

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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

Minutes, Meeting of May 10, 1990

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PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND  
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State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of May 10, 1990

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman Robert A. Bryant, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 2040 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on May 10, 1990. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Bryant.

1. Roll Call

<u>Present:</u>	Robert A. Bryant, President	Chairman
	Fish and Game Commission	
	Pete Bontadelli, Director	Member
	Department of Fish and Game	
	Stan Stancell, Assistant Director	Member
	Department of Finance	
	Edna Maita	
	Vice Assemblyman Costa	Joint Interim Committee
	Rick Battson	
	Vice Assemblyman Isenberg	Joint Interim Committee
	Sandy Silberstein	
	Vice Senator Presley	Joint Interim Committee
<u>Absent:</u>	Assemblyman Norman Waters	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator David Roberti	Joint Interim Committee
<u>Staff Present:</u>	W. John Schmidt	Executive Director
	Alvin G. Rutsch	Assist. Executive Director
	Clyde S. Edon	Field Agent
	Jim Sarro	Chief Land Agent
	Howard Dick	Senior Land Agent
	Frank Giordano	Senior Land Agent
	Marylyn Gzyms	Staff Services Analyst
	Sylvia Gude	Staff Services Analyst
	Sandy Daniel	Executive Secretary
	Janice Beeding	Office Technician

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Others Present:

Francis L. Carmichael	Landowner
Mary Andrews	Citizen
Maureen Carr Morrison	Citizen
Marie E. Carr	Landowner
Harlan E. Warwick	City of Red Bluff
John Galos	City of Red Bluff
Duke Foster	East Bay Muni Utility Dist.
Banky Curtis	DFG/Region 1
Susan West	Mountain Lion Preservation
Daniel O'Brien	Citizen
Livio Ceccarini	Landowner
Tony Ceccarini	Landowner
Sandra L. Coombs	Tahoe City PUD
Jim Messersmith	DFG/Region 2
Richard Hardin	Citizen
Bill Morrison	State Lands Commission
Sabin Phelps	The Nature Conservancy
Richard Spotts	Defenders of Wildlife
Patrick Coul	CCC
Sandra Morey	DFG/NHD
Ken Berg	DFG/NHD
Wendel Flint	Citizen
David Hill	Citizen
Chris Kelly	The Nature Conservancy

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the February 15, 1990, and March 5, 1990, meetings of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 1990, AND MARCH 5, 1990, MEETINGS OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Funding Status as of May 10, 1990 (Information Only)

(a) 1989/90 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions .....	\$ 429,000.00
Plus LWCF Reimbursement .....	+100,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-308,130.93
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 220,869.07
 Governor's Budget - Minor Projects .....	 \$ 480,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	- 23,200.00
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 456,800.00
 Governor's Budget - Major Development .....	 \$ 500,000.00

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(b) 1988/89 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions .....	\$1,730,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-1,719,978.12
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 10,021.88

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions - Eco Reserves..	\$1,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-905,786.54
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 94,213.46

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions .....	\$ 417,000.00
Less previous Board allocations.....	-417,000.00
Unallocated Balance.....	\$ -0-

(d) 1988/89 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$3,292,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-2,310,000.00
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 982,000.00

(e) 1989/90 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$4,093,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	- 958,050.00
Unallocated Balance .....	\$3,134,950.00

(f) 1988/89 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$3,434,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-2,709,344.11
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 724,655.89

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

Governor's Budget .....	\$14,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-13,989,780.86
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 10,219.14

(h) 1989/90 Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$15,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	- 1,285,000.00
Unallocated Balance .....	\$13,715,000.00

(i) 1988/89 Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget .....	\$10,500,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-9,507,069.42
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 992,930.58

(j) 1988/89 California Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund

Direct appropriation to the Wildlife Conservation Board .....	\$81,300,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	-27,285,761.95
Less State administrative costs .....	- 1,219,500.00
Unallocated Balance .....	\$52,794,738.05

(k) 1989/90 Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund

Governor's Budget .....	\$ 5,500,000.00
Less previous Board allocations .....	- 494,000.00
Unallocated Balance .....	\$ 5,006,000.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	
Acquisition .....	\$ 325,104.41
Minor Development .....	\$ 456,800.00
Major Development .....	\$ 500,000.00
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u> .....	\$ 982,000.00
<u>1984 Fish &amp; Wildlife Habitat Enhancement</u> .....	\$ 3,869,825.03
<u>California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u> .....	
	\$52,794,738.05
<u>Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u> .....	\$14,707,930.58
<u>Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund</u> .....	\$ 5,006,000.00

4. Recovery of Funds

The following 17 projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It was recommended that the following totals be recovered: \$-0- to the Environmental License Plate Fund, and \$70,091.09 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund, \$167,087.43 to the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, and that the projects be closed.

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

Suisun Marsh Habitat Enhancement Project, Solano County

Allocation	\$250,000.00
Expended	-250,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries ..... \$-0-

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Hudeman Slough Public Access, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$217,000.00
Expended	-185,152.04
Balance for Recovery	\$ 31,847.96

Knoxville Wildlife Area, Napa County

Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Expended	- 985.25
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,014.75

Mad River Hatchery Fishing Access, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 54,000.00
Expended	- 48,513.26
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,486.74

Noyo River Egg Collecting Station, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$125,000.00
Expended	-93,258.36
Balance for Recovery	\$ 31,741.64

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries ..... \$ 70,091.09

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Bluff Creek #2, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 22,000.00
Expended	- 16,896.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,104.00

Bogus Creek Riffles (School & Ladder Sites), Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 60,000.00
Expended	- 59,149.50
Balance for Recovery	\$ 850.50

Camp Creek, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 33,000.00
Expended	- 32,917.34
Balance for Recovery	\$ 82.66

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Deer Creek Weir, Tehama County

Allocation	\$ 15,100.00
Expended	- 12,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,100.00

East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 60,000.00
Expended	- 17,137.53
Balance for Recovery	\$ 42,862.47

Eel River WLA Wetland Restoration, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$200,000.00
Expended	-120,992.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 79,008.00

Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Monterey County

Allocation	\$385,000.00
Expended	-362,360.10
Balance for Recovery	\$ 22,639.90

Honey Lake Wildlife Area, Dakin Unit Expansion #2, Lassen County

Allocation	\$458,000.00
Expended	-449,148.40
Balance for Recovery	\$ 8,851.60

Red Cap Creek, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 70,000.00
Expended	- 69,905.51
Balance for Recovery	\$ 94.49

Slinkard Creek, Mono County

Allocation	\$ 9,000.00
Expended	- 7,309.82
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,690.18

Smithneck Creek, Sierra County

Allocation	\$ 3,200.00
Expended	- 1,814.03
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,385.97

South Fork Salmon River, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 25,000.00
Expended	- 23,582.34
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,417.66

Total Fish & Wildlife Hab. Enhancement Fund Recoveries.... \$167,087.43

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE 17 PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 4-7 OF THIS AGENDA AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$-0- TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; \$70,091.09 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND \$167,087.43 TO THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Special Project Planning Account

Informational

Mr. Schmidt reported this item was for information only and no action was required.

The Board has historically used a special project account to provide working funds for staff evaluation (appraisals, engineering, preliminary title reports, etc.) of proposed projects. Upon Board approval of a project, all expenditures incurred prior to approval are transferred from the Special Project Account to the approved project and reimbursements to Special Project Accounts are made accordingly. This procedure, therefore, acts as a revolving fund for the pre-project expenses.

