

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

Minutes, Meeting of March 1, 1988

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of March 1, 1988

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 317 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on March 1, 1988. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Pete Bontadelli, Acting Chairman.

1. Roll Call

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Stan Stancell, Assistant Director Department of Finance	Member
	Pete Bontadelli, Director Department of Fish and Game	Acting Chairman
	Assemblyman Norman S. Waters	Joint Interim Committee
	Dr. Andrea Tuttle, vice Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
	Edna Maita, vice Assemblyman Jim Costa	Joint Interim Committee
	Rick Batson, vice Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	Joint Interim Committee
<u>ABSENT:</u>	Albert C. Taucher, President Fish and Game Commission	Chairman
	Senator Robert Presley	Joint Interim Committee
	Senate 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 Gzylms	Staff Services Analyst
Sandy Daniel	Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karl Stein	U.S. Forest Service
Tom Landes	Citizen
Judith Meister	City of Santa Monica
Aldaron Laird	Trinity County
Dick Conzelmann	Greater Vallejo Rec. Dist.
Spike Naylor	Dept. of F&G, Redding
Jim Messersmith	Dept. of F&G, Sacramento

Donald F. Guluzzy
 Jim Swanson
 Michael Lamb

San Mateo Co. Harbor Dist.
 Dept. of F&G, Yountville
 East Bay Regional Parks

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the November 20, 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 NOVEMBER 20, 1987, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Funding Status as of March 1, 1988 (Information Only)

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions - Eco Reserves..	\$1,000,000.00
Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 417,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-74,119.84
Unallocated Balance.....	<u>\$342,880.16</u>
Governor's Budget-Minor Development.....	\$400,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-198,300.00
Unallocated Balance.....	<u>\$201,700.00</u>

(b) 1986/87 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$1,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,000,000.00
Unallocated Balance	<u>\$ -0-</u>

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$750,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-750,739.94
Plus LWCF reimbursement	+739.94
Unallocated Balance	<u>\$ -0-</u>

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

Governor's Budget/Chapter 1489	\$1,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-491,765.55
Unallocated Balance	<u>\$ 508,234.45</u>

(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	-9,236,387.73
Unallocated Balance	\$ 2,928,612.27

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

Governor's Budget	\$9,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-7,752,142.65
Unallocated Balance	\$1,247,857.35

(i) 1985/86 Parklands Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-3,003,900.00
Unallocated Balance	\$1,996,100.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	
Acquisition	\$ 1,342,880.16
Minor Development	\$ 201,700.00
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$ 508,234.45
<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement</u>	\$15,007,948.76
<u>Parklands Fund of 1984</u>	\$ 1,996,100.00

4. Recovery of Funds

The following 21 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 \$113,464.30 be recovered to the Wildlife Restoration Fund; \$104,097.34 be recovered to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund; and \$212,802.83 be recovered to the Environmental License Plate Fund; and \$8,662.09 be recovered to the Parklands Fund of 1984; and the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Avila Fishing Pier, San Luis Obispo County

Allocation	\$500,000.00
Expended	-404,846.15
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 95,153.85</u>

Bass Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Lassen County

Allocation	\$ 39,000.00
Expended	-34,470.40
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 4,529.60</u>

Capitola Fishing Wharf, Santa Cruz County

Allocation	\$ 27,000.00
Expended	-27,000.00
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ -0-</u>

Coyote Point Public Access, San Mateo County

Allocation	\$ 95,000.00
Expended	-95,000.00
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ -0-</u>

Noyes Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 1,500.00
Expended	-1,051.15
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 448.85</u>

Pismo Beach Fishing Pier, San Luis Obispo County

Allocation	\$500,000.00
Expended	-500,000.00
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ -0-</u>

Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area, Sierra County

Allocation	\$515,000.00
Expended	-501,668.00
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 13,332.00</u>

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries..... \$113,464.30

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Butte Valley Wildlife Area Main Levee, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$333,000.00
Expended	-266,601.05
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 66,398.95</u>

Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Northeast Expansion, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 67,000.00
Expended	-61,239.65
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 5,760.35</u>

Oasis Spring Ecological-Reserve, Riverside County

Allocation	\$ 23,000.00
Expended	- 19,530.40
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 3,469.60</u>

Shasta River (Tire Flat), Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$105,000.00
Expended	- 89,052.50
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 15,947.50</u>

Shasta River Diversion Engineering Study, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 12,000.00
Expended	-0-
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$12,000.00</u>

Suisun Marsh Habitat Enhancement, Solano County

Allocation	\$165,000.00
Expended	-165,000.00
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ -0-</u>

Yorkville Peregrine Falcon Reserve, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$126,000.00
Expended	-125,479.06
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 520.94</u>

Total Fish & Wildlife Hab. Enhancement Fund Recoveries... \$104,097.34

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

Corte Madera Marsh Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Marin County

Allocation	\$ 1,000.00
Expended	- 344.95
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 655.35</u>

Desert Tortoise Natural Area Expansion #1, Kern County

Allocation	\$128,000.00
Expended	-121,005.00
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 6,995.00</u>

Feather River Riparian Habitat (Abbott Lake), Yuba County

Allocation	\$ 68,000.00
Expended	- 61,300.55
Balance for Recovery	\$ 6,699.45

Santa Rosa Mountains Bighorn Sheep Reserve, Riverside County

Allocation	\$198,000.00
Expended	- -0-
Balance for Recovery	\$198,000.00

Upper Sacramento River (Hamilton Bend), Colusa County

Allocation	\$ 43,000.00
Expended	- 42,546.97
Balance for Recovery	\$ 453.03

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries..... \$212,802.83

PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984

Malibu Pier, Los Angeles County

Allocation	\$ 27,500.00
Expended	- 27,500.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

San Jacinto Wildlife Area Public Access, Riverside County

Allocation	\$ 95,700.00
Expended	- 87,037.91
Balance for Recovery	\$ 8,662.09

Total Parklands Fund of 1984 Recoveries..... \$ 8,662.09

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

Avila Fishing Pier, San Luis Obispo Co.	\$ 95,153.85
Bass Hill Wildlife Area, Exp. #4, Lassen Co.	4,529.60
Capitola Fishing Wharf, Santa Cruz Co.	-0-
Coyote Point Public Access, San Mateo Co.	-0-
Noyes Valley Wildlife Area, Exp. #2, Siskiyou Co.	448.85
Pismo Beach Fishing Pier, San Luis Obispo Co. ...	-0-
Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area, Sierra Co.	13,332.00
Total WRF Recoveries	\$113,464.30

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Butte Valley Wildlife Area Main Levee, Siskiyou Co.	\$ 66,398.35
Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Northeast Expansion, Del Norte Co.	5,760.35
Oasis Spring Ecological-Reserve, Riverside Co. ...	3,469.60
Shasta River (Tire Flat), Siskiyou Co.	15,947.50
Shasta River Diversion Engineering Study, Siskiyou Co.	12,000.00
Suisun Marsh Habitat Enhancement, Solano Co.	-0-
Yorkville Peregrine Falcon Reserve, Mendocino Co. .	520.94
 Total F&W Habitat Enhancement Fund Recoveries	 \$104,097.34
 Corte Madera Marsh Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Marin Co.	 \$ 655.35
Desert Tortoise Natural Area Expansion #1, Kern Co. .	6,995.00
Feather River Riparian habitat (Abbott Lake), Yuba Co.	6,699.45
Santa Rosa Mountains Bighorn Sheep Reserve, Riverside Co.	198,000.00
Upper Sacramento River (Hamilton Bend), Colusa Co.	453.03
 Total ELPF Recoveries	 \$212,802.83
 Malibu Pier, Los Angeles Co.	 \$ -0-
San Jacinto Wildlife Area Public Access, Riverside Co.	8,662.09
 Total Parklands Fund of 1984 Recoveries	 \$8,662.09

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE SUM OF \$113,464.30 BE RECOVERED TO THE UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$104,097.34 BE RECOVERED TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND; \$212,802.83 BE RECOVERED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; AND \$8,662.09 BE RECOVERED TO THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Luffenholtz Creek, Humboldt County \$31,200.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal at Luffenholtz Creek is a 7 1/2 acre parcel on the coast about one mile south of Trinidad in northern Humboldt County. It was acquired by the Board in 1963 for surf and shore fishing access. The project includes about one-third of a mile of ocean frontage providing a popular access to public tidelands in this area.

When this area was acquired, the Board also provided funds for parking and a restroom on the site, which was subsequently maintained by the county under a 20 year agreement with the Department. The agreement has expired and it is now proposed to upgrade the facilities to present health and safety standards and to renew the agreement with Humboldt County for continued operation and maintenance of the area.

