

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 November 1, 1990

<u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes	2
3. Funding Status	2
4. Recovery of Funds	4
 <u>WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND</u>	
5. Vallejo Fishing Pier, Solano County	7
 <u>WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND/ CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70)</u>	
6. Hope Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Alpine County	8
 <u>CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70)</u>	
7. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 215-L, Butte County ...	9
8. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 171-R, Glenn County ...	11
9. Mendota Wildlife Area, Expansion #10, Fresno County	12
 <u>WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND (P-70)</u>	
10. Del Monte Dunes Ecological Reserve, Monterey County	14
11. Buttonwillow Ecological Reserve, Kern County	16
 <u>CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70)/ WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND (P-70)</u>	
12. Silver Creek Wildlife Area, Lassen County	17
 <u>1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19)</u>	
13. Navarro River/Lake Earl Land Exchange, Mendocino & Del Norte Cos.	20
14. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion #18, Del Norte County	23
 <u>ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND</u>	
15. Suisun Marsh Habitat Enhancement Project, Solano County	25

ITEM NO.

PAGE NO.

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117)

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 16. | Salmon Falls Ecological Reserve, El Dorado County | 28 |
| 17. | Baldwin Lake Ecological Res. Exp.#1, San Bernardino County | 30 |

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND/

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70)/

1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19)/

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117)

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 18. | Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County | 32 |
| 19. | Other Business | 35 |
| | Program Statement | 36 |

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

Minutes, Meeting of November 1, 1990

Pursuant to the call of the Chairman Robert A. Bryant, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 113 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on November 1, 1990. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Bryant.

1. Roll Call

Present:

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

Absent:

Assemblyman Norman Waters	Joint Interim Committee
Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
Senator David Roberti	Joint Interim Committee

Staff Present:

W. John Schmidt	Executive Director
Alvin G. Rutsch	Asst. Executive Director
Clyde S. Edon	Field Agent
Jim Sarro	Chief Land Agent/ Asst. Executive Director
Howard Dick	Senior Land Agent
Frank Giordano	Senior Land Agent
Georgia Lipphardt	Associate Land Agent
Marylyn Gzyms	Staff Services Analyst
Sylvia Gude	Staff Services Analyst
Sandy Daniel	Executive Secretary
Janice Beeding	Office Technician

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

<u>Others Present:</u>	Dennis Beardsley	Greater Vallejo Recreation Dist.
	Don Koch	Department of Fish and Game
	Bellory Fong	Department of Water Resources
	L. B. Boydstun	Department of Fish and Game
	Mark Palmer	Mountain Lion Preservation Found.
	Michael Otten	Bakersfield Californian
	Richard Spotts	Defenders of Wildlife
	Janet Diehl	State Coastal Conservancy
	Dakota Livesay	Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation
	Ken Berg	Department of Fish and Game
	Mark Skinner	California Native Plant Society
	Bill Betts	Assembly Republican Caucus

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the August 9, 1990, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended subject to the following correction:

"Funding for Item #10 (Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Plumas County) was shown in the minutes as coming from two sources, one of which was Section 2720 (a) of the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988. In fact, this should read Section 2720 (b) of the act."

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 1990, BE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE FUNDING CORRECTION FOR ITEM #10 (CROCKER MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #1, PLUMAS COUNTY) WHICH SHOULD BE SECTION 2720 (b) OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION ACT OF 1988 AND NOT SECTION 2720 (a) AS SHOWN IN THE MINUTES.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Funding Status as of November 1, 1990 (Information Only)

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

(a) 1990/91 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 100,000.00
Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$ 250,000.00

(b) 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	-298,519.63
Unallocated Balance	\$ 230,480.37
Governor's Budget - Major Development	\$ 500,000.00

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$1,730,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,724,978.12
Plus LWCF Reimbursement	+ 100,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 105,021.88

(d) 1989/90 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Added to Governor's Budget by Ch. 1241	\$ 950,000.00
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(e) 1988/89 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$3,292,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-2,887,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 405,000.00

(f) 1990/91 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$1,740,000.00
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(g) 1989/90 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$4,093,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,441,531.90
Unallocated Balance	\$2,651,468.10

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

Governor's Budget	\$3,434,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-3,326,818.74
Unallocated Balance	\$ 107,181.26

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

Governor's Budget	\$15,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 2,917,574.35
Unallocated Balance	\$12,082,425.65

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

Governor's Budget	\$10,500,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-9,889,885.37
Unallocated Balance	\$ 610,114.63

(k) 1988/89 California Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Direct appropriation to the Wildlife Conservation Board	\$81,300,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-26,050,243.12
Less State administrative costs	- 1,219,500.00
Unallocated Balance	\$54,030,256.88

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

(1) 1990/91 Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget \$ 985,000.00

(m) 1989/90 Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget \$ 5,500,000.00
Less previous Board allocations - 4,500,000.00
Unallocated Balance \$ 1,000,000.00

(n) 1990/91 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget \$10,800,000.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund

Acquisition \$ 435,502.25
Minor Development \$ 250,000.00
Major Development \$ 500,000.00

Environmental License Plate Fund \$ 1,355,000.00
1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement \$ 4,498,649.36

California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land
Conservation Fund of 1988 \$54,030,256.88

Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund \$12,692,540.28

Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund \$ 1,985,000.00

Habitat Conservation Fund \$10,800,000.00

4. Recovery of Funds

The following 8 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:

\$2,927.53 to the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,
\$22,744.00 to the California Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Cons. Fund,
\$10,019.40 to the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund;

and that the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Kirby Park (Elkhorn Slough) Public Access, Monterey County

Allocation \$200,000.00
Expended -200,000.00
Balance for Recovery \$ -0-

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$ -0-

1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Johnson Creek, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$31,500.00
Expended	-29,703.12
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,796.88

San Elijo Lagoon Eco-Reserve, Expansion #3, San Diego County

Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Expended	- 869.35
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,130.65

Total Fish & Wildlife Hab. Enhancement Fund Recoveries \$ 2,927.53

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988

Napa Marsh, Steamboat Slough, Expansion #3, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$ 8,900.00
Expended	- 7,034.10
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,865.90

Napa Marsh WLA, Tolay Creek, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$159,280.00
Expended	-156,165.95
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,114.05

North Grasslands Wildlife Area (Salt Slough Unit & China Island Unit),
Merced & Stanislaus Counties

Allocation	\$3,919,810.00
Expended	-3,905,307.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 14,503.00

Upper Sacramento River Riparian Habitat, River Mile 159.5-R, Colusa
County

Allocation	\$118,000.00
Expended	-114,738.95
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,261.05

Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land
Conservation Fund of 1988 Recoveries \$ 22,744.00

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND

North Grasslands WLA, (Salt Slough Unit & China Island Unit),
Merced & Stanislaus Counties

Allocation	\$2,355,190.00
Expended	-2,345,170.60
Balance for Recovery	\$ 10,019.40

Total Wildlife & Natural Areas Conser. Fund Recoveries ... \$ 10,019.40

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 4 THROUGH 6 AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$2,927.53 TO THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND; \$22,744.00 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988; AND \$10,019.40 TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Vallejo Fishing Pier, Solano County

\$30,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this proposal was in response to the Board's request at the August 9, 1990, Board meeting to present a summary of the engineer's report of the structural condition of the Vallejo Fishing Pier, which the Board had authorized at the August 11, 1988, meeting, and an allocation request to fund the soil analysis, engineering design and preliminary plans to reconstruct the pier. This pier is owned by the Department of Fish and Game and operated by the Greater Vallejo Recreation District.

