

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1000 K STREET, SUITE 806
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-8448
FAX (916) 323-0280



Rec'd
MAR 16 1995

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

Minutes, February 16, 1995

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MINUTES, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 1995

Pursuant to the call of Chairperson Frank Boren, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 444 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California on February 16, 1995. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made at this time.

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

Absent: Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg
Assembly - Vacant Position
Senator - Vacant Position
Senator Daniel Boatwright (Alternate)

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

Others Present: Dave Koehler, San Joaquin River Parkway Trust
Michael Gardner, Chico Enterprise Record
Nelson Mathews, Trust for Public Land
Corey Brown, Trust for Public Land
Mike McCoy, U.C. Davis
Dennis Pendleton, U.C. Davis
Sheila Massey, California Cattlemen's Association
Jerry Springer, California Hunter Magazine
Martine Carlton, CCC/Stockton
Erin Healy, CCC/Stockton
Lin McNamara, CCC/Sacramento
Dr. J. Rod McGinnis, Sacramento Safari Club
Mark Palmer, Mountain Lion Foundation
Steve Baker, Citizen
Eric Gerstung, Department of Fish and Game/Sacramento
Chuck Knutson, Department of Fish and Game/Sacramento
Ed Smith, Department of Fish and Game/Fresno
Bonnie Turner, Department of Fish and Game/Sacramento

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

Mr. Schmidt reported that the proposed Consent Calendar consisted of Item Nos. 2-8. Mr. Schmidt indicated that there was one exception to the proposed consent calendar; the withdrawal of one recovery item, Napa Marsh Wildlife Area, Salt Pond Unit, Napa/Solano/Sonoma Counties in the amount of \$512,423.50 of which \$500,000 had been allocated for restoration and development of a management plan which was currently ongoing (acquisition was completed). He then gave the audience and/or Board Members the opportunity to request that an item be removed from the consent calendar. Hearing no requests for removal of any items, 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 withdrawal of the one item in the recovery of fund section.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM NOS. 2-8, AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN, AND ALSO INCLUDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE NAPA MARSH WILDLIFE AREA RECOVERