

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, August 11, 1994

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Minutes, Meeting of August 11, 1994

Pursuant to the call of Chairperson Frank Boren, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 437 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on August 11, 1994. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Boren, Chairperson
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
Krist Lane,
Vice, Senator Mike Thompson
Mary Morgan,
Vice, Assemblyman Dan Hauser

Absent: Assemblyman Jim Costa
Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg
Senator Daniel Boatwright (Alternate)

Minutes of Meeting, August 11, 1994
Wildlife Conservation Board

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

Others Present: Gene Questa, Citizen
Mike Gardner, Chico Enterprise Record
Elmo and Eleanor Candelo, Citizen
Bob Mapes, Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova
John Anderson, Department of Fish and Game, Long Beach
Mike Bowman, Representing Assemblyman Haynes
Mark Palmer, Mountain Lion Foundation
Bob Treanor, Fish and Game Commission
Glenn Rollins, Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento

*** CONSENT CALENDAR (Items #2-8)**

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Consent Calendar consisted of Item Nos. 2-8. 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 as proposed in the individual agenda explanations, including funding as noted therein and also including the amendment to the minutes of the May 5, 1994, meeting. 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 CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM NOS. 2-8, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN AND ALSO INCLUDING THE AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 1994, MEETING, AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Item #11, Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, Garibaldi Unit, Solano County, had been withdrawn from the agenda at this time with hopes of bringing it back to a future Board meeting.

* 2. Approval of Minutes (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Approval of minutes of the May 5, 1994, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended, subject to the following amendment:

Item #10, Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Humboldt County, funding approval; last paragraph, page 25 of the Minutes show \$43,400.00 was allocated from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, when in fact the Board actually approved \$37,400.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and \$6,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Aquatic/Riparian).

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 1994, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT: ITEM #10, EEL RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #4, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, FUNDING APPROVAL; LAST PARAGRAPH, PAGE 25 OF THE MINUTES SHOW \$43,400.00 WAS ALLOCATED FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, WHEN IN FACT THE BOARD ACTUALLY APPROVED \$37,400.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND AND \$6,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (AQUATIC/RIPARIAN).

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes of Meeting, August 11, 1994
Wildlife Conservation Board

* 3. Funding Status as of August 11, 1994 (Information Only)
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 350,000.00
Plus LWCF Reimbursement	100,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-450,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ -0-

(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>-300,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ -0-

(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>-1,979,446.63</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 64,653.86

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

Governor's Budget	\$2,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-1,242,432.19</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$ 757,567.81

(f) 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	-62,443,368.62
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	\$17,637,131.38

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

Governor's Budget	\$9,844,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	-2,047,936.78
Unallocated Balance	\$7,796,063.22

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

Governor's Budget	\$ 9,194,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	-6,387,645.48
Unallocated Balance	\$ 2,806,354.52

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund</u>	\$ 64,653.86
<u>Ca. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u>	\$17,637,131.38
<u>Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u>	\$ 757,567.81
<u>Ca. Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$ 572,000.00
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u>	\$10,602,417.74

* 4. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following 31 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 and that the projects be closed.

\$68,525.92 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund,
\$39,894.37 to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,
\$35,224.57 to the Habitat Conservation Fund (Capital Outlay),
\$827,753.13 to the Habitat Conservation Fund (Support),
\$776.56 to the Calif. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund,
\$9,791.00 to the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund, and
\$11,780.90 to the Cigarette & Tobacco Products Surtax Fund.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Kaweah River Wetland/Riparian Habitat Study, Tulare County

Allocation	\$ 75,100.00
Expended	<u>-75,095.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5.00

Los Banos Wildlife Area Public Access (Parking Lot), Merced County

Allocation	\$ 48,845.00
Expended	<u>-0-</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 48,845.00

Santa Cruz Fishing Pier, Santa Cruz County

Allocation	\$ 40,000.00
Expended	<u>-30,318.07</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 9,681.93

Steelhead Beach Fishing Access, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$164,000.00
Expended	<u>-154,006.01</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 9,993.99

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$68,525.92

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

CCC Salmon & Steelhead Projects, Del Norte & Humboldt Counties

Allocation	\$290,000.00
Expended	<u>-290,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Colby Creek Habitat Enhancement, Butte/Tehama Counties

Allocation	\$ 33,000.00
Expended	<u>-0-</u>
Balance	\$ 33,000.00

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Etna Creek Fish Screen, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 2,600.00
Expended	- 2,451.26
Balance for Recovery	\$ 148.74

Little Mill Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 23,300.00
Expended	- 16,565.64
Balance for Recovery	\$ 6,734.36

North Fork Bluff/Scorpion Creeks Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 21,600.00
Expended	- 21,588.73
Balance for Recovery	\$ 11.27

