

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 March 9, 1993

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of March 9, 1993

Pursuant to the call of Chairman Benjamin Biaggini, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 444 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on March 9, 1993. The meeting as called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Benjamin Biaggini, Chairman
 President, Fish and Game Commission
 Steve Kolodney, Member
 Department of Finance
 Boyd Gibbons, Member
 Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Scott Syphax,
 Vice, Senator Robert Presley
 Edna Maita,
 Vice, Assemblyman Jim Costa
 Lori Christenson,
 Vice, Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg

Absent: Senator David Roberti
 Assemblyman Dan Hauser

Staff Present: W. John Schmidt, Executive Director
 Clyde Edon, Assistant Executive Director
 Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent/Assistant Executive Director
 Bob Schulenburg, Field Agent
 Howard Dick, Senior Land Agent

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Frank Giordano, Senior Land Agent
Georgia Lipphardt, Senior Land Agent
Debbie Townsend, Associate 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: Don Koch, Department of Fish and Game
Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Paul Menzies, Evans Ranch, Inc.
Steve Wharton, Evans Ranch, Inc.
Jeff Souza, Chico State University
Pat Perkins, Department of Fish and Game
Steve Zimmerman, Department of Finance
Holly Liberato, Hopkins-Liberato & Associates
Jack Payne, Ducks Unlimited
John Newbold, Mokelumne River Alliance
Amber Jones, Defenders of Wildlife
Allen Garcia, Glenn County Resource Conservation District
Gary Brown, Citizen
Mark Palmer, Mountain Lion Foundation
Bob McLandress, California Waterfowl Association
Dave Smith, Department of Fish and Game
Craig Isola, California Waterfowl Association
Harold Beck, Farmer
David Antonucci, Tahoe City Public Utility District
Cindy Gustafson-Shaw, Tahoe City Public Utility District
Krist Lane, Senate Natural Resources

2. Approval of Minutes

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. KOLODNEY THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 1992, BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT CALENDAR *(Items #3-5, 10, 11, 14, 20, and 23-25)

Mr. Schmidt reported that Item Nos. 3-5, 10, 11, 14, 20, 23-25 were listed as Consent Calendar Items in the agenda. Mr. Schmidt gave the audience and/or Board Members the opportunity to request that an item be removed from the consent calendar. He then recommended a vote on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Biaggini asked if there were any questions or concerns with respect to the consent calendar, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS NOS. 3-5, 10, 11, 14, 20 AND 23-25 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 3. Funding Status as of March 9, 1993 (Information Only) (Consent Calendar)

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 200,000.00
Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$ 600,000.00

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 310,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocation	-197,031.39
Unallocated Balance	\$ 112,968.61

(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	- 940,038.50
Unallocated Balance	\$ 9,961.50

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

Reappropriation of 1989/90 - Stream Projects	\$1,814,726.49
Reappropriation of 1989/90 - Coastal Projects	\$ 83,127.69

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(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

Governor's Budget	\$2,000,000.00
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(g) 1991/92 Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-3,041,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$1,959,000.00

(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	-57,633,915.23
Less State administrative costs	- 1,219,500.00
Unallocated Balance	\$22,446,584.77

(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

Governor's Budget	\$ 9,194,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 322,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 8,872,000.00

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

Governor's Budget -	
Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition	\$ 2,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-1,363,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 637,000.00

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Governor's Budget - Unallocated	\$ 1,682,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 682,392.90
Unallocated Balance	\$ 999,607.10

Governor's Budget -	
Upper Sacramento River Basin	\$ 1,000,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	- 226,964.77
Unallocated Balance	\$ 773,035.23

(l) 1992/93 Governor's Budget - Special Items

<u>Department of Fish and Game</u>	
Waterfowl Habitat Program	\$ 650,000.00
Salmon Habitat Program	\$ 991,000.00
Total Available	\$1,641,000.00

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

Governor's Budget	\$10,800,000.00
Less previous Board allocations	-10,521,909.09
Unallocated Balance	\$ 278,090.91

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	
Acquisition	\$ 312,968.61
Minor Development	\$ 600,000.00
Major Development	\$ -0-
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$ 9,961.50
<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund</u>	\$ 3,297,854.18
<u>Ca. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u>	\$22,446,584.77
<u>Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u>	\$ 3,959,000.00
<u>Cigarette & Tobacco Products Surtax Fund</u>	\$ 531,600.00
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u>	\$11,281,642.33

* 4. Special Project Planning Account (Consent Calendar) Informational

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

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

The Board, at the May 6, 1986, meeting, authorized the Executive Director to use up to 1 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:

California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund	\$40,000
Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund	\$15,000
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$20,000

* 5. Recovery of Funds (Consent Calendar)

The following 12 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:

- \$12,361.54** to the **Wildlife Restoration Fund**,
- \$2,363.00** to the **Environmental License Plate Fund**,
- \$34,670.10** to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**,
- \$10,046.59** to the **Calif. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988**,
- \$117,110.48** to the **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund**,

and that the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Lake Tahoe Fishing Access, Placer County

Allocation	\$45,000.00
Expended	<u>-32,638.46</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$12,361.54

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$12,361.54

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND

Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, Tulare County

Allocation	\$185,000.00
Expended	<u>-182,637.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,363.00

Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries \$2,363.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Los Banos Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Merced County

Allocation	\$278,000.00
Expended	<u>-265,068.40</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 12,931.60

McCloud River, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 3,900.00
Expended	<u>0</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,900.00

Trout Creek, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 1,370.00
Expended	<u>0</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,370.00

Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Glenn County

Allocation	\$370,000.00
Expended	<u>353,531.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 16,468.50

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries \$34,670.10

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Napa Marsh Wildlife Area, Tolay Creek, Expansion #2, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$ 91,000.00
Expended	<u>88,808.31</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,191.69

Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly Ecological Reserve, ^{Monterey} Sonoma County

Allocation	\$210,000.00
Expended	<u>202,145.10</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 7,854.90

**Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation
 Fund Recoveries \$10,046.59**

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Horse Linto Creek #2, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 79,200.00
Expended	- 52,666.24
Balance for Recovery	\$ 26,533.76

Hunter Creek, Tuolumne County

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

Moss Landing Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration, Phase III, Monterey County

Allocation	\$150,000.00
Expended	- 90,179.28
Balance for Recovery	\$ 59,820.72

West Fork Blue Creek, Humboldt County *Del Norte Co.*

Allocation	\$ 20,000.00
Expended	- 4,244.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 15,756.00

Total Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Recoveries \$117,110.48

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE 12 PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 7-9 AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$12,361.54 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; \$2,363.00 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND; \$34,670.10 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND; \$10,046.59 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988; AND \$117,110.48 TO THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Lake Tahoe Public Access (Restroom Renovation).
Placer County \$22,500.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal for a cooperative project with the Tahoe City Public Utility District to share in the cost of renovating the existing restroom facility at the Lake Tahoe public boat launch facility, a WCB funded public access project. The District currently operates and maintains the project, which is located on Department of Fish and Game owned land located one mile east of Tahoe City. Mr. Clyde Edon described the proposal.

Due to heavy use, as well as deterioration, this project is in need of renovation. The District and WCB staff are involved in discussions which will hopefully lead to an upgrade of these facilities making them safer and better able to accommodate this heavy use they receive. The Board, at its May 10, 1990, meeting, allocated funds for the preliminary design concept for this project.

One item in this overall plan to restore this access facility is to upgrade the existing restroom to bring it into compliance with the American Disabilities Act. As you will note, item #7 of this agenda is a request to fund the environmental review for the proposed renovations. However, the restroom restoration, which is a priority need, is not the subject of environmental review since it is for the renovation of the interior of the existing structure. The District has committed up to \$23,000 in funds and services toward this renovation and has filed the required Categorical Exemption for its completion.

The overall restoration of the launch ramp facility will be delayed pending completion of CEQA review, as discussed in item #7 of this agenda, and final project design. At this time, the District is requesting WCB assistance in completing the restroom renovation thereby bringing this portion of the project into compliance with the American Disabilities Act at a much earlier date.

They have completed a preliminary design for the restroom and have passed a resolution in favor of this project and will also administer the restroom restoration activities. All final plans will be reviewed and approved by WCB. The District will obtain all required approvals and permits prior to construction.

Mr. Schmidt noted that the Tahoe City Public Utility District has agreed to pay \$23,000 towards the restroom renovation and have also agreed to amend an agreement for an additional 25 years of Operation and Maintenance of the project.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for the renovation of the existing restroom as proposed; allocate \$22,500.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that a letter of support, for both Lake Tahoe projects, had been received from Senator Tim Leslie.

Mr. Edon stated that Ms. Cindy Gustafson-Shaw from the Tahoe City Public Utility District was present should there be any questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. KOLODNEY THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RENOVATION WORK AT THE LAKE TAHOE PUBLIC ACCESS (RESTROOM FACILITY), PLACER COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE TAHOE CITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$22,500.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Lake Tahoe Public Access (CEQA Review), Placer County \$75,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Tahoe City Public Utility District was requesting funds for a cooperative project to complete the required CEQA review and permit application for the restoration of the Lake Tahoe Public Access facility. The District currently operates and maintains these project facilities which are located on Department of Fish and Game owned land located one mile east of Tahoe City. Due to heavy use and deterioration, this project is in need of renovation. The District and Board staff are involved in discussions which will hopefully lead to its upgrade, thereby making it safer and better able to accommodate the heavy use it receives. The District requested and was granted funding for an engineering study for the proposed improvements at the May 10, 1990, WCB meeting. Mr. Edon of staff described this proposal.

This access project was first developed with WCB funding in 1961 with construction of a 36 foot wide concrete ramp, an adjacent pier for loading or unloading passengers, a paved parking area, restroom and an access road. Although some improvements have been made over the years, the project remains essentially as it was first constructed.

The ramp is an important public access facility which is getting increasingly heavier public use. At times of low water levels, it is one of the few public ramps on Lake Tahoe which remains functional. According to the District, some expansion and renovation is urgently needed to help meet the growing demand to improve operating efficiency and to upgrade the deteriorating structures.

Pursuant to the Board's earlier allocation, the District contracted for an engineering plan which was completed in June of 1991. In the fall of 1991, the District circulated the

engineering document to interested citizens and held a public meeting to receive comments on the project options.

The public comments received to date have reaffirmed the improvement options listed in the preliminary study. These options differ from the conceptual proposal originally submitted by the District in one major area -- the pier.

