

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

Minutes, Meeting of November 20, 1987

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Minutes, Meeting of November 20, 1987

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in the Visitor Center of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Watsonville, California, on November 20, 1987. The meeting was called to order at 10:55 a.m. by Chairman Al Taucher, who apologized for the delay in starting the meeting due to inclement weather which caused transportation problems for one of the members.

1. Roll Call

<u>PRESENT:</u> Albert C. Taucher, President	Chairman
Fish and Game Commission	
Pete Bontadelli, Director	Member
Department of Fish and Game	
Edna Maita,	
vice Assemblyman Jim Costa	Joint Interim Committee

<u>ABSENT:</u> Stan Stancell, Assistant Director	Member
Department of Finance	
Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
Senator Robert Presley	" " "
Senator David Roberti	" " "
Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	" " "
Assemblyman Norman S. Waters	" " "

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Sam Farr	Assembly District #28
Senator Henry Mello	Senate District #17
John Olow III	Office of Assemblyman Eric Seastrand
Jane Weed	Mayor, City of Santa Cruz
Gail Shook	Moss Landing Harbor Board

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Marc Del Piero	Supervisor, Monterey County
Mark Hite	Senate Nat. Resources Comm.
Bill Betts	Assembly Rep. Caucus
Dan Faubus	Supervisor, Santa Cruz Co.
Spike Naylor	Dept. of F&G, Redding
Chuck Graves	Dept. of F&G, Yountville
Les Strnad	Calif. Coastal Commission
Watson Burkhead	Dept. of F&G
Richard Spotts	Defenders of Wildlife
Arnold Herskovic	City of Crescent City
Rich Dornhelm	Moffatt & Nichol, Engr.
Peter Mann	Councilman, Crescent City
Jose Alvarez	Councilman, Crescent City
George Nokes	Dept. of F&G, Fresno
Craig Winter	Moss Landing Harbor Master
Les Grimes	State Lands Comm.
Jim Messersmith	Dept. of F&G, Sacramento
Peter Grenell	Coastal Conservancy
Gene Toffoli	Dept. of F&G

(Many others were in attendance to participate in the 40th Anniversary celebration immediately following the meeting, some of whom attended portions of the meeting.)

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the August 18, 1987, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended by Mr. W. John Schmidt, Executive Officer.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 1987, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Funding Status as of November 20, 1987 (Information only)

(a) 1987/88 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget (Funds Available)

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) 1986/87 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$1,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-392,206.08
Unallocated Balance	\$ 607,793.92

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$750,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-750,000.00
Plus LWCF reimbursement	+739.94
Unallocated Balance	\$ 739.94

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

Governor's Budget/Chapter 1489	\$1,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-453,434.10
Unallocated Balance	\$ 546,565.90

(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
Less previous Board allocation	-3,168,520.86
Unallocated Balance	\$10,831,479.14

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

Governor's Budget	\$12,165,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-11,165,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,000,000.00

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

Governor's Budget	\$9,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-7,697,104.75
Unallocated Balance	\$1,302,895.25

(i) 1985/86 Parklands Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-2,464,900.00
Unallocated Balance	\$2,535,100.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	
Acquisition	\$ 2,025,533.86
Minor Development	\$ 400,000.00
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$ 546,565.90
<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement</u>	\$13,134,374.39
<u>Parklands Fund of 1984</u>	\$ 2,535,100.00

*4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Schmidt announced that Items 5, 10, 16, and 17 in this agenda are to be considered as a single consent item unless there are questions raised on any of the items. He indicated that although agenda item #13 was to be included in the consent calendar, this acquisition proposal was pulled from the agenda due to the death of the donor of the parcel just last week.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE CONSENT CALENDAR BE APPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PRESENTED. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS INCLUDES AGENDA ITEMS #5, 10, 16, AND 17, BUT NOT ITEM 13 AS NOTED IN THE AGENDA.

MOTION CARRIED.

*5. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following 11 projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to the various funds. It was recommended that the total amount of \$58,248.80 be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund; \$2,353,588.55 be recovered to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund; and \$1,668.55 be recovered to the Environmental License Plate Fund and the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Crystal Lake Hatchery, Shasta County

Allocation	\$110,000.00
Expended	-78,371.34
Balance for Recovery	\$31,628.66

Heenan Lake Fish Spawning Facility, Alpine County

Allocation	\$90,000.00
Expended	-71,726.16
Balance for Recovery	\$18,273.84

Oroville Wildlife Area, Butte County

Allocation	\$105,000.00
Expended	-101,614.90
Balance for Recovery	\$3,385.10

Sacramento River Access, Shasta County

Allocation	\$79,000.00
Expended	-75,825.95
Balance for Recovery	\$3,174.05

Indian Valley Reservoir Expansion #1, Lake County

Allocation	\$63,000.00
Expended	<u>-61,212.85</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,787.15