Stevens/Grizzly Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 67,700.00
Expended	- 67,700.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Uvas Creek Habitat Enhancement, Santa Clara County

Allocation	\$ 19,450.00
Expended	- 19,450.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Total Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Fund Recoveries \$ 39,894.37

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Bridge Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 15,500.00
Expended	- 2,563.79
Balance for Recovery	\$ 12,936.21

Estelle Mountain Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, Riverside County

Allocation	\$482,000.00
Expended	<u>-477,730.19</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,269.81

Jordan Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 14,600.00
Expended	<u>- 14,600.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve, Riverside County

Allocation	\$322,000.00
Expended	<u>-318,614.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,386.00

Santa Rosa Mountains Wildlife Area, Potrero Canyon, Riverside County

Allocation	\$484,530.00
Expended	<u>-478,417.45</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 6,112.55

Stone Corral Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Tulare County

Allocation	\$745,000.00
Expended	<u>-739,666.19</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,333.81

Sycamore Canyon Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Riverside County

Allocation	\$180,000.00
Expended	<u>-176,885.25</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,114.75

Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 145.3-L, Colusa County

Allocation	\$ 467.00
Expended	<u>- 395.56</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 71.44

Stream Restoration and Fishery Enhancement Projects

Allocation	\$5,380,000.00
Expended	<u>-4,632,115.97</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 747,884.03 *

Stream Restoration and Fishery Enhancement Project

Allocation	\$991,000.00
Expended	<u>-990,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,000.00 *

Wetland Development and Restoration Project

Allocation	\$650,000.00
Expended	<u>-650,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Comprehensive Wetland Development Projects

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

Wetland Development and Restoration Projects

Allocation	\$523,000.00
Expended	<u>-444,130.90</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 78,869.10 *

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries

(Capital Outlay) \$ 35,224.57

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries

(Support) * \$827,753.13

(Budgeted Prop. 117 Pass through funds to the Department of Fish and Game)

**CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND
CONSERVATION FUND**

Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 145.3-L, Colusa County

Allocation	\$ 75,533.00
Expended	- 74,756.44
Balance for Recovery	\$ 776.56

**Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land
Conservation Fund Recoveries \$776.56**

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND

Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, San Diego County

Allocation	\$865,000.00
Expended	-855,209.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 9,791.00

Malibu Creek Steelhead Restoration, Los Angeles County

Allocation	\$ 64,000.00
Expended	- 64,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

**Total Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation
Fund Recoveries \$9,791.00**

CIGARETTE & TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND

Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center, Sacramento

Allocation	\$175,000.00
Expended	-175,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Yolo Basin Farms, Inc. Yolo County (Wetland Conservation Easement
Program/DFG)

Allocation	\$319,334.00
Expended	-319,334.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Senator Outing Duck Club, Yolo County (Wetland Conservation Easement Program/DFG)

Allocation	\$113,500.00
Expended	-113,500.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Wetland Conservation Easement Program, Administrative Costs

Allocation	\$ 18,166.00
Expended	- 6,385.10
Balance for Recovery	\$ 11,780.90

Total Cigarette & Tobacco Products Surtax Fund Recoveries \$11,780.90

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 FOR THE 31 PROJECTS LISTED ON PAGES 5-11 AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$68,525.92 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, \$39,894.37 TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, \$35,224.57 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (CAPITAL OUTLAY), \$827,753.13 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (SUPPORT), \$776.56 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND, \$9,791.00 TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND AND \$11,780.90 TO THE CIGARETTE & TOBACCO PRODUCTS SURTAX FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 5. Special Project Planning Account Informational
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

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

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

The Board, at the May 6, 1986, meeting, authorized the Executive Director to use up to 1 (one) percent of a budgeted appropriation to set up and maintain an appropriate planning account with the provision it would be reported to the Board as an information item at the next meeting. Accordingly, the planning accounts have been set up as follows:

Habitat Conservation Fund \$ 15,000.00

California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land

Conservation Fund of 1988 \$ 10,000.00

* 6. Stream Restoration and Fishery Enhancement Project \$991,000.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider an allocation for the Department of Fish and Game/California Conservation Corps Contract for Salmon/Steelhead Habitat Restoration as specifically itemized in the 1994/95 budget.

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

Since January 1980, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has worked cooperatively with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to complete stream restoration projects on the north coast. The Wildlife Conservation Board has also been involved in this program since the passage of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Act of 1984 (P-19). The funding proposal for the "Salmon Restoration Project" for fiscal year 1994/95 is for \$991,000 to be provided through an interagency agreement between the Board and DFG. The goal of the Salmon Restoration Project is to fully restore the productivity of chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead trout streams through habitat improvements.