The pier was originally recommended to be partially reconstructed in its existing location. However, through the master planning process and the public comments received, the relocation of the pier to the west side of the ramp is now considered the best way to proceed as it will address two major concerns. First, since winds are predominantly from the southwest, the pier, with a wave attenuation system incorporated into it, located to the west of the ramp would provide much safer use of the ramp during wave and wind action. Secondly, the protection from wind and wave action will reduce the infill of sediments deposited on the ramp thereby reducing costly ongoing operations and maintenance required by continued dredging.

Discussions with local agencies have lead the District and WCB staff to believe that the relocation of the pier may require environmental review which is more extensive than anticipated in the original proposal to WCB. Scoping meetings have been held with the affected agencies concerned with permitting this project. The minimum documentation necessary for this action would be an Environmental Assessment (EA). Given the level of concern regarding this type of project, it may be necessary to complete a more involved review which would influence the cost of this item.

The District is requesting funds to complete the appropriate CEQA review so that the renovation of this public access facility can move forward. The level of funding requested will cover the range of review required for the project. The District will complete the degree of review required based on the response to the initial studies and will charge against these funds as appropriate, based on the level of required review.

The District has agreed to complete the CEQA review and make applications, including filing fees, for necessary permits (i.e. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Corps of Engineers, State Lands Commission, Department of Fish and Game and Placer County). WCB staff proposes to continue working with the District and, as the project develops, request development funds at a future Board meeting.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for the CEQA review and permit application as proposed; allocate \$75,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support, for both Lake Tahoe projects, had been received from Senator Tim Leslie.

Mr. Edon stated that Ms. Cindy Gustafson-Shaw from the Tahoe City Public Utility District was present should there be any questions.

Ms. Gustafson-Shaw stated that they appreciate the support the Wildlife Conservation Board has given them in the past, that this is a very worthy project, the demand for access to Lake Tahoe is continuing to escalate and the facility is quite old and in need of renovation. Tahoe City PUD is under very strict CEQA requirements and scrutiny and that is why there is not an exact cost figure for the CEQA documentation. Mr. Kolodney asked what the wave attenuation would add to the cost of the pier. Mr. Edon replied that the new pier was estimated at \$100,000 and to add the wave attenuation system would be an additional \$40,000. The attenuation system designed would be very effective at this location. Mr. Kolodney asked how these projects relate to the work being done by the California Tahoe Conservancy as far as public access, preservation and improvement of the quality of the lake. Ms. Gustafson-Shaw responded that the Tahoe City PUD works closely with the California Tahoe Conservancy by maintaining a number of their properties. The Tahoe Conservancy has been in the process of acquiring many lake front properties for access. To our knowledge, Tahoe Conservancy has only funded one project, in North Tahoe near Kings Beach, which allows public access to the lake. Mr. Schmidt noted that the California Tahoe Conservancy is well aware of WCB's activities and supports these activities.

Mr. Biaggini asked what was the total project cost. Mr. Edon responded that it was estimated at a total of \$408,000. Mr. Edon further added that this project qualifies under the Sport Fish Restoration Account and WCB will be applying to the Federal government under that program for a 75 percent reimbursement.

Ms. Christenson, representing Assemblyman Isenberg, stated it was exciting that the Board was working on this project, while also making it wheel chair accessible. Mr. Edon stated the Board is currently reviewing all of the public access sites within the State and will be developing a plan for restoring all of the sites to satisfy handicapped requirements.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. KOLODNEY THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ALLOCATION TO FUND REQUIRED PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITY AT THE LAKE TAHOE PUBLIC ACCESS, PLACER COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE TAHOE CITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$75,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Bend Bridge Public Access, Tehama County \$250,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this was a proposal to complete a cooperative project with the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) and Tehama County to expand and enhance the Department of Fish and Game owned boat launching facility at Bend Bridge, on the Sacramento River. Mr. Edon explained the project.

The Bend Bridge Public Access is located in north-central Tehama County approximately seven miles northerly of Red Bluff on the east bank of the Sacramento River, at Bend Ferry Road. It was one of the first boat ramps on the Sacramento River to be developed by the Board to improve angler access. In 1957, the Board acquired this 4.4 acre parcel of land with 580± feet of river frontage; followed closely thereafter with construction of the launching facilities. Public use of this rural access continues to be popular with approximately 20,000 user days recorded in 1991.

This access project has been operated and maintained by Tehama County since construction. Recently, the County passed a resolution in favor of the enhancement of this popular project and agreed to enter into a new long-term agreement for operation and maintenance of the facility at no cost to the State. The Department of Boating and Waterways has agreed to participate in this new project and has designated \$240,000 toward project costs. Project construction and future operation and maintenance will be facilitated through a three-way agreement between Tehama County, the DBW and WCB.

Currently, the site is served by a paved driveway at the easterly end of Bend Bridge, on the south side of Bend Ferry Road. The proposed project includes construction of a new access road which will intersect Bend Ferry Road about 250 feet easterly of the Bridge and enter the property northerly of the bridge. The costs of acquiring the property for the new road and its construction will be borne by the County at no cost to this proposed project. In addition, a portion of the property under the new Bend Bridge is County owned and will be included as part of the expanded parking area. This area and the new access road will be leased to the State as part of the overall project agreement.

Project development will consist of the following items:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Site Work - Grading & Clearing	\$ 30,000
Concrete Boat Ramp - 30 Feet Wide	30,000
Boat Boarding Walk	6,000
Parking Area	160,000
Concrete Curbs	10,000
Restroom and Septic System	60,000
Well and Pump	18,000
Electrical Service and Undergrounding	20,000

Lighting	7,000
Irrigation and Landscaping	25,000
Rip-rap & Miscellaneous Items	<u>35,000</u>
Construction Subtotal	\$401,000
10% Contingency	<u>40,100</u>
Subtotal	\$441,000
A & E (10%)	<u>44,100</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COSTS \$485,200

This project qualifies under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) Program and is therefore eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs. Staff will apply for approval under this program and reimbursements received will be shared with DBW.

The County has completed preliminary engineering and has filed the required CEQA document for this project. They will continue to consult with the Department of Fish and Game to review site plans to address any needed modifications to project layout regarding sensitive plant and riparian species. Final plans and specifications will be reviewed and approved by DBW and WCB/DFG prior to advertising for bids. The County will also be responsible for obtaining all required approvals and permits prior to bid advertisement.

Mr. Edon noted that there was some concern expressed from an adjacent landowner regarding the County addressing needs for making sure there is no trespassing or vandalism problems on adjacent property. The County has met with the local landowner and are dealing with the situation. DFG biologists have met with the County to be sure that any sensitive plant areas be identified and adjustments made accordingly to the configuration.

Mr. Gary Brown, owner of a mobile home/RV park across the river, stated he was very pleased with this project. Residents enjoy this section of the river very much and improvement to the area is needed because there is no modern boat launching facilities any where near this area. He personally thanked the Board for this needed project for the residents of Tehama County, as well as for the guests who visit the area.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for construction of this Bend Bridge Public Access project as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; 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 CONSTRUCTION AT THE BEND BRIDGE PUBLIC ACCESS, TEHAMA COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH TEHAMA COUNTY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$250,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt introduced Mr. Scott Syphax, representing Senator Robert Presley, who joined the meeting at this time.

9. Steelhead Beach Fishing Access, Sonoma County \$164,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was for the acquisition of 38± acres of land lying along the Russian River to provide public access to this popular steelhead fishing river. Mr. Frank Giordano of staff described the proposed project. The subject parcels are located on the south side of the river in the central portion of Sonoma County, just northerly of Forestville. More specifically, the property is located 12± air miles northwest of Santa Rosa, 8± air miles south of Healdsburg and 13± air miles east of the Ocean. Access is achieved via Highway 101, then westerly on River Road approximately 12± to the subject, which has frontage on River Road.

This area has been very popular with steelhead and salmon fishermen for years. However, because there is extremely limited public access to the general area, access for the general public has been difficult, limited to trespassers and those with boats that are able to reach this stretch of river.

Although the primary purpose of this acquisition would be to develop and provide a public fishing access, there is a valuable riparian habitat located on the property, providing habitat for a variety of birds and small mammals. This lush habitat gives way to large sand and gravel stretches of beach fronting the river. It is perfectly suited for easy access and level open fishing areas.

Upon acquisition of the subject property, it is contemplated that a joint Wildlife Conservation Board/Sonoma County agreement will be reached which will eventually provide for the development of this site with appropriate access facilities and management of the project by the County Regional Parks Department. The County has voiced a strong desire to actively participate in the project and, as plans are developed, staff would bring a project proposal to the Board for consideration.

The subject acquisition consists of two separate ownerships. Both owners have agreed to sell to the State at the total approved fair market value of \$151,440. Board staff has received approval for a Federal reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the acquisition cost through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The State's share in this acquisition would be reduced accordingly when this reimbursement is received. Additionally, the trustees of the Chuck Graves Memorial Trust Fund have agreed to donate approximately \$1,200.00 toward this acquisition, which, when received, would additionally reduce the State's total costs. (Chuck Graves was a former DFG employee who worked in several locations throughout the State including Region 3, the location of this property.) Staff estimates that an additional \$12,560 will be required for engineering costs, appraisal, all escrow and title costs, and Department of General Services review charges. Funding being requested represents the full amount of appraisal and acquisition costs since the exact amount of the Memorial is unclear. Actual funds received will reduce the State's expenditure accordingly and this amount will be recovered at a future Board meeting.

Funds for this purchase are available from the Wildlife Restoration Fund. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land to preserve public access to public land and water. The State Lands Commission has been contacted concerning their interest in the subject and their concerns have been satisfied. Additionally, sovereign ownership claims of the State have been considered and allowed for in the appraisal of this property.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this purchase as proposed; allocate \$164,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt thanked family members of Chuck Graves for their gift. He further noted that letters of support had been received from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the Russian River Water District. Mr. Philip Sales, representing Sonoma County Parks, was present.

Mr. Kolodney inquired about how appraisals are done and how fair market value is determined. Mr. Giordano gave a general overview that staff obtains bids from property appraisers, a contract is then awarded to an appraiser, without specific instructions, as they are responsible for appraising the property at its highest and best use. The property is then appraised by using comparable sales of like lands in the area. The completed appraisal is sent for review to the State Department of General Services. They have the ability and authority to approve the value as is, to modify it or to reject it totally. Once staff receives an approved value, we are required by law to make an offer at that value.

Mr. Gibbons noted that Chuck Graves devoted his life to the advancement of fish and wildlife in the State of California and it is fitting and touching that the Memorial Fund is providing funds towards this public access project. He also expressed his appreciation for their gift.