Some appropriations now made to the Board do not include a specific budgeted planning line item appropriation necessary to begin a project without prior Board authorization. Pre-project costs are a necessary expenditure in most all capital outlay projects. The Special Project Account would be used for these costs and to pay for State Treasurer and State Controller Offices costs for the necessary Pooled Money Bond Loans the Board applies for periodically.

The Board, at the May 6, 1986, meeting, authorized the Executive Director to use up to 1% of a budgeted appropriation to set up and maintain an appropriate planning account with the provision it would be reported to the Board as an information item at the next meeting. Accordingly, the planning accounts have been set up as follows:

California Wildlife, Coastal and	
Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988	\$60,000.00
Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund	\$15,000.00

6. Anderson River Park, Shasta County

\$8,500.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the City of Anderson had requested funds for improvements at the existing WCB boat ramp facility on the Sacramento River at Anderson located at the east end of Rupert Road.

Mr. Rutsch described the project. The two acre ramp site was acquired and developed by the Board in 1956 for fishing access purposes. In later years, the Board acquired additional lands adjacent to the boat ramp site for additional fishing access and protection of riparian wildlife habitat. Anderson River Park is now a 397 acre regional park comprised of both State and City lands with 3,000 feet of river frontage providing fishing access, habitat protection and a variety of other appropriate outdoor day use recreational opportunities. The City operates and maintains the entire park for public access purposes by agreement with the Department.

This proposal to improve the ramp facility, as submitted by the City, is to stripe the parking area, construct a guard rail around the ramp cut, riprap the slope and provide a proper sign on the site. The total cost as estimated by the City is \$8,500 which includes \$200 to cover Department of General Services contract review charges.

The City has submitted a resolution in support of this proposal. If approved, the City will carry out the work by agreement with the Department, provide the necessary construction plans, contract administration and inspection as required.

The Department has filed a Notice of Exemption in accordance with CEQA Guidelines. The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301, Class 1, which includes minor alterations or improvements to existing public recreational facilities.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Anderson River Park improvements as proposed; allocate \$8,500.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE ANDERSON RIVER PARK, SHASTA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$8,500.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Red Bluff River Park Fishing Access, Tehama County \$56,300.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the City of Red Bluff had requested funding to upgrade facilities at the existing public boat ramp on the Sacramento River in Red Bluff. The project, which is located just a few blocks south of the center of town, was originally developed with WCB funds in 1965 and has been operated and maintained by the City for public fishing access purposes since that time.

Mr. Rutsch explained that this proposal was for the construction of a public restroom which will be fully accessible to handicapped users and meets current standards for health, convenience and safety. The restroom will be located so as to minimize conflicts between the users and boat launching traffic. The parking area paving and striping will help organize car and trailer parking as well as ramp traffic at this popular recreation site. The City of Red Bluff will handle the administration of the construction contract for this project.

The cost estimate for these improvements as submitted by the City and reviewed by staff is summarized as follows:

Pave and stripe, 570+ tons AC	\$26,400
Concrete curb and gutter	600
Construct restroom	24,000
Subtotal	<u>\$51,000</u>
Contingency	5,100
WCB costs	<u>200</u>
 Total Estimated Cost	 \$56,300

This work qualifies for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs under the Federal Wallop-Breaux Amendment of the Dingell-Johnson Act, and staff plans to file an application for such funds if the project is approved by the Board.

The City Council has adopted a resolution supporting the proposed improvements as described and agreeing to enter into a new long-term Lease & Operating Agreement with the Department for the project upkeep if the proposal is approved as planned. The City staff has filed a Notice of Exemption with a finding that the proposed work would be categorically exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 and 15303 of the State Guidelines.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association and that Mr. Harlan Warwick and Mr. John Galos from the City of Red Bluff were present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Red Bluff River Park improvements as proposed; allocate \$56,300.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE RED BLUFF RIVER PARK FISHING ACCESS, TEHAMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$56,300.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Lake Tahoe Fishing Access, Placer County \$45,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported a request for engineering funds had been received from the Tahoe City Public Utility District which operates and maintains the existing WCB boat ramp project on Department owned lands located one mile east of Tahoe City. Mr. Rutsch described the project location and briefly explained what the study would entail. This facility was first developed with WCB funding in 1961 with construction of a 36 foot wide concrete ramp, an adjacent pier for loading or unloading passengers, a paved parking area, restroom and an access road. Although some improvements have been made over the years, the project remains essentially as it was first constructed.

The ramp is an important public facility and getting increasing public use. At times of low water levels it is one of the few public ramps on Lake Tahoe which remains functional. According to the District, some expansion and renovation is urgently needed to help meet the growing demand, to improve operating efficiency and to upgrade deteriorating structures. The following list of improvements has been submitted by the District in recommended order of priority, with engineering services to be provided for all except the last one:

1. Expand the width of the ramp 9 feet to provide three full 15 foot lanes and extend the length to a depth of 3 feet below minimum water level. Backfill voids under the ramp and add rock protection along the sides. Dredge the fairway to elevation 6219'. Add a boarding float and guide piles at the right side of the ramp.
2. Reorganize/reconstruct the parking and maneuvering area to improve traffic flow and to enhance parking lot drainage.
3. Reconstruct the near-shore end of the pier to match the outer end addition.
4. Add parking area lighting.
5. Reconstruct and widen the entrance road.
6. Renovate restroom for handicapped access.
7. Construct a gravel overflow parking area.
8. Add a fishing L-shaped extension at the end of the pier.
9. Construct a rock breakwater off-shore to protect the ramp.

This is a conceptual proposal only. It is recognized that many issues need to be resolved before a proposal can be recommended, including sensitive environmental issues which need to be dealt with in the evaluation of such a project. Some of the suggested improvements have been previously proposed but not carried out because of environmental concerns, lack of funding or other reasons. Environmental concerns are still an issue to be addressed, but the funding issue is at least improved now with the recent Wallop-Breaux Amendment Federal Aid Program through which 75 percent of project costs could be recovered from the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Account. A staff proposal for allocation of construction funds is not anticipated until the 1991-92 fiscal year at the earliest.

The engineering will include determining the best methods and materials for the job, designing the various structures, preparing preliminary plans and cost estimates, making applications, including filing fees, for necessary permits (Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Corps of Engineers, State Lands, Fish and Game and Placer County) and preparing environmental assessments, initial studies and negative declarations for CEQA excluding the CEQA documentation for the breakwater which it is expected will require an E.I.R. It is estimated that \$45,000.00 will be required for this engineering work.

An engineering report will be provided breaking down the estimated costs of each category, which will permit phasing the improvements, if necessary, to meet budget constraints on other program priorities.

The District Board of Directors has adopted a resolution urging WCB consideration of this request for funding so that planning for the ramp improvement project can proceed as planned. Staff has met with the District on site to review the problems and is in agreement as to both the need for this work as well as the approach.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Lake Tahoe Fishing Access improvement project in concept as proposed; allocate \$45,000.00 for engineering studies as described from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Ms. Sandra Coombs from the Tahoe City Public Utility District was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Bryant asked if it were possible to use the area by the hatchery for public parking. Mr. Rutsch stated that the area is too far away and would not be very functional.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE LAKE TAHOE FISHING ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN CONCEPT AS PROPOSED, CONDITIONED ON APPLYING FOR FEDERAL WALLOP-BREAUX REIMBURSEMENT; ALLOCATE \$45,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR ENGINEERING STUDIES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Eagle Lake Access (Stone's Landing & Spaulding Tract),  
Lassen County

\$50,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that Lassen County had requested funding for improvements at two existing WCB boat ramp projects at Eagle Lake to keep them usable during current and expected future low water level conditions. The ramps are known as the Stone's Landing Ramp, which is located at the north end of the lake (constructed in 1963) and the Spaulding Tract Ramp, which is located on the west shore (constructed in 1976). Mr. Rutsch described the location and the proposal.

