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

Minutes, Meeting of May 19, 1988

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ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

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

Minutes, Meeting of May 19, 1988

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 2040 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on May 19, 1988. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Pete Bontadelli, Acting Chairman.

1. Roll Call

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

STAFF PRESENT:

W. John Schmidt Alvin G. Rutsch Clyde S. Edon Jim Sarro Howard Dick Frank Giordano Marylyn Gzyms Sandy Daniel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jerry Diefenderfer

Tim Curtis Jim Messersmith Bob Wingard

Spike Naylor

Executive Officer Assistant Executive Officer Field Agent Chief Land Agent Land Agent Staff Services Analyst Secretary

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors Dept. of F&G, Sacramento Dept. of F&G, Sacramento Orange County Harbors, Beaches & Parks Dept. of F&G, Redding Linda Bilger Mark Schwartz Gary Romano Dept. of F&G, Sacramento Dept. of F&G, Sacramento Tahoe City Public Utility Dist. Parks & Recreation

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the March 1, 1988, 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 MARCH 1, 1988, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Funding Status as of May 19, 1988 (Information Only)

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

	Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions - Eco Reserves \$1,000,000.0	0
	Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	4
	Governor's Budget - Minor Development Projects \$ 400,000.0 Less previous Board allocations	0
(b)	1986/87 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	5
(c)	1985/86 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	4
(d)	1986/87 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Governor's Budget/Chapter 1489 \$1,000,000.0 Less previous Board allocations -279,967.4 Unallocated Balance \$ 720,032.5	+7
(e)	1985/86 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget	

Governor's Budget	\$3,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-2,998,995.25
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,004.75

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

Governor's Budget	\$14,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-3,232,520.86
Unallocated Balance	\$10,767,479.14

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

Governor's Budget	\$12,165,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-10,180,019.18
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,984,980.82

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

Governor's Budget	\$9,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-8,379,061.36
Unallocated Balance	\$ 620,938.64

(i) 1985/86 Parklands Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-3,771,237.91
Unallocated Balance	\$1,228,762.09

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund

Acquisition	\$ 1,130,190.61
Minor Development	\$ 170,500.00
Environmental License Plate Fund	\$ 721,037.28
1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	\$13,373,398.60
Parklands Fund of 1984	\$ 1,228,762.09

4. Recovery of Funds

The following 20 projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to the various funds. It is recommended that the total amount of \$10,153.15 be recovered to the <u>Wildlife</u> Restoration Fund; \$265,823.57 be recovered to the <u>Fish and Wildlife</u> Habitat Enhancement Fund; and \$15,229.30 be recovered to the <u>Environmental License</u> Plate Fund; and the projects be closed.

It was recommended by Mr. Schmidt that under the 1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, the amount of \$160,000.00 for the San Dieguito Lagoon/Scripps Bluff Property, San Diego County, not be recovered as noted below. This changes the total amount to be recovered to the 1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund from \$265,823.57 to \$105,823.57.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Healdsburg Public Fishing Access (Russian River), Sonoma County

Allocation	\$	1,500.00
Expended		-1,402.60
Balance for Recover	у \$	97.40

Lake Jennings Public Access, San Diego County

Allocation		\$145,200.00
Expended		-145,200.00
Balance for	Recovery	\$ -0-

Oceanside Pier, San Diego County

Allocation		\$323,500.00
Expended		-323,500.00
Balance for	Recovery	\$ -0-

Point Arena Fishing Pier, Mendocino County

Allocati	lon		\$250	0.000.00
Expended	1		-250	0,000.00
Balance	for	Recovery	\$	-0-

Red Lake WLA Expansion #1, Alpine County

Allocation	\$322,000.00
Expended	-316,214.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,786.00

San Clemente Fishing Pier, Orange County

Allocation	\$ 90,000.00
Expended	- 90,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Warner Valley WLA (Lee Ranch), Plumas County

Allocation		\$570,000.00
Expended		-565,730.25
Balance fo	r Recovery	\$ 4,269.75

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries...... \$ 10,153.15

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Big Valley WLA, Modoc & Lassen Counties

Allocation		\$6,	189,700.00
Expended		-6,	162,241.47
Balance for R	Recovery	\$	27,458.53

Dry Creek, Yuba County

Allocation \$ 28,000.00 Expended -26,306.17 Balance for Recovery \$ 1,693.83	
Kerman Ecological Reserve, Fresno County	
Allocation \$595,000.00 Expended -589,631.25 Balance for Recovery \$5,368.75	
Los Banos WLA Expansion #1 (Salt Slough), Merced County	
Allocation \$1,725,000.00 Expended -1,724,674.60 Balance for Recovery \$325.40	
Los Banos WIA Expansion #2 (Salt Slough), Merced County	
Allocation \$1,465,000.00 Expended -1,465,000.00 Balance for Recovery \$ -0-	
Los Banos WIA Expansion #3, Merced County	
Allocation \$210,000.00 Expended -208,427.92 Balance for Recovery \$ 1,572.08	
Mid-City Ranch WLA, Humboldt County	
Allocation \$928,000.00 Expended -908,605.25 Balance for Recovery \$ 19,394.75	
Middle Fork American River, Placer County	
Allocation\$ 3,200.00Expended $-3,189.77$ Balance for Recovery\$ 10.23	
Red Cap Creek, Humboldt County	
Allocation \$120,000.00 Expended - 70,000.00 Balance for Recovery \$ 50,000.00	
San Dieguito Lagoon/Scripps Bluff, San Diego County	
Allocation\$160,000.00"THIS ITEM NOT RECOVERExpended-0-SEE RECOMMENDATION ONBalance for Recovery\$160,000.00PAGE 3 & MOTION ON PAGE	1

Total Fish & Wildlife Hab. Enhancement Fund Recoveries.... \$265,823.57 *

* "RECOVERED AMOUNT WAS \$105,823.57. SEE RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 3 AND MOTION ON PAGE 6".

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

Project Planning

Allocation		\$ 30,000.00	
Expended		- 17,770.45	
Balance for F	Recovery	\$ 12,229.55	

Upper Sacramento River-Pine Creek Expansion #2, Butte/Glenn Cos.

Allocation	\$125,000.00
Expended	-122,000.25
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,999.75

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries......\$ 15,229.30

PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984

Oceanside Pier, San Diego County

Allocation	\$176,500.00
Expended	-176,500.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Parklands Fund of 1984 Recoveries..... \$ -0-

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 3-6 OF THIS AGENDA AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS SHALL INCLUDE THE SUM OF \$10,153.15 BE RECOVERED TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$105,823.57 BE RECOVERED TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND; AND \$15,229.30 BE RECOVERED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Ruth Lake Public Fishing Access, Trinity County

\$ 42,500.00

The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District has requested that the WCB allocate funds to upgrade and expand public access facilities at Ruth Lake in southern Trinity County. This is an existing WCB project which was approved in 1982. A boat ramp, graveled parking area, fishing floats and restrooms were developed at that time, with WCB funds, to improve public access use of the area for trout fishing from shore and by boat.

The District, which owns and operates the lake to supply water to the greater Eureka area, reports that the improvements have been very effective and have increased public use of the lake. The existing facilities are inadequate, however, to properly accommodate the heavy use, especially on weekends and other peak periods.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal recommended by the District is to increase the size of the two floats and modify them so they can be used as short-term boat docks as well as fishing floats. It is also proposed to construct an additional restroom in an area that gets a great deal of shore fishing use and which presently has no such facility available. Improvements for better handicapped access are also planned. These improvements are listed in the following cost estimate which was submitted by the District and reviewed by staff:

Remove, rebuild & replace two floating docks	\$25,000.00
Re-deck four 30 foot gangways	4,000.00
Redwood underlayment on docks	1,000.00
Restroom	6,000.00
Footbridge for better handicapped access	1,000.00
	\$37,000.00
Contingencies, 15%	5,500.00
Total	\$42,500.00

Mr. Al Rutsch pointed out the location on the map and described the project. Ruth Lake is in a remote area about 82 miles southeast of Eureka. Construction costs vary considerably in such an area so the extra large contingency is desirable in this case. The District will bid out the project and administer the contracts by agreement with the Department. Any unused funds will be recovered by the Board upon the completion of the work. Since the project benefits motorboat users, Mr. Schmidt stated that staff plans to apply for 75 percent reimbursement under the Wallop-Breaux provisions of the Dingell-Johnson Act.

The District has determined that this activity is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities of the State Guidelines and a Notice of Exemption has been filed in accordance with the act.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Ruth Lake Public Access improvements as proposed, allocate \$42,500.00 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, 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 THE SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE RUTH LAKE PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT, TRINITY COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$42,500.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Wohler Bridge Public Fishing Access, Sonoma County

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is a cooperative project with Sonoma County, through its Regional Parks Department, to develop a public fishing access site on the Russian River. The site is a 9 acre parcel located on the right bank of the river, on the upstream side of Wohler Bridge, about 8 miles upstream from Guerneville.

