

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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

Minutes, Meeting of February 10, 1994

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of February 10, 1994

Pursuant to the call of Mr. Boyd Gibbons, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 444 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on February 10, 1994. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Introduction of Board Members and Legislative Advisory Members was then made.

1. Roll Call/Election of Chairperson

Mr. Gibbons stated that the usual practice of the Wildlife Conservation Board in naming a Chairman has been to elect the President of the Fish and Game Commission to serve in that capacity. Mr. Gibbons stated that to carry on the tradition he would move to nominate Frank Boren as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT MR. FRANK BOREN,
ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION,
BE NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
BOARD.

MOTION CARRIED.

Present: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Boren, Chairman
Acting President, Fish and Game Commission
Theresa Parker, Chief Deputy Director,
Vice, Russell Gould, Member
Director, Department of Finance
Boyd Gibbons, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ross Sargent,
Vice, Senator Pat Johnston
Chris Davis,
Vice, Senator Dan Mc Corquodale
Senator Mike Thompson
Assemblyman Jim Costa
Assemblyman Dan Hauser

Absent: Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg
Senator Daniel Boatwright (Alternate)

Staff Present: W. John Schmidt, Executive Director
Clyde Edon, Assistant Executive Director
Marilyn Cundiff-Gee, Wetlands Program Manager
Scott Clemons, Riparian Program Manager
Jim Sarro, Chief Land Agent/Assistant Executive Director
Howard Dick, Senior Land Agent
Frank Giordano, Senior Land Agent
Georgia Lipphardt, Senior Land Agent
Debbie Townsend, Associate Land Agent
Sylvia Gude, Staff Services Analyst
Sandy Daniel, Executive Secretary
Jan Beeding, Office Technician

Others Present: Ginger Strong, Camp, Dresser and McKee, Inc.
John Anderson, Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Charlie Rominger, Yolo County Farm Bureau
Paul Brown, Camp, Dresser and McKee, Inc.
Nelson Mathews, Trust for Public Land
Brian Stucker, Citizen
Dave Koehler, San Joaquin River Parkway Trust
Jim Eagan, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Bud Rank, Citizen
Mark Hagg, Citizen
John W. Anderson, Department of Fish and Game, Long Beach
Mr. & Mrs. Crapuchettes, Citizens
Duke Foster, Citizen
George Nokes, Department of Fish and Game, Fresno
Bob McLandress, California Waterfowl Association
Mark Palmer, Mountain Lion Foundation
Linda Lye, State Capitol, Ways and Means
Patricia Mosley, Woodward-Clyde Cons.

Others Present Continued:

David Kelly, Woodward-Clyde Cons.
David Galaviz, Senator Mike Thompson
Holly Liberato, Ducks Unlimited
Jim Collin, State Capitol
Scott Essin, Lodi Parks and Recreation
Edna Maita, Assemblyman Jim Costa

CONSENT CALENDAR *(Items #2-7)

Mr. Schmidt reported that Item Nos. 2-7 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. Boren 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. 2-7 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Item No. 13, Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion #20, Del Norte County, had been withdrawn from the agenda and hopefully would be considered at the May WCB meeting.

* 2. Approval of Minutes (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Approval of minutes of the November 9, 1993, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 1993, BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes of Meeting, February 10, 1994
Wildlife Conservation Board

* 3. Funding Status as of February 10, 1994 (Information Only)
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

(a) 1993-94 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 350,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-105,007.88</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 244,992.12

Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$ 530,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-270,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 260,000.00

Governor's Budget - Major Development	\$ 500,000.00
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(b) 1992-93 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 200,000.00
Plus LWCF Reimbursement	+100,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-202,500.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 97,500.00

(c) 1993-94 Environmental License Plate Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Added to Governor's Budget by Ch. 1241	\$ 572,000.00
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(d) 1992-93 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Reappropriation of 1989/90 - Stream Projects	\$2,044,100.49
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>- 730,739.24</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$1,313,361.25

(e) 1992-93 Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

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

Governor's Budget	\$5,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-4,615,974.09</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 384,025.91

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(g) 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	-59,379,630.48
Less State Administrative Costs	- 1,219,500.00
Less Reverted Funds	-11,528,799.69
Plus Reappropriated Funds	<u>+11,528,799.69</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$20,700,869.52

(h) 1993-94 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$9,844,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>- 554,530.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$9,289,470.00

(i) 1992-93 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$ 9,194,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-4,596,452.13</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 4,597,547.87

(j) 1991-92 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget -	
Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition	\$ 2,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,827,163.44</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 172,836.56

Governor's Budget - Unallocated	\$ 1,682,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,682,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ -0-

Governor's Budget -	
Upper Sacramento River Basin	\$ 1,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>- 895,431.77</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 104,568.23

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	
Acquisition	\$ 342,492.12
Minor Development	\$ 260,000.00
Major Development	\$ 500,000.00
<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund</u>	\$ 1,313,361.25
<u>Ca. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u>	\$20,700,869.52
<u>Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u>	\$ 2,384,025.91
<u>Ca. Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$ 572,000.00
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u>	\$14,164,422.66

* 4. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following 23 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:

\$5,156.50 to the **Wildlife Restoration Fund**,
\$68,788.02 to the **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund**,
\$70,181.66 to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**,
\$46,092.94 to the **Calif. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund**,
\$1,890.00 to the **Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund**,

and that the projects be closed.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Lake Siskiyou Fishing Access, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$30,100.00
Expended	<u>-29,943.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 156.50

Rose Valley Lakes Fishing Access, Ventura County

Allocation	\$5,000.00
Expended	<u>- -0-</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,000.00

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Ventura Pier, Ventura County

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

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$5,156.50

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Alvardao Park Stream Restoration, Contra Costa County

Allocation	\$30,000.00
Expended	<u>-30,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Bluff Creek #3, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$101,200.00
Expended	<u>- 75,480.52</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 25,719.48

Boise Creek, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$29,300.00
Expended	<u>- 6,940.49</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$22,359.51

Parsons Creek, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$30,100.00
Expended	<u>-30,095.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5.00

Red Cap Creek #3, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$76,350.00
Expended	<u>-55,645.97</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$20,704.03

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Upper Parsnip Creek Fish Passage, Lassen County

Allocation	\$10,000.00
Expended	<u>-10,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Recoveries . \$68,788.02

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #4, Tulare County

Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Expended	<u>- 1,081.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 919.00

Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Expansion #5, Tulare County

Allocation	\$53,000.00
Expended	<u>-51,836.36</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,163.64

Antelope Creek, Phase II, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$10,500.00
Expended	<u>- 0-</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$10,500.00

Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Tehama County

Allocation	\$657,000.00
Expended	<u>-653,415.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,585.00

Carmel River Spawning Habitat, Monterey County

Allocation	\$84,489.00
Expended	<u>-69,863.69</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$14,625.31

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Red Lake Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Alpine County

Allocation	\$215,000.00
Expended	<u>-200,852.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 14,148.00

Shovel Creek, Phase II, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$20,100.00
Expended	<u>- 95.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$20,005.00

Swall Meadows Wildlife Area, ^{Mono} Alpine County

Allocation	\$752,000.00
Expended	<u>-749,213.16</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,786.84

Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 283-L, Shasta County

Allocation	\$300,000.00
Expended	<u>-297,551.13</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,448.87

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries \$70,181.66

CA. WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Escondido Creek Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, San Diego County

Allocation	\$329,200.00
Expended	<u>-325,415.71</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,784.29

Mokelumne River Ecological Reserve, San Joaquin County

Allocation	\$70,000.00
Expended	<u>-64,664.89</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,335.11

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San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve Wetland Enhancement (Milburn Unit),
Fresno County

Allocation	\$44,500.00
Expended	<u>- 8,900.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$35,600.00

West Hilmar Wildlife Area, Merced/Stanislaus County

Allocation	\$690,000.00
Expended	<u>-688,626.46</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,373.54

Total Ca. Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation
Fund Recoveries \$46,092.94

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND

Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$210,000.00
Expended	<u>-208,110.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,890.00

Total Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation
Fund Recoveries \$ 1,890.00

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 23 PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 6-10 AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$5,156.50 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, \$68,788.02 TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, \$70,181.66 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, \$46,092.94 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND, AND \$1,890.00 TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 5. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Yolo County \$601.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider the acceptance of $390 \pm$ acres of State-owned property from the Department of Transportation (DOT). The property is located within the Yolo Bypass approximately four miles west of Sacramento, bounded on the south by the Interstate 80 Yolo Causeway and on the north by the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. The entire property is susceptible to flooding and is recognized by the Department of Fish and Game as valuable habitat to be preserved and enhanced as wetlands within the Pacific Flyway.