The Board of Supervisors on November 10, 1987, approved entering into a new agreement for the Luffenholtz Creek maintenance, conditioned on obtaining outside funding for this purpose, since drastic budget cuts make it impossible to continue this service as before. When no other appropriate method of providing maintenance could be determined the Department agreed to provide the necessary maintenance funding on an interim basis.

The County has requested funds for the site improvements that are needed to meet present-day access requirements and safety standards. Funds are also needed to repair facilities that have worn out after years of use and to restore areas damaged by natural causes. Mr. Al Rutsch explained the specific improvements - the water system consisting of a pump, short pipeline and storage tank has malfunctioned and some replacements may be needed; a portion of the parking area has subsided and needs repair; the restroom is to be remodeled for handicapped access; and barriers need to be erected for the protection of visitors as well as the headland vegetation. Mr. Rutsch also reported that safety railings would be constructed to make it a safe public access.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the project would be operated and maintained by Humboldt County under an agreement with the Department of Fish and Game but it will be a little bit different in that the Department will be funding the maintenance on an annual basis through a contract with the County.

The Humboldt County Public Works Department has submitted a cost estimate for the improvements as follows:

Site clearing.....	\$ 1,000
Safety railing.....	6,000
Renovate restroom.....	6,000
Water & sewer repairs.....	1,300
Paving and curbs.....	9,000
Signs, benches, & misc.....	3,800
Subtotal.....	<u>\$27,100</u>
Contingencies, 5%.....	1,400
Engineering & inspection, 10%.....	2,700
Total Project Cost.....	<u>\$31,200</u>

The County will prepare plans, contract out the work and provide inspection for the proposed improvements, if the project proposal is approved.

The Luffenholtz Creek site has experienced some instability, and the slides which have damaged the parking area have also affected the trail to the beach. The lower end of the trail is particularly susceptible to tidal action, which changes this part of the trail every year. Many people, however, do make their way down and can continue to do so in relative safety. The County will include the upper trail in their maintenance. Signs will be installed to direct visitors to the trail and to advise caution because of possible changed conditions on the trail.

The Department of Fish and Game in its initial favorable review of this site noted that "Luffenholtz Creek Beach is one of the most popular surf netting

areas along the California coast. Both surf smelt and night smelt are taken here, as well as surf perch, greenlings, ling cod, cabezon and rockfish". Department surveys at the time the site was first opened for public use in 1963 indicated that during a five month period the beach received 9300 angler days of use, 7700 of which were for surf smelt and the rest for shore fishing. In 1984 the County reported 29,000 visitor days of use here.

The improvements proposed are in the nature of minor repairs to an existing facility. The proposed activity is therefore exempt from CEQA under Class 1, Section 15301 of the State Guidelines and a Notice of Exemption has been filed in accordance with the act.

Staff recommended the Board approve the Luffenholtz Creek, Humboldt County, site improvements, allocate \$31,200.00 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt stated that if there were any questions on the agreements or project, Spike Naylor, Regional Manager of Region 1 office, was present. Mr. Schmidt noted that Humboldt County, Senator Keene and Assemblyman Hauser have indicated support for this project.

Dr. Andrea Tuttle, representing Senator Keene, inquired about the placement of the safety railings as there has been tremendous vandalism in the past. Mr. Rutsch reported that the railings would be set in concrete and not easily removed. Railings would be placed on the headlands to protect the grass and headland vegetation, as well as protecting people. Discussion was held regarding whether anyone had contacted the Indian community during the design process. It was noted that if there had been any contact, it would have been handled by the County. Mr. Schmidt stated that the County could be advised of the concern if the Indian community had been contacted and what the outcome was.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE LUFFENHOLTZ CREEK PROJECT, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$31,200.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Upper Butte Sink, Butte County \$1,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is to accept the donation of a conservation easement over 60+ acres of land, lying within the Butte Sink for the preservation of riparian and interior wetlands habitat. Mr. Schmidt stated that several months ago the Board approved a large acquisition proposal known as the "Schohr Ranch" but we were unsuccessful in acquiring the property and now we are looking at a donation.

Mr. Frank Giordano, land agent, described the location and how it relates to several other wildlife areas in the state. The project and the property, known as "Schohr Ranch", is located 13+ miles west of the town of Gridley,

California, and 3+ miles north of the Department of Fish and Game's Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. It has direct access on the south from Gridley Road, a county road. The unimproved property contains approximately one mile of Butte Creek frontage.

The property has several biological attributes which make it desirable for fish and waterfowl, as well as threatened and endangered species management. As mentioned, the property contains a portion of Butte Creek, slough areas, large stands of native California oaks, cottonwoods, willows, berry vines, and other growth common to riparian areas in the Butte Sink.

Of the many wildlife values of the property, Butte Creek supports a good warmwater fishery and is a passageway for king salmon enroute to upstream spawning. The property is part of an excellent waterfowl winter ground and supports some waterfowl breeding. A variety of game and nongame species are supported by the property and surrounding area including habitat for pheasant, fox, deer, coyote, beaver, river otter, and raccoon which have all been observed on the property.

The general area provides a wintering area for the threatened Sandhill crane. The threatened Swainson's hawk has been seen on the property and the threatened giant garter snake is expected to use the freshwater marsh as this species is known to occur in the Butte Basin. In general, the riparian habitat along Butte Creek provides a migration corridor for the threatened yellow-billed cuckoo which breeds north of the property and the endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon. California hibiscus, listed as threatened by the Native Plant Society, occurs along Butte Creek within the area proposed for donation.

Previously the property was appraised for \$1,600 per acre (fee title) with a conservation easement valued at 25% (\$400) per acre for the existing wetland areas, indicating a total value of \$24,000 for the proposed donation. The County of Butte has required the owners to donate an easement in consideration for splitting the parcel. The owners have agreed to this condition.

This acquisition is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition for wildlife habitat preservation and the property would be monitored by the Department of Fish and Game. Funding is available for this acquisition from the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

Staff recommended that the Board accept this donation and allocate \$1,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund to cover processing costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli asked if there were any questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AT THE UPPER BUTTE SINK PROPERTY, BUTTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND TO COVER PROCESSING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Swiss Ranch Deer Winter Range Expansion #1, Calaveras County \$230,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is for the acquisition of a conservation easement over 600+ acres of critical winter range for the Railroad Flat Deer Herd in Calaveras County. At the Board's September 17, 1985, meeting, it authorized staff to purchase a conservation easement covering 300+ acres of the 900+ acres needed from this ownership to tie into a 360+ ac holding administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Staff completed the purchase of the authorized 300 acre easement on October 16, 1985. The acquisition of the proposed easement over an additional 600 acres will provide over 1000 acres of continuously protected habitat.

Mr. Dick, land agent, explained that the property is located in central Calaveras County, approximately 18+ miles northeast of San Andreas between the communities of Mountain Ranch and Railroad Flat on Swiss Ranch Road. Land uses along Swiss Ranch Road are gradually changing from large acreage cattle ranches to small acreage ranchettes.

The area receives very high deer use during winter months from November 15 through May 1 and has been designated by the Department of Fish and Game as critical winter range.

The subject property is currently designated as Natural Resource Land with a minimum parcel size of 40 acres, which is not inconsistent with DFG's goals. However, the "natural resource, 40 acre" designation was only reinstated following court action (April 1984). Prior to court action, large areas of the Railroad Flat herd's winter range were scheduled to be rezoned to 1-5 acre minimum parcel sizes. It is possible that future attempts may be made to change the zoning back to 1-5 acre minimums, a move which would lead to certain habitat destruction.

The property is currently used for cattle grazing. The owners wish to continue this use but have been approached by developers desiring to purchase the property and subdivide the ranch into smaller acreage recreational properties, a move that would most certainly be detrimental to the stability of the local deer herd. In order to preserve the property in its current state, the owners have offered to sell a conservation easement over the property which would prevent its development and would limit future improvements to only those necessary for continued operation of the cattle ranch. The DFG has reviewed the terms of the conservation easement and recommends WCB proceed with the acquisition to preclude possible development of this property.

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, acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

The property owners have agreed to sell a conservation easement over this 600+ acre portion of their property and have agreed to sell at the approved fair market value of \$300,000, less a donation of \$75,000, for a total sales price of \$225,000. An additional \$5,000 is estimated to be required for related acquisition costs, including appraisals, title insurance, and processing costs.

