

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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

Minutes, Meeting of February 11, 1992

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

Minutes, Meeting of February 11, 1992

Pursuant to the call of Chairman Everett McCracken, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 317 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on February 11, 1992. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Schmidt made introductions of the Board Members. He reported that according to statutes, only one Director can be represented by a Deputy Director and that only one Deputy Director has voting power. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Sarasohn was the only Deputy Director present and was the voting member. Ms. Burton from the Department of Finance joined the meeting later and assumed the voting power at that time.

1. Roll Call

<u>Present:</u>	Everett M. McCracken, Jr., President, Fish and Game Commission	Chairman
	Susanne Burton, Chief Deputy Dir. Department of Finance	Member
	Howard Sarasohn, Deputy Director, Vice Boyd Gibbons, 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
	Rick Battson Vice Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg	Joint Interim Committee
<u>Absent:</u>	Senator Barry Keene	Joint Interim Committee
	Senator David Roberti	Joint Interim Committee
<u>Staff Present:</u>	W. John Schmidt, Executive Director	
	Clyde S. Edon, Assistant Executive Director	
	Robert Schulenburg, Field Agent	
	Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent/Assistant Executive Director	
	Howard Dick, Senior Land Agent	
	Frank Giordano, Senior Land Agent	
	Georgia Lipphardt, Senior Land Agent	
	Debbie Townsend, Land Agent	
	Marilyn Cundiff-Gee, Wetlands Program Manager	
	Sylvia Gude, Staff Services Analyst	
	Sandy Daniel, Executive Secretary	
	Janice Beeding, Office Technician	

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<u>Others Present:</u>	Terri Stewart	Dept. of Fish & Game
	Banky Curtis	Dept. of Fish & Game
	Jim Messersmith	Dept. of Fish & Game
	Rhonda Reed	Dept. of Fish & Game
	Bonnie Turner	Dept. of Fish & Game
	John Donnelly	Dept. of Fish & Game
	Steve Nicola	Dept. of Fish & Game
	Mark Palmer	Mountain Lion Foundation
	Al & Mary Kern	Landowners
	Gary Jerome	Dept. of Finance
	Mary Morgan	Assemblyman Hauser
	Janet Didion	Parks & Recreation

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the November 5, 1991, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. SARASOHN THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 1991, BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Funding Status as of February 11, 1992 (Information Only)

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

(a) 1991/92 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 200,000.00
Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$ 700,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 77,300.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 622,700.00

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 529,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-527,524.62
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,475.38

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

Added to Governor's Budget by Ch. 1241	\$ 950,000.00
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(d) 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

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

Governor's Budget	\$4,093,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,777,467.96
Less Interest for Bond Loan	-1,356,422.47
Unallocated Balance	\$ 959,109.57

(f) 1991/92 Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
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(g) 1989/90 Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$15,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-12,753,613.02
Unallocated Balance	\$ 2,246,386.98

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

Direct appropriation to the Wildlife Conservation Board	\$81,300,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-52,600,063.65
Less State administrative costs	- 1,219,500.00
Unallocated Balance	\$27,480,436.35

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

Governor's Budget	\$ 985,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 425,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 560,000.00

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

Governor's Budget	\$ 5,500,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 4,475,714.94
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,024,285.06

(k) 1991/92 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition	\$ 2,000,000.00
Governor's Budget - Unallocated	\$ 1,682,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 340,250.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,341,750.00
Governor's Budget - Upper Sacramento River Basin	\$ 1,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-228,500.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 771,500.00
Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$ 500,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 500,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ -0-

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(1) 1991/92 Governor's Budget - Special Items

Department of Fish and Game

Salmon and Steelhead Restoration	\$	777,000.00
Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration	\$	663,000.00
Waterfowl Habitat Preservation Program	\$	523,000.00
Trinity River Restoration	\$	2,022,000.00
Salmon Habitat Restoration	\$	991,000.00
Salmon, Steelhead & Anadromous Fish	\$	70,000.00
Threatened Salmonids Project	\$	252,000.00
Total Available	\$	<u>5,298,000.00</u>
Less previous Board allocations	-	<u>5,298,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$	-0-

Department of Water Resources

Trinity River Restoration	\$	605,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-	<u>605,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$	-0-

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

Governor's Budget	\$10,800,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 9,514,310.50
Unallocated Balance	<u>\$ 1,285,689.50</u>

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund

Acquisition	\$	201,475.38
Minor Development	\$	622,700.00
Major Development	\$	-0-
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$	950,000.00
<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement</u>	\$	2,589,109.57
<u>California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land</u>		
<u>Conservation Fund of 1988</u>	\$27,480,436.35	
<u>Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u>	\$	7,246,386.98
<u>Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund</u>	\$	1,584,285.06
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u>	\$	5,398,939.50

Chairman McCracken asked if the allocations were made after completion of the project or before because the figures are so close. Mr. Schmidt stated that the allocations are made at the Board meeting before the project and projects are paid right down to the penny, as is indicated in the Recovery of Funds section. The Funding Status shows you the exact dollar amount in each fund instead of rounding off the pennies.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Items #4, #8, #9 and #10 were listed as Consent Items in the agenda and would be voted upon at the end of the agenda. In keeping with the Board's instructions from a previous meeting, Items #8, #9 & #10 are Sacramento River acquisitions. Mr. Schmidt provided the audience and the Board Members the opportunity to request that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar and heard separately.