In addition, the westerly $182 \pm$ acres of the property has been identified for inclusion within the Yolo Basin Wetland Project, a federally authorized environmental restoration project being sponsored by the Department in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers (Corps). Upon entering into a Local Cooperation Agreement with the Corps, the Department will have federal funds available to them to enhance the westerly portion of the subject property.

The property was made available to the Department upon passage of Senate Bill 494, Chapter 676, Statutes of 1992, which directed DOT to either 1) transfer the property, or lease the property for 100 years, for the sum of \$1.00, to the Department, reserving whatever interest may be necessary for future use to DOT, or 2) enter into a cooperative agreement for use of the property.

Under the terms of a Cooperative Agreement, DOT and the Department have, among other things, agreed to the following:

- 1) Of their $446.5 \pm$ ownership, DOT will retain $56.5 \pm$ acres for potential future highway use;
- 2) DOT will transfer the balance of $390 \pm$ acres to the Department for \$1.00; and
- 3) DOT will retain an easement to utilize the easterly $208 \pm$ acres for agricultural and borrow site use for a 25 year period.

Once DOT use of the easterly portion has expired, the Department plans to enhance and restore that portion for wetland habitat and public recreation use purposes. Management of the property will be done in conjunction with management of the Yolo Basin Wetland Project.

Acquisition costs are estimated to be \$600.00 which includes escrow, title and Department of General Services review costs. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$601.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for costs of the acquisition; and

authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Mountain Lion Foundation and the California Waterfowl Association.

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 390± ACRES AT THE YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #1, YOLO COUNTY, FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$601.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR COSTS OF THE ACQUISITION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 6. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$542,150.00
(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 13 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 recent 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 public agencies or nonprofit organizations.

Site specific information for each of the 13 proposed habitat enhancement projects is briefly provided below:

A. Boyes Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County \$42,200.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of constructing 15 stream enhancement structures on Boyes Creek, a tributary to Prairie Creek, for the enhancement of the steelhead and cutthroat trout and coho salmon fishery. All work will be done in Prairie Creek State Park 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 Del Norte Center. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile salmonids. This project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

B. Colby Creek Habitat Enhancement, Butte/Tehama County \$32,900.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Lassen National Forest for enhancement of habitat for rainbow and brown trout. Colby Creek is a tributary to Butte Creek which is ultimately a tributary to the Feather River. It 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 through 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 Lassen National Forest, under the direction of the Department of Fish & Game.

C. Cottonwood Creek Habitat Enhancement #4, Mono County \$22,700.00

This was a cooperative project between the Inyo National Forest and the Department of Fish and Game to continue an ongoing project as outlined in the Paiute Cutthroat Trout (PCT) Management Plan for the recovery of PCT, a federally listed threatened species. The work will be completed in the Cottonwood Basin of the White Mountains and will consist of bank stabilization, replenishment of spawning gravel, construction of habitat structures to enhance meadow restoration and to provide cover or shade and the installation of fence to exclude cattle. The project will be administered by the Inyo National Forest, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

D. Dominie Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$33,100.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and Rural Human Services, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization for the enhancement of the steelhead and cutthroat trout fishery in Dominie Creek, a tributary to the Smith River via Rowdy Creek. The stream has an excellent riparian canopy and good year-round flows and is noted to be one of the more productive small tributaries to the Smith River. However, spawning opportunities are somewhat limited. This project will provide rearing and adult escape cover as well as enhance spawning opportunities through the construction of 10-14 log and 10-12 boulder structures in selected spots along the stream. Specifically, the boulder structures will include deflectors, clusters and upstream "V" weirs to create rearing pools as well as sort and store spawning gravel. Woody structures, in the form of multiple digger logs and weirs, will be installed for rearing and overwinter refuge habitat. This project will be administered by Rural Human Services, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

E. Etna Creek Fish Screen, Siskiyou County \$2,600.00

This was a proposed project by the Department of Fish and Game to construct and install a fish screen on Etna Creek. The creek is a tributary to the Scott River which ultimately flows into the Klamath River. The installation of this screen will prevent juvenile steelhead and resident trout from inadvertently being diverted into irrigation ditches and becoming lost in local agricultural fields. This project will be constructed by Department personnel.

F. Hollow Tree Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County \$66,200.00

The Department of Fish and Game is proposing to construct 30 stream enhancement structures on Hollow Tree Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Eel River, for the enhancement of the steelhead trout and salmon fishery. All work will be done on Louisiana-Pacific Corporation land and will consist of developing habitat by anchoring log structures in the stream to provide woody cover and generate flows which will create 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 provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile steelhead. This project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps from the Fortuna Center, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

G. Knopki Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$23,200.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of constructing 12 stream enhancement structures on Knopki Creek, a tributary to the Smith River, for the enhancement of the steelhead trout and salmon fishery. All work will be done on U.S. Forest Service land and will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs and root wads in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scour pools. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing and overwinter refuge habitat conditions for juvenile salmonids. The project will be completed by the California Conservation Corps crews from the Del Norte Center and will be administered under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

H. Last Chance Creek Habitat Enhancement, Plumas County \$150,000.00

This was a proposed cooperative trout and native fish enhancement project, between the Department of Fish and Game and the Plumas National Forest on Last Chance Creek. Historically, Last Chance Creek has supported an excellent native fish population but past grazing practices in the area have resulted in the loss of riparian vegetation and streamside cover. The proposed project will restore critical spawning and rearing habitat for rainbow and brown trout on three miles of Last Chance Creek. Approximately 200 acres of meadow will be re-watered by the construction of several earthen or loose rock check dams along the creek thereby enhancing the growth of riparian vegetation, a benefit to both fish and wildlife populations. Similar such projects (i.e. Red Clover Creek) have been very successful in enhancing fishery production. The project will be administered by the U.S. Forest Service, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

I. Mokelumne River Bank Stabilization, San Joaquin County \$41,500.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the City of Lodi to strengthen and rebuild approximately 150 feet of river bank on the south side of the Mokelumne River. If the existing unstable bank should fail at high flows when salmon are migrating downstream, juvenile salmonids could be diverted into backwater areas and be trapped. All work will be done on City property and will consist of stabilizing the bank by anchoring logs and root wads along the river to prevent erosion and to provide woody cover. The additional woody cover will also provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile salmonids. This project will be administered by the City of Lodi, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