Wilson Valley WLA Expansion #1, Lake County

Allocation	\$200,000.00
Expended	<u>-200,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$58,248.80

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Mendota Wildlife Area Expansion - East, Fresno County

Allocation	\$2,852,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,848,974.25</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,025.75

Suisun Marsh-Hill Slough Expansion #5, Solano County

Allocation	\$1,000.00
Expended	<u>-327.90</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$672.10

Upper Butte Sink WLA, Butte County

Allocation	\$2,350,000.00
Expended	<u>-109.30</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,349,890.70

Total Fish & Wildlife Hab. Enhancement Fund Recoveries \$2,353,588.55

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

Wilson Valley WLA Expansion #1, Lake County

Allocation	\$205,000.00
Expended	<u>-204,497.70</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$502.30

Valencia Lagoon Ecological Reserve, Santa Cruz County

Allocation	\$1,500.00
Expended	<u>-333.75</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,166.25

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries \$1,668.55

(This item was included in the consent calendar and approved as presented.)

6. Camp Cady Wildlife Area Exp. #6, San Bernardino County \$41,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is to acquire a 47.85+ acre "inholding", consisting of riparian habitat along the Mojave River, San Bernardino County. The subject property is adjacent to three sides of Camp Cady Wildlife Area in the Mojave River channel. The Department of Fish and Game has recommended purchasing this parcel as it will, in addition to protecting this prime desert riparian habitat, also serve to round out the State's property line in this area, thereby providing a more manageable unit.

The Camp Cady Wildlife Area is located approximately 25 miles easterly of the City of Barstow, and is readily accessible from Harvard Road. This road, which is served by two interstate freeways (I-40 is 7 miles to the south and I-15 is 3 miles to the north) provides convenient public access to this area. Mr. Howard Dick, land agent, indicated the area under consideration.

The wildlife area includes over three miles of river frontage and is composed of areas within the river bottom, floodplain, and some adjacent uplands. The area provides a desert oasis setting which is unique to this vicinity. This occurs as a result of the surfacing of the Mojave River at this location, where geological substrata formations carry subsurface waters from nearby mountains. This combination of "spring" water and river water has created prime riparian habitat found nowhere else in this vicinity of the Mojave Desert.

The overall habitat supports a variety of both game and nongame species. Resident and migratory waterfowl, as well as other water-associated species, occur in the ponded area located within the wildlife area. Numerous quail, doves, and other species of birds are present in the upland and wooded areas. Various hawks, owls, and other raptors use the tall trees as roosting and nesting areas while a variety of reptiles are found in the drier sandy wash areas. Bighorn sheep have been observed obtaining water from the easterly end of the wildlife area.

In addition to protecting this unique habitat from degradation by almost certain development, the acquisition of these areas would provide the public with additional area for many compatible recreational opportunities, such as nature observation, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, picnicking, and primitive camping.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition. It is anticipated that these parcels will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game as part of the overall wildlife area.

The owner of the property has agreed to sell for the approved appraised fair market value of \$38,280. An additional amount estimated at \$2,720 will be required to cover processing costs including appraisal costs, title and escrow charges and General Services review costs.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the acquisition of this 47.85+ acre addition to the Camp Cady Wildlife Area as proposed, allocate \$41,000 to cover the estimated acquisition and related costs from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Taucher asked what the total acreage would be with the additional area, and Mr. Schmidt replied that it would total 1,460 acres.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE CAMP CADY WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #6, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$41,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION 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.

Chairman Taucher stated that if there were any legislators or anyone else who wished to have agenda items considered out of order, the WCB would oblige. The presence of Senator Henry Mello, Assemblyman Sam Farr, Supervisor Marc Del Piero from Monterey County, and Dan Faubus, Supervisor from Santa Cruz County, was acknowledged at this time.

7. Warner Valley Wildlife Area, Plumas County \$570,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is for the purchase of a 692+ acre ranch located in Warner Valley, approximately 9 miles north of Chester, Plumas County. Warner Creek, a major tributary to the North Fork of the Feather River, flows through Warner Valley which lies at about the 5,200 foot elevation. The northern boundary is adjacent to Lassen Volcanic National Park and the remaining boundary is largely shared with the Lassen National Forest. The property has excellent access via Warner Valley Road (a county road) which traverses the property in a north to south direction. In addition to its permanent major stream, the property's other habitat includes wetlands, marsh, swamp, wet meadow, floodplain, and some excellent riparian habitat. Mr. Frank Giordano, land agent, indicated this area on a map displayed at the meeting.