Mr. Schmidt stated that Calaveras County has indicated support for the state's acquisition of this conservation easement.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this purchase of a conservation easement as proposed, allocate \$230,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt stated that Jim Messersmith, Region 2 Regional Manager, was present should there be any questions. Assemblyman Waters asked if it had clearly been established that this is a wintering area for deer. Mr. Messersmith advised that, yes, it had been firmly established as a wintering area for deer and had supporting documents from the County.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASSEMBLYMAN WATERS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AT THE SWISS RANCH DEER WINTER RANGE EXPANSION #1 PROPERTY, CALAVERAS COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$230,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND TO COVER PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Santa Monica Pier, Los Angeles County \$500,000.00

The City of Santa Monica has undertaken a major project in the reconstruction of the famous Santa Monica Pier which was partially destroyed in the destructive coastal storms of 1983. The \$8 1/2 million project is being accomplished in several phases and part of the pier has already been reconstructed. The City has proposed WCB participation in the reconstruction of the west end of the pier, Phase III, as this is where most of the fishing activity will be located. The Phase III estimate is \$3.8 million.

Strengthening the existing timber pier in the surf zone, Phase I, has been completed. Phase II, reconstruction of the all wood center section, called the Newcomb Pier, is underway and will be completed in July. Phase IV is reconstruction of the existing breakwater and will be done as funds become available.

Judith Meister from the City of Santa Monica was present and gave a very detailed explanation and history of the project. Ms. Meister reported the project is currently under design development and are hoping to bid project during the summer months, start construction in the fall and complete by summer 1989.

Santa Monica Pier is probably the most heavily used pier among the many public piers in Southern California. It is popular for fishing and other low cost recreation. It provides shops, restaurants, amusements and pier parking spaces, and houses the pier and harbor offices. Due to the pier's central location, easy access and aesthetically pleasing atmosphere, it attracts about 3 million visitors annually. Immediately north and south of the pier are public beaches and additional parking.

The pier, located at the foot of Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica, extends nearly 2,000 feet seaward from the pier entrance on Ocean Avenue. The first 460 feet of this is an approach ramp spanning city streets and Pacific Coast Highway. The main portion of the pier is over the beach and into the surf zone. The fishing pier extension at the outer end will be 420 feet long, reconstructed to the same footprint as the original pier which was destroyed in 1983, but to a higher elevation, +25, and without the lower level boat deck.

The breakwater, the final component of the entire project, lies 1300 feet offshore. It is 2,000 feet long with its southeasterly end just 550 feet from the end of the pier. It was badly damaged in the 1983 storm and is to be rebuilt to a crest elevation of +6 feet and extended 300 feet at the southeasterly end. Reconstruction of the breakwater will provide some additional protection for the pier, but is intended primarily to improve boating conditions in the Bay.

The City had already started making plans for renovation of the pier when the 1983 damage occurred, making it necessary to start over. Even before the storms, the plans included provisions for improving public fishing access. In each of three workshops held by the City in 1982 to get citizen input, a desire for additional fishing space was found to be the top priority. The City's present plan for the municipal fishing pier extension is a direct outgrowth of that public expression.

The Department evaluated the City's proposal for the fishing pier expansion and supports the concept noting the constant and heavy fishing use that took place at the end of the pier prior to 1983. Department biologists found the fish taken most frequently included Pacific mackerel, Pacific bonito, California halibut and various species of surf perch and croakers. The Department recommends construction take place during the low use months of fall and winter and the City's schedule follows that recommendation.

Plans for the fishing pier extension have been provided by the City and reviewed by staff. An innovative use of the pier space is made, with a fishing balcony shown along the perimeter of the "hammerhead" end of the pier. The balconies are a few feet lower than the main deck, and are handicapped accessible by gentle ramps. Restrooms, bait and tackle shop, coffee shop, fish cleaning tables and other support/service facilities will be on the main deck. In this way, viewers and strollers will be able to watch the fishing activity without taking up the rail space.

Because of the storm damage in 1983, the City applied for and received approval of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds. A Coastal Conservancy loan and City General Funds are the other fund sources besides proposed WCB allocation. The following funding breakdown for the entire pier reconstruction project has been provided by the City to show how the project is to be financed and the agencies involved.

Minutes of Meeting, Wildlife Conservation Board
March 1, 1988

<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>Phase I</u>	<u>Phase II</u>	<u>Phase III</u>
General Fund (City)	\$1,012,288	\$1,385,660	\$1,526,400
FEMA	-0-	\$1,166,600	\$1,773,600
Coastal Conservancy	-0-	\$1,000,000(loan)	-0-
Wildlife Conser. Bd.	-0-	-0-	\$ 500,000
Total	\$1,012,288*	\$3,552,260*	\$3,800,000

*Contract Costs

At the time the agenda was being prepared, the City staff was preparing for a scheduled February 23, 1988, Council meeting for approval of the design concept. It is expected the City will be able to provide more information on design details at the Board's March 1, 1988, meeting after the City Council has formally adopted a design plan. Following these approvals and the necessary execution of agreements between the City and Department of Fish and Game, the City's timetable calls for bidding out the project this summer and beginning construction in the fall, 1988.

A copy of the EIR prepared for and adopted by the City of Santa Monica by resolution has been reviewed by staff and the Department. A copy of the Notice of Determination filed by the City in compliance with CEQA has been received. It is noted that mitigation measures are to be taken as a condition of EIR approval and that a Statement of Overriding Consideration was adopted.

A Council resolution supporting this request for a WCB allocation for the Santa Monica Fishing Pier project has been received. It indicates the City's intent to provide a free 25 year lease of the project premises to the Department of Fish and Game, to provide the necessary matching funds and to assume the operation and maintenance responsibilities as required during the lease term.

Staff has reviewed and supports the City's proposal for reconstruction of the Santa Monica Fishing Pier and recommended the Board, in consideration of the EIR adopted by the City in compliance with CEQA, approve the project, allocate \$500,000.00 therefor from the 1984 Parklands Fund as designated for coastal fishing piers, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli asked for any other questions or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, he thanked Ms. Meister for the presentation and the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE BOARD PARTICIPATION IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SANTA MONICA FISHING PIER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$500,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 PARKLANDS FUND AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL FISHING PIERS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Vallejo Fishing Pier, Solano County \$40,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this item is for an allocation to make repairs to the Vallejo Fishing Pier, a Department of Fish and Game fee-owned pier located in Vallejo at the easterly end of the Highway 37 Napa River Bridge. The pier is a remnant of the old highway bridge which was salvaged by WCB when the Department of Transportation constructed the new span. The 1,000 foot long easterly bridge approach section and 0.2 acres of land were acquired by the Board in 1964.

The Greater Vallejo Recreation District, which operates and maintains the wood pier by an agreement with the Department, reported that fire destroyed part of one pile bent last fall, severely weakening the pier and requiring closure of the outer 1/3 portion of the structure.

This Pier is the only one of some 46 public fishing piers constructed or renovated with WCB funding which is owned outright by the Department. Past WCB funding for this project has not required a local match which has been normal on other coastal piers. The District is, however, underwriting the engineering costs of the project and engaged a consulting engineering firm to inspect the damage and make repair recommendations and cost estimates.

As reported by the consultant, damage was considerable but fortunately localized so only a relatively small part of the pier needs repair. The work, however, is specialized and difficult so repair costs are high. It is necessary to lift the concrete deck to permit removal and replacement of damaged substructure components underneath.

Fire damaged the pier on two previous occasions, in 1973 and 1983 for which the Board allocated \$51,300 for repairs. Other structural repairs and improvements including the initial conversion of the bridge for fishing pier purposes funded by WCB have totaled \$173,155.

While the Vallejo Pier has not been exactly trouble-free, it has returned benefits many times over its cost for fishing recreation. It is well located for this purpose, being in excellent fishing waters at the mouth of the Napa River in a growing metropolitan area. As most fishing piers, it is an important and popular public attraction, with an estimated 70,525 visitor days of use recorded in 1987.