J. Siskiyou Fork Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$29,600.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and Rural Human Services, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization for the enhancement of steelhead and salmon fishery in Siskiyou Fork Creek, a tributary to the Smith River. The high flows during the 1964 flood removed much of the instream woody debris which provided cover for rearing and retention of spawning gravel. This project is to provide rearing and adult escape cover as well as enhance spawning opportunities through the construction of 15-20 large woody debris structures upon existing instream boulder groups. The addition of woody debris will create edge water rearing and overwinter refuge habitat, help hold existing pools and assist in sorting and storing spawning gravels. This project will be administered by Rural Human Services, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

K. Tectah Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County \$48,050.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of constructing a total of 12 stream enhancement structures on Tectah Creek, a tributary to the Klamath River. The project will be completed by California Conservation Corps crews from the Del Norte Center and is intended to create additional winter habitat for steelhead and cutthroat trout and coho and chinook salmon. The work will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs in the stream and allowing the flow of water to create scour pools, provide edge cover and high flow refuge in areas of long uniform riffles. The developed pools and woody cover will also provide better habitat conditions for steelhead and salmon. The project will be administered by the California Conservation Corps, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

L. Twin Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County \$11,200.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of constructing a total of 5 stream enhancement structures on Twin Creek, a tributary to the Eel River. The project will be completed by California Conservation Corps crews from the Fortuna Center and is intended to create additional summer rearing habitat for steelhead trout. The work will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs in the stream and thereby allowing the flow of water to scour pools. Large rocks will also be placed in the stream by a loader to produce the same effect. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile steelhead and salmon while stabilizing the failing streambanks to 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.

M. Twin Culverts Fish Passage, Sierra County \$37,800.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, to modify two culverts in Little Canyon and Old Mill Creek, tributaries to the North Yuba River, Sierra County. Currently, these two culverts restrict upstream fish movements because of the height at which the culverts were placed in relationship to the creek channel. Fish ladders will be attached to the downstream lip of each culvert to provide fish passage to resident rainbow trout. Passage over this barrier will provide access to an additional seven miles of stream habitat. The project will be administered by the Tahoe National Forest, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

Administrative contract costs to process the contracts for the listed projects are estimated at \$1,100.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these 13 salmon, steelhead and resident fish projects as one item as proposed; allocate \$542,150.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19), including \$1,100.00 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 for the Mokelumne River Bank Stabilization project was received from Senator Patrick Johnston. A letter was received from the Mountain Lion Foundation in support of all items.

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 13 SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$542,150.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19), INCLUDING \$1,100.00 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.

* 7. Sycamore Canyon Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Riverside County \$180,000.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was for the acquisition of $8.36 \pm$ acres of residential zoned land in the City of Riverside for protection of Stephens' kangaroo rat habitat and to assist the City to complete an overall park/habitat preserve complex consisting of 1,548 acres. The City's General Plan prepared in 1969 proposed the preservation of Sycamore Canyon, a natural arroyo containing a perennial stream in the southeasterly portion of the City. As urban development approached the vicinity, the City of Riverside undertook the preparation of specific plans for the areas surrounding Sycamore Canyon. Resulting from this planning effort was the delineation of the boundaries of the proposed park and wildlife preserve and mechanisms for placing the land in public ownership.

The purposes of the park and preserve are:

- 1) to protect the varied wildlife and plant life now inhabiting Sycamore Canyon, including the threatened Stephens' kangaroo rat, and raptors that forage in the canyon;
- 2) to preserve Sycamore Canyon as a visual entity, incorporating ridge lines, rock outcroppings and other major features into an open space system;
- 3) to make the area available for public interpretative uses; and,
- 4) provide recreation opportunities in the form of nature study, hiking and picnicking.

In 1986, the Board assisted in this local effort by acquiring 124 acres of industrial zone property at the southerly end of the canyon. The subject $8.36 \pm$ acre residential property, which abuts the State-owned site, was not available for purchase at the time, and the property has remained among the sites considered for acquisition. Meanwhile, the City has nearly completed its remaining acquisitions primarily by way of development agreements with adjacent landowners. By allowing landowners to transfer density from the preserve area to other more developable areas, the City has obtained most of the land in the form of dedications.

The Legislature, in the 1993/94 budget, provided for expenditure by the Board of up to \$250,000 of Habitat Conservation Funds for acquisition of threatened and endangered species habitat in Sycamore Canyon. Through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has evaluated the site and concluded that it does, in fact, provide valuable habitat for the endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat and DFG has recommended its acquisition for inclusion in the existing park and ecological reserve.

The owner has agreed to sell the property for its approved fair market value of \$175,000.00. The additional costs of appraisal review, escrow and closing expenses are estimated to be \$5,000.00.

The purchase would be exempt from CEQA requirements as an acquisition of land for wildlife habitat preservation purposes. As with the first Board acquisition in this area, management of the property will be by cooperative agreement whereby the City will assume the responsibility entirely. To provide maximum wildlife benefits, the management agreement will contain conditions requiring that DFG approve the final management plans for this site.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$180,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), as available through the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund, P-70, Section 2720 (c), for the purchase price and related 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 ACQUISITION OF THE SYCAMORE CANYON ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #1, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$180,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), AS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND, P-70, SECTION 2720 (c), FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Green Creek Wildlife Area, Mono County

\$510,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of a 200± acre parcel of land with an option to purchase an additional 360± acres of land along Green Creek in Mono County. Mr. Howard Dick explained the project and its location. The property is located approximately eight miles south of Bridgeport, about four miles southwest of Highway 395 via Green Creek Road. Green Creek is a popular destination area for campers staying at the nearby Green Creek Campground which is operated by the U.S. Forest Service.

The total proposed acquisition is a cooperative project involving the Board, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). TPL has optioned the entire 800 acre ownership which is an irregular shaped parcel encompassing about four miles of Green Creek. The BLM proposes to acquire a 240 acre portion of the property east of the Toiyabe National Forest boundary which includes a reservoir which is known as "Dynamo Pond", a historical landmark that was used to produce electricity for the ghost town of Bodie in the 1890's. This proposal is to acquire a portion of the remaining acreage consisting of the creek, wetlands, meadows and some surrounding uplands.

The property contains a wide array of fish and wildlife values. Green Creek contains good fishery populations which include brown, rainbow and brook trout. The property is also extremely important as a mule deer migration corridor with telemetry data showing approximately 1,600 deer using this area during their spring and fall migrations. These deer populate hundreds of square miles of the Central Sierra Nevada mountains. Several hundred deer are known to hold over on this property during their spring migration, in part because it contains vital foraging areas for pregnant does, as well as good fawning habitat.

Critical habitat is also found on the property for several threatened or endangered species. The State-threatened Sierra red fox and wolverine have been sighted in the vicinity while endangered Bald eagle sightings have been verified on the property. The yellow warbler, a species of special concern, has also been sighted on the property.

Other wildlife which can be found using this property include mountain lion, black bear, beaver, small rodents, raptors, sage grouse, mountain quail, blue grouse, and small birds associated with high mountain meadows. It also provides important nesting habitat for waterfowl, including mallards, American coots, sora rail, common snipes, Canada geese, cinnamon teal, and other species.

According to the Department, the property will be managed as a wildlife area in conjunction with nearby Department lands at Pickel Meadow, Walker River and Little Antelope Valley. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The proposed acquisition represents an opportunity for the public to protect this area from possible rural homesite development. This type of development is highly likely due to its proximity to Highway 395, its level topography, and the creek frontage it provides. In fact, similar subalpine valleys to the north and south of Green Creek have been extensively developed in recent years. The landowner has indicated that subdivision of the land into 40-acre parcels will occur if the land is not acquired by a public agency. Potential hydropower development could also negatively impact the fishery resources and public use of Green Creek.

