

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD801 K Street, Suite 806
Monterey, CA 95814
(415) 445-8448State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, August 25, 1992

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

Minutes, Meeting of August 25, 1992

Pursuant to the call of Acting Chairman Benjamin Biaggini, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 444 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on August 25, 1992. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Roll Call/Election of Chairman

The Board nominated Mr. Benjamin Biaggini to serve as Chairman of the Board.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT MR. BENJAMIN BIAGGINI, PRESIDENT OF THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION, BE NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD.

MOTION CARRIED.

Present: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Benjamin Biaggini, Chairman
President, Fish and Game Commission
Susanne Burton, Member
Chief Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Boyd Gibbons, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sandy Silberstein,
Vice Senator Robert Presley
Teri Burns,
Vice Senator David Roberti

Absent: Senator Barry Keene, Joint Legislative Advisory Committee
Assemblyman Jim Costa, Joint Legislative Advisory Committee
Assemblyman Dan Hauser, Joint Legislative Advisory Committee
Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg, Joint Legislative Advisory Committee

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Staff Present: W. John Schmidt, Executive Director
Clyde Edon, Assistant Executive Director
Robert Schulenburg, Field Agent
Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent/Assistant Executive Director
Georgia Lipphardt, Senior Land Agent
Frank Giordano, Senior Land Agent
Marilyn Cundiff-Gee, Wetlands Program Manager
David Martinez, Riparian Program Manager
Sylvia Gude, Staff Services Analyst
Sandy Daniel, Executive Secretary
Jan Beeding, Office Technician

Others Present: Jack Payne, Ducks Unlimited
Michael Denny, Citizen
Bruce Elliott, Department of Fish and Game
Bob Treanor, Fish and Game Commission
Cindy Allen, Department of Fish and Game
George Heise, Department of Fish and Game
Aaron Peskin, The American Land Conservancy
Mark Palmer, Mountain Lion Foundation
Jeff Arthur, Dangermond & Associates
Holly Liberato, Citizen
Jim Messersmith, Department of Fish and Game

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of the May 12, 1992, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE MINUTES OF THE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF MAY 12, 1992,
BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

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3. Funding Status as of August 25, 1992 (Information Only)

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

(a) 1992/93 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Proposed - Land Acquisitions \$ 200,000.00

Proposed - Minor Projects \$ 600,000.00

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions \$ 200,000.00

Plus LWCF Reimbursement 110,000.00

Unallocated Balance \$ 310,000.00

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

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

Less previous Board allocation - 420,000.00

Unallocated Balance \$ 530,000.00

(d) 1992/93 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Proposed Reappropriation of 1989/90 \$1,805,333.41

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

Governor's Budget \$1,740,000.00

Less previous Board allocations - 340,000.00

Unallocated Balance \$1,400,000.00

(f) 1992/93 Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Proposed \$2,000,000.00

(g) 1991/92 Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget \$5,000,000.00

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(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	-55,905,918.88
Less State administrative costs	- 1,219,500.00
Unallocated Balance	\$24,174,581.12

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

Governor's Budget	\$ 985,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 453,400.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 531,600.00

(j) 1992/93 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Proposed	\$ 9,194,000.00
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(k) 1991/92 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget -	
Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition	\$ 2,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 153,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,847,000.00

Governor's Budget - Unallocated	\$ 1,682,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 460,250.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 1,221,750.00

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

Department of Fish and Game

Salmon & Steelhead Restoration	\$ 777,000.00
Salmon & 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	\$5,298,000.00
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	<u>-10,205,812.40</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 594,187.60

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund

Acquisition	\$510,000.00
Minor Development	\$600,000.00
Major Development	\$-0-

Environmental License Plate Fund \$530,000.00

1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund \$3,205,333.41

California Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land

Conservation Fund of 1988 \$24,174,581.12

Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund \$7,000,000.00

Cigarette & Tobacco Products Surtax Fund \$531,600.00

Habitat Conservation Fund \$13,628,437.60

4. Special Project Planning Account

Informational

Mr. Schmidt briefly explained this item and that it was informational only and required no action.

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

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

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

Habitat Conservation Fund	\$ 20,000.00
California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988	\$ 50,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that Item Nos. 5 and 12 were listed as Consent Calendar Items in the agenda and that they would be voted upon at the end of the meeting. Mr. Schmidt further reported that Item Nos. 13 and 14 were originally part of the Consent Calendar and would not be considered. Both Item Nos. 13 and 14 were contingent upon approval of the 1992/93 State budget and consequently, since the budget had not been approved, were pulled from consideration.

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* 5. Recovery of Funds (Consent Calendar)

The following 28 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:

\$135,064.04 to the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,
\$539.00 to the Parklands Fund of 1984,
\$16,281.04 to the Habitat Conservation Fund,
\$7,345.59 to the Calif. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988,
\$446,905.17 to the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund,

and that the projects be closed.

1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Antelope Lake, Plumas County

Allocation	\$6,500.00
Expended	<u>-6,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Cottonwood Creek Paiute Cutthroat Habitat #2, Mono County

Allocation	\$47,100.00
Expended	<u>-46,516.92</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 583.08

Deep Creek, San Bernardino County

Allocation	\$11,100.00
Expended	<u>- 5,494.77</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,605.23

Doyle Reservoir, Plumas County

Allocation	\$6,900.00
Expended	<u>- 243.19</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$6,656.81

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Frenchman Reservoir, Plumas County

Allocation	\$24,000.00
Expended	<u>-7,225.31</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$16,774.69

Grouse Creek Barrier, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$8,500.00
Expended	<u>-0-</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$8,500.00

Hurkey Creek, Riverside County

Allocation	\$4,200.00
Expended	<u>-2,975.80</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,224.20

Klamath River Drainage Restoration, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$204,000.00
Expended	<u>-202,318.81</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,681.19

Long Valley, Plumas County

Allocation	\$6,000.00
Expended	<u>-4,275.27</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,724.73

Paynes Creek Wetlands, Tehama County

Allocation	\$160,100.00
Expended	<u>-114,703.93</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 45,396.07

Ramelli Ranch A, Plumas County

Allocation	\$1,500.00
Expended	<u>0</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,500.00

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Silver King Creek, Alpine County

Allocation	\$155,000.00
Expended	<u>-112,019.58</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 42,980.42

South Fork Kern River #2, Tulare County

Allocation	\$85,100.00
Expended	<u>-85,100.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Summit Lake, Plumas County

Allocation	\$2,500.00
Expended	<u>- 62.38</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,437.62