The site is owned by the Sonoma County Water Agency, which has granted the County a license to develop and maintain a fishing access on the site. It is expected the water agency will permit the County to assign its rights in this land to the Department of Fish and Game to satisfy the WCB proprietary interest requirement. County Parks personnel have advised that a resolution to this effect will be adopted by the water agency before the date of the scheduled WCB meeting.

Public interest in access to the Russian River for salmon and steelhead fishing has increased in recent years as populations of these fish have steadily grown, thanks largely to the completion in 1983 of Warm Springs Dam and its hatchery on Dry Creek, west of Healdsburg. Rapid residential growth in Sonoma County and the tendency started a decade ago during the gas shortage for people to seek recreation closer to home are factors which have increased the rivers popularity for fishing.

Recognizing the public's interest in more river access, the County in 1986 directed its Parks Department to survey the existing and potential public access sites along the Russian River from the north county area to Monte Rio. This is one of the sites identified in that survey. It includes a large graveled flat space that can be used for parking, a primitive road to the river that can be improved to provide access for launching car-top drift boats or canoes, and a redwood grove suitable for day use picnicking and park use.

In addition to the parking area and access road, the proposed development plan includes chain-link fencing so the area can be closed off in the non fishing months between May and October and at night. Although not included in the estimate, the County plans to install a coin-operated gate at their cost so as to obtain user-revenues to help defray maintenance costs.

Other improvements planned for the site and included in the project estimate is a permanent (not portable) chemical toilet designed for barrier-free use, trash receptacles, signs, and bollards (for vehicle control).

The County has adopted a resolution in support of the proposal and agreeing to maintain the premises for public fishing access purposes. If the proposal is approved, the County will bid out and supervise the construction contracts on a reimbursement basis in the usual manner. As lead agency, the County has filed a Notice of Exemption for this project since the grading and development of the area is of a minor nature. (Section 15304, Class 4, Minor alterations to land.)

> Mr. Schmidt stated the Department of Fish and Game strongly favors additional public access on the Russian River and has viewed and endorsed the subject proposal. The use at this site would be similar to that on the 5 acre parcel at Healdsburg acquired by the Board last year -- primarily steelhead fishing and as a put-in take-out spot for drift boat anglers.

The cost estimate submitted by the County is as follows;

Grade access road, parking area & ramp	\$ 3,600.00	
Base rock access road & parking area		
Pave access road		
Chain-link fence		
Bollards (vehicle control posts)		
Signs		
Restroom	6,000.00	
Trash receptacles	600.00	

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST

\$47,300.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the county will handle the contract administration and engineering as well as future O&M.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Wohler Bridge Public Fishing Access project as proposed, allocate \$47,300.00 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, 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 THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD AND PARKING AREA AT THE WOHLER BRIDGE PUBLIC FISHING ACCESS PROJECT, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$47,300.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Tidelands Park Public Fishing Access, San Luis Obispo County \$ 8,900.00

The City of Morro Bay has submitted a request for WCB funds to construct a fish cleaning table in Tidelands Park at the south end of the Embarcadero, where the city has a boat ramp and docking facility. Mr. Al Rutsch described the project. The original ramp, parking area, restrooms, floats and trailer wash were constructed in 1962 with WCB funds. Mr. Schmidt reported that the cooperative agreement with the City for this project expired several years ago and the project has since been fully restored, except for the fish cleaning sink.

The City has been expanding and modifying some of the original development at Tidelands Park utilizing funds from a number of different sources. Relocation of the old fish cleaning table at the ramp is a necessary part of the general improvement plan and falls within the scope of the Board's funding authority as a benefit to fishermen. The facility will be located near a new restroom building where it will hook up to relocated water and sewer lines.

The Tidelands Park area attracts a lot of boat fishermen because of its convenient location and protected launch site. Most of them customarily stop at the fish sink to clean their catch before departing. The new fish cleaning table will be better located and will have four sinks to handle the often large groups of people coming in with their fish catch.

The City engineers have developed a simple straight forward design. Each stainless steel sink will have a single self-closing faucet and adjacent replaceable maple cutting board. The 6 foot square concrete block pedestal will match the nearby restroom building. A cost estimate for this fish cleaning rack was submitted by the city as follows:

Α.	Stainless	steel sinks (4)	\$3,900.00
Β.	Plumbing,	concrete, masonry, etc	5,000.00

TOTAL PROJECT COST \$8,900.00

As this is considered an important support facility to a project with a boating benefit, staff plans to file an application for 75 percent reimbursement under the Wallop-Breaux provisions of the federal Dingell-Johnson Act.

The City has submitted a resolution in support of this application and agreeing to enter into the necessary agreements to carry out the project in accordance with normal WCB practice.

The fish cleaning rack is an element of the City's Negative Declaration which was filed for the Tidelands Park Site Development Master Plan in accordance with CEQA.

Staff recommended that the Board, in consideration of the Negative Declaration filed by the City of Morro Bay, approve the Tidelands Park Fish Cleaning Facility as proposed, allocate \$8,900.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund 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 THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH CLEANING FACILITY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF MORRO BAY, AT THE TIDELANDS PARK PUBLIC FISHING ACCESS SITE, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$8,900.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Fox Grove Public Fishing Access, Stanislaus County

\$ 71,800.00

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN.

To consider an allocation for boat ramp and parking area improvements on this existing fee-owned public access project on the Tuolumne River in cooperation with Stanislaus County.

9. Wilson Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Lake County

\$ 48,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this proposal is for the acquisition of 80+ acres adjoining the Wilson Valley Wildlife Area, which is situated about 7 miles east of Clear Lake. Mr. Frank Giordano described the area and subject parcel.

In the 1970's the Department recommended WCB acquisition of this valley property, which is generally surrounded by U.S. Bureau of Land Management properties and is traversed by Cache Creek. The recommended acquisition originally consisted of 2,400+ acres of critical habitat for resident tule elk and wintering and feeding areas for bald and golden eagles. The key habitat types found within this area are the grassland glades associated with large valley oaks and the riparian vegetation along the creek. Because of the property's importance to tule elk and to the state and federallylisted endangered bald eagles, its protection has been considered to be of statewide and even national significance.

In 1985, the Board approved the purchase of 840 acres. That transaction, combined with BLM trades of other lands, resulted in placing nearly the entire 2,400 acres in contiguous public ownership and protection. In 1987, the Board again approved an expansion of the present WLA by approving 500 additional acres for acquisition. The BLM and the Department have entered into management agreements for this area providing for controlled public access and recreational use, managed with the primary purpose of the endangered species habitat preservation.

The particular property under consideration is one of 3 proposed acquisitions lying easterly and adjacent to the WCB's most recent acquisition. It contains some seasonal creek frontage, as well as frontage on State Highway 20. About half of the property is comprised of grassland glade habitat with large valley oaks while the remainder is uplands containing oak grasslands and chaparral slopes. As with the previously acquired property, the habitat found on the subject property is used by resident tule elk and is a key wintering and feeding area for golden and bald eagles.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this acquisition will also open up areas for additional public access including fishing and hunting on adjacent federal lands.

The primary threat to this habitat has been continuing interest of developers for geothermal and other mining operations, particularly gravel operations. Any such developments would, of course, negatively impact the integrity of the adjacent wildlife area and greatly reduce the wildlife uses of the subject property. The Department has placed a high priority on this acquisition as well as the two other remaining inholdings in the wildlife area which consist of 160+ acres. In addition, when the Board approved its most recent purchase in this area, staff was instructed to investigate and, if feasible, carry out the purchase of these inholdings.

The subject property has been appraised for \$40,000 and the owner has agreed to sell at this amount. An additional \$8,000 will be needed to cover appraisal, escrows and closing costs and Department of General Services administrative charges.

The project is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions. As indicated, management would be under the DFG's control but would be carried out under a cooperative agreement with BIM.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$48,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt added that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife.

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 THE ACQUISITION OF THE WILSON VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #2 PROPERTY, LAKE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$48,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. Kerman Ecological Reserve Expansion #1, Fresno County

\$490,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this is a proposal for the purchase of 800+ acres of land, as an expansion of the Department's existing Kerman Ecological Reserve, for protection of habitat for several listed species. Acquisition of the first portion of this reserve (978+ acres), with an option for the second portion, was approved by the Board at the August 1987 meeting. Mr. Giordano described the subject and option parcel. The subject property is located in Fresno County approximately 12 miles west of the town of Kerman and is largely undeveloped valley grassland, with a remnant shrub population. The primary purpose of the acquisition is to protect one of the last remaining viable habitats for the Fresno kangaroo rat, a state and federally-listed endangered species. Also found on the property is the Atriplex vallicoln (Lost Hills Saltbush), a federal candidate for listing, Northern Claypan Vernal Pool, and the Alkalai Sink Scrub. Other species that may occur are two federally-listed endangered species, the San Joaquin kit fox (State-threatened) and the Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (Stateendangered). Records from various sources, including DFG staff and the Natural Diversity Data Base, indicate this is one of the few remaining examples of native San Joaquin Valley habitat.

The area is also used by the other wildlife associated with dry grassland, such as the badger, coyote, jackrabbit, ground squirrel, kestrel, red-tailed hawk, burrowing owl, shrike, meadowlark and mourning dove. Waterfowl and shorebirds use the alkali pools in the late winter and early spring.