The property's appraised fair market value is \$2,500/acre which represents \$500,000 for this 200± phase of the acquisition. In addition, an option to purchase up to 360 acres at \$2,500/acre, totalling \$900,000, is included as a part of this acquisition. The option extends through December 31, 1994, and can be exercised by WCB if funding becomes available prior to that time. An Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant from Caltrans, which DFG applied for, has been approved in the amount of \$400,000. These funds will be used to offset the proposed WCB allocation if received as a reimbursement, or if available in advance will be placed directly into escrow. In any event, the result will be a net acquisition cost of \$100,000, for this phase, to WCB after these funds are received. It is estimated that costs involved in this acquisition will be an additional \$10,000 to cover such items as escrow, Department of General Services, title insurance, etc.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed, including the authorization to accept and use the \$400,000 grant from Caltrans; allocate \$510,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), as available through the Environmental License Plate Fund, to cover the acquisition and related costs of this 200± acre parcel; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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

Mr. Gibbons noted that this stream is absolutely gorgeous and a very good purchase by the Board.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE GREEN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA, MONO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AND USE THE \$400,000 GRANT FROM CALTRANS; ALLOCATE \$510,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), AS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, TO COVER THE ACQUISITION AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt introduced and welcomed Assemblyman Dan Hauser and Ross Sargent, representing Senator Johnston, who joined the meeting at this time.

9. Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, Goodyear Slough Unit, Expansion #2,

Solano County

\$73,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to acquire 180± acres of wetlands, together with the improvements thereon, located within the Suisun Marsh, for the preservation and enhancement of waterfowl habitat. Mr. Frank Giordano gave an explanation. The property is located about seven miles northerly of the City of Benicia, on the east side of Goodyear Road and on the north side of Pierce Lane. Access is achieved from Goodyear Road, a frontage road lying easterly of Interstate 680.

The improvements consist of a residence, one cottage, garage and other outbuildings. These are all located on high ground next to Goodyear Road. The remaining property, containing 175± acres, is improved as a duck club with blinds and water facilities to meet its water management needs. Water for the wetlands is received by gravity flow from Goodyear Slough.

The original Goodyear Slough Unit acquisition consisted of 600± acres and was approved by the Board on November 20, 1987. Expansion #1, a five acre donation, was approved by the Board at its May 11, 1989, meeting. Both the original and the expansion lie southerly of the subject.

For many years the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has recommended acquisitions of valuable wetland habitat in the Suisun Marsh for protection and enhancement purposes. The Board has to date acquired over 3,000 acres for this purpose. This is in addition to the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, the Joice Island Wildlife Area and the Peytonia Slough Ecological Reserve. Currently the property is provided some protection

through county zoning, land use planning, and the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act provisions. However, without this purchase, continued protection cannot be assured, nor would the State be in a position of providing future public access or habitat enhancement.

The property contains habitat of particular importance to migratory waterfowl of the Suisun Marsh and the Pacific Flyway. Several species of ducks use the area for feeding and resting, including mallards, pintail, widgeon, shovelers, green-winged teal, canvasbacks, scaup, red-heads, and coots. Salt-marsh harvest mouse presence has not been documented by trapping; however, the habitat appears to be adequate to support this species. Herons, egrets and various types of shore birds use the adjacent Goodyear Slough, mud flats, and pickleweed flats for feeding. In addition, raptor use has been observed in increasing numbers in the fall and winter in the general area.

The owners, as a condition of sale, would retain a five year lease-back of the entire ownership at the approved fair market rental as described herein. A summary of the lease and its conditions, which have been accepted by DFG, are as follows: The Grantor will occupy the main residence and reserve the right to rent out or use the cottage; the Grantor will reserve the hunting rights for Grantor and Grantors guests; Grantor will not lease out or rent blinds or hunting privileges; and the Grantor will manage the wetlands according to a management agreement developed between the DFG and Grantor. The management cost consideration (payable to Grantor) and Grantor's rents (payable to the State) would be credited against each other and paid for the entire five year period at the close of the State's escrow. The rental rate for the property is based on a five year lease term. The prepaid rent for the improvements (house, cottage and outbuildings) is \$56,900 for the five year period, while rental for the wetland area is \$30,000 for the five year period. Total rent, therefore, is \$86,900. The State's wetlands management requirements are valued at \$30,000 total for five years. State management requirements placed on this property require the Grantor to manage the land according to objectives established by the DFG manager responsible for the WLA. These include control of water levels, fall mowing and spring or fall burning as may be required. Grantor shall also maintain the water systems and, in general, create and maintain the land in a wetland nature beneficial to waterfowl.

The fair market value of the ownership is \$404,000. Adding the \$30,000 for the State's management requirements, the total due the Grantor would be \$434,000. After deduction of fair market rents (\$86,900) the net payment due the Grantor would be \$347,100. However, Grantor has agreed to sell the property for \$300,000 while donating the balance of \$47,100 to the State as part of the transaction. Additionally, appraisal costs, escrow fees and Department of General Services review charges are expected to be about \$10,000.

The basic plan for the area will be to emphasize development and management of good quality wintering waterfowl habitat. The property will also provide a resting and feeding area for wintering waterfowl. There is also potential for up to three public junior duck

hunts a year on this property, even during the lease period, which will be provided at no cost to the State by the Grantor and will be supervised by the DFG. Upon conclusion of the lease, the property will become fully incorporated with the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area and the house and cottage are scheduled to be used by DFG personnel.

A majority of the funding for this acquisition is available from a mitigation account created by the Department from funds received from U.S. Windpower. These funds are to be used for wetlands within the Suisun Marsh area. There is currently \$237,000± in this mitigation account which can be expended upon the approval of the Wildlife Conservation Board. An additional \$73,000 to complete this purchase is available through Proposition 70, California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions, as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Letters of support were received from the Mountain Lion Foundation and the California Waterfowl Association. The owners of the property were present.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition, including the lease-back, as proposed; allocate \$73,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 [P-70, Section 5907 (c)(1)(B)], to cover the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Ross Sargent inquired about extension of the lease at the end of the five year period and how it would be handled. Mr. Giordano stated that it was a five year fixed term lease and at the end of five years the property was scheduled to become part of the management of the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area by the Department. Extension of the lease at the end of the five year period would be up to the Department's discretion.

Mr. Boren 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 GRIZZLY ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA, GOODYEAR SLOUGH UNIT, EXPANSION #2, SOLANO COUNTY, INCLUDING THE LEASE-BACK, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$73,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 [P-70, SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B)], TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Sonoma County \$276,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this acquisition proposal was in the Laguna de Santa Rosa; part of the Department's and the Board's continuing efforts to acquire the remaining critical habitat in this area. Ms. Debbie Townsend described the proposal. This was a proposal to consider the acquisition of approximately 52 acres of land located north of Occidental Road and west of Sanford Road, three miles north of Sebastopol. Proposed access will be over an existing road along the north boundary of the subject property. Property to the south is developed to older, single family residential and light commercial use while lands in the immediate area are mainly rural in nature, with the Laguna de Santa Rosa being the main natural physical feature. The proposed acquisition site does not include improvements, but consists of seasonal and permanent wetlands, and adjoining uplands.

The Wildlife Conservation Board initiated acquisition in this area in 1980 with the purchase of the 75 acre Laguna Ecological Reserve to protect seasonal vernal pools, valley oaks and endangered species. To date, the Board has authorized the acquisition of 375 acres within the Laguna at varied locations. The Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan prepared by the Department of Fish and Game for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Area proposes to connect these parcels. The proposed subject acquisition lies within the acquisition plan area, adjacent to 35 acres presently under management by the Department.

