General Services review costs are estimated to be \$8,000. The Department of Fish and Game has listed this acquisition as a very high priority proposal. It is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions.

Mr. Schmidt reported the owners have agreed to offer the property at its appraised value and have agreed to sell in a phased acquisition as proposed. He noted that a letter of support for this acquisition has been received from Defenders of Wildlife, and that Mr. Ed Smith from the regional office was present to respond to questions. It was his recommendation the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$595,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (Rare & Endangered Species) to cover the purchase price and costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli commented that given the number of wildlife species involved in this area and the ability to find any acreage in the San Joaquin Valley not currently being farmed and therefore untouched, it was well worth the purchase price to acquire this parcel.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF THE KERMAN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE PROPERTY, FRESNO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$595,000 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR RARE ENDANGERED SPECIES, TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Salmon, Steelhead and Trout Habitat Enhancement Projects \$79,800.00

It was proposed by Mr. Schmidt that the Board allocate funds for the enhancement and rehabilitation of trout spawning and rearing habitat on three waterways in California and consider a scope change for a previously funded stream restoration project.

Habitat enhancement and restoration is needed on many interior streams in California that support populations of resident trout. Over the years grazing, road construction and timber harvest practices, coupled with damage from high storm flows, have caused serious impacts to many of California's smaller interior streams resulting in an overall degrading of habitat.

Long stretches of some interior streams lack the proper pool-riffle ratio and require log-rock weir structures and boulder clusters to re-create the proper habitat elements. Unstable stream banks are common and create conditions that reduce stream habitat values.

Stream banks lacking cover generate increased sedimentation which smothers spawning gravel and fills pools needed for rearing habitat. The lack of stream bank riparian growth also results in higher water temperatures, less hiding cover and a reduced food source. Some segments of streams that are heavily fished lack adequate hiding and holding cover which reduces angler success and lessens the fishing experience.

The following stream restoration projects have been recommended by the Department of Fish and Game. They are exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 Class 1 (i), maintaining fish habitat and stream flows to protect fish. A Notice of Exemption for each project has been filed and posted with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in accordance with CEQA. All of the projects listed in this item are intended to correct or enhance situations identified above.

a. Big Creek, Madera County \$10,000.00

This trout habitat enhancement project is proposed by the Sierra National Forest. Big Creek supports a good fishery for both rainbow and brown trout and serves as a popular fishing stream. A tributary to Big Creek which comes from Boggy Meadow requires bank stabilization and a headwall to prevent sedimentation from damaging trout habitat in Big Creek. Rock and log material will be used to construct a headwall and low gradient log-rock structures will be placed in the channel to trap sediment. The bank will be planted with willows to enhance stream bank stability, provide fish cover and stream shading.

b. Chiquito Creek Drainage, Madera County \$49,800.00

The Chiquito Creek drainage provides good fishing opportunity for both brown and rainbow trout. The Sierra National Forest plans to enhance habitat for trout by improving and stabilizing channels of two perennial streams that flow into Beasore Creek and Chiquito Creek. This work will involve the removal of designated fallen trees from the

stream channel, construct rock and log erosion control structures and establish vegetation to stabilize banks and enhance fish habitat. The areas will also be protected from cattle use by fencing.

c. Portuguese Creek, Madera County \$20,000.00

This is a fish habitat enhancement proposal by the Sierra National Forest for Lahontan cutthroat trout (a federally listed threatened species) in Portuguese Creek. The proposal consists of installing erosion control structures in a meadow that drains directly into West Fork Portuguese Creek, remove fallen trees and other debris, placing the trees strategically along stream banks to increase protection from high flows, reestablish vegetative growth to enhance stream bank stability, and plant willows in area to provide fish cover. The Forest Service will also construct fish pools along the creek as appropriate, using large boulders anchored in stream and consider other methods to provide cover such as overhead log placement. Site suitability and placement will be made by Department of Fish and Game fisheries biologist.

d. Scope Change on previously funded Pass Creek Project, Nevada County.
No additional funding required.

This is a proposed DFG and Tahoe National Forest project, on Pass Creek, one of two creeks feeding Jackson Meadows Reservoir. The first phase of this project was approved by the Board on March 3, 1987. Phase #1 consisted of removing a fish barrier which will result in opening up 10 miles of stream for spawning. Primary fish species to be benefited are rainbow, brook and brown trout.

Phase #2 was reported to the Board to be the improvement of habitat on the upper 10+ miles of Pass Creek that would be opened by the barrier removal. However, due to the USFS' underestimate of the barrier removal costs, it was determined that they would also need the Phase #2 funds to properly complete the barrier removal.