The report recommended an option which will effect some savings by re-using the existing concrete deck, yet be just as durable as a new concrete structure having a life expectancy of 80 years. A firm cost estimate for the reconstruction cannot be made, however, without an analysis of the soil conditions at the site and a detailed engineering design--work which was beyond the scope of the study.

After hearing the summary and reviewing the various options for pier renovation or reconstruction given by the study, the Board instructed staff to bring a recommendation to the next Board meeting requesting funds for the engineering work necessary to proceed with a project.

Staff recommended that the Board allocate \$30,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for soil analysis, engineering design, preliminary plans and detailed cost estimate to reconstruct the Vallejo Fishing Pier, Solano County, and that staff and the Department of Fish and Game be authorized to proceed with the work in cooperation with the Greater Vallejo Recreation District substantially as planned, and to bring back a funding recommendation at a future date as funds become available.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Dennis Beardsley from the Greater Vallejo Recreation District was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Bontadelli commented that this basically follows up on the last meeting and confirms going with the engineers plans and being able to save money in the long run.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ALLOCATE \$30,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR SOIL ANALYSIS, ENGINEERING DESIGN, PRELIMINARY PLANS AND DETAILED COST ESTIMATE TO RECONSTRUCT THE VALLEJO FISHING PIER, SOLANO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; AND THAT STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME BE AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE WORK IN COOPERATION WITH THE GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED AND TO BRING BACK A FUNDING RECOMMENDATION AT A FUTURE DATE AS FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Hope Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Alpine County \$45,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to acquire a privately owned 20 acre parcel in Hope Valley, Alpine County, which is a continuation of one of the mandated projects in Prop. 70. Since the first proposal for Hope Valley was brought before the Board at its November 15, 1988, meeting, staff has acquired approximately 2,830.24 acres within this valley. Mr. Howard Dick described that Hope Valley lies on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Alpine County approximately 15 miles south of South Lake Tahoe. This parcel, which is surrounded by the Toiyabe National Forest, is ideally situated for eventual conversion to a rural residence due to its proximity to the Tahoe Basin where current building restrictions make development very difficult. Also, the excellent access to Hope Valley from Lake Tahoe and the San Joaquin Valley, via Highways 88 and 89, could mean almost certain destruction of this prime habitat by future development. A site with similar characteristics was recently developed on Blue Lake Road, just to the east of the subject parcel.

Topography within the Hope Valley Wildlife Area consists of a grassland meadow complex on the level valley floor and Jeffrey pine forest on the surrounding slopes that includes small scattered meadows, riparian fingers along drainages and aspen thickets, all at elevations varying between 7,000 and 8,300 feet. Highways 88 and 89 wind through the valley. It is considered to be one of the most scenic valleys in the Sierra Nevadas and is an area which certainly deserves protection.

The area provides excellent deer summer range and fawning habitat during the late spring through fall months for mule deer in the Carson River Deer Herd. Nesting, foraging, shelter and denning sites are available for raptors and their various rodent prey species. Upland game species, such as blue grouse and mountain quail, use the riparian zones and Jeffrey pine forest areas that meet their habitat requirements. A wide variety of songbirds associated with high mountain meadows and adjacent forests, are also present. Rainbow trout are found in the streams, providing good fishing opportunities. Nonconsumptive uses with low impacts such as hiking, sightseeing, and cross country skiing are currently enjoyed in the area and would also be encouraged as long as such activities do not conflict with maintaining vegetative communities and scenic values. This parcel can be easily managed in conjunction with the Hope Valley Wildlife Area.

The parcel involved in this proposal has been optioned by The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and it is anticipated that the land will be purchased directly from TPL after they exercise their option. TPL has agreed to sell the parcel to the State at its approved appraised value of \$42,000. In addition, it is anticipated that \$3,000 will be needed to cover processing costs, including review and escrow fees. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate a total of \$45,000.00; \$41,057.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), as specifically

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

designated for Hope Valley [Section 5907 (c)(13)] and \$3,943.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE HOPE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #3 PROPERTY, ALPINE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$45,000.00; \$41,057.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), AS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED FOR HOPE VALLEY [SECTION 5907 (c)(13)], AND \$3,943.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt introduced Ms. Sandy Silberstein, representing Senator Presley, who joined the meeting at this time.

7. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 215-L,
Butte County \$115,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to acquire portions of two parcels of land totaling 165.5+ acres of riparian habitat on the east bank of the Sacramento River. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt described the project. The property is located on the river just south of the Tehama County/Butte County line, about two miles downstream of the Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area. Both parcels are located within the floodplain of the Sacramento River and are situated on either side of a 312+ acre parcel previously acquired by the Board, known as Merrills Landing. As with the original acquisition, this parcel will be managed by the Department of Fish and Game in conjunction with other DFG holdings along the Sacramento River, for preservation of riparian habitat. A 40+ acre portion of the west parcel contains an almond orchard which is not being acquired. The balance of property being acquired is undeveloped river jungle and gravel.

This type of riparian habitat supports more than 200 species of birds and 42 species of mammals and is considered by the Department to be a very productive terrestrial ecosystem. Endangered or threatened species dependent upon these riparian forests include the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, Yellow-billed cuckoo and the California hibiscus. Bird species of special concern include the double-crested cormorant, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, osprey, merlin, long-eared owl, willow flycatcher, purple martin, bank swallow, yellow warbler and the yellow-breasted chat.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

Much of this type of habitat has already been cleared along the Sacramento River as evidenced by Department of Fish and Game studies which show that only about one percent of the Sacramento Valley riparian forests of the early 1800's remain today. Public acquisition of this habitat would prevent further loss. In addition to rounding out the Department's holdings, state acquisition will allow the Department the opportunity to restore and enhance habitat on this property.

Access to the property is from the river as well as from Ballard Road, a county road that dead ends just south of the east parcel's property line. The east parcel encompasses a portion of the old river channel, which is now a small slough with freshwater flowing in from the upper end.

