

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD16 NINTH STREET
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State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of May 15, 1991

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

Minutes, Meeting of May 15, 1991

Pursuant to the call of Mr. W. John Schmidt, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 317 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on May 15, 1991. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

1. Roll Call

<u>Present:</u>	Everett M. McCracken, Jr., President, Fish and Game Commission	Chairman
	Susanne Burton, Chief Deputy Director Department of Finance	Member
	Paul Jensen, Deputy Director Department of Fish and Game	Member
	Sandy Silberstein, Vice Senator Robert Presley	Joint Interim Committee
	Edna Maita, Vice Assemblyman Jim Costa	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblyman Dan Hauser	Joint Interim Committee
<u>Absent:</u>	Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator David Roberti	Joint Interim Committee
	Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	Joint Interim Committee
<u>Staff Present:</u>	W. John Schmidt	Executive Director
	Clyde S. Edon	Acting Assist. Exec. Dir.
	Howard Dick	Senior Land Agent
	Frank Giordano	Senior Land Agent
	Georgia Lipphardt	Senior Land Agent
	Marilyn Cundiff-Gee	Habitat Protection Manager
	Sylvia Gude	Staff Services Analyst
	Sandy Daniel	Executive Secretary
	Janice Beeding	Office Technician

Minutes of Meeting, May 15, 1991
 Wildlife Conservation Board

<u>Others Present:</u> John Godino Deane Swickard Michael Gardner Mike Anderson Chris Unkel Jim Swanson Greg Elliott Craig Stradley Sandra Coambes Mark J. Palmer John Squires Robert Garrison Mary Lou Schill Richard Spotts Steve Evans Bob Houston William Kampton Jim Messersmith	The Nature Conservancy Bureau of Land Management Chico Enterprise-Record East Bay Regional Parks The Nature Conservancy Dept. of Fish and Game The Nature Conservancy The Nature Conservancy Tahoe City Public Utilities Mountain Lion Foundation Reclamation Board Dept. of Fish and Game City of Ventura Defenders of Wildlife Sac. River Preservation Trust East Bay Regional Parks Citizen Dept. of Fish and Game
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2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the February 13, 1991, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 1991, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt introduced Ms. Edna Maita, representing Assemblyman Jim Costa, who joined the meeting at this time.

3. Funding Status as of May 15, 1991 (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
Less previous Board allocations	-100,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ -0-
Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$ 250,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 97,800.63
Unallocated Balance	\$ 152,199.37

(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	-529,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ -0-
 Governor's Budget - Major Development	 \$ 500,000.00

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$1,730,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,830,000.00
Plus LWCF Reimbursement	+ 100,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ -0-

(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	-3,289,008.11
Unallocated Balance	\$ 2,991.89

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

Governor's Budget	\$1,740,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 110,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$1,630,000.00

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

Governor's Budget	\$4,093,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,853,070.41
Unallocated Balance	\$2,239,929.59

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

Governor's Budget	\$3,434,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-3,367,879.36
Unallocated Balance	\$ 66,120.64

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

Governor's Budget	\$15,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 6,846,553.21
Unallocated Balance	\$ 8,153,446.79

(j)	<u>1988/89 Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget	\$10,500,000.00
	Less previous Board allocations	-10,479,287.37
	Unallocated Balance	\$ 20,712.63
(k)	<u>1988/89 California Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Direct appropriation to the Wildlife Conservation Board	\$81,300,000.00
	Less previous Board allocations	-42,690,606.50
	Less State administrative costs	- 1,219,500.00
	Unallocated Balance	\$37,389,893.50
(l)	<u>1990/91 Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget	\$ 985,000.00
(m)	<u>1989/90 Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget	\$ 5,500,000.00
	Less previous Board allocations	- 4,504,046.25
	Unallocated Balance	\$ 995,953.75
(n)	<u>1990/91 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget	\$10,800,000.00
	Less previous Board allocations	- 8,737,454.00
	Unallocated Balance	\$ 2,062,546.00

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	
Acquisition	\$ -0-
Minor Development	\$ 152,199.37
Major Development	\$ 500,000.00
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$ 952,991.89
<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement</u>	\$ 3,936,050.23
<u>California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u>	\$37,389,893.50
<u>Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u>	\$ 8,174,179.42
<u>Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund</u>	\$ 1,980,953.75
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u>	\$ 2,062,546.00

Mr. Schmidt introduced Ms. Susanne Burton, Chief Deputy Director representing the Department of Finance, who joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Schmidt reported that according to statutes, only one Director can be represented by a Deputy Director and that only one Deputy Director has voting power. A quorum today would be one Deputy Director, with voting power, and the Chairman. Ms. Burton elected to be the voting member until 2:00 and then turn the voting power over to Mr. Jensen.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Item #4 was the beginning of the Consent Calendar. At the request of the Board at the last meeting, items that were considered and approved by the voters of the State of California in Proposition 70 are being considered on the Consent Calendar since they were already itemized in the ballot itself. Therefore, Items #4 through 8 and Item #17 are on the consent calendar. Item #17 is actually a Proposition 19 project but the Board has chosen, since 1984, to consider this particular stream restoration and enhancement project as one item. The consent calendar will be taken up at the end of the agenda. Mr. Schmidt further stated that one letter had been received from the Glenn County Farm Bureau regarding Items #6 & 7 on the consent calendar. The Farm Bureau recommended opposition to these two items because of the issue of taxes and since the properties are being taken off the tax rolls and out of production. Mr. Schmidt added that on these particular items, the Department of Fish and Game, if the areas are considered wildlife areas by the Fish and Game Commission, would still be paying in-lieu of tax fees. Mr. Schmidt reported that the Board could consider these two items separately if needed, and if not, they would be considered at the end of the agenda as Consent Items. At this time, Mr. Schmidt provided the audience and the Board Members the opportunity to request that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar.

* 4. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. Included with these items are four projects requiring adjustments of the recoveries approved at the February 13, 1991 meeting. The adjustments are due to late billings submitted by contractors. The following totals are recommended for recovery:

\$11,391.34 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund,
\$43,222.25 to the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,
\$18,331.31 to the Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco Products
Surtax Fund,
\$35,227.37 to the California Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Cons. Fund,
\$19,354.95 to the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund;

and that the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Hermosa Beach Fishing Pier, Los Angeles County

Allocation	\$30,000.00
Expended	-18,386.00
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$11,614.00</u>

Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County

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

Glenburn (Fall River) Fishing Access, Shasta County

	2/13/91 Meeting Reversal	Correction	Adjustment
Allocation	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	
Expended	- 7,611.98	-7,834.64	
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,388.02	\$ 3,165.36	- \$222.66
Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries			\$11,391.34

1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Cascade Creek, Tuolumne County

Allocation	\$ 5,700.00
Expended	- 4,453.39
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,246.61

Cat Creek, El Dorado County

Allocation	\$ 8,500.00
Expended	- 2,427.11
Balance for Recovery	\$ 6,072.89

Foreman Creek, Santa Cruz County

Allocation	\$ 30,200.00
Expended	- 100.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 30,100.00

Green Lake Creek, Inyo County

	2/13/91 Meeting Reversal	Correction	Adjustment
Allocation	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Expended	- 1,004.30	-1,394.15	
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,995.70	\$ 1,605.85	- \$389.85

Howard Creek, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$ 3,400.00
Expended	- 3,301.69
Balance for Recovery	\$ 98.31

Indian Creek #2, Siskiyou County

	2/13/91 Meeting Reversal	Correction	Adjustment
Allocation	\$14,000.00	\$14,100.00	
Expended	-10,923.75	-10,923.75	
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,076.25	\$ 3,176.25	+ \$100.00

Jackass Gulch Barrier, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 3,600.00
Expended	- 2,388.03
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,211.97

Middle Fork Cosumnes River, El Dorado County

Allocation	\$ 8,000.00
Expended	- 3,470.68
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,529.32

Sierra Mountains Stream Flow Maintenance Dams, El Dorado & Nevada Cos.