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 STEELHEAD BEACH FISHING ACCESS, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$164,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*10. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$1,030,043.00
(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 25 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 or other appropriate environmental documentation has been filed for each project. 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 the 25 proposed habitat enhancement projects is briefly provided below:

A. Big Kimshew Creek Habitat Enhancement, Butte County \$ 46,400.00

This was a proposed cooperative rainbow and brown trout habitat enhancement project between the Department of Fish and Game and the California Conservation Corps. Big Kimshew Creek, which is a tributary to West Branch Feather River, and ultimately to the Feather River, has been identified as a sensitive watershed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Historically, the stream provided excellent spawning, nursery and adult trout habitat, but has more recently been degraded by erosion, logging and overgrazing. The proposed project will include the removal of accumulated debris within the stream and bank stabilization and revegetation along the bank to improve habitat along approximately one mile of Big Kimshew Creek as it flows through Crane Valley. The project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

B. Branciforte Creek Barrier Removal Project, Santa Cruz County \$ 65,700.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the County of Santa Cruz to remove four water control structures on Branciforte Creek which are acting as barriers to steelhead trout migration during the spawning season. To reestablish a run of steelhead trout in the upper reaches of Branciforte Creek, it is necessary to construct a step and pool fishway over the dams, or remove the structures in such a way to allow for fish passage. In addition, spawning and rearing habitat will be improved behind the structures by developing scour pools and woody cover along the streambank. The removal of these barriers will provide additional access to seven miles of year-round habitat. The project will be administered by the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

C. Browns Creek Salmon and Steelhead Trout Habitat Enhancement, Santa Cruz County \$ 8,300.00

This proposal was intended to increase coho salmon and steelhead trout spawning activities in Browns Creek, one of the major drainages in the southern portion of Santa Cruz County. Road cuts and a high erosion rate have contributed to the degradation of the habitat for salmon and steelhead in this creek. Fish have been regularly observed in the project area and landowners are supportive of the proposed improvements. This project is intended to improve conditions by the installation of six strategically placed instream structures using logs and rocks to create overhead cover and deep pools. The project will be administered by the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

D. Canon Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County \$ 37,118.00

This was a proposed cooperative salmon (chinook and coho) and steelhead trout project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Redwood Community Action Agency, a private, nonprofit organization, for enhancement of the fishery in Canon Creek, a tributary to the Mad River. All proposed work will be done on Simpson Timber Company land and will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scour pools. Similar structures will be installed to direct the water away from areas where the bank is failing in order to reduce downstream sedimentation. The developed pools and woody cover will also provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile salmonids. This project will be administered by the Redwood Community Action Agency, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

E. Carbonero Creek Salmon and Steelhead Trout Habitat Enhancement,
Santa Cruz County \$ 12,650.00

This proposal was intended to increase coho salmon and steelhead trout spawning and overwintering habitat in Carbonero Creek, a tributary to the San Lorenzo River in central Santa Cruz County. Residential and commercial development activities and unstable banks leading to excessive erosion have contributed to the degradation of the habitat for salmon and steelhead in this creek. Fish have been regularly observed in the project area. This project is intended to improve conditions by the installation of ten strategically placed instream structures using logs to create overhead cover and deep pools. The project will be administered by the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

F. Corralitos Creek Barrier Removal Project, Santa Cruz County \$ 32,250.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the County of Santa Cruz to improve passage of fish over a diversion dam on Corralitos Creek which is acting as a barrier to coho salmon and steelhead trout migration during the spawning season. To reestablish a run in the upper reaches of Corralitos Creek, it is necessary to construct a step and pool fishway over the dam to allow for fish passage. In addition, spawning and rearing habitat will be improved behind the structures by developing scour pools and woody cover along the streambank. The removal of this barrier will provide additional access to seven miles of year-round habitat. The project will be administered by the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

G. Elk Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County \$ 64,500.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of coho salmon and steelhead trout in the Elk Creek drainage, Mendocino County. Elk Creek which drains directly into the Pacific Ocean, has had a history of good salmon and steelhead production. However, barriers created by log jams are preventing fish from reaching spawning habitat in some of the creeks smaller tributaries. Sixteen such log jams have been identified as barriers to fish migration and will be modified for fish passage. In addition, selected logs in or adjacent to the stream will be anchored to prevent movement and the formation of future barriers. These structures will also provide pool habitat and cover for downstream migrants. Approximately eight miles of upstream habitat will be made available for spawning when this project is completed. The project will be administered by the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish & Game.

H. Fitzhugh Creek Trout Habitat Enhancement, Modoc County \$ 18,600.00

This was a proposed cooperative rainbow and brown trout stream enhancement project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Land Management on Fitzhugh Creek, Modoc County. Historically, Fitzhugh Creek has supported an excellent trout fishery. However, livestock allotments on the area have resulted in the loss of riparian vegetation and streamside cover. The proposed project will exclude livestock use of the stream by fencing approximately 1.5 miles of its banks to allow recovery and restoration to occur free of grazing pressure. Similar projects on Fitzhugh Creek have been very successful in enhancing fishery production. The project will be administered by the Bureau of Land Management, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

I. Flume and Marsh Gulch Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County \$ 42,200.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout in the Flume and Marsh Gulch drainages, Mendocino County. These streams are tributaries to the Navarro River and historically have been good producers of salmon and steelhead. It is proposed that a total of 23 log jams, which have been identified as barriers to fish migration, will be removed or modified for fish passage. In addition, selected logs in or adjacent to the streams will be anchored to prevent further movement and the formation of future barriers will provide pool habitat and cover for downstream migrants. Several miles of upstream habitat will be made available for spawning upon the completion of this proposed work. The project will be administered by the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

J. Gamecock Creek Barrier Removal Project, Santa Cruz County \$ 21,500.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the County of Santa Cruz to improve passage of fish over a cement crossing on Gamecock Creek which is acting as a barrier to coho salmon and steelhead trout migration during the spawning season. Gamecock Creek is a tributary to the Pajaro River in southern Santa Cruz County. To reestablish a run of salmon and steelhead in the upper reaches of Gamecock Creek, this proposal provides for replacing the cement crossing with a pipe arch structure thereby allowing for fish passage. The removal of this barrier will provide access to an additional three miles of year-round habitat. The project will be administered by the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

K. Jordan Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$ 14,600.00

This was a proposed cooperative fishery project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Rural Human Services, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of coho salmon, steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout habitat in Jordan Creek, Del Norte County. Jordan Creek is the largest tributary to Lake Earl, a State wildlife area. The portion of the creek to be treated has a low gradient and lacks spawning gravel. To correct this problem, gravel will be imported to provide for 300 feet of artificial spawning channel and 8-10 log structures will be constructed to stabilize the creek and hold the gravel in place. This project will be administered by the Rural Human Services, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

L. Lewis Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County \$ 16,000.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout in Lewis Creek, a tributary to Ten Mile Creek. A culvert in Lewis Creek, as it passes under State Highway 101, has been identified as a barrier to fish migration. Large boulders will be placed at the downstream entrance of the culvert to form an enlarged pool, thus allowing the fish the ability to jump into the culvert and continue their migration upstream. The project will be administered by the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

M. Little Butte Creek Trout Habitat Enhancement, Butte County \$ 60,900.00

This was a proposed cooperative rainbow and brown trout project between the Department of Fish and Game and the California Conservation Corps. Little Butte Creek is a tributary to Big Butte Creek and ultimately a tributary to the Feather River. Little Butte Creek has been heavily impacted by excessive sediment loads as a result of logging, land clearing and road construction within the watershed. This proposed project is designed to enhance approximately three miles of fishery habitat by bank stabilization to reduce erosions, removal of debris accumulation within the stream and revegetation of the riparian areas. The project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

N. Little Mill Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$ 23,300.00

This was a proposed cooperative salmon (chinook and coho) and trout (steelhead and cutthroat) project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Rural Human Services, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, for the enhancement fisheries in Little Mill Creek, a tributary to the Smith River. The stream has an excellent riparian canopy and good year-round flows and is noted to be one of the most productive small tributaries to the Smith River. However, spawning opportunities are somewhat limited. This project is proposed to enhance the spawning opportunities through the construction of 10-14 log structures in selected spots along the stream to sort and deposit additional spawning gravels, greatly increasing the carrying capacity of the stream. This project will be administered by the Rural Human Services, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

O. Little North Valley Creek Habitat Enhancement, Butte County \$ 31,400.00

This was a proposed cooperative rainbow, brown and brook trout habitat enhancement project between the Department of Fish and Game and the California Conservation Corps. Little North Valley Creek, a tributary to North Fork of Feather River, has been heavily impacted by siltation and bank erosion due to over grazing practices which have now been discontinued. In addition, the adjacent meadow is drying up and resulting in the loss of nursery and spawning areas for trout. Bank stabilization, revegetation and creation of check dams to control erosion are proposed techniques to improve approximately one mile of habitat along Little North Valley Creek. The project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

P. McDonald Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County \$ 54,500.00

This was a proposed cooperative trout (steelhead and cutthroat) project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Redwood Community Action Agency, a private, nonprofit organization, for enhancement of the fishery in McDonald Creek, a tributary to Stone Lagoon. The stream, which has been noted for its productivity, has an excellent riparian canopy and good year-round flows. However, sediment from an unstable channel, steep banks, and undercutting slopes have seriously reduced its productivity. This proposal provides for the placement of log weirs at various locations along a 400 foot section of the creek to stabilize its banks. Instream structures, such as boulders and root fans, will be installed to encourage the deposition of gravel for spawning and the creation of pools and cover for juveniles. This project will be administered by the Redwood Community Action Agency, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

Q. Mattole Canyon Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County \$103,000.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Mattole Restoration Council, a private, nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead trout in Mattole Canyon Creek, Humboldt County. Historic records report a good salmonid fishery in this creek. However, sediment from an unstable channel, steep banks and undercutting slopes have seriously reduced its productivity. Approximately 60 rock and log structures will be placed at various locations along the two mile section of creek to be restored and enhanced. Logs, root fans and boulders will be incorporated in the construction phase to encourage the deposition of gravel for spawning and the creation of pools and cover for juveniles. The project will be administered by the Mattole Restoration Council, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

R. Penitencia Creek Bank Stabilization and Sediment Control Project, Santa Clara County \$ 27,500.00

This was a proposed cooperative steelhead trout enhancement project between the Department of Fish and Game and the San Jose Conservation Corps, a private, nonprofit organization, for bank stabilization and sediment control on Penitencia Creek, Santa Clara County. Penitencia Creek flows from Cherry Flat Reservoir through Alum Rock Park in San Jose to Coyote Creek. Due to steep topography, erosive soil types, unstable road cuts and uncontrolled run-off, there is a significant erosion problem which results in sedimentation within Penitencia Creek. Steelhead habitat will be improved by reducing sedimentation of the channel through the construction of three streambank stabilization structures. Waterbars, diversion dikes, rock energy dissipators will also be constructed to further control the erosion. The project will be administered by the San Jose Conservation Corps, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

S. Potato Creek Habitat Enhancement, Trinity County \$ 36,100.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of constructing 20 stream enhancement structures on Potato Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Trinity River, for the enhancement of the steelhead trout fishery. All work will be done on U.S. Forest Service land and will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scour pools. Similar structures will be installed to direct the water away from areas where the bank is failing in order to reduce downstream sedimentation. The project will be completed by the California Conservation Corps crews from the Hayfork Center. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile steelhead. This project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps, under direction of the Department of Fish & Game.