This project is headquartered out of the CCC's Humboldt Center in Fortuna, Humboldt County. There are presently three satellites; the Leggett and Ukiah satellites are in Mendocino County and the Hayfork satellite is in Trinity County. The Salmon Restoration Project employs four full time crews. The Eureka nonresidential crew and crews from Fortuna are also used when available. Since 1980, over 920,000 corpsmember hours have been spent restoring or enhancing over 550 miles of tributaries to the Eel, Van Duzen, Mattole, and South Fork Trinity Rivers, tributaries to Humboldt Bay, and various coastal streams in Mendocino County. In the same time period, barriers have been modified in 175 streams, over 20,000 feet of streambanks have been stabilized in 75 streams, over 2,300 instream structures have been constructed in 70 streams and over 800,000 trees have been planted in 90 streams.

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

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Stream Restoration and Fishery Enhancement Project as proposed; allocate \$991,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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 STREAM RESTORATION AND FISHERY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$991,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 7. San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat (Milburn Unit Access).

Fresno County
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

\$1,500.00

This proposal was for the acquisition, by way of a one-year lease, of improved public access to the Milburn Unit of the Department's San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve. The Milburn Unit, consisting of 286 acres of riverbottom wetlands and riparian habitat, was among the first acquisitions by the Board under Proposition 70, of 1988. Legal access is currently available, but the topography at the legal access point makes physical access very difficult and improvements at that location would be quite costly.

Prior to the Board's purchase of the property, the former owner, a gravel operator, had used the improved roads on adjacent property for auto and truck access to the site. The adjacent landowner has continued to allow the Department to use his property, on an informal basis, to accommodate operation, maintenance and limited public use.

The owner has now agreed to formalize the access arrangement on a one-year trial basis. The one-year lease calls for no payment by the State, but does require posting signs to identify the State property and the hours allowed for public use. Assuming the arrangement works well, it is hoped the access rights will be extended to long-term or, perhaps, a permanent basis.

It is estimated that the costs of signs, posts, related hardware and the administrative review charges of the Department of General Services will be up to \$1,500.00. Labor costs will be absorbed by Department staff. Funding is available in Proposition 70, as identified for use along the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and Highway 99. This action and the installation of signs are exempt from CEQA under Class 13 and Class 11, respectively, of Categorical Exemptions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve entry into this lease; allocate \$1,500.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund, Prop. 70, Section

5907 (c)(5), to pay the costs of posting and the administrative expenses; 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 ONE-YEAR PUBLIC ACCESS LEASE FOR THE MILBURN UNIT OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,500.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND, PROPOSITION 70, SECTION 5907 (c)(5), TO PAY THE COSTS OF POSTING AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 8. Noyo River Access (Phase II), Mendocino County \$250,000.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider partial funding for the second phase of the reconstruction of the Noyo River public boat launching facility, as a cooperative project with the Noyo Harbor District and the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW). The Noyo River boating access project is located on the left bank of the Noyo River, just upstream from the small craft mooring basin at Noyo Harbor, near Fort Bragg.

The Board acquired 1.8 acres of land for the project in 1970 and leased nearly an acre of District property for access and development purposes. In 1972 funding was approved for construction of a two-lane concrete ramp, boarding floats and a paved parking area. Due to the need for additional parking, the Board purchased an additional 1.4 acres in 1982. This property, which has not yet been developed, is located adjacent to and just upstream of the existing parking lot.

This project has always been a very popular one with over 18,000 visitors using the facilities in 1993. This very heavy use, especially on weekends during the most popular fishing months, points out the inadequacy of the parking area and the limitations of the boat ramp and boarding floats. In addition to the on-site overcrowding problems, increased boat traffic in the adjacent navigation channel has caused severe erosion of the riverbank along the property's 665 foot river frontage. Also, commercial growth upstream has increased vehicular traffic through the parking lot which provides the only access to that growing area. This has caused increased congestion and often hazardous

conditions to those using this public facility. Among other things, the proposed improvements would re-route the access road around the parking area to improve traffic flow.

During 1990, the District retained the services of an experienced marine engineering firm to complete a feasibility study and report on project alternatives and probable costs for future improvements to the project. Based on the feasibility study, the Board allocated \$65,000 in February 1991 for a cooperative project to complete the engineering design phase for a future restoration and enhancement project. In May 1992 the Board allocated an additional \$250,000 to fund fifty (50) percent of the Phase I costs, with the other fifty (50) percent being funded by the Department of Boating and Waterways.

Obtaining all the necessary permits to do this project has been a long drawn out process which is now nearing completion. Permit conditions call for a very short construction window to avoid disturbance to fish and wildlife species found in and near the river. In an effort to be able to complete as much work as possible during the limited work period, and to attract the most reasonable bids, approval for Phase II funding is being requested so the District may advertise bids for both phases at the same time. Matching funds are being provided by the DBW. To reduce costs, the Department of Fish and Game's engineering section will assist the District in the preparation of the bid package and by providing assistance during the construction period.