	2/13/91 Meeting		
	Reversal	Correction	Adjustment
Allocation	\$60,300.00	\$60,300.00	
Expended	-30,537.12	-30,823.88	
Balance for Recovery	\$29,762.88	\$29,476.12	- \$286.76

Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$217,181.26
Expended	-217,181.26
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Wolf/Jackass Creek, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$ 25,000.00
Expended	- 24,460.24
Balance for Recovery	\$ 539.76

Total Fish & Wildlife Hab. Enhancement Fund Recoveries \$43,222.25

PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND

Buttermilk Country Wildlife Area, Inyo County

Allocation	\$494,000.00
Expended	-483,389.49
Balance for Recovery	\$ 10,610.51

Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Calaveras County

Allocation	\$570,000.00
Expended	-562,279.20
Balance for Recovery	\$ 7,720.80

Total Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco
 Products Surtax Fund Recoveries \$18,331.31

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988

Mendota Wildlife Area, Expansion #10, Fresno County

Allocation	\$145,000.00
Expended	-141,846.03
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 3,153.97</u>

Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$895,818.74
Expended	-863,745.34
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 32,073.40</u>

Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land
Conservation Fund of 1988 Recoveries \$35,227.37

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND

By-Day Creek Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Mono County

Allocation	\$325,000.00
Expended	-318,516.70
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 6,483.30</u>

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, Exp. #1, Santa Cruz County

Allocation	\$ 1,500.00
Expended	- 826.65
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 673.35</u>

Poison Flat Creek, Alpine County

Allocation	\$330,000.00
Expended	-327,700.05
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 2,299.95</u>

Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area, Calaveras County

Allocation	\$785,000.00
Expended	-775,101.65
Balance for Recovery	<u>\$ 9,898.35</u>

Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County

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

Total Wildlife & Natural Areas Cons. Fund Recoveries \$19,354.95

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$1,312,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,312,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries \$ -0-

PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984

Aliso Beach Fishing Pier, Orange County

Allocation	\$390,950.00
Expended	<u>-390,950.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Parklands Fund of 1984 Recoveries \$ -0-

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE END OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 5-9 AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$11,391.34 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$43,222.25 TO THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND; \$18,331.31 TO THE PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND; \$35,227.37 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND; AND \$19,354.95 TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 5. Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Glenn County Funding Shift
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This item was to confirm a telephonic poll of Board Members taken on March 19, 1991, to obtain approval for a funding shift for a project approved at the February 13, 1991, Board meeting. At that time, the Board approved the acquisition of the Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Glenn County, in the amount of \$2,530,000.00.

Funding was to be provided as follows:

- (1) \$940,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117);
- (2) \$1,000,000.00 from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund; and
- (3) \$650,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(B).

However, due to misinterpretation on funding available for wetland habitat through the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), a shift in funding was felt appropriate in order to ensure an adequate balance in the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program for future projects.

Since this project has such a wide variety of habitat types, it easily qualified for several funding sources available to the Board. Staff therefore recommended a shift in funding to the following sources:

- (1) \$1,000,000.00 from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund;
- (2) \$900,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(B);
- (3) \$240,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund (P-70); and
- (4) \$450,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund.

Staff recommended that the Board confirm their March 19, 1991, unanimous telephonic approval of this funding shift.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE END OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE UNANIMOUS TELEPHONIC APPROVAL OF THE FUNDING SHIFT FOR THE UPPER BUTTE SINK WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #3, GLENN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$2,530,000.00 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) \$1,000,000.00 FROM THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND;
- (2) \$900,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B);
- (3) \$240,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND (P-70); AND
- (4) \$450,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

- * 6. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 164.2-L,
Glenn County (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$72,000.00

This proposal was to consider the allocation of a portion of the funds needed to acquire a 102.8+ acre property located on the east bank of the Sacramento River, across the river from the town of Princeton. The property can be reached from State Route 45 by taking the Princeton Ferry across the river and proceeding south to the subject. It is located less than one mile south of the Department of Fish and Game's Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, Princeton Unit, a 50+ acre riparian parcel which was acquired for river access pursuant to Board action in 1956.

The property contains approximately 42.1 acres of cleared dry farm land, not currently being farmed, and 60.7+ acres of riparian woodlands. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has agreed to provide funding to acquire and restore the 42.1+ acre portion to riparian habitat in accordance with a mitigation requirement under DWR's Sacramento River Bank Protection Project.

DWR has entered into an Agreement with the Department of Fish and Game to provide a portion of the funds needed to acquire the subject property. The Board is being requested to provide the balance of the acquisition funds as well as staff time and funds for costs associated with the acquisition. Upon close of escrow, the ownership of the entire property shall be vested in the State of California, Department of Fish and Game. DWR will enter into a management agreement with DFG which will detail the restoration activities they will perform at their cost. DFG will ultimately be responsible for management of the property.

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 will prevent further loss. In addition to rounding out the Department's holdings, state acquisition will allow DWR the opportunity to restore and enhance habitat on this property.

The owner has agreed to sell the subject property at the approved fair market value of \$119,500. It is proposed that DWR pay for 42.1+ acres of this parcel, valued at \$52,700, and that WCB pay for the remaining 60.7+ acres, valued at \$66,800. Processing costs are estimated to be \$5,200, which includes costs of title, escrow and Department of General Services review. 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.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$72,000.00 for WCB's portion of the acquisition costs, 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.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE END OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 164.2-L, GLENN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, ALLOCATE \$72,000.00 FOR WCB'S PORTION OF THE ACQUISITION COSTS, 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.

- * 7. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 169.5-R,
Glenn County (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$170,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 127.6+ acres of land on the west bank of the Sacramento River, Glenn County. The property is located approximately 3 miles south of the town of Glenn and lies on the river side of the levee. It is adjacent to the Department of Fish and Game's Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 171-R, a 113+ acre riparian parcel recently acquired pursuant to Board action. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recently acquired a 266+ acre parcel adjacent to, and east, of the subject and south of the recently acquired DFG parcel. The Service intends to restore the 266-acre orchard to riparian woodlands and when complete, these three acquisitions will include a block of over 500 acres of contiguous publicly-owned riparian habitat.

The subject parcel is comprised of 42.5+ acres of farmed level ground, 16.5 acres of undulating open ground and over 68 acres of riparian forest. As part of the acquisition agreement, the owner will retain the right to farm this area for a two-year period in exchange for providing the necessary labor and water, for a three-year period, to restore riparian growth on the property. The Department will work cooperatively with the owner during the restoration period, providing guidance and direction toward these activities.

Riparian habitat in this area 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 and 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. It is recognized that farmed property such as the subject will revert to riparian habitat over time. In addition, some farmed areas have been found to provide habitat for the riparian associated wildlife species even before they are replaced by native habitat. Public acquisition will add to the Department's adjacent holdings and allow the Department the opportunity to restore and enhance the habitat on this property at minimal cost. The parcel has county road access via an easement road that crosses the remaining lands of the owner.

The owner has agreed to sell the subject parcel at the approved fair market value of \$165,000.00. Processing costs are estimated to be \$5,000 which includes the costs of title, escrow and Department of General Services review. Potential State claims to the property by way of the State Lands Commission have been considered and their effect on the fair market value has been taken into account in the appraisal. 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 \$170,000.00 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.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE END OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 169.5-R, GLENN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, ALLOCATE \$170,000.00 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. Quail Ridge Ecological Reserve, Napa County (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$335,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition from three landowners of four parcels of mountainous property, totaling 457+ acres, located on a peninsula extending into Lake Berryessa. The proposed acquisition is for preservation of a unique assemblage of oak woodlands and native perennial and annual grasses. The sites are situated in the inner, southern portion of the North Coast Range, about two miles west of Monticello Dam and twenty miles west of the City of Davis. The subject area is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bureau of Reclamation (Lake Berryessa) lands. The California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), as amended, specifically mandated acquisitions of wildlife habitat identified by the Department of Fish and Game in northern Napa County. The subject parcels have been identified by DFG as being appropriate for acquisition under this mandate.

Two of the parcels, totaling 130.49+ acres, are situated on the west side of the peninsula and are chaparral-covered on the south slopes with mixed deciduous forest and native bunchgrasses on the north slopes. Another parcel of 146+ acres boasts the highest peak in the central area of the proposed reserve and contains California fescue, aromatic pitcher plant, chaparral, blue oak and open grassland. Mountain lions have been sighted on the property and it is reported that a golden eagle nested on its northeastern slope. The final parcel containing 181 acres is similar to the above parcel as to plant species. The entire Quail Ridge area is fairly rugged, with elevations ranging from about 500 to 1500 feet.

The location of this proposed reserve on a peninsula which is protected on three sides by water and terrain is a favorable management feature. With the exception of limited access by boat, access is restricted to private, gated roads from the south which are used by the property owners of parcels in the area.

The site has been endorsed by the Natural Reserve System (NRS) Advisory Committee of the University of California to be included in the NRS. It is anticipated that, if the NRS designation is approved, the Department of Fish and Game and the University of California will enter into a management agreement for the University to manage the area as part of the NRS.