T. San Francisquito Creek Habitat Enhancement, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties \$ 97,750.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department to enhance and restore steelhead trout habitat in San Francisquito and Los Trancos Creeks. San Francisquito Creek and its tributaries which includes Los Trancos Creek, drain approximately 45 square miles of the eastern side of the Santa Cruz mountains emptying into the southern end of San Francisco Bay. It contains the southernmost run of native steelhead located within the San Francisco Bay. A significant portion of the spawning and rearing habitat is located within the protected Jasper Ridge Botanical area of Stanford. The University supports the ongoing efforts to restore this unique stream to a productive state. To improve the fishery on San Francisquito Creek requires the removal of barriers to fish migration which should ultimately lead to a significant increase in fish populations. Proposed restoration measures include improvements to the fish ladder at Happy Hollow and the modification of a seasonal fire road stream crossing in Jasper Ridge to provide for fish passage. In addition, the placement of a fishway and fish screens at the Felt Lake Diversion on Los Trancos Creek will provide for the upstream and downstream migration of steelhead to spawning and rearing areas. The project will be administered by the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

A letter of support was received from CalTrout, Inc.

U. South Fork Winchuck River Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$ 33,750.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Rural Human Services, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, to fence 1.5± miles of habitat on South Fork Winchuck River, a tributary to Winchuck River, Del Norte County. Two species of salmon (coho and chinook) and two species of trout (steelhead and cutthroat) inhabit this river. Recent data indicates a high density of fish returning to the stream to spawn. The stream has a good riparian canopy, however, streamside habitat is lacking because of livestock use in the area. The construction of 1.5± miles of fence will exclude cattle from the stream and reduce the sediments entering the river as a result of bank failures and erosion. This project will be administered by the Rural Human Services, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

V. Stevens/Grizzly Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County \$ 67,700.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of constructing a total of 28 stream enhancement structures on Stevens and Grizzly Creek, a tributary to the Van Duzen River. The project 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 and coho salmon. 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 salmon and stabilization of failing streambanks will reduce further sedimentation into the stream. The project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

W. Taylor Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County \$ 5,975.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout in Taylor Creek, a tributary to the Eel River. Barriers, in the form of log jams, preventing migrating fish from reaching spawning habitat in the upper reaches of Taylor Creek are proposed to be removed. In addition, logs in or adjacent to the stream will be anchored to prevent movement and the formation of future barriers. These structures will also provide pool habitat and cover for downstream migrants. Approximately one mile of additional upstream habitat will be made available for spawning. The project will be administered by the Center for Education and Manpower Resources, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

X. Uvas Creek Habitat Enhancement, Santa Clara County \$19,450.00

This was a proposed cooperative steelhead trout project between the Department of Fish and Game and the San Jose Flycasters, Inc., a private, nonprofit fly fishing club located in Santa Clara County. The project will open key spawning habitat in Uvas Creek through removal of exotic vegetation which is now blocking upstream spawning steelhead. Project administration will be handled by the San Jose Flycasters, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

Y. Zayante Creek Habitat Enhancement, Santa Cruz County \$ 86,800.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the County of Santa Cruz to improve fish passage over Zayante Creek dam which is creating a barrier to coho salmon and steelhead trout migration during the spawning season. Zayante Creek is a tributary to the San Lorenzo River in northern Santa Cruz County. In order to establish a run of salmon and steelhead in the upper reaches of this creek, it is necessary to create pocket pools in the bedrock in conjunction with rock and log wing deflectors to enhance the fishes ability to pass over the dam. Passage over this barrier will provide access to an additional three miles of year-round habitat. The project will be administered by the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

Administrative contract costs necessary to process contracts for the above listed projects are estimated to be an additional \$2,100.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these 25 fishery habitat enhancement projects as one item as proposed; allocate a total of \$1,030,043.00, \$208,200.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), and \$821,843.00 from the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19), including \$2,100.00 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 letter of support was received from the Mountain Lion Foundation.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE 25 SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$1,030,043.00, \$208,200.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) AND \$821,843.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19), INCLUDING \$2,100.00 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.

*11. Mokelumne River Ecological Reserve, San Joaquin County \$ 70,000.00
(Consent Calendar)

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of over one mile of Mokelumne River frontage. This 20± acre parcel, which is a long narrow strip of riparian habitat, is a continuous parcel except for a small intervening site containing an equipment shed and pumps. The property is located in San Joaquin County, approximately one mile northwest of the community of Woodbridge, at the west end of Acampo Road, about two miles west of the small town of Acampo.

The purpose of this acquisition is to preserve some of the remaining riparian habitat along the Mokelumne River from further clearing and conversion to agricultural uses. Many species of passerine birds use the multi-layered riparian forest found along the river during their fall and winter migration through the central valley. In addition, this habitat also provides year-round home for resident birds and other species including the river otter, beaver, black-tailed deer, great-horned owl, red-shouldered hawk, scrub jay, black-headed grosbeak, tree swallows, and many other species. Anadromous fish use the river during the fall and spring periods while resident fish populations can be found year-round in the river and its sloughs.

The Department of Fish and Game has recommended several sites on the Mokelumne River as possible acquisition areas. This particular parcel, known as the "Acampo Road Site", is a priority two proposal from the Department. The priority one proposal is still under negotiations.

The State Lands Commission has claimed a fee interest to the bed of the Mokelumne River between the ordinary low water marks. None of the property being acquired is within the State-claimed low water channel of the river.

The owner has agreed to sell this 20± acre parcel for the approved fair market value of \$60,000 (\$3,000/acre). Costs including appraisal, survey, escrow and Department of General Services review charges are estimated to be \$10,000 bringing the total allocation necessary to \$70,000.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$70,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(6), as designated for acquisition of valley oak riparian forest and wetlands along the Mokelumne River in San Joaquin County; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife, Mountain Lion Foundation, and the Mokelumne River Alliance.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE MOKELUMNE RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$70,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(6), AS DESIGNATED FOR ACQUISITION OF VALLEY OAK RIPARIAN FOREST AND WETLANDS ALONG THE MOKELUMNE RIVER IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. West Hilmar Wildlife Area, Merced/Stanislaus County \$690,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of a 340.2± acre parcel of San Joaquin River riparian habitat located on the east side of the San Joaquin River; between the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. The property is located about three miles downstream (north) of the North Grasslands Wildlife Area, China Island Unit and straddles the Merced/ Stanislaus County line, about eight miles west of the community of Hilmar. Mr. Howard Dick described the proposal.

The property is typical of what remains of San Joaquin riparian habitat in that it has been traditionally used for grazing cattle, never having been converted to irrigated row crops. Typical habitat includes some large valley oaks, cottonwoods and willows interspersed with areas of open grasslands. A great blue heron and great egret rookery, first recorded in 1972, is located in a grove of oaks located on the parcel. California quail, mourning dove, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel and many species of passerine birds are also found on the property, while numerous species of waterfowl utilize the slough areas.

However, the primary purpose for the purchase of this property is to preserve the existing riparian habitat. If not acquired, it is almost a certainty that the property will eventually be converted to irrigated row crop usage which will no doubt destroy or degrade much of its remaining wildlife values. Acquisition will also provide the opportunity for habitat restoration.

Public use of the property could eventually take place if the Department of Fish and Game chooses to construct a road over the deeded access from Central Avenue to the site. In the meantime, access to the property is obtained by way of a state-owned levee road from Central Avenue.

The owner has agreed to sell the subject property at the approved fair market value of \$680,400 or \$2,000/acre for the entire 340.2 acre parcel. This figure breaks down to \$38,000 for the 19± acre portion in Stanislaus County and \$642,400 for the 321.2± acre portion in Merced County. Processing costs are estimated to be \$9,600 which includes the costs of appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review charges. Potential State claims to the property by way of the State Lands Commission have been considered and their effect on the fair market value has been taken into account in the appraisal. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$690,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), as designated for wetland and riparian habitat acquisitions along the San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers [Section 5907 (c)(7)]; 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 Mountain Lion Foundation and the Defenders of Wildlife.

Mr. Kolodney asked what was the balance in this fund after this allocation. Mr. Schmidt responded that the balance was \$449,000.00 [Prop. 70, Section 5907 (c)(7)].

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 WEST HILMAR WILDLIFE AREA, MERCED/STANISLAUS COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$690,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), AS DESIGNATED FOR WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT ACQUISITIONS ALONG THE SAN JOAQUIN, STANISLAUS, TUOLUMNE AND MERCED RIVERS, SECTION 5907 (c)(7); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 209-L
(Excess Land Sale), Butte County \$3,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the sale of 20± acres of excess Department of Fish and Game owned land located adjacent to the Dicus Slough Unit of the Upper Sacramento River WLA. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt described the proposed sale. The Dicus Slough Unit is located on the east bank of the Sacramento River at River Mile 209, approximately eight miles northeast of Hamilton City, Butte County. The Board approved the latest addition to River Mile 209-L, as Expansion #2 on November 12, 1992. That acquisition area totalled 109± acres and included 38± acres of open field, 8± acres of slough and riparian habitat and a 64± acre orchard area. The property was purchased to add to the existing 52± acre Dicus Slough Unit of the Sacramento River WLA and to restore the open field and orchard area to valley oak woodland and native grasses.

The proposed sale area is a 20± acre portion of the 64± orchard area. As part of the proposed excess land buyer's dealings with the former owner of the 109± acres acquired by the Board, they hold an option to purchase a 40± acre portion of the 109± acres. They have agreed to exercise this option on a reduced parcel size (20± acres) and would plan to continue to farm the area if the Board approves this sale.