The improvements planned include bank stabilization, launch ramp expansion and parking lot and roadway improvements. Due to the continued erosion and heavy loss of soil along the riverbank during high flows, the engineering report recommends that bank stabilization be completed as Phase I. This would prevent further loss of property and stabilize the bank from additional undermining by currents. A barrier free pedestrian walkway will be incorporated into the top of the bank stabilization bulkhead to provide public fishing and recreational access to the rivers edge. The Phase II portion includes the expansion of the existing ramp to three lanes, parking lot expansion, improvements to existing parking lot and the roadway.

The final cost estimate for items planned for Phase I and II are summarized as follows:

Demolition and clearing	\$ 42,000
Launch ramp expansion, floats, pilings	195,000
Drainage system	35,000
Parking lot/roadway improvements	125,000
Walkway area	8,000
Shoreline protection	475,000
Mobilization/demobilization	30,000
Contingencies	<u>90,000</u>
Estimated Total:	\$1,000,000

The Noyo Harbor District has passed a resolution in support of the project improvements and will cooperate fully on this coordinated project. The District has agreed to extend its lease of lands for the fishing access for a twenty-five year term and will continue to provide operation and maintenance of the area for the term of the lease.

The District has also completed and filed a Negative Declaration covering this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. On February 13, 1992, the District held a public meeting in Fort Bragg to provide the opportunity for public input and comment. Adjoining landowners were notified and invited to comment on the proposed project. While there were concerns expressed, there was no direct opposition to the project. The District adopted the Negative Declaration on February 13, 1992, and filed the required Notice of Determination.

This project qualifies for Federal participation under the Sport Fish Restoration Fund program, designated for public motorboat access projects. Staff has applied and received approval thereby providing for a seventy-five (75) percent reimbursement to the Board and DBW of costs, including previous engineering and acquisition costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this proposal, in cooperation with the Noyo Harbor District and the Department of Boating and Waterways, for construction of Phase II of the Noyo River Access project, as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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 RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NOYO RIVER ACCESS (PHASE II), MENDOCINO COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE NOYO HARBOR DISTRICT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$250,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. East Walker River Wildlife Area, Mono County \$1,700,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 1,366.8± acres of land consisting of a seven mile string of contiguous parcels following the course of the East Walker River and Highway 182 north of Bridgeport. Mr. Howard Dick described the property. The property is surrounded by the Toiyabe National Forest and the highway which also provides excellent angler access along the entire ownership. The East Walker River, which is known as one of the State's finest trophy trout streams, is an exceptionally productive river containing seven of the eight species of fish that are native to this watershed. In addition, the area supports a diverse community of plants and game and nongame animal species. With guaranteed public access and proper land management the area can continue to support significant angling opportunities, as well as provide the potential for upland game hunting, public interpretation, scientific study and cultural resource conservation, according to the Department of Fish and Game.

In 1988, thousands of tons of silt were released into the river during the process of dewatering Bridgeport reservoir, which is located a short distance upstream from the subject property. This action resulted in severe ecological damage to the aquatic system and virtually eliminated the trophy fishery. Ensuing court proceedings have caused the removal of the majority of the silt and resulted in new protections for fish and wildlife resources. The court actions taken have also resulted in flushing flows that led to the recovery of the river ecosystem and will ultimately restore the trophy fishery. The protections for the East Walker River now greatly exceed those present prior to the 1988 incident. If acquired, DFG believes that the trophy fishing downstream from the reservoir can be restored to historic levels through habitat enhancement measures. Also, public acquisition would prevent the development of this property to residential use, which would likely result due to the property's proximity to Bridgeport and Carson City. Public acquisition will also provide continued fishing access to this popular stream.

In addition to the recreational fishery that has made this river one of the most famous fishing rivers in the state, the East Walker also supports a variety of other wildlife including an abundance of invertebrate and fish fauna. The fish community is remarkably intact, an unusual circumstance for an eastern California stream. The seven of the eight fish species native to the area which are represented in the East Walker River are the mountain whitefish, tui chub, speckled dace, Lahontan redbelly, mountain sucker, Tahoe sucker, and the Lahontan cutthroat trout.

The river corridor provides the nesting grounds and habitat for Canada geese, several other species of waterfowl, bald and golden eagles, prairie falcons, beaver, mink, and river otter. The land surrounding the riparian zone is home to black bear, mule deer, upland birds, and mountain lions. The river valley provides an important transitional corridor for migrating deer as well as serving as important winter range. A spring on the property contains an undescribed native species of springsnail which is the only known occurrence of this species in California.