* 4. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following 33 projects previously authorized by the Board have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It was recommended that the following totals be recovered:

\$13,434.88 to the Environmental License Plate Fund,
\$49,162.68 to the Habitat Conservation Fund,
\$6,164.53 to the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,
\$238,878.38 to the Ca. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund, and
\$46,918.43 to the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund;

and that the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Del Norte
Klamath Townsite Fishing Access, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 63,000.00	
Expended	- 63,000.00	
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-	

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$ -0-

PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984

Ocean Beach Fishing Pier, San Diego County

Allocation	\$500,000.00	
Expended	-500,000.00	
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-	

Total Parklands Fund of 1984 Recoveries \$ -0-

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

Cosumnes River Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Sacramento County

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

Monitor Island Ecological Reserve, Lake County

Allocation	\$ 4,000.00	
Expended	- 1,095.00	
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,905.00	

Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Glenn County

Allocation	\$882,162.63
Expended	<u>-871,632.75</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 10,529.88

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries \$13,434.88

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Baldwin Lake Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, San Bernardino County

Allocation	\$445,000.00
Expended	<u>-429,411.82</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 15,588.18

Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Glenn County

Allocation	\$1,000,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,000,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Walker Creek Marin County

Allocation	\$ 33,678.00
Expended	<u>- 103.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 33,574.50

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries \$49,162.68

1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Indian Creek, Plumas County

Allocation	\$ 17,600.00
Expended	<u>-17,200.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 400.00

Navarro River/Lake Earl Exchange, Mendocino & Del Norte Counties

Allocation	\$320,000.00
Expended	<u>-315,071.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,929.00

Upper Santa Ana River, San Bernardino County

Allocation	\$ 11,600.00
Expended	<u>-10,764.47</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 835.53

Total 1984 Fish & Wildlife Hab. Enhance. Fund Recoveries \$6,164.53

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988

Cosumnes River Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Sacramento County

Allocation	\$500,000.00
Expended	-489,959.95
Balance for Recovery	\$ 10,040.05

Feather River Wildlife Area (Morse Road Unit), Sutter County

Allocation	\$ 94,000.00
Expended	-91,685.15
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,314.85

Llano Seco Rancho Wildlife Area (Parrott Ranch), Butte County

Allocation	\$2,300,000.00
Expended	-2,117,233.65
Balance for Recovery	\$ 182,766.35

Mattole River Ecological Reserve, Exp. #2 (McNasty Cr.), Mendocino Co.

Allocation	\$ 27,175.54
Expended	-27,175.54
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Mattole River Ecological Reserve, Expansion #3, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$505,000.00
Expended	-502,662.27
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,337.73

Napa Marsh Wildlife Area, Huichica Creek Expansion #2, Napa County

Allocation	\$735,000.00
Expended	-727,288.97
Balance for Recovery	\$ 7,711.03

Oroville Wildlife Area, Expansion #1 (Feather River), Butte County

Allocation	\$400,000.00
Expended	-394,705.25
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,294.75

Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Glenn County

Allocation	\$3,896,000.00
Expended	-3,890,239.15
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,760.85

Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Glenn County

Allocation	\$900,000.00
Expended	-890,150.50
Balance for Recovery	\$ 9,849.50

Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 164.2-L, Glenn County

Allocation	\$ 72,000.00
Expended	-68,146.95
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,853.05

Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 169.5-R, Glenn County

Allocation	\$170,000.00
Expended	-166,444.03
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,555.97

Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 183-R, Glenn County

Allocation	\$102,000.00
Expended	- 96,605.75
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,394.25

Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land
 Conservation Fund of 1988 Recoveries \$238,878.38

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND

Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Tulare County

Allocation	\$615,000.00
Expended	-597,073.80
Balance for Recovery	\$ 17,926.20

Buttonwillow Ecological Reserve, Kern County

Allocation	\$1,090,000.00
Expended	-1,083,047.56
Balance for Recovery	\$ 6,952.44

Collins Lake Wildlife Area-Lindgren Donation, Yuba County

Allocation	\$ 4,000.00
Expended	- 469.36
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,530.64