The ramps provide access to a popular fishery which largely resulted from the Department's Eagle Lake trout rehabilitation program on the Pine Creek tributary in 1958, which was also funded by the Board. The only other public boat ramp on Eagle Lake is at Galletin Beach at the south end of the lake.

Eagle Lake levels fluctuate widely depending on seasonal runoff making the proposed improvements necessary. It is proposed that the two-lane Spaulding Ramp low end, which is currently at elevation 5102', be extended 40 feet, to an elevation of about 5097'. The fairway, or ramp approach channel, will also need to be dredged to allow room for boats to access the ramp and maneuver around the floats. The proposal also includes the extension of the boarding floats at this site. While the Stone's Landing Ramp does not need to be extended since it is already sufficiently deep, the boarding floats will require extension to facilitate boat launching and retrieval.

The cost estimate for these improvements has been estimated by Lassen County engineers and reviewed by staff as follows:

Stone's Landing Site

Two 6' x 20' Boarding Floats	\$ 6,000
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Spaulding Tract Site

Two 6' x 20' Boarding Floats	6,000
30' x 40' Ramp Extension	23,000
Dredging, 450 c.y.	10,000
Subtotal	<u>\$45,000</u>
Contingency, 10%	4,500
WCB Costs	<u>500</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$50,000

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors has adopted a resolution supporting this proposal and agreeing to enter into the necessary agreements with the Department to carry out and maintain these improvements if approved by the Board. The County will also provide the engineering for construction plans and contract administration.

As the proposed work involves minor additions to existing public facilities involving no increase in use, the work is exempt from CEQA and the County has filed a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the Act.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Eagle Lake Access improvement project as proposed; allocate \$50,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association. He also noted that this project qualifies for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs under the Federal Wallop-Breaux Act and staff plans to file an application for such funds if the project is approved.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE EAGLE LAKE ACCESS (STONE'S LANDING AND SPAULDING TRACT), LASSEN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, CONDITIONED ON APPLYING FOR FEDERAL WALLOP-BREAUX REIMBURSEMENT; ALLOCATE \$50,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. Lafayette Reservoir Fishing Access, Contra Costa County \$80,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the East Bay Municipal Utility District has proposed the development of a handicapped fishing access float on Lafayette Reservoir, located two miles west of Lafayette on Diablo Canyon Road. Mr. Rutsch described the proposal. The 126 acre reservoir is a popular recreation area for east bay residents, offering boating and fishing and general day use activities.

The District and Department of Fish and Game stock trout in the reservoir under a matching cooperative fish stocking agreement. Also, the District has instituted a fishing fee, all of which is used to purchase and plant additional fish.

The Lafayette Reservoir is accessible to shore fishermen by an unpaved road which parallels the three miles of shoreline. However, such access is not suitable for the physically handicapped or elderly users. The proposed float would be located near restrooms and a snack bar, connected to the shore by a gently inclined gangway. The District has already constructed an abutment for the gangway and it plans to handle the installation and perhaps the fabrication of the float with District shop and maintenance forces.

Funding to cover the cost of materials for the fishing float and gangway is estimated at \$80,000. This will provide for a gangway and six or eight 10' x 20' floatation units and guy anchors. The floats would have specially designed handrails for anglers in wheelchairs, and will also be equipped with benches.

It is expected that this proposal will be enthusiastically supported by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) groups as have similar projects throughout the State. The Department supports the project noting that there are very few such projects in the greater San Francisco East Bay area.

A resolution supporting this proposal has been adopted by the District indicating its willingness to enter into the necessary long-term lease and operating agreement with the Department in accordance with WCB requirements. The District has also determined the proposed activity to be of a minor nature having no significant impact and has filed a Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA. Staff has reviewed the proposal and visited the site.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Lafayette Reservoir Fishing Access Project as proposed; allocate \$80,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from Assemblyman Baker and Mr. Duke Foster from the East Bay Municipal Utility District was present should there be any questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HANDICAPPED FISHING ACCESS FLOAT AT LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$80,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Pyramid Lake Fishing Access, Los Angeles County \$5,300.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Angeles National Forest, through the Saugus Ranger District, had requested WCB funding for the development of a fishing access at Pyramid Lake designed for physically handicapped users. Mr. Rutsch described the project. Located on Interstate 5, 60 miles north of Los Angeles, the lake attracts highway travelers as well as many people from the greater Los Angeles area.

While there are many well-developed facilities at Pyramid Lake which are accessible to the handicapped visitor, such as paved parking, restrooms and snack bar, no provision has been made to give the handicapped an opportunity to get near the water to fish as this proposed project will do.

Forest Service employees report that expressions of support for such a development have been received from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and others. According to statistics provided by the Easter Seals Foundation, over 2500 physically handicapped individuals, with varying degrees of paraplegia but capable of participating in such recreation as fishing from the wheelchair, reside in the greater Los Angeles area.

The cost to develop an access ramp and fishing structure with other minor modifications for handicapped users is quite modest for the expected benefits. Organizations such as the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers, Sylmar Hills Sportsmans Club and Boy Scouts have volunteered labor. DAV charities and the Forest Service are expected to contribute \$7,360 towards the \$12,660 materials cost. The proposed WCB share of the cost is \$5,300.

The proposal is to construct a paved ramp from a parking area, near the restrooms and snack bar, to a suitable point on the lake shore where a fishing structure will allow easy fishing access for trout, bass, catfish and other warmwater species. The Department has reviewed the proposal and recommends its construction.

If approved, the project will be carried out in cooperation with the Angeles National Forest, by agreement in the usual manner. The Saugus Ranger District provides continuous administrative, patrol and maintenance at Pyramid Lake.

This action to develop a low-impact recreation facility is categorically excluded from the requirements for environmental assessment and the Ranger District has filed a Decision Memo to verify this. The document is accepted as compliance with Section 15220-15228 of the State Guidelines for environmental review.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Pyramid Lake Fishing Access project as proposed; allocate \$5,300.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli asked staff to prepare thank you letters to all the volunteer groups involved in this project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTEDELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HANDICAPPED FISHING ACCESS FLOAT AT PYRAMID LAKE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$5,300.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Public Access Guide

\$10,000.00

At its meeting of March 12, 1984, the Board approved updating the WCB access guide which shows the locations and facilities of Wildlife Conservation Board public access projects. Copies of the guide were distributed to the Department's regional and local offices for distribution to the public.

At that time, staff also recommended that the access guide be updated periodically to include additional projects. Mr. Schmidt reported that it has now been five years since this publication was revised, a time period in which many new projects were authorized by the Board and supplies of the previous publication have been exhausted. Therefore, staff is now recommending that this access guide be updated to show the new projects developed since the 1984 printing. It is proposed that 10,000 copies be printed at this time for distribution to the Department's Regional Offices, License Sales Office, and other DFG locations where such distribution would be helpful to the public. It should be noted that this new publication will be in a form more easily used by the readers and will include handicapped access information. The State Printing Plant has estimated the cost to be \$9,250.00. An additional \$750.00 is requested to cover potential contingency costs. Funding for this project would be provided by the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

Staff recommended that the Board approve updating the Public Access Guide as proposed; allocate \$10,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE UPDATING THE PUBLIC ACCESS GUIDE AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$10,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Stancell stated that he would have to excuse himself in the next five minutes in order to attend another meeting and wanted to know if there were any controversial items on the agenda, and if someone was present who wished to speak, and if so, could that item be heard now. Two people stated they wished to speak regarding Item 20 - Cosumnes River Wildlife Area (Orr Road), Sacramento County. Item 20 was heard at this point but shown in chronological order in these minutes.

13. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$240,425.00

MR. SCHMIDT REPORTED THAT ITEM B. (PICKEL MEADOW, MONO COUNTY) HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN AND THE TOTAL PROPOSED ALLOCATION IS REDUCED FROM 292,030.00 TO \$240,425.00.

It was proposed that the Board allocate funds for three projects for the enhancement and rehabilitation of salmon, steelhead and resident fish spawning and rearing habitat 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, 114,000 by 1978, to 54,000 by 1984. 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. There has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of artificially produced fish returning to the Klamath system since 1985. Returns of naturally produced salmon are still very low, however, due to the widespread loss of habitat.

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 trout. 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 fish species. 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. Stream habitat modifications are also necessary to protect, enhance and restore populations of threatened or endangered species of fish.

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

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

- a. CCC Del Norte Center Salmon & Steelhead  
Habitat Enhancement Project #2, Del Norte County \$165,425.00

The California Conservation Corps, Del Norte Center (CCC), proposes to continue its cooperative anadromous salmonid habitat enhancement projects with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and nonprofit groups on streams in Del Norte and northern Humboldt Counties. Target species for this proposal are chinook salmon (fall and late fall runs), coho salmon, steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout.

Based on survey and design work to be completed by DFG and nonprofit groups, CCC crews will complete prescribed habitat enhancement work under DFG administration. The approach used will amplify existing stream channel features, use locally available materials where possible, minimize operation and maintenance costs, and take into consideration access limitations. Proposed enhancement work will include but not be limited to the following type projects:

1. Bank stabilization: re-vegetation or physical structures.
2. Velocity modification: instream boulder and/or log structures to direct flow, reduce velocity, improve pool:riffle ratio, improve pool volume, enhance jump pools.
3. Instream cover: boulder and/or log structures, digger logs, or other devices to improve instream cover.
4. Substrate improvement: physical structures placed at specific locations to improve spawning habitat.
5. Riparian re-vegetation utilizing indigenous species.
6. Barrier modification: modification of impassable log jams, falls, culverts, enhancement of jump pools, etc.
7. Cattle exclusion.

It is proposed that work be completed on Prairie Creek, Maple Creek and some of its tributaries, Lindsay Creek and Jacoby Creek. It should be noted that this proposal will be the third phase of a continuing program between the CCC and WCB/DFG to complete stream habitat enhancement and restoration work. One hundred dollars of the proposed allocation total will be used to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs.

- b. Pickel Meadow, Mono County \$51,605.00

THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA.

- c. Susan River, Lassen County \$20,900.00

The headwaters of the Susan River, within the proposed project area, have been degraded over the years as a result of cattle grazing practices. This has contributed to the loss of riparian vegetation and trout cover, and increases in sediment loads. This area of the Susan River, is readily accessible and is therefore heavily fished. The proposed project is expected to result in more natural reproduction and eventual greater sportfishing benefits.

The project consists of fencing two miles of the stream corridor to exclude cattle from its banks. The fence will be of a pole type construction, utilizing materials available on site. Willow slips will be planted along protected corridor to reestablish riparian growth to provide stream shading, trout cover, and increase bank stability. In addition, 20 log/rock weirs or wing deflectors will be installed along the stream to minimize bank erosion, provide cover for trout, and aid in the reestablishment of riparian vegetation.

The project will be administered by the Lassen National Forest in coordination with a DFG contract administrator. One hundred dollars of the proposed allocation total will be used to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs.

- d. San Luis Obispo Creek Spawning Barriers,  
San Luis Obispo County \$54,100.00

San Luis Obispo Creek, located in San Luis Obispo County, drains a basin of approximately 83 square miles of the Santa Lucia Mountain ranges. Several major tributaries feed into this creek, including Reservoir Canyon Creek located directly upstream of the proposed project site at Cuesta County Park. The area upstream of the park in San Luis Obispo Creek and Reservoir Canyon Creek provides some of the most suitable steelhead trout spawning habitat presently available in the basin.

A Fish and Wildlife report points out that steelhead trout is San Luis Obispo Creek's most important fishery resource, providing about 2,500 angler days of use. With the exception of Malibu Creek in Los Angeles County, this creek represents one of the southernmost steelhead streams remaining in California, out of a range which once extended to the Santa Domingo River in Baja, California.

The objective of this proposed project is to remove an existing barrier to migrating steelhead thereby allowing access to upper portions of San Luis Obispo Creek and to Reservoir Canyon Creek. The obstruction consists of a raised concrete roadway which provides vehicular access across San Luis Obispo Creek, connecting two portions of Cuesta Park.

The project consists of cutting a section of concrete out of the center of the concrete stream crossing to lower and concentrate the flow back to native grade. The cut out area will then be fitted with a steel grating to permit continued vehicular access over the stream. The project will be administered by San Luis Obispo County in coordination with a DFG contract administrator. One hundred dollars of the proposed allocation total will be used to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these three salmon, steelhead and resident fish projects as one item as proposed; allocate \$240,425.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (Stream Restoration and Enhancement), including \$300.00 to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Clyde Edon of staff was present should there be any questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE THREE SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$240,425.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR STREAM RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT, INCLUDING \$300.00 TO COVER THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

- A. CCC DEL NORTE CENTER SALMON & STEELHEAD HABITAT  
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT #2, DEL NORTE COUNTY..... \$165,425.00
- B. PICKEL MEADOW, MONO COUNTY ..... WITHDRAWN
- C. SUSAN RIVER, LASSEN COUNTY ..... \$ 20,900.00
- D. SAN LUIS OBISPO CREEK SPAWNING BARRIERS, SAN  
LUIS OBISPO COUNTY ..... \$ 54,100.00

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion #17, Del Norte County \$755,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this proposal was to acquire 102+ acres of privately owned property from four separate ownerships near the Lake Earl Wildlife Area. Mr. Howard Dick described the project. The acquisitions are part of an overall proposal to acquire lands at Lake Earl & Talawa to the 10 foot elevation to facilitate better management of the Lake in its natural state. The subject parcels are located at the north end of Lake Earl (in Talawa Slough), west of Lower Lake Road and east of the Pacific Shores subdivision.

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

The Lakes Earl & Talawa area is on the Smith River Plain, which extends southward from the mouth of the Smith River to Crescent City, the county seat of Del Norte County. The Smith River Plain is an integral part of the coastal arm of the Pacific Flyway. The waters of Lakes Earl and Talawa and the lands in this proposal include habitat that is critical to the existence of significant waterfowl populations, such as the Aleutian Canada goose. This species is presently listed by the State and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered. The waters of Lake Earl also support the highest wintering population of canvasback ducks north of San Francisco Bay. The overall flood plain, lakes and surrounding uplands support over 250 species of birds, most of them water-associated, and 58 species of mammals.

In accordance with specific authorizations made by the Board over the last 10 years, staff has acquired over 2,500 acres in fee and easements within or adjacent to Lakes Earl and Talawa. An additional 2,600 acres has been leased from the State Lands Commission, placing a total of over 5,100 acres under Department of Fish and Game management.

The acquisitions presently being proposed have been highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game in its attempt to acquire properties up to the 10 foot elevation. When this is accomplished, it will be possible to better maintain the water levels of these lakes for management of the existing fish and wildlife resources. The acquisition will also provide additional protection to the riparian habitat in this area.