The Phase #2 allocation of \$20,000 was approved at the Board's May 20, 1987, meeting. This matter is simply to request Board approval to allow this change of scope on Phase #2.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONIADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF HABITAT ON THREE WATERWAYS AND A SCOPE CHANGE FOR A PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECT AS LISTED BELOW; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$79,800 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR STREAM RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

a. Big Creek, Madera County	\$10,000
b. Chiquito Creek Drainage, Madera County	49,800
c. Portuguese Creek, Madera County	20,000
d. Pass Creek, Nevada County	Scope Change

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Upper Sacramento River (Hamilton Bend), Colusa County \$43,000.00

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of a conservation easement over 76.2+ acres of Sacramento River riparian habitat. According to Mr. Dick, the property is located on the east bank of the Sacramento River at Hamilton Bend approximately four miles north of Colusa, via River Road. This land is subject to flooding from the Sacramento River, yet the area can certainly be cleared and planted to orchard use. Much of this type of habitat has already been cleared along the Sacramento River. In fact, Department of Fish and Game studies show that only about 1% of the Sacramento Valley riparian forests of the early 1800's remain today. Several hundred acres of these wildlife-rich forests are lost to agricultural uses and timber operations each year, and it appears that the most feasible method of preventing further loss of this habitat is through public acquisition, either in fee or in easement.

Mr. Schmidt further reported that according to DFG, endangered or threatened species dependent on these riparian forests include valley elderberry, longhorn beetle, bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, yellow-billed cuckoo, and California hibiscus. Bird species of special concern include double-crested cormorant, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, osprey, merlin, long-eared owl, willow flycatcher, purple martin, bank swallow, yellow warbler, and yellow-breasted chat. Fully protected species include black-shouldered kite and ring-tail cat.

The subject property is currently used as a duck club but could be cleared and developed to orchard, which is the property's highest and best use according to the appraiser. A conservation easement will allow the property's continued use as a duck club while preserving the habitat by preventing clearing of the riparian growth.

The owners have agreed to sell a conservation easement to the State at the approved fair market value of \$38,000 which is about 50% of fee value. Costs of appraisal, engineering, and closing of the sale are expected to be about \$5,000.

Management of this area will be assumed by the Department of Fish and Game, which will no doubt be limited to occasional inspections to insure compliance with the terms of the easement. The easement does not include the right of public access over the property but does give the Department the right of access for management purposes.

This proposal falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt advised that a letter of support for this project has been received from Defenders of Wildlife and recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this conservation easement, allocate \$43,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER (HAMILTON BEND), COLUSA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$43,000 THEREFOR FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Desert Tortoise Natural Area Expansion #1, Kern County \$128,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this is a proposal for the acquisition of 480+ acres of land located in Kern County. The area lies within the Desert Tortoise Natural Area (DTNA) boundaries and is located 15+ miles southwest of the community of Randsburg on Highway 395. Mr. Giordano provided the Board members a rundown of the areas acquired by the State to fully secure the area for the desert tortoise. The desert tortoise, which is the State reptile, is a fully protected species and is also being considered for federal listing as a threatened species.

The location is principally Mojave desert with Creosote scrub which provides excellent habitat for the tortoise. The DTNA comprises approximately 38 sections of land, of which approximately 25 sections are administered by the Bureau of Land Management and are designated by BLM as a Research Natural Area. It is being preserved primarily for the protection of the tortoise.

The Department of Fish and Game, using tax check-off funds, purchased 468+ acres within the DTNA on 4/27/87. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (DTPC) have also been involved in the purchasing of private inholdings within the DTNA Boundary. All agencies and organizations agree that there is no guaranteed means of protecting this important habitat as long as there is uncontrolled land within the boundaries of the natural area remaining in private ownership. However, TNC and DTPC funding is limited while zoning and land use planning is not reliable for long-term protection. Public acquisition efforts are therefore critical to the success of this program.

In addition to providing habitat for the tortoise and other animals, the DTNA contains an interpretive center and self-guided nature trails. Organized group visits into this area can be arranged through the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee. There is also limited hunting for jackrabbits and chukars within the area.

A management plan for the DTNA has been developed and approved by BLM, DFG and the DTPC, the goal of course being the preservation and perpetuation of the desert tortoise and its habitat.