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

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

Mr. Schmidt stated that this proposal presents a rare opportunity to complete the acquisition of a single, large, undisturbed block of land in the San Joaquin Valley.

The option price for the subject property is its appraised value of \$483,000. Closing and Department of General Services review costs are estimated to be \$7,000. As noted, the Department of Fish and Game has listed this acquisition as a very high priority proposal. It is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$490,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, as designated for Ecological Reserves, to cover the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE KERMAN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE EXPANSION #1 PROPERTY, FRESNO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$490,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR ECOLOGICAL RESERVES, 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.

11. Aliso Beach Fishing Pier, Orange County

\$390,950.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this item is to consider a proposal by Orange County for matching funds to repair the Aliso Beach Pier, an existing WCB project on the coast near South Laguna. The pier was constructed in 1971 under the WCB fishing pier program on a matching fund basis with the County.

Located at the mouth of Aliso Creek, the pier has been a popular attraction, noted for its excellent halibut, bass, bonito and perch fishing. According to the reports submitted by the County, the pier received 280,000 visitordays of use in 1985.

As a result of exposure to marine weather and storms occurring in 1983 and 1986, the pier has received some structural damage. For safety reasons about 200 feet of the westerly end had to be closed two years ago. Since the closure of this highly productive outer end, fishing is possible only in the surf zone, mainly during high tide periods.

Mr. Rutsch described the proposed repair work. The pier is constructed of pre-stressed concrete, 572 feet long and 20 feet wide equipped with lights, benches and a fish cleaning sink. A unique feature of the pier is an open diamond configuration, providing considerably more fishing area, at the outer end measuring 182 feet long by 102 feet wide. The average water depth at the outer end is 25 feet. A concession building at the pier approach houses restrooms, tackle, bait and snacks. The County has provided ample paved parking space adjacent to the pier.

Although the pier seemed to survive the 1983 storms better than many southern California piers, visible damage to a few of the long pre-cast concrete piles in the diamond section prompted the County in 1985 to make a preliminary investigation of the pier condition. A report prepared by County engineers found the damage was more extensive than first thought, and recommended a detailed study by an outside structural engineering firm.

Investigations were subsequently made and reports received from the pier design engineer, a second consulting structural engineer, a concrete testing laboratory and an underwater engineering diving team. The County has spent or committed approximately \$150,000 on investigations, reports, cost estimates and preparation of plans. It is estimated that the pier repairs will cost approximately \$952,000.00. This would give the pier a new life-of-structure expectancy of at least 25 years at less than one-half of the total replacement cost.

The County did not qualify for federal funding assistance under the FEMA Program. However, local funds are budgeted to match the proposed WCB allocation (balance left in the Parklands Bond Fund as designated for coastal fishing piers) to cover the rest of the project cost. If the Board approves the project as proposed, the County plans to bid it out in June and start repair work after Labor Day. The County would administer the repair contract by agreement with the department on a reimbursement basis in the usual manner.

> A resolution attesting to the County's willingness to extend the existing Lease and Operating Agreement as required for WCB pier projects has been submitted. The County has also provided a copy of a Notice of Exemption from CEQA for this project, since it involves only repair of an existing structure.

Mr. Schmidt stated that if Land & Water Conservation Funds are available, staff would plan to apply for reimbursement of the joint project costs and share such reimbursements with the County on a proportionate basis.

Staff has inspected the pier with County personnel and reviewed the reports of the pier investigations. It was the staff's recommendation that the Board approve the Aliso Beach Fishing Pier repair project as proposed, allocate \$390,950.00 therefor from the Parklands Fund of 1984, as designated for coastal fishing piers, on a matching fund basis with the County of Orange, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Bob Wingard from the Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks Department was present should there be any questions.

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 APPROVE THE REPAIRS AT THE ALISO BEACH FISHING PIER, ORANGE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$390,950.00 FROM THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984, AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL FISHING PIERS, ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Honey Lake WLA-Dakin Unit Expansion #2, Lassen County

\$458,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is for the acquisition of 640+ acres for preservation and enhancement of interior wetlands and to expand the Dakin Unit of Honey Lake WLA, through a unique three way exchange. Mr. Giordano described the proposal and its relationship to the existing WLA. The property is located about 14 miles southeast of Susanville via Highway 395 and Mapes Road and has approximately one mile of frontage on Mapes Road. This unit of the Honey Lake WLA bounds the proposed acquisition on three sides.

The property proposed for acquisition would be acquired via a three way sale/exchange with the owner, the State Lands Commission and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The State Lands Commission has agreed to exchange 1885+ acres of lands under their jurisdiction for a privately owned 640 acres. In return, it is proposed that the Board purchase this 640 acre parcel from the Commission. Although parcel sizes differ, it would be an equal dollar value transaction based on an appraisal of both parcels.

The Department of Fish and Game has highly recommended acquisition of this 640 acre parcel since it is capable of being easily incorporated into the existing wildlife area and being managed with existing personnel and equipment. Objectives would include providing food for migrating waterfowl, seasonally-flooded ponds, expanded waterfowl hunting opportunities and nesting habitat for upland nesting species of ducks and pheasants.

Of the 640 acres, 340+ acres could easily be restored to good quality wetlands, through use of the existing dike system at little cost to the state. The entire 640 acres could be restored to wetlands if the present dike system were expanded. However, since food, nesting and buffer areas are extremely important to waterfowl management the entire 300 acres will not be immediately converted to wetlands.

It is currently proposed that approximately 120+ acres will be planted with cereal grain production (wheat or rye) providing a food source as well as buffer habitat. The remaining 180+ acres would be left in native brush land to provide high quality nesting areas for ducks, geese and pheasants as well as providing necessary buffers to protect wetland habitat.

An additional benefit to this proposed purchase is the superior soil it contains compared to some currently farmed marginal lands in the existing WLA. It is estimated that 50 to 70 acres of these "poor" producing acres could be returned to wetlands because of the high production thought possible on this proposed acquisition area. This would mean that 390 to 410+ acres could be restored to wetlands at this WLA as a result of this purchase.

The proposed acquisition is within Class 13 of categorical exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including fish and wildlife habitat and establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580.

The property has an approved market value of \$448,000. All parties have agreed to settle the exchange and purchase at the approved appraised values. It is estimated that in addition to the property's appraised value, an estimated \$10,000 will be required for related acquisitions costs, including appraisals, title insurance and processing costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this property as proposed, allocate \$458,000.00 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 letters of support had been received from the California Waterfowl Association and the Defenders of Wildlife.

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 WCB APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE HONEY LAKE WLA-DAKIN UNIT EXPANSION #2 PROPERTY, LASSEN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$458,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Napa Marsh, Steamboat Slough Expansion #1, Sonoma County

\$244,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is for the acquisition of 174<u>+</u> acres of agricultural lands within the Napa Marsh complex as part of the Board's and the Department's ongoing acquisition and restoration efforts in the northern San Francisco Bay Area. At its March 1, 1988, meeting, the Board approved the purchase of 341 acres, a transaction which should close escrow in the near future. The subject property lies about 4 miles south of Sonoma and about 6 miles southwest of Napa and is adjacent to the westerly end of that previously approved purchase.

Less than 100 years ago the Napa Marsh was one of the largest wetland systems in the San Francisco Bay Area, providing habitat for millions of migratory waterfowl and shore birds. Today the remaining approximately 41,000 acres of the Napa Marsh is composed of 18,000 acres of reclaimed marsh lands used for agriculture; 10,000 acres of diked historic wetlands used for solar salt production and about 13,000 acres are open water and marsh lands. The sloughs and salt ponds provide the primary habitats for fish and water birds as well as the <u>endangered</u> California clapper rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse. The diked agricultural lands provide seasonal wetland habitats during heavy rain periods.

There is a noticeable lack of quality fresh/brackish water marshes and seasonal wetlands. Historically these wetland habitats were available at the upper reaches of the marsh and in low depressions in the surrounding uplands. Unfortunately, these freshwater and seasonal wetlands have essentially been eliminated. Presently, the crops such as oat-hay, planted in diked lands are harvested in early fall, allowing winter rains to pond in the depressions creating "wetlands" during the winter months when large numbers of waterfowl and shore birds are present in the area. However, the Napa Marsh and the San Francisco Bay is also a very important area during the early migration as waterfowl, primarily pintail, start arriving in late August to early September when the "diked land wetland habitats" are least available. Additional managed wetlands in the Napa Marsh would provide more habitat for these early migrants as well as increased habitat on a year around basis. Department owned, or controlled, lands consist of approximately 2,000 acres, about one-third in tidal marshes and two-thirds in recently acquired lands that will be managed as a seasonal/fresh-to-brackish water wetland complex. The remaining DFG proposed acquisitions cover more than 9,000 acres.

The property now under consideration is in the flood plain and has most recently been devoted to oat-hay production. After crop removal, the land is generally grazed by cattle or sheep. Mr. Schmidt reported that the Department highly recommended this acquisition as it will assist their efforts in restoring wetland habitat, as mandated by SCR 28 (1979), for management along with its other Napa Marsh holdings for waterfowl and water-oriented species.