Dutch Flat Wildlife Area, Modoc County

Allocation	\$ 79,000.00
Expended	-73,005.59
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,994.41

Estelle Mountain Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Riverside County

Allocation	\$765,000.00
Expended	-763,314.87
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,685.13

Goat Rock Ecological Reserve, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$ 40,000.00
Expended	- 35,545.65
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,454.35

McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, San Diego County

Allocation	\$180,000.00
Expended	-175,496.06
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,503.94

Mattole River Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$160,824.46
Expended	-159,095.17
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,729.29

Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Glenn County

Allocation	\$ 91,837.37
Expended	- 91,695.34
Balance for Recovery	\$ 142.03

Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Glenn County

Allocation	\$240,000.00
Expended	-240,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation

Fund Recoveries \$46,918.43

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE END OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE 33 PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 5-9 AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$13,434.88 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; \$49,162.68 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND; \$6,164.53 TO THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND; \$238,878.38 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND; AND \$46,918.43 TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Knights Landing Fishing Access, Yolo County \$2,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation of funds to remove underwater concrete debris which is located at the end of the Knights Landing boat ramp, in cooperation with Yolo County. The Knights Landing fishing access site is a 4.2 acre parcel purchased and developed with a WCB allocation of \$22,000 in 1957. The project is located at the confluence of Sycamore Slough and the Sacramento River, at the community of Knights Landing. Original development, which included the ramp, dock, roadway, parking area and sanitary facilities, was completed in June 1959. Mr. Edon explained the project and its location.

The project was operated and maintained by Yolo County under agreement with the State Department of Fish and Game until 1978. At that time the facility was upgraded with assistance from the Department of Boating and Waterways and a new three-way agreement was signed which is effective until the year 2003. The project continues to be maintained and operated by Yolo County under the terms of this agreement.

Due to the recent drought conditions, resulting in extremely low river flows, the water depth at the end of the ramp is low enough to allow boats to make contact with pieces of concrete that were left on the bottom from some earlier construction activities.

The removal of this material, which during normal water levels would not be an issue, is not considered a normal maintenance item. The County is therefore requesting \$2,000 to cover the cost of bringing in an appropriate piece of equipment to have this debris removed during this low water period.

The proposed work is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1, rehabilitation of an existing deteriorated structure for public safety and a Notice of Exemption has been filed in accordance with the Act. The County will obtain all clearances and approvals prior to completing the work.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this is a public safety project on state property that the Board acquired in 1957 and recommended that the work be done now when the river is low.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this proposal, in cooperation with Yolo County, for the removal of concrete debris at the Knights Landing Boat Ramp, as proposed; allocate \$2,000.00 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. SARASOHN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF UNDERWATER CONCRETE DEBRIS AT THE KNIGHTS LANDING FISHING ACCESS, YOLO COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH YOLO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$2,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Finnon Reservoir Fishing Access, El Dorado County \$122,600.00

This proposal was to consider an allocation to complete site improvements and upgrades at the state-owned Finnion Lake Public Fishing Area, in cooperation with El Dorado County Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Board had been notified that the Division of Safety and Dams had advised the Department of Fish and Game that due to potential seismic activities in this area that the dam may not be safe and may need a major overhaul or reconstruction. Mr. Schmidt reported that this item was pulled from the the agenda because it was felt inappropriate to allocate money to complete site improvements until confirmation was received regarding the dam being repaired. Time schedule for determination if the dam can be repaired should be available by the end of March 1992.

Mr. Schmidt introduced Ms. Susanne Burton, Chief Deputy Director representing the Department of Finance, who joined the meeting at this time. Mr. Schmidt noted that in keeping with the earlier discussion regarding Board Member representation and voting, Ms. Burton will now be the voting member from the Department of Finance and that Mr. Sarasohn was certainly welcome to participate in all the discussions on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game but not as a voting member.

7. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$391,400.00

It was proposed that the Board allocate funds for the enhancement and rehabilitation of salmon, steelhead and resident fish spawning and rearing habitat on four 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 chinook salmon population in the Klamath River Basin has declined from a historic level of 500,000 to 180,000 by 1963, 115,000 by 1978, 55,000 by 1984 to 33,000 by 1991. 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 drought and 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 diversity. Unstable streambanks are common and create conditions that reduce stream habitat values.

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

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

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

a. Kiler Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County \$55,600.00

This Department of Fish and Game project consists of installing or constructing 44 stream enhancement structures on Kiler Creek, a tributary to the Eel River. The projects will be completed by using the California Conservation Corps crews from the Humboldt Center and is intended to create additional summer rearing habitat for steelhead trout. The work will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs in the stream and allowing the flow of water to scour pools. Large rocks will also be placed in the stream by a loader to produce the same affect. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile steelhead and stabilization of failing streambanks will reduce further sedimentation into the stream.