The subject proposal will primarily benefit wetland associated species, resident as well as migratory. The wetland habitats of the Laguna ecosystem contain or support the greatest number of rare, endangered and unusual species found in any one Sonoma County area including, but not limited to, the yellow-billed cuckoo, peregrine falcon, southern Bald eagle, freshwater shrimp and tiger salamander. State-listed rare, threatened or endangered plant species found in the Laguna area include white sedge, Burke's goldfields, Sebastopol meadowfoam and many-flowered navarretia. The Laguna de Santa Rosa is a wetland of major significance and interest to federal, state and local agencies.

The habitats of the Laguna have been severely impacted by historic and ongoing livestock grazing, agriculture, irrigation (groundwater and wastewater), development, channelization and fragmentation. Present zoning does not allow for the planned management of the vital wetland habitats being lost to increased human uses. Acquisition of the subject parcel will allow for enhancement of natural values and long-term survival for all wetland species within the Laguna.

The rich riparian and marsh habitats, with high species diversity and scenic quality, also makes the area of high value for bird watching, nature study, hiking, equestrian trails and other nonconsumptive uses. An access plan is proposed for the larger management area which will include access routes which do not impact existing homes, and recreational uses which are compatible under a management plan designed to protect its

wildlife values. The Department of Fish and Game, together with the Pacific Coast Joint Venture, has plans to create summer watering ponds for waterfowl on adjacent DFG owned lands. Management plans may include connecting these wetlands with the subject.

The Department of Fish and Game recommends acquisition of the property as a part of this major wildlife area. Potential claims to the property by way of the State Lands Commission have been considered to have no impact on the Department's acquisition. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for preservation of wildlife habitat.

The owners have agreed to sell approximately 52 acres of their property, the exact acreage to be determined upon completion of a survey, at its approved fair market value of \$5,000 per acre. An additional \$16,000 is estimated to cover the costs of appraisal, survey, escrow, closing and administrative charges, bringing the total allocation necessary to \$276,000.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the parcel adjacent to the subject property had been approved for funding from the Pacific Coast Joint Venture for restoration of the wetland habitat. He also noted that letters of support had been received from the Mountain Lion Foundation and the California Waterfowl Association.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of this property as proposed; allocate \$276,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(10); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Assemblyman Hauser stated, that he was speaking for both himself and Senator Thompson, that any purchases in the Laguna are very helpful and appreciated the acquisition by the Board. He added that the acquisition will not only benefit wildlife but will also resolve some other problems in the area.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. PARKER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #3, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$276,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 [P-70, SECTION 5907 (c)(10)]; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt introduced and welcomed Senator Thompson who joined the meeting at this time. Mr. Schmidt indicated that Assemblyman Costa had asked that he be present when Item #11, San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat project was heard. Mr. Schmidt stated that if there was no objection to skipping Item #11 at this time and hearing the item when Assemblyman Costa joined the meeting, then they would move on to the next item with no objections, Item #12 was heard next.

After Item #13 was completed, Item #11 was heard. Mr. Schmidt also welcomed and introduced Assemblyman Costa at this time.

11. San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Expansion #3, Fresno County \$1,770,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was for the acquisition of 114± acres of riparian habitat and natural lands along the San Joaquin River, about five miles downstream of Friant Dam. Mr. Sarro, of staff, explained the project. The subject property, a portion of a 271± acre ownership commonly known as Rank Island, is situated within strands of the river. Millerton Lake State Recreation Area is located about five miles north of the property by way of Friant Road. Lost Lake Recreation Area, a project partially funded by the Board and operated by the County of Fresno, is located about three miles upstream.

The flow of the San Joaquin River in this vicinity is controlled by releases from Friant Dam. The property contains a mature, mixed riparian forest system, primarily consisting of sycamores, cottonwoods, willows and oaks. Sand and gravel extraction, still conducted on parts of the property, have left borrow ponds, some of which have begun to develop riparian vegetation. The property historically has been used for cattle grazing, with portions leased out for gravel extraction. It is zoned for 20-acre minimum-size residential development lots.

With well-documented losses of riparian habitat throughout California, the San Joaquin River, from Friant Dam downstream to Highway 99, was among the areas designated for selective Board acquisitions in the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988 (Proposition 70). The subject property was noted to be among the top priorities identified by the Department of Fish and Game, but until now, has not been available at a price or terms that could be met with available funding. Earlier acquisitions of high priority sites in this reach of the river since 1988 total about 520 acres.

This current proposal would authorize the purchase of about 114 acres (Phase 1) of the 271 acre ownership, with the balance of the property being optioned to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (SJRPT). It should be noted that another 30± acres of the island, outside this ownership, are subject to an existing protective conservation easement. The 114± acres

have been appraised and the approved fair market value is \$2,161,031.00. It is estimated that about \$9,000.00 would cover state administrative expenses, escrow and costs of sale, resulting in a total cost, rounded, of \$2,170,000.00. As indicated, portions of the property are used for gravel extraction. About 19 acres of the 114± acres proposed in this phase are subject to an existing gravel extraction lease that runs for approximately six years. The future revenues to the State attributable to the 19 acres is estimated to be \$175,000 over the remainder of the term.

Funding of \$1,000,000.00 is available for the purchase from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117 of 1990), as budgeted for use by the Board in carrying out the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program. An additional \$770,000.00 is available under Proposition 70 of 1988, discussed above, as designated for acquisition of riparian habitat and natural lands in this reach of the river. In order to obtain the remaining \$400,000.00, the Board, TPL and the SJRPCT have applied for, and subsequently has been approved, a grant from Caltrans under its Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation grant program.

Acquisition of the subject property stands on its own as an excellent step in the protection of this valuable habitat. The Board, the SJRPCT and TPL also have applied for a federal transportation enhancement grant of up to \$4 million to acquire the balance of the island and another smaller site on the Madera County side of the river. The application has been well received in its initial screenings and is supported by both Madera and Fresno Counties.

Acquisition of the property would be categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of exemptions, an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. The proposed management of the subject property would be by the Department as a unit of the existing San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve, primarily to protect and possibly to enhance the riparian habitat and natural lands. Fishing access would also be available along reaches of the river, to the extent compatible with sound riparian habitat management. Opportunities would also exist for educational experiences and other compatible uses such as sightseeing, birding, photography, hiking and picnicking. Nature trails, if properly routed, could be readily incorporated into the San Joaquin River Parkway, which is currently being considered for this area.

The State Lands Commission (SLC) has indicated it would claim fee ownership over 24± acres of the property lying in the low water channel of the river and a public trust easement over 26± acres lying between the low water channel and the ordinary high water line of the river. The appraiser, who was provided maps and descriptions of the SLC-claimed portions of the property prior to commencement of the appraisal, took into account the existence of the State's claims and concluded the overall value is, as indicated, \$2,161,031.00. The Department of General Services, in its review of the appraisal, concurs in this valuation and in the appraiser's treatment of the SLC claims and has approved the appraisal accordingly.

The SLC staff has reviewed the proposed granting documents and the appraisal and has indicated it does not object to the transaction in principle. However, SLC has recommended, and your staff concurs, that the descriptions prepared by SLC be utilized in the transfer to assure contiguity to SLC's claimed boundaries on adjacent lands. Also, SLC has asked that the Department enter into an agreement whereby the Department, by lease or other agreement, assumes operation and maintenance responsibility for the areas claimed by the SLC. This process was followed at the Department's Milburn and Willow Units of the San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve, and staff concurs in this recommendation as well.