Warner Valley contains very good quality summer range for deer of the East Tehama deer herd, while fawning activities are felt to be significant. Beaver are numerous in Warner Creek and are largely responsible for the existence of the extensive wetland and riparian habitat. Bear are common and use the wetland habitat during the hot portion of the summer. Blue grouse and mountain quail are commonly seen, while various raptors use the area for hunting and some common raptor species may even nest on the parcel. Canada geese and other waterfowl species frequent the meadows and aquatic habitats, where nesting is also known to occur. Rainbow and brown trout are found in Warner Creek while brook trout are found in some of its tributaries and are abundant in the beaver ponds. Warner Creek, which has good brown trout populations, is also one of the spawning tributaries for rainbow trout from Lake Almanor.

In addition to deer, bear and beaver, various other species of fur-bearers are known to inhabit Warner Valley, including coyote, raccoon, mink, bobcat, weasel, ermine, and mountain lion. Sightings of wolverine and Sierra red fox have been reported within the general area, some sightings considered historic and some more recent (1977 and 1982).

Reports have also been received of numerous observations of bald eagles on this property, many of which have been seen catching fish in Warner Creek. Possibly up to three pair of eagles may inhabit the area and nesting may occur on the subject parcel and on other nearby lands (USFS).

The owners of the property recently received approval of a Plumas County General Plan Amendment resulting in the rezoning of the valley area to 10 acre minimum parcels. Although certain development constraints exist on the property, it is probable that allowed development with attendant road construction, leach fields, lot grading, recreational activities of residents and other activities will have serious adverse impacts on the habitat and water quality. The property is currently for sale.

No intensive management by the Department of Fish and Game is foreseen at this time and no habitat manipulation is contemplated. It is not anticipated that consumptive uses such as hunting and fishing would be precluded. Nonconsumptive uses would include hiking, bird watching and photography.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

The owners of the property have agreed to sell to the State for its approved appraised fair market value of \$562,500. It is estimated that an additional \$7,500 will be necessary to cover related acquisition costs such as appraisals, title insurance and processing costs. It should be noted that this amount differs from the amount shown in the Board's "line item agenda" as final negotiations place the acquisition area at 692 acres, rather than the 570 acres originally proposed for acquisition.

It was the recommendation of staff that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed, allocate \$570,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Taucher stated it was his understanding that even though the surrounding properties are privately-owned and could be subdivided into 10 acre lots, it would not harm the area under consideration. Mr. Schmidt affirmed that this was correct. The Department of Fish and Game's analysis was based on the fact that the northern boundary is bounded by Lassen National Park and protection of this valley area will be afforded by this acquisition. He advised that Mr. Jim Messersmith, Regional Manager, was present if there were additional questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONIADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE WARNER VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA, PLUMAS COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$570,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION 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.

8. Kirby Park (Elkhorn Slough) Public Access, Monterey County \$198,300.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is for an allocation of funds to reconstruct the existing Kirby Park access project on the east side of Elkhorn Slough, just north of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. Elkhorn Slough is located about 20 miles north of Monterey and extends inland from Moss Landing Harbor.

The project is on an 8.85 acre parcel of Moss Landing Harbor District property which is presently leased to the Department of Fish and Game. The lease expires April 7, 2002, and the District is agreeable to extending it to 2012. The Harbor District maintains the project by agreement with the Department. This agreement will also be extended to the year 2012.

WCB provided the funds for the initial development in 1956 with an allocation of \$33,000 for a short access road, graveled parking area, and a single lane concrete boat ramp. Although Kirby Road, which provides the access to the project from Elkhorn Boulevard, was part of the original development, it is no longer in the project area leased to Fish and Game. However, the County has a right-of-way from the District for this road and maintains it for "road and parking" purposes.

On March 10, 1982, the Board allocated \$26,600 to raise the parking area and ramp which were frequently swamped and unusable during high tides. Some fill was brought in for the parking area, the top of the ramp was extended, and rock slope protection provided on the exposed slopes. Unfortunately, the project did not provide for sufficient fill to raise the parking/launch area above the higher tides and waves.

Mr. Rutsch described the proposed improvements for this project which is a major renovation and which will make this facility usable year-round, provide for safer launching and retrieving, and reduce maintenance.

Mr. Schmidt went on to explain that there are two basic reasons why it is appropriate to make these improvements at this time.

First, national attention is being focused on Elkhorn Slough because of the Estuarine Research Reserve. Consequently, more people are becoming aware of the Kirby Park ramp and the opportunities it provides for fishing the slough, as well as for visiting the reserve and other general water-oriented uses such as wildlife observation. Kirby Park is the only boat ramp on Elkhorn Slough, although there is boat access at Moss Landing Harbor at the mouth of Elkhorn Slough some five miles away.