The District engineers have provided a cost estimate for the pier repairs based on a detailed report of the damage and methods to be used for the repair. Measures to make the pier less susceptible to accidental fire are to be included in the repair project. The District will bid out the work and administer the contract. As always, any funds remaining after completion of the project will be recovered by the Board. The estimate is given as follows:

Jacking, hoisting & suspension.....	\$14,200
Scaffolding.....	3,300
Demolition.....	4,900
Fence & guard rail.....	1,100

Wood & carpentry.....	8,400
Concrete repair & joint seal.....	1,100
Subtotal, construction.....	\$33,000
Contingency, 20%.....	7,000
Total Project Cost.....	\$40,000

The repair of existing structures is exempt from CEQA under Section 15103, Class 1 of the State Guidelines and a Notice of Exemption has been filed in accordance with the Act.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the City of Vallejo has been operating and maintaining the facility since the acquisition and will continue to do so and will also handle contract administration for repair work. He noted that Dick Conzelmann, General Manager of the Greater Vallejo Recreation District, was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended the Board approve the Vallejo Fishing Pier repairs as presented, allocate \$40,000 therefor from the Parklands Fund of 1984, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed with the work substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli asked for questions and concerns, and since there was no further discussion, he thanked Mr. Conzelmann for making the trip and the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE FUNDS FOR PIER REPAIR WORK AT THE VALLEJO FISHING PIER, SOLANO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$40,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. Pillar Point Pier, San Mateo County \$191,000.00

This item was submitted to the Board for a reallocation of funds. The project consists of a series of 3 new public fishing piers extending from the inner breakwater at Pillar Point Harbor, near Half Moon Bay. On April 10, 1985, the Board approved the application by the San Mateo County Harbor District for matching funds under the Board's fishing pier program and allocated \$160,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

The District experienced some financial setbacks after agreements were drawn up for construction of the pier, and the local matching funds which had been set aside for the project had to be used for other priorities. However, the District is now prepared to proceed with the project as originally planned. Unfortunately, the funds previously allocated by the Board reverted last June so are no longer available. Staff recommended an allocation be made from the 1984 Parklands Bond Act Fund this time.

The following is a recap of the project as presented at the April 10, 1985, meeting:

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

The proposal is to develop a fishing access on an inner breakwater of Pillar Point Harbor and includes a walkway on the breakwater and three short piers extending from the walkway into the outer harbor waters.

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

Access to the piers will be along a 725 foot long, 5-foot wide concrete walk to be constructed on the crest of the northerly inner-harbor breakwater, adjacent to Capistrano Road, which directly connects with State Highway 1 approximately a quarter mile to the east. The piers will be spaced 192 feet apart along and perpendicular to walkway, each being 50 feet long by 8 foot wide with an 18-foot octagonal end platform. The piers will have wood decks and handrails supported by laminated wood girders on pre-cast concrete or steel piles.

The walkway and piers will be accessible to the handicapped, either from Capistrano Road or from an adjacent parking area. For safety, the walkway will have a rail along both sides and will also be lighted. An existing public restroom is conveniently located between the parking area and the pier access walkway. The restroom and parking area both meet present-day handicapped access codes.

The Department has commented favorably on this proposal but included a suggestion that the walkway be extended further out and additional piers be constructed into the deeper water at the end of the breakwater. This option was studied by the District but not recommended because of the possible conflict the fishing might have with boats entering and leaving the harbor at the end of the breakwater.

The San Mateo County Harbor District has submitted a resolution agreeing to match WCB funds, lease the project lands to the DFG, and maintain the project in accordance with program requirements.

District engineers have updated the cost of the project. The current estimate, based on 1988 construction costs is \$382,000, and the WCB share would be \$191,000. Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds have been approved for reimbursement based on the original \$320,000 estimate. WCB will share such reimbursement with the District on a proportionate basis. After reimbursement, cost to the Board will be approximately \$111,000.

The cost breakdown as submitted by the District is as follows:

Mobilization, site preparation.....	\$20,900
Piling, 14" diam. x 40'.....	15,500
Structural concrete (caps).....	18,800
Timber girders, decking & railing.....	111,000
Electrical-conduit, wire & fixtures.....	39,000
Water line and fixtures.....	17,700
Fish cleaning tables & benches.....	10,500
Concrete walkway.....	34,600
Walkway railing.....	37,000
Subtotal.....	<u>\$305,000</u>
Contingencies, 15%.....	46,000
Engineering, 10%.....	31,000
Total Estimated Cost.....	<u>\$382,000</u>
WCB Share, 50%.....	\$191,000

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

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

Department has previously recommended the project as providing a good fishery potential.

Staff recommended that the Board, with consideration of the EIR filed in compliance with CEQA, approve the Pillar Point Pier project as proposed, allocate \$191,000 therefor from the Parklands Fund of 1984, as designated for coastal fishing piers, on a matching fund basis with the San Mateo County Harbor District, and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Don Guluzzy, General Manager of the San Mateo County Harbor District, was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Stancell asked what the financial setbacks were and had they been sufficiently cleared up. Mr. Guluzzy stated that the setback was due to lack of funds. They now have funds budgeted and are working with the Coastal Commission and Corps of Engineers obtaining necessary permits which should all be completed by the end of March and then will be ready to go to bid.

Mr. Bontadelli asked for any comments or questions, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE A REALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SERIES OF 3 NEW PUBLIC FISHING PIERS AT THE PILLAR POINT PIER, SAN MATEO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$191,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984, AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL FISHING PIERS, ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Butte Valley Wildlife Area Public Access, Siskiyou County \$25,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported the Department of Fish and Game is proposing to enhance the public road access and parking lot system at the Butte Valley W.A. to improve public all weather access for wildlife oriented public recreational activities.

Mr. Clyde Edon described the project and its location. At its December 12, 1980, and June 25, 1981, meetings, the Board approved the phased acquisition of the 13,200+ acre Butte Valley (Meiss Lake) Wildlife Area. This area is located in Butte Valley along Highway 97, about 14 miles south of the Oregon border.

The nearest community is Macdoel, located on State Highway 97, five miles to the east of the area headquarters. The major physical feature of the area is Meiss Lake which has no natural outlet and serves as a sump for run-off from the surrounding mountains and return flows from adjacent agricultural lands. Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Basin, major staging areas for waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway, lie approximately 40 miles to the east.

The property has extremely high waterfowl and other wildlife values due to its existing waterfowl habitat and its location in the heart of the Pacific Flyway. During the fall migration, up to 60,000 ducks and 30,000 geese are estimated to use the lake and surrounding lowlands. An average of 260 pairs of ducks and 1,800 Canada geese nest on the property annually. With certain habitat improvements, these numbers can be increased several-fold. Use by other wildlife species will also be increased.

On August 5, 1982, the Board allocated funds for road improvement and construction of three small parking areas. This was done primarily to allow an initial, but limited, public hunting program. In addition, both Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and WCB have funded development of nesting islands, nesting boxes, levee construction and installation of water control devices to enhance the waterfowl habitat. This also included the recent reconstruction of the main levee running north and south across Meiss Lake.

The area is currently used for hunting, trapping, sightseeing, bird-watching and other non-consumptive uses. Due to the size of the area, public access is limited to a few parking lots and access roads. Additional parking lots are needed to better facilitate public use of the area.

The proposed project will include improving two parking lots and connecting access roads to provide year around use. To accomplish this, approximately

8,700 feet of existing access roads will be reconstructed and graveled 12 to 14 feet wide and six inches deep. Two parking lots will also be reconstructed and graveled six inches deep. Approximately 2,200 feet of the access roads to be reconstructed and one of the parking lots must also be raised to prevent flooding.

Project development will be administered by the Department of Fish and Game with an estimated project cost as follows:

2,408 cubic yards gravel at \$9.00 per cubic yard =	\$21,672
Bulldozer	2,728
Road Grading	600
	<u>\$25,000</u>

This project is considered to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15301. A Categorical Exemption has been filed in accordance with the act.

Mr. Schmidt reemphasized that the Department has proposed the project and they would administer the work to be done. He also stated this is a very cost effective proposal and public benefits would indicate better access for both hunters, as well as wildlife observation, hiking and photography.

Staff recommended the Board approve this proposal as presented, allocate \$25,000.00 from the 1984 Parklands Fund and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association and the Regional Manager, Spike Naylor, was present should there be any questions on this project or the next two projects.

Mr. Bontadelli asked for any comments or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ROAD DEVELOPMENT AT THE BUTTE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA PUBLIC ACCESS, SISKIYOU COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$25,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 PARKLANDS FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Ash Creek Wildlife Area Public Access, Modoc & Lassen Cos. \$20,000.00

Mr. Schmidt stated that the Department of Fish and Game is proposing to reconstruct and upgrade the public access roads and 4 parking lots on the Ash Creek Wildlife Area to provide improved all weather public access for wildlife oriented public recreational activities. The 13,155 acre wildlife area is located 2 1/2 miles north of the town of Bieber, along the Modoc and Lassen County lines in northeastern California. The area was purchased in two segments pursuant to Board authorization at its November 26, 1985, and August 26, 1986, meetings.

Mr. Clyde Edon described where the project is and what is to be done. The wildlife area is traversed by several channels of Ash Creek, which flows east to west through the area. The primary historic habitat types of the area are riparian vegetation (primarily willows), some marsh area, hay meadows and sage and grass uplands. It is used very heavily by waterfowl during spring migration and during nesting and brood-rearing seasons. During winter months, bald eagles and Swainson's hawks forage and roost on the property. Prairie, and occasionally peregrine, falcons also forage on the property while Sandhill cranes use the area during migrations and during the nesting and brood rearing periods. Pronghorn antelope summer and bear young on the property, and a few deer are also known to summer on the area. The property also contains nesting territories for greater Sandhill cranes, a species which requires this type of habitat for continued survival.