Assemblyman Costa stated that his comments would be in two parts and that he appreciated the Board allowing him the opportunity to make a presentation. The first part he discussed was the larger conceptual effort that is underway as it relates to the San Joaquin River Parkway and the second part of his comments were focused on this particular acquisition and how it fits in to the overall plan. Assemblyman Costa went on to say that for some five years plus, the Fresno/Madera community and many varied interested parties have been working together to dovetail two concepts that have been very successful in other parts of the State, and parts of the country. One concept involves a linear parkway that is a segment of separate parks that are interconnected between trails (biking, equestrian, hiking), and in many ways would be very similar to, and patterned after, the American River Parkway which extends between the Sacramento River and Folsom Dam. The other concept, is the Conservancy concept that has been so successful for the Coastal Conservancy, Tahoe Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and now with last years passage of legislation, there is a new state conservancy in California called the San Joaquin River Conservancy. It is hoped that over the next five to ten years, this new Conservancy will achieve the same success as the other conservancies which have had more years and obviously more experience. Combining these two concepts, a 22 mile linear parkway would not only benefit the people in Madera and Fresno Counties but would be a significant regional parkway. A number of parks already exist in the area: 1) The State park which has been there for many years, where the parkway trail would begin, 2) Lost Lake, which is managed by the County and originally acquired in 1958 by the Board and, 3) Woodward Park, a city park built in the early 60's. There are also a couple of golf courses on the other end, as well as the Milburn Unit purchased by WCB, and then the most recent acquisition by the WCB of the Willow Unit area. The overall concept of this parkway is that some areas will have multi-use purposes, as well as facilities for day use, canoeing and rafting, as is currently taking place and some areas which provide enhancement for wildlife. Much of the subject area already has wildlife habitat used by species including deer, mountain lion, beaver and provides significant nesting habitat for egrets. This is an important resource, the Conservancy is important. He closed by requesting the Board to approve this acquisition as it would be an additional jewel for California's resources and for all people to enjoy.

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Ms. Parker asked if all the issues with respect to State Lands Commission been resolved and Mr. Sarro indicated that they had been taken care of. It was further noted that this was probably one of the more thoroughly mapped rivers and deemed one of the navigable rivers in the state. It was also noted that the Board staff believes that no land was being purchased that might already be in State ownership.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that a number of support letters had been received and read the list for the record. The list included the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Madera County Board of Supervisors, Senator Maddy, Assemblyman Jones, Assemblyman Bustamante, Assemblyman Cortese, City of Fresno, San Joaquin River Advisory Council, Council of Fresno County Governments, Department of Water Resources, Mountain Lion Foundation, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, League of Women Voters of Fresno, Madera Unified School District, Woodward Park Homeowner's Association, Fresno Neighborhood Alliance, Dr. David Grub from California State University Fresno, and the Planning and Conservation League. Mr. Schmidt noted the landowner was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate a total of \$1,770,000.00, \$1,000,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) as available through the Environmental License Plate Fund, and \$770,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), under Section 5907 (c)(5), for the purchase price and costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned, including the authorization to accept the grant of funds from Caltrans or TPL to be applied toward this purchase.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. PARKER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RIPARIAN HABITAT, EXPANSION #3, FRESNO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$1,770,000.00, \$1,000,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) AS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, AND \$770,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), UNDER SECTION 5907 (c)(5), FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED, INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT THE GRANT OF FUNDS FROM CALTRANS OR THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THIS PURCHASE AND FURTHER INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER A 30± ACRE PORTION OF RANK ISLAND LYING ADJACENT TO AND UPSTREAM OF THE PARCEL BEING ACQUIRED IN THIS TRANSACTION.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, San Diego County \$865,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of two parcels of land totalling $149.84 \pm$ acres which are located adjacent to the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve in the City of Poway. Mr. Dick explained the proposal. Purchase of the original 316.95 acre ecological reserve was authorized by the Board on February 23, 1989. The reserve is located about three miles east of Interstate 15 and fronts on Espola Road just north of and adjacent to Lake Poway Park. Green Valley Truck Trail, a narrow graveled road, traverses the reserve and provides access to the two properties being considered for acquisition as well as some land owned by the Ramona Water District. The Department of Fish and Game would like to close Green Valley Truck Trail to public access but these two owners have objected as they would like to develop or sell their properties. In order to develop they would plan to widen Green Valley Truck Trail through the ecological reserve to 28 feet, within the existing right-of-way, which would destroy some of the best riparian habitat in the reserve.

The primary habitat on the subject parcels is chaparral and inland sage scrub habitat which contains a diversity of endemic and migratory birds, mammals and amphibians. Mountain lions have also been seen on these properties. The area has been designated by the Department of Fish and Game as the Green Valley Significant Natural Area because of its significance for sensitive species including two rare or threatened species, the California gnatcatcher (Federal threatened), and the slender pod jewelflower (State rare).

The Department has highly recommended the acquisition of these lands for their high habitat values as well as for solving potential management problems on the existing reserve should the area be sold and developed. It is staff's opinion that should the economy pick up, these properties could sell easily be sold since the Poway area had been rapidly growing prior to the recession. If acquired, the properties can be managed as part of Blue Sky Ecological Reserve.

The owners of the subject parcels have agreed to sell with substantial donations. The owners of the $128.65 \pm$ acre parcel have offered to sell their property for \$650,000 which is \$186,000 less than its approved appraised value of \$836,000, while the owners of the $21.19 \pm$ acre portion have offered to sell their property for \$200,000, which is \$54,280 below the approved appraised value of \$254,280; for a total of donation to the State of \$240,280.

The proposed acquisition is within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. It is estimated that in addition to the land costs of \$850,000, it will also be necessary to allocate an estimated \$15,000 to cover costs of appraisal, escrow, title insurance and State Department of General Services administrative expenses. This will bring the total required allocation to \$865,000.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, as proposed; allocate \$865,000.00 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund [P-70, Section 2720 (a)], as established by California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, to cover the purchase price and related estimated costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt read for the record a list of support letters that had been received. The list included Mr. Thomas Leech (local citizen), Assemblyman Jan Goldsmith, City of Poway, Friends of Blue Sky Ranch Ecological Reserve, Mountain Lion Foundation and Senator Kelley.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #1, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$865,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND [P-70, SECTION 2720 (a)], AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION ACT OF 1988, TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion #20, Del Norte County \$507,500.00
WITHDRAWN

To consider the acquisition of approximately 146 acres of wetlands and riparian habitat, near Jordan Creek on Lake Earl, for expansion of the Department of Fish and Game's existing wildlife area.

MR. SCHMIDT REPORTED THAT THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA AND WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Mr. Schmidt introduced Assemblyman Jim Costa who joined the meeting at this time. The Board then heard Item #11, San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Expansion #3, Fresno County, in order to accommodate Assemblyman Costa's schedule, but shown in chronological order in these minutes.

14. West Yolo County Water Management and Wildlife
Habitat Plan, Yolo County \$70,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a cost-sharing proposal to fund the development of a Water Management/Wildlife Habitat Plan for Yolo County Westside Tributaries. In conjunction with the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD), the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFCWCD), a management plan will be developed that will focus on the watershed's natural drainage system and use this drainage system to preserve and enhance wetland and riparian ecosystems. Ms. Marilyn Cundiff-Gee described the proposal.