The owner has agreed to sell the subject parcels at the approved fair market value of \$110,000. Processing costs are estimated to be \$5,000 which includes the costs of appraisal, escrow and Department of General Services charges. Potential State claims to the property by way of the State Lands Commission have been considered and their effect on value has been taken into account.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$115,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), as designated for the Sacramento River under Section 5907 (c)(8); 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 Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 215-L, BUTTE COUNTY PARCEL AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$115,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), AS DESIGNATED FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER UNDER SECTION 5907 (c)(8); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 171-R,
Glenn County

\$114,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to acquire a portion of three parcels of land totaling 113+ acres of riparian habitat on the west bank of the Sacramento River, about three miles south of the town of Glenn. Ms. Lipphardt explained the project. The entire ownership contains 373+ acres of land formed from an old oxbow of the Sacramento River. In the center of the property, approximately 260 acres have been developed to orchard use. The balance of the property, which is the subject of this proposal, is comprised of uncleared riparian woodlands, pond areas and sand bars. The State Department of Water Resources (DWR) manages an intervening 69+ parcel as well as a 31+ acre parcel on the east bank of the river, which they maintain in a natural state for flood control purposes. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recently acquired the adjacent parcel to the south of the subject, totaling approximately 266 acres. The Service intends to restore this previously farmed area to riparian habitat. This area, coupled with the DWR property and the proposed acquisition will create a 479 acre block of publicly-owned riparian habitat on two sides of the river. The deeded right to access the property over adjacent lands is also part of the acquisition proposal. Ms. Lipphardt reported that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has just acquired about 300 acres south of this parcel so it will tie up a nice section of public ownership.

This type of riparian habitat supports more than 200 species of birds and 42 species of mammals and is considered by the Department to be a very productive terrestrial ecosystem. Endangered or threatened species dependent upon these riparian forests include the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, Yellow-billed cuckoo and the California hibiscus. Bird species of special concern include the double-crested cormorant, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, osprey, merlin, long-eared owl, willow flycatcher, purple martin, bank swallow, yellow warbler and the yellow-breasted chat.

Much of this type of habitat has already been cleared along the Sacramento River as evidenced by Department of Fish and Game studies which show that only about one percent of the Sacramento Valley riparian forests of the early 1800's remain today. Public acquisition of this habitat would prevent further loss. Other Department holdings in the area include the Pine Creek, Shannon Slough and Jacinto Units, as well as acquisitions at River Miles 155, 159.5 and 160. Management of the parcels would be in conjunction with these Department holdings.

The owner has agreed to sell the subject parcels at the approved fair market value of \$109,200. Processing costs are estimated to be \$4,800, which includes the costs of appraisal, escrow and Department of General Services charges. Potential State claims to this property by way of the California State Lands Commission have been considered and their effect on the fair market value has been taken into account in the appraisal.

Acquisition of this property will help fulfill the Department's objective of preserving and protecting riparian habitat within California and, specifically, along the Sacramento River. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt noted that the parcel is a strange configuration but it is an old oxbow in the River and, as shown in the photos being passed around, it has tremendous riparian habitat and very likely could be put into agricultural use if not protected. Mr. Schmidt also noted that letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this Upper Sacramento River parcel, as proposed; allocate \$114,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), as designated for the Sacramento River under Section 5907 (c)(8); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Stancell asked if the State Lands Commission had raised any issues and, if so, had they been fully addressed. Ms. Lipphardt responded that staff reviewed State Lands claims and it was given to the appraiser and was considered in the appraisal. Mr. Schmidt added that this was done on both Upper Sacramento River parcels.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 171-R, GLENN COUNTY PARCEL AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$114,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), AS DESIGNATED FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER UNDER SECTION 5907 (c)(8); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Mendota Wildlife Area, Expansion #10, Fresno County \$145,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this item was to consider the proposed acquisition of a 54.33+ acre private inholding within the boundaries of the Mendota Wildlife Area in Fresno County. Mr. Howard Dick explained the location. This wildlife area is located approximately 30 miles west of Fresno via Highway 180 (Whitesbridge Road) and about two miles southeast of the town of Mendota. The acquisition of this property will add an additional 54.33 acres of wetlands to the 12,093+ acre wildlife area, and insure that this parcel, which is currently utilized as a private duck club, will remain as wetlands in the future.

Migratory waterfowl utilize the Mendota WLA from October through February with numerous resident species of birds (egrets, heron, pheasant, quail) and mammals occurring year-round. In addition, migrant bird species become abundant seasonally, e.g., dove in summer and various songbirds and raptors in winter.

Also adjacent to the Mendota WLA, on the north side along Highway 180, is the 933+ acre Alkali Sink Ecological Reserve. These two areas and the proposed acquisition would bring the total DFG acreage in this vicinity to over 13,080 acres representing varying habitat types ranging from waterways and wetlands on Mendota to the dry, desert like habitat on Alkali Sink.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

The acquisition of this parcel and other inholdings have been highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game and they do not anticipate the acquisition of this area will increase management costs. The property is surrounded on three sides by DFG holdings and can easily be incorporated into the wildlife area with existing staff and equipment. This purchase is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The owners have agreed to sell the property to the State at its approved fair market value of \$141,500. In addition to the appraised value, acquisition costs, including appraisal costs, escrow fees and the Department of General Services review costs are estimated to be \$3,500 which would bring the total allocation necessary to \$145,000.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this 54.33+ acre parcel as proposed; allocate \$145,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(B) as designated for interior wetland habitat, 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 this acquisition meets the goals of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture. Letters of support have been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #10, FRESNO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$145,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B) AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLAND HABITAT, 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.

10. Del Monte Dunes Ecological Reserve, Monterey County \$705,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was for the acquisition of 10+ acres of coastal dune property within the City of Monterey. The proposed purchase is a portion of a larger acquisition (35.86+) which, if approved by all parties, will include participation from five separate entities as described herein.

Ms. Lipphardt described the project location. The optioned property runs nearly a quarter mile along Monterey Bay, then inland about a third of a mile until it hits Del Monte Boulevard, its southern border. Apartment houses are located at its western border and Monterey State Beach is on the east.

The site contains coastal dunes that rise from the bay approximately 75 feet toward Del Monte Boulevard, and then drop sharply, leaving a narrow strip of street-level land next to Del Monte Boulevard. This two acre strip is occupied by remnant tanks and several industrial structures left from an oil storage and distribution operation.

The option calls for the sellers to develop and implement a site remediation plan, with Conservancy's approval, as well as to clean-up the site, to a maximum cost of \$500,000. Acquisition is subject to State approval, through the Coastal Conservancy, of the plan and satisfactory performance of site clean-up. The property is presently undeveloped, but has been the subject of two separate residential development proposals in the last five years.

The site contains introduced and reestablishing natural dune vegetation. Coastal buckwheat, which is the food source and provides habitat for the federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly, is located on the property. The Smith's Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan, published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, names this site as containing small remnant colonies of Smith's blue butterfly and states that sites such as this are critical for maintaining dispersal corridors along the coastal sand dune populations to permit genetic interchange. Due to the fact that much of the historic coastal dune habitat in this area has already been modified or destroyed, the remaining sites are very important to the survival and recovery of this butterfly.