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Secondly, the Wallop-Breaux provisions of the Dingell-Johnson Act recently enacted by Congress make funds available on a 75 federal-25 local basis to encourage the expansion and improvement of boating facilities for sportsfishing use. The Department, which administers California's share of this fund, has advised the staff that Wallop-Breaux funds are available in this fiscal year to reimburse the Board for 75 percent of the project costs.

One important benefit that will result from the proposed site improvement will be greater public safety by the paving of the area next to the ramp. Due to its low elevation, it has been impractical to try to pave and maintain this area for parking use, and the only all-weather parking is the County parcel east of the Southern Pacific tracks. Although boaters and shore fishermen alike have to cross the tracks to fish, the boater has to cross six times if he parks east of the tracks, whereas only two crossings would be necessary if he parked next to the ramp.

The scope of the proposed work will include sufficient fill to bring the parking area up to an elevation of +7.0 feet above mean sea level; base rock, paving and striping; concrete ramp with a built-in boarding walkway on one side; rock slope protection around ramp; and signs, restroom facility or other minor work. The new parking area will accommodate at least 36 car-trailer combinations which will be adequate for all except the occasional heavy use days.

The Harbor District has by resolution agreed to extend its lease and operating agreements with the Department to give each a 25 year term as previously noted, and to pay for all engineering and administrative costs in connection with this work. An engineering firm has been hired and preliminary plans and a cost estimate have been prepared as follows:

Clearing and grubbing	\$ 1,500
Demolition (existing ramp)	2,500
Import fill, in place - 5,000 c.y.	25,000
Base and AC paving, 44,000 s.f.	83,700
Striping	800
Concrete boat ramp	50,000
Riprap slope protection, 300 c.y.	9,000
Signs, restrooms, misc.	7,500
Subtotal	\$180,000
Contingency, 10%	18,300
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$198,300

As the plans are preliminary, staff will review final construction plans before they are bid so that the project scope and costs will be substantially in accordance with the above preliminary plans and costs. As usual, any excess funds remaining will be recovered at a future Board meeting.

This activity is essentially a reconstruction of an existing facility of the same size and capacity, and on the same site as presently existing, with no change or increase in use. It is considered to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and a Notice of Exemption has been filed with the County Clerk and the Office of Planning and Research in accordance with the Act.

It was Mr. Schmidt's recommendation that the Board approve the improvements for the Kirby Park (Elkhorn Slough) Public Access, Monterey County, as proposed, allocate \$198,300 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned. He noted that Gail Shook, Craig Winter and John Hicks representing the Moss Landing Harbor District were present to respond to any questions the Board might have.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE IMPROVEMENTS FOR KIRBY PARK (ELKHORN SLOUGH) PUBLIC ACCESS, MONTEREY COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$198,300 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Petaluma Marsh, Rush Creek Phase III, Marin County \$80,000.00

In two separate actions during 1983, the Board approved the acquisition of 195+ acres within the Petaluma River marsh complex along Rush Creek. This particular portion of the complex lies about halfway between Petaluma and San Rafael, just to the east of the City of Novato, along Highway 101. The proposal now before the Board, Mr. Schmidt stated, would add to State ownership 50+ acres of adjacent marsh habitat, while providing improved access to the site.

Mr. Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent, provided a review of the acquisitions in the Rush Creek area and pointed out the area under consideration at this time.

The major portions of the Rush Creek Marsh consist of historical bay plain marsh and wetlands draining portions of Novato, Mount Burdell and Pinheiro Ridge. Near the turn of the century a system of levees and dikes were constructed to protect the lands from the intrusion of brackish waters and extended periods of winter flooding. This has permitted the growing of some oat hay and fodder but primarily grazing over large portions of the land. With the exception of a strip of land along the west side of the parcel which is slightly higher ground, the property's elevation is between 0 and 1 foot below mean sea level.

Studies by the Department of Fish and Game indicate that economic pressures and urbanization have brought on reclamation and conversion of much of the San Pablo Bay area marshes to residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses. This has resulted in the destruction of key habitat and various rare and endangered species, such as the California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse, as well as the loss of other important natural values of the area. In fact, a study by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1980 indicated that total wetland losses due to various forms of development had reached 80% of the historic marshes. Generally, marshes and estuarine areas are considered to be very important and productive habitats overall for fish and wildlife. To date, the Board has acquired about 2,000 acres for preservation of the remaining Petaluma Marsh habitat.