- b. North Fork Feather River Diversion Dam Fish Ladder,
Plumas County \$230,000.00

The proposed project, which was developed by the Corps of Engineers in coordination with the Department of Fish and Game, consists of improvements to the fish passage and debris control systems at the existing flood diversion structure located on the North Fork Feather River, near the town of Chester. For the past 15 years, the existing diversion structure has impeded and/or blocked runs of fish migrating to upstream spawning beds. Consequently, the fishery in the North Fork Feather Rivers and Lake Almanor has declined drastically, having a serious impact on the local economy which is heavily dependent on recreation. Modifications to the diversion structure will result in improved fish passage upstream and would allow fish access to about 25 miles of spawning and rearing habitat.

The proposed project consists of a combination of procedures to correct fish passage and related debris control problems. Installation of a debris shear boom system will be constructed to reduce the amount of debris entering the diversion structure intake area. The fish ladder will be reconfigured to minimize the amount of debris entering the ladder and reduce fish fallback through adjacent flood control conduits. In addition, the temporary vertical slot baffles in the existing fishway conduit and the downstream Denil ladder section will be replaced with permanent vertical slots. Walkway grating will be constructed over the fishway extensions to provide personnel access to these areas for periodic gate adjustment and exit and entrance gate closure to dewater the ladder for inspection and maintenance.

Funding being requested herein represents approximately 25 percent of the project cost, with the Corps of Engineers contributing the balance. Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will operate and maintain the finished project under a normal agreement with the Department.

- c. Parsons Creek Stream Restoration, Mendocino County \$30,000.00

The proposed Parsons Creek Stream Restoration project, located in Mendocino County at the University of California Hopland Field Station, is designed to improve habitat for steelhead trout by providing better cover for juveniles and better spawning habitat. Approximately one mile of Parsons Creek will be fenced to exclude deer and livestock and allow riparian vegetation to regenerate. Riparian vegetation will also be planted where needed and rock placements will be constructed to protect the banks and prevent sedimentation to the stream to provide improved spawning habitat for steelhead trout. The work will be accomplished by staff from the Hopland Field Station and will be supervised by Department of Fish and Game personnel.

d. Rattlesnake Creek Habitat Enhancement, Trinity County \$75,400.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposal is to improve steelhead trout habitat on Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Trinity River. The project will consist of increasing woody cover in riffles and pools, developing boulder scour pools, plunge pools and long scour pools and stabilizing cut banks to reduce point source sedimentation. Approximately 44 sites will be developed in Rattlesnake Creek under a contract with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews from the Humboldt Center. Department of Fish and Game and CCC coordinator will supervise and monitor all aspects of the construction project.

Administrative contract cost to process the contracts for the above listed four projects is \$400.00.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Robert Schulenburg of staff was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these four salmon, steelhead and resident fish habitat enhancement projects as one item as proposed; allocate \$391,400.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19), including \$400.00 to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. 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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE FOUR SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$391,400.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19), INCLUDING \$400.00 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. KILER CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT, HUMBOLDT COUNTY - \$ 55,600.00
- B. NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER DIVERSION DAM FISH LADDER, PLUMAS COUNTY - \$230,000.00
- C. PARSONS CREEK STREAM RESTORATION, MENDOCINO CO. - \$ 30,000.00
- D. RATTLESNAKE CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT, TRINITY CO. - \$ 75,400.00

- ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT CHARGES - \$ 400.00

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Items #8, 9 & 10, as described earlier, were on the consent calendar. He further noted that on Items #8 - 15 that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and on Items #8, 9, 10, and 11 a letter of support had been received from the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER PROPOSALS
(Items #8, #9 & #10 - Consent Calendar)

The next three agenda items involve two acquisitions and the acceptance of one donation of riparian or formerly riparian lands located along the banks of the Sacramento River in Butte and Glenn Counties.

Upper Sacramento River riparian habitat, as found in the area of these lands, supports more than 200 species of birds and 42 species of mammals and is considered by the Department of Fish and Game to be a very productive terrestrial ecosystem. Threatened and endangered species dependent upon the riparian forests located on these parcels include the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, Yellow-billed cuckoo, bank swallow, and the willow flycatcher. Bird species of special concern include the double-crested cormorant, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, osprey, merlin, long-eared owl, purple martin, yellow warbler and the yellow-breasted chat.

Much of this type of habitat has already been cleared along the Sacramento River as evidenced by the 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 ownership of this habitat will prevent further loss and will allow for appropriate restoration and enhancement. In fact, farmed areas allowed to lie fallow have been found to revert to riparian habitat over time. Some farmed areas, such as orchards, can provide habitat for Yellow-billed cuckoos and therefore have wildlife value even before they are replaced by native habitat.