The Conservancy wishes to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the California Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR), the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (District), and the City of Monterey (City) committing them to join in the purchase of the 35.86 acres as follows:

Conservancy	\$1,500,000
DPR	1,895,000
WCB	705,000
District	200,000
City	<u>200,000</u>

TOTAL APPRAISED VALUE \$4,500,000

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

Pursuant to the MOU, DPR will obtain ownership over 25.86 acres of the property while the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will obtain ownership of 10+ acres of the property, the portion which provides habitat for the Smith's blue butterfly. Prior to close of escrow, DFG and DPR will enter into a long-term management agreement specifying the geographical areas of the property that each is to control and designating DPR as the agency responsible for the day to day operation and management of the property. Being adjacent to Monterey State Beach, the Del Monte Dunes parcel would be a natural extension of DPR's protection of dune vegetation in the area and would compliment existing public access to the ocean beach. DFG personnel have reviewed the proposed MOU and are in agreement with its provisions.

The owners have agreed to sell the entire 35.86+ acres for the total approved appraised value of \$4,500,000, or approximately \$125,000 per acre. As provided in the MOU, the Board would contribute \$705,000 toward the purchase and receive fee title to a specific 10+ acre portion of the property, which is valued at \$1,250,000. The Conservancy will be handling the escrow, title and review costs associated with the acquisition and no further costs to WCB are anticipated for the acquisition.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this 10+ acre property as proposed; allocate \$705,000.00 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 (P-70); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli asked if all the other agencies involved were firm in their funding allocations and Mr. Schmidt responded that they were. Mr. Schmidt explained that there might be a possible problem in this acquisition since, in the past, it was used as an industrial area and there is a possibility of toxic waste on the property. An agreement has been worked out with the owner, by the Coastal Conservancy who is the main negotiator, that the owner will clean up the property if there is found to be toxic waste, to the maximum expenditure of \$500,000. Mr. Schmidt added that a letter had been received from an adjacent landowner who indicated that his property has, in fact, been contaminated by this parcel but that this has yet to be proven. The property owner of the subject has indicated in writing that they would indemnify all public agencies against any possible claims by adjacent landowners, or others. Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from Senator Mello, Assemblyman Farr, Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation. Mr. Bontadelli clarified that the indemnification clause had been reviewed and appeared to be adequate.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE DEL MONTE DUNES ECOLOGICAL RESERVE PROPERTY, MONTEREY COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$705,000.00 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 (P-70); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Buttonwillow Ecological Reserve, Kern County \$1,090,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was for the acquisition of three parcels of land, totaling 1,350+ acres, located approximately 22 miles west of Bakersfield and three miles east of Interstate 5 in Kern County. The area contains prime critical habitat for four listed animal species: the State listed threatened and Federally listed endangered San Joaquin kit fox, the State listed threatened San Joaquin (Nelson's) antelope squirrel and the State and Federally listed endangered Tipton kangaroo rat and Blunt-nosed leopard lizard. Also, four sensitive candidate elements are known to occur on the site: the Northern harrier, the Burrowing owl, the Hoover's starflower and the Kern mallow. Ms. Lipphardt described the project.

In addition to the above, a Prairie falcon has been observed on the site, as well as Black-tailed hares, cottontails and many species of birds including meadowlarks, mourning doves, turkey vultures and red-tailed hawks. At present, virtually all of the 1,350+ acres is in a natural, undisturbed state and provides a permanent life-cycle home for each of the threatened and endangered species mentioned as well as hunting and foraging habitat for the numerous raptor species. The subject property is within an area identified by the Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base staff as a Significant Natural Area (SNA). A large portion of this geographic area has recently been converted to agricultural use, with only 1,807+ acres left undeveloped. This proposed 1,350+ acre acquisition will preserve a large portion of the remaining SNA. Many of the adjacent lands are intensively farmed in alfalfa, cotton, milo or orchard crops. If the property is not acquired by the State, it is likely the site would be converted to such agricultural use. The parcel adjacent to the most northwest portion of the proposed acquisition area is currently operated as a licensed pheasant club and is being maintained in a natural condition. The club has been in operation for more than 30 years and totals approximately 320 acres.

Operation and maintenance costs for this area are expected to be minimal. The management focus is habitat preservation with potential species augmentation. No development would be required. Posting signs would be required, but fencing may not be necessary since the principal threat to the area comes from agricultural conversion, not trespass.

The owner has agreed to sell the subject land at the approved fair market value of \$1,080,000. Acquisition costs are estimated to be an additional \$10,000 for appraisal costs, title insurance, escrow fees and the Department of General Services review charges. The proposed acquisition qualifies for, and funding is available from, the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund within Proposition 70. 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 the acquisition of this 1,350+ acre parcel as proposed; allocate a total of \$1,090,000.00 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 (P-70) 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 Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. STANCELL THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BUTTONWILLOW ECOLOGICAL RESERVE PROPERTY, KERN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,090,000.00 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 (P-70) FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Silver Creek Wildlife Area, Lassen County \$420,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to acquire 2,010+ acres of privately owned land located in northeastern Lassen County for the preservation of a variety of wildlife habitat types. Mr. Frank Giordano described the project. Specifically the property is located about 10 miles south of Eagleville, on the southeasterly border of the Warner Mountains portion of the Modoc National Forest. Access from Eagleville is obtained by traveling south about three miles on Surprise Valley Road, then continuing on Road 42A (Patterson Mill Road) for about three miles (paved), then over an additional 5+ miles of rough, but maintained Forest Service Road, to the property. An internal system of previously established logging roads provides good access within the property.

The property is characterized by several different habitat types and terrain. Along the east side of the subject, the terrain is gently sloping while the west side is very steep. Vegetation is a mosaic of a previously harvested white fir forest, high mountain desert composed of sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush and juniper, approximately 725 acres of Jeffrey pine forests, some mountain mahogany, and meadows containing two known springs. It is estimated that there are about 4.5 miles of Silver Creek lying within the property, along with accompanying riparian habitat estimated at 85 to 100 acres. It is also estimated that up to 20 percent of the ownership is made up of seasonal wetlands. The property contains no improvements. Elevations range from 5,600 feet where Silver Creek exits the subject on the east side to 8,000 feet at the southeast corner. The average annual precipitation of this area varies from 14-18 inches.

These various habitat types help support numerous species of fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, southern bald eagle, golden eagle (critical habitat for both at different times of the year), prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, sage grouse, blue grouse, waterfowl, antelope, mule deer and mountain lion, as well as brown, brook and rainbow trout.

As indicated above, the area proposed for acquisition is used during all seasons of the year by various species. One of the most critical uses of the property is for both fawning and kidding of deer and antelope. The riparian zone of Silver Creek is extensively used for rearing fawns and thermal cover by deer in the summer. In addition, the property is in the

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

migratory range of the Warner Mountain Deer Herd and is also within an antelope migratory route. During the November through April period the endangered Bald eagle is a migratory visitor. Mountain lions are also known to inhabit the area.