DFG has indicated that the property will not require intensive management and that current staff levels will be adequate to manage it. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The property's approved fair market value is \$2,735,000. However, the owners have generously agreed to sell the property for \$1,690,000, resulting in a substantial donation of \$1,045,000. It is anticipated that costs involved in this acquisition including such items as escrow, Department of General Services charges, title insurance, etc. will be an estimated \$10,000. This would bring the total allocation necessary to acquire this property to \$1,700,000.

Senator Mike Thompson stated this was a very worthwhile project and a good expenditure of dollars. He questioned whether this portion of the river should be designated as a catch and release stretch of water. Mr. Gibbons responded that it was designated as a catch and release area and it would be staying that way.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that The Trust for Public Land had worked very hard on this project in helping staff put it together. He further stated that this proposal was to acquire all of the stream frontage from the dam to within about one mile of the State of Nevada putting land into public ownership which might otherwise be destroyed in the future at least as far as its fishing potential.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the Toiyabe National Forest, California Trout, Inc., Salmonid Restoration Federation, and the Mountain Lion Foundation. There was no known opposition.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$1,700,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), as made available in the 1994/95 Budget from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act [Section 5907 (e)(1)(B)], to cover the acquisition and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Parker commented that this item was discussed during the budget process and funding was provided in the budget, and the project had a wide range of support.

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 EAST WALKER RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, MONO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$1,700,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), AS MADE AVAILABLE IN THE 1994/95 BUDGET FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION ACT [SECTION 5907 (e)(1)(b)], TO COVER THE ACQUISITION AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

It was noted that Ms. Theresa Parker, representing the Department of Finance, Mr. Chris Davis, representing Senator McCorquodale, and Ms. Mary Morgan, representing Assemblyman Dan Hauser, joined the meeting during the discussion of the above item.

10. Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1,
Riverside County WITHDRAWN \$320,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that several letters were received the night before this meeting from various people in Riverside County making a number of allegations against the property owner, The Nature Conservancy, who has been handling the negotiations, and the State of California for being involved. Copies of all correspondence were provided to all Board Members. Mr. Schmidt reported that, as staff saw it, the allegations are not factual and staff would recommend that the item not be considered at this time to give staff a chance to investigate and resolve the issues and bring the proposal back to the Board at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Michael Bowman, representing Assemblyman Haynes, reported that this acquisition was a potential conflict of interest to the State and asked that the item be put over until the allegations could be looked into. He distributed to the Board Members a letter from the Land Institute, who is making the allegations.

Mr. Boren asked if there were any objections to putting the proposal over. There was a brief summary of the proposed allegations. The property owner is a City Councilman who also holds a seat on the Policy Advisory Committee for the Santa Margarita River Watershed Management Program. The Nature Conservancy has been handling all the negotiations and have a transferrable option from the property owner. The newspaper article stated that the owner had no knowledge of the transaction and was going to build a retirement home on the property. He has however signed an option to sell the property. Land Institute is pursuing a formal complaint with the Fair Political Practices Commission against the property owner and a Grand Jury investigation through the Riverside County District Attorneys Office. Mr. Schmidt recommended that the item be

withdrawn from consideration at this time until all the issues are investigated and resolved. All WCB's negotiations have been with The Nature Conservancy, the option holder on the this property. The Nature Conservancy was not present at this meeting.

This proposal which was to be considered was the acquisition of $55 \pm$ acres adjacent to the Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve for the preservation of key south coastal riparian habitat and its associated, widely varied, species of wildlife. The existing Ecological Reserve is located on the south side of the river while this proposal will protect the adjoining north side property, thereby providing complete public ownership of the river in this reach. More specifically, the subject property is located on the south side of Camino Estribo, less than one mile from I-15, in the rapidly growing Temecula area.

The Santa Margarita River corridor extends approximately 27.2 miles from southwestern Riverside County, near the town of Temecula, through Camp Pendleton in northern San Diego County where it empties into the Pacific Ocean. The corridor is roughly 1/3 of a mile wide and encompasses approximately 6,000 acres.

The Santa Margarita River corridor is unique as it is one of the last remaining coastal streams in relatively pristine condition in southern California. Although there are two small dams close to the headwaters, most of the river is unregulated. The majority of the river corridor is in various public ownerships including the USMC Camp Pendleton, Fallbrook Utility District, San Diego State University and the Bureau of Land Management. The latter two ownerships are managed by San Diego State University as part of its Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve. Less than five percent of the river corridor is in private ownership and is recommended for acquisition by the Department of Fish and Game. In fact, the subject property is among the highest priorities identified in the Department's Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan (CAP) prepared for this area.

The area within the CAP traverses the coastal mountains through a fairly remote region, characterized by coastal sage scrub and chaparral on the slopes and riparian vegetation in the canyon bottom. Due to its remoteness and because the river is one of the few nearly free-flowing rivers in southern California, it supports some of the least disturbed and largest stands of riparian habitat left in the southern part of the state.