The three proposed acquisitions are exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as acquisitions for wildlife conservation purposes. Potential state claims to the various properties have been considered and their effect on the fair market values have been taken into account in each appraisal.

Acquisition of these properties will help fulfill the Department's objective of restoring, preserving and protecting riparian habitat within California and, specifically, along the Sacramento River. Following is specific information relative to each of these three proposals (#8, 9 & 10).

- * 8. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 195-L,
Butte and Glenn Counties (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$390,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 218.56+ acres of land located on the east bank of the Sacramento River approximately three miles southwest of Hamilton City and five miles west of Chico. The site is located adjacent to the Bidwell Sacramento River State Park near the intersection of Sacramento Avenue and River Road. Access is available to the site from the River Road. It is anticipated that management of the site will be coordinated with the Department of Parks and Recreation under a memorandum of understanding. The subject is located across the river from the Department of Fish and Game's existing Pine Creek Unit of the Upper Sacramento River Riparian Habitat Wildlife Area. The Pine Creek Unit totals over 877 acres of riparian and formerly riparian lands along the Sacramento River. This acquisition will increase public ownership in this area to over 1,000 acres.

The subject acquisition area contains approximately 42+ acres of orchard lands, consisting of almonds and walnuts. The balance of the property includes a one acre building site and over 175 acres of riparian jungle. The Department plans to allow the orchard area to slowly revert to riparian habitat. Reversion should be easily accomplished since the site in normal years is subject to seasonal flooding.

The landowners have agreed to sell the subject property at the approved fair market value of \$380,000. Processing costs are estimated to be \$10,000 which includes the appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$390,000.00 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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 195-L, BUTTE AND GLENN COUNTIES, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$390,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), AS DESIGNATED FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER UNDER SECTION 5907 (c)(8); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- * 9. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 175-L,
Glenn County (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$122,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 94.11+ acres of land located on the east bank of the Sacramento River approximately one mile northeast of the town of Glenn and about three miles up river from a proposed donation as discussed in agenda item number 10. Other Department of Fish and Game's holdings of riparian habitat in the area include the 300+ acre Jacinto Unit and 240+ acres at River Mile 171. The subject site consists of a mixture of dense riparian vegetation including willows, cottonwoods, alders, wild grapes and grasses. The area lies within the interior portion of an "oxbow" created by the Sacramento River and is subject to flooding during periods of excessive rainfall. Management of the site will be accomplished in conjunction with the Department's other holdings in the area.

The landowner has agreed to sell the subject property at the approved fair market value of \$113,000. Processing costs are estimated to be \$9,000 which includes the appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$122,000.00 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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 175-L, GLENN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$122,000.00 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.

- *10. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 171.8-L,
Glenn County (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$4,000.00

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of a donation of 113.36+ acres of land located along the Sacramento River approximately three miles north of Butte City and south of the proposed acquisition discussed in agenda item number 9. The property consists mainly of thick riparian habitat utilized by wildlife species common to the Sacramento River riparian areas. Administrative access to the property will be provided via an easement over the remaining lands of the landowner. The easement is a part of the property donation. The Department will manage the property in conjunction with its other holdings in the area.

The owners have agreed to donate this property to the State which has an approved fair market value of \$57,500.00. Appraisal costs, escrow and title fees and Department of General Services review costs are expected to be \$4,000. Funding is available for costs from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), as designated from the Sacramento River under Section 5907 (c)(8).

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of this donation as proposed; allocate \$4,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70) for related processing 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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPERTY DONATION AT THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 171.8-L, GLENN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$4,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), TO COVER RELATED PROCESSING COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, Cottonwood Creek Unit,
Expansion #2, Shasta and Tehama Counties \$470,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an acquisition of 182.9+ acres of riparian and upland habitat to expand and provide additional access to the existing 376.14 acre Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, Cottonwood Creek Unit, Shasta County. This wildlife area is located near the confluence of the Sacramento River and Cottonwood Creek, along Adobe Road, about five miles east of the community of Cottonwood. Mr. Howard Dick described the location of the project and how it relates to other projects in the area.

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. Threatened and endangered species dependent upon these riparian forests include the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, and the Yellow-billed cuckoo. 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. Mammals known to occur in the area include black-tailed deer, mountain lion, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, striped skunk, gray fox, red fox, bobcat, badger, ringtail, brush rabbit and the black-tailed hare.

Much of the riparian 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. Continued public acquisition of interests in Sacramento River and tributary lands is seen as a means of not only protecting some of the valuable habitat which remains, but providing the opportunity to restore historic habitat. The subject acquisition will add to the Department's adjacent holdings thereby allowing the opportunity to restore, enhance and manage this property at minimal cost.