The parcel has been appraised and the owners have agreed to sell at the approved fair market value of \$120,000. Appraisal costs, escrow fees and Department of General Services review charges are expected to be about \$8,000. This purchase is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical

Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Funds for the purchase of this property, which is highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game, could be allocated from the Environmental License Plate Fund.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve this purchase, allocate \$128,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund to cover the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli stated that it was his understanding this whole project is in cooperation with BLM, and that the Department is in the process of acquiring the private inholdings that are not currently federally-held lands so that eventually the area will be fully protected and set aside, with BLM as the primary manager.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE DESERT TORTOISE NATURAL AREA, KERN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$128,000 THEREFOR FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County \$198,000.00

This proposal is for the acquisition of a full section of land near the city of Rancho Mirage in the Santa Rosa Mountains in Riverside County. The proposal is in furtherance of the DFG's goal of protection of this valuable habitat for threatened peninsular bighorn sheep which utilize this range.

The areas previously acquired by the WCB, the federally-owned lands, and the section being considered for acquisition at this time were delineated on a map, along with the historic and current range of the bighorn sheep, and were described by Mr. Sarro.

Mr. Schmidt advised that the Board had allocated funds to acquire this parcel in 1985, along with another 1,920 acres. However, the acquisition of this particular 640+ acres was delayed because of problems on the part of the trust which owns the property. Faced with a probable two-year delay or more, the Board later recovered those funds for use on other necessary projects. The new trustee has indicated that the trust is now in a position to proceed with this sale.

The particular section involved is #2 on the Department of Fish and Game and Bureau of Land Management priority list, which presently includes 14 parcels. It serves to protect the historically used sheep range and, at the same time, increase to 12 full sections the federal/state owned block of lands around the Magnesia Canyon Ecological Reserve.

The DFG strongly supports this purchase and the ongoing efforts of the Board, the BLM and private conservation groups in this habitat preservation project. The Department would manage the land in conjunction with the present management of its Santa Rosa Mountain lands and expects no increase in management costs as a result of this addition.

The appraised value of the property is \$192,000, and the owner has agreed to a sale at that price. An additional \$6,000 is estimated to be necessary to cover escrow, title insurance, appraisal and General Services Department review costs.

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

Letters of support have been received by staff from both Senator Presley and Defenders of Wildlife, and it was the recommendation of staff that the Board approve this purchase, allocate \$198,000 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.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$198,000 THEREFOR FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

21. Other Business

a. Resolution honoring Mr. Parnell

Mr. Schmidt pointed out that this was Mr. Bontadelli's first meeting with the Wildlife Conservation Board, and that he is replacing Mr. Jack Parnell who has been named Director of the Department of Agriculture. In recognition of Mr. Parnell's work with the Board, the following resolution was read into the record by Mr. Schmidt.

Resolution Honoring Jack Parnell

WHEREAS, Jack Parnell, as Director of the Department of Fish and Game, served as a dedicated and faithful member of the Wildlife Conservation Board for over three years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parnell, with his background in business and ranching, combined with his interest in wildlife matters has not only worked diligently to upgrade the operations of the Department of Fish and Game but has also worked at furthering the objectives of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the welfare of the wildlife resources of the State; and

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WHEREAS, realizing the importance of the objectives of the Wildlife Conservation Board to California, he has, among his many accomplishments, promoted the upgrading of California's wetland resources by encouraging a combined program of acquisition, restoration and enhancement of these resources; and

WHEREAS, by his consistent, pleasant manner, sound judgment and constructive attitude in furthering the WCB program, he has earned for himself the love, esteem and respect of the Board and its staff; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee, and the Board staff convey to Jack Parnell our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board and extend to him our very best wishes for the future, and be it further

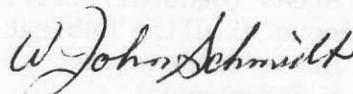
RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Mr. Parnell.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED BY THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AND THAT A SUITABLE COPY BE PROVIDED MR. PARNELL.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on August 18, 1987, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$173,806,977.53. 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, the General Fund, the Energy Resources Fund, the Environmental License Plate Fund, the 1976 Bond Act, the 1984 Parklands Bond Act and the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Bond Act.

a. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects		\$16,038,501.65
b. Fish Habitat Development		8,437,498.72
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .	\$2,990,821.39	
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	2,754,015.94	
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	498,492.86	
4. Marine Habitat	646,619.07	
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,547,549.46	
c. Fishing Access Projects		29,139,526.43
1. Coastal and Bay	\$2,733,486.25	
2. River and Aqueduct Access	6,403,851.80	
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,011,847.58	
4. Piers	13,990,340.80	
d. Game Farm Projects		146,894.49
e. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects ..		112,743,554.22
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	87,300,840.21	
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ...	2,621,954.27	
3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Rare & Endangered)	22,820,759.74	
f. Hunting Access		546,069.66
g. Miscellaneous Projects		5,758,012.87
h. Special Project Allocations		314,303.86
i. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects		<u>682,615.63</u>
Total Allocated to Projects		\$173,806,977.53