The goal of this project is to develop a watershed management plan that integrates, and mutually benefits wetland and riparian ecosystems, preserves agriculture, assists with local flood control efforts, promotes groundwater storage and recharge, increases biodiversity, protects and improves habitat for threatened and endangered species.

The proposed project, or study area, is located in the southern part of Yolo County about 15 miles west of the city of Sacramento. The watershed is bounded on the west by the Vaca Mountains, on the north by Cache Creek, (but not including Cache Creek) on the south by Putah Creek (but not including Putah Creek), and on the east by State Highway 113. The watershed contains approximately 131,000± acres which includes parts of the city of Davis, Winters and Esparto.

The lower foothills are mixed blue oak woodland and grassland or dry land grain farming areas. Much of this acreage is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and consists of nonnative annual grasses and forbs. The CRP pays landowners an annual fee to take highly erodible cropland out of production for 10 to 15 years. Of particular importance to this project is that these areas are also eligible for several cost-sharing programs for the development of productive wildlife habitat. These areas can be used for the establishment of small ponds and reservoirs which can serve to hold large populations of waterfowl in the late winter and spring, and contribute to recharging the groundwater table.

Currently, there are no major surface water impoundments within the watershed. Agricultural areas in the low lands have been engineered to drain as quickly as possible, while drainage systems which include the natural sloughs and creeks of Chickahominy Slough, Union School Slough, Dry Slough and Willow Slough are managed to move water as quickly as possible. As a result, there is frequent downstream flooding, enormous movement of sediment and decreased groundwater recharge.

A consequence of these practices is the elimination of functioning seasonal wetlands and nonexistent or degraded riparian systems. If a system of small facilities were developed, water could be captured and put to work meeting many of Yolo County's diverse needs while certainly meeting wildlife needs. The object is to pond water and keep it there. By doing so, a multitude of water dependent systems can be maintained.

For example, wetland and riparian systems can be restored and enhanced; protection for agricultural and municipal lands can be increased by taking the peak flows off storm flows; and groundwater basins can be recharged, thus offsetting significant subsidence problems and helping to ensure a healthy and stable groundwater supply for the future.

It is anticipated that the development of this plan will lead to an integrated resource management approach focusing on the watersheds natural drainage systems. The concept of the plan is to develop a series of both seasonal and permanent wetland systems beginning in the lower foothills and extending to the Yolo Bypass. These systems would be interconnected by the natural creeks and sloughs (Willow Slough, Union School Slough, Chickahominy Slough and Dry Slough) which would be restored to functioning riparian corridors.

Numerous opportunities exist to create small water impoundments in the lower foothills, much of which is in the CRP. The storm water runoff that could be collected by these ponds would normally flow into the existing sloughs and contribute to the winter flooding problems. The creation of numerous mini impoundments will reduce flood potential, recharge groundwater and provide enhanced wildlife habitat. The Yolo County RCD and cooperating landowners have created over twenty such impoundments in the past ten years which are both functional and cost effective. In the lower floodplain agricultural areas, numerous opportunities exist to use current rice farming fields for storm water storage and seasonal wetlands most of which would be compatible rice production.

Specifically, the plan will identify a number of sites where it will be possible to divert storm water onto adjacent lands where it would then be captured and allowed to gradually percolate into the ground. These same locations could then be managed in such a way that flood protection could be provided to agricultural interests and the cities of Davis and Winters. Moreover, in an area where the overdraft of critical aquifers is of concern, enhanced wetland/riparian ecosystems would assist with the expansion of groundwater recharge efforts.

In addition, to be successful, this management plan approach requires the participation of local constituent groups that have a vested interest in the watershed. This project calls for a coalition of farmers, water managers, flood control and conservation organizations working together to develop and implement the plan. Once completed, the plan will identify and prioritize potential sites where natural drainage systems could enhance and expand riparian and wetland corridors within the watershed.

Development of this plan will address the following issues:

1. Scope of Land Use
 - Existing agricultural resources
 - Existing native land
 - Geology and seismic geology
 - Land use designations and zoning
2. Scope of Hydraulic Studies
 - Existing water supply and demand
 - Recharge sites and impact to aquifer levels
 - Ponding sites and capacity totals for each site
 - Potential linkage between natural and man-made channels
 - Current and projected water flows
3. Scope of Biotic Studies
 - Identify nonwaterway native sites
 - Identify significant riparian/wetland sites
 - Identify significant plant and animal populations and habitat
 - Identify potential mitigation use sites
4. Aesthetic or Visual Resources
 - Educational values
 - Risk of growth inducing impacts
 - Open Space
5. Cultural Resources
 - Individual Farmers/Landowners
 - Nonprofit and community group interests
 - Interested public agencies
 - Open space and farmland preservation

The proposed plan will provide a blueprint or action plan for numerous constituent groups that have a vested interest in protecting the watershed. While implementation of the plan is strictly voluntary, opportunities will be available for private landowners, and public and private organizations to form partnerships or joint ventures designed to restore and enhance the wetland and riparian ecosystem in a manner that is not only compatible but could be profitable to agricultural interests as well.

As previously mentioned, the development of the plan is a cooperative effort. The Yolo County Board of Supervisors has expressed their support and will also contribute \$5,000 toward its completion, while the YCFCWCD will contribute an additional \$25,000. The Yolo County RCD will manage the project and will contribute \$3,300 of in-kind support. In total, the plan will cost an estimated \$103,300 to develop.

As land use pressures continue to increase within Yolo County, agricultural land and critical wildlife habitat will continue to suffer. Projects like this will help ensure that those with a vested interest in this watershed, wildlife, agricultural, urban and industrial, can exist and benefit from a Wetland/Riparian Watershed Management program. This watershed approach to wetland/riparian preservation is consistent with and supportive of the Governor's new Comprehensive Wetland Policy, in that flood control and local agricultural interests can benefit and coexist with wetland/riparian habitat.

Ms. Cundiff-Gee indicated that Mr. John Anderson, President of the Resource Conservation District, Mr. Charlie Rominger, representing Yolo County Farm Bureau, and Mr. Jim Eagan, Executive Director of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, were all present should there be any questions.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the Yolo County Farm Bureau, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, Assemblyman Tom Hannigan, California Waterfowl Association, Mountain Lion Foundation, and the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for the development of the Water Management and Wildlife Habitat Plan as proposed; allocate \$70,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), as authorized for use by the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

There was some discussion regarding the benefits of natural flooding to wildlife habitat and how it relates to this project. The proposed project is to provide water for the environment while decreasing flood control and increase wildlife habitat in the degraded area.

Mr. Gibbons stated that while the Board normally applies its funds to the acquisition of habitat, this is a tremendous opportunity to show, in a cooperative way, how innovative farming can exist side by side with wildlife.

Mr. Boren 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 FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST YOLO COUNTY WATER MANAGEMENT AND WILDLIFE HABITAT PLAN AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$70,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), AS AUTHORIZED FOR USE BY THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Snobird Ranch, Merced County \$63,400.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to fund a grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) to restore approximately 400 acres of seasonal wetlands on the Snobird Ranch, located in the northeast Grasslands area. Ms. Cundiff-Gee explained the project. Specifically, the ranch is located about 1 mile northeast of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, about 5 miles northwest of the Merced National Wildlife Refuge and is immediately adjacent to the Arena Plains National Wildlife Refuge, commonly referred to as the Sunrise Ranch.

The project is designed to enhance and maintain quality goose habitat, provide nesting cover for waterfowl and create additional seasonal wetlands by improving water supply and delivery system. Consistent with the goals and objectives of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, this project reflects an innovative method for contributing toward the Agricultural Enhancement Objective of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Plan which is designed to eventually enhance waterfowl habitat on 443,000 acres of private agricultural land.