All landowners would be donating portions of the respective property values. The total appraised value of the four parcels, reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services, is \$376,500 and the owners, Napa County Land Trust, Quail Ridge Wilderness Associates and the Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy, have agreed to sell the properties to the State for a total price of \$320,000.00, thus providing a donation to the State of \$56,500. Processing costs are estimated to be \$15,000, which includes costs of the appraisal, plus title, escrow and the Department of General Services review charges. 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 \$335,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(12); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE END OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE QUAIL RIDGE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, NAPA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$335,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(12); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Plaisted Creek Ecological Reserve, San Diego County \$1,010,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of a 457.21+ acre parcel of land containing pristine riparian habitat on the flank of Mt. Palomar at the east edge of Pauma Valley. Pauma Valley is traversed by Highway 76 and is about 20 miles north of Escondido, in north San Diego County approximately 8 miles south of the San Diego-Riverside County line. The area is located about 30 miles east of the ocean. The two main accesses to the Pauma Valley area from I-15 are via County Road S-6 from Escondido through Valley Center and Highway 76 from Pala Road, where I-15 crosses the San Luis Rey River. Mr. Howard Dick explained the location of the property and its boundaries.

Three creeks (Plaisted, Bishop and an Unnamed Creek) traverse the property and eventually join the San Luis Rey River in Pauma Valley. The Cleveland National Forest marks the northerly boundary of the subject property while the La Jolla Indian Reservation borders its easterly side. Mostly private ownerships border the westerly and southerly sides.

There is a residence, a garage and an adobe building located on the property. The owner has elected to sell the entire property and retain a life estate to the buildings, along with a 5+ acre parcel considered as the homesite.

According to the Department of Fish and Game, the primary habitat types found on the area are chamise chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian. Chaparral is found on the slopes and ridges and the woodlands are found mainly in the three riparian corridors, and on benches. The oak woodland is composed of coast live oak, canyon live oak, Engelmann's oak, and scrub oak. Riparian woodland is largely comprised of oak, sycamores, alders, and ferns. Plaisted Creek contains some scattered conifers in the upper reaches with some of the upland areas containing patches of inland sage.

The principal game mammals on the area are southern mule deer, cottontail rabbits, jackrabbits and gray squirrels. Game birds include California quail, mourning doves, and at times, band-tailed pigeons. Predators include

coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, and gray fox with mountain lions occasionally visiting the property. Raptors using the area include red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, and Cooper hawks with golden eagles and turkey vultures being seen at times. Also found on the property are a variety of small mammals, songbirds, reptiles, and amphibians.

The property has an approved fair market value appraisal of \$1,358,000, considering a reduction in value for the life estate to be retained by the landowner (\$42,000). However, the landowner has agreed to sell the property to the State for \$1,000,000 if the State agrees to keep the property in its undisturbed natural state in perpetuity and to pursue obtaining an ecological reserve designation for the property. This equates to a \$358,000 donation.

The proposed acquisition is within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. In addition to the acquisition cost, it is estimated that \$10,000 will be needed to cover costs of appraisal, escrow, title insurance and State Department of General Services administrative expenses. This will bring the total required allocation to \$1,010,000.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the Plaisted Creek Ecological Reserve as proposed; allocate \$1,010,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988, as designated for southern California riparian habitat [Section 5907 (c)(3)], to cover the purchase price and estimated costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt reported that in Prop. 70, there was \$10,000,000 that was earmarked for acquisitions of riparian habitat of streams that enter into the Pacific Ocean in the southern California counties of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura. This particular proposal qualifies for that section in the bond. Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County, a local property owner, Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

Ms. Burton asked how would the property be managed. Mr. Schmidt responded that the property would be managed by the Department of Fish and Game but that this particular piece does not need much management as it is being acquired for the preservation of values that are already present. Mr. Jensen reported that the Department of Fish and Game has increased staff to address the management of properties.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE PLAISTED CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,010,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), AS DESIGNATED FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT [SECTION 5907 (c)(3)], 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. Llano Seco Rancho Wildlife Area, Butte County \$2,300,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 1,520+ acres of land for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of historic interior wetlands and waterfowl habitat. Mr. Giordano explained the project. The property is a portion of the Historic Llano Seco Rancho, known as the Parrott Ranch, and is located 15+ miles southwesterly of Chico, California, adjacent to the Sacramento River and bordered in part by Ord Ferry Road and Seven Mile Lane. Access is achieved via Interstate Highway 5 through the town of Willows easterly over Highway 162 and northerly over Highway 45 until you reach Ord Ferry Road, crossing the Sacramento River and arriving on the north boundary of the ranch. Additionally, the ranch may be accessed via State Highway 99 toward Chico. Approximately 7 miles south of Chico a westerly exit from Highway 99 on to Durham Dayton Road will lead to the intersection of Ord Ferry Road and Seven Mile Lane at the northeast corner of the ranch. The Parrott Ranch consists of 18,000+ acres and has been under the same family ownership for over 120 years.

The history of Llano Seco is in effect a real part of California history. The original conveyance of the Llano Seco Rancho was to Sebastian Kayser via a land grant from the Mexican Government during 1844 and 1845. In 1844, Sebastian Kayser sold his interest to Edward A. Farwell, who, in turn, sold a one-half interest to General Bidwell, a very prominent personage in the northern Sacramento Valley. Thereafter, the Rancho changed hands, either in its entirety or in part, several times, but each deed conveyed only an undivided fractional interest, and, all the time the Llano Seco Rancho remained a contiguous unit. Upon California becoming a State, a petition was filed in July, 1852, with the Board of Land Commissioners to confirm title. A patent was granted June 18, 1860, signed by John Buchanan, President of the United States. In 1861, the ranch was owned by Caleb T. Fay et al. John Parrott bought the major portion of the Rancho from the Fay's in 1861, and the remainder in 1869. From that time forward, the Rancho has been in the Parrott Family.

The acquisition proposal involves participation with three separate entities including The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) through the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). Of the 18,000+ acres comprising the Parrott Ranch, 14,000+ will be acquired in a combination of both fee and conservation easements. Approximately 4,000 acres will remain in private ownership. The three parties working together, with the good cooperation and participation of the owners, now have the opportunity to preserve and protect the valuable habitat contained upon this ranch.

The area contains a wide diversity of habitats including sloughs, creeks, Sacramento River frontage (approximately 6 miles), riparian habitat, oak woodlands, uplands, valley grasslands and historic interior wetlands. According to the Department of Fish and Game, the property contains in excess of 250 plant species. Vertebrate diversity includes 9 fish species, 12 amphibian and reptile species, 120 bird species and 20 mammal species. Many of these are either threatened or endangered species. For example, the ranch contains habitats for the California hibiscus, a Federal candidate and listed as threatened by the Native Plant Society; the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Federally threatened; the Giant garter snake, State threatened; Bald eagle, both State and Federally threatened; Swainson's hawk, State threatened; Peregrine falcon, both State and Federally endangered; California black rail, Greater sandhill crane, both State threatened; the Western yellow-billed cuckoo and willow flycatcher, both State endangered. In addition, the ranch contains habitat for several species of special concern such as the western pond turtle, double-crested cormorant, least bittern, white-faced ibis, osprey, northern harrier, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, merlin, prairie falcon, yellow rail, long-billed curlew, California gull, burrowing owl, long-eared owl, purple martin, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, tricolored blackbird, Townsend's big-eared bat, western mastiff bat and the American badger.

Aside from the many resident species, more than 20 percent of the Central Valley wintering populations of Greater sandhill cranes may be present in various locations on the ranch during the winter season. Observations of banded birds indicate that a high percentage are of the California threatened breeding population. The most extensive local acreage of valley grasslands also occur at Llano Seco. Consequently, at least three Swainson's hawk territories occur locally. California's largest known population of California hibiscus occurs at Llano Seco, and the ranch is one of the few local areas harboring a large tricolored blackbird colony. The Little Chico Creek marsh system within the ranch is one of the largest marsh systems on private land in the Sacramento Valley.

In addition to all the previously listed species, the ranch is used by thousands upon thousands of ducks and geese during the winter. Other game birds include pheasants, California valley quail and dove. There is also a small herd of deer on the property. Also found thereon are rabbits, raccoon, ring-tail cats, skunks, fox, coyote, squirrels, possum and river otter among other animals which depend on the ranch for habitat needs.