The property has been appraised and has an approved fair market value of \$238,000.00, which the owner has agreed to accept in a sale to the State. General Services Department review costs and closing expenses are expected to be about \$6,000.

Funds are available from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund for interior wetlands, and the acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Napa Marsh, Steamboat Slough Expansion #1, purchase, allocate \$244,000.00 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 letters of support had been received from California Waterfowl Association and Defenders of Wildlife.

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 THE ACQUISITION OF THE NAPA MARSH, STEAMBOAT SLOUGH EXPANSION #1 PROPERTY, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$244,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Imperial WLA, Hazard Annex Expansion #1, Imperial County \$155,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is to consider the acquisition of an 80+ acre parcel of land adjacent to the east boundary of the Imperial WLA, Hazard Tract Unit. The subject land, which is currently operated as a duck club, is located in a rural, agricultural area between Calipatria and Niland, at the Salton Sea. At this time, most of the land in the area is utilized for productive agriculture. However, other local uses include duck clubs, such as the subject, geothermal producing facilities and local, state and national wildlife refuges. The property itself is located about 5 miles

northwest of the small community of Calipatria on the south side of Schrimpf Road at Davis Road.

The Department of Fish and Game has recommended this acquisition to expand the Imperial WIA and protect this parcel from development which could be detrimental to its wetland values. Approximately 260 species of birds have been recorded in the area including a large variety of waterfowl and upland game birds. Game birds which are known to breed in the area, include mallard, pintail, cinnamon teal, redhead, ruddy duck, gambel's quail, ring-neck pheasant, white-winged and mourning dove. Many nongame species are also known to breed in the area including Great blue and Green Herons,

Snowy and common egrets, Least bitterns, Barn owls, Great horned owls and Burrowing owls, and many passerine and shore birds. This area also supports a large variety of mammals, reptiles and amphibians. In addition, the state listed threatened Yuma Clapper Rail is known to occur and breed on the adjacent Hazard Tract. Also, a January 1987 raptor survey located an adult American Peregrine Falcon, a state and federally listed <u>endangered</u> species, along Schrimpf Road, within one half mile of this area. With proper management both of these species could be expected to occur on the subject area.

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

Since the area is currently developed as wetlands, no initial development costs are expected. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge has agreed to maintain the parcel in an agreement similar to that currently in effect over the Hazard Tract. If this property is added to that agreement, maintenance costs would be borne by the USFWS. Public use of this area could include consumptive, as well as non-consumptive activities including waterfowl hunting, hiking, birdwatching and wildlife photography.

The owners have agreed to sell their property based on its appraised fair market value of up to \$151,000.00 including geothermal rights (\$135,000 land/\$16,000 geothermal). As of the writing of this agenda the ownership of the geothermal rights has not been fully determined so the actual price to be paid has been estimated on a "not to exceed" basis. This will allow staff to proceed with this acquisition as soon as the mineral rights are determined. Administrative costs, including escrow and Department of General Services's fees are estimated at \$4,000 for a total acquisition cost of \$155,000.00.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from California Waterfowl Association and Defenders of Wildlife.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this parcel as proposed, allocate \$155,000.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, available for interior wetland acquisitions, 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 THE ACQUISITION OF THE IMPERIAL WLA, HAZARD ANNEX EXPANSION #1 PROPERTY, IMPERIAL COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, ALLOCATE \$155,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Woodbridge Ecological Reserve Exp. #1, San Joaquin County \$950,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is to consider the acquisition of two parcels of land totalling 383.85 acres to expand the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, a critical wintering area for the <u>endangered</u> greater sandhill crane. These properties, known locally as the "Robin Bell" and "Green Acres Ranch", are located west of Interstate 5 on Woodbridge Road, a paved county road. The community of Woodbridge and the City of Lodi are located seven miles to the east.

Mr. Howard Dick described the current proposal and showed the location on a map. The Woodbridge E.R., which is actually located about 1/2 mile west of the proposal, consists of a 145.27 acre parcel of land, which staff acquired pursuant to Board authorization given at its June 11, 1985, meeting. These two properties are adjacent to a 187 acre parcel of land known as "Pond 6", an old borrow pond which is owned by the Department of Water Resources and managed by the Department of Fish and Game.

Both properties are considered good candidates for almost complete restoration to wetland habitat. It should be pointed out that sandhills need large, shallow expanses of water for roosting habitat. This type of habitat is currently very limited in this area. Traditionally, this area was used by thousands of wintering sandhills, as well as many other waterfowl species. However, over the last few decades farming practices have changed and areas that were very attractive to sandhill cranes are now planted with crops that have little wildlife habitat value. Many adjacent lands have been converted to vineyards, a crop type that, unlike corn or pasture, cannot be used by cranes or most other kinds of wildlife that presently find habitat on wetlands.

The previous acquisition, while very important to the survival of sandhill cranes, fell short of solving all the problems associated with management of this species. In 1985, DFG recorded up to 5,000 sandhills per day using the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve roost site. During periods of heavy rainfall up to 6,000 cranes per day have used the "Robin-Bell" property even after it was leveled. It is anticipated that the proposed purchases would provide management opportunities directed at dispersing these birds to accommodate a less dense, more evenly distributed, roosting population. This would help reduce the danger of major disease outbreaks, help prevent excessive buildup of waste material, besides allowing for more birds.

The management plan for this area, while it will be primarily devoted to wetland habitat for sandhills and other waterfowl species, will include provisions to promote re-establishment of species of special concern to the delta environment. This could include the California hibiscus, known to occur within a mile of the property, as well as the San Joaquin giant garter snake, the California black rail, as well as other plant species found in undisturbed delta areas.

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

The owners of the property have agreed to sell to the State for the approved appraised fair market value which totals \$900,000.00. It is estimated that an additional \$50,000 will be necessary to cover related acquisition costs such as appraisals, title insurance, processing costs, and possible relocation benefits.

In view of the diverse habitat types of wildlife uses related to this project, staff suggests the allocation of funds for this purchase be divided between two available sources from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, approximately 40% from the Rare & Endangered species category and approximately 60% from the Interior Wetlands category.

Staff recommended that the Board approve purchase of these parcels as proposed, allocate \$950,000.00 for the purchase and related costs from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, as noted above, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt reported that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife.

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 WCB APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE WOODBRIDGE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE EXPANSION #1 PROPERTY, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$950,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, 40% FROM THE RARE & ENDANGERED SPECIES CATEGORY AND 60% FROM THE INTERIOR WETLANDS CATEGORY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Eel River WLA Wetland Restoration, Humboldt County

\$200,000.00

This is a proposal to restore coastal wetlands on an existing WLA through the construction of levees and placement of water control structures at the Eel River WLA. The 933+ Eel River WLA, formerly known as "Ocean Ranch" is a WCB coastal wetland area located near the town of Loleta, about 12 miles south of Eureka and immediately north of the mouth of the Eel River. The higher elevation of the area overlooks the Eel River Delta, Humboldt Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The property is adjacent to Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge on the north.

Over 250 bird species occur on or adjacent to the area. At least 30 species of waterfowl are found here and in McNulty Slough and the north bay. Herons and egrets use the spruce forest as a rookery and feed in the pastures, sloughs and marshes, while peregrine falcons and brown pelicans, both endangered species, are seasonal residents. Several species of raptors, including red-tail hawks, rough-legged hawks, red-shouldered hawks, black-shouldered kites, Coopers hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, northern harriers, great-horned owls, barn owls, short-eared owls, pygmy owls and turkey vultures, also use the area. In addition, at least 35 species of mammals can be found on the WIA. A detailed description of the entire Eel River Delta is provided in item 17 of this agenda.

The Board, at its May 6, 1986, meeting authorized the purchase of this area for the purpose of protecting, restoring and improving wildlife habitat, particularly coastal wetlands. Originally, several hundred acres of the property were tidelands associated with McNulty Slough. However, sometime around the turn of the century these tidelands were reclaimed for agricultural purposes by the construction of the McNulty Slough Levee. Further reductions of the area's wetlands were accomplished over time by a system of ditches to accelerate drainage.

It is the Department's intent to restore and expand these wetlands to the extent possible. To accomplish this objective DFG engineering staff has conducted field surveys on the site and provided a draft plan, proposed to be carried out in three (3) phases. The first phase has been completed with DFG funds. The Department is now proposing that the Board fund the remaining two phases, each of which will be a totally separate project and will function as an independent unit.

Under this proposal existing tide gates in McNulty Slough Levee, which were designed to drain water from the property, will be replaced by culverts with combination slide flap gates that will give the Department the ability to store and manage water levels and salinities for marsh management purposes.

It is proposed that approximately 5,000 feet of exterior levee along McNulty Slough will be widened, raised, and eroded sections repaired. Two old existing water controls in the McNulty Slough levee will be removed and one control will be replaced with a new 36" CSP, with slide flap gates on both ends for flooding and draining the new marsh area. The cost of the second external pipe is included in the project estimate however, it may not be installed depending on final water management needs, as reviewed by the Department. Two thousand four hundred feet of new interior levees with water controls will also be constructed to create a new manageable marsh area of approximately 120 acres. The tops of both levees will be dressed with four inches of aggregate base to provide all weather access to the water control structures for marsh management purposes and 500 feet of new levee will be faced with rock to protect the structure from wave damage.