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The proposed acquisition is part of an ongoing coordinated effort involving the Marin County Open Space District, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The overall 635-acre project calls for acquisition of conservation easements as well as fee title acquisitions. Under the plan for this project as contemplated by the various agencies, the WCB's activity would be limited to purchase of the 195+ acres previously acquired and the subject 50-acre parcel. Interests in the remaining 390+ acres to be acquired by the other project participants are in various stages of negotiations. Eventually, parking, foot-trails, water control structures and ponds would be constructed to accomplish several important objectives:

1. Reverse the degradation of the once-extensive Petaluma River Estuary, and complement existing state and federal owned lands in creating the largest contiguous habitat remaining in San Francisco Bay.
2. Provide a permanent open space buffer between Sonoma and Marin Counties by eliminating development pressure on agricultural land and historic wetland areas zoned for industrial development.
3. Provide access opportunities and associated educational benefits through a series of public improvements, creating a model effort for the combination of habitat restoration, agricultural land protection, and public use of the shoreline.

Engineering and construction costs would be borne by the other participants in the project. WCB's involvement is limited to the purchase of lands as outlined here.

The management of the lands will be by cooperative agreement between Department of Fish and Game and Marin County whereby the County would operate and maintain the properties as part of the overall project. The acquisition is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 13, acquisition of land for wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement.

The property has been appraised and has an approved, fair market value of \$175,000. It has been offered to the State for this amount. The County of Marin strongly supports this acquisition and, in fact, has agreed to pay \$100,000 of the appraised value as an encouragement to the Board to proceed with the purchase. The Board's funding would therefore be the \$75,000 balance plus \$5,000, which is the amount estimated to be necessary for administrative costs, escrow expenses and title insurance premiums. Funds are available for this purchase in the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve this acquisition as proposed, allocate \$80,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to cover the State's share of the purchase price and costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned and outlined above.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR PETALUMA MARSH, RUSH CREEK PHASE III, MARIN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$80,000 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND TO COVER THE STATE'S SHARE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE AND COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*10. Cabrillo (San Pedro) Pier, Los Angeles County (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$39,000.00

This item is for additional funds to supplement those approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board on May 6, 1986, for decking repairs on the Cabrillo Beach Pier. These repairs are being undertaken on a matching fund basis with the City and County of Los Angeles. The original allocation was for \$51,100 based on a total estimated project cost of \$102,000 as determined by Los Angeles County.

However, when the County Department of Beaches and Harbors opened bids for the pier deck repairs on May 15, 1986, the low bid exceeded the available funds by \$128,896, indicating total project costs of about \$231,000. This large discrepancy was apparently due to erroneous information received by the County when the design and the cost estimate were being prepared.

A re-evaluation of the project by the County has produced a repair alternative estimated at \$180,000, which is less than the original bid cost, but still considerably in excess of the funds available. In order that repairs may proceed, the WCB share under this alternative would be \$90,000, or \$39,000 over the original allocation.

In general the work involves chipping away fractured concrete on the deck and pile caps, cleaning the substrate and exposed reinforcing steel, installing new reinforcing steel where required, and placing a concrete overlay. The original specs called for a polymer concrete. This has now been changed to a lower cost but equally acceptable high-density slow-curing concrete.

A recap of WCB project funding as now proposed is as follows:

Current estimate	\$180,000	
WCB share, 50%	90,000	
Allocated May 6, 1986	51,100	
Additional allocation required	38,900	- say \$39,000

Staff recommended that the Board, in consideration of its previous approval of the deck repair at Cabrillo Beach Fishing Pier, approve the allocation of an additional \$39,000 for this project from the Parklands Fund of 1984, (as designated for coastal fishing piers) on a matching basis with the City and County of Los Angeles, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

(This item was included in the consent calendar and approved as presented.)

11. Crescent City B Street Pier, Del Norte County

\$500,000.00

The City of Crescent City, as explained by Mr. Schmidt, has requested WCB assistance in reconstructing the B Street Pier located in Crescent City harbor, at the southerly end of B Street.

The existing B Street Pier was constructed around 1950 for the purpose of loading lumber onto barges. Due to its past heavy commercial use and lack of maintenance, the pier suffered rapid deterioration. Its hazardous condition has resulted in the public being denied access to this pier for some time.

In its continuing effort to revitalize the waterfront area, the City in 1986 developed a waterfront Land Use Plan for the entire Crescent City harbor area. The major components in this plan include the promotion of tourism, rebuilding a new public fishing pier, pedestrian and vehicular access within the coastal area, increasing visitor serving facilities and activities leading to increased employment opportunities.

Replacement of the fishing pier is considered a key element to this plan. It is proposed that the existing deteriorated pier will be removed by the City, and replaced with a new 900' long pier, with a "Y" shaped pierhead, providing more fishing area. Construction is planned to include a 12' wide pressure treated wooden deck supported by either a steel substructure, or a conventional timber frame. If steel is selected, the piles will include a factory bonded protective polyethylene coating applied to their surfaces to protect against the highly corrosive marine environment.