Total 1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
Fund Recoveries \$135,064.04

PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984

Del Norte Street Fishing Pier, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$290,539.00
Expended	<u>-290,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 539.00

Pillar Point Fishing Pier, San Mateo, County

Allocation	\$191,000.00
Expended	<u>-191,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0

Total Parklands Fund of 1984 Recoveries \$539.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

O'Harrel Creek, Mono County

Allocation	\$2,540.00
Expended	<u>-2,109.39</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 430.61

Upper Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Shasta County

Allocation	\$228,500.00
Expended	<u>-226,964.77</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,535.23

Wilson Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Lake County

Allocation	\$340,250.00
Expended	<u>-325,934.80</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 14,315.20

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries \$16,281.04

**CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION
FUND OF 1988**

Laguna Laurel Ecological Reserve, Orange County

Allocation	\$2,000,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,000,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0

Marin Islands Ecological Reserve, Marin County

Allocation	\$505,000.00
Expended	<u>-501,987.60</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,012.40

Sycamore Valley Ecological Reserve, San Diego County

Allocation	\$905,000.00
Expended	<u>-900,765.93</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,234.07

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Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 209-L,
Expansion #1, Butte County

Allocation	\$35,000.00
Expended	<u>-34,900.88</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 99.12

Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land
Conservation Fund of 1988 Recoveries \$7,345.59

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND

Boggs Lake Ecological Reserve, Lake County

Allocation	\$140,000.00
Expended	<u>-135,827.66</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,172.34

Del Monte Dunes Ecological Reserve, Monterey County

Allocation	\$705,000.00
Expended	<u>-705,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 0

Eagle Lake Tributary Fish Barriers, Lassen County

Allocation	\$110,100.00
Expended	<u>- 27,346.63</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 82,753.37

Laguna Laurel Ecological Reserve, Orange County

Allocation	\$2,015,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,980,120.54</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 34,879.46

Malibu Creek Steelhead Restoration, Los Angeles County

Allocation	\$390,000.00
Expended	<u>- 64,900.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$325,100.00

Total Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation

Fund Recoveries \$446,905.17

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 28 PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 7-12 AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$135,064.04 TO THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, \$539.00 TO THE PARKLANDS FUND OF 1984, \$16,281.04 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, \$7,345.59 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988, AND \$446,905.17 TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. San Francisco Bay Wildlife Area.

New Chicago Marsh, Santa Clara County

\$380,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of $29.5 \pm$ acres of diked salt marsh and transitional upland property in south San Francisco Bay. The property is located north of Alviso Slough and east of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks in the community of Alviso. Ms. Lipphardt of staff explained the proposal.

When California was admitted to the Union in 1850, the San Francisco Bay was surrounded by approximately 860 square miles of marshes and hundreds of square miles of mud flats which provided excellent habitat for waterfowl, shore birds and many other wildlife species. Over the years, various human activities have caused major changes in the Bay. Loss and degradation of freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, mud flats and other bay habitats have negatively impacted fish and wildlife using the Bay. In an attempt to stop and reverse some of the wetland losses, the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (in south San Francisco Bay) was authorized by Congress in 1972 for the purposes of preservation and protection of critical habitat and associated wildlife.

The subject parcel, lying just south and adjacent to the southeasterly boundary of the refuge, was historically part of the tidal marshland that once surrounded south San Francisco Bay. While the diked site does not receive tidal action, seasonal rains and upstream flooding cause ponding, resulting in a rich salt marsh habitat. The elimination of regular tidal exchange and an increase in human activity near the site have reduced wildlife use from historic levels. However, the marsh still provides significant wetland habitat.

The San Francisco Bay region, with its vast wetland environment, has been designated by the Department of Fish and Game as an Area of Special Biological Importance. The area provides varied habitat for many plant species that support wintering and migratory waterfowl, as well as shore birds and mammals. In diked marsh areas such as the subject, egrets, herons, stilts, avocets and sandpipers prey on invertebrates in the shallow water and exposed mud flats, while shore birds rest in the vegetation when other Bay mud flats are covered by the tides. In addition, diked and tidal salt marsh provide the primary habitats of the Salt-marsh harvest mouse, an endangered species on the State and Federal lists. When submerged, these diked areas can also support wintering dabbling ducks. Acquisition of this parcel has been highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game. Management of the subject parcel would be handled by the Department in conjunction with the goals of the refuge to preserve, enhance and protect wetland habitats.

The California State Lands Commission has reviewed the proposed acquisition for potential State claims. They have indicated that the subject parcel was confirmed to the owners under a settlement agreement and that no State sovereign interests exist in the parcel.

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The owners have agreed to sell the subject at the approved appraised value of \$355,000. Department of General Services review costs, appraisal and closing expenses are estimated to be \$25,000. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase as proposed; allocate \$380,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(A) as designated for wetlands within or adjacent to the boundaries of historic San Francisco Bay wetlands as designated in the 1985 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory Map for the San Francisco Bay Area, for acquisition or restoration of wetlands south of the San Mateo Bridge, 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 were received from the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge and the Mountain Lion Foundation and at this time no known opposition.

Mr. Biaggini asked how large was the entire project. Mr. Schmidt responded that there was no specific project area, that we are acquiring wetlands as they become available and that this is the first acquisition in the South Bay, south of the San Mateo Bridge. It was clarified that the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is a federal refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). The property being considered for acquisition would be under Fish and Game ownership and it has not been determined whether they would enter into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or manage it themselves.

Ms. Lipphardt added that the Department had indicated that the property would be managed in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Biaggini 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 SAN FRANCISCO BAY WILDLIFE AREA, NEW CHICAGO MARSH, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$380,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(A) AS DESIGNATED FOR WETLANDS WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO THE BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC SAN FRANCISCO BAY WETLANDS AS DESIGNATED IN THE 1985 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY MAP FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, FOR ACQUISITION OR RESTORATION OF WETLANDS SOUTH OF THE SAN MATEO BRIDGE, FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Malibu Creek Steelhead Restoration, Los Angeles County Scope Change

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider a scope change to a project approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board at its February 13, 1991, meeting. At that time the Board allocated \$390,000 for five separate components of an overall project intended to restore fish passage to the upper reaches of Malibu Creek's historic steelhead habitat. Mr. Schulenburg briefly described the item.