Project cost estimate; as prepared by DFG staff is as follows:

1.	Clearing, grubbing, levee surface preparation		
	and removal of old water controls	\$	5,000.00
2.	Earth work, levee restoration and new construction	\$	70,500.00
3.	Water controls structures & walkways	\$	66,000.00
4.	Rock slope protection	\$	20,000.00
5.	Aggregate base on levee tops	\$	25,000.00
6.	Contingency	Ş	13,500.00

TOTAL COST ESTIMATE

\$200,000.00

Both Corps of Engineers and Coastal Commission applications for permits have been requested for this project by DFG. This project is exempt under Section 15301 of CEQA, restoration of existing wetland habitat on an established wildlife area. A Notice of Exemption has been filed as required. DFG's Wildlife Management staff will work closely with the DFG engineering staff to provide management criteria necessary to develop final plans and specs for the project. The project will be administered by the Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this project will not only provide much needed wildlife habitat but will also provide increased compatible recreation in the form of hunting and bird watching.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the California Waterfowl Association and the Defenders of Wildlife.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Eel River WIA Wetland Restoration proposal as presented, allocate \$200,000.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, as authorized for coastal wetlands, 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 THE RESTORATION OF WETLAND HABITAT AT THE EEL RIVER WLA, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$200,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS AUTHORIZED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Eel River Wildlife Area Expansion #1, Humboldt County

\$786,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is for the acquisition of three parcels of land in two separate ownerships for expansion of the Department's Eel River Wildlife Area.

Mr. Jim Sarro described the subject parcels as well as the total proposed project as submitted by the Department of Fish and Game. The existing wildlife area is comprised primarily of a 933 acre parcel of land which was acquired by the Board in 1986 and lies at the northwesterly end of what is considered the Eel River Delta. The Delta's system of sloughs is a coastal wetland area with exceptionally high wetland-associated fish and wildlife values. Because of those values, the Department of Fish and Game recommended in 1974 that public acquisition and management of delta wetlands be considered should those lands be threatened by land uses detrimental to fish and wildlife. In all, the Department of Fish and Game recommends about 1200 acres for this phase of Delta acquisitions, and the item now before the Board is the first of what staff contemplates will be a series of proposed Delta purchases.

The Eel River Delta is bounded generally by Table Bluff on the north, the towns of Loleta on the west and Ferndale on the south, and the Pacific Ocean on the west. It lies about 5 miles west of Fortuna and about 10 miles southwest of Eureka.

The parcels proposed for acquisition in this item (and in the Delta, generally) are mostly below the elevation of high tide and prior to being diked were basically estuarine salt and brackish marsh. Since those areas between the river channels and sloughs were diked and effectively drained in the late 1900's they have been seasonally grazed by dairy and beef cattle. However, because the area is low with high rainfall, impermeable soils and low temperatures, those diked lands hold run off for long periods and are still wetlands, although now freshwater and seasonal in nature. These freshwater seasonal wetlands may be inundated or saturated for six to nine months of the year. Sloughs and channels meander through the area both inside and outside of the dikes providing permanent marshes and ponds.

Wildlife is varied in the Eel River Delta and wetland-associated wildlife is particularly abundant. At least 35 species of mammals occur in the delta, including black-tail deer, fox, river otter, raccoon, skunk, mink, weasel, pocket gopher, and various mice. The large slough channels provide habitat for harbor seal, California sea lion, harbor porpoise and other marine mammals.

Over 250 recorded species of birds occur in the delta. Of these, about 30 species are waterfowl, including mallard, pintail, widgeon, green-winged teal, American shoveler, scaup, redhead, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, scoters, mergansers and tundra swans. The delta supports over three million water associated bird use days annually, including about 1.5 million waterfowl use days and over one million shore bird use days. Other water associated birds of the delta include common egrets, snowy egrets, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, western and pied-billed grebe, coot, and cormorants.

Raptors common in the delta include red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, red-shouldered hawk, Coopers hawk, black-shouldered kites, northern harrier, great horned owl, barn owl, short-eared owl and pygmy owl, American kestrel, and merlin. Although bald eagles and Aleutian Canada geese occasionally visit the area, the only <u>endangered</u> species to commonly inhabit the Eel River Delta are the brown pelican and the peregrine falcon.

The sloughs and channels of the delta provide habitat for 26 species of fish including chinook and coho salmon, spring and winter run steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout, American shad, green sturgeon and lamprey. Invertebrates are abundant in the estuary with some of the more notable being yellow crab, bay shrimp, amphipods, isopods, copopods, polychaete worms, and several species of clams.

The Eel River Delta contains a wealth of actual and potential recreational opportunities. Waterfowl hunting and sport fishing are the most significant appropriate recreational uses in the delta, however sport fishing is also popular, with deer, snipe and upland game hunting also occurring, but to a lesser extent. Non-appropriative recreational use of the delta has become much greater than appropriative use, and includes nature study, wildlife observation and nature photography. All of these activities are enjoyed by Humboldt County residents and visitors alike. Recreational opportunities could be substantially enhanced by increasing public access to the estuary and marshes. Further benefits could accrue by restoring the wetlands of the delta for the production and maintenance of the fish and wildlife resources.

While pressure to develop these properties is not obvious at this time, it could occur in the future. In its recommendation for acquisition of the wetlands of the Eel River Delta, the Department has taken into consideration the critical nature of coastal wetlands, the pressures for development of California's coastal areas, and experience with land use planning changes. Based on these considerations and the inability to guarantee the protection and maintenance of coastal fish and wildlife resources by other means, the Department feels that public acquisition is necessary to assure the maintenance of this highly valuable coastal resource.

The particular two ownerships under consideration at this time consist of a 125 acre parcel and a 321 acre parcel which have approved fair market values of \$225,000.00 and \$546,000.00 respectively. In each case, the owners have agreed to sell the property for the appraised prices. Staff estimates the costs of closing and General Services administrative expenses to be \$15,000.00 to cover both ownerships.

The property would be managed by the Department along with the existing wildlife area, with the general goals being:

- A. To provide maintenance and enhancement of the coastal fish and wildlife resources.
- B. To increase coastal public waterfowl hunting opportunities.
- C. To provide increased fishing access.
- D. To increase non-appropriative fish and wildlife related recreational opportunities such as nature study, bird-watching, and nature photography.

E. To provide increased educational opportunities in the coastal wetland and estuarine environments for all levels of education from elementary school to college.

Modification of the area is not necessary to maintain existing fish and wildlife values. However, physical modifications on the property, such as elimination or modification of drainage facilities, could significantly increase the production of fish and wildlife.

The existing Eel River Wildlife Area was on the Coastal Commission's acquisition priority list, a requirement to Proposition 19 funding for coastal wetlands. The Department of Fish and Game has recently recommended the remainder of the Eel River Delta be included on this list. Inclusion on the list would also qualify these lands for purchase with Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Act, coastal wetlands, funds (Prop 19). Staff recommended that the Board's action be contingent upon the Commission's inclusion of the properties on the priority list as recommended by the Department.

The acquisitions are exempt from CEQA under Section 15313, as acquisitions of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the California Waterfowl Association and Defenders of Wildlife.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these proposed acquisitions, allocate \$786,000.00 from the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, as designated for coastal wetlands, for the purchase price and related costs (subject to the Coastal Commission action as discussed) and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

The Board directed the Chairman to send a letter to the Coastal Commission expressing its support for the Coastal Commission approval, the Department of Fish and Game's request for inclusion of subject properties on the CC priority list.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF THE EEL RIVER WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION #1 PROPERTY, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; CONTINGENT UPON THE COASTAL COMMISSION'S INCLUSION OF THE PROPERTY ON THE ACQUISITION PRIORITY LIST; ALLOCATE \$786,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS, FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Salmon, Steelhead and Trout Habitat Enhancement Projects \$899,700.00

It was proposed that the Board allocate funds for the enhancement and rehabilitation of salmon, steelhead and resident trout spawning and rearing habitat on thirty-two 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. Some streams have usable spawning and rearing habitat that is blocked by a rock or log barrier. Modification of these barriers can open miles of good habitat that currently can not be reached by anadromous fish. 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 reviewed and recommended as highly desirable projects 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 thirty-two salmon, steelhead trout and resident trout projects as one item, allocate \$899,700.00 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 Clyde Edon of the WCB staff could answer any questions you may have on any individual project.