An important feature of this pier is its existing 1500' causeway extending from the end of B Street to the pier. It is proposed that this causeway be reconstructed, with a turn-around at the base of the pier, to provide easy vehicular and pedestrian access to pier users. Parking is to be provided at the B Street end of the causeway. Details of these features were pointed out to the Board members by Mr. Rutsch.

Discussions are currently underway between the City and the Department of Boating and Waterways in an effort to seek additional funds to place a small boat launch off the pier for added public fishing benefits. The proposed pier project would also include the normal features common to many WCB pier projects, including fish cleaning stations, fire protection (hydrants), bait and tackle shop, and restrooms. A small artificial reef is also proposed to enhance fish habitat.

The Department of Fish and Game has provided us with a favorable recommendation for this project. They indicate that fishing at this location is good with catches expected to include herring, top smelt, jacksmelt, kelp greenlings, calico surfperch, walleye surfperch, blue surfperch, pile surfperch, redbtail surfperch, silver surfperch, starry flounder, northern anchovy, Dungeness crab, and rock crab. Addition of a rock artificial reef could provide habitat for additional species including cabezon, brown rockfish, and ling cod.

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The City of Crescent City 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 being made.

Preliminary cost figures for the construction of this pier and causeway are estimated at \$1,300,000. This estimate does not include the cost of demolishing the old pier, a cost to be funded by the City. Proposed funding for this project is as follows:

City of Crescent City (State Offshore Oil Mitigation Funds)	\$ 500,000
City of Crescent City	300,000
Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>500,000</u>
Total	<u>\$1,300,000</u>

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve the Crescent City B Street Pier project as proposed, allocate \$500,000 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.

Mr. Taucher stated that he visited the area six weeks ago and noted the great need for construction of this pier.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRESCENT CITY B STREET PIER, DEL NORTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$500,000 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.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt thanked the Crescent City Council Members Jose Alvarez and Peter Mann and also the engineers Mr. Arnie Herskovic and Richard Dornhelm for traveling such a great distance to attend this meeting.

12. Grizzly Island Wildlife Area - Goodyear Slough Unit, Solano Co. \$405,000.00

Mr. Schmidt explained that this proposal is to acquire two privately owned parcels, totaling 600+ acres of wetland habitat located in the southwesterly portion of Suisun Marsh. The parcels, one containing 295+ acres and the other containing 305+ acres, are located on the east side of State Highway 680, one mile northeast of Benicia. The properties are currently operated as private duck clubs.

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Mr. Giordano indicated on a map the area proposed for consideration at this time and its relationship to the overall Suisun Marsh complex. He pointed out the proximity of the industrial development which encroaches up to the property and stated that acquisition of this parcel would be an assurance that further encroachment could not take place.

For many years the Department of Fish and Game has recommended acquisitions of valuable wetland habitat in the Suisun Marsh for protection and enhancement purposes. The Board has to date acquired over 3,000 acres for this purpose. This is in addition to the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, the Joice Island Wildlife Area and the Peytonia Slough Ecological Reserve. Currently both the properties are provided some protection through county zoning, land use planning, and the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act provisions. However, without this purchase, continued protection cannot be assured, nor would the State be in a position of providing public access or habitat enhancement.

The property contains habitat of particular importance to migratory waterfowl of the Suisun Marsh and the Pacific Flyway. Several species of ducks use the area for feeding and resting, including mallards, pintail, widgeon, shovelers, green-winged teal, canvasbacks, scaup, red-heads, and coots. Salt marsh harvest mouse presence has not been documented by trapping; however, the habitat appears to be adequate to support the species. Herons, egrets, and various types of shorebirds use the sloughs, mudflats, and pickleweed flats for feeding. In addition, raptor use has been observed in increasing numbers in the fall and winter.

The basic plan for the areas will be to emphasize development and management of good quality wintering waterfowl habitat. In addition, a portion of the area could be developed as good quality salt marsh harvest mouse habitat. Habitat manipulation involves water management, selected control burning, mowing and discing of vegetation. The property will also provide a prime resting and feeding area for wintering waterfowl. There is also potential for public hunting, bird-watching, and general wildlife observation.

The parcels have been appraised and the owners have agreed to sell at the total approved fair market value of \$393,000. Appraisal costs, escrow fees and Department of General Services review charges are expected to be about \$12,000. Funding for these expenditures is available from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (interior wetlands). Management of the property would be by the Department of Fish and Game in conjunction with its other holdings in the Suisun Marsh. Purchase is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve this purchase as proposed, allocate \$405,000 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, designated for interior wetlands, to cover the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF THE GRIZZLY ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA - GOODYEAR SLOUGH UNIT, SOLANO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$405,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS, FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*13. Corte Madera Marsh Expansion, Marin County

(It was indicated earlier that due to the death of the principal involved in this land donation just last week, this item was withdrawn from the agenda.)