Malibu Creek, located in Los Angeles County, is the southernmost Pacific Coast stream which still supports a viable run of steelhead. It has the largest coastal drainage in the Santa Monica Mountains (105 square miles) with stream flows typically ranging from summer lows of 6 - 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) to storm flow peaks exceeding 600 cfs. Acquisitions of private land along Malibu Creek by the California Department of Parks and Recreation has consolidated ownership of the project area within the Malibu Creek State Park complex.

The Malibu Creek steelhead represent an especially important resource since they are a race which has survived the hot, dry climate of southern California. Documented records are lacking, but local residents of the Malibu area reported that large numbers of adult steelhead used to be caught in Malibu Creek before the construction of Rindge Dam in 1924. However, since its construction, a remnant population has been limited to only a 2.6 mile stretch of the lower creek which provides limited habitat for spawning adults and rearing juveniles.

Rindge Dam, currently a nonfunctional concrete facility, stands approximately 100 feet tall and 160 feet wide at its top. It has been a useless facility since about 1950 when the reservoir behind the dam filled with gravel and other sediments. Unfortunately, this dam provides a major barrier to migrating steelhead. A major component of the overall restoration efforts approved by the Board at its earlier meeting was the construction of a Borland lift to get fish over the dam. Upon further consultation with individuals that operate a Borland lift, it was determined that due to this site's geological features and poor access, the lift would not only be difficult and costly to construct but very costly to maintain. The remaining four components to the restoration project approved by the Board were not carried out since getting fish above the dam is the first step in the overall restoration effort. Providing the dam barrier is removed, these components will also be completed as appropriate.

As an alternative to the original proposal, the Department of Fish and Game is now proposing that the sediments be excavated from behind the dam and then the dam be breached at the bottom to reestablish the original streambed. However, in order to determine the quality and quantity of material for disposal, a geological exploration test (core sampling) must be conducted. It should be kept in mind that the results of the tests may in fact preclude any future project in this area.

Subsequent to the earlier Board meeting, staff transferred \$64,900 of the original allocation to the Office of the State Architect (OSA) for design and project administration. Approximately \$60,000 of this amount is still available and could be used by OSA to carry out this sediment analysis. The remaining \$325,100 reverted on June 30, 1992. Any further work on this project, beyond the core sampling, would require that a new project proposal be presented for Board consideration.

The resolution of the fish barrier problems on Malibu Creek is a cooperative project involving the combined efforts of the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and California Trout, Inc. The Conservancy has already allocated \$200,000 for these restoration efforts and California Trout has spent both time and money in preliminary planning efforts and continues to be committed to the restoration effort. The Department of Parks and Recreation, while not a contributor of project construction funds at this time, is the owner of the sites requiring restoration and will be responsible for some future maintenance of portions of the overall project.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this scope change (authorize the geological tests) as proposed above; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was noted that Mr. George Heise of the Department of Fish and Game's Environmental Services Division, Engineering Section was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters were received from the Mountain Lion Foundation and CalTrout supporting the scope change.

Mr. Biaggini 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 SCOPE CHANGE TO ALLOW STAFF TO PROCEED WITH A GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF STORED SEDIMENTS BEHIND RINDGE DAM FOR THE MALIBU CREEK STEELHEAD RESTORATION PROJECT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #3, Tulare County \$ 72,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider expanding the Allensworth Ecological Reserve by acquiring a controlling interest (4/7ths) in numerous 1± acre parcels of land totalling 197.22± acres. Mr. Sarro explained the proposal. The subject land was subdivided many years ago and has remained in nearly native condition largely because the small size of the individual parcels has precluded any viable agricultural operations. 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 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. To date, the Board has funded the purchase of 1,386± acres for inclusion in the 3,553± acre Allensworth Ecological Reserve. An additional 486± acres was acquired by the Department of Fish and Game through the Public Works Board and 1,681± acres was acquired through mitigation transfers.

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 at Allensworth 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.

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Much of the land in the general vicinity of the subject property has been converted to extensive agricultural uses including alfalfa, cotton, milo, grapes or orchard use. A newer trend in the area has been toward turkey farms. In the long-term, it is almost a certainty that eventual consolidation of these small parcels could lead to their development thereby destroying their habitat values. Operation and maintenance costs for this area are expected to be minimal. The management focus is habitat preservation with potential species augmentation. No habitat restoration would be required and it would not be practical to post or fence the area until more lots have been acquired.

The owners have agreed to sell their interest (4/7ths) in the subject land for a total approved fair market value of \$67,500. 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.

Staff has been unsuccessful in locating the owners of the 3/7ths interest, but feels the acquisition is still a good deal and it would be protecting additional habitat and also providing a wildlife corridor between the existing Fish and Game ownerships.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$72,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund, as specifically designated for acquisition of San Joaquin Valley Habitat (funds revert 9/30/92), for the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Mountain Lion Foundation.

It was noted that the owners of the 4/7ths interest manage the property and pay the full taxes. Mr. Biaggini suggested that staff also obtain a Quitclaim Deed over the 3/7ths ownership from the owners of the 4/7ths interest and Mr. Schmidt agreed to do so.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE ALLENSWORTH ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #3, TULARE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$72,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, AS SPECIALLY 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.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Santa Lucia Mountains, Joshua Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve, Monterey County

\$940,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 680± acres of prime habitat for coastal redwood and associated riparian species surrounded by a maritime sage scrub community along the Big Sur Coast. Ms. Lipphardt explained the proposal. The subject property is located in the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, approximately 1½ air miles east of the Pacific Ocean and Highway 1 and twelve miles south of Carmel. The property consists of two parcels, one of 640 acres, and a smaller 40 acre parcel which is located southwest of the larger parcel and nearer to the Pacific Ocean. An existing easement provides access from Highway 1 to the larger parcel in exchange for maintenance responsibilities for the road. The Department of Fish and Game has indicated agreement to perform the annual road grading that may be required to maintain the road. An additional easement exists and provides access between the two separate parcels. Palo Colorado Road, the only all-weather road leading up to the crest of the Santa Lucia Mountains and the western edge of the Ventana Wilderness, lies about one mile further south of the access road to the subject property. The eastern boundary of the subject lies about two air miles northwest of the Los Padres National Forest and the Ventana Wilderness Area.

The specific habitat types on both parcels are Coastal redwood old-growth, Coastal scrub, and Broad-leaved riparian. There are elements of Maritime scrub, mixed chaparral and annual grassland present as well. Species benefitted by these habitat types include deer, mountain quail, bobcat, gray fox and mountain lion. Peregrine falcons benefit from the grassy slopes as forage areas and the rich riparian areas support both resident and migrant songbirds. The larger parcel contains approximately 15 acres of Coastal sage scrub, which includes the seacliff buckwheat, a food plant of the larvae of Smith's blue butterfly, a Federally listed endangered species. The property also supports large numbers of Lewis' clarkia, a plant included in the California Native Plant Society's list of plants that are rare, and of limited distribution, but not endangered.