The wetland area of the parcel is typically used by waterfowl (both geese and ducks) for nesting purposes. There may be occasional use of these wetlands by the threatened Greater sandhill crane. Upland species include cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, California quail and mourning dove. Typical furbearers are coyote, bobcat, long-tailed weasel, raccoon and skunk.

Silver Creek provides the only viable spawning and nursery habitat available to the resident trout population of Sworenger Reservoir. The Silver Creek drainage was historically a rainbow trout water and some evidence suggests that there may have been redband trout present prior to the construction of the reservoir. Brook and brown trout are also present in this creek. The Department of Fish and Game does not stock the reservoir or stream. However, the popularity of the reservoir as a trout fishery, where three pound trout are common, attests to its value for this type of use. While an excellent stream trout fishery also existed for many years, it has recently been closed due to the over-exploitation. This closure was needed to protect the spawning population of trout from Sworenger Reservoir and to increase the recruitment of juvenile trout to the reservoir.

The subject block of land is adjacent to U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands on the west and eastern property boundaries. Public ownership will insure a necessary wildlife corridor between the two. Should the Board approve this acquisition, the area will be managed to preserve, restore and, wherever possible, enhance the habitat to provide for maximum beneficial production of fish and wildlife resources. Emphasis will be placed upon the management of rare, endangered and sensitive species and, where possible, the reintroduction of any extirpated species. The continued decline of riparian wetlands in California is well documented and this acquisition will prevent further loss of riparian wetlands on this parcel and will provide the Department an opportunity to increase the acreage of this valuable habitat type.

Consumptive uses such as big game, upland game and waterfowl hunting, along with future enhanced fishing opportunities are anticipated. Nonconsumptive, uses including bird watching, nature studies, sightseeing, hiking and photography, are abundant on the subject. The only anticipated development cost for public use is the cost to provide a parking area(s).

If this land, which is currently for sale, is not put into public ownership, it is felt it will be divided into 160 acre parcels. Such development of this area would encroach upon the relatively undisturbed nature of the property that supports a diverse population of fish and wildlife. This would result in a net decrease of these populations and would further reduce the natural diversity of the area.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

The Trust for Public Land has secured an option to purchase the land and is willing to sell the property to the State for \$410,000 when the option is formally exercised. This sale would be \$15,000 below its approved fair market value. An additional \$10,000 will be needed for General Services review costs, appraisal, escrow and associated closing fees. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and all necessary compliance documents have been filed. It is anticipated the Department will enter into a joint management agreement with the Federal agencies holding the adjacent lands.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of the 2,010+ acres as proposed; allocate a total of \$420,000.00 to complete the purchase from the funds and in the amounts as follows:

- (1) \$90,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 [P-70, Section 5907 (c)(1)(B)];
- (2) \$150,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund [P-70, Section 2720 (b)(2)];
- (3) \$100,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund [P-70, Section 2720 (b)(4)]; and
- (4) \$80,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund [P-70, Section 2720 (c)].

Staff also recommended that the Board 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 Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Lassen County Land Acquisition Task Force, Lassen County Board of Supervisors, Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation and private citizens. He also noted that Mr. Don Koch from the Department of Fish and Game's Region 1 office was present should there be any questions on the wildlife values of the property.

Mr. Bontadelli noted that it was nice to have a working committee in Lassen County for reviewing properties and helping to prioritize them from an acquisition standpoint. Mr. Giordano reported that letters of support had been received from both the Lassen County Board of Supervisors and the Lassen County Fish and Game Commission. Mr. Giordano further stated that this property was very desirable as it is a block of 2,000 acres of privately owned land being purchased in the \$200/per acre class. Mr. Schmidt added that the acquisition provides a wildlife corridor which is something that needs to be considered in future acquisitions to tie together public ownerships.

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

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE SILVER CREEK WILDLIFE AREA PROPERTY, LASSEN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$420,000.00 TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE FROM THE FUNDS AND IN THE AMOUNTS AS FOLLOWS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

- (1) \$90,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 [P-70, SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B)];
- (2) \$150,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND [P-70, SECTION 2720 (b)(2)];
- (3) \$100,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND [P-70, SECTION 2720 (b)(4)]; AND
- (4) \$80,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND [P-70, SECTION 2720 (c)].

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Navarro River/Lake Earl Land Exchange, Mendocino & Del Norte Counties \$320,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a unique proposal to consider an allocation to facilitate an exchange of 57.87+ acres of Department of Fish and Game owned land and buildings at the mouth of the Navarro River, near Albion, in Mendocino County, for 89.7 acres of Department of Parks & Recreation owned land and buildings at the Lake Earl Wildlife Area north of Crescent City, in Del Norte County. Mr. Howard Dick explained the exchange and the location of the properties on a map.

The Department of Fish and Game land at Navarro Beach is almost entirely west of Highway 1, just south and across the river from the Highway 1/128 junction. Access to the beach is provided by a road just south of the Navarro River Bridge, off Highway 1. The estimated value is \$290,000.00 for this 57.87+ acre area.

The Department of Parks and Recreation's land is located adjacent to the Lake Earl Wildlife Area and consists of three separate parcels. The first parcel, located on Old Mill Road, is currently used as an office by the Department of Fish and Game and consists of approximately 5 acres. The second area, containing approximately 40 acres, is also on Old Mill Road and would round out the Department of Fish and Game's holdings in this area. The third portion of this proposed transfer of ownership is on the west side of Lake Earl near the northerly end (near Talawa Slough). In addition to providing a management facility for DFG, these parcels will provide additional wetland habitat within the Lake Earl Wildlife Area.

The value of these three parcels has been estimated to be \$605,000.00. It is therefore proposed that the \$315,000 difference in value be paid to the Department of Parks and Recreation. They have informed your staff that they intend to use their proceeds to develop the Navarro Beach property to State Park standards.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

A Memorandum of Understanding has been executed by Department of Parks & Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game to effect the Transfers of Control and Possession which would be executed by both parties upon Board approval. It is believed that the exchange of these lands will alleviate management problems for both Departments and that the public will be better served if this exchange were to take place. Needless to say, both Department's highly recommend this exchange. A Notice of Exemption has been filed as the trade would be exempt from CEQA under Section 15313, acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

In addition to the land at Navarro and the \$315,000.00 cash payment to the Department of Parks & Recreation to accomplish the proposed exchange, it is estimated that the Department of General Services review charges would be an additional \$5,000, which would necessitate a total cash allocation of \$320,000.00.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the exchange would allow us to acquire more wetland habitat at Lake Earl and that it's been a long standing policy of the Board and Department of Fish and Game to acquire Lake Earl lands up to the 10 foot contour plus it would also give us a management headquarters at Lake Earl which we are now using at no cost. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) would obtain coastal access property which adjoins property they already own on the Navarro River. This funding would allow DPR to develop the property at Navarro Beach which would include restrooms and an adequate parking area. Mr. Schmidt added that DPR has already agreed to this transfer and is anxious to proceed. A letter of support was received from the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve (1) the Transfer of Control and Possession of the 57.87+ acre parcel at Navarro River to the Department of Parks and Recreation; (2) acceptance of the Transfer of Control and Possession of the 89.7+ acres of Lake Earl properties from the Department of Parks and Recreation; and (3) the allocation of \$320,000.00 to cover acquisition costs and payment to the Department of Parks & Recreation, as needed to equalize the exchange of properties, from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19), as designated for coastal wetlands; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Stancell asked if there was a statutory or legal restriction why this exchange couldn't be a straight swap without having to pay the difference to Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Schmidt responded that there was no statutory method of exchanging at no cost since two different special funds were used to acquire the areas and both agencies are responsible for proper use of the properties. DPR must be paid for the difference in values. Mr. Schmidt added that another reason a straight swap wouldn't work is that in part of the negotiations, DPR needed to be able to restore this property and bring it up to standards for their operations and they don't have available funds for these improvements. The WCB payment will make this possible.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