14. Lake Earl Wildlife Area - Old Mill Pond Addition, Del Norte Co. \$55,000.00

This was presented by Mr. Schmidt as a proposal to acquire a portion of a privately owned parcel containing up to 30+ acres on the south side of the Lake Earl Wildlife Area in Del Norte County. Mr. Dick pointed out the various landmarks in the Lake Earl area and the various ownerships surrounding the lake.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the actions of the WCB, which, at its June 22, 1979, meeting approved the concept of acquiring certain lands to protect and preserve Lakes Earl and Talawa as proposed by the Department of Fish and Game, in coordination with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the State Lands Commission.

In accordance with specific authorizations made by the Board over the last eight years, staff has acquired a total 2,490+ acres within or adjacent to Lakes Earl and Talawa. An additional 2,600 acres has been leased from the State Lands Commission, placing a total of over 5,090 acres under Department of Fish and Game management.

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

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

This area is on the Smith River plain, which extends southward from the mouth of the Smith River to Crescent City, the county seat of Del Norte County. The Smith River plain is an integral part of the coastal arm of the Pacific Flyway. The waters of Lakes Earl and Talawa and the lands in this proposal include habitat that is critical to the existence of significant

waterfowl populations, such as the Aleutian Canada goose. This species is presently listed by the State and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered. The waters of Lake Earl also support the highest wintering population of canvasback ducks north of San Francisco Bay. The overall floodplain, lakes and surrounding uplands support over 250 species of birds, most of them water-associated, and 58 species of mammals.

In addition to protecting valuable and ecologically significant wildlife habitat, this acquisition will help ensure public access to the Lake Earl area for a wide variety of compatible recreational and educational uses such as fishing, bird watching, nature and scientific study, hiking and horseback riding. The lakes harbor 15 species of fish, including salmon and trout, and as such provide many user days of fishing opportunities.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements, which include acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. As indicated the DFG would manage the property as part of its Lake Earl/Talawa management activities.

The owner has agreed to sell a portion of his property based on its approved fair market value of \$2,100/ac. (uplands) and \$1,500/ac. (wetlands). As of the writing of this agenda, the survey of the property has not been completed, prompting staff to estimate the values of the property on a "not to exceed" basis, assuming 30+ acres as the maximum acquisition area. This would allow staff to proceed with this acquisition as soon as the survey is completed. A total cost has been estimated at \$45,000, plus administrative costs including appraisal, engineer's survey, escrow and Department of General Services costs estimated to be \$10,000.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve purchase of this parcel as proposed, allocate \$55,000 for the purchase and related costs from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Funds, available for coastal wetlands acquisitions, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli asked if his understanding that this would put us within one parcel of completely ringing the lake so that it would be possible to regulate it for wildlife benefits was correct, and Mr. Schmidt assured him that this was correct.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF THE LAKE EARL WILDLIFE AREA - OLD MILL POND ADDITION, DEL NORTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$55,000 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS ACQUISITION, FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Loch Lomond Vernal Pool, Lake County

\$14,600.00

Mr. Schmidt introduced this item as a proposal for additional funding necessary to complete acquisition of an 8.22 acre vernal pool at Loch Lomond in Lake County. The 1986/87 budget appropriated \$40,000 to the Department of Fish and Game to acquire this site. However, after the completion of a survey and appraisal, it was found that the total cost necessary to close this transaction is estimated to exceed this amount by \$14,600. This item therefore covers the difference between the total estimated cost, less the Department's budgeted \$40,000, which is to be allocated by the Public Works Board.

Mr. Dick indicated on a map the subject parcel which is located on the west side of Highway 175 just north of its junction with Loch Lomond Road in "downtown" Loch Lomond. This community is located in the mountains about 18 miles south of Clear Lake. Loch Lomond has a resort type atmosphere, although the vicinity is in transition toward year-round residents due to the steady influx of retirees from the San Francisco Bay area. For this reason the habitat provided by this parcel is certainly in jeopardy.

The Loch Lomond vernal pool provides the only known occurrence of the federally listed endangered Constance's coyote thistle (*Eryngium constancei*). The best known population of the endangered many-flowered navarretia is also found at this Loch Lomond site and is known to exist in only three other locations. A population of few-flowered navarretia, also located on the property, is one of only five known populations. This plant is being considered for federal listing.

If acquired, the major use of this area would be educational, offering opportunities to study and monitor the rare and endemic plants of this Northern Claypan Vernal Pool. Limited recreational uses may include wildlife observation, bird-watching, plant identification, and photography.

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 8.22 acre site to the State at the appraised fair market value of \$46,600. An additional \$8,000 is estimated to be needed for related acquisition and processing costs which brings the total allocation necessary to an estimated \$54,600, less the \$40,000 to be considered by the Public Works Board, leaving a "net allocation" necessary to complete this acquisition at \$14,600.