The State-approved appraised value of the sale area is \$53,860. Under an agreement developed by Board staff, the buyer's consideration would consist of a cash payment of \$51,070 and completion of tree removal work on Department of Fish and Game's adjacent wildlife area; work valued at \$2,790. The buyer would remove all the almond trees from the State-owned remaining 44± acre orchard area in order to prepare the area for restoration by Department of Fish and Game staff. Cash proceeds from the sale would be deposited to the Wildlife Restoration Fund pursuant to provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Law.

The orchard land within the Department of Fish and Game's remaining 44 acres is located on a slightly higher terrace than the balance of the property, and would be suitable for restoration to valley oaks and native grasses. The 38 acre open field area within the wildlife area was cleared of riparian growth in 1982 and is suitable for restoration to riparian forest. A slough separates the open field from the orchard area and contains willows, oaks, cottonwoods and vines. This slough area, and the existing 52± acre riparian forest, will provide an ample seed source to initiate the restoration efforts.

The State's share of the sale processing costs are estimated to be \$3,000, which includes title, escrow and Department of General Services review costs. The proposed sale is exempt from CEQA under Class 12 of Categorical Exemptions as a sale of government property for which the use has not changed since the time of purchase by the public agency.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the sale as proposed; allocate \$3,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), as designated for the Sacramento River under Section 5907 (c)(8); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a letter of support had been received from the Defenders of Wildlife and that there was no known opposition.

It was clarified that this approval will authorize both parts of this transaction; the restoration work and then the sale. 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. KOLODNEY THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SALE OF EXCESS LAND AT THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, RIVER MILE 209-L, BUTTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$3,000.00 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) TO COVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE SALE; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- *14. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #4, Tulare County \$ 2,000.00
(Consent Calendar)

This proposal was to consider expanding the Allensworth Ecological Reserve by accepting a donation of a 40± acre parcel of land located 4 to 5 miles west of Highway 99, near Earlimart, about 5 miles north of 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 1,583± acres for inclusion in the 3,750± acre Allensworth Ecological Reserve, which is managed by the Department of Fish and Game.

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 of this habitat type remaining 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.

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. It is almost a certainty that this parcel would eventually be converted to such uses if not protected, thereby destroying its habitat values.

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

The value of the subject property is estimated at \$24,000, and the owner, The Nature Conservancy, has agreed to donate it at no cost. However, it is estimated that approximately \$2,000 will be necessary to cover 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 recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of this donation as proposed; allocate \$2,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), to cover the related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from the Mountain Lion Foundation and the Defenders of Wildlife.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION OF LAND AT ALLENSWORTH ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #4, TULARE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$2,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), TO COVER THE RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

For information to members and guests, Mr. Schmidt stated that every project on the agenda has been reviewed and recommended for the proposed actions by the Department of Fish and Game.

15. Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, Expansion #1,
Sierra/Lassen Counties \$1,015,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 2,769.27± acres of land that contains prime deer habitat providing winter range, fawning cover, meadow land, and water for the Loyalton Unit of the Loyalton/Truckee deer herd. The property is to be added to the existing Hallelujah Junction WLA which is a 3,341± acre wildlife area, which was authorized and purchased by the Board as "Upper Long Valley". This proposed acquisition will add 2,125.54± acres on the northern side of the wildlife area, in Lassen County, and 643.73± acres on the southerly side, in Sierra County. In addition to providing habitat, the wildlife area acts as a seasonal "funnel" for a large segment of this deer herd which migrates through this area to and from Nevada. In fact, major deer underpasses were constructed on Highway 395 by CalTrans to facilitate the herd's safe migration. Mr. Dick explained the proposal.

This property and the existing wildlife area also support habitat for a large variety of small mammals, birds, and their associated predators, including raptors, coyotes, and mountain lions. Golden eagles have also been observed wintering in the canyons above the ranch. Chukar partridge, dove, and mountain quail are numerous in the ridges on the east side of the property.

The property is located near Bordertown immediately west of the California-Nevada State line. Reno is only 15 freeway miles from this site. Although slowing down somewhat recently, in the past 20 years the Reno/Sparks area has experienced dynamic growth, some of which is heading northerly along Highway 395. This has been reflected by an increase of gaming casinos, warehousing, and manufacturing uses, as well as residential development. Projections by national organizations indicate the Reno/Sparks area to be one of the fastest growing, per capita, areas in the United States.

According to Department of Fish and Game, the Upper Long Valley area is extremely important to the Loyalton Unit of the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd. The subdivision of the Sierra County portion of this property into 160 acre parcels is nearly completed. If this zoning is further relaxed in the future, the land could be subdivided into even smaller parcels. The direct and off-site impacts of this development would be very serious to migratory deer and other wildlife species in the area. If steps are not taken soon to protect this deer habitat, and the migration corridor this parcel provides, the entire Loyalton Unit herd could be in jeopardy. Coupled with the existing wildlife area, the proposed acquisition would result in a block of protected range that runs nearly five miles along Highway 395.

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The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements, which includes acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. The Department of Fish and Game would manage the property as part of the existing Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area.

The owners have agreed to sell at an amount which is based on a fair market value appraisal of \$1,255,000, as approved by the Department of General Services. They have further agreed to make a donation of \$255,000 resulting in a total purchase price of \$1,000,000 (or \$361 ±/ac). It is estimated that an additional \$15,000 will be required to cover administrative and closing costs.

Staff has requested a reimbursement from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund of \$266,000, the net cost to the Board if approved would be \$734,000. Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of the Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area, Expansion #1 (formerly the Upper Long Valley Wildlife Area), as proposed; allocate \$1,015,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117); 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 California Mule Deer Association, Sierra Club Wildlife Committee, Nevada County Fish and Wildlife Commission, Mule Deer Foundation, Sierra County Fish and Game Commission, Defenders of Wildlife, Mountain Lion Foundation, Plumas County Fish and Game Commission, Lassen Land and Trails Trust and the Organized Sportsmen of Lassen County. He further stated a letter was received from the Lassen County Administrative Officer asking that the item be postponed because of lack of notice. Staff recommended that it not be postponed because sufficient notice was given. Lassen County stated they received notice on February 24. However, Mr. Schmidt noted that staff had sent out notices by certified mail, return receipt requested, and that the County signed for the notice on February 11. Senator Leslie wrote a similar letter to the Board requesting postponement and when the facts were provided to the Senator, he withdrew his letter. Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Paul Menzies, representing the owner, and Mr. Don Koch, representing the Department of Fish and Game's Region 1 office in Redding, were both present should there be any questions.

Staff was asked about how successful we were in receiving approval from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It was reported that our experience in receiving the Federal reimbursements has been very good and that very few are ever turned down. Generally, the application is submitted and approved prior to bringing the proposal to the Board. In this case, the Board was just notified what their allocation of Federal funds would be for this year, so the application was just submitted.

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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 HALLELUJAH JUNCTION WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #1, SIERRA/LASSEN COUNTIES (FORMERLY THE UPPER LONG VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA), AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,015,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Swall Meadows Wildlife Area, Mono County \$752,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to acquire 160± acres of land located approximately 15 miles north of Bishop for the protection of deer winter range and a key migratory corridor for the Sherwin and Buttermilk deer herds. The property is bordered on the west and south by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, respectively. To the north and east there are private ownerships which in turn are bordered by the USFS and Bureau of Land Management. Access is achieved from Highway 395 through Lower Rock Creek and Swall Meadows Roads to Rimrock Drive. Mr. Giordano explained the project.

The primary purpose of this acquisition is to preserve a critical migration corridor, joining adjacent public lands, over an area which is being threatened by residential development. Most of the private land in the immediate area is already developed or is now in the planning stage for development. In fact, the subject is for sale and development plans have been submitted to the County for approval, thereby providing the main threat to the existing corridor and habitat.

It is estimated that 75 percent of the Sherwin and Buttermilk deer herds, which total 6,000 minimum, use this corridor to access their Round Valley winter range, southerly of the subject, and for their return to the high country in the Spring. The most critical uses of the subject are during October-November and March-May when the southerly and northerly migrations occur.

While the main purpose of this proposal is to protect the migration corridor for deer, the subject property also receives incidental use by quail, dove, rabbit, chukar, predators, raptors and various small birds and mammals. Bald and Golden eagles are occasionally sighted in the vicinity.

If acquired, consumptive use of the subject, such as hunting, would not be practical due to its relatively small size and close proximity to residential development. However, substantial nonconsumptive opportunities exist for hiking, sightseeing, photography and educational uses due to the ease of access, moderate terrain and the large numbers of deer using the parcel several months of the year.

The Department of Fish and Game would undertake management of the property with current management objectives being to improve deer forage through bitter brush rejuvenation. Improving and increasing the key browse on this parcel could also help offset habitat losses as nearby development progresses.

The owners have agreed to sell the property at its approved fair market value of \$742,160.00. It is estimated that an additional \$9,840.00 will be required for related acquisition costs, including appraisal, survey, title insurance, escrow costs 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 recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate a total of \$752,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), 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 California Mule Deer Association, Mountain Lion Foundation and the Defenders of Wildlife.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE SWALL MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA, MONO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$752,000.00 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.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Items #17, 18 and 19 are all proposals from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program which was created by the Legislature to assist in carrying out the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, a portion of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The purpose is to create and enhance waterfowl habitat, including agricultural enhancement which will benefit waterfowl.

17. Gilsizer Slough Wetlands Restoration, Sutter County \$195,000.00

At the August 25, 1992, Wildlife Conservation Board meeting, the Board allocated \$640,000 to acquire approximately 264 acres of interior wetlands and related riparian and upland habitats lying within, and adjacent to a portion of Gilsizer Slough. As proposed and approved by the Board, once the property was acquired, the area would be restored and the wetland and the riparian areas be enhanced. Further, staff proposed to continue leasing the commercial rice and wheat growing areas of the property for a period to recapture some of the funds expended for restoration. Ms. Marilyn Cundiff-Gee described the project to the Board.

Once fully restored staff further proposed that the property be sold subject to a conservation easement designed to protect its habitat values. All proceeds from the sale would be deposited into the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund for future wetland projects in the Central Valley. Returning the restored property to private ownership will once again generate local tax revenues, continue to provide commercial grain commodities and revenues to the local community, and meet the growing demand for quality waterfowl habitat.