The riparian habitat extends along the course of Joshua Creek, which bisects the larger parcel, and includes cottonwood, alder, willow, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and an extensive growth of Coastal redwood. The redwood growth extends in size as it ascends the canyon and consists mainly of old-growth timber. Also present on both parcels are large areas of Coast live oak, Canyon live oak and madrone. Additionally, open areas on the parcels contain coast range grassland comprised of purple needlegrass, California brome and bunchgrasses, which are all considered environmentally sensitive under the Big Sur Land Use Plan.

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There is a vacant three bedroom ranch house and associated buildings at the end of the access road on the larger parcel. Telephone service is available, but electricity must be provided by generator. Acquisition would prevent further development to homesites, which is currently taking place in the area. The lower reaches of the canyon have already been subdivided into 40-acre homesites and six of these sites have residential development.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. Presently, the Big Sur Land Trust has an option to purchase the subject parcels. The parcels have been appraised at \$925,000, a value which has been approved by the State Department of General Services. The Trust has applied for a \$100,000 grant from the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District to use toward the purchase of the subject parcels. As of the writing of these minutes, it was not known whether the grant was approved. The Trust has agreed to sell the property at the approved appraised value and if the grant is approved, would sell the property to the State for \$825,000. It is anticipated that an additional \$15,000 will be needed to cover escrow fees, Department of General Services review costs and appraisal fees.

Funding is available from the Environmental License Plate Fund, specifically providing \$450,000 for acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands in the Santa Lucia Mountains, and from Proposition 70 of 1988, Section 2720 (a).

Mr. Schmidt indicated that the Department of Fish and Game highly recommends the acquisition for its varied habitat types which range from the coastal scrub to riparian habitat to coastal old-growth redwoods.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support was received from the Mountain Lion Foundation and that Mr. Bruce Elliott from the Department of Fish and Game's Monterey Office was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase as proposed; allocate a total of \$940,000.00 subject to reduction by the amount of any contribution by the Big Sur Land Trust; \$450,000.00 to come from the Environmental License Plate Fund and up to \$490,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 2720 (a), to cover the purchase and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Biaggini 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 SANTA LUCIA MOUNTAINS, JOSHUA CREEK CANYON ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, MONTEREY COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$940,000.00 SUBJECT TO REDUCTION BY THE AMOUNT OF ANY CONTRIBUTION BY THE BIG SUR LAND TRUST; \$450,000.00 TO COME FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND AND UP TO \$490,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 2720 (a), 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. Red Lake Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Alpine County \$215,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the Wildlife Conservation Board's participation, together with Department of Fish and Game, in the first phase of an acquisition of a 75 percent ownership interest in 80 acres of lake and surrounding shoreline lands at Red Lake, a 75 percent ownership interest in 1,100± acre-feet of tributary stream water rights and the right to storage of these waters in the lake. The purpose of the acquisition of the water and storage rights is to provide an ideal management option to protect the Lahontan cutthroat trout broodstock, a Federally listed threatened species. The acceptance of the 75 percent interest in the underlying lake and surrounding lands is for the protection of the Willow Flycatcher, a State listed threatened species and Federally listed endangered species, and to ensure and protect public interest in Red Lake, a popular trout fishing lake. Ownership of this 75 percent is considered sufficient to accomplish this purpose and the acquisition as proposed is fully supported by the Department of Fish and Game. Following is a detailed explanation of this transaction. Mr. Giordano explained the transaction.

Red Lake is located on the east side of the Sierras, at about the 8,000 foot elevation. It lies approximately 100 miles easterly of Sacramento and 20 miles westerly of Lake Tahoe. The subject property fronts on, and is accessible from, State Highway 88, an all year trans-Sierra route.

On June 25, 1981, the Wildlife Conservation Board approved the purchase of 520± acres (3 parcels) of land surrounding Red Lake. Included within the boundaries of the largest parcel (360± acre), although not part of it, is Red Lake. Acquisition provided access to, but not ownership of the entire shoreline of the lake as well as ownership of almost 1/4 mile of Red Lake Creek as it left the lake. The other two parcels contain 80± acres each

and are connected by common property corners. Together these parcels provide approximately 3/4 mile of frontage on both sides of Forestdale Creek, a very popular fishing stream because of its brook, rainbow and brown trout fishery. In addition to its high fisheries value, the property contains prime deer summer range, fawning areas, wetland meadows, and other habitat for upland game and furbearing animals.

On August 18, 1987, Red Lake Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, was presented to and approved by the Board and provided for acquisition of an additional 240± acres adjacent to the previous acquisition. The expansion afforded improved fishing access to Red Lake and added to the preservation of additional important deer habitat in the Hope Valley--Carson Pass area. As in the original acquisition however, neither Red Lake itself nor any interest therein was acquired. Additionally, no water rights were acquired in either transaction.

Recently, The American Land Conservancy (ALC) has been in negotiations with the owner of a 75 percent interest in the 80± acres of lake and shoreline lands and 75 percent of the tributary stream water rights and storage rights in the lake. Under an agreement reached between the parties, ALC obtained the assignable right to 1) require a minimum storage of water in the lake to the entire extent of the owner's 75 percent interest, 827 acre-feet, through December 31, 1993, and 2) purchase outright all or any part of the owner's 75 percent interest in the water prior to December 31, 1993. In addition, if ALC purchases more than one-half of the owner's interest prior to December 31, 1993, ALC's purchase rights would be extended one year to December 31, 1994. Finally, if more than one-half of the owner's 75 percent interest is purchased prior to December 31, 1993, the lake and shoreline land interests of the owner would be donated to the State as part of the transaction.

Under an appraisal, reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services, the fair market value of the owner's 75 percent interest in the water and storage rights is \$2,068,000 and the 80 acres of lake and shoreline are valued at \$120,000. Through negotiations between ALC and the Department of Fish and Game, the Department has agreed to purchase the ALC's one-year minimum pool rights for \$66,180 and to acquire \$800,000 worth of the owner's interest in the water and storage rights. The total \$866,180 would be applicable to the purchase price of the water and storage rights. It is now proposed that the Wildlife Conservation Board join with the Department of Fish and Game by purchasing \$200,000 worth of water and storage rights, bringing the total purchase pursuant to ALC's agreement to \$1,066,180, which would result in the acquisition of 51.6 percent of the owner's interest or 426.47 acre feet. Thus, the right to purchase the remaining interest of the owner would be extended to December 31, 1994, which should enable the State and the ALC sufficient time to fund the purchase of the balance of the owner's interest. The State has received an option to purchase the remaining rights. This would also result in the donation of the 75 percent interest in the land and surrounding shoreline.