In addition to protecting this valuable and ecologically significant wildlife habitat, these acquisitions will also provide additional area for a wide variety of compatible recreational and educational uses such as bird watching, nature and scientific study, hiking and horseback riding.

These properties include some land lying above the 10 foot contour line, together with improvements including a gun shop, five residences and an operating dairy. It is proposed that some of this upland area and improvements be considered surplus to habitat protection needs and used for future exchanges or, if necessary, sold as surplus property.

The owners have agreed to sell at the total approved appraised value of \$705,550.00. Anticipated costs, which include surveys, escrow, relocation costs and Department of General Services charges, are estimated to be \$49,450.00 which would bring the total necessary allocation to \$755,000.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve acquiring these properties as proposed; allocate a total of \$755,000.00 for the purchases, \$715,000.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund, as designated for coastal wetlands, and \$40,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund, specifically appropriated for Lake Earl acquisitions in the 1988/89 Budget; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and Mr. Banky Curtis from the Department's Regional Office was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Bontadelli clarified for the record that it is the intention of the Department to work cooperatively with WCB on the upland portions in order to have them as either trading properties, or resale, in order to insure that the Department can properly manage the lake in the critical areas for wildlife. It is the intent of the Department to use those funds derived for continuing the program of either exchange or acquisition that are necessary to complete the securing of the ten foot contour of the Lake Earl Wildlife Area.

Mr. Bryant 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. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE LAKE EARL WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #17, DEL NORTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$755,000.00; \$715,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS; AND \$40,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, AS SPECIFICALLY APPROPRIATED FOR LAKE EARL ACQUISITIONS IN THE 1988/89 BUDGET; 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.

15. North Table Mountain Wildlife Area, Butte County \$1,046,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this proposal was to consider the acquisition of land for the protection and preservation of northern basalt flow vernal pools and associated habitat for plant communities. Mr. Frank Giordano explained the project and its location. The site is located 5+ miles north of the City of Oroville and contains 3,571+ acres. Access is achieved via Cherokee Road which traverses the property's southeast edge and Table Mountain Road located along a western portion of the site.

North Table Mountain (NIM) is located in a foothill area where the geological composition of the hills consist of a basalt cap, dozens of feet deep, overlying earlier marine and terrestrial sedimentary deposits. While the elevation of the land in this proposal ranges from 700 to 1,400 feet above sea level, much of it is relatively flat with a southwesterly slope. Sheer cliffs about 75 feet high bound the land on all sides except the east. Portions of Beatson and Coal Canyons located on the site are the prominent deviations from an otherwise gentle relief. There are no permanent streams, but several seasonal streams produce scenic waterfalls during winter rains. Several small springs are scattered about the canyon and cliff bases.

The property contains four of the only twelve known occurrences of Northern Basalt Flow vernal pools in all of California. Additional vernal pools and swales are scattered over NIM except in the canyons. These pool and swale areas are intermixed with wildflower fields and non-native grassland communities. Considerable wildflower blooms normally occur throughout the area from February through April. Interior live oak woodland and blue oak woodland communities dominate the canyons which comprise about 20 percent of NIM. Although no state or federal listed species are known to be highly dependent upon the property, species of special concern are located thereon which are found on federal lists and on the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) lists, including the Red Bluff dwarf, the Butte County calycadenia, Austin's rockcress and Meager locoweed. In addition a number of other uncommon species are found on NIM. It also provides suitable habitat for the endangered Butte County meadowfoam. Overall, NIM contains relatively dense plant populations, including about 287 vascular plant species.

The number of mammal species present should exceed 40, while overall mammal density is estimated to exceed 20 individuals per acre. Migratory bats are known to use the area while a few migratory deer winter on the property and resident deer are present year around.

More than 120 bird species occur, about two-thirds of which are associated with the woodlands. For the species of special concern the grasslands are equal to woodlands for habitat needs. Eight bird species occur: northern harrier, merlin, prairie falcon, sharp-shinned hawk, cooper's hawk, golden eagle, short-eared owl and purple martin. The endangered peregrine falcon is a casual user of the property, primarily during the winter season. In addition, the property has populations of valley quail and wild turkey.

Reptile and amphibian species are felt to exceed 10, but densities are unknown. Locally this is one of the few places which supports the horned lizard.

North Table Mountain has been used for livestock grazing for over 100 years. Fortunately, the grazing intensity has been moderate and biological impacts have not been significant. The site has been listed for sale and the most immediate threat to this site is from private ownership which may graze the land in a manner inconsistent with preservation needs. In addition, the land could be purchased for development speculation, subdivided and sold as the communities of Oroville and Chico expand. Also several sites on North Table Mountain could be mined as rock quarries, obviously destroying the plant communities existing in those locations.

Suggested management and use for the property would provide that access be limited to foot traffic to avoid excessive impacts on rare plants, vernal pools and the shallow soils, although special tours for the handicapped could be provided along existing vehicle trails. "No entry" buffer areas are proposed to be established within 300 yards of raptor eyries or within 100 yards of waterfowl breeding sites. From February 1 through June 30, public use would most likely be restricted to trails to avoid impacts on ground nesting birds and rare plants.

Public consumptive uses such as hunting may be allowed if found to be consistent with Department management goals. However, overall area management should emphasize the protection of existing rare plant communities and possibly to attempt to establish the Butte County meadowfoam. Management objectives may include some fencing, development of parking area(s) along with restroom facilities and the establishment of pedestrian trails. There are no specific habitat management needs for animal species. The Department recommends that exotic plant species be eradicated if feasible and that grazing be continued for Eurasian grass control. The grazing intensity should not exceed current levels and may be reduced in the event of drought or if found to exceed the need to control Eurasian grasses. Any area sensitive to livestock impacts could be fenced for total exclusion or limited entry.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has secured an option to acquire this property, which they intend to exercise and thereafter, sell to the State. However, as a condition of the sale to The Nature Conservancy, the owners have required a lease-back for grazing purposes for a period of five years. This lease takes into consideration the Department's management needs for the protection and development of the site. The lease value of \$17,855+ (annually) has been approved by the Department of General Services and the consideration shall be paid to the State on a semiannual basis for the five year period. The lease will be in the Department's name and effective upon close of escrow.

TNC has agreed to sell the property to the State for the appraised value of \$1,036,000.00. Department of General Services review costs, escrow and associated closing fees are estimated to be an additional \$10,000.00. The occurrences of the scarce vernal pool habitats on the property readily qualifies the acquisition for funding under the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund within Proposition 70 of 1988.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. A Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve both the purchase of the proposed 3,571+ acres and lease-back of the land for a period of five years at the approved lease value; allocate \$1,046,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund, Section 2720 (a) as specified for significant natural areas, as established by the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988 for the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and Mr. Jim Messersmith from the Department's Regional Office was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Bryant stated he thought this was a super purchase and complimented Mr. Giordano for his good work.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONIADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE BOTH THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND THE LEASE-BACK OF THE LAND FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS AT THE APPROVED LEASE VALUE FOR THE NORTH TABLE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE AREA, BUTTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,046,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND, SECTION 2720(a), AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION ACT OF 1988 FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Eagle Lake Tributary Fish Barriers, Lassen County

\$110,100.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this project consisted of preventing upstream migration of Eagle Lake Trout by the installation of permanent impassable barriers on Papoose and Little Merrill Creeks. These creeks, which flow relatively short periods of time each spring as the snow melts in the surrounding watershed, are essentially ephemeral tributaries to Eagle Lake which is located in Lassen County. The flowing waters attract sexually mature Eagle Lake Trout looking for suitable spawning areas. However, the uncertain duration of flow usually results in stranding hundreds or thousands of fish in the creeks where they are either poached, or die, as the stream flow subsides. Large scale fish rescue efforts have been conducted in the past resulting in a significant expense to the DFG and loss of time for other allocated work plans.

The structures being proposed will replace existing nonfunctioning barriers which will be removed. The new barriers were designed by the DFG engineering personnel, who will also administer the project. The structures are designed so that they can easily be fitted with fish ladders if future habitat conditions in these small streams should change to permit successful natural spawning. The DFG will review final design and coordinate activities with the Lassen National Forest prior to finalizing the contract package. Work will be completed in late summer after the creeks are dry.

Mr. Clyde Edon described the area and the proposed project. He further reported that Eagle Lake has a very unique fishery in that the fish have evolved to accept and tolerate very high alkalinity. The only major tributary to Eagle Lake is Pine Creek and its ability to naturally produce fish was lost in the 1950's. The Department, using WCB funds, built a fish trap on Pine Creek and since the late 1950's has been collecting one million eggs per year and producing fish at the Crystal Lake and Darrah Springs Hatcheries to provide the necessary stock to continue the population of fish. The two barriers will be built in such a way that if conditions change in the future which would permit natural spawning, the barriers could be fitted with a fish ladder to permit the fish to go back up.

The Lassen National Forest has completed a scoping process for this project and has filed a Decision Notice declaring this project categorically excluded. A Notice of Exemption under Section 15301, Class 1 (i), minor alterations to improve fish habitat has been filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research by the DFG.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$110,100.00, which includes \$100.00 for Department of General Services contract review charges, from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund [Prop. 70, Section 2720 (b)-General Wildlife Section], as established by the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from Cal Trout, U.S. Forest Service and the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF NONFUNCTIONING FISH BARRIERS ON LITTLE MERRILL AND PAPOOSE CREEKS, TRIBUTARIES TO EAGLE LAKE, LASSEN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$110,100.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND, SECTION 2720 (b), AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION ACT OF 1988, INCLUDING \$100.00 FOR DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Upper Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion #1,  
Shasta & Tehama Counties \$402,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this proposal was for the acquisition, from two separate ownerships, of approximately 180 acres of irrigated pasture and riparian habitat for preservation and restoration of riparian habitat and for creation of interior wetland habitat. Mr. Jim Sarro described the project. The adjacent (east/west) properties extend from Coleman Ranch Road in Shasta County on the north through Battle Creek, which serves as the Shasta County line, and south into Tehama County. Approximately 103 acres of the proposed acquisition are located in Tehama County and include dry winter range land and riparian vegetation along Battle Creek. The Shasta County property contains approximately 77 acres of irrigated pasture and riparian habitat. The riparian habitat is scattered in areas along the north side of Battle Creek, having been reduced by farming and livestock grazing. Protection of this area would allow riparian vegetation to reestablish. Low drainage areas also exist in this area and valuable wetland habitats could readily be created. Existing water rights on the property would allow for the creation of ponds or wetlands. In addition, acquisition of the property would allow for the installation of a fish barrier to help resolve on-going salmon stranding problems caused by an irrigation diversion ditch located on the property.

The subject properties are located adjacent to and west of the 25 acre Upper Battle Creek WLA which was acquired by WCB for the Department in 1981. Battle Creek is currently closed to fishing all year, except when steelhead counts exceed 1200. At such times, the creek is open from October to January for trout fishing only. Like the first acquisition, these parcels will also provide limited public fishing access. The subject parcels are located one-half mile west of the Coleman National Fish Hatchery.

The landowners of the subject west parcel are retaining a 20 acre portion of the parcel north of Coleman Fish Hatchery Road and a 5 acre home site and residence located just south of the road. The landowners of the east parcel are likewise retaining 20 acres north of the road. The east parcel is improved with a 1380 square foot mobile home and outbuildings which are included in the acquisition, and the Department has indicated they will be able to utilize the improvements.

The land is used by a wide variety of wildlife species including many species of waterfowl, numerous raptors, deer, furbearers and nongame birds

and mammals. A bald eagle nest is located just 200 yards from the east parcel and the subject properties are known to be a forage area for these birds.

The land has been in the W. G. and Lillian J. Kohn family since 1943 and, due in large part to Mrs. Kohn's vision and initiative, the land has been offered for sale to the State by her heirs, the current landowners. Mrs. Kohn has instilled in her heirs her long-held belief that the land should remain a haven for wildlife and be kept in a natural state for the benefit of the State's fish and wildlife and for the enjoyment of future generations.

The property has water rights to a diversion ditch which delivers irrigation water from Battle Creek to both properties. The landowners have agreed to enter into a water allocation agreement which will divide the water rights proportionally relative to the lands being retained by each landowner and the lands being acquired by the State. The State Lands Commission review indicated no State sovereign interests, either in fee or public trust, exist on the property.

The landowners have agreed to sell their ownership as follows: West parcel of 87+ acres for \$182,100; and East Parcel of 93+ acres and improvements for \$209,150. Department of General Services review costs, appraisal and closing expenses are estimated to be \$10,750.00. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt reported this acquisition would provide the opportunity for restoration of some historical wetland habitat and to install a screen on the diversion ditch going out of the river which is presently a good source of salmon and steelhead spawning loss in the area.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of these two parcels totaling 180+ acres as proposed; allocate \$402,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund for the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that he did not know of any opposition and letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife, Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association, a personal letter from Mr. John Reginato, ex-Director of the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association, and a letter from Mr. Lee Salter.

Mr. Bontadelli reported he had recently visited the site and it is a beautiful area with high wildlife value use year round and is one of the better projects done in a while.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE UPPER BATTLE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #1, SHASTA AND TEHAMA COUNTIES, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$402,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area, Plumas County

\$1,015,937.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this proposal was to acquire 740+ acres of land located 2+ miles north of the town of Beckwourth, in Plumas County. The primary access is via County Road 111, which connects with Highway 70 at Beckwourth and continues northwesterly, bisecting portions of the subject property. The land is relatively flat to rolling hills with gentle topography. Elevations range from 5,000 feet at the edge of Sierra Valley to about 6,200 feet toward the north end of the site.

Mr. Frank Giordano explained that the proposed acquisition provides important habitat for the Doyle Deer Herd, as delineated on the Department of Fish and Game's migratory deer maps. This habitat includes key summer range, high density fawning habitat and a major migration corridor.

Diverse habitat types are found on the parcel. Pasture habitat mixed with sagebrush habitat is found at the lowest elevations at the edge of Sierra Valley. As elevation increases to the north, the habitat changes to montane chaparral with some pockets of eastside pine providing the best fawning habitat. In the Crocker Meadows area a pasture habitat is intertwined with a climax (not necessarily old-growth) eastside pine habitat. Further north and at the highest elevation isolated parcels within the site support mixed conifer. Riparian habitat is present but is not a major contributor to the property.

The primary wildlife species using the subject property are mule deer of the Doyle Deer Herd, a herd which is felt to be of local, regional and interstate significance. The primary period of deer use is spring through fall. The range of the Doyle Deer Herd is well-known as a high quality hunting area. The area is also known regionally and statewide as one where people can quite readily view and photograph large numbers of deer. Other game and nongame animals are also found in the area including valley and mountain quail, mountain lion, bear, coyote, gray fox, hawks, golden eagles, prairie falcons and a variety of other nongame birds. Squirrels and other furbearers make use of the area on a year-round basis. Sierra Valley and its surrounding area including the subject property is heavily used as a raptor wintering area.