The acreage proposed for State acquisition in this transaction is located at the southeastern corner of the ranch. It is level and has historically been in rice production and has been leased for hunting during waterfowl season. Altogether, nearly 100 percent of this property is either historic, existing or restorable wetlands. It should be kept in mind that while this proposal only includes the acquisition of 1520+ acres, it is an integral part of an overall 14,000 acre acquisition project.

Consumptive public use of the property is anticipated to be a low density hunting program. Nonconsumptive uses could include the use of TNC and USFWS properties and may allow bird watching, educational access and biological research, photography and artistic studies where these activities do not cause excessive impacts on wildlife. The entire 14,000 acres would be managed on a coordinated basis under a cooperative agreement between all agencies (TNC/USFWS/DFG).

The proposed acquisition is located within the area identified within the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture (CVHJV) component of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. This plan calls for both protecting existing waterfowl habitat as well as creating new wetland habitat. State acquisition could allow for conversion of nearly the entire rice area into new wetlands. This is certainly in compliance with the CVHJV as well as SCR-28 (79-Keene) which calls for increasing California's wetlands by 50 percent by the year 2000.

The owners have agreed to sell the property to TNC at the fair market value. TNC would purchase the entire 14,000+ acres and in turn sell the respective designated portions to the State and USFWS at fair market value.

The area proposed for State purchase is presently being farmed, in rice, by the owners. They will be allowed to harvest the current rice crops, however, no private hunting or hunting leases will be permitted upon State acquisition.

The portion of the ranch to be sold to the State has been appraised at the fair market value of \$2,281,500.00. As required, this appraisal has been reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services. Review costs, appraisal, survey and closing expenses are expected to be about \$18,500. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt stated that a letter of opposition had been received from Mr. Ed Mc Laughlin, Supervisor, District 4 of the Butte County Board of Supervisors, and it was requested that the letter be put into the records. A copy of said letter is attached to these minutes. Mr. Schmidt read parts of the letter to the Board Members. The main areas of concern expressed in the letter were the loss of tax revenue, notification of adjacent landowners and other interested agencies, proposed use of the property, and water transfers. Mr. Schmidt recommended that these concerns be addressed by the Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Paul Jensen reported that the Department has budgeted funds to pay in-lieu of tax fees to the County and that it was standard procedure to notify adjacent landowners and other interested parties. He further stated that the Department, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, would be managing the property primarily as a wildlife-waterfowl area which is an integral part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Ms. Edna Maita discussed water marketing and transfers and the concern about what the Department will do with the water on the property and the water rights that go along with the property. She stated that there are several pieces of pending legislation dealing with the water marketing and transfer issues. These water transfers would be monitored and regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board. She also added that if the Department transfers any water, they would be subject to the monitoring and regulations as set forth by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Mr. Jensen discussed the M & T diversion at the mouth of Chico Creek which is the surface water source for this property and the concern that the diversion is currently unscreened and having a deleterious impact on salmon and steelhead resources in Chico Creek. With these properties under the management of the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who have responsibilities for anadromous fish management as well as waterfowl interests, the situation ought to improve and certainly will improve relative to the impacts of the diversion and water management.

Ms. Silberstein asked what in-lieu fees were, how did they compare with taxes and if there was there a large gap. Mr. Jensen responded that an in-lieu of tax fee is equal to the tax assessment due on the property at the time it is acquired. Ms. Maita added that the Department of Fish and Game is the only agency which acquires property for park and wildlife related habitat purposes who pay in-lieu of tax fees. The Department of Water Resources, Department of Parks and Recreation, Tahoe Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, and Caltrans, whom also acquire property for park and wildlife related habitat, do not pay these fees.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the Waterfowl Habitat Owners Alliance, Trust for Public Land, Bureau of Land Management, Ducks Unlimited, California Waterfowl Association, Defenders of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of 1,520+ acres within this property as proposed; allocate \$2,300,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(B); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE LLANO SECO RANCHO WILDLIFE AREA, BUTTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$2,300,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B), 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.

Comments from the public were heard at this time. The first speaker was Mr. Steve Evans representing the Sacramento River Preservation Trust. He expressed concern about the diversion of water utilized by the M & T Ranch and Parrott Ranch from Big Chico Creek. The M & T pumps often reverse flows in Big Chico Creek resulting in a 100 percent loss of chinook salmon escaping from Big Chico Creek. He questioned how the water rights and water use will be affected by this purchase. It was not their purpose to slow down or halt this purchase, but just to wave a red flag for a very important issue. It does not do any good to purchase wetlands for waterfowl in one hand and continue the practice of damaging fisheries in the other. He added that they would appreciate it if the Board would look into this issue, both in terms of this specific purchase and in future acquisitions, because as more lands along the river are acquired, more water rights issues will pop up. He feels that there are many diversions along the Sacramento River which have significant impacts on the fisheries.

Mr. Messersmith reported that they will strive to balance the water needs between waterfowl and fisheries while recognizing that there are certain times of the year when you can have a significant impact on the fisheries as water is removed from the river and other times when you can reduce that kind of impact. He added that it will be a challenging task and will work with the local citizens and believes that with a collective management system there is a better chance of solving the diversion problem and its impact to fisheries.

The next speaker was Mr. Mark Palmer representing the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation. Mr. Palmer spoke regarding in-lieu of tax fees paid to counties and is very concerned about the drain on the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. He suggested making a recommendation to the Department of Finance, Governor's Office and State Legislature regarding this and the overall budget to help the counties receive more taxation authority. He added that he realizes this is outside the purview of the Wildlife Conservation Board but would hope the Board would consider making a recommendation.

Ms. Burton stated that she was comfortable with staff's handling and thought they had made every effort possible to take into consideration the concerns that have been raised. She further added that she doesn't hear any real opposition and recognized that the letter from the Board of Supervisors was from one member only and he did not state he was speaking on behalf of the entire Board, nor did he say don't purchase this property. With that in mind, Ms. Burton stated her motion stands.

At this point, Ms. Burton had to shortly leave the meeting and turned over her voting power to Mr. Jensen for the balance of the meeting.

11. Estelle Mountain Ecological Reserve, Exp. #1, Riverside County \$765,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of seven parcels of mountainous property, totaling 141.49+ acres, located in western Riverside County just east of Interstate 15 and south of Lake Mathews. The seven parcels are within Riverside County's Habitat Conservation Plan reserve study area for the Stephens' kangaroo rat, a State listed threatened species and a Federally listed endangered species. While containing critical habitat for this species, the subject property is also home to the State listed threatened Munz's onion, of which its presence in this area is one of only seven known populations. The wildlife use of the area includes foraging, wintering and breeding for bird species and some raptors, including the Golden eagle. Ms. Lipphardt explained the location of the property and the previous acquisition.

The County's Habitat Conservation Plan was designed to identify areas to acquire for permanent reserves for numerous species, and as support for an application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a permit to allow incidental take of the Stephens' kangaroo rat outside the reserve study area. In this regard, the County has recently acquired nine additional 20-acre parcels adjacent to and near the subject acquisition area for a proposed reserve. Also, on February 13, 1991, the Board approved an allocation of funds to purchase an additional 82.25+ acres within the reserve study area. When completed, these acquisitions, coupled with the subject, will comprise over 400 acres of public ownership within the reserve study area.

In general, Stephen's kangaroo rat habitat is characterized by grassland or sparse coastal sage scrub vegetation in areas with penetrable soils and a flat to moderately sloping topography. Local populations of this rat are impacted by seasonal fluctuations in vegetation and by the amount of habitat available, as well as breaks in the migration corridors that link habitats. Currently, the single greatest threat to the species is loss of habitat, usually caused by disking of grassland for farming and livestock and grading of valleys and hills for urban development. Combined, these land uses are removing habitat and fragmenting the distribution of the species by removing corridor linkages. The subject area has been subdivided into 20-acre parcels and is zoned for one residential unit per 10 acres. This acquisition, when combined with the adjacent county properties, will increase the proposed reserve area and help protect the area from fragmentation.

The management of the property will be in cooperation with the County of Riverside. In addition, while not contiguous to the Department's nearby Lake Mathews Ecological Reserve, the subject's close proximity (less than 5 miles) would enable the Department to combine management activities for both reserves. Access to the properties is obtained via dirt and fire roads which are currently open to the public.