The costs of sale, escrow, appraisals and Department of General Services review are estimated to be \$15,000 bringing the total Board allocation to \$215,000. Funding is available in the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117). The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land or water for wildlife conservation purposes. The property would be managed by the Department as part of the existing Red Lake Wildlife Area.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this proposal, in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game, as proposed; allocate \$215,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was noted that Mr. Aaron Peskin, The American Land Conservancy, and Mr. Jim Messersmith, Department of Fish and Game, were present should there be any questions.

In response to Mr. Biaggini's question about what the Red Lake water is to be used for, Mr. Messersmith stated that when the water leaves Red Lake through its natural outlet, the water flows on east, heads down through properties owned by the Department in Hope Valley, into the Carson Valley, and then on into Nevada. One place where water could be diverted from time to time is Indian Valley Reservoir as necessary to freshen it. This water right is part of the Carson Decision and they are adjudicated water rights under court decree and the water rights are in the process now of being changed so the water can be used for fish and wildlife purposes, as well as the existing use of agriculture. Mr. Schmidt added that the water could possibly be used for exchange water which is needed in other locations, but the main purpose of this proposal is to retain the water in Red Lake, to avoid fish kills, protect riparian habitat and provide for recreation.

Ms. Burton asked if it was a customary practice to split water rights in this manner and are there similar arrangements to this. Mr. Messersmith stated that water rights are distributed like individual shares, and yes, this one has been 75 percent/25 percent for many years. The percentage that we would own is their full percentage and is calculated in acre feet. In a court decreed adjudicated water rights, Water Masters, who work for the Department of Water Resources, are the ones who control the valves, so that if anyone wants to take water out of Red Lake, they have to be able to show to the Water Master how much water they have entitlement to, how much can be released, and how much has to be retained.

Mr. Schmidt indicated again that Mr. Aaron Peskin from The American Land Conservancy was present and thanked him for putting this proposal together. Mr. Peskin stated he wished to address the specifics, both of the intermingling of two owners within the lake as well as the adjudication of the manner of use and place of use. As to the first, it is a very common practice, particularly in stored reservoirs on the eastern side of the Sierras that flow down into Nevada (Lake Tahoe included) for there to be an arrangement that is very similar to having shares in an organization. It is different than owning a

4/7ths or 3/7ths interest in a piece of property, with water you essentially carry off that many acre feet which is your percentage. For example, if you have a 1,000 acre feet in the lake and you own a 60 percent interest, you essentially have 600 acre feet and that is the way the Water Master controls releases. Mr. Peskin continued, as to the issue of attorneys, that this is a new theory and he has heard of cases before where water rights that were historically used for agricultural and livestock watering have been converted with the approval of the federal court to purposes of fish and wildlife usage. ALC has both coordinated with counsel at Fish and Game as well as having retained special water counsel in Sacramento to help advise of the technical issues. Mr. Schmidt also added that DFG's attorneys are well aware of the issue.

Mr. Biaggini added that this is absolutely nothing new or different about shared water rights, it is something that is quite common all over the country particularly so in the west. Two premier water cases in the United States courts today are the California/Nevada issue over the Tahoe Basin and the Truckee River and the Colorado River with Arizona and they are making new law/legal history all the time. This isn't a brand new field.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF WATER RIGHTS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO STORE SAID WATER IN RED LAKE, PLUS THE ACQUISITION OF FEE TITLE TO A PORTION OF RED LAKE AND ITS SHORELINE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$215,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Calaveras County \$205,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of a 160.55± acre parcel of land located adjacent to the Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area. This overall area, which is considered prime deer winter range, is also within a migratory corridor for the Railroad Flat Deer Herd. As a result of several Board actions taken in the past 3½ years, 1,224.25 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. Schmidt reported that to his knowledge the recent fires in this area have not affected this parcel. Mr. Sarro explained the acquisition as well as the overall project.

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 wildlife area 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. Management costs will no doubt be minimal since the area will be primarily left in its existing condition and can be easily incorporated into the existing Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area.

The owners have agreed to sell the 160.55± acre parcel at its approved fair market value of \$200,000. It is estimated an additional \$5,000 will be required for related acquisition costs, including appraisal, title insurance and processing costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$205,000.00 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.

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Mr. Schmidt added that the parcel is adjacent to national forest lands to the east and together they provide a corridor over to the east side of the Sierras providing deer winter range in this particular area. The property is very valuable and the Department has been looking at protecting this area for some time. The area is under threat as the surrounding area is being developed into 40 acre homesites and 160 acre ranchettes.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support was received from the Mountain Lion Foundation and that Mr. Messersmith from the Department of Fish and Game was present.

Mr. Biaggini asked if this was part of a program to expand the Sheep Ranch Wildlife Area and what was the total program. Mr. Schmidt responded that the total program consisted of acquiring the inholdings, of which there is one more inholding of 40 acres, and if that parcel is acquired that would be the extent of this particular project, as proposed by the Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Biaggini 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 #3, CALAVERAS COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$205,000.00 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.

*12. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$95,500.00
(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 two 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.

In addition, resident fish habitat enhancement projects include habitat work for warmwater fish such as those inhabiting the Colorado River. The techniques used to improve warmwater fishery habitat are similar to techniques used for anadromous fish. Woody structures submerged in the water provide escape and rearing habitat while overhanging riparian vegetation provides cover, shade and an abundant supply of invertebrates.

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 or other appropriate environmental documentation has been filed. Both 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 two proposed habitat enhancement projects is briefly provided below:

A. Goose Flats Backwater Fishery Enhancement.
Riverside County \$ 31,600.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposal was to improve the warmwater fishery habitat on a side channel of the Colorado River known as Goose Flats, which is located approximately five miles southeast of Blythe, Riverside County.

The Corps of Engineers originally constructed this channel as mitigation for fishery habitat lost due to Colorado River channelization. Primary warmwater fish to benefit from this proposed project would be channel catfish and large and smallmouth bass. The project, which will provide escape and rearing habitat, will consist of placing approximately 200 structures comprised of submerged citrus trees or bundles of trees tied together at the base of their trunks and attached to concrete blocks for anchors in the dredged out channel. These structures will be placed about 30 feet apart to ensure interaction between shelters as well as provide maximum vertical relief from the channel bottom. Department of Fish and Game personnel will supervise and monitor all aspects of the construction project.