Present recreational uses include hunting, fishing, trapping and various non-consumptive use activities. Public access is limited to a few parking lots and access roads. Vehicular access, while limited by the lack of sufficient internal roads and parking, is further restricted in winter due to snow and muddy conditions. When these access roads and parking lots were first established, insufficient funds were available to construct them to the standards necessary for year around use.

Approximately 12,250 feet of existing access roads are proposed to be reconstructed and cindered 12 to 14 feet wide and four inches deep. Four existing parking lots of varying sizes will also be cindered four inches deep.

Project development will be administered by the Department of Fish and Game with an estimated project cost as follows:

2,760 cubic yards cinders at \$7.00 per cubic yard =	\$19,320
Road Grading	680
Total Cost	\$20,000

This project is considered to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15301. A Categorical Exemption has been filed in accordance with the act.

Staff recommended the Board approve this proposal as presented, allocate \$20,000.00 from the 1984 Parklands Fund and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association.

Mr. Bontadelli asked for comments or questions, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RECONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADING OF PUBLIC ACCESS ROADS AND PARKING LOTS AT THE ASH CREEK WILDLIFE AREA, MODOC AND LASSEN COUNTIES, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$20,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 PARKLANDS FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Ash Creek W.L.A. (Elkins Lane Levee Reconstruction), \$200,000.00
Modoc County

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., is proposing to reconstruct and enhance the Elkins Lane levee system and water controls at the Ash Creek Wildlife Area in Modoc County. The 13,155 acre wildlife area is located 2 1/2 miles north of the town of Bieber along the Modoc and Lassen County lines in northeastern California. The area was purchased in two segments pursuant to Board authorization at its November 26, 1985, and August 26, 1986, meetings.

The historic wetland is, of course, the key to the Ash Creek Wildlife area's excellent quality wildlife habitat. The wildlife uses of the area seem, at times, almost limitless. Bald eagles, golden eagles, Swainson's hawks, kestrels, peregrine falcons, prairie falcons, waterfowl, black backed kites, California quail, sage grouse, a few pheasants, antelope, Rocky Mountain mule deer, muskrat, mink, badger, coyotes, several species of rodents, several species of owls, black tailed jackrabbits, a variety of shorebirds, buteos and accipiters, are among species using the property. Furthermore, studies by the DFG have indicated that in 1981 and 1982, nearly 20% of all known nesting sites of greater Sandhill cranes in northeastern California were situated within the wildlife area complex. The cranes, which are State listed as "threatened", nest in northeastern California, and then winter in the Central Valley.

Controlling water flows through the area, both to minimize damage from high flows and to retain and manage water use for wildlife habitat benefits, is the basis for this proposal. Without a proper water management system the full potential and value of the area for wildlife species can not be reached. The Elkins Lane structure plays a key role in the management of water flows within and through the area.

Mr. Edon described the proposed improvements consisting of constructing an engineered levee with improved water control systems to replace the existing dike, a dragline built non-compacted earthmound that in the past has been breached and repaired numerous times. The levee will be about one mile long with a crown elevation of two feet above the elevation of the highest existing headwall, compacted to 90% minimum density, with a 12 ft. wide crown covered with a three inch aggregate surface for use as a roadway for administrative purposes. The levee will be constructed west of the existing dike using suitable materials from borrow areas and/or the existing dike. The borrow areas will be developed into two feet deep ponds with three feet high islands as specified by the Department's area manager. The levee will have a 5:1 slope waterside, a varying width bench (mostly about 20 ft. wide) between the waterside toe and the existing north-south canal. The landside slope will be 3:1. There will be a turnaround at the southern end and the slopes will be seeded with a grass/legume mixture for increased erosion control. The sections adjacent to the existing and new control structures will have rock slope protection waterside. The existing structures will be modified for installation of new stoplog structures which can be easily operated by one person.

One new diversion structure is proposed for additional water diversion and control. This culvert structure and short channel at the southern end, just west of the existing roadbridge, would allow water to be diverted to a middle branch of Ash Creek. The structure will include a concrete box intake structure, two 30-inch culverts through the levee and stoplogs for control. Rock slope protection will be placed waterside adjacent to these structures.

The estimated cost for this proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is \$435,160. The work is to be completed under a site specific agreement as authorized by the May 16, 1985, M.O.U., between the California DFG and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Project construction will be administered by D.U. Inc.

The cost of this restoration project will be shared by using \$235,160 of State "MARSH" (Matching Aid to Restore State Habitat) funds, which was authorized for this purpose by the State Fish and Game Commission in December, 1987. Final engineering drawings will be funded, and prepared, by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Construction cost was estimated at \$435,160.00. Proposed funding sources are as listed below:

1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (WCB)	\$200,000
State "MARSH" Funds	235,160
Total Funding	<u>\$435,160</u>

A Categorical Exemption under Section 15301 (i) of the State Guidelines has been filed in accordance with CEQA.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Department of Fish and Game has highly recommended this project and Spike Naylor from the Region is here should there be any questions.

Staff recommended the Board approve this proposal as presented, allocate \$200,000.00 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. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association.

Mr. Bontadelli stated that it was his understanding that this is one the areas that had been proposed for inclusion in a tentative new program and asked Regional Manager Spike Naylor how it would operate in relationship to this project. Mr. Naylor stated that the new program would have an accelerated program of interpretative services and would expect to have a lot of public use from a non-hunting standpoint. This particular project is going to be in part in protection of any of those facilities that we will be putting in later. Great things are expected out of this particular wildlife area because it is blessed with a lot of opportunity for both hunting and non-hunting public use.

Mr. Bontadelli asked if there were any concerns or questions. He continued to state that the Department is working very closely with Assemblyman Jim

Costa on drafting of the bill at this time. This includes nine areas targeted throughout the state that will hopefully generate additional revenue for the Department to maintain and increase our non-consumptive use of wildlife throughout the state. Mr. Naylor stated they are currently in the process of preparing a management plan for the area. Dr. Tuttle asked how the revenue program would be applied to a site such as this. Mr. Bontadelli reported that basically the Department is proposing to institute a program simultaneously with fees collection in the same year using a loan from the Fish and Game Preservation Fund to get it off the ground in the first year. In essence, an interpretive center and either self-guided trails, bird blinds or other similar type programs, each one varying from site to site within the 9 locations throughout the state would be created. Charging day use fees at these locations for people who do not have valid hunting or fishing licenses. If you currently have a hunting or fishing license that would act as your annual pass. Either day use fee or an annual pass which would be good at all the wildlife areas throughout the state combined with the native species stamp promotion which is similar to use in several other states to promote non-game wildlife activities would be available. In addition, we are talking about combining the package with a subscription to OUTDOOR CAL so that roughly the same price as a fishing license you would be able to have an annual pass, the native species stamp and the magazine subscription. It's a fairly attractive package whether you're actually able to use any of the specific areas or not. In addition, the native species stamp, magazine subscription would be available to people with hunting and fishing licenses for roughly a \$10.00 charge. Among the areas covered would include: Lake Earl, Ash Creek, Gray Lodge, Grizzly Island, Los Banos WLA, San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Wister Unit), Salton Sea, Upper Newport Bay, and the Elkhorn Slough which is in the Monterey Bay area and is currently an area that is basically our test pattern as we have put in an interpretive center and trails with minor promotion and visitor use went from 7,000 to 50,000 visitor days in a two year period. Outlining each plan will have three separate component. These components are fisheries, hunting and a non-game type component showing compatible management activities on each of the sites and how they can be operated simultaneously or at varying times of the year pursuant to needs for public safety.

Mr. Bontadelli asked for any comments, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE RECONSTRUCTION, IN COOPERATION WITH DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC., AT THE ASH CREEK WLA, MODOC COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$200,000.00 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS AUTHORIZED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Salmon, Steelhead and Trout Habitat Enhancement Projects \$267,200.00

Mr. Schmidt proposed that the Board allocate funds for the enhancement and rehabilitation of salmon, steelhead and resident trout spawning and rearing habitat on thirteen waterways in California. Projects in this proposal include those located on coastal, as well as interior, waterways.

The anadromous fishery resource in California has suffered a severe decline over the past thirty years. For example, records indicate that the king salmon population in the Klamath River has declined from a historic level of 500,000 to 180,000 by 1963, 72,000 by 1978, to 46,000 by 1983. One of the major causes for this decline is degradation of natural habitat due to stream and watershed disturbances from logging, road construction, mining and other activities associated with modern development.