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The two individual landowners of the seven parcels have agreed to sell the subject land at the approved fair market values of \$110,000 for the 20+ acre ownership and \$648,120 for the 121.49+ acre ownership. Acquisition costs are estimated to be an additional \$6,880 for appraisal costs, title insurance, escrow fees and the Department of General Services review charges. The proposed acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$765,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund, Section 2720 (a), per Section 2721 (b) and (d), as established by the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988 (Prop. 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 and Senator Presley spoke in support of this project at the February 1991 Board meeting.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE ESTELLE MOUNTAIN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #1, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$765,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND, SECTION 2720 (a), PER SECTION 2721 (b) AND (d), 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.

Mr. Schmidt welcomed and introduced the new Legislative Interim Advisory Committee Member Assemblyman Dan Hauser, who joined the meeting at this time.

12. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Tulare County \$615,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was for the acquisition of five parcels of land totaling 648.95+ acres of primarily native habitat. The subject parcels are located 2 to 3 miles west of Highway 99, near Earlimart, about 5 miles north of Delano and the Kern County line. The area contains prime critical habitat for three listed animal species including the State listed threatened and Federally listed endangered San Joaquin kit fox, and the State and Federally listed endangered Tipton kangaroo rat and blunt-nosed leopard lizard. The acquisitions will further DFG's long range plan of joining existing holdings together in this area, an action which will provide three miles of continuous habitat nearly one mile wide (2,080+ acres). Mr. Schmidt stated that this was an ongoing acquisition project which started with the Department of Fish and Game's Environmental License Plate Program back in 1974. Mr. Dick explained the previous acquisition as well as this proposal.

The Allensworth site is listed in the 1988 Annual Report of Significant Natural Areas of California prepared by the Department of Fish and Game's Lands and Natural Areas Program. The Valley sink scrub community found here is one of the best remaining examples in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Due to the relatively large area it covers, it provides critical habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species, such as the San Joaquin kit fox, which requires sizable territories (1-2 square miles) for hunting and breeding. In addition, because of its significant habitat for the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the Allensworth site is also recommended for protection in the Recovery Plan for that species. However, the current DFG holdings at Allensworth are considered too small and disjunct to sustain populations of these species. Enlarging and connecting the existing reserve parcels will reduce the impact of conflicting uses on surrounding lands as well as provide a contiguous migration corridor between parcels.

The subject properties are located in an area which has been mostly converted to extensive agricultural uses including alfalfa, cotton, milo, grapes or orchard use. A new trend in the area is toward turkey farms. It is almost a certainty that the subject parcels will not remain native land if the property is not preserved by some means.

Operation and maintenance costs for this area are expected to be minimal. The management focus is habitat preservation with potential species augmentation. Minimal, if any, development will be required. While the Department will have to post the area, fencing may not be necessary since the principal threat comes from agricultural conversion, not trespass.

The owners have agreed to sell the subject land at the total approved fair market value of \$588,800. Acquisition costs are estimated to be an additional \$26,200 (5 separate ownerships) for appraisal costs, title insurance, escrow fees and the Department of General Services review charges. 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.

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Wildlife Conservation Board

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$615,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund, as established by the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988 (P-70), Section 2720 (a), for the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE ALLENSWORTH ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #1, TULARE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$615,000.00 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.

13. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion #19, Del Norte County \$32,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to acquire 10.98+ acres of privately owned property adjacent to 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 south of Kellogg Road. Mr. Dick explained the project.

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, which 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.

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. 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 \$22,000. Anticipated costs, which include survey costs, escrow fees and the Department of General Services charges are estimated to be \$10,000 which would bring the total necessary allocation to \$32,000. The project is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation and open space purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve acquiring this property as proposed; allocate \$32,000.00 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. Hauser thanked the Board for the opportunity to join them and stated he would take advantage of every opportunity to attend the meetings as often as possible. He commended the WCB for its continued efforts to secure the area around Lake Earl and noted this was an excellent addition to the project.

It was explained by staff that there are still a few more acquisitions needed to complete the overall proposal of acquiring property to the 10 foot elevation around the lake.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE LAKE EARL WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #19, DEL NORTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$32,000.00 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.

14. Ventura Fishing Pier, Ventura County \$500,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the City of Ventura had requested WCB funding to assist in the renovation of the Ventura Pier and has agreed to match WCB's allocation with City funds. The State Department of Parks and Recreation and the Coastal Conservancy are also participating in this \$3 1/2 million project. In accordance with the Board's long-standing policy, this proposed allocation is limited to \$500,000. Mr. Edon briefly described the pier and its location to the City.

The old Ventura Pier, first constructed in 1872 is situated on Ventura State Beach adjacent to State Highway 101 near downtown Ventura. It is about 66 miles northwest of Los Angeles and 26 miles southeast of Santa Barbara. Of wood construction, the pier has been partially reconstructed several times and is presently closed to public use for safety reasons.

The City and community are unified in the desire to improve the pier and in 1987 began a series of public workshops to explore the various options and to investigate possible funding sources. Although the pier was owned by State Department of Parks and Recreation, it lacked the necessary funds to cover the entire repair costs. Legislation passed in 1987, SB-53, allows Parks to transfer title to the City, thereby allowing them to lease the pier to Fish and Game as required for WCB funding.

The City has submitted a resolution agreeing to the WCB matching fund and long-term lease and maintenance requirements. The City will administer construction contracts after agreements have been executed and approved with all agencies involved.

The Department of Fish and Game has made a fisheries evaluation to assist the Board in considering the proposed funding. As is typical with most of the projects developed under the Board's very successful fishing pier program, especially those in populated areas, angling on the Ventura Pier is expected to be consistent and heavy the year round. Major species in the catch are most likely to be Pacific Mackerel, white croaker, jacksmelt, California halibut and several surf perch species. This species composition is representative of other southern California piers.

A comprehensive study was made by marine engineers familiar with this type of repair work and the following total cost estimate submitted by the City is based on the engineer's findings and recommendation. Of course, portions of the project do not qualify for Board funding. However, the WCB match will be more than adequately met with qualifying funds by the City.

Cost Estimate

Mobilization	\$ 20,000
Demolition of Superstructure (67,000 SF)	168,000
Remove and Replace 60 piles	162,000
Pile Caps (25)	125,000
Stringers, Decking, Blocking, Bracing (67,000 SF)	737,000
Abutment Excavation and Concrete (132 CY)	66,000
Abutment Piles (18)	45,000
Pier approach (6,000 SF)	300,000
Wood Railing and Stairs	73,000
Standpipe Fire Protection	68,000
Fish Cleaning Stations/Drinking Fountains/Benches	53,000
Restrooms	65,000
Lighting, Power and Telephone	100,000
Restaurant	300,000
Pile Wrapping/Encasements	100,000
Roadside Turnout	60,000
Bait Shop	55,000
Interpretative Areas	50,000
Platforms	20,000
Elevator	100,000
Computer Inventory System	6,000
	<hr/>
Subtotal	\$2,673,000
Engineering and Administration (12%)	321,000
Contingency (15%)	401,000
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$3,395,000

The City has filed a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with CEQA and provided a copy for Board and staff review as required.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Ms. Mary Lou Schill from the City of Ventura was present should there be any questions. He also indicated that Assemblyman Jack O'Connell has expressed his support for this project.

Staff recommended that the Board, in consideration of the Negative Declaration prepared and filed by the City of Ventura, approve the Ventura Fishing Pier project on a matching basis with the City of Ventura as proposed; allocate \$500,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RENOVATION OF THE VENTURA FISHING PIER, VENTURA COUNTY, ON A MATCHING FUND BASIS WITH THE CITY OF VENTURA, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$500,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center, Sacramento County \$175,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider an allocation for a cooperative project with The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management for the construction of a Visitor Center on the Cosumnes River Preserve. Mr. Edon explained the project.

The Cosumnes River Preserve is a 2,500 acre natural area in south Sacramento County, near the confluence of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers, just east of Interstate 5. The Cosumnes is the largest free-flowing river in the Central Valley. Because of this, the frequent winter flooding allows for good growth of native riverside vegetation, such as valley oak, wild grape, wild rose, and elder. The preserve contains two important plant communities; the riparian valley oak forest community and the freshwater marsh community. Less than one percent of each community type remains in the State. The preserve is one of California's largest wintering areas for the threatened Greater sandhill crane, as well as providing important migratory and resident bird habitat. During the winter migration, tundra swans, blue winged teal, Canada geese, and numerous duck species may be seen on the preserve. More than 200 species of birds have been sighted on the preserve, including nesting Swainson's hawks and wood ducks.