Mr. Bontadelli added that from a management standpoint, one of the problems with Navarro Beach is the lack of management under the agreement with Mendocino County. He further described the exchange in detail. It was determined that there was sufficient acreage of high wildlife values at Lake Earl that the acquisition was worthy of purchase. Parks will go ahead and acquire an area that has been a management headache for all the agencies involved including the County, Parks and DFG. This exchange appears to have a double benefit to the state of actually getting the lands assigned to the correct agency.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE (1) THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL AND POSSESSION OF THE 57.87+ ACRE PARCEL AT NAVARRO RIVER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION; (2) ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL AND POSSESSION OF THE 89.7+ ACRES OF LAKE EARL PROPERTIES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION; AND (3) THE ALLOCATION OF \$320,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19), AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS, TO COVER ACQUISITION COSTS AND PAYMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, AS NEEDED TO EQUALIZE THE EXCHANGE OF PROPERTIES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion #18, Del Norte County \$41,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to acquire 20 acres of privately owned property at the Lake Earl Wildlife Area. The acquisition is part of an overall proposal to acquire lands at Lake Earl and Talawa to the 10 foot elevation to facilitate better management of the Lake in its natural state. The subject parcel is located at the north end of Lake Earl (in Talawa Slough), west of Lower Lake Road and east of the Pacific Shores subdivision on the north side of Kellogg Road. Mr. Dick explained the area on a map.

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 11 years, staff has acquired over 2,600 acres in fee and easements within or adjacent to Lakes Earl and Talawa. An additional 2,600 acres have been leased from the State Lands Commission, placing a total of over 5,200 acres under Department of Fish and Game management.

The acquisition presently being proposed has 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, this acquisition will 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.

The owners have agreed to sell at the approved appraised value of \$37,000.00. Anticipated costs, which include escrow fees and the Department of General Services charges are estimated to be \$4,000 which would bring the total necessary allocation to \$41,000.00. The project is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation and open space purposes.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

Staff recommended that the Board approve acquiring this property as proposed; allocate \$41,000.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19), as designated for coastal wetlands; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt reported that letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

Mr. Rick Battson asked how much additional property was subject to future purchase to complete the 10 foot contour line holdings. There was discussion of several properties and it was reported that there are three additional parcels to complete the area.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE LAKE EARL WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #18 PROPERTY, DEL NORTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$41,000.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19), AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Suisun Marsh Habitat Enhancement Project, Solano County \$250,000.00
(AB 2090)

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation to continue funding marsh habitat development, enhancement and maintenance work on privately owned duck clubs within the primary management area of the Suisun Marsh, as provided for in Assembly Bill No. 2090, Hannigan, (Chapter 1571, Statutes of 1982) and as funded in the 1990/91 State budget.

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

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

"District means the Suisun Resource Conservation District."

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Each fiscal year, any private landowner in the primary management area who desires to qualify for the assistance provided by this section shall, by December 31, submit to the District a claim for those costs incurred that calendar year in carrying out the operation and maintenance activities specified in that landowner's individual ownership management program. Each claim shall be accompanied by substantiating documents, as determined by the District. The District shall review each claim to determine its appropriateness by, including, but not limited to, an on-site inspection to establish that the physical improvements or management procedures for which a claim is submitted have been satisfactorily completed. The District shall submit the individual ownership claims to the Department for review and approval for payment equal to 50 percent of each claim. However, no payment shall exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). In any fiscal year in which the funds appropriated for purposes of this section are insufficient to pay 50 percent of each claim, the Department shall pay all approved claims on a pro rata basis. In any fiscal year in which no funds are appropriated for purposes of this section, the Department shall pay no claims.

In order to meet the legislative intent of the funding referred to in AB 2090, \$250,000 was included in the 1990/91 budget bill payable from the Environmental License Plate Fund to provide continued support for this program. This is the fifth year that funding has been provided.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

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

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve continuation of the marsh development enhancement program authorized under AB 2090 as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to augment current agreements and proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Bontadelli reported that all projects are certified that they meet the benefits, terms and conditions of the budget language. Mr. Schmidt added that Fish and Game looks at all projects before paying the bills.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONTINUATION OF THE SUISUN MARSH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AUTHORIZED UNDER ASSEMBLY BILL 2090, SOLANO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$250,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Salmon Falls Ecological Reserve, El Dorado County \$410,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of a 40+ acre parcel which straddles the American River, about three to four miles north of the rapidly growing El Dorado Hills area. Specifically, the land is on the east side of Folsom Lake, about five miles south of Pilot Hill and located about one and one-half miles east of the Salmon Falls Road Bridge crossing the South Fork of the American River. Mr. Dick explained the project and its location.

This is the first proposed acquisition by the Wildlife Conservation Board of lands located within a 2,000 acre Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan submitted by the Department of Fish and Game for the proposed Salmon Falls Ecological Reserve. According to the Department, this area supports an extremely rich and important ensemble of rare plants found only in this general area and nowhere else in the world. The unusual condition in this area is primarily a result of a unique soil type known as the grabbroic soil type in the Rescue Series.

The primary vegetation type in this area is chamise chaparral which is composed of chamise, Lemmon's ceanothus, manzanita, many oak species and redbud. The rare Pine Hill ceanothus occurs in cleared or open areas on Rescue soils found within the more common chaparral type. Some slopes support pines and many oak species, including blue oak, interior live oak, black oak, scrub oak, leather oak, valley and canyon live oak.

A spectacular riparian area is present at "Jill's Creek" which is a cascading stream that flows north-northeast to the American River. Since it is on a north-facing slope and probably has a slightly colder microclimate than areas farther from the river, many species occur here which are generally associated with higher elevations. The combination of high and low elevation species makes this an exceedingly rich riparian zone. In the spring it is very impressive with flowering azaleas, leopard lilies, three species of monkeyflower, irises, columbines, orchids and species of fern.

One hill in the west part of the proposed preserve supports the best known populations of both El Dorado morning glory and Pine Hill ceanothus. Soaproot also is well represented there. Butterweed and mule-ears are both found scattered over much of the area. Bedstraw occurs under the ponderosa pines on the north-facing slopes. According to DFG, wildlife use in this area includes resident deer and mountain lion, as well as numerous game birds including dove, quail and wild turkey.