The river corridor, encompassing both riparian and coastal sage scrub communities, provides habitat for a diverse ensemble of wildlife species, including two reptilian species of special concern, the San Diego horned lizard and the orange-throated whiptail. The black-tailed gnatcatcher, an avian species of special concern, is also present in addition to numerous other bird species. The total bird density and diversity on the Santa Margarita River is considered to be among the highest in southern California. Of additional significance is that the area serves as a vital wildlife corridor for mountain lion and deer.

The Santa Margarita River provides critical habitat for several rare, endangered and

sensitive species. Among these are the Stephens' kangaroo rat (state-threatened/federal-endangered), the Belding's savannah sparrow (state-endangered), and the bank swallow (state-threatened). The river also supports approximately 1/4 of the remaining breeding population of Least Bell's vireo, a federal and state listed endangered species. Endangered plant species include thread-leaved brodiaea, coastal dunes milk-vetch, California orcutt grass, Parish's meadowfoam and Nevin's mahonia. The river bottom supports extremely dense and undisturbed stands of southern willow scrub and areas of coastal brackish marsh, both rare communities.

The river corridor is critical to mountain lion migration as it links areas in the southern Santa Ana Mountains (Cleveland National Forest, Camp Pendleton, Santa Rosa Plateau) with areas further southeast (Agua Tibia Wilderness of the Cleveland National Forest). The river also leads to the only passable undercrossing of Interstate 15, a formidable barrier to wildlife movements in the area.

The Santa Margarita River is best suited for nonconsumptive uses, such as hiking, bird watching and photography, due to the presence of several sensitive and protected species. The area is also ideal for scientific research, as it is located within easy driving time of ten major colleges and universities. San Diego State University currently owns and manages over 2,500 acres in the upper Santa Margarita River and has indicated willingness to assume responsibility for management of the subject property under a cooperative agreement with the Department of Fish and Game. Cost to the Department would, therefore, be minimal. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has assumed a leading role in the project evaluation and planning and in the coordination of the various public agencies connected with the river corridor. TNC has negotiated options to acquire a number of the privately held ownerships within the CAP, including an option for the subject property. They propose to sell it to the State for inclusion in the publicly owned and managed holdings. The approved appraised fair market value of the property is \$312,000.00 and TNC proposes to convey the property to the State for that sum. In addition to the purchase price, it is estimated that an allocation of \$8,000 would be required to cover the costs of escrow, General Services review and related acquisition expenses.

AFTER CONSIDERING ALL THE ISSUES, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. PARKER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD POSTPONE MAKING A RECOMMENDATION ON THE ACQUISITION OF THE SANTA MARGARITA RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #1, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE ALLEGATIONS CAN BE INVESTIGATED AND RESOLVED AND THE PROPOSAL BROUGHT BACK BEFORE THE BOARD AT A FUTURE MEETING.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, Garibaldi Unit, Solano County \$45,000.00
WITHDRAWN

This was a proposal to acquire, via a partial payment, and by the acceptance of the remainder through a donation, 279± acres of land, improvements and related farm equipment as an expansion of the existing wildlife area.

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

12. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Yolo County \$575,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of two parcels totaling 195± acres, consisting of historic wetlands and related uplands, for the expansion of the State's existing Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Mr. Frank Giordano explained the proposal. The properties, a 180± acre parcel and a 15± acre parcel, are both located in Yolo County and lie southerly of Interstate Highway 80. The larger parcel is located within the Yolo Bypass and is bordered on the south and north by the State's present ownerships. It is accessed via Interstate Highway 80 to Chiles Road then continuing over the west levee of the bypass to the properties westerly border. The smaller parcel is located on Chiles Road, approximately one mile east of the intersection of Mace Blvd. and Interstate 80. The Board approved the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area's original acquisition of 3,150± acres at its February 13, 1991, meeting. This was followed by the approval of a second acquisition containing 390± acres on February 10, 1994.

The larger parcel is currently operated as a row crop farm and contains water control structures in addition to a well and pump. Other than these irrigation facilities, there are no other improvements on either parcel. The larger parcel is subject to flooding and will add to, and support, the wildlife values of the existing wildlife area. The smaller parcel which is not subject to flooding, is intended to be used for the development of a much needed headquarters site for the wildlife area. Eventually, this site could not only contain the headquarters building, but a visitors center, corporation yard for storage of necessary operating equipment, and other public facilities as deemed necessary. Both parcels have excellent public access and visibility.