With the first purchase in 1987, the preserve has become a cooperative conservation effort between Ducks Unlimited (DU) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and with additional adjacent acquisitions, by the Wildlife Conservation Board/Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) they have also become key players in this cooperative effort. In addition to protecting the existing natural features, the organizations are working to restore the valley oak and wetland habitats. TNC and BLM are now proposing to construct a visitor center on the preserve. The center would serve as the main visitor area, providing parking, picnic tables, restrooms, drinking fountain, interpretive displays and brochures, a canoe launch area, trail head access, a docent center, and staff offices. The building at the center will be located off of Franklin Road on an existing pad above the 100 year flood plain, providing excellent access and visibility. While there will be expansive views of the preserve from this center, it is removed from the primary roosting areas to avoid unnecessary disturbance to sensitive species.

Preliminary plans for the visitor center have been drafted by the architectural firm of Mogavero Associates of Sacramento. The BLM has prepared an Environmental Assessment in accordance with CEQA and NEPA requirements, resulting in a negative declaration of significant effects to the environment.

The estimated total construction cost for this project is \$400,000. The 1990/91 WCB budget includes an approved item, providing \$175,000, specifically designated for this project. Since these funds are for a minor capital outlay project, they must be encumbered before the end of June. Total project funding is proposed from the following sources:

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Wildlife Conservation Board	\$175,000
TNC private fund raising	75,000
BLM	<u>150,000</u>
Total	\$400,000

TNC will assume the responsibility for design of the center. While the project site is currently owned by TNC, it will be transferred to BLM shortly. Staff proposes to enter into the normal agreements for construction and operation and maintenance of the facility with BLM. In reality however, TNC will be handling the actual on-site operation and maintenance for BLM through a cooperative management plan between all parties involved with the preserve. DFG will provide input to the management plan.

Mr. Edon noted that Mr. Deane Swickard, BLM, and Ms. Greg Elliott, TNC, were present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this visitor center project as proposed; allocate \$175,000.00 from the Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund (P-99) as approved for this purpose in the WCB 90/91 budget; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to enter into agreement with the BLM for project construction substantially as planned, contingent upon BLM obtaining funding approval for the balance of required project funds.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONSTRUCTION OF A VISITOR CENTER ON THE COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$175,000.00 FROM THE PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND (P-99), AS SPECIFICALLY BUDGETED FOR THIS PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, CONTINGENT UPON BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OBTAINING FUNDING APPROVAL FOR THE BALANCE OF REQUIRED PROJECT FUNDS.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Coyote Hills Wetland Enhancement, Alameda County \$250,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation to fund a seasonal wetland development project, in cooperation with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), at the Coyote Hills Regional Park. The District proposes to develop a water distribution system that will make it possible to enlarge and enhance existing wetlands and riparian areas by redirecting storm water and well water flows. Mr. Edon explained the proposal.

The first comprehensive local map, originally drawn in the mid 1850's, shows the pristine Coyote Hills Regional Park area as an isolated group of hills bordered on the west, north and south by a series of tidal channels, and on the east by three expansive bodies of water, freshwater impoundments, labeled as "lakes". Freshwater seems to have been the overriding habitat feature here. This assumption is supported by the fact that at least four Ohlone Indian encampments existed on what was once the shores of the northern Lake.

These lakes were important habitat for waterbirds, especially the dabbling duck species, whose primary feeding habitat is a shallow, eutrophic freshwater ponds or lakes. Coyote Hills was an important winter feeding and summer breeding habitat for these ducks, plus other freshwater-oriented species. It is with this historic perspective that the EBRPD is proposing to enhance the existing wetlands at the Coyote Hills Regional Park.

The elevated areas will be regraded to allow rainwater to move from the eastern border of the park towards the South Marsh. Ditching and berming will also be used to protect existing salt marsh habitat and provide habitat for mosquito fish as required by Alameda County Mosquito Abatement.

A new pipeline and drain ditch weir will be installed to distribute water and permit flooding of additional seasonal wetland. The pipeline will be equipped with bubble-up water spreading devices which will allow the water to spread over approximately 90 acres and eventually drain into the South Marsh.

The existing "P" Line drain ditch will also be breached closer to the South Marsh and a second weir and slide gate will be installed to allow urban runoff to flow over the site at a lower level.

The District, who will maintain and operate the water distribution system, will also develop a seasonal wetlands management plan and enter into a long-term agreement with the Department of Fish and Game for management of the new wetlands. In addition, the District will consult with the Department of Fish and Game on an annual basis to provide the best management possible for this important natural resource.

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The estimated project costs as prepared by EBRPD and reviewed by staff are as follows:

Clearing, cut and fill	\$ 56,500
Ditch work	20,100
Pipe	117,000
Outlets & Water Control Structures	21,600
Well (connecting pipeline to existing well)	3,000
Contingency	<u>31,800</u>
Total	\$250,000

The District has completed the appropriate environmental documents in compliance with the CEQA requirements. A \$250,000 item is included in the Wildlife Conservation Board's 1990/91 budget specifically approved for this project.

Mr. Edon noted that Mr. Mike Anderson, East Bay Regional Park District, was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support were received from Senator Lockyer, Assemblywoman Eastin, Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from the Public Resources Account, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988 (P-99); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEASONAL WETLANDS AT THE COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK, ALAMEDA COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$250,000.00 FROM THE PUBLIC RESOURCES ACCOUNT, CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND OF 1988 (P-99), AS SPECIFICALLY BUDGETED FOR THIS PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*17. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$323,396.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

It was proposed that the Board allocate funds for the enhancement and rehabilitation of salmon, steelhead and resident fish spawning and rearing habitat on eight waterways in California.

The anadromous fishery resource in California has suffered a severe decline over the past thirty years. For example, records indicate that the king salmon population in the Klamath River has declined from a historic level of 500,000 to 180,000 by 1963, 114,000 by 1978, to 54,000 by 1984. One of the major causes for this decline is degradation of natural habitat due to stream and watershed disturbances from logging, road construction, mining and other activities associated with modern development. There has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of artificially produced fish returning to the Klamath system since 1985. Returns of naturally produced salmon are still very low, however, due to the widespread loss of habitat.

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

Flood riffles are broad, shallow stream sections commonly referred to as "bowling alleys" which are composed primarily of 6 to 8 inch cobbles or boulders. These areas lack pools and provide little if any spawning or rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. Some streams have usable spawning and rearing habitat that is blocked by a rock or log barrier. Modification of these barriers can open miles of good habitat that currently can not be reached by anadromous fish. Flood waters also caused the loss of bank stability and associated streamside shade canopy which is needed to maintain cooler summer water temperatures required for survival of juvenile salmon and trout. Since anadromous fish spend the juvenile portion of their life cycle in their natal stream, the need for adequate rearing habitat is a significant factor relative to the overall status of a population.

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

Many of the problems associated with the larger coastal streams are also common to the smaller interior waterways. Long stretches of some interior streams also lack the proper pool-riffle ratio and require log-rock weir structures and boulder clusters to re-create the proper habitat elements. Unstable stream banks are common and create conditions that reduce stream habitat values.

Stream banks lacking cover generate increased sedimentation which smothers spawning gravel and fill pools needed for rearing habitat. The lack of stream bank riparian growth also results in higher water temperatures, less hiding cover and a reduced food source. Some segments of streams that are heavily fished lack adequate hiding and holding cover which reduces angler success and lessens the fishing experience. Stream habitat modifications are also necessary to protect, enhance and restore populations of threatened or endangered species of fish.

The following stream restoration projects have been recommended by the Department of Fish and Game. The appropriate environmental document has been completed for each project by the project sponsor in accordance with CEQA. All of the projects listed in this item are intended to correct or enhance situations identified above. The Department of Fish and Game will, in all cases, either administer projects themselves, or monitor the work of other public agencies.

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

a. Baker Gulch, Trinity County \$2,500.00

The Department of Fish and Game is proposing to complete a project to provide fish passage at the Baker Gulch culvert. Baker Gulch is a tributary to Lewiston Lake which attracts a spawning run of several hundred large rainbow trout each spring. Shortly after the fish leave the reservoir, they are blocked by a culvert barrier under the Trinity Dam Road. This creates a serious poaching problem and excludes fish from using more than one-half mile of quality spawning habitat.

The Department proposes to construct a rock weir, a 20-foot section of fish ladder and install baffles through the interior of the culvert to allow for passage to the quality spawning area. Material and equipment costs are estimated at \$2,500. Hand labor to complete the work will be furnished by the Trinity River Conservation Camp. The Department of Fish and Game has applied for and received an Encroachment Permit from the Trinity County Public Works Department.

b. Carmel River Spawning Habitat, Monterey County \$84,389.00

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is proposing to increase steelhead spawning habitat in six miles of the Carmel River below San Clemente and Los Padres Dams. Since the construction of the dams in 1921 and 1948 respectively, spawning gravel that would normally be recruited is being trapped at the heads of the reservoirs.