It is anticipated that a portion of the upland area will be exchanged for additional riparian lands or sold as surplus property subject to a conservation easement and a reservation of access to Adobe Road. Any money received from such a sale would be deposited into the Wildlife Restoration Fund for additional riparian land purchases.

The owners have agreed to sell the subject parcel at the approved fair market value of \$460,000. Processing costs are estimated to be \$10,000 which includes the costs of appraisal, 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.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that this proposal was to acquire the entire property, although approximately 80 acres is considered upland area, and not necessary to maintain in State ownership. The idea, under the new SB 906 - Riparian Habitat Conservation Program, would be to split the property, retain the riparian habitat and sell or exchange the upland habitat for other riparian habitat. However, before disposing of the upland area, we would retain a conservation easement over the land to protect it as a watershed area for the riparian areas acquired. Mr. Schmidt also indicated that Mr. Banky Curtis, Regional Manager from Region 1 Department of Fish and Game, was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$470,000.00 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.

There was a discussion about the amount of land being purchased and all the species that the habitat supports. Mr. Curtis stated he was recently on the property and saw a bald eagle in the vicinity.

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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, COTTONWOOD CREEK UNIT, EXPANSION #2, SHASTA AND TEHAMA COUNTIES, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$470,000.00 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.

12. Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Calaveras County \$120,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to acquire a 40+ acre parcel of land which is bounded on two sides by the Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area and two sides by the Stanislaus National Forest. This overall area is considered critical deer winter range and is also a migratory corridor for the Railroad Flat Deer Herd. As a result of Board actions taken on May 11, 1989, and May 10, 1990, 1,184.25 acres of fee title and 817 acres of conservation easements have been acquired, thereby protecting over 2,000 acres of this critical deer habitat from residential development or other incompatible uses. Mr. Dick explained how the property lies in relationship to existing state/federally-owned property.

The subject property is located in central Calaveras County approximately four miles northeast of Sheep Ranch, a small community located about 15 miles east of San Andreas. The WLA lies about three air miles south of Swiss Ranch Road, an area where the Board has also funded the acquisition of 900 acres of conservation easements for protection of additional wintering habitat for this herd. Land uses in the general area are rapidly changing from large cattle ranches to small acreage ranchettes.

The value of the general area to this herd has been demonstrated via recent and past radio telemetry studies and annual herd composition counts. In fact, based on a sample taken by the Department of Fish and Game, it is reported that an average of 25 - 30 percent of the entire herd uses this area. The area's large winter deer population enjoys a great deal of notoriety and efforts to protect this habitat have won strong support from local government and sportsmen groups.

The proposed acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including fish and wildlife habitat, and for establishment of access to public lands and water where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

The proposed use of the area is to be primarily deer habitat and migration corridor protection. Management costs are not estimated to be high since the area will be primarily left in its existing condition to be managed in conjunction with other DFG holdings in the area. This acquisition may actually lower future management costs due to the fact that an interior road, located within the existing WLA and serving the subject parcel, will no longer require maintenance. The area can be easily incorporated into the existing Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area.

The owner has agreed to sell the 40+ acre parcel at its approved fair market value of \$115,000. It is estimated an additional \$5,000 will be required for related acquisition costs, including appraisal, title insurance and processing costs.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that this particular inholding would be desirable to own because it is in the migratory corridor which provides habitat and it would eliminate road maintenance. He further noted that Mr. Jim Messersmith, Regional Manager, Region 2 Department of Fish and Game Office, was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$120,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), to cover the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Rick Battson asked if there were any structures located on the property. Mr. Schmidt responded that there are no permanent structures but there was a sealand container, small trailer house and a well, that would all be removed.

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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE SHEEP RANCH WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #2, CALAVERAS COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$120,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), 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.

13. Yettem Vernal Pools Ecological Reserve, Tulare County \$235,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of a 154+ acre parcel of land located on the north side of Avenue 384 (Highway 201) between the small farming communities of Yettem and Seville. Specifically, the subject property is located approximately 10 miles north of Visalia, and roughly 15 miles east of Highway 99 on the San Joaquin Valley floor, at the base of the foothills. In this vicinity, the foothills are primarily used for grazing while the valley is devoted to intensive agriculture with the predominate use being orchards. The subject parcel is one of the last undeveloped parcels in this area and, except for being heavily grazed, is still in its natural state. If not purchased, it is almost a certainty that it will be developed to intensive agricultural use, thus destroying its wildlife values. Mr. Dick explained the proposed project.