The main threat to the present habitat is proposed development by the owners. The threat is more than just imminent since the owners have already filed and received county approval of eight individual Tentative Subdivision Maps which coincide with the area proposed for acquisition. A road system for the proposed subdivision is developed with drainage ditches and culverts already in place. While the roads have not yet been graveled, the owner has stated that if and when he commences to gravel them, opportunity for this acquisition will be lost.

The area is readily accessible and could be open to a variety of recreational opportunities. The project site is essentially surrounded by public land open to hunting and it would be appropriate to also allow hunting on this area. There is substantial opportunity for nonconsumptive uses, as well, including camping, hiking, photography and sightseeing. Photography and sightseeing are greatly enhanced by the easy access to the area by way of a paved county road. Access in the winter may be temporarily restricted due to snow.

The Department anticipates that operational and maintenance costs would be minimal. Approximately two miles of new fencing would be required to separate the acquired land from the remainder of the owner's property in order to control cattle grazing. Fence maintenance appears to be the only long-term cost involved.

The proposed acquisition is part of a coordinated effort between the Department and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), which owns the lands to the north of this private ownership, to preserve this key habitat. It is planned that the USFS will, concurrently with WCB's acquisition, purchase 740+ acres from the owners as well. The landowner would also give the State an option, exercisable within 120 days, to purchase the remaining 1,080 acres of this ownership. If funding becomes available, staff contemplates bringing this second phase to the Board for consideration at the August, 1990, meeting.

The owners have agreed to sell the subject land at the approved fair market value of \$1,005,937.00 and to execute the State's option to purchase the remaining 1,080+ at the current appraised value. Processing costs for this first phase are estimated to be an additional \$10,000.00 which includes escrow and the Department of General Services review costs. Funding is available for this acquisition from the Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund (Proposition 99) of 1988.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this purchase as proposed, while accepting an option to purchase an additional 1,080+ acres, allocate \$1,015,937.00 for the first phase from the Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund (Proposition 99), as budgeted for deer habitat acquisitions, for the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and the Plumas County Fish and Game Commission.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND ACCEPTING AN OPTION TO PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL 1,080+ ACRES FOR THE CROCKER MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA, PLUMAS COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,015,937.00 FOR THE FIRST PHASE FROM THE PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND (PROPOSITION 99) FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Calaveras County \$570,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this was a proposal to consider adding 514.38+ acres of land to the Sheep Ranch WLA which consists of critical winter range and migratory corridor for the Railroad Flat Deer Herd. The Board at its May 11, 1989, meeting, authorized purchasing 1,496.87 acres of adjacent land for protection of wintering habitat for this herd. To date 669.87 acres have been purchased and a conservation easement over the remaining acreage is in the process of being negotiated. The conservation easement acquisition has not yet been consummated due to some title problems being cleared up by the landowner. Mr. Howard Dick explained the proposal.

The subject property is located in central Calaveras County approximately two miles northeast of Sheep Ranch, a small community located about 15 miles east of San Andreas, the Calaveras County seat. It lies about three air miles south of Swiss Ranch Road, an area where the Board has previously funded the acquisition of 900 acres of conservation easements for protection of additional wintering habitat for this herd.

Land uses in the general area are rapidly changing from large cattle ranches to small acreage ranchettes. In fact, the property proposed for acquisition is already subdivided into 40 acre parcels, two of which have already been sold. If not acquired the remaining property will no doubt be sold and developed in the very near future. The Department of Fish and Game indicates that the protection of this property is critical to the continued integrity of the Railroad Flat Deer Herd. While protecting additional habitat, the property's acquisition will also provide a protected migratory corridor from the existing Sheep Ranch WLA to the Stanislaus National Forest, which is located on the east boundary of this property. The value of the general area to this herd has been demonstrated via recent and past radio telemetry studies and annual herd composition counts. In fact, based on a sample taken over the previous six years, it is reported that an average of 25% - 30% of the entire herd uses this area. The area's large winter deer population enjoys a great deal of notoriety and efforts to protect this habitat have won strong support from local government and sportsmen groups.

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

While the proposed use of the area is to be primarily deer habitat and migration corridor protection, there is a possibility of some limited public access. However, DFG feels that unrestricted public access could create added potential for degradation of the existing habitat. Management costs are not estimated to be high since the area will be primarily left in its existing condition. Since the property has already been subdivided, one of the conditions of the sale is that a one lane gravel road must be maintained in a driveable condition for access by DFG and the two lots previously sold by the owner of the subject property.

The owners have agreed to sell the 514.38+ acre parcel at its approved fair market value of \$563,000.00. It is estimated an additional \$7,000 will be required for related acquisition costs, including appraisal, title insurance and processing costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$570,000.00 from the Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988 (Proposition 99), as budgeted for deer habitat acquisitions, to cover the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt reported that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and Mr. Jim Messersmith from the Department's Regional Office was present should there be any questions.

Mr. David Hill, adjacent landowner, expressed his concerns regarding the maintenance of the access road to his property. Mr. Dick stated that the agreement states the road will be kept open for the landowners. Mr. Schmidt added that when this property was subdivided, the intent was that every property owner would pay a fee to maintain the roads, like a condominium or homeowner's fee. Then, when the Department came in and made the proposal to buy the property, it would have wiped out the access road had DFG bought it and not maintained the road which you have a right to by virtue of your original acquisition. Part of this proposal is that the road be maintained for your purposes and it would additionally serve the DFG for internal management purposes.

Mr. Hill then asked how will the property be posted and will there be access to the public. Mr. Messersmith responded that right now people use the area and are trespassing. It is a winter range, so it is an area typically that gets lightly hunted simply because the big time of the year when most of the deer are heavily concentrated there is after the normal hunting season. It will be the responsibility of DFG to post signs around the boundary of the property.

Mr. Bontadelli asked that Mr. Hill and Mr. Messersmith establish a rapport today that will be usable in maintaining follow up on questions that might arise in the future. Mr. Bontadelli stated that it was his understanding that this property is winter range and is part of an overall program put into place for this deer herd which includes the protection of the corridors as well as the summer range. He then asked Mr. Messersmith to briefly explain how this fits into this program. Mr. Messersmith stated that the Railroad Flat Deer Herd is one of the few herds that have been maintained in high numbers and part of that reason is because of these large land holdings. Part of the overall concept in proposing an acquisition of land for protecting migratory deer, is to make sure summer range, winter range and corridors are all involved in that total project. This acquisition is a key part, plus there is another owner who wishes to donate several hundred acres in this same area.

Ms. Edna Maita asked if this project would qualify under Proposition 117 (Mountain Lion Initiative). Mr. Bontadelli responded he would have to take a look at it but believed it probably would qualify.

Mr. Bryant 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. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE SHEEP RANCH WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #1, CALAVERAS COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$570,000.00 FROM THE PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND OF 1988 (PROPOSITION 99) 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. Cosumnes River Wildlife Area (Orr Road), Sacramento County \$1,635,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this was a proposal to acquire a parcel along the Cosumnes River, containing up to 840 acres, which includes an extensive valley oak forest and freshwater marsh habitat. Mr. Dick explained the location. The property, which is located on Orr road, approximately four miles west of the community of Galt, actually straddles the Cosumnes River, joining The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Cosumnes River Preserve located to the west.