The District, in consultation with Department of Fish and Game biologists, plan to place appropriate size gravel in selected spawning glides, below Los Padres and San Clemente Dams, and maintain the habitat for a ten-year period by adding gravel as necessary depending on streamflows. It is proposed that gravel will be trucked to streamside or canyon sites and placed in pools just upstream of selected spawning glides with a PVC sluiceway or with a helicopter. The project will be administered by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, in cooperation with a DFG contract administrator.

c. Greenhorn Creek, Plumas County \$150,000.00

The Plumas County Community Development Commission, in cooperation with numerous State, Federal and local agencies having an interest in the Greenhorn Creek drainage, have completed a Coordinated Resource Management Plan to restore channel stability and riparian habitat to various sections of Greenhorn Creek. The county plans to restore approximately four miles of this stream system in four separate phases, each phase will stand on its own. The work planned for this phase will restore approximately one mile of habitat in Greenhorn Creek to improve spawning and rearing habitat for catchable size wild rainbow and Brown trout. The project is located approximately four miles east of Quincy adjacent to Highway 70 and will be administered by Plumas County, in cooperation with a DFG contract administrator.

d. McCloud River, Siskiyou County \$3,900.00

This proposed cooperative project, with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, lies on a portion of the McCloud River recently acquired by the Forest Service through a land exchange with private industry. Currently a large debris jam directs high flows into a soft bank resulting in a considerable amount of bank erosion. If this problem is not corrected, much of an adjacent small meadow will be eliminated thus generating increased sediment loads to the McCloud River, thereby degrading habitat for rainbow trout.

A backhoe will be used to excavate the bed and place a log revetment structure along the cutbank. A Forest Service crew will pin the logs and modify the debris by removing selected pieces. Some of the woody debris will remain in place as it provides excellent cover. Willows will be planted along the revetment wall next spring in order to increase cover and bank stability. The project will be completed by the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with a DFG contract administrator.

e. Quail Hollow Falls Fishway (Zayante Creek),
Santa Cruz County \$34,159.00

Santa Cruz County is proposing to increase the ability of steelhead trout to pass over the Quail Hollow Falls located in Zayante Creek. This would be accomplished by placing a fishway inside the horseshoe shaped falls which drop 6 feet. Prior to construction a diversion pipe will be installed to carry water around the project area. The connecting fishway will consist of four, 4' x 10', steel boxes creating a step pool passage. The project will be completed by Santa Cruz County, in cooperation with a DFG contract administrator.

f. Reyes Creek, Ventura County \$13,000.00

This is a proposed cooperative project with the Los Padres National Forest to restore and improve native fish habitat at Reyes Creek and establish a self-propagating native fish population. This project is intended to allow fish access and travel throughout the stream, while improving pools, spawning areas and streambank habitat.

The work will consist of modifying existing rock weir dams that block fish migration upstream by slightly breaking down or notching these barriers. Overhanging material will be left to protect stream materials and pools. Small rock dams will also be constructed to modify the existing steep gradients. Final site specific designs, construction methods and materials used will be reviewed and approved by the DFG contract administrator prior to work beginning.

g. Trout Creek, Siskiyou County \$1,370.00

The Shasta-Trinity National Forests recently acquired portions of Trout Creek, a redband trout stream, through a land exchange with a private individual. The stream is characterized by shallow riffles and runs. Habitat conditions are poor as pools are limited in size and abundance, and bank cutting is causing fine sediments to cover spawning gravels. Riparian vegetation is also sparse in many areas along the stream.

The purpose of this proposal is to develop pool habitat and cover and reduce the sources of fine sediment through the placement of five in-channel and bank stabilization structures. The project site is located on Trout Creek approximately 20 miles northeast of the town of McCloud.

Through the Adopt-A-Watershed Program, the Forest Service and McCloud High School will construct the habitat improvement structures with the Forest Service providing the technical expertise, materials and supplies, and the high school providing the labor. The project will also have input from the DFG contract administrator.

h. Walker Creek, Marin County \$33,578.00

Walker Creek originates in the hills of western Marin County and flows 18 miles to enter the northern end of Tomales Bay. Historically, it supported large populations of coho salmon and steelhead trout. However, over the years three factors have played a role in reducing its salmonid populations including zero summer and fall flows, a wide fluctuation of winter flows, and streambank erosion producing sediment and reducing riparian vegetation.

In 1976, the Department of Fish and Game concluded an agreement with the Marin Municipal Water District, operators of Soulaajule Reservoir, to provide year-round flows in Walker Creek. These releases, together with restocking by Fish and Game, have addressed two of the three limiting factors above. In 1986, the Marin County Resource Conservation District began a five-year erosion control program to control erosion throughout the watershed. This erosion control program was a beginning to remedy the third factor.

The Marin County Resource Conservation District now proposes to use the requested funds to complete additional bank stabilization work and planting of willow bank cover to improve additional salmon and steelhead habitat. Site specific design and construction will be approved by the DFG contract administrator.

Administrative costs necessary to process contracts for the above listed projects are estimated to be an additional \$500.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these eight salmon, steelhead and resident fish projects as one item as proposed; allocate \$323,396.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), as designated for stream restoration, including \$500.00 to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE END OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE EIGHT SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM AS PROPOSED, AS LISTED BELOW; ALLOCATE \$323,396.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), AS DESIGNATED FOR STREAM RESTORATION, INCLUDING \$500.00 TO COVER THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

A. BAKER GULCH, TRINITY COUNTY.....	\$ 2,500.00
B. CARMEL RIVER SPAWNING HABITAT, MONTEREY CO.	\$ 84,389.00
C. GREENHORN CREEK, PLUMAS COUNTY	\$150,000.00
D. MC CLOUD RIVER, SISKIYOU COUNTY	\$ 3,900.00
E. QUAIL HOLLOW FALLS FISHWAY (ZAYANTE CREEK), SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	\$ 34,159.00
F. REYES CREEK, VENTURA COUNTY	\$ 13,000.00
G. TROUT CREEK, SISKIYOU COUNTY	\$ 1,370.00
H. WALKER CREEK, MARIN COUNTY	\$ 33,578.00
CONTRACT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ 500.00

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Upper Butte Sink WLA Wetland Development, Butte County and Mendota Wildlife Area Wetland Development, Fresno County \$677,681.00

Mr. Schmidt explained that this proposal was to accept and expend a Federal fund allocation of \$602,681.00 from the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and a contribution of \$75,000.00 from Ducks Unlimited for wetland development projects at the Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area in Butte County and the Mendota Wildlife Area in Fresno County. These projects were presented and discussed at the February 13, 1991, Board meeting, and approval was granted to allocate the State's share (\$242,112.00) of funds for the restoration of wetland habitat in the Upper Butte Sink and (\$285,570.00) for the Mendota Wildlife Area. Authority to accept and expend these Federal and private monies from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program is requested to complete the restoration project.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program established by Chapter 1645, Statutes of 1990, the Board is authorized to apply for Federal grants that support the acquisition, enhancement, and restoration of wetlands and to receive donations from private and public sources for the purposes of the program (Section 1412).

Consistent with the provisions of this Act, staff recommended that the Board approve this request to accept and expend a total of \$677,681.00; \$602,681.00 in Federal monies and \$75,000.00 in private contributions from Ducks Unlimited, to complete the Upper Butte Sink WLA and the Mendota Wildlife Area Wetland Development projects as described in the February 13, 1991, Board agenda, Item numbers 16 and 17.

Mr. Schmidt advised the Board that a letter had been received, from an attorney representing a duck club next to the Upper Butte Sink WLA, advising us not to carry out the project or that we should be very careful in doing the project so that it doesn't affect his clients. This has been an ongoing issue and there is a pending lawsuit. Mr. Schmidt further advised that the matter was discussed with counsel and that since this project has previously been approved this funding action does not have a bearing on this lawsuit.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$677,681.00; \$602,681.00 FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL AND \$75,000.00 FROM DUCKS UNLIMITED, TO COMPLETE THE UPPER BUTTE SINK WLA, BUTTE COUNTY, AND THE MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA, FRESNO COUNTY, WETLAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AS DESCRIBED IN THE FEBRUARY 13, 1991, WCB AGENDA, ITEM NUMBERS 16 AND 17, AS PROPOSED; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Lake Tahoe Public Access (Dredging), Placer County \$25,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this item was added to the agenda, after the mailing of the "line-item agenda", at the request of the Tahoe City Public Utility District which operates and maintains the Lake Tahoe Public Access Project. The request was for funding to assist the District in dredging around the boat ramp, thereby providing continued public boating access through the 1991 season.