According to the Department of Fish and Game, the site proposed for purchase is vernal pool and related habitat suitable for a number of plant species of special concern. These include, but may not be limited to the Spiny sepaled button celery and the Hoover's spurge, both of which were confirmed at the site during a recent site inspection. The endangered San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass, while not yet confirmed at the site, has been found in the vicinity and is expected to come back after grazing is eliminated from the site. In addition to plants, the California tiger salamander, a Federal candidate species, has recently been found on this property. The site itself is "Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool" habitat and is a documented Department of Fish and Game Significant Natural Area.

If acquired, the Department of Fish and Game plans to manage the area as a minimum use ecological reserve for the sole benefit of species dependent on this vernal pool habitat. Management costs are not anticipated to be significant and some restoration of habitat may be considered if necessary.

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

The owner has agreed to sell the property for its approved fair market value of \$231,000. In addition, it is estimated that \$4,000 will be needed to cover costs of appraisal, escrow and Department of General Services charges.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the funding for this item, as well as the next item, was put into the budget at the request of Senator Vuich two years ago. Mr. Schmidt noted that Ms. Rhonda Reed representing the Department of Fish and Game's Region 4 Office in Fresno was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate a total of \$235,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund, as designated for acquisition of San Joaquin Valley habitat, 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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE YETTEM VERNAL POOLS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, TULARE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$235,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR ACQUISITION OF SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HABITAT, TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, Tulare County \$185,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider expanding the Allensworth Ecological Reserve by acquiring two parcels of land totaling 252.5+ acres, primarily consisting of native valley habitat. Mr. Dick explained the proposed parcels and the overall project area. The parcels are located 3 to 4 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 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. At present, virtually all of the subject area is in an undisturbed state providing a permanent life-cycle home for each of the threatened and endangered species mentioned as well as hunting and foraging habitat for numerous raptor species. The parcels were farmed for a short time in the past, but have now reverted to suitable habitat according to the Department of Fish and Game. The acquisitions will also help in DFG's long range plan to tie existing holdings together in this area.

The Allensworth area is listed in the 1988 Annual Report of Significant Natural Areas of California prepared by the Lands and Natural Areas Program. The Valley sink scrub community found there 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 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 area is also recommended for protection in the Recovery Plan for that species.

According to the Conceptual Area Plan submitted by the Department of Fish and Game, the subject parcels are desirable to connect existing Fish and Game parcels (reducing habitat fragmentation) and to add more natural lands with similar values to the existing reserve. 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 lands in the general vicinity of the subject property have been mostly converted to extensive agricultural uses including alfalfa, cotton, milo, grapes or orchard use. A newer trend in the area is toward turkey farms. It is almost a certainty that the subject parcels will lose significant wildlife habitat value 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.

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The owners have agreed to sell the subject land, reserving the wells and ditches, for a total approved fair market value of \$180,500. Acquisition costs are estimated to be an additional \$4,500 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.

Mr. Schmidt indicated this was an ongoing project since the first acquisition was completed in 1976. He added that Ms. Rhonda Reed representing the Department of Fish and Game's Region 4 Office in Fresno was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$185,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund, as designated for acquisition of San Joaquin Valley habitat, 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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE ALLENSWORTH ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #2, TULARE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$185,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, AS DESIGNATED FOR ACQUISITION OF SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HABITAT, TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Escondido Creek Ecological Reserve, San Diego County \$1,400,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of a 42.97+ acre parcel of land situated along Escondido Creek, in the City of Encinitas. The land is located adjacent to and upstream from the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, which is managed by the County of San Diego under a Cooperative Agreement with the Department of Fish and Game. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt described the project and its purpose.

The primary habitat types found on the subject are willow riparian woodland, freshwater marsh, brackish marsh and salt marsh. This variety of habitat types allows for a high diversity of bird use. Waterfowl and large wading birds use freshwater marsh and the open water of the stream channels. Shore birds and wading birds use the coastal salt marsh and the pastures while the riparian habitat provides an area for song birds and raptors. Four endangered bird species are known to utilize the area. The endangered Light-footed clapper rail and Belding's savannah sparrow are present on the site while the California least tern nests at the Lagoon and the Least Bell's vireo, forages in the open water areas of the creek. These flood plain and wetland habitat areas together serve as a valuable open space and

wildlife corridor that stretches northward from San Elijo Lagoon. The flood plain also serves as an important sediment deposition area which can protect the San Elijo Lagoon from siltation. This proposed acquisition could help protect one of the few remaining unchannelized and undeveloped river valleys in the county.

The majority of the property is flood plain with the year-round flow of Escondido Creek, which drains into the San Elijo Lagoon, a key feature of the property. The flood plain is protected against structures; however, grazing and agricultural activities are allowed under existing County and City ordinances. The subject property has recently been subdivided into five legal parcels and sufficient uplands exist to allow for three building sites. The presence of wetland habitat increases the resource values and the need to protect the site from development. If agriculture, grazing, or development of any portion of the property were to occur, the lagoon would be degraded with a loss of riparian habitat resulting.