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

Flood riffles are broad, shallow stream sections commonly referred to as "bowling alleys" which are composed primarily of 6 to 8 inch cobbles or boulders. These areas lack pools and provide little if any spawning or rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. Flood waters also caused the loss of bank stability and associated streamside shade canopy which is needed to maintain cooler summer water temperatures required for survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead. Since anadromous fish spend the juvenile portion of their life cycle in their natal stream, the need for adequate rearing habitat is a significant factor relative to the overall status of a population.

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

Many of the problems associated with the larger coastal streams are also common to the smaller interior waterways. Long stretches of some interior streams also 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 fill 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 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.

Staff recommended that the Board consider these thirteen salmon, steelhead trout and resident trout projects as one item, allocate \$267,200.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (Stream Restoration and Enhancement), and authorize the staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association for five of the projects. It was also noted that Mr. Stein from the Eldorado National Forest and Mr. Laird from Trinity County representing some of the projects were present should there be any questions. Spike Naylor of the Region and Clyde Edon of staff are also present should there be any questions.

Site specific information for each of the 13 habitat enhancement projects is provided below:

- a. North Fork Yuba River Boulder Clusters, Sierra County \$12,000.00

This is a cooperative project between the Eldorado National Forest and Department of Fish and Game, for stream improvements on the North Fork of the Yuba River below Downieville, near the Fiddle Creek campground.

The North Fork Yuba River is a prime recreational fishery for both rainbow and brown trout which is heavily utilized by anglers with access from Highway 49 and three local U.S. Forest Service campgrounds. Current habitat condition is a series of long monotypic runs and riffles with little adult habitat in the mile of stream between campgrounds. Initial surveys indicate that existing boulder clusters are heavily utilized by both trout and anglers. Placement of additional boulder clusters is felt to be the only practical means of improving habitat for both rainbow and brown trout. There is a large amount of support for this enhancement project by local sportsmen, as well as the county Fish and Game Commission.

Boulders located in proximity to the stream will be placed in clusters in the monotypic flats in the campground areas, while cluster deflectors will be placed to deflect high flows near the banks to create pool habitat associated with existing riparian habitat. Boulders of the size needed are in short supply and will be trucked in and placed with a large rubber tired skidder. The project will be implemented by U.S. Forest Service personnel and contract labor and equipment at an estimated cost of \$12,000.00.

b. Sierra Mtn. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams, El Dorado and Nevada Counties \$60,300.00

The Department of Fish and Game is requesting funding for the repair of 5 streamflow flow maintenance dams located in the Eldorado and Tahoe National Forests.

Most of the dams were built in the 50's and early 60's with WCB funding to store water in suitable lakes and gradually release that water during the dry months (August - October) to maintain fish habitat, in nearly 130 miles of stream channels. In most years, prior to the dams being built, the streams dried up. In addition to increased fish habitat and spawning areas, numerous campsites have been established along watered stream channels by backpackers.

Many of the dams need extensive work in remortaring the rock and replacement of the gate valves (normally 8 or 12 inch valves) damaged due to freezing/thawing and to vandalism. The dams with extensive damage will need the expertise of an experienced stone mason while dams in need of minor repair may be done by Fish and Game crews. Most of the dams are in the "back country" where pack stock will be needed to transport supplies and equipment.

During calendar years 1988 and 1989, restoration work is proposed to be completed at the following five dams:

<u>Dam</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Barretts Lake (Upper Bassi Fork-Silver Creek)	El Dorado	\$10,000
Big Downey Lake (Granite Creek)	Nevada	\$12,000
Lawrence Lake (Upper Bassi Fork-Silver Creek)	El Dorado	\$10,000
Lois Lake (Unnamed stream/Rubicon River)	El Dorado	\$ 8,000
Schmidell Lake (Unnamed stream/Rubicon River)	El Dorado	\$20,300

Proposed work will be administered by the Department of Fish and Game at a total estimated cost of \$60,300.

c. Alvarado Park Stream Restoration, Contra Costa County \$30,000.00

This is a cooperative project, between the Department of Fish and Game and East Bay Regional Park, for restoration work in Wildcat Creek, located in Alvarado Park (City of Richmond).

Two of six check dams located at Alvarado Park block instream migration of resident rainbow trout and the steelhead trout populations that the DFG and EBRP and others are attempting to reestablish in Wildcat Creek.

It is proposed that modifications to be made under District administration will accommodate both the instream rainbow trout and migrating steelhead. The District, with DFG advise, has designed a project which will lower both dams and create pools below the dams to reduce the stream elevation change. Barrier modification will create a stairway in the streambed to allow rainbow trout to migrate upstream from September to June.

The long-term objective of this restoration project is to cooperate with the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Water Resources and other agencies to develop an anadromous run of steelhead in Wildcat Creek. Barrier removal at Alvarado Park will lead the way toward the final goal and prepare for potential future migrations of steelhead to the upper reaches of the stream. The estimated cost of this project is \$30,000.

d. Long Canyon, Placer County \$5,500.00

This project, between the Department of Fish and Game and the Eldorado National Forest, proposes to improve trout habitat conditions in the South Fork of Long Canyon Creek by removing erosion causing logjams and stabilizing degraded streambanks while modifying existing large woody debris to improve pool habitat for resident rainbow trout.

The project would require the construction of several boulder clusters, re-orientation of existing large woody debris, and contouring of eroding streambanks. Existing materials will be utilized to construct these structures and exposed, stabilized surfaces will be seeded and mulched at project completion. All logjams and debris that are not deleteriously affecting habitat quality will remain untreated. Work will be completed utilizing a dozer mounted backhoe and Forest Service personnel at an estimated cost of \$5,500.

e. South Fork Silver Creek #2, El Dorado County \$4,300.00

This is a continuation of a previously Board funded cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Eldorado National Forest providing for the placement of log and boulder weir structures and boulder clusters on the South Fork Silver Creek. The intent of this project, as with the earlier one, is to improve habitat for resident fish and to improve spawning habitat for migratory fish from Junction Reservoir.

Existing stream boulders will be rearranged to construct several boulder weirs. In addition, trees will be felled into existing pools and anchored to the shores to provide overhead cover for fish. Also, spawning gravel will be imported and placed behind the weirs to create an immediate spawning attraction. The work will be accomplished using hand labor and contract equipment at an estimated cost of \$4,300.

f. Camp Creek #2, El Dorado County \$4,400.00

This is a continuation of a previously Board funded cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Eldorado National Forest providing for the placement of boulder weir structures and boulder clusters on Camp Creek, a tributary to the North Fork of the Consumnes River. A habitat survey and instream flow study for this stream indicates that spawning habitat and adult habitat are currently very limited.

This project will require the construction of several boulder weirs and boulder clusters by rearranging existing stream boulders to provide for maximum pool habitats for rainbow and brown trout. In addition, trees will be felled into the created pools and anchored to the shore to provide overhead cover for fish. The work will be accomplished using hand labor at a cost estimated at \$4,400.

g. Little French Creek, Trinity County \$2,300.00

This is a proposed cooperative project, between DFG and Trinity County, on Little French Creek, a tributary to the Trinity River. The project is designed to concentrate low summer streamflows into the fish passage system for juvenile access, and focus the attractant point to the ladder entrance. This will be achieved by installing a weir directly upstream from the culvert baffle entrance.

A concrete weir 12" in height extending across the stream channel will be constructed to divert the small flow of water into the fish passage system. Concrete will be poured under and on each side of the existing baffle wall to seal the leaks which presently allows a majority of the water to escape the fish passage system. This work, which is intended to benefit steelhead migration, is to be completed through contracts with Trinity County at a cost of \$2,300.

h. Swede Creek Passage, Trinity County \$2,200.00

This proposed cooperative project, between DFG and Trinity County, on Swede Creek, a tributary to the Trinity River, is designed to reduce the velocity of the stream at the upstream entrance and downstream outflow of the culvert by installing baffles on the culvert aprons.

The existing stream flow velocities at the culvert entrance and exit are considered a barrier to steelhead migration. The original project design included baffles to reduce the velocities; however, the number of baffles was insufficient to cover the aprons.

This project will include the installation of six baffles (6" x 12" full dimension redwood) on the upstream culvert apron, secured into the concrete with 18" steel rods and Hilti adhesive. An additional three baffles (6" x 6" full dimension redwood) will be installed on the downstream culvert apron and secured into the concrete with 12" steel rods and Hilti adhesive. The work, intended to benefit steelhead trout migration, will be completed through a contract with Trinity County at an estimated cost of \$2,200.

i. Prairie Creek Barrier, Trinity County \$12,600.00

The proposed cooperative project, between DFG and Trinity County, is designed to modify a migration barrier caused by two box culverts where Prairie Creek, a tributary to the Trinity River, goes under Highway 299, and will provide 2.0 miles of spawning and nursery/over wintering habitat.