This area is seriously threatened by development with upscale small lot subdivisions moving north toward the area from El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park. There is also great pressure in the immediate area for development of small acreage residential homesites. The subject parcel itself is currently zoned for two residential homesites and is the last ownership in the immediate area with American River frontage.

Department of Fish and Game has recommended purchase of this parcel as a key first step in carrying out the overall conceptual plan. The project is categorically exempt from CEQA and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

It is anticipated that the primary management goal would be to maintain and protect the existing populations of rare or endangered plants and for that reason the area would probably be maintained as an ecological reserve with limited public access. Future management costs, if any, would be limited to possible future fencing and posting, as well as periodic on-site monitoring of the area. Water associated recreational uses can be expected along the river frontage.

The property is currently optioned by the American River Land Trust, who has agreed to sell the property for its approved appraised value of \$393,480.00. Estimated costs of acquiring the parcels are \$16,520 making a total allocation necessary for this purchase to be \$410,000.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this property as proposed; allocate a total of \$410,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), [Section 2786 (a) - \$123,000.00 and Section 2786 (c) - \$287,000.00], 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 Mr. Ken Berg from the Department of Fish and Game was present should there be any questions on the values of the property for its plant life. He then added that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife.

Mr. Mark Palmer from the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation stated they were very much in support of the acquisition. This is one of the first projects before the Board for Proposition 117 funding and since the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation was a strong supporter of Prop. 117 they were delighted and believed this was an excellent way to show how Prop. 117 can work. Mr. Palmer added that they are committed to working with the Wildlife Conservation Board and the other agencies to make Proposition 117 work. Mr. Palmer also thanked the staff for their efficiency in working on Prop. 117 projects so quickly.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE SALMON FALLS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE PROPERTY, EL DORADO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$410,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), [\$123,000.00 FROM SECTION 2786 (a) AND \$287,000.00 FROM SECTION 2786 (c)], FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Baldwin Lake Ecological Reserve, Exp. #1, San Bernardino Co. \$445,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that in 1986, the Board acquired 125 acres along the north shore of Baldwin Lake, in the Big Bear Basin, 40+ miles east of San Bernardino. This ecological reserve contains about 96 acres on the lake side of North Shore Drive and about 29 acres on the uphill side of the road. This present proposal is for the expansion of the reserve by acquisition of up to 4 adjacent privately owned parcels, consisting of 15.3 acres with road frontage, on the uphill side of the road. The parcels are surrounded entirely by the existing reserve and by San Bernardino National Forest lands. Mr. Jim Sarro described the proposed project.

Baldwin Lake is a unique botanical area containing one of the highest concentrations of rare plants in the continental United States. Fifteen species of rare or sensitive plants thrive here. Many of these endemic species are restricted to two important and fragile rare plant communities found at Baldwin Lake, the Pebble Plain and Vernal Wet Meadow communities. The site is also significant for its wintering population of the Federally-listed endangered Bald eagle.

The Pebble Plain community forms open, treeless pockets amidst surrounding Jeffrey pine forests, juniper woodlands and sagebrush scrub. Also referred to as "pavement plains", these communities support a relict flora of alpine-like plants which survive in the clay soils. The habitat is dominated by Southern mountain buckwheat and the Bear Valley sandwort, both candidates for federal listing. Seven rare plant species are found in this community, all of which are endemic to the San Bernardino Mountains and several of which are found only in the Big Bear Basin.

The Vernal Wet Meadow community occurs in low-lying areas which collect rain or snow and develop vernal wet conditions. These wet meadows are typically found where clay soils intercept a drainage or seep, and are usually associated with pebble plains. The wet meadow habitat supports four rare plants, including the Bird-footed checkerbloom and Slender-petaled mustard, both Federally and State-listed endangered species. In addition, vernal moist creeks and drainages support three additional species, the Eye-strain monkeyflower, Purple monkeyflower and San Bernardino Mt. owl's clover, all candidates for federal listing.

Baldwin Lake is listed in the 1988 Annual Report of Significant Natural Areas of California prepared by the Lands and Natural Areas Project (LNAP). The pebble plain natural community is unique to the San Bernardino Mountains as are many of the species found on the pebble plains and associated wet meadows. Indeed, of the fifteen rare plants known at Baldwin Lake, nine are endemic to the San Bernardino Mountains and four are found only in the Big Bear Basin. Added to the significance of the site as an important botanical area is the presence of the endangered Bald eagle. The wintering population of Baldwin and Big Bear Lakes is thought to be the largest in southern California.

The Baldwin Lake site proposed for acquisition represents some of the best examples of these fragile and threatened communities which are only partially protected in the existing Ecological Reserve. Because the endemic species found here are restricted to specific soil regimes and drainage

patterns, they are especially vulnerable to both on-site and off-site impacts.

The site faces threats from continuing pressure for development, and from vehicle and foot trespass. The Big Bear Basin, in which Baldwin Lake lies, is a popular recreation area, and the trend toward development of vacation, second and retirement homes is increasing. In fact, the economic analysis of the subject parcels indicates that in time, it is most likely that three of them would be developed to rural residential uses, perhaps equestrian-oriented homesites. The likely development of the fourth parcel would be as an agriculture-related commercial venture, such as a fruit and produce sales facility. The Department has indicated that the four parcels are a critical link in the watershed and that their development would not only destroy their own, on-site biological values, but could also significantly degrade the adjacent ecological reserve without any environmental review. For these reasons, the Department has strongly recommended these acquisitions.

The owners of the four parcels have agreed to sell the properties to the State for their respective appraised fair market values totaling \$425,000 and staff is prepared to recommend acceptance by the Board. However, an owner of two of the parcels has indicated they may seek to utilize the properties as mitigation for another off-site development. In either event, the properties would all be placed in public ownership. Staff will advise the Board of the owner's findings at the meeting of the Board and, if appropriate, will modify the staff recommendation accordingly. Related sales expenses and administrative costs are estimated to be \$20,000.

Management of the property would be carried out by the Department through a proposed joint management agreement with the Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy as part of the existing reserve. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife habitat and open space conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition of up to 15.3 acres for fair market value of up to \$425,000 as proposed; allocate \$445,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), Section 2786 (c), 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 noted that letters of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation. Mr. Mark Skinner, botanist from the California Native Plant Society, reported that they strongly support the acquisition as it is one of the most significant rare plant sites in the entire country and this parcel would complete the protection puzzle for this very significant ecological area.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BONTADELLI THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BALDWIN LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #1 PROPERTY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$445,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), SECTION 2786 (c), 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.

18. Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County \$3,125,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of a 4,657+ acre parcel of land known as the "Whiskey Lakes Ranch", located just one mile east of Montague, in the northern portion of Siskiyou County, approximately seven miles east of Yreka. Mr. Dick explained the location of the proposed project. The immediate vicinity is referred to as the Little Shasta Valley, an extension of the larger Shasta Valley which ranges from Weed to Montague, generally along Interstate 5. Mount Shasta is an imposing and beautiful central focal point for the general area.