The landowners have agreed to sell the subject property at the approved fair market value of \$1,385,000. Costs of purchase are estimated to be \$15,000 which includes costs of the appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt indicated this project will also provide the opportunity to continue working up into Escondido Creek and hopefully putting together a preservation plan for the creek under the SB 906 program. Mr. Schmidt added that there are several owners further upstream that are interested in working with us on the preservation plan. Several positive meetings have already occurred which included the participation from the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach and San Diego County. There is a lot of desire to protect the overall area. Letters of support were received from the following: Assemblywoman Deirdre Alpert, Defenders of Wildlife, San Diego County Board of Supervisors, Cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach, Solana Recyclers, Mira Costa College, Friends of Batiquitos Lagoon, University of California Natural Reserve System and eight individual letters.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the owners of this property, Mr. and Mrs. Al Kern, and Ms. Terri Stewart, representing the Department of Fish and Game from San Diego, were present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition as proposed; allocate a total of \$1,400,000.00 to cover the purchase price and related costs from the funds and in the amounts as follows:

- (1) \$354,563.16 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19), as designated for coastal wetlands;
- (2) \$445,436.84 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), under Section 5907 (c)(3), as designated for riparian habitat that drains into the Pacific Ocean; and
- (3) \$600,000.00 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), as designated for preservation of examples of the state's natural diversity.

Staff further recommended that the Board authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

There was discussion regarding the high cost of the property, the future of the preservation plan along Escondido Creek and how much of the area is already in public ownership. Mr. Schmidt explained that while property is expensive in this area, the acquisition of this parcel is key to the continued preservation of the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and future efforts to protect the Escondido Creek Corridor.

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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE ESCONDIDO CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,400,000.00 TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE FUNDS AND IN THE AMOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) \$354,563.16 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19), AS DESIGNATED FOR COASTAL WETLANDS;
- (2) \$445,436.84 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), UNDER SECTION 5907 (c)(3), AS DESIGNATED FOR RIPARIAN HABITAT THAT DRAINS INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN; AND
- (3) \$600,000.00 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), AS DESIGNATED FOR PRESERVATION OF EXAMPLES OF THE STATE'S NATURAL DIVERSITY.

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Other Business

a. Resolution Honoring Pete Bontadelli

Mr. Schmidt submitted and read the following resolution for enactment by the Wildlife conservation Board.

WHEREAS, Pete Bontadelli, as Director of the Department of Fish and Game, served as a dedicated and faithful member of the Wildlife Conservation Board for over four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bontadelli has shown a true concern for California's wildlife resources and, coupled with his outdoor interest and sound judgment, has greatly helped the Board and its staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities and has gained the utmost respect of those who have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bontadelli, as Director of the Department of Fish and Game, has consistently supported the Board's program throughout his tenure, making the preservation, enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat a true priority, particularly concentrating on wetlands, riparian habitat and California's natural ecological diversity; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge his personal efforts and professional contributions to the work of the Board and to the Department of Fish and Game; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee, and the Board staff convey to Pete Bontadelli our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our best wishes as he continues his career with the Department of Fish and Game or in whatever else the future may hold; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Mr. Bontadelli.

The Board Members expressed their pleasure in working with Mr. Bontadelli and wished him well in the future.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ADOPT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND THAT A SUITABLE COPY BE PROVIDED TO MR. BONTADELLI.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Consent Calendar

Mr. Schmidt advised that a vote was needed on the Consent Calendar Items #4, #8, #9, & #10, unless someone wanted an item pulled.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS #4, #8, #9, AND #10 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

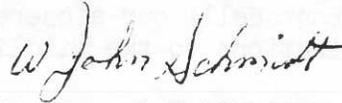
MOTION CARRIED.

c. Department of Fish and Game presentation on project selection and prioritization criteria

Mr. Steve Nicola, representing the Natural Heritage Division of the Department of Fish and Game, gave a presentation on how the Department of Fish and Game selects and prioritizes land acquisition proposals.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. by Chairman McCracken.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on February 11, 1992, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$303,229,428.16. 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	17,873,966.58
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	11,973,165.34
	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	33,511,197.34
	1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 3,073,174.92
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	7,034,819.31
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,228,733.81
	4. Piers	17,174,469.30
d.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects ..	227,930,731.20
	1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$ 143,266,689.09
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ..	4,730,841.55
	3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	78,425,700.56
	4. Land Conservation Areas	2,500.00
	5. Inland Wetlands Conservation Program ..	1,505,000.00
	6. Ca. Riparian Habitat Conser. Program ..	-0-
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	657,615.63
	Total Allocated to Projects	\$303,229,428.16