Site specific information for each of the 32 habitat enhancement projects is briefly provided below:

a. <u>Klamath River Drainage Restoration Projects</u>, <u>Humboldt</u> and <u>Del Norte Counties</u> \$204,000.00

This is a cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game, California Conservation Corp (CCC) and Simpson Timber Company to restore and enhance the anadromous salmonid habitat on two lower Klamath River tributaries; Hunter Creek and West Fork Blue Creek. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) responsibilities shall be assumed by DFG in cooperation with the CCC. Work will include; bank stabilization, instream rock and log structures, riparian revegetation, barrier modifications and sediment reduction. Species to be targeted are Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, and Steelhead Trout.

b. East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River, Siskiyou Co. \$ 60,000.00

This is a cooperative project between the Klamath National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to increase rearing habitat for chinook, coho and steelhead. Proposed structures include a minimum of 12 large boulder/rootwad weirs, 50-60 log cover structures, 11 boulder/ rootwad flow deflectors, several boulder/rootwad groups and scour log structures. Additional structure placement will be completed on adjacent private property in 1989. Private property owners are enthusiastic about and supportive of the proposed work. O&M responsibilities will remain with the Forest Service.

c. South Fork Salmon River, Siskiyou County

\$ 25,000.00

This is a cooperative project between the Klamath National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to increase habitat for chinook, coho and steelhead. This project will continue to diversify spawning and rearing habitat in the South Fork Salmon River by placing a minimum of 50 boulder/rootwad groups and flow deflectors in a 600 lineal foot reach. In addition, placement of woody cover over a minimum of 14 existing pools is proposed. Structure life will be maximized by anchoring component structure parts together with half-inch diameter galvanized cable and epoxy. Woody cover structures will be anchored to bedrock using the same technique. O&M responsibilities will remain with the Forest Service.

d. Shovel Creek, Siskiyou County

This is a cooperative project between the Klamath National Forest, who will also assume O&M, and Department of Fish and Game to improve resident trout habitat. This proposal is to provide for stable stream course, stream shading and healthy meadow vegetation thus reducing sedimentation and increasing fish habitat. The project includes the installation of six to eight instream rock weirs, the shaping and stabilizing of three channel sidecuts, the planting of woody vegetation along streambanks, and protecting the project site from grazing by constructing 3/4 mile of electric fence to allow establishment of woody vegetation.

e. Beaver Creek #2, Siskiyou County

This is a continuation of a cooperative project between the Klamath National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game. The project consists of constructing log plunge pools, boulder clusters and rock weirs to improve spawning and rearing habitat for chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

f. Elk Creek #2, Siskiyou County

This is a continuation of a cooperative project between the Klamath National Forest and Department of Fish and Game. The objective of this project is to provide increased spawning habitat for returning chinook salmon with secondary use by steelhead. This is accomplished by placing rock clusters or groups in a meandering pattern to breakup stream velocities and to reduce overall stream gradient to allow smaller sized materials to accumulate around the rock structures. A rock weir will be placed at the tail out of the pool to encourage additional gravel deposition. Some increased rearing habitat for young steelhead (1 year plus) will be created by the plunge pools formed by the rock clusters. The Forest Service will continue to provide maintenance.

g. Indian Creek, Siskiyou County

This is a cooperative project between the Klamath National Forest, project administrator, and the Department of Fish and Game. The project will place twenty rock clusters and a rock weir in Indian Creek. Project maintenance will be handled by the Forest Service. It would provide increased habitat diversity in a 200 foot stretch that consists of rock rubble (6 inches to 1 foot) embedded in the stream channel that provides little habitat diversity. This project is intended to increase habitat for both salmon and steelhead.

\$ 15,000.00

\$ 20,000.00

\$ 15,000.00

\$ 22,000.00

h. Yellow Creek #2, Plumas County

This is a continuation of a long term cooperative project between California Trout, Lassen National Forest, Department of Fish and Game, Plumas County, PG&E and Dry Creek Cattle Company to improve habitat for rainbow trout. Several years ago the Board participated in funding the first phase of this project. The work planned with these funds includes installing 5 single log weirs and 15 double log weirs to reduce bank erosion and provide pools and cover for trout, installing 10 wing deflectors to protect eroded banks and provide instream cover, and the planting of willow slips, tree seedlings and grass seed in the project area to reduce streambank erosion and stabilize the watershed. The project will be administered by the Lassen N.F.

i. Butt Creek #2, Plumas County

This is a continuation of a cooperative project between the Lassen National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve habitat for rainbow and brown trout. The Forest Service is contributing \$9,400.00 in addition to this request. The scheduled work includes construction of 20 log weirs, manipulation of 3 debris jams, reestablishment of riparian vegetation and the fencing of approximately 1 mile of stream with 5 strand high tinsel wire fence, to exclude cattle. Future maintenance will be assumed by the Forest Service.

j. Willow Creek #2, Plumas County

This is a continuation of a cooperative project between the Lassen National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve habitat for rainbow and brown trout. The objectives of this project are to exclude livestock with a 5 wire high tinsel fence to enhance the recovery of riparian vegetation to plant willow slips to maintain bank stability and enhance regeneration of riparian vegetation, and to reduce bank erosion and provide additional pools and cover by installing 13 log weirs. Lassen National Forest will administer the work and provide O&M.

k. Rush Creek (Feather River), Plumas County

This is a cooperative project between Plumas County and the Department of Fish and Game to provide passage for rainbow and brown trout past a barrier caused by Highway 70. This stream was used for spawning before construction of the highway in 1932 and it is felt it could again provide miles of spawning and nursery habitat, and provide cold water summer escapement when the main stem Feather is too warm. Presently, there is only one fully accessible, very small, spawning tributary in 17 miles of river. A modified-denil type ladder will be installed and baffles will be installed inside the box culvert. All low flows will flow through the ladder. The project will be administered by Plumas County Community Development Commission.

\$ 6,500.00

\$ 15,500.00

\$ 8,000.00

1. Soda Creek (Feather River), Plumas County

\$ 8,000.00

This is also a cooperative project between Plumas County and the Department of Fish and Game to provide passage for rainbow and brown trout past a barrier caused by Highway 70. This stream was used for spawning before construction of the highway in 1932 and it is felt it could again provide miles of spawning and nursery habitat, and provide cold water summer escapement when the main stem Feather is too warm. Presently, there is only one fully accessible, very small, spawning tributary in 17 miles of river. Like item k., a modified-denil type ladder will be installed and baffles will be installed inside the box culvert. All low flows will flow through the ladders. The project will be administered by Plumas County Community Development Commission.

m. Willow Creek Barrier, Humboldt County

This is a cooperative project between the Six Rivers National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to open up additional habitat for steelhead by removing a barrier to anadromous fish migration. The current barrier consists of large 20-30 cubic yard boulders. The flow is deflected by these barriers and steps are created precluding fish passage. This proposal would open up several miles of the Willow Creek watershed to steelhead trout. A crew will be employed to drill and place explosives in strategic positions allowing a dispersed flow. The Forest Service will administer this project.

n. Horse Linto Creek, Trinity County Mumboldt Co.

This is a cooperative project between the Six Rivers National Forest, who will administer the project, and the Department of Fish and Game to improve spawning habitat for chinook and silver salmon and steelhead trout. The work consists of placing boulder groups in the stream to create spawning habitat and the removal of old damaged gabion baskets.

o. Red Cap Creek #2, Humboldt County

This is a cooperative project between the Six Rivers National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game. The project will increase the spawning area available to returning chinook salmon. The work consists of constructing four boulder structures to collect spawning gravels. Structures will be placed with a front-end loader and backhoe utilizing Forest Service equipment rental procedures.

p. Griffin Creek, Del Norte County

This is a cooperative project between the Six Rivers National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve spawning and rearing habitat for chinook salmon, steelhead trout and cutthroat trout. The work consists of placement of log structures, by hand labor (Forest Service, CCC, or contract) to create pools and accumulate spawning gravel. The project will be maintained by the Forest Service.

\$ 12,000.00

\$ 9,000.00

\$ 25,000.00

\$ 13,500.00

q. Monkey Creek, Del Norte County

This is a cooperative project between the Six Rivers National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve spawning and rearing habitat for chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The work consists of placement of log structures by hand labor (Forest Service, CCC, or contract), to trap gravel and scour pools. Completed project will be maintained by the Forest Service.

r. Myrtle Creek, Del Norte County

This is a cooperative project between the Six Rivers National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve spawning and rearing habitat for chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Myrtle Creek is lacking suitable spawning gravel for anadromous fish. Rearing habitat is of low to moderate quality and can be enhanced by creation of pools using log structures. Project will be administered and maintained by the Forest Service.

s. Bluff Creek #2, Humboldt County

This is a continuation of a cooperative project between the Six Rivers National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game. The project will increase available spawning gravel for chinook salmon. Rock structures will be designed such that gravel of suitable size are naturally deposited for spawning. Structures will be constructed of large rock (5-7,000 lbs./each) placed with a rubber tired front-end loader.

t. Smithneck Creek, Sierra County

This is a cooperative project between the Tahoe National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve habitat for rainbow and brown trout. Log weirs will be placed in the stream at various locations to provide adult habitat. The plunge pool formed below the weir will serve as adult/juvenile habitat for resident brown and rainbow trout. Existing boulders from upslope areas will be positioned in the stream to protect banks and provide cover. Cottonwood and willow plantings will be used to complete vegetative stabilization. Existing log jams in the lower area will be rearranged using a small tractor and winch to protect banks and optimize cover. The project will be administered and maintained by the Forest Service.

u. Tuttle Creek, Inyo County

This is a cooperative project between the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Fish and Game to improve habitat for brown and rainbow trout. The proposed project will include the removal of three, and possibly a fourth, instream gabion structure constructed in Tuttle Creek in 1972. The rocks from the gabions will be used to armor the adjacent streambanks from additional erosion. By removing the gabions the stream channel will return to a more natural narrow incised streambed with overhanging bank cover. Erosion of streambanks will hopefully be eliminated. Where trout are currently absent in the stream near the gabions, a sustainable fishing area should be present in 3-5 years.