B. Little Rattlesnake Creek Fishery Enhancement.
Trinity County \$ 63,700.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposal was to improve steelhead trout habitat on Little Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary to Rattlesnake Creek which in turn is a tributary to the South Fork Trinity River. The project will consist of increasing woody cover in the form of logs and root wads in the creek to create riffles and pools and the use of boulders to form scour and plunge pools. The proposal will also include stabilizing cut banks with rock and riparian vegetation to reduce point source sedimentation. Approximately 30 sites will be developed in Little Rattlesnake Creek under a contract with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews from the Humboldt Center. Department of Fish and Game and CCC project coordinators will supervise and monitor all aspects of the construction project.

Administrative contract costs necessary to process contracts for the above listed projects are estimated to be an additional \$200.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these two fishery habitat enhancement projects as one item as proposed; allocate \$95,500.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), including \$200.00 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 MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE TWO SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$95,500.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), INCLUDING \$200.00 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.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the next two items were withdrawn from the agenda as they were contingent on passage of the 1992/93 Budget.

Items 13 & 14

The 1992 Budget Act as proposed would appropriate \$1,641,000.00 to the Wildlife Conservation Board to be expended on specific Department of Fish and Game projects pursuant to the requirements of the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (commonly known as Proposition 117 or the Mountain Lion Initiative). Pursuant to this Act, funds totaling \$30 M are to be annually placed into the Habitat Conservation Fund for use by five separate State agencies and in the amounts specified in the Act. While some of these funds are listed by categories, some funds are allocated to specific projects. Items #13 and 14 of this agenda describe two of these items as contained in the proposed 1992/93 budget.

It should be noted that at the time this agenda was prepared, the budget had not been passed. These items are included so that proper public notice can be given to allow the Board to act on them if they remain in the budget. Should they be excluded from the final budget, or should the budget not be passed by August 25, 1992, they will be withdrawn from consideration.

***13. Stream Restoration and Fishery Enhancement Project \$991,000.00
(WITHDRAWN FROM AGENDA)**

To consider an allocation for the Department of Fish and Game/California Conservation Corps Contract for Salmon/Steelhead Habitat Restoration as specifically itemized in the 1992/93 budget.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Salmon, Steelhead, Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Act, the Department of Fish and Game is mandated to increase the number of salmon and steelhead trout through habitat restoration, and where appropriate, artificial propagation.

Since January 1980, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has worked cooperatively with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to complete stream restoration projects on the north coast. The funding proposal for the "Salmon Restoration Project" is for \$991,000 to be provided through an interagency agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board for fiscal year 92/93. The goal of the Salmon Restoration Project is to fully restore the productivity of chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead trout streams through habitat improvements.

This project is headquartered out of the CCC's Humboldt Center in Fortuna (Humboldt County). There are presently two satellites, one in Leggett (Mendocino County) and the other in Hayfork (Trinity County). The Salmon Restoration Project employs four full-time crews, two from each of the satellites. The Eureka nonresidential crew and crews from Fortuna are also used when available. Since 1980, over 800,000 corpsmember hours have been spent restoring or enhancing over 500 miles of tributaries to the Eel, Van Duzen, Mattole, and South Fork Trinity Rivers, tributaries to Humboldt Bay, and various coastal streams in Mendocino County. In addition, barriers have been modified in 165 streams, over 16,000 feet of streambank have been stabilized in 70 streams, over 1,600 instream structures have been constructed in 67 streams and over 600,000 trees have been planted along the banks of 88 streams.

These funds will be used to continue with more projects similar to the above described habitat restoration work. Site specific restoration projects will be monitored and evaluated by the Department of Fish and Game and Wildlife Conservation Board staff.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Stream Restoration and Fishery Enhancement Project as proposed; allocate \$991,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. NO ACTION TAKEN.

*14. Wetland Development and Restoration Project \$650,000.00
(WITHDRAWN FROM AGENDA)

California is the single most important wintering area in the Pacific Flyway for millions of migratory waterfowl and other marsh associated wildlife species. Each winter California supports approximately 60 percent of the ducks and geese of the Pacific Flyway, over 90 percent of the tundra swans and the entire population of the endangered Aleutian Canada goose. Over 90 percent of California's historical five million acres of natural wetland habitat have been lost to conversion to other land uses such as urbanization, agriculture and industry. The majority of waterfowl winter in the Central Valley where they survive on the waste grain from agricultural operations and natural feed from approximately 240,000 acres of public and private managed wetlands. In recent years there has occurred a continuing serious loss of private wetlands and seasonally flooded agricultural lands. Coincident with the loss of critical winter feeding and spring breeding areas has been the sustained decline in the waterfowl population. The waterfowl population of the Pacific Flyway has plummeted to one half of its historic levels. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan provides a broad framework for continental management of ducks and geese through the year 2000. The restoration and enhancement of waterfowl habitat on Department owned lands will ensure that wetlands are maintained for wintering waterfowl. Specifically, the Department proposes to initiate the following activities:

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- A. Purchase of water and costs associated with distribution and pumping to protect, restore, develop and enhance wetlands on the following wildlife areas:
- (1) Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, including the Little Dry Creek, Llano Seco and Howard Slough Units, Glenn and Butte Counties \$150,000.00
 - (2) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Butte & Sutter Counties \$ 98,000.00
 - (3) Mendota Wildlife Area, Fresno County \$ 39,000.00
 - (4) North Grasslands Wildlife Area, including the China Island and Salt Slough Units, Merced County \$ 60,000.00
- B. Reduction of selenium in the soils of ponds at the Los Banos Wildlife Area \$ 45,000.00
- C. For the protection, development and enhancement of wetland habitat on Department owned wildlife areas, the Department of Fish and Game is proposing to implement various wetland restoration activities such as cleaning irrigation and drainage ditches, wetland surveys, repair and replacement of irrigation pumps, enhancing nesting and feeding habitats for waterfowl production, and the purchase of water for waterfowl. \$223,000.00
- D. Completion of wetland habitat productivity surveys \$ 35,000.00

Pursuant to the provisions of the 1992 Budget Act, all projects are to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Wetland Development and Restoration Project as one item as proposed; allocate \$650,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned. NO ACTION TAKEN.