The barrier is caused by two box culverts thirty feet apart, with a difference of 7' in vertical height between them. To remedy this problem, it is proposed that baffles (6" x 12" full dimension redwood) be installed through both culverts, and secured into the concrete with 18" steel rods and Hilti adhesive. Seven concrete weirs will also be installed between the culverts to overcome the 7' vertical height. The weirs will be anchored by drilling holes into the bedrock and adhering rebar into them with Hilti adhesive.

The work, intended to benefit migrant steelhead, is to be completed through a contract with Trinity County at an estimated total cost of \$12,600.

j. Trinity River Diversions, Trinity County \$34,600.00

This is a proposed cooperative project, between the Department of Fish and Game and Trinity County, to determine location and type of fish migration protection structures needed to more completely enhance and restore the anadromous fish populations in the Trinity River Basin. The objective is to identify all existing water diversion structures and intake facilities, such as ditches, pipes, or dams within the Trinity River Basin and to provide DFG with the location and type of structures causing mortality of downstream migrating juveniles. Furthermore, the study is intended to determine the amount of habitat currently blocked, for each species of salmon or steelhead, and design the appropriate mitigation structures to provide for the migration of adult spawners in the fall, and juveniles seeking rearing habitat in the summer.

Nursery/over wintering habitat loss will be determined from existing sources, including local biologists and direct observation. A basin atlas will be compiled with all diversions located, indicating which are barriers, which have mitigation systems present and which species habitat is affected. A determination will also be made of the juvenile mortality rates occurring in unscreened diversions and the entity responsible for the diversion.

DFG has some diversion screens currently available for placement once diversions have been properly identified. Phase two funding will no doubt be requested to complete the screening, if necessary, and for the construction of instream barrier modification structures upon completion of phase one identification and design.

k. Maple Creek, Humboldt County \$35,000.00

This is a proposed joint project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District to be carried out in cooperation with the Simpson Timber Company and the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA).

The purpose of this project is to improve the quality and quantity of chinook and coho salmon and steelhead habitat in Maple Creek, a historically important producer of chinook salmon. Maple Creek is a major tributary of the lower Mad River where chinook salmon habitat is a limited commodity.

Enhancement of spawning and rearing habitat will be achieved by reducing sediment in the stream system by armoring banks with rocks, logs, and gabions on 11 sites; planting riparian vegetation at 11 sites and modifying log jams at 1 site on Maple Creek and at 6-8 sites on Bear Creek (a major tributary to Maple Creek). All rehabilitation tasks will be documented with before, during and after photographs. A final report will describe all work accomplished under this project.

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) has agreed to supply a crew for much of the hand labor on this project, under the supervision of RCAA representatives. In addition, Simpson Timber Co. has offered in-kind support by donating available downed logs in the site vicinities for use in bank armoring, and possibly a site for camping use by the CCC crew. Work is to be carried out through a contract with the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District at an estimated cost of \$35,000.

l. Montague Pumps Fish Screen, Siskiyou County \$14,000.00

This is a Department of Fish and Game project to enhance the facilities to bypass downstream migrants around the Montague Pumps Fish Screen, located about 2 miles south of Montague, Siskiyou County.

The Montague Pumps is a major diversion on the Shasta River. The present system allows the bypassed fish to be pulled back into the screen and pump area where many thousands of downstream migrant steelhead and salmon are currently saved at the DFG screen located at this site. However, the short bypass pipe allows many juveniles to be pulled back upstream to the pumps. A longer bypass pipe will solve this problem, hence leading to the survival of many steelhead and fall chinooks.

The work to be completed includes the installation of 1000' of 10" Class 63 S/weld P.V.C. pipe with 3/4" minus bedding to grade. An AV150 4" Waterman air relief valve and 30 degree elbow will also be installed to complete this project. The cost of the completed project is estimated at \$14,000.

- m. Battle Creek Barriers, Shasta County \$50,000.00

This is a Department of Fish and Game proposal to prevent Fall Chinook from entering the Gover Irrigation Diversion where they are stranded and die when the irrigation diversion is shut off.

The Gover Diversion has two bypasses, one to Battle Creek and one to the Sacramento River at Balls Ferry, both of which attract salmon during the fall run. Temporary measures have been taken to block the salmon from entering with mixed results and a substantial amount of manpower expended. Permanent barriers are needed. The Department proposes to contractually design and construct permanent barriers. Intent of proposal is to build a permanent concrete flashboard structure approximately 20' wide with wing walls into the ditch bank.

Mr. Bontadelli asked if there were any questions on any of the specific projects, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF HABITAT ON THIRTEEN PROJECTS LISTED BELOW; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$267,200.00 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR STREAM RESTORATION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| a. North Fork Yuba River Boulder Clusters, Sierra Co. | \$12,000.00 |
| b. Sierra Mtn. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams, El Dorado and Nevada Cos. | \$60,300.00 |
| c. Alvarado Park Stream Restoration, Contra Costa Co. | \$30,000.00 |
| d. Long Canyon, Placer Co. | \$5,500.00 |
| e. South Fork Silver Creek #2, El Dorado Co. | \$4,300.00 |
| f. Camp Creek #2, El Dorado Co. | \$4,400.00 |
| g. Little French Creek, Trinity Co. | \$2,300.00 |
| h. Swede Creek Passage, Trinity Co. | \$2,200.00 |
| i. Prairie Creek Barrier, Trinity Co. | \$12,600.00 |
| j. Trinity River Diversions, Trinity Co. | \$34,600.00 |
| k. Maple Creek, Humboldt Co. | \$35,000.00 |
| l. Montague Pumps Fish Screen, Siskiyou Co. | \$14,000.00 |
| m. Battle Creek Barriers, Shasta Co. | \$50,000.00 |

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Napa Marsh-Steamboat Slough, Sonoma County \$506,300.00

Mr. Schmidt stated this proposal is for the acquisition of up to 341 acres of land in Sonoma County for expansion of the Department of Fish and Game's holdings within the Napa River Marsh complex, which lies just north of the San Francisco Bay. During the past five years, the Board has acquired more than 750 acres of former Napa Marsh wetlands which have been reclaimed for agricultural uses, primarily grazing and oat hay production. These lands have been acquired as part of an overall DFG plan for restoration of wetlands in the northern Bay area.

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 for 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 the most important and productive habitat overall for fish and wildlife.

The Department has highly recommended the purchase of the subject property for a number of reasons. Most importantly, State acquisition will allow for a reversion of the reclaimed portions of this tract to their natural, tidal marsh condition, thereby actually increasing the availability of habitat for dependent species. Also, with its close proximity to populated areas, this would afford an excellent opportunity for public uses, such as nature study, birdwatching, wildlife photography and hunting.

The ownership under consideration in this proposal consists of approximately 341 acres located about 5 miles south of Sonoma. The project is a coordinated effort involving the Sonoma County Department of Public Works, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Fish and Game, the State Coastal Conservancy and the WCB. As planned, WCB would purchase the westerly-most 188+ acres for the appraised, fair market value of \$194,700.00. The remaining 153+ acres valued at \$305,600.00 would be purchased by the County of Sonoma as part of a wastewater treatment facility and storage reservoir site. Under a restoration and management plan developed between the parties, the county would provide treated effluent to the portion its property that it would not require for its facilities. The WCB would then purchase from the county the portions of the 153-acre parcel as are not needed for County operations. Funding of the marshland enhancement project would be by the State Coastal Conservancy.

At present, the county's overall project permit is being processed and approval is expected in the near future. However, to allow for the unlikely event that the County's plan is not approved, staff recommended that the Board allocate sufficient funds to provide for a State purchase of the entire 341 acres having a total fair market value of \$500,300.00. An additional \$6,000.00 allocation would be needed to cover escrow and closing expenses and Department of General Services administrative charges.

Assuming the county's acquisition proceeds as planned, the probable total area to be purchased by the Board would be between 260 and 300 acres and the balance of funds would be recovered by the Board at a future meeting. If their project does not proceed, Board action as proposed herein would allow staff to proceed with the acquisition of the 188 acre parcel and the entire 153 acre parcel.

Funding is available for this acquisition in the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as provided for interior wetlands. The property would be managed by the DFG along with its existing nearby holdings in the

Napa Marsh complex. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$506,300.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as designated for Interior Wetlands, to cover the maximum potential cost involved and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Jim Swanson from Region 3 was present should there be any questions. Mr. Bontadelli clarified that the county would acquire the balance of land and provide tertiary treated water to develop the marsh.

Mr. Bontadelli asked for any other comments, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AT THE NAPA MARSH-STEAMBOAT SLOUGH, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$506,300.00 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS, 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.