Now that escrow has closed on the property, staff is requesting authority to begin the restoration phase of this project. This phase has been designed to achieve the following three goals: (1) to enhance wetlands for waterfowl; (2) to culture and maintain a homogenous relationship between waterfowl management, farming and flood control practices; and (3) to develop upland habitat for waterfowl nesting and various other species of game and nongame wildlife. Since the Board's approval to acquire this property, staff has developed a general management plan designed to accomplish the above mentioned goals. The plan was reviewed and is supported by the Department of Fish and Game. In addition, a lease bid package has been developed so that bids can be received and a lease awarded in time for the 1993 rice and wheat growing season. Further, staff has developed restoration cost estimates necessary to contract for the restoration of the wetland and upland portions of the property.

It was proposed that the restoration be completed in phases so that lease revenues can be used to reimburse the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund for restoration expenditures. To fully restore the slough, consistent with the management plan, the following capital expenditures will be necessary:

Phase 1: Estimated to cost \$27,940 which will include the following: survey, design & engineering, develop a plan which specifies work standards and schedule for restoration, develop a detailed management plan which identifies specific tasks necessary to control for biological and waterfowl needs.

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- Phase 2: Estimated to cost \$76,758 which will include the following: re-align interior road, install water control structures, create open water pothole habitat, and perform staking and inspection of work.
- Phase 3: Estimated to cost \$59,664 which will include the following: establish moist soil units, restore slough area, mobilize heavy equipment to job site, and perform staking and inspection of work.
- Phase 4: Final stage is estimated to cost \$30,638 which will include the following: plant hedgerows, construct V-ditch, repair and replace fences.

TOTAL RESTORATION COST: \$195,000

At the August 25, 1992, Board meeting, it was reported that the Gilsizer County Drainage District had expressed concerns over the proposed acquisition and in particular that any development or restoration proposed for the property have no negative effects on the drainage capability of the slough. Further, staff indicated that they would work with the District in developing a restoration plan. Since that time, several meetings between the District and the Board staff have been conducted to promote coordination, review areas of concern and discuss project elements of mutual benefit. It is intended that the wetland enhancement and other management features of this proposal be fully compatible with the Drainage District program.

Recognizing the mutual benefits that can be achieved, staff from the Gilsizer Drainage District has expressed a willingness to work with Board staff and, if possible, offer some of their expertise to assist with the restoration efforts proposed for the slough. While district staff has expressed appreciation for the opportunity to better understand the restoration effort and to discuss their concerns, the Drainage District Board has not formally made a commitment to participate in the effort. It is important to note, however, that an opportunity exists for both the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Gilsizer Drainage District to benefit from this project, namely protection of valuable waterfowl habitat and increased flood control and drainage protection.

Mr. Schmidt indicated letters of support were received from the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, California Waterfowl Association, Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this restoration effort as proposed; allocate \$195,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) as designated for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, to cover the estimated costs associated with the restoration of Gilsizer Slough; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Christenson indicated Assemblyman Isenberg's strong support for this very innovative project and thanked staff for a wonderful job. It was added that Assemblyman Isenberg was one of the authors of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. KOLODNEY THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RESTORATION WORK AT THE GILSIZER SLOUGH WETLANDS, SUTTER COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$195,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) AS DESIGNATED FOR THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM, TO COVER THE ESTIMATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Sacramento Valley Rice Roller Project, Various Counties \$94,000.00

Mr. Schmidt report that this proposal was to provide funding for the construction of five rice rollers in an attempt to demonstrate to rice growers in Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Yolo and Sutter Counties that an alternative to rice straw burning is available that will assist with the rice straw decomposition while providing a valuable food source to migratory waterfowl in the Central Valley. Ms. Cundiff-Gee described this proposal. In addition, this project is designed to address one of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture objectives, to enhance waterfowl on 443,000 acres of agricultural lands. This objective explicitly targets private landowners and attempts to implement strategies that will encourage landowners to use farming practices that are favorable to waterfowl. This project will also demonstrate an alternative method of responding to the provision of the Rice Straw Burning Reduction Act of 1991. This Act essentially eliminates burning as a viable option to eliminate rice straw or stubble after the rice has been harvested.

The prohibition to burn rice straw has resulted in rice growers searching for alternative techniques to dispose of the straw. Presently, there are two alternatives available, (1) to incorporate the straw into the soil or, (2) remove it from the field. While straw removal appears to be one of the better ways to achieve the benefits previously obtained from burning, the method is expensive, does not provide benefits to waterfowl, and at present, there appears to be little demand for the use of harvested rice straw.

The second alternative, incorporating the straw into the soil can be achieved through several techniques, all at the experimental stage. Of these techniques, however, rolling the rice straw into the soil and then flooding the land, appears to be one of the few methods that assists with rice straw decomposition while at the same time provides a food

source for migratory waterfowl.

During the 1991 rice growing season, approximately 90 percent of the rice acres planted in California (279,000 acres) were planted in the five counties of Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Yolo and Sutter Counties. As such, this proposal is requesting sufficient funds to provide each of the major rice producing areas in the Central Valley with one rice roller thereby allowing the units to be used by more rice growers in this large geographical area.

It is currently proposed to contract with Ducks Unlimited (DU) for the construction of the rollers. After construction is completed, the Resource Conservation District (RCD) and/or the Farm Bureau in each of the above mentioned counties would be responsible for the management and maintenance of these rollers. Furthermore, as outlined in an agreement between DU and the RCDs, the RCD will be responsible for signing up landowners and scheduling the transportation and use of the roller. In addition, the RCD's will be responsible for all long-term maintenance and operation expenses associated with the rice roller.

To assure the roller is properly used, DU will be responsible for providing landowners and RCDs with promotional and instructional materials. Field demonstrations will be provided and DU will furnish technical assistance to participating landowners and RCDs. To document the benefits of the rice roller for migratory waterfowl, DU will also monitor and report on bird usage of the rolled acres.

To protect the State's investment, the agreement signed by the RCDs will contain a reversionary clause that stipulates that if the rollers are not used pursuant to the terms and conditions contained in the agreement, they will revert to the State.

The construction of five rice rollers will require the following capital expenditures:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
<u>Supplies:</u> Plate steel, Flat steel, Steel shaft, Stock steel, 100 lbs. welding rod, Lath bits for bearings, axles and hubs.	\$48,750
<u>Labor:</u> Welders, Lathe Operator and Welding shop time.	\$45,100

As previously stated, rice growers must find alternatives to rice burning. According to the Colusa County RCD and the California Rice Industry, the northern Sacramento Valley has approximately 320,000 acres of rice planted. In 1993, pursuant to the provisions of the Rice Straw Burning Act of 1991, 20 percent or 64,000 acres will not

be allowed to be burned. Five rice rollers will be able to roll approximately 20,000 acres. With five rollers in operation, there is still a deficiency of 44,000 acres. To the extent this deficiency is addressed with other methods that are not compatible with waterfowl, the benefits to migratory bird populations of the Pacific Flyway would be reduced. Under the provisions of the Act, the total number of acres which can be burned will be phased down each year until the year 2000. At this time, under very restricted conditions only 25 percent of the acres planted will be allowed to be burned. While the primary purpose of this project is to demonstrate how migratory waterfowl needs can be met, air pollution clean up efforts will also be enhanced to the extent the rollers are adopted as a cultural farming practice and used by more rice growers.

Mr. Schmidt reported that letters of support were received from the California Farm Bureau Federation, Glenn County Farm Bureau, Glenn County Board of Supervisors, Colusa County Supervisor Kay Nordyke, Colusa County Supervisor W. D. Mills, The Nature Conservancy (Mark Reisner), Butte County Farm Bureau, University of California Farm Advisory-Colusa County, Yuba County Resource Conservation District, Sutter County Resource Conservation District, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Rice Industry Association, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Glenn County Resource Conservation District, Sacramento Valley Toxics Campaign, California Waterfowl Association, Colusa County Farm Bureau, Defenders of Wildlife, Mountain Lion Foundation, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Carl Funke and Mr. Brandon Ash.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this request as proposed; allocate \$94,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) as designated for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program to cover the estimated costs associated with the construction of five rice rollers; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Cundiff-Gee added that representatives from Ducks Unlimited and a landowner were present should there be any questions.

Mr. Allen Garcia, rice grower from Glenn County, thanked the Board and indicated he was Director of the Glenn County Resource Conservation District and also Director of the Rice Industry Association. These organizations have been working real hard to build a coalition of environmentalists and farmers to address these issues of agricultural waste and also contributions to the environment. He stated that this is a program where you actually convert a potential waste by turning rice straw into a valuable wildlife feed and habitat. He sees this rice straw roller program as a win/win situation, not only for the wildlife but also for the local farmers. There is a need to demonstrate to the local grower constituents that this is the best way to go, not only to decompose the straw and make habitat and food available to the wildlife, it also enhances the soil and continues to digest which makes the soil more productive in the future which results in lesser amounts of fertilizer used or needed.

Ms. Christenson indicated Assemblyman Isenburg's support for this project.

The State would maintain ownership of the rollers which would be operated by the Districts. There is a hold harmless clause for Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and the State of California in the contract.

Mr. Jack Payne from Ducks Unlimited, Inc., was present and thanked the Board for considering this project. They have had one roller in operation and are working with the local farmer. The farmer has had increased bird use and is now using 10 percent less fertilizer.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE RICE ROLLERS AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$94,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) AS DESIGNATED FOR THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM TO COVER THE ESTIMATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Brood Water and Wetland Enhancement, Glenn County \$200,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was another innovative wetland proposal to contract with the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) to provide funding for a project which will integrate wheat farming and spring/summer wetland management techniques to maximize the value of a Sacramento Valley wheat farm for the production and survival of ducks and breeding waterfowl. In addition, this project presents an innovative method for addressing the Agricultural Enhancement Objective of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture (CVHJV) Plan that specifically calls for the enhancement of waterfowl habitat on 443,000 of agricultural lands. Ms. Marilyn Cundiff-Gee explained the proposal.

This project has been designed to demonstrate that agricultural practices can be implemented that are complementary and conducive to wetland dependent species. It includes restoration of wetlands on a 910 acre wheat farm, commonly referred to as the Beck Ranch, located 20 miles south of Chico, Glenn County. The town of Afton lies to the west, Biggs to the east, and the Butte Sink to the south. The ranch is intersected by three forks of the Hulen Slough. Further, wetlands managed by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) exist within 2-3 miles of the property on the east side of Butte Creek. The Butte Sink, possibly the most important congregation of private wetlands in North America, begins three miles southeast of the project.