The ramp has consistently been an important and well used access facility on the north shore of Lake Tahoe. At times of low water levels, it has been one of the few public ramps on the lake which remains functional.

However, lower than normal precipitation through the last five years has created a cumulative impact on lake levels. In fact, according to the District, this year it reached its lowest level in recorded history. Even with the welcomed March storms, current projections indicate a severe drop in the water level by July resulting in lower than normal depths at the ramp, potentially rendering it unsafe or unusable to most boaters.

In 1988, the Board allocated \$25,000.00 to dredge this same general area. However, siltation has only been a problem in the past several years. It should be pointed out that the District is currently doing an engineering study in an attempt to enhance the operation of this project. This study includes research on the possibility of constructing a rock breakwater offshore to protect the ramp. Also being considered among other things, is an extension to the ramp to a depth of three feet below minimum water levels. It is anticipated that measures taken as a result of this study, coupled with a return to normal precipitation, will alleviate future siltation problems.

Meanwhile without dredging we are faced with the possibility of closing this ramp by mid-summer. It should be pointed out that, in addition to providing boating access to the general public, this ramp is used by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the County of Placer for search and rescue operations on the lake.

Staff feels that the proposed work is beyond the scope of "normal maintenance" as required under their operating and maintenance agreement with the Department of Fish and Game. Staff has also reviewed their income and expense records and are confident that all project income is in fact already going back into project operation and maintenance as required.

The District has already received all required permits to carry out this dredging operation. They would plan on beginning the dredging immediately after June 6, 1991, the earliest date allowable by the Department of Fish and Game. This date is subject to change by the Department depending on nearby stream flows and spawning activities.

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Total project costs are estimated to be \$40,000.00. The Department of Boating and Waterways has agreed to provide \$15,000.00 towards the project. The balance, \$25,000.00, is being requested from the Board. This work qualifies for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Account and staff plans to file an application for such funds. The District's Board of Directors has adopted a resolution urging WCB consideration of this request for funding. The District will also carry out the contract administration for the project.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Lake Tahoe Public Access dredging project as proposed; allocate \$25,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from Assemblyman Dave Knowles, Mr. Kenneth Jones, Mr. Reith Harrington and that Ms. Sandra Coombes from the Tahoe City Public Utility District was present should there be any questions.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE LAKE TAHOE PUBLIC ACCESS DREDGING PROJECT, PLACER COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$25,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. Other Business

a. Consent Calendar

Mr. Schmidt advised that a vote was needed on the Consent Calendar Items #4 - 8 and Item #17, unless someone wanted an item pulled.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JENSEN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS #4, #5, #6, #7, #8 AND #17 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Discussion of Assembly Bill 324

Mr. Schmidt announced that Mr. Richard Spotts had requested to speak before the Board on an issue not on the agenda. He Schmidt stated that no action could be taken on the issue.

Mr. Spotts, Defenders of Wildlife, spoke regarding Assembly Bill 324 - authored by Assemblyman Rusty Areias, which is based on a report and recommendation by the Little Hoover Commission with respect to reorganizing real property acquisition management and planning for the entire State of California. Mr. Spotts stated he believes it poses a great threat to the future existence and identity of the Wildlife Conservation Board. He believes the Board is the single most efficient and effective organization of State Government at least in terms of conservation work, is remarkably efficient and successful in the last 44 years given its relatively small staff and budget. Essentially AB 324 would bring virtually all real property aspects of State Government under a reconstituted Public Works Board, which is a threat to this Board, as well as the Coastal Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and perhaps the acquisitions of the State Department of Parks and Recreation. These concerns have been raised with an indication of being receptive to input but there has been no commitment to exempt conservation acquisitions including those by the Wildlife Conservation Board. Mr. Spotts announced that a meeting was scheduled for May 16, 1991, 2 p.m., and urged everyone to oppose AB 324 or at least work for appropriate amendments to exempt the Wildlife Conservation Board and perhaps the other conservation agencies.

Mr. Mark Palmer, Mountain Lion Foundation, stated he had been working with Mr. Spotts against AB 324. He stated that he believes Mr. Areias is in a position to offer amendments to exempt the conservancies, including the Wildlife Conservation Board. He also concurred with Mr. Spotts and urged all to oppose AB 324.

Minutes of Meeting, May 15, 1991
Wildlife Conservation Board

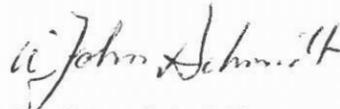
Assemblyman Hauser stated he was optimistic that the bill would not pass as it is currently written.

Mr. McCracken mentioned that with his short experience with the staff of this Board, he is convinced that it is very efficient. Staff does a tremendous job of putting together these proposals in such a way that they are understandable to all.

Mr. Schmidt thanked him for all the staff, and stated it was a good staff. Mr. Schmidt reported that he had not been invited to the meeting regarding AB-324 scheduled for May 16, 1991, but that he would be attending.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m. by Chairman McCracken.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 15, 1991, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$282,714,046.72. 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	12,309,090.35
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .	\$3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	6,408,289.11
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	467,219.86
4. Marine Habitat	646,619.07
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,723,349.26
c. Fishing Access Projects	33,527,673.32
1. Coastal and Bay	\$3,073,799.25
2. River and Aqueduct Access	7,088,741.47
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,238,600.84
4. Piers	17,126,531.76
d. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects ..	212,963,750.01
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$141,336,436.51
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ...	3,707,841.55
3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	67,919,471.95
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	<u>657,615.63</u>
 Total Allocated to Projects	 \$282,714,046.72

Attachment to
May 15, 1991, Minutes

JANE DOLAN, Chair
Second District

HASKEL A. McINTURF
First District

KEVIN CAMPBELL
Third District

ED McLAUGHLIN
Fourth District

LEN FULTON
Fifth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ADMINISTRATION CENTER
25 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE — OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95965

TELEPHONE: (916) 538-7224

May 13, 1991

FEDERAL EXPRESS

W. John Schmidt
Executive Director
Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Conservation Board
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Mr. Frank G. Giordano

Re: Llano Seco Rancho Wildlife Area, Butte County

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

This is in response to your letter of April 17, 1991 to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Dept. of Fish and Game's decision to request the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to acquire a portion of the Parrott Ranch consisting of 1,521 +/- acres located within Butte County. I understand that this property acquisition will be reviewed at the Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting scheduled for May 15, 1991. I would like my comments to be a part of the record and would appreciate your response to the questions and issues set forth in my letter.

As you know, Butte County has serious financial problems. There are many causes of these problems, one of which is a low property tax assessment base. The impact of removing 1,521 +/- acres from the Butte County tax rolls is serious. I believe that you should consider the loss in revenue to Butte County and make a finding on those economic impacts to the County as part of your decision making process. A mitigation measure I would support is to compensate Butte County for the loss in tax revenue each year.

In addition, the County and the surrounding landowners have an interest in knowing the proposed use of the property. Will it be compatible with surrounding land uses? Have surrounding landowners been adequately notified of the purchase and proposed use of the property? Have they been provided with an opportunity to comment and to have their comments weighed in the decision making process? This property is in the middle of an intensely agricultural area. The proposed use must be consistent with the surrounding agricultural land.

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W. John Schmidt
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As you know, water marketing in Butte County is a controversial subject. Are there plans to transfer water presently used on the property outside of the County, or in the case of groundwater, outside of the basin? Will the County and surrounding landowners receive notice of proposals involving water transfers which could effect groundwater levels? Will the WCB agree to monitor groundwater levels, should increased pumping occur? Will the WCB agree to adhere to standards regarding groundwater that may be adopted in the future by the County and/or local districts and associations?

Has the Butte County Farm Bureau been notified of the proposal to acquire this land? Have other interested agencies been notified? Because of the significant size of the parcel and impact on the County and surrounding landowners, please see that these questions and others of interest to the community are answered before making a final decision regarding the purchase and future use of this property.

Very truly yours,

Ed McLaughlin / srm

Ed McLaughlin
Supervisor, District 4

EM/gm
(schmidt.ltr)

cc: Mr. James D. Messersmith,
DFG Regional Manager, Region 2