The property has frontage on Ball Mountain-Little Shasta Road as well as Big Springs Road. It includes the Little Shasta River which flows through approximately one and one-half miles of the property, three lakes (Steamboat, Trout and Bass Lakes), and Steamboat Mountain. According to the Department of Fish and Game, there are five major habitat types and land uses within this property including riparian, wetlands, lakes and ponds, crops and pasture, and range land.

The riparian habitat, which includes about 200 acres, consists of streambanks and bottom lands and includes some of the agricultural lands designated as subirrigated pasture. Wildlife species associated with this habitat type includes waterfowl, furbearers such as mink and otter as well as numerous nongame species. Threatened and endangered species that utilize this type of habitat include Greater sandhill cranes, Bald eagles, and Peregrine falcons. The riparian area also has major fisheries values for salmon and steelhead.

Permanent and seasonal wetlands, of just over 1,000 acres, includes irrigated pasture and subirrigated pasture agricultural types. These areas support water-associated species such as waterfowl, shore birds, and wading birds. Threatened and endangered species using these areas include the Greater sandhill crane and the Bald eagle. Peregrine falcons also use wetlands as foraging areas.

There are more than 600 acres of lakes and ponds on the property providing both warmwater and trout fishing opportunities. It is expected that upon purchase of the property, rearing areas and facilities for the State and Federally endangered Shortnosed sucker will be developed. Wildlife species found in the lakes and ponds on this property include waterfowl, shore birds and wading birds. Bald eagles and Peregrine falcons also forage in this habitat type.

The pastures and croplands, consisting of nearly 1,100 acres, include irrigated pasture, irrigable pasture and irrigated grain fields. An estimated 250 acres of these lands consists of historic wetlands that were drained and converted to agricultural uses. One management objective will be to restore these historic wetlands. Species that occur within the pastures and croplands include big game such as deer and upland game. Waterfowl also use this type for feeding as well as nesting, and will, upon restoration of historic wetlands, enjoy even greater use of this area. Threatened and endangered species include Bald eagles, Peregrine falcons and Greater sandhill cranes. Nesting opportunities for the threatened Swainson's hawk is also provided by the pastures and croplands.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

The range lands found on the property, including over 1,700 acres, support big game, upland game and numerous nongame species. Range lands are used for hunting and foraging by Bald eagles and Peregrine falcons and provides resting areas for Greater sandhill cranes. As with pasture and croplands, this habitat type may also provide nesting and foraging opportunity for the Swainson's hawk.

Improvements on the property which include three residences, three mobile homes, numerous barns and miscellaneous sheds have a total appraised value of approximately \$220,000. Most of these improvements can be used by the Department of Fish and Game for equipment, storage and maintenance. It is proposed that the Department's screen shop, currently located in Yreka, be re-located to this property if it is acquired and that most of the Yreka property be sold as surplus to Department needs.

The water sources for the Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area are the Little Shasta River and some seasonal springs. The Little Shasta River water rights include 44 cubic feet per second from November 1 to April 30, 9 cubic feet per second from May 1 to May 31 and 4 cubic feet per second for the balance of the year.

Portions of this acquisition qualify for funding at varying degrees from five available funding sources as outlined below in the staff recommendation. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The two properties were appraised for a total of \$3,088,000. The owners have agreed to sell for the appraised value. They have also agreed to donate \$88,000 of the fair market value to the California State Wildlife Foundation as a charitable contribution. It is anticipated that the Foundation will use this money for future developments on the Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area. In addition to the \$3,088,000 fair market value, it is estimated that \$37,000 will be needed to cover related acquisition costs including escrow, Department of General Services charges and possible relocation assistance payments.

Mr. Schmidt reported that because of its diverse habitat types the property could be used for both consumptive, as well as nonconsumptive uses such as educational opportunities.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters or telephone calls of support had been received from the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, and six different local landowners. He added that Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors was opposing the acquisition mainly because of the tax issue. Because of the uniqueness of the project and various types of habitat, staff recommended that funding come from five different sources.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this project as proposed; allocate a total of \$3,125,000.00 to complete the purchase from the funds and in the amounts as follows:

- (1) \$200,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund;
- (2) \$217,181.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19), as designated for interior wetlands;
- (3) \$895,819.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 [P-70, Section 5907 (c)(1)(B)];
- (4) \$500,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund [P-70, Section 2720 (c)]; and
- (5) \$1,312,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund [P-117, Section 2786 (a) - \$377,000 and Section 2786 (b) & (c) - \$935,000].

Staff also recommended that the Board 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 ACQUISITION OF THE WHISKEY LAKES WILDLIFE AREA PROPERTY, SISKIYOU COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$3,125,000.00 TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE FROM THE FUNDS AND IN THE AMOUNTS AS FOLLOWS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

- (1) \$200,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND;
- (2) \$217,181.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19), AS DESIGNATED FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS;
- (3) \$895,819.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 [P-70, SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B)];
- (4) \$500,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND [P-70, SECTION 2720 (c)]; AND
- (5) \$1,312,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND [P-117, SECTION 2786 (a) - \$377,000 AND SECTION 2786 (b) & (c) - \$935,000].

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes of Meeting, November 1, 1990
Wildlife Conservation Board

19. Other Business

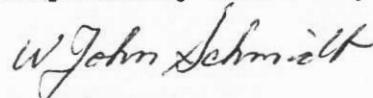
Since this was the last meeting of the year, Mr. Schmidt thanked the Board for all their support and time taken throughout the year. He then thanked the staff for the great job done in the past year.

Mr. Bryant then complimented the staff for the fine job done.

Mr. Bontadelli noted that it was a pleasure acquiring property which has lasting values for the people of the state. He complimented the staff for an outstanding job of bringing together projects. Mr. Bontadelli added that the last item approved, Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, would create the basis for one of the best long-term wildlife areas in the State of California which includes both fishing and hunting opportunities, as well as habitat for many plant species.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m. by Chairman Bryant.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on November 1, 1990, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$253,062,078.74. 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, California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

a.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$16,005,271.06
b.	Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement	11,539,218.33
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .	\$3,065,821.39
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	5,604,935.75
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	498,492.86
	4. Marine Habitat	646,619.07
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,723,349.26
c.	Fishing Access Projects	33,058,654.05
	1. Coastal and Bay	\$3,073,799.25
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	7,031,234.03
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,213,600.84
	4. Piers	16,740,019.93
d.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects ..	184,725,673.32
	1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$133,944,166.81
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ...	3,308,962.19
	3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	47,472,544.32
f.	Hunting Access Projects	533,743.57
g.	Miscellaneous Projects	6,258,012.87
h.	Special Project Allocations	311,995.42
i.	Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	482,615.63

Total Allocated to Projects \$253,062,078.74