15. Mud Slough Wetlands, Merced County

\$570,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 780± acres of land, located adjacent to and easterly of the City of Los Banos in Merced County, for the protection of wetland habitat. Access to the property is easily achieved via State Highway 152 which borders the north boundary of the acreage. Mr. Schmidt indicated that this is not the first proposal to be presented under the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, but items 15 and 16 are the first ones where we are proposing to purchase land and restore the property and then sell the property subject to a conservation easement. Mr. Giordano described this proposal.

The site contains approximately 514 acres of seasonal wetlands, 8 acres of permanent wetlands associated with Mud Slough and 258 acres of grassland/upland habitat. The property is presently used for cattle grazing. The southern 488± acres had, until about seven years ago, been used as a duck club during waterfowl season.

The property, which is surrounded by other agricultural lands and duck clubs, lies within a waterfowl migration corridor between the wetland habitat blocks of the North and South Grasslands. Primary use by waterfowl is in the winter and early spring by such species as mallards, northern pintail, green-winged teal, American widgeon and northern shoveler. Other wetland species such as shore birds, herons, egrets and raptors also use this habitat for feeding and foraging.

Threats to the area include residential and industrial development created by an expanding Los Banos community. In addition, due to the recent lack of flooding and heavy grazing activity, the habitat values have been degraded in the past several years. Consequently, there has been minimal food production and wildlife use. Acquisition will not only protect the remaining habitat but will allow for wetland restoration. Equally important is the protection of the migration corridor, between the north and south grasslands, that this acquisition will provide. Acquisition and restoration of this parcel will also help meet the objectives of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture for wetland restoration within the San Joaquin Basin.

It is anticipated that upon purchase of the acreage, the southerly 488± acres would be restored to seasonal wetlands through the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program. Upon restoration, it is proposed that this portion be sold as one or possibly two parcels for potential use as duck clubs. A sale would be subject to a conservation easement to protect the resource and ensure continuation of wetland habitat. The northern 292± acres, which is of lesser wetland value, may also be encumbered with a permanent nondevelopment/agricultural preserve easement and sold, thereby protecting this area from development which could be detrimental to migrating waterfowl. All net proceeds received from the sales would be returned to the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program.

The property is listed for sale and has been appraised for \$800,000, a value which was subsequently approved by the Department of General Services. However, the owners have agreed to sell to the State for \$550,000, a reduction of \$250,000. Processing costs are estimated to be \$20,000 which would include 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. This proposal has been reviewed by the Department of Fish and Game and has been recommended for Board consideration.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support were received from the Grasslands Water District, Mountain Lion Foundation and the California Waterfowl Association and that there was no known opposition at this time.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$570,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), for purposes of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

It was noted that the property had been foreclosed. The future sale of the property would be subject to a conservation easement and a Department of Fish and Game management plan. The most likely use would be for duck clubs but there are educational opportunities on some portions of the property.

Mr. Biaggini 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 MUD SLOUGH WETLANDS, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$570,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Gilsizer Slough Wetlands, Sutter County

\$640,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of $264 \pm$ acres of interior wetlands and related riparian and upland habitats lying within, along and adjacent to a portion of Gilsizer Slough. Gilsizer Slough, the main drainage waterway for the Yuba City area, runs for several miles from Yuba City and terminates in the Sutter Bypass. The subject portion of the slough is located $12 \pm$ miles southwest of Yuba City, adjacent to and westerly of South Township Road. The Department of Fish and Game's Abbott & O'Connor Lake Wildlife Areas lie $4 \pm$ miles easterly, Sutter National Wildlife Refuge lies $2 \pm$ miles northwest and the Sutter Bypass is about 1/3 mile to the west. Access to the property may be achieved from either State Highway 113 or 99 via O'Banion Road, which intercepts both highways and connects with South Township Road. Mr. Giordano explained this proposal which is very similar to the Mud Slough Wetlands proposal.

The area proposed for acquisition is presently used for agricultural purposes and is surrounded by other agricultural lands. It contains a variety of diverse rich habitat types. In fact, while more than half of the area is currently in crops or pasture land nearly all of it can be easily restored to wetland and riparian habitat. All but the 60 acres of upland are subject to periodic flooding while water exists year-round in the slough in normal years.

The slough may be characterized as valley freshwater marsh containing several acres of tules and waterways, with riparian habitat along its banks. Additionally, there is a riparian area lying alongside the southern boundary of the property which is delineated by a levee. The existing habitat supports numerous species of waterfowl during their migration into the Central Valley. The northern pintail, mallard, American widgeon and northern shoveler are common residents to the area. Other species using the area include a wide variety of passerine birds, shore birds, egrets, herons (including a black-crowned night heron rookery on the area), ring-necked pheasants and various species of raptors. The Giant garter snake, a State listed threatened species, the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, a Federally listed threatened species, the State listed threatened Swainson's hawk and the Double-crested Cormorant, a species of special concern are likely to use this habitat type. Mammals known to use the area include the black-tailed jack rabbit, gray fox, raccoon, opossum, muskrat, striped skunk, beaver and black-tail deer. There also exists a variety of warmwater fish species within the slough.

As previously stated, the property is in agricultural use, an activity that has either destroyed or substantially reduced the riparian and wetland habitats on the area. It is anticipated that once the property is acquired, restoration and enhancement of the entire area would begin under the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program. To support the cost of future habitat improvement, it is proposed to lease the rice and row crop areas and with the income derived therefrom pay for such restoration as water structures, pond development, bank protection, nesting cover, food plots and replanting as necessary.

Within this enhancement plan, portions of the rice area would be returned to wetlands and the present upland area managed to provide nesting cover. Upon completion of restoration, the property may be offered for sale to the public subject to a conservation easement to protect the resource. Net proceeds from the sale would be deposited into the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program.

This property is located in the Sutter Basin where the stated objective of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture is restoration of 11,000 acres of wetlands. This project would restore about 150 to 200 acres of wetlands. The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and has recommended that the Board proceed.