\$ 20,000.00

\$ 3,200.00

4,000.00

\$ 22,000.00

\$ 9,000.00

v. Bogus Creek Riffles (School & Ladder Sites), Siskiyou Co. \$ 50,000.00

This is a proposed Department of Fish and Game project designed to improve spawning habitat for chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Bogus Creek is a major spawning tributary in the Upper Klamath System. It is the first major tributary below Iron Gate Dam and attracts more than 4,000 adult fall chinook spawners every year. Several spawning riffle projects have already been built and are used extensively by spawning salmon. However, some stretches still remain very gravel deficient. This project would put riffles in a new area above the Bogus Falls Fish Ladder. Gravel is in particularly short supply in this area with superimposition of redds occurring on the small patches of gravel available. Under the direction of Department personnel, a contractor will build ten spawning riffles using large quarry rock for weirs and backfilling with spawning size gravel.

w. Butte Creek House Meadow, Butte County

\$ 50,000.00

This is a proposed Department of Fish and Game project designed to improve habitat for brook trout. The project will include the restoration and stabilization of several channels in this wet meadow. The Department will also restore the wet meadow where degraded stream channels act as a drain and restore streamside vegetation to provide shade and root-zone cover for trout. Fencing will be installed to exclude cattle from the meadow and the sill and spill method will be used to stabilize eroded channels and raise the water table in the meadow. They will also plant willows, cottonwoods, and aspen to secure the banks and provide canopy.

x. Lewiston Riffles (Site 2 & 2A), Trinity County

This is a cooperative project on the Trinity River between the Shasta Trinity National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve spawning habitat and develop cover for spawning chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout. The work consists of installing 24 boulder groups, 10 log cover structures, 2 boulder deflectors and the placing of approximately 1200 yards of gravel to develop spawning habitat. Project administration and maintenance will be carried out by the Forest Service.

y. Wildwood Hayfork Creek, Trinity County

\$ 1,200.00

\$ 52,000.00

This is a cooperative project between the Shasta Trinity National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead trout. The work consists of installing 3 cover trees, 4 submerged half logs and 6 floating cover structures through several bedrock pools, and by using explosives, blasting 4 pools into a long bedrock riffle. The area will be blocked and the fish removed prior to detonation of any charges. The project will be administered by the Forest Service.

z. Saddle Gulch Hayfork Creek, Trinity County

\$ 10,000.00

1,200.00

Ş

This is a cooperative project between the Shasta Trinity National Forest, project administrator, and the Department of Fish and Game to improve rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead trout. The project will consist of placing 11 boulder groups, 1 boulder wing deflector and 1 scour log in one area. In a second area, it will consist of installing one boulder berm, 5 boulder groups, 1 boulder wing deflector and 1 boulder/log cover structure at one location and installing 3 boulder groups, 1 boulder wing deflectors at a second location.

aa. Olsen Creek, Trinity County

This is a cooperative project between the Shasta Trinity National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to improve rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead trout. The work will consist of installing 3 log weirs, 1 log wing deflector, 1 boulder weir, 5 floating cover structures in order to develop pools and create cover. It will also include removing several large boulders from the plunge of a pool in order to promote pool scour, and placing log cribbing and installing a rock deflector in order to armor and protect a large failing bank. In addition, several boulders will be removed so as to alter the channel course away from the cut bank. The project will be administered by the Forest Service.

bb. Rusch Creek #2, Trinity County

\$ 2,600.00

This is a continuation of a cooperative project between the Shasta Trinity National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game for the improvement of spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout. The work consists of installing 3 log weirs, 1 cover structure and 2 wing deflectors in order to improve spawning and rearing habitat. It will also include placing bank armoring and constructing check dams to reduce sediment input to Rusch Creek, and removing erosion causing debris from a tributary stream so as to avoid culvert obstruction and subsequent blowout.

cc. Slinkard Creek, Mono County

\$ 9,000.00

This is a cooperative project between the Toiyabe National Forest, project administrator, and the Department of Fish and Game to restore habitat needed for the recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout (federally listed <u>threatened</u> species) populations in California. Construction of instream structures will provide streambank stabilization and will increase pool and rearing habitat. Placement of streambank stabilizing vegetation at the structures and in areas that are eroding, but not suitable for structural restoration, will accelerate habitat recovery.

dd. By-Day Creek #2, Mono County

\$ 7,500.00

This is a continuation of a cooperative project between the Toiyabe National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game for the recovery of the Federally listed threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. The Forest Service has placed increased emphasis on the Walker River drainage in an effort to reverse the downward trend of the Lahontan cutthroat trout. This project will facilitate recovery, as directed by the Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Department of Fish and Game Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management Plan, and the Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Project area will include Lahontan cutthroat populations in the By-Day Creek Ecological Reserve. Optimization of Lahontan cutthroat habitat in By-Day and Slinkard Creeks is important in that these are the sources of broodstock for reintroductions to other identified waters required for the recovery and delisting of the species. Construction of instream structures will provide streambank stabilization and will increase pool and rearing habitat. Placement of streambank stabilizing vegetation at the structures and in areas that are eroding, but not suitable for structural restoration, will accelerate habitat recovery.

ee. Silver King Creek, Alpine County

\$155,000.00

This is a cooperative project between Trout Unlimited, Toiyabe National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game. Silver King Creek drainage is the last home range of the Paiute cutthroat trout. Habitat degradation, massive hybridization with non-native trout, and excessive angling pressure have severely reduced pure populations of this trout.

The Forest Service has placed a major emphasis on the Silver King Creek drainage in an effort to reverse the downward trend of the Paiute cutthroat trout, (federally listed threatened species). In 1987 Trout Unlimited and the Toivabe National Forest received the National "Take Pride in America" Award for their efforts to restore habitat in the Silver King Creek area. The Forest Service has designated the drainage as one of ten National Fish Habitat Relationship streams in the country that will be intensively monitored for physical and biological parameters. This project will facilitate recovery of the Paiute cutthroat trout, as directed by the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service Paiute Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan, and the Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Construction of instream structures will provide streambank stabilization and will increase pool and rearing habitat. Placement of streambank stabilizing vegetation at the structures and in areas that are eroding but not suitable for structural restoration, will accelerate habitat recovery. This work will be carried out over a three year period under the administration of the Forest Service and under DFG monitoring.

ff. Wolf/Jackass Creek, Mendocino County

This is a joint project between Mendocino County and the Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with The Trust for Public Lands and Coastal Headwaters Association. This project would make available 7,700 feet of stream for steelhead trout spawning and rearing which is currently blocked by barriers.

The project will include modification of three log and debris barriers, and modification of one log and debris and bedrock barrier to allow upstream migrating fish to pass, and to retain the bulk of the large amounts of streambed aggradation upstream of each barrier. The modifications will provide a pool/short rise/pool/short rise sequence for easy fish passage and, where possible, the option of gradually lowering each log-formed rise to allow for controlled and gradual release of upstream aggradation and deepening of the stream channel. If there are any funds left after the 4 barrier modifications, they will be used to construct log weirs of a type that will collect spawning gravels above and provide a pool and spawning gravels below. This project will be administered by Mendocino County.