16. Dairy Mart Ponds, San Diego County \$430,000.00

Mr. Schmidt stated that this proposal is to acquire a 35.16+ acre parcel of privately owned property for the protection of prime coastal freshwater wetlands and the immediate surrounding riparian habitat. The Department of Fish and Game has given the acquisition of this area a very high priority recommendation.

Jim Sarro described that the property being proposed for acquisition is located in the City of San Ysidro, on Dairy Mart Road, immediately west of I-5. Historically, this area was a portion of the Tijuana River. However, diking and subsequent sandmining has allowed a freshwater marsh and riparian vegetation to colonize the area turning it into one of the most significant freshwater marsh/riparian habitats, of its size, in Southern California.

The area receives very heavy wildlife use with approximately 260 species of birds using this valuable habitat. It is especially heavily used during nesting and migration seasons by waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines. Waterfowl are also heavy users in the winter months. Of special note is the fact that this area provides the only known heronry in San Diego County, and one of the few in California, for the snowy and cattle egret. Ospreys seek food fish in the pond areas throughout the year while Golden eagles continue to winter around the marsh. Four species of raptors also use the property for breeding. Other species which use the property, to name just a few, are terns (Caspian, elegant, royal, Forster's, black skimmers and least terns), least Bell's vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, great egrets, black-crowned night

herons, least bitterns, American bitterns and at least 18 different waterfowl species including Canada geese, snow geese and white-fronted geese. Some of the listed species, including but not limited to, the least tern, the yellow-billed cuckoo, the brown pelican, the least Bell's vireo and the California Clapper Rail can be found on the State's threatened or endangered list.

In addition to protecting this important habitat, the property is very desirable as an area for bird-watching, fishing and general outdoor enjoyment. Without acquisition, protection of this habitat remains in jeopardy to such activities as potential development, further sand extraction or other uses which could lead to habitat destruction.

Acquisition, while being recommended by the Department of Fish and Game, is being supported by many groups including the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the San Diego Audubon Society and the San Diego Parks and Recreation Department. The acquisition of this area is also on the list of priority coastal wetlands recommended for acquisition by the State Coastal Commission.

Although no development of this area is currently proposed, it should be pointed out that San Diego County has indicated a desire to operate and maintain this area. This could lead to minimal development, probably limited to a simple pedestrian trail, for fishing and wildlife observation purposes.

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.

Mr. Schmidt stated that this acquisition is more costly per acre than most areas acquired by the Board but has extremely high wildlife value as noted in the agenda. He also indicated the project has support from the Sierra Club, local Audubon, Coastal Commission, both the City and County of San Diego. It was also noted that many letters of support had been received from numbers of citizens and professors from the Biology Department, University of California at San Diego. Mr. Schmidt noted that there is also fishing in some of the ponds and the local people use it for that purpose and if any improvements were to be made it would be nothing more than a trail around the fishing areas.

The owners have agreed to sell this property to the State for its appraised value of \$420,000.00. An additional \$10,000.00 is necessary to cover administrative costs including the appraisal, title and escrow fees and Department of General Services review charges.

Staff recommended that the Board approve purchase of this parcel as proposed, allocate \$430,000.00 for the purchase and related costs from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, available for coastal wetlands acquisitions, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Stancell asked on what basis will the DFG determine whether the City, County, or DFG will operate it. Mr. Schmidt stated that the City has not indicated an interest but the County has. Mr. Bontadelli added that an approved management plan will be needed, and from a fiscal standpoint it will be decided if it is more efficient to have the County operate it then they will do so, and if not then they will look at the other possibilities.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR DAIRY MART PONDS, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$430,000.00 THEREFORE FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS, TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

NOTION CARRIED.

17. Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands, Sonoma County \$307,200.00

Mr. Schmidt stated that this proposal is for the acquisition of a conservation easement over 124+ acres and a fee purchase of 60+ acres, all within Laguna de Santa Rosa in south-central Sonoma County at Sebastopol.

The Laguna is an extremely important wetland on a local, regional and statewide basis. Locally, the City of Sebastopol has formed a citizens' committee to recommend steps for preservation of the unique and varied habitats within the Laguna. Historically, stands of valley oaks, riparian habitat, vernal pools and wet meadows of this waterway covered its distance from just south of Forestville to Rohnert Park, located about 12 miles to the southeast. With intensified land uses, including both agricultural activity and, to a much greater degree, the rapid expansion of urbanization in the North Bay Area, the Laguna's natural systems have been degraded or, in some cases, wiped out. It appears that the only feasible method to preserve this resource is public acquisition of sufficient interests to minimize these external pressures.

The property proposed for acquisition is a freshwater wetland which was enhanced by low earth check-dams to retain additional water. The DFG considers this particular site to be one of the best waterfowl areas in the entire Laguna de Santa Rosa. Adjacent to the stream within this portion of the overall ownership are vernal pools in which numerous rare and endangered plant species have been identified. It is proposed that this approximately 124-acre parcel be the subject of a transfer to the State of a conservation (open-space) easement, which would allow the landowner to continue cattle grazing on a limited basis while precluding development that would degrade the property from an environmental standpoint. Also within this ownership is a 29-acre parcel containing a healthy stand of valley oaks, an increasingly rare sight in the Laguna. It is proposed that this oak/grassland parcel be purchased outright to prevent grazing and to allow for regeneration of new trees. A duck pond and creek arm consisting of another 31+ acres, would also be acquired in fee. Access to the site would be granted through the landowner's remainder property, but would be limited to such purposes as school research projects, scientific studies and for the Department's management and administrative activities.

The approved fair market value of the different interests to be acquired is \$297,200.00, and the landowners have agreed to sell these interests for that sum. An additional \$10,000.00 is estimated to cover the costs of appraisal, escrow, closing and administrative charges, bringing the total needed allocation to \$307,200.00.

This project is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for habitat preservation purposes. The DFG would manage the property in conjunction with its management of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Ecological Reserve, which is located about one mile from this property.

Funding is available for this purchase in the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund. With the differing benefits provided by this acquisition, waterfowl habitat and endangered species habitat, staff recommended that funding be divided \$230,400 (75%) from waterfowl habitat funds and \$76,800 (25%) from monies designated for threatened and endangered species.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Jim Swanson from Region 3 was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$307,200.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund as proposed, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli asked for any comments or concerns, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR THE LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA WETLANDS, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$307,200.00 THEREFOR FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Other Business

a. Resolution Honoring Alma Y. Koyasako

Mr. Schmidt submitted the following resolution for confirmation as the Board made telephonic approval December 1987.

WHEREAS, Alma Y. Koyasako, Executive Secretary to the Wildlife Conservation Board, has diligently served the people of the State of California for nearly 38 years, over 31 of these years with the Wildlife Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, during Mrs. Koyasako's tenure with the Board she has served as the Secretary to its Executive Officer, the last 25 years served in the capacity of the board's Executive Secretary; and

WHEREAS, on this, the Board's 40th Anniversary year, Mrs. Koyasako, in her 31 years of service, has served with four of the Board's five Executive Officers, many Board members and many Joint Interim Committee members; and

WHEREAS, she has always performed with the highest degree of professionalism, has been an integral part of each Board meeting, has always been a pleasure to be associated with, and as such, has certainly earned the love, esteem and respect of the board and its staff; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Koyasako is retiring from State Service, effective December 30, 1987, fulfilling a career in State Government as an extremely valuable employee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Interim Committee and the board staff, convey to Mrs. Koyasako our sincere appreciation for her service to the Board and her many contributions to its overall efficient operation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we express our very best wishes for continued good health and a happy retirement with her husband, their children and grandchildren; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Alma Y. Koyasako.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED BY THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND THAT A SUITABLE COPY BE PROVIDED MRS. KOYASAKO.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 by Mr. Bontadelli.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on March 1, 1988, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$175,896,245.07. 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 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1974, the General Fund, the Energy Resources Fund, the Environmental License Plate Fund, the State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Act of 1976, the 1984 Parklands Bond Act and the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Act.

a. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$15,988,599.15
b. Fish Habitat Development	8,676,751.22
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .	\$2,990,821.39
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	3,005,268.44
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	498,492.86
4. Marine Habitat	646,619.07
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,535,549.46
c. Fishing Access Projects	30,618,911.38
1. Coastal and Bay	\$2,962,986.25
2. River and Aqueduct Access	6,480,677.75
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,010,060.43
4. Piers	15,165,186.95
d. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects ..	113,172,748.90
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	87,567,096.81
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ...	2,871,954.27
3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Rare & Endangered)	22,733,697.52
f. Hunting Access	537,407.57
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	\$175,896,245.07