The general area contains habitat, or could be restored to habitat, suitable for several threatened and endangered species. These include the threatened Greater sandhill crane and the endangered Peregrine falcon. The riparian area, along the toe drain, is important for migratory bird passage and breeding by species including the threatened Swainson's hawk and the endangered yellow-billed cuckoo. There is also suitable habitat for the threatened Giant garter snake and the California hibiscus, currently listed as threatened by the Native Plant Society. Some species historically found in this area could possibly be reintroduced. These include the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle and the

threatened black rail. Of course, waterfowl would be a major benefactor of the proposed wetlands management scenario for this area.

Other bird species which could benefit from this acquisition include white-faced ibis, merlin, double-crested cormorant, northern harrier, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, purple martin, yellow-breasted chat, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, and prairie falcon. The area also provides significant habitat for a wide range of wildlife species including deer, red and gray fox, coyote, river otters, beaver, muskrat, assorted small rodents and an excellent upland game population including pheasants, quail, dove and rabbits.

It should also be noted that each parcel is extremely valuable to the State and to the operation of the wildlife area, from a nonhabitat position. The larger parcel provides for a continuous State ownership between the two parcels previously acquired. The acquisition will also allow for the development of more suitable access, eliminating the necessity of a six mile round trip on a levee road to travel between State parcels. The smaller parcel is ideally suited as a headquarters site, which is essential to the operation of the wildlife area.

The timing of this acquisition will allow the State to take advantage of the Corps of Engineers' offer to develop the entire wildlife area, including development of the headquarters facilities. Funds for the development of the wildlife area will come from the Federal Water Resources Act of 1986. While funding is available, any proposed expense must be contracted for, not later than the end of the federal 1995/96 fiscal year. These funds are dispersed and contracts are awarded for development by the Corps of Engineers. The Corps currently plans to develop 1,000 acres of the wildlife area beginning in August of 1994 at an estimated cost of \$800,000. In August of 1995, they will contract for the development of the remaining acreage (2,200± acres) at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. The Corps will also contract for the development of the proposed headquarters site which is estimated to cost an additional \$1± million. Their involvement in this project will therefore represent an estimated savings to the State of \$4.3 million to restore this area and bring it to a fully operational wildlife area. Once this area is completely restored and developed, the Corps will turn the entire operation over to the State.

The owners have agreed to sell the individual parcels at their approved appraised fair market values which are \$225,000 for the smaller parcel and \$327,000 for the larger parcel. It is estimated that an additional \$23,000 will be needed for acquisition costs which include escrow, title, survey, engineering 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.

Mr. Giordano noted a representative for the owners of the smaller parcel, Mr. Gene Questa, and the owners were present. He also added that Mr. Bob Mapes, representing the Department of Fish and Game's regional office, was also present should there be any

questions.

Mr. Bob Mapes, representing the Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region Office of the Department of Fish and Game, reported that the Yolo Bypass area is a joint project between the Department and the Corps of Engineers. The proposed restoration and construction project will be funded 75 percent by the Corps of Engineers and 25 percent by the state. DFG, being the local sponsor, and as a result of the Board's acquisition of the land, was being credited with the cost of acquisition, which accounted for the state's 25 percent. The final project will be turned over to the Department of Fish and Game who will assume operation and management of the property. Construction is due to start this summer and slated to be turned over to the Department of Fish and Game probably around early winter 1995. At that time, the Department must have personnel on hand to assume O&M operations of the project. The two proposed properties now being considered are key elements to complete the project.

Mr. Schmidt read for the record a list of those who sent support letters. They included the California Waterfowl Association, Mountain Lion Foundation, Yolo Basin Foundation, Supervisor Betsy Marchand-Yolo County, Yolo Audubon Society, Davis City Council and the Sierra Club-Yolano Group.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of these parcels, as proposed; allocate \$575,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988, Prop. 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. 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 YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #2, YOLO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$575,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988, PROP. 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.

13. Wetland Conservation Easement Program (Department of Fish and Game) \$252,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported this was a Department of Fish and Game proposal which is part of the Department's ongoing wetland conservation easement program. This particular proposal was to acquire a conservation easement over 230± acres of land in Butte County. Mr. Giordano explained the project.

In the fall of 1991, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) initiated a program of purchasing permanent conservation easements, which contain specific private management requirements on Central Valley wetlands. The program is intended to ensure the preservation and enhancement of existing and restored marshes critical to the welfare of waterfowl wintering in California with a long-term goal of placing at least 75,000 acres of wetland habitat under permanent easements.

Guided in part by the Implementation Plan formulated by the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, the Department selects parcels qualifying for this program from among a host of properties offered by their owners. The easement purchase price is derived from a formal appraisal, as approved by the Department of General Services. Due to the continuing operation and management requirements being placed on the owners, the easement values, depending on the agricultural potential of the property have ranged between 20 percent and 70 percent of fee value. Of course, the benefit to the State is the protection of wetland habitat in perpetuity with future operation and maintenance costs being absorbed by the underlying fee owners.