The Beck Ranch is unique in that the owners have not engaged in traditional "clean" farming practices. The land has not been laser-leveled, shrubs, weeds and native grasses have not been eliminated along ditches, fence lines and roads, and the undulating characteristics of the property remain very conducive to wetland enhancement and restoration efforts.

Specifically, 104± acres of seasonal wetlands consisting of five units ranging in size from five to 45 acres, are proposed to be restored (adjacent to existing wheat fields), thus creating a complete breeding duck habitat complex. The brood water created by the project will increase the chances of survival for hundreds of ducklings annually. Nesting ducks include mallard, cinnamon teal, and gadwall. Ringed-necked pheasant, American bittern, and northern harrier are also common nesters in this agricultural area.

Further, the owners propose to establish and manage wood duck nest boxes along the riparian sloughs. It is likely that the project will enhance wood duck brood survival due to the interconnected water system which will allow the ducks to travel from deep sloughs with low invertebrate populations to shallow, more productive wetland habitats.

Waterfowl in the Central Valley depend heavily on harvested grain fields for food and on wheat, hay, and set-aside lands for nesting. The existing 291,000 acres of wetlands in the Central Valley do not supply adequate food and cover for the populations of waterfowl proposed in the CVHJV plan. While wheat fields in the Central Valley are important nesting habitat for mallards and several other species of ground-nesting birds,

brood survival is extremely poor due to the lack of suitable brood habitat adjacent to wheat fields.

Recent research suggests that wheat fields are heavily utilized by nesting ducks, however, the harvesting of wheat oftentimes conflicts with the nesting period thereby reducing the survival of many nesting broods.

In addition, the lack of brood water in close proximity to the nesting habitat further contributes to the low survival of nesting broods. When hens travel a considerable distance from the nest site to brood water it increases the chance of loss to the brood. Broods are more vulnerable on dry land and hens often must take their broods to more than one body of water to find proper food and cover. However, when there is no dependable managed brood water, late spring drying often leaves broods without wetland cover and the much needed food source required for their rapid growth. When this happens, the chance for brood survival is markedly reduced.

To achieve this multi-use project that enhances the economic viability of agriculture on the property while providing a significant long-term benefit to breeding ducks and other resident wetland wildlife, the existing tail water recovery system needs to be expanded. In addition, the existing water system is inadequate to supply sufficient water to meet agricultural needs as well as the additional brood water and habitat needs. The landowners are willing to create a complete tail water recovery system that will enhance the irrigation capabilities and agricultural yield, thus enabling the landowners to commit necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of the restored wetlands for 25 years. In order to provide the additional water needed for this project, it is proposed to drill three wells. In addition, the placement of check dams and water control structures at the low ends of the ephemeral ponds will allow the area to be intensively managed to provide dependable brood water for breeding ducks and other wetland dependent species.

The creation of a complete tail water recovery system and restoration of 104 acres of seasonal wetlands will require the following capital expenditures:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
(1) Drilling three wells	\$110,505
(2) Constructing lift stations, inverted siphons and pipes	75,172
(3) Installation of risers	2,881
(4) CWA inspection and monitoring	11,442

TOTAL ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST: \$200,000

In addition to the above mentioned costs, the landowners have already expended \$8,395 for the surveying necessary to develop engineering plans necessary for the wetland restoration and extensive tail-water recovery systems. Further, the landowners will be

contributing approximately \$7,300 of in-kind services as they have agreed to be responsible for the earthwork necessary for the construction of ditches, drains and levees.

To assure the long term viability of this project, the landowners have also agreed to meet specific habitat management criteria for 25 years under a contract with the State. The management plan, developed in consultation with CWA, WCB and DFG will stipulate that; (1) restored wetlands be flooded from February 1 until July 15 to provide habitat for local ducks and other wildlife; (2) a minimum of 50 acres of set-aside land or harvested corn or milo will be flooded during the fall and winter; (3) a minimum of 350 acres of wheat or managed nesting habitat will be available each spring; and (4) the harvesting of wheat or hay will not occur until after the duck nesting season, around mid-July.

For many years the landowners have had a goal of creating valuable wildlife habitat that would provide a limited public access opportunity, particularly one aimed at youth education, photography and bird watching, as well as maintaining a viable agricultural operation. As such, they have consulted with and received the technical assistance from several natural resource agencies at both the State and Federal level.

More recently, DFG staff, in conjunction with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the CWA has provided extensive technical expertise and assistance for the design and development of the water control structures necessary for the wetland restoration. Furthermore, the CWA will conduct baseline breeding pair and brood surveys at the project site.

While the capital costs associated with this project are estimated at a maximum of \$200,000, it is important to note and recognize the partnership which has been formed in support of this project. Without these "partnerships", the costs would far exceed \$200,000. This partnership includes the landowners, the CWA, SCS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WCB and DFG. In addition, when one considers the value of the land, coupled with the maintenance and operation cost the landowner will be responsible for over the 25 year period (estimated at approximately \$800,000), the State of California would be contributing a fraction of the costs necessary to provide quality brood and nesting habitat for breeding waterfowl for this project.

Furthermore, amortizing the \$200,000 request over the life span of the project results in an \$8,000 per year investment that provides seasonal wetlands to an area where few exist today. When compared to the costs associated with a governmental entity managing and maintaining similar seasonal wetlands over the same 25 year period, the \$200,000 investment is nominal.

To protect the State's interest, if, prior to the completion of the 25 year period, should the landowner be unable to continue in this project, they will be responsible for reimbursing the State for the amortized costs of the project. To secure the State's

investment, a promissory note and Deed of Trust in the amount of the project costs will be obtained.

It should be noted that prior to implementing this project, the landowner will be required to obtain all permits and complete appropriate CEQA documentation. When certification has been provided that all required permits have been obtained, the project sponsor will be authorized to proceed.

Developing quality waterfowl habitat is the primary purpose of this project. However, the project will demonstrate that waterfowl and wetland habitat can not only be compatible with farming, but profitable to local economies as well.

Furthermore, this project represents an opportunity for the State to participate in a true partnership that benefits not only wildlife habitat and agricultural interests, but local communities as well. In addition, it is hoped, that this type of project will stimulate additional cooperative partnerships between landowners, communities, and wildlife agencies which will result in the continuation of mutually beneficial projects of this type.

This project, as well as the Gilsizer Slough Restoration and the Rice Roller projects, demonstrates that conservation projects can be implemented that make economic, environmental and social sense.

Letters of support were received from Glenn County Resource Conservation District, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, California Waterfowl Association, Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation. Mr. Schmidt added that it is a real opportunity to put something together long-term on private land that benefits waterfowl habitat.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) as designated for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, to cover the restoration costs of 104± acres of seasonal wetlands; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Harold Beck, landowner, was present and addressed the Board members. He stated this project started as an effort to survive as a farmer and if it hadn't been for the efforts of everyone concerned it wouldn't have gotten off the ground. He is dry farming and does not have an adequate water supply. The original intent, which started over 10 years ago, was trying to get the tail-water recovery system in place so the water could be utilized as part of the farming system. Basically, assistance is needed in helping to try to get things going. He indicated that he wants to make a statement to other farmers which could be looked at as evidence to how it can be done. There is an adjacent landowner who was interested in selling his land strictly for developmental purposes. They are now refraining from selling and are interested in this project and want to be

kept informed.

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 RESTORATION OF SEASONAL WETLANDS AT THE BECK RANCH, GLENN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$200,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) AS DESIGNATED FOR THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM, TO COVER ESTIMATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- *20. Central Valley Wetland Easements (Grant), Entire Central Valley \$1,280,000.00
(Consent Calendar)

This proposal was to obtain Board approval to accept a grant from the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission to be used to acquire conservation easements for wetland habitat located in the Central Valley pursuant to the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Plan.

The Central Valley of California provides critical habitat for what is considered to be the largest concentration of wintering waterfowl in North America, comprising some 60 percent of the Pacific Flyway population of waterfowl. Over the years, approximately 95 percent of the wintering habitat for ducks, geese, swans, and millions of other shore birds that utilize the Pacific Flyway have been lost. As such, major populations of waterfowl and wetland dependent species are continuing to decline. Of the original 4 million acres once present in the Central Valley, approximately 291,000 acres are present today.

About 30 percent of the remaining wetlands are within National Wildlife Refuges and State Wildlife Areas; the remaining 70 percent are privately owned and managed primarily as duck hunting clubs. About 40 percent of the private wetlands are protected through state and federal easement programs or by private conservation organizations. The remaining 119,000 acres of wetlands are unprotected.

In recognition that public funds alone are not sufficient to address the multitude of tasks that need to occur to arrest the continuing decline of existing wetlands and waterfowl habitat, the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture (CVHJV) was established. The CVHJV

Board (of which the Wildlife Conservation Board is a member) is comprised of representatives from the California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This coalition of public and private sector entities are working to implement very specific goals and objectives designed to protect, restore and enhance critical wetland habitat in the Central Valley by the year 2000. While the efforts of the CVHJV are focused on waterfowl habitat, implementation of the objectives will benefit a wide variety of wetland dependent species, many of which are on California's threatened and endangered species list.

As previously stated, the CVHJV plan is targeted for completion by the year 2000. The estimated capital investment for attaining all objectives is estimated at \$528.7 million. In addition, annual operation and maintenance costs are estimated to be approximately \$29.0 million.

Clearly, sufficient funds are not available at the state or federal level to fully implement the objectives of the CVHJV plan. While joint venture members are pooling limited resources and forming partnerships to meet specific objectives, new and creative techniques are needed if the objectives are to be achieved.

In recognition that new and innovative approaches to wetland protection efforts are needed, legislation was enacted that authorized the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program (IWCP) within the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The sole purpose of this new program is to work collectively with other joint venture partners and assist with the implementation of the CVHJV objectives.

To accomplish this, the IWCP was authorized to apply for and accept federal monies to be used for purposes consistent with the objectives of the CVHJV Plan. One of the CVHJV objectives is to protect and restore wetland habitat through the purchase of conservation easements on 152,000 acres. Of this total, the State has pledged to secure 75,000 acres of wetlands under permanent conservation easements.

This proposal requests cost-sharing funding sufficient to purchase easements on approximately 2,700 acres. Specifically, the WCB has applied to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for \$1.280 million. It is proposed that this grant request will be matched with \$1.0 million appropriated to the WCB for purposes of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program.

In addition, the California Waterfowl Association and the Department of Fish and Game will be contributing to the project with additional dollars and/or in-kind contributions in the form of technical assistance to private wetland landowners.