While the 1,905± acre Snobird Ranch is privately owned, the entire ranch, less approximately 25 acres is protected, in perpetuity, with a federal conservation easement. This property, which is primarily used as a cattle ranch, uses rotational grazing practices to maintain approximately 570 acres of permanent pasture and approximately 910 acres of seasonal wetlands. The proposed project would restore an additional 400 acres of seasonal wetlands thus producing a 1,310 acre complex of seasonal wetlands and approximately 570 acres of permanent pasture land which will be managed to support both cattle and geese.

Cattle are rotated between the permanent pasture and the seasonal wetlands to maintain goose habitat and control unwanted and excessive cattail and tule growth which chokes out shallow wetland ponds. By rotating the cattle from the native uplands in the early Spring, the upland grasses are allowed to reach suitable height to provide good spring

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nesting habitat for waterfowl and other upland nesting birds. This mosaic of permanent pasture and restored seasonal wetlands provides excellent habitat for foraging snow geese and a variety of other wildlife species.

To achieve this multi-use project, that enhances the economic viability of cattle while providing enhanced habitat for geese, requires the drilling of one well, to be fitted with a rebuilt 50 horse power pump, adding a 15 horse power low lift pump, and installing ten water control structures. When completed, the project will provide a water delivery system to a new 400± acre seasonal wetland. The construction of approximately seven miles of fencing will also be needed to facilitate controlled cattle grazing.

Cost estimates for the proposed work to be completed by CWA are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
(1) Drill one well	\$10,000
(2) Install two re-built pumps	13,000
(3) Construct 10 water control structures	5,000
(4) Labor and construction	6,000
(5) Fencing materials	9,000
(6) Project Planning/Monitoring	7,900
(7) Habitat evaluation, species survey and preparation of management plan	<u>12,500</u>
 TOTAL ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST:	 \$63,400

The project will guarantee a reliable long-term (15 years) source of water for wetland management from pumped well water. The well will be positioned in such a manner that it can be used to service the entire 400 acre wetland area. The landowner has agreed to supply water to the project site for this 15 year period, at no cost to the state, pursuant to the provisions of a management plan.

To maintain the prescribed level of water necessary to maintain the wetland habitat, water will be pumped during the months of August, September and October. Assuming a normal rainfall, a minimal amount of pumping might be needed during the month of November. However, if necessary, the landowner will pump during the month of November to maintain the desired water level. Pumping costs are estimated to range from \$1,400 to \$1,700 per month. Under the above scenario, it is expected that annual pumping could cost an estimated \$5,100, or \$76,500 for the term of this project; at today's rates.

A secondary benefit of this proposed project is that it has the potential of demonstrating that agricultural activities, i.e. cattle grazing, can be compatible with the needs of wildlife, particularly migrating geese. Through demonstrations at the local level, by local people, conservation organizations have a tremendous opportunity to form new partnerships with the private sector that can benefit the local economy as well as wildlife.

As previously mentioned, the project site area is protected, in perpetuity with a federal conservation easement. To match the proposed grant request and supplement a \$2,000 contribution from the CWA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed an interest in this project and has submitted a Partners for Wildlife proposal to expend up to \$7,000 to assist with some of the restoration work. In addition, the Soil Conservation Service has expressed a willingness to participate in this project and has been approved to expend \$3,500 to assist with some of the restoration effort. In total, the federal programs have committed to seek up to \$10,500 to assist with this restoration project.

While these federal agencies have agreed to participate in this project, their funding was not yet approved at the time this agenda was prepared. Consequently, the staff is requesting authority to expend up to \$63,400 representing the entire amount needed to implement this project. If, however, the federal funding requests are approved, the state's share will be reduced to \$50,900. Should federal funds be made available, a partnership agreement will be entered into for this project.

To protect the State's interest, if, prior to the completion of the 15 year period, should the landowner be unable to continue in this project, they will be responsible for reimbursing the State for the portion of the amortized costs for the remaining project period. To secure the State's investment, a promissory note and Deed of Trust in the amount of the State's share of the project costs will be obtained.

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

This joint venture project involving the private sector, a nonprofit organization, federal and state entities reflects an environmentally productive and cost-effective opportunity for the conservation of critical wetland habitat. Furthermore, this project is consistent with Governor Wilson's new Comprehensive Wetland Policy that emphasizes (1) wetland conservation efforts through landowner incentives; (2) preservation of productive agricultural lands and (3) the development of private and public partnerships. It is hoped, that this project will stimulate additional cooperative partnerships between landowners, and wildlife agencies which will result in the continuation of mutually beneficial wetland conservation efforts.

Ms. Cundiff-Gee stated the landowner was unable to attend the meeting as he lives in

southern California and had suffered earthquake damage to his home, but Mr. George Nokes, Regional Manager from the Department of Fish and Game's Fresno office, was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for the restoration of 400± acres of seasonal wetlands as proposed; allocate \$63,400.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), as authorized for use by the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; 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, California Waterfowl Association and the Grassland Water District.

Senator Thompson raised the awareness of the possible proposed commercialization/development in the Grassland area which would put a risk on any enhancement being considered or done in the area as it would harm the value of the wildlife/waterfowl of the area.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that there had been some meetings regarding this proposed commercialization/development in the Grassland area, which is actually south of this project's location but still very much a part of the Grasslands. The Department of Fish and Game locally has also been involved in meetings. The proposed development would split a very narrow corridor and would deter waterfowl from using the area.

Mr. Gibbons stated this project, much like the last one, demonstrates how ranching and wildlife can be compatible. Mr. Schmidt also reported that the current landowner was able to run 400 head of cattle on the property with no supplemental feed, whereas the previous owner who did not restore marsh land and rotate grazing was able to run 340 head but had to supplement the 200 tons of hay per year. This type of program really benefits the farmer, as well as the wildlife habitat.

Mr. Boren 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 SNOBIRD RANCH, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$63,400.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), AS AUTHORIZED FOR USE BY THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Resolution Honoring Benjamin Biaggini

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin Biaggini's term as President of the California Fish and Game Commission and Chairman of the California Wildlife Conservation Board ended on January 15, 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Biaggini, with his interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, and his broad experience as a businessman, administrator and sportsman has served the Board and the cause of wildlife conservation in California exceedingly well; and

WHEREAS, "Ben" Biaggini's sound judgment, wise counsel and great leadership have greatly helped the Board and staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities and have gained him the respect of those who have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge his contributions to the work of the Board; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Interim Committee and the Board staff convey our sincere appreciation to Mr. Biaggini for his dedicated efforts and valuable contributions to the work of the Board, and be it further

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

Mr. Boren 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 ADOPT THE FOREGOING
RESOLUTION AND THAT A SUITABLE COPY BE PROVIDED
TO MR. BIAGGINI.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. by Chairman Boren.

Respectfully submitted,

W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on February 10, 1994, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$333,022,044.57. 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	19,741,911.49
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	13,740,710.25
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	34,720,856.49
1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 2,973,174.92
2. River and Aqueduct Access	7,884,119.31
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,370,946.52
4. Piers	17,492,615.74
D. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects	253,201,449.55
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$152,303,801.35
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	4,593,463.65
3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	95,372,537.55
4. Land Conservation Area	1,247.00
5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	930,400.00
6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	-0-
F. Hunting Access Projects	533,743.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects	7,557,206.87
H. Special Project Allocations	457,095.42
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	<u>657,615.63</u>
 Total Allocated to Projects	 \$333,022,044.57