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 THE ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF HABITAT ON 32 WATERWAYS; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$899,700.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (STREAM RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

a.	Klamath River Drainage Restoration Projects,	
		204,000.00
b.	East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River,	
	Siskiyou Co \$	60,000.00
c.	South Fork Salmon River, Siskiyou Co \$	25,000.00
d.	Shovel Creek, Siskiyou Co \$	15,000.00
e.	Beaver Creek #2, Siskiyou Co \$	22,000.00
f.	Elk Creek #2, Siskiyou Co \$	20,000.00
g.	Indian Creek, Siskiyou Co \$	15,000.00
h.	Yellow Creek #2, Plumas Co \$	19,500.00
i.	Butt Creek #2, Plumas Co \$	8,000.00
j.	Willow Creek #2, Plumas Co \$	6,500.00
k.	Rush Creek (Feather River), Plumas Co \$	15,500.00
1.	Soda Creek (Feather River), Plumas Co \$	8,000.00
m.	Willow Creek Barrier, Humboldt Co S	25,000.00
n.	Horse Linto Creek, Trinity Co \$	13,500.00
0.	Red Cap Creek #2, Humboldt Co \$	9,000.00
p.	Griffin Creek, Del Norte Co \$	12,000.00
q.	Monkey Creek, Del Norte Co \$	20,000.00
r.	Myrtle Creek, Del Norte Co \$	9,000.00
s.	Bluff Creek #2, Humboldt Co \$	22,000.00
t.	Smithneck Creek, Sierra Co \$	3,200.00
u.	Tuttle Creek, Inyo Co \$	4,000.00

v.	Bogus Creek Riffles (School & Ladder		
	Sites), Siskiyou Co	\$	50,000.00
w.	Butte Creek House Meadow, Butte Co	\$	50,000.00
х.	Lewiston Riffles (Site 2 & 2A), Trinity Co.	Ş	52,000.00
у.	Wildwood Hayfork Creek, Trinity Co	Ş	1,200.00
z.	Saddle Gulch Hayfork Creek, Trinity Co		10,000.00
aa.	Olsen Creek, Trinity Co	Ş	1,200.00
bb.	Rusch Creek #2, Trinity Co	Ş	2,600.00
cc.	Slinkard Creek, Mono Co	Ş	9,000.00
dd.	By-Day Creek #2, Mono Co	\$	7,500.00
	Silver King Creek, Alpine Co	\$1	155,000.00
ff.	Wolf/Jackass Creek, Mendocino Co	\$	25,000.00

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve, San Luis Obispo County \$510,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is to purchase approximately 2810 acres of land in southeastern San Luis Obispo County as part of an overall plan for the establishment of the Carrizo Plain Natural Heritage Reserve. The Reserve is a joint effort between the federal, state and county governments, landowners, oil companies and The Nature Conservancy, the latter of which is actually coordinating and carrying out the bulk of the acquisitions for the project. Eventually, the Reserve could protect as much as 200,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat.

Mr. Jim Sarro described the project location. The Carrizo Plains, located about 150 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, lie about midway between Santa Maria and Bakersfield in a valley separating the Coast and Temblor mountain ranges. They are a complex of alkali wetlands, saltbush scrub and annual grassland. The preserve will be designed to protect such threatened and endangered species as the San Joaquin kit fox, Blunt-nosed leopard lizard, giant kangaroo rat, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, antelope squirrel, short-nosed kangaroo rat and numerous rare plants, as well as providing a safe habitat for 11 other species of reptiles, 100 species of birds and 40 species of mammals. Pronghorn antelope and tule elk are being or will be reintroduced into the wild in the region.

The Carrizo Plains also had been a primary breeding grounds for the California condor until they were all captured and put into captive breeding programs. If condors are reintroduced into the wild, the plains may again become a primary area for them. As recently as 1983, the Department acquired 160 acres of private lands in the southerly part of the plain to protect a parcel which was scheduled for more intensive development which would have infringed on the range of these birds and numerous other endangered species.

The Nature Conservancy, in the first major acquisition in the Reserve project, recently purchased some 82,000 acres of farm and ranch lands for over \$14 million. Payment included 40 acres of property, cash from donations and a large promisory note. To pay off the note, the Conservancy

> is raising additional private money and is selling off portions of the Reserve lands to the federal and state governments. In all, about \$5.5 million of the needed cash will come from the Conservancy and another \$4 million will come from the federal government. Given the status of WCB funding for endangered species habitat, the importance of the success of this Reserve plan and the need for Reserve funding at this stage, staff recommends that the Board also participate with State funds by purchasing a portion of the ranch from the Conservancy for the amount of \$500,000.00.

> Actually, the Conservancy proposes to convey 2810+ acres, with an approved fair market value of approximately \$595,000.00 for the price of \$500,000.00. Another \$10,000.00 would be required to cover closing costs and Department of General Service's review charges. The property to be conveyed lies toward the northern end of the Plain and has been determined by the Department to contain outstanding habitats in its own right. Even without the overall Reserve proposal, this property would be considered of high wildlife value and of high priority for preservation.

The property would be managed for an interim basis by the Conservancy through a cooperative agreement between the State, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Conservancy, with eventual management to be as part of the Carrizo Plain Natural Heritage Reserve. Cost to the Department is expected to be minimal in any event.

Funding for this project is available from the Environmental License Plate Fund and the purchase is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve purchase as proposed, allocate \$510,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund for the purchase price and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife. Mr. Schmidt also stated that Mr. Jerry Diefenderfer from the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors was present. Mr. Diefenderfer was asked if he wished to make any comments and he gave a brief overview of the project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE CARRIZO PLAIN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE PROPERTY, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$510,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENT LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. Panoche Hills Eco Reserve, Fresno County

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is to acquire a 600+ acre parcel of privately owned property for the protection of habitat for the <u>endangered</u> Blunt-nosed leopard lizard and Giant kangaroo rat, and the <u>threatened San</u> Joaquin Antelope squirrel and San Joaquin kit fox. Upland game including valley quail, chukar partridge, cottontail rabbit, dove, bobcat, coyote and skunk are also present on this property. This acquisition is important in that it would preclude potential subdivision activity on this property which would certainly destroy this important habitat. It would also be significant in providing improved access to the Panoche National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area which surrounds the property on three sides.

Mr. Howard Dick described the project location. The subject property is located in western Fresno County, approximately 65 miles southwest of the City of Fresno and 25 miles southwest of the rural community of Mendota. Access to the area is via Little Panoche Road which is a narrow two lane paved county road. Little Panoche Road connects with Shields Avenue at Interstate 5, approximately 12 miles to the northeast. The property itself is located on the Panoche Access Road, a publicly maintained dirt road connecting to Little Panoche Road about 6 miles from the subject property.

In addition to the Department of Fish and Game's recommendation, acquisition of this parcel is also supported by the Bureau of Land Management. The Department of Fish and Game has proposed that, if the property is acquired, it be designated an Ecological Reserve to be managed by the Department. Management objectives would be the preservation of the threatened and endangered species and their habitat, and the continued compatible recreational uses now occurring. This could include wildlife observation and upland game hunting. The Department of Fish and Game has estimated that operational and maintenance costs to the Department would be minimal, since the property will require no intensive management and should be retained in somewhat its present condition with habitat improvements made through a reduction in grazing.

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

The landowners have agreed to sell this property at its approved fair market value of \$119,200.00. An additional \$2800.00 is estimated to cover the costs of appraisal, escrow, closing and administrative charges, bringing the total recommended allocation to \$122,000.00.

It was the recommendation of the staff that the Board approve the purchase of this property as proposed, allocate \$122,000.00 therefor from the Environmental License Plate 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 Defenders of Wildlife.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE PANOCHE HILLS ECO RESERVE PROPERTY, FRESNO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$122,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

21. Other Business

a. Lake Tahoe Public Access, Placer County

\$25,000.00

Acting Chairman Pete Bontadelli, pursuant to a unanimous vote of the Board, convened an emergency meeting at 2:20 p.m., May 19, 1988, to hear a request by the Tahoe City Public Utility District for dredging and an extension of the WCB boat ramp at Tahoe City (Lake Forest) which is needed for continued operation of this ramp during the low water conditions of the lake. Primarily because the ramp is used by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and County of Placer for search and rescue operations and as this is the only usable public boat ramp on the north and west shore of the lake, this request was determined to be a matter of public safety and proper for Board consideration as an emergency measure pursuant to Section 11125.5 of the Government Code.

The Board heard specifics of the proposal from Mr. Gary Romano, a spokesman for the Utility District. As presented, the proposal is to dredge a 36 foot wide channel from the end of the ramp to the end of the adjacent pier, a distance of 110 feet. Dredging would be to elevation 6217.0. The proposal is to also extend the concrete ramp 23 feet with pre-cast concrete slabs at the same grade as exisitng. The cost of this work, according to estimates obtained by the District, will be about \$25,000.00.

Mr. Romano stated the District had started applying for the necessary permits from the Corps of Engineers, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and Department of Fish and Game. He stated the dredge spoils would be trucked to an approved landfill as determined by permit requirements.

After some discussion, Assemblyman Norman Waters recommended on behalf of the Legislative Advisory Committee that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve the request contingent on the District obtaining the necessary permits, including adhering to the 10 day posting requirement for this action. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE IAKE TAHOE (IAKE FOREST) PUBLIC ACCESS, PLACER COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$25,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

b.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. by Mr. Stancell.

Respectfully submitted,

W John Schmidt

W. John Schmidt Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 19, 1988, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$180,982,388.55. 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	E
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement . \$2,990,821.39	
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement 3,853,264.38	
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams 498,492.86	
	4. Marine Habitat	
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects 1,535,549.46	
C	Fishing Access Projects	1
C .	1. Coastal and Bay \$2,971,886.25	P:
	2. River and Aqueduct Access 6,527,880.35	
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access 6,077,560.43	
	4. Piers 15,556,136.95	
d.	Game Farm Projects 146,894.49	
e.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects 116,896,343.84	Ł
	1. Wildlife Areas (General) 89,239,290.30	
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev 2,871,954.27	
	3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves,	
	(Rare & Endangered) 24,785,099.27	
f.	Hunting Access	1
g.	Miscellaneous Projects 5,758,012.87	
h.	Special Project Allocations	
i.	Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	
т.		-
	Total Allocated to Projects \$180,982,388.55	
	Inter Allocated to Hojects	