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The WCB has been notified that the grant request was approved, therefore, \$1.280 million in federal fund expenditure authority has been included in the proposed 1993-94 Governor's Budget. WCB staff is in the process of developing a contract between the State and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the federal entity designated to administer all contracts approved by the Commission) to accept these funds. While the WCB is developing the contract, no funds will be expended until such time as this request has been approved by the Board. Furthermore, this grant will not result in additional costs to the state.

It is important to note that the Board's approval of this item only authorizes staff to finalize the federal fund contract and accept the federal funds for expenditure. Prior to the expenditure of any funds, projects to be proposed for funding from this item will be presented to the Board for approval.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of the above described federal grant monies in the amount of \$1.280 million as proposed; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from the California Waterfowl Association, Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A \$1,280,000.00 GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION, AS PROPOSED; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

21. Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area Restoration (Pine Creek/
Jacinto/Princeton Units), Butte and Glenn Counties \$35,000.00

Mr. Schmidt stated that the next two items are proposals on the Upper Sacramento River for restoration efforts on projects previously acquired by the Board. Mr. Dave Martinez explained both items.

This proposal was to allocate \$35,000 for the removal of orchards from the Pine Creek, Jacinto, and Princeton Units of the Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area. This work represents the first phase of a restoration plan for these Department of Fish and Game (DFG) owned lands. Upon completion of this phase of work, final restoration plans will be formulated, which should lead to a full restoration to prime riparian habitat. The orchard removal will consist of 40 acres of plums and 40 acres of almonds on the Pine Creek site, 28 acres of English walnuts on the Princeton Unit site and 16 acres of English walnuts on the Jacinto Unit site.

In addition to the benefits associated with the restoration of these properties, the removal of the trees will eliminate the possibility of insects infecting neighboring orchards, thus, enabling the DFG to be "responsive and good neighbors". The Princeton and Jacinto units presently contain nesting habitat for at least two State-listed threatened species, the Swainson's hawk and western yellow-billed cuckoo. These restoration activities will not adversely affect existing wildlife values but will focus on expanding the riparian habitat and associated wildlife habitat values of these parcels.

Project administration will be carried out by the DFG and will be handled through an open bid contract. The estimated value of \$35,000 is based on bids previously received by the DFG for this project that they were unable to award because of a lack of funds.

Letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife and Mountain Lion Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this restoration project as proposed; allocate \$35,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), for the first phase of riparian habitat restoration of Pine Creek, Jacinto, and Princeton Units of the Sacramento River Wildlife Area, and authorize staff and 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 FIRST PHASE OF RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION AT THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA (PINE CREEK/JACINTO/PRINCETON UNITS), BUTTE AND GLENN COUNTIES, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$35,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

22. Sacramento River Wildlife Area Restoration (Moulton Unit),
Colusa County \$75,800.00

This proposal was to allocate \$75,800 for the restoration of 30± acres of the Moulton Weir Unit of the Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area to riparian habitat. This project would be the second phase of restoration on this unit since the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has already contracted for the removal of existing nonnative vegetation.

The subject land will be restored with a mix of valley oak, California Sycamore, and Mexican elderberry. This project is proposed to commence in April, 1993, and continue with irrigation and monitoring responsibilities through September, 1995. Project administration will be carried out by the Department of Fish and Game through a contract with the California State University (CSU), Chico, Wildland Restoration Group (WRG).

The WRG, a nonprofit organization affiliated with CSU, was organized to provide Wildland and Agriculture Science students with opportunities to gain "hands-on" experience in their fields of study. Staff consists of a Director, a Project Coordinator, and a pool of graduate and undergraduate student assistants. Through the School of Agriculture and the University Foundation, WRG has access to a wide variety of heavy equipment, greenhouse facilities, and skilled staff which will be utilized in the restoration project.

Project costs will be no greater than \$2,600/acre; an exceptionally low cost figure because of WRG's access to Chico State University facilities, staff, and student resources. In addition, the project design is a "low-intensity" concept. Planting will be done in "islands" distributed throughout the property and irrigation will be done by truck, as opposed to drip irrigation. Project will consist of planting approximately 145 trees per acre and distributing 500 elderberry plants within the islands. These islands will provide immediate wildlife habitat and will serve as future seed sources for the natural revegetation process.

It should be noted that this project, specifically the affiliation with the WRG, serves multiple benefits. The most obvious benefit is the immediate restoration of 30± acres of property to riparian forest and the establishment of a foundation for continuing natural restoration. A secondary benefit is the alliance with the academic community at CSU, Chico. By providing opportunities for students to gain experience in the field of habitat restoration, this project can bridge the gap between theory and application. Through this process, future farmers and ranchers will have an intrinsic understanding of the values associated with wildlife and wildland habitat and the practices which can avoid adverse impacts to these resources.

Letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

By removing of the orchards and relieving the concerns about insect infestation, this restoration work mitigates some of the perceived problems that some of the landowners have regarding the acquisition of orchard properties and leaving them in a nonmanaged state.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$75,800.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) for the restoration of 30± acres of the Moulton Weir Unit to riparian habitat; and authorize staff and Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as proposed.

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 RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION ON THE MOULTON WEIR UNIT OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, COLUSA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$75,800.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- *23. San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat (Grant), Fresno County \$1,000,000.00
(Consent Calendar)

This proposal was to obtain Board approval to accept a grant of up to \$1,000,000 (if approved) from the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The CTC, in conjunction with the California Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, provides matching grant funds for projects that enhance or mitigate Caltrans development projects.

These funds would be available for the acquisition of sensitive wildlife and riparian habitat along the San Joaquin River, between Friant Dam and Highway 41, an area of previous acquisition projects by the Board. Prior to the expenditure of any funds associated with this grant, a detailed project proposal will be presented to the Board for expenditure authority. It should be pointed out that any expenditure of these funds requires a match from other sources. The grant application is a joint application, or partnership, with the Trust for Public Land and the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

Resource values in the San Joaquin River bottomlands are very high in terms of threatened species, wildlife corridors, nesting and breeding areas, wetlands, and riparian habitat. The diversity of habitat in this section of the river is significant and includes river channel, riparian woodland, grassland, oak woodland, pond and freshwater marsh. Wildlife known to inhabit this area consists of numerous raptors, including bald eagles, a great blue heron/egret rookery, breeding ducks, wintering geese, mule deer, bobcat, coyote, fox, and reportedly mountain lion.

There has been considerable Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and community investment in the San Joaquin River. In fact, the area of interest is included within the San Joaquin River Parkway Plan and proposed jurisdiction of the San Joaquin River Conservancy.

Staff recommended that, if the grant request is approved by the CTC, that the Board authorize staff to accept up to \$1,000,000.00 in California Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant funds, with the knowledge that any expenditures will require a match from other sources; and further authorize staff to proceed with the development of an appropriate project for these funds.

Letters of support were received from the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Defenders of Wildlife and the San Joaquin Rivers Committee.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF UP TO A \$1,000,000.00 GRANT, IF APPROVED BY THE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM FOR USE AS A MATCH WITH STATE FUNDS TO ACQUIRE SENSITIVE WILDLIFE AND RIPARIAN HABITAT ALONG THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER, FRESNO COUNTY, AS PART OF THE CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

*24. Riparian Habitat Assessment (Grant) \$150,000.00
(Consent Calendar)

This proposal was to obtain Board approval to accept a grant of \$150,000 (if approved) from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA's Wetland Protection Program provides grant funding for planning projects designed to preserve wetlands and provide statewide river assessments and statewide river management plans. The second part of this proposal is to authorize the use of these funds, conditioned on its approval, for the development and implementation of a riparian habitat inventory and assessment project.

One of the objectives of the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program (CRHCP) is to assess the current amount and status of the State's remaining riparian resources. This project will be a comprehensive, cooperative effort to gather and analyze riparian related data into a centralized location, provide a standardized evaluation system and provide information about the significance of riparian resources on a statewide basis.

The process and guidelines for undertaking the riparian assessment will be designed cooperatively by the participating State, Federal and private organizations and agencies. To be successful, this assessment project will require the cooperation and involvement from resource management agencies at all levels of government, as well as organizations and individuals with ownership, management or regulatory responsibilities for riparian resources and their uses. To accomplish this, it is proposed that an Advisory Committee be established to guide overall development of the riparian assessment effort. Other working groups will be established as necessary to effectively carry out the objectives of the project.

Four basic tasks to the inventory process as identified by your staff are:

- 1) The identification of existing data on riparian habitat;
- 2) The development of a riparian habitat classification system which cross-indexes the multiple classification systems employed by various organizations having data to be incorporated into the inventory;
- 3) The development of a database which would "interface" with other organization's databases. This database would be designed in a manner as to be expandable to include other resource informational categories as envisioned by the Resources Agency's Statewide Rivers Inventory and Assessment Project;
- 4) The organization and input of existing riparian habitat information into the newly created comprehensive statewide database.

Staff recommended that, if the grant request is approved by the EPA, that the Board authorize staff to finalize a contract between the State and the EPA for its acceptance and that the Board authorize staff to expend the EPA grant funds to implement the riparian inventory and assessment project.

Letters of support were received from the Defenders of Wildlife and Mountain Lion Foundation.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A \$150,000.00 GRANT, IF APPROVED, FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FINALIZE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND TO EXPEND THE GRANT FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE RIPARIAN INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT, A COMPONENT OF THE CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

MOTION CARRIED.

*23. Resolution Honoring Senator Barry Keene
(Consent Calendar)

WHEREAS, Senator Barry Keene retired from the State Senate and concurrently from the Wildlife Conservation Board in December 1992; and

WHEREAS, Senator Keene served with distinction on the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee for twenty years; six of those with the State Assembly and fourteen of those with the State Senate; and

WHEREAS, his sound judgment, wise counsel and leadership, drawn from his long career in the California Legislature have furthered the cause of wildlife conservation and related recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Senator's earnest desire to promote this program for the good of all the citizens of California has been observed in the accomplishments of the Board during his tenure.

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 Senator Keene 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 Senator Keene.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ADOPT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND THAT A SUITABLE COPY BE PROVIDED TO SENATOR BARRY KEENE.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. by Chairman Biaggini.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on March 9, 1993, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$319,229,833.35. 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	18,685,064.90
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	12,683,863.66
	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	34,410,127.55
	1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 3,073,174.92
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	7,786,919.31
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,376,103.02
	4. Piers	17,173,930.30
D.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects	241,117,607.86
	1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$149,366,642.59
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	4,596,530.91
	3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	86,354,187.36
	4. Land Conservation Area	1,247.00
	5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	799,000.00
	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	\$319,229,833.35