The owners have agreed to sell the subject property at the approved fair market value of \$620,000. Processing costs are estimated to be \$20,000 which includes the costs of survey, 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 have no effect on the fair market value. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support were received from the Mountain Lion Foundation and the California Waterfowl Association. Mr. Schmidt stated that several letters were distributed to each Board Member and he wanted to bring them to their attention. Mr. Schmidt read portions of these letters into the record. The first letter was from the California Waterfowl Association indicating they supported and strongly urged the Board require the evaluation of a management plan which provides for ongoing rice farming on the acreage presently devoted to it, habitat manipulation on the existing wetlands to improve their value to waterfowl, and restoration or conversion of the current wheat acreage to increase wetland habitat. Mr. Schmidt stated that the comments were all options that were being considered and will be evaluated by staff. A copy of said letter is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Schmidt indicated a second letter from an attorney for the Gilsizer County Drainage District had been received and read parts of the letter. In particular, the letter requested that any development plans be discussed with the District Engineer Rio von Geldern of von Geldern Engineering to make sure that there are no negative effects on the drainage. It also indicated that once the wetlands are developed the property may be sold to a private individual or entity and if such is the case, the District requests that in any such sale the rights of drainage and the District be recognized and be protected as part of the sales agreement. A copy of said letter is also attached to these minutes and made a part of the official records. Mr. Schmidt commented that the Board staff had no problems with the request and would propose to work with them.

Ms. Burns clarified that it was the normal case to associate with the local government and planning entities when dealing with future management or development plans.

Minutes of Meeting, August 25, 1992
Wildlife Conservation Board

Mr. Schmidt reported that a letter was received from Mr. Peter Licari, Supervisor from Sutter County. The letter was basically in opposition to the entire agenda, but specifically to this item. Mr. Schmidt stated that it was his understanding that the letter was a personal letter and was not the sentiments of the entire Board of Supervisors. Staff has responded in writing to Mr. Licari on August 21, 1992, responding to his concerns, with a copy to all Board Members.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$640,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), for purposes of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Biaggini 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. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE GILSIZER SLOUGH WETLANDS, SUTTER COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$640,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), FOR PURPOSES OF THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Other Business

A. Resolution, Everett McCracken, Jr.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Everett M. McCracken, Jr. served as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board from January 15, 1991, until May 7, 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCracken, as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board and President of the Fish and Game Commission, consistently supported the Board's program throughout his tenure, making the preservation, enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat a true priority; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCracken's sound judgement and wise counsel, coupled with his kind and pleasant mannerism and always great sense of humor, has greatly helped the Board and staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities and has gained him the love and respect of those who have worked with him; 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 Everett McCracken our sincere appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board and extend to him our very best wishes for the future, 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. McCracken.

Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any corrections or additions to the resolution, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS, WITH CONCURRENCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED BY THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AND THAT A SUITABLE COPY BE PROVIDED TO MR. MC CRACKEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes of Meeting, August 25, 1992
Wildlife Conservation Board

B. Consent Calendar

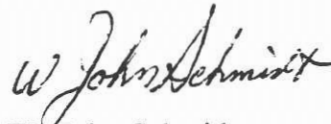
Mr. Schmidt advised that a vote was needed on the Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5 and 12, unless someone wanted an item pulled. (Item Nos. 13 and 14 were withdrawn from consideration.)

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. BURTON THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM NUMBERS 5 AND 12 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m. by Chairman Biaggini.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. John Schmidt".

W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on August 25, 1992, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$310,243,716.52. 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	17,717,581.66
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	11,716,380.42
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	467,219.86
4. Marine Habitat	646,619.07
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,823,749.26
C. Fishing Access Projects	33,928,958.34
1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 3,073,174.92
2. River and Aqueduct Access	7,372,919.31
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,308,933.81
4. Piers	17,173,930.30
D. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects	233,580,143.48
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$143,273,298.14
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	4,656,351.63
3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	82,284,993.71
4. Land Conservation Area	2,500.00
5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	3,363,000.00
6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	-0-
F. Hunting Access Projects	533,743.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects	7,286,412.87
H. Special Project Allocations	387,095.42
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	<u>657,615.63</u>
 Total Allocated to Projects	 \$310,243,716.52



CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

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(800) 927-DUCK • (916) 648-1406 • (916) 648-1665 FAX

"Preserving California's waterfowl, wetlands, and outdoor heritage... since 1945."

August 24, 1992

Ben Biaggini, Chairman
Wildlife Conservation Board
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: August 25 Meeting Agenda

Dear Mr. Biaggini:

Confirming my discussion with John Schmidt and his staff, the California Waterfowl Association supports Agenda Items 15 (Mud Slough Wetlands, Merced County) and 16 (Gilsizer Slough Wetlands, Sutter County).

With respect to the Gilsizer Slough proposal, we strongly urge that the Board require the evaluation of a management plan which provides for ongoing rice farming on the acreage presently devoted to it, habitat manipulation on the existing wetlands to improve their value to waterfowl, and restoration or conversion of the current wheat acreage to increase wetland habitat.

Very truly yours,

D. Chapin, Vice President
Government Affairs

DC/bk

cc: Boyd Gibbons

RECEIVED BY
Wildlife Conservation Board

AUG 24 1992

LAW OFFICES OF
AROSTEGUI, COOKE, EPLEY & GENGLER

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FISH AND GAME

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ALBERT J. AROSTEGUI

(1927-1980)

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FAX (916) 671-1461

August 17, 1992

Mr. Benjamin F. Biaggini
Acting Chairman
Wildlife Conservation Board
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Gilsizer County Drainage District/Gilsizer Slough Wetlands

Dear Mr. Biaggini:

The Board of Directors of Gilsizer County Drainage District, at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 1992, was apprised of the potential purchase of a 264 acre parcel, designated the "Gilsizer Slough Wetlands" in Sutter County by the Wildlife Conservation Board. In light of the fact that the Gilsizer Slough provides major drainage for the majority of the population of Sutter County, Gilsizer County Drainage District Board of Directors is concerned about any potential purchase of the wetlands if the development in any way interferes or restricts the historical or natural drainage rights of Gilsizer in the Gilsizer Slough. In that regard, if the property is purchased for development as wetlands Gilsizer Board requests that any development plans be discussed with the District's engineer, Ric von Geldern of von Geldern Engineering, to make sure that there are no negative effects on the drainage.

It was further pointed out to the Gilsizer Board of Directors that potentially once the wetlands are developed the property may be sold to a private individual or entity. If such is the case, Gilsizer requests that in any such sale the rights of drainage

Mr. Benjamin F. Biaggini - 2.
August 17, 1992

and the Gilsizer County Drainage District be recognized and be protected as part of the sales agreement.

It is further requested that this letter be made a part of the record in the hearing involving the purchase of the Gilsizer Slough Wetlands scheduled for August 25, 1992.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

AROSTEGUI, COOKE, EPLEY & GENGLER



ROBERT C. EPLEY

RCE:db

cc: Board of Directors, Gilsizer County Drainage District
Secretary to the Board of Directors
Mr. Ric von Geldern