The oak riparian forest on the property is one of the best quality stands in the joint Cosumnes River project area. The freshwater marshes, located within its boundaries, form several large lakes of standing water which generally remain throughout the year, attracting many migratory and resident birds. The property also includes a small portion of pasture land which has been irrigated but not leveled, and roughly 200 acres of disturbed grassland which could be restored to seasonal freshwater marsh habitat. Improvements located on the property include a main ranch residence, a small ancillary residence, several storage sheds and grain storage facilities, a barn, hen house, corrals and well/pump systems. A life estate will be reserved to these improvements by Mr. & Mrs. Smithson who currently reside on the property. Mrs. Smithson's family founded this ranch, locally known as the Orr Ranch, more than 100 years ago.

Habitat which will be preserved is significant because the riparian community located in this area represents the upland edge of the forest where Valley oaks begin to mix with California buckeye, an important transition zone between the riparian community and the upland oak grassland community. This type of land is not currently protected in the existing preserved lands within the Cosumnes River area.

The property supports several species of concern including the state-listed threatened Greater Sandhill Crane, which uses it for roosting and feeding during the day. It also provides critical habitat for the state-listed threatened Swainson's hawk, which is known to nest on the property. It is felt, but not yet confirmed, that the state-listed threatened Giant Garter

Snake will also be found on the property. Many other wildlife species have been observed using the property including, but not limited to waterfowl, deer, a wide variety of songbirds and small mammals common to this habitat type.

The main threat to the Cosumnes River area as a whole is urbanization. This property is particularly vulnerable to the pressures of expanding residential development because much of the property lies above the flood plain boundary where development potential is greatest. In fact, new housing developments have already begun within two miles of the property. Such development on this property would destroy its sensitive and diverse wildlife values.

This acquisition has been highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game and is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The primary management objective for the property would be the protection of the existing natural habitat and restoration of degraded areas. These objectives could be met by eliminating the existing cattle grazing on the property and restoring the disturbed grassland area to seasonal freshwater marsh. The Nature Conservancy has indicated a willingness to work cooperatively with the Department in its restoration and management efforts on this project.

A determination of State Lands claims has been requested, since a portion of the property may be subject to such claims. The appraiser has stated that, in his opinion, the upland values of this property, because of its relationship to the water and uses thereof, would not change by virtue of possible state claim to the water-covered areas. In other words, if the State deemed it appropriate to discount its payment to the sellers to account for State claims to portions of the property, the value of the remaining land must necessarily be modified upward to reflect fair market value of the entire ranch as it now exists. The owners have agreed to sell the property for its appraised value of \$1,621,500 which takes into account a reduction for the life estate being reserved to one of the grantors. In addition, it is estimated that \$13,500 will be needed to cover costs of escrow, possible relocation and Department of General Services charges.

Mr. Schmidt reported that in working with State Lands on this issue, they claim about 5 acres in fee and about 23 acres in a navigable easement; however, the appraisal does reflect the upland values and State Lands has given their concurrence as far as settling this deal.

Staff recommended that the Board approve acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate a total of \$1,635,000.00; \$1,500,000.00 from the Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988 (Prop. 99) as specifically budgeted for this project in the 1989/90 budget, and \$135,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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

Mr. Livio Ceccarini and his son, Tony Ceccarini, owners of a ranch on Orr Road across from the proposed purchase, expressed concern regarding the continuation of discharging their agricultural drain water to the property across the street which the State is proposing to purchase. Mr. Messersmith stated this was not a unique problem and that all agricultural drain water discharges are subject to water quality standards. He added that agricultural discharges are checked and agricultural drain water is used on a lot of State property and unless you are discharging something the Water Quality Control Board will not tolerate in the first place, then there shouldn't be a problem. For example - Gray Lodge Wildlife Area is all agricultural drain water consisting mostly of rice drain water.

Mr. Bontadelli asked that if a change in the current practice of accepting drain water containing chemicals was of concern to the Ceccarini's. Tony Ceccarini stated 'yes' because the way the law is, it could change at any time and this preserve was going to be permanent. Tony Ceccarini added that in a year from now, maybe the levels that are acceptable now will be unacceptable and then they will be forced to change. Mr. Bontadelli stated if the levels are acceptable at the current time, it is DFG's intention to continue accepting the drain water as long as it meets the current standards. If there is a change in the standards, whether DFG owns the property or a private ownership continues to own the property, the requirements that go with those changes will be mandated on them anyway. Mr. Bontadelli stated he understood the Ceccarini's concerns but could not anticipate what someone else will do down the road, and in the interim from a management standpoint that DFG would definitely like to continue accepting the water. Mr. Battson asked if the standards would be higher because of the area being a wildlife area. Mr. Messersmith indicated they would not -- as long as Water Quality Control Board standards are met.

Mr. Livio Ceccarini asked if they would get damage to their crops from the additional wildlife to the area. Mr. Bryant stated that there probably won't be any more wildlife added than what is already present. Tony Ceccarini stated that by taking the cattle off the proposed purchased property and making the habitat more acceptable, more birds will come in and they won't know the difference between our property and your preserve. They will go to the nice green crops with plenty of water. The Ceccarini's have problems with ducks and geese and farm wheat, milo, rice, clover seed, and corn. Mr. Messersmith explained that before wildlife areas are opened for hunting, they are created to attract the birds.

Mr. Bontadelli stated that if the Ceccarini's have an increase in depredation, a depredation permit process is currently authorized by law and the Department will work with them to resolve any problems. Part of the overall concept of working on this preserve is to work with adjacent landowners to try to resolve conflicts. He indicated that he could not anticipate, at this point, what the damage will, or will not be, but it was his personal belief that by having the preserve and by managing it correctly, we will actually be bringing birds away from the adjacent property.

The area will remain a wildlife area and will not be developed. Mr. Bontadelli stated that the mere presence of a preserve does not dictate what the county will or will not permit from a development standpoint and that will be dealt with through the county process. Another concern of the Ceccarini's was that their land is also their retirement and they feel being next to a wildlife preserve will decrease the value of their land. Mr. Schmidt added that his experience was just the opposite, that if people could live next to a wildlife area, land values increase.

The next speaker was Mr. Wendel Flint, owner of the adjacent Nicolaus Ranch, who supported the acquisition. Three years ago he sold 450 acres of land to The Nature Conservancy. He expressed concern that public relations efforts could be improved and would oppose any park development with general public access. He also added that he liked seeing this happen and the area is very beautiful.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE COSUMNES RIVER WILDLIFE AREA (ORR ROAD), SACRAMENTO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$1,635,000.00; \$1,500,000.00 FROM THE PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND OF 1988 (PROPOSITION 99) AS SPECIFICALLY BUDGETED FOR THIS PROJECT IN THE 1989/90 BUDGET, AND \$135,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. by Chairman Bryant.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt  
Executive Director

## PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 10, 1990, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$244,338,283.89. 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, the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Act, the California Wildlife Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988 and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

a. Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects .....	\$16,005,271.06
b. Fish Habitat Development .....	11,470,341.51
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .	\$3,065,821.39
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement .....	5,536,058.73
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams .....	498,492.86
4. Marine Habitat .....	646,619.07
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,723,349.46
c. Fishing Access Projects .....	33,043,752.79
1. Coastal and Bay .....	\$3,088,872.80
2. River and Aqueduct Access .....	7,031,234.03
3. Lake and Reservoir Access .....	6,213,626.03
4. Piers .....	16,710,019.93
d. Game Farm Projects .....	146,894.49
e. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects ..	176,335,656.55
1. Wildlife Areas (General) .....	\$130,514,577.90
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ...	3,308,962.19
3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Rare & Endangered) .....	42,512,116.46
f. Hunting Access .....	533,743.57
g. Miscellaneous Projects .....	6,008,012.87
h. Special Project Allocations .....	311,995.42
i. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects .....	482,615.63
 Total Allocated to Projects .....	 \$244,338,283.89