Mr. Schmidt recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as outlined, authorize the allocation of \$14,600 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, as designated for rare and endangered species, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONIADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF THE LOCH LOMOND VERNAL POOL, LAKE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$14,600 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, DESIGNATED FOR RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES, FOR THE WCB SHARE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

*16. Desert Tortoise Natural Area Expansion #2, Kern County \$40,000.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This is a proposal for the acquisition of 74+ 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. 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. On August 18, 1987, the WCB approved the purchase of an additional 480+ acres using Environmental License Plate Funds. These areas have since been acquired. 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 \$37,000. Appraisal costs, escrow fees and Department of General Services review charges are expected to be about \$3,000. 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.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this purchase as proposed, allocate \$40,000 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.

(This item was included in the consent calendar and approved as presented.)

- *17 Suisun Marsh Habitat Enhancement Project, Solano County \$250,000.00
(AB 2090)
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal is to consider an allocation to continue funding marsh habitat development, enhancement and maintenance work on privately owned duck clubs within the primary management area of the Suisun Marsh, as provided for in Assembly Bill No. 2090, Hannigan, (Chapter 1571, Statutes of 1982) and as funded in the 1987/88 State budget.

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

Recognizing the threats to the Suisun Marsh from potential residential, commercial, and industrial developments, and the need to preserve this unique wildlife resource for future generations, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed in September, 1974, the Nejedly-Bagley-Z'berg Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1974. The Act directs the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Department of Fish and Game to prepare the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan "to preserve the integrity and assure continued wildlife use" of the Suisun Marsh. The Protection Plan was completed and sent to the Legislature in December, 1976. AB 1717, Fazio, a bill designed to implement the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, was approved in September 1977. This act, called the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, in addition to other items, provided for the following:

"District means the Suisun Resource Conservation District."

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

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

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

The Legislature, desiring to provide continued support for the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, approved AB 2090, Hannigan, in September, 1982. This act provides for funding support for the Suisun Resource Conservation District, to aid private marshland owners to develop and enhance their duck club property to comply with the provisions of the management plan approved for their property. The act, as amended by Chapter 142/83, provides for the following:

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

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

(c) Each fiscal year, any private landowner in the primary management area who desires to qualify for the assistance provided by this section shall, by December 31, submit to the district a claim for those costs incurred that calendar year in carrying out the operation and maintenance activities specified in that landowner's individual ownership management program. Each claim shall be accompanied by substantiating documents, as determined by the district. The district shall review each claim to determine its appropriateness by, including,

but not limited to, an onsite inspection to establish that the physical improvements or management procedures for which a claim is submitted have been satisfactorily completed. The district shall submit the individual ownership claims to the department for review and approval for payment equal to 50 percent of each claim. However, no payment shall exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). In any fiscal year in which the funds appropriated for purposes of this section are insufficient to pay 50 percent of each claim, the department shall pay all approved claims on a pro rata basis. In any fiscal year in which no funds are appropriated for purposes of this section, the department shall pay no claims.

In order to meet the legislative intent of the funding referred to in AB 2090, \$250,000 was included in the 1987/88 budget bill payable from the Environmental License Plate Fund to provide continued support for this program. This is the second year that funding has been provided.

The District and the Department of Fish and Game will review all applications received from the private owners and will determine that the work planned will conform to the prescribed approved management plans, as contained in their five year program agreement, before such funding is approved. Such work will be pursuant to Chapter 1571 of the statutes of 1982 and may include but is not limited to levee construction, restoration, maintenance, water conveyance systems, water control structures and habitat enhancement.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve continuation of the marsh development enhancement program authorized under AB 2090, allocate \$250,000 therefor from the California Environmental License Plate Fund and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to augment current agreements and proceed substantially as planned.

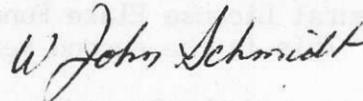
(This item was included in the consent calendar and approved as presented.)

18. Other Business

Mr. Schmidt announced that after a five minute recess upon adjournment of the meeting, the ceremony commemorating the Wildlife Conservation Board's 40th Anniversary will commence.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on November 20, 1987, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$173,586,371.63. 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	\$15,988,599.15
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	29,951,865.23
	1. Coastal and Bay	\$2,931,786.25
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	6,480,677.75
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,010,060.43
	4. Piers	14,529,340.80
d.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects ..	111,760,512.02
	1. Wildlife Areas (General)	86,014,866.56
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ...	2,871,954.27
	3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Rare & Endangered)	22,873,691.19
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	682,615.63
	Total Allocated to Projects	\$173,586,371.63