The terms and conditions of the easement agreement permit full and exclusive use of the property by the landowner except those uses which would result in the loss of wetland habitat or the degradation of the property's waterfowl habitat values. In addition, the DFG, in cooperation with the landowner, has developed a marsh management plan for each property to be encumbered by the easement. The plan is intended to assure the development and maintenance of high quality waterfowl habitat throughout the property with each participant being responsible, at their cost, for the maintenance and water supply for their property. Although the program is aimed primarily at preserving natural marsh habitat, some portions of the property may be devoted to unharvested grain crops or "food plots". It should also be pointed out that the program is structured to allow for the acquisition of easements on those properties which are not currently wetlands, but where conversion to wetland habitat is in progress or imminent.

The term of the easement, which does not provide for public access, extends in perpetuity and the easement runs with the land regardless of changes in ownership. Should waterfowl hunting be prohibited by State or Federal mandate for a period of three consecutive years, the landowner may initiate a process which could result in the termination of the easement and reimbursement of the State's costs of purchasing the easement. Additionally, should the grantor desire to sell the encumbered property, the State has reserved the first right of refusal to buy at fair market value.

Under the provisions of this program, the DFG has identified a number of areas for acquisition consideration. WCB staff has been conducting the negotiations for this program and is presenting the following proposal for Board consideration.

A. Rancho Rio Chico, Butte County

Consistent with the above described program, this proposal was to acquire a conservation easement over $230.5 \pm$ acres of land consisting of permanent and seasonal wetlands, together with related riparian habitat. The land is located in Butte County, lying on the east side and adjacent to 7 Mile Lane, a county road, and the property's main access. The State's Llano Seco Wildlife Area, located $10 \pm$ miles southwest of Chico, is directly across the street from the subject. The property is presently used for farming and, during the waterfowl season, as a private duck club. The proposed marsh management plan will eliminate all commercial farming or other agricultural uses and provide that the majority of the property be maintained in permanent and seasonal wetlands.

The owner has agreed to sell at the fair market value of \$242,800, as approved by the Department of General Services. It is estimated that an additional \$9,200 will be needed for appraisal, escrow and Department of General Services review costs. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Glenn Rollins, representing the Department of Fish and Game, was present should there be any questions relative to this proposal or to the Department's Wetland Conservation Easement Program.

Mr. Schmidt reported that letters of support had been received from the California Waterfowl Association and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the proposed conservation easement acquisition as proposed; allocate \$252,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117, as made available to the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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 CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION FOR RANCHO RIO CHICO, BUTTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$252,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117, AS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. There was discussion regarding the public's unawareness of what Boards and Commissions accomplish for the good of the State of California. Mr. Boren stated that if we are going to make the State better for future generations, the public needs to understand the programs and accomplishments. We need to educate people of the State on how their money is being spent and the beneficial effects. He further stated that there is a need for more publicity of this Board's accomplishments and goals but he also understands that funding to accomplish this is limited.

Mr. Schmidt noted that WCB has an annual report which provides information on that year's accomplishments. In answer to a comment regarding the setting of future priorities, Mr. Schmidt indicated that future strategies of the Board are based on the proposals received from the Department of Fish and Game. There is a backlog of projects which the Lands Committee has prioritized by each type of program (i.e., wetland, deer, threatened and endangered species). This backlog list of projects could keep the Board going for a number of years.

Mr. Schmidt reported that, if needed, he could put together a report possibly for the February, 1995, Board meeting that shows what the Board has done in the various categories of WCB's programs over the years since 1947. He added that the back page of the minutes was a recap of expenditures for each program category. No action was requested.

Ms. Parker commented that she felt that this Board was doing a great job of protecting habitat and providing public access. However, so are many of the conservancies, such as the Tahoe and Coastal Conservancies.

While the discussion didn't result in any action, it was certainly acknowledged that making the public aware of accomplishments of the various organizations was important.

Minutes of Meeting, August 11, 1994
Wildlife Conservation Board

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. by Chairperson Boren.

Respectfully submitted,

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

W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on August 11, 1994, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$340,824,566.43. 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	\$ 16,008,271.06
B. Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement	19,436,066.52
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	13,434,865.28
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	35,685,277.50
1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 2,973,174.92
2. River and Aqueduct Access	8,124,125.32
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,605,043.45
4. Piers	17,982,933.81
D. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement Projects	259,597,507.84
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$157,209,876.93
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	4,522,361.60
3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	96,339,022.31
4. Land Conservation Area	1,247.00
5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	1,425,000.00
6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	100,000.00
F. Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	8,343,944.40
H. Special Project Allocations	457,090.42
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	659,115.63
J. Sales and/or exchanges	<u>5,500.00</u>
 Total Allocated to Projects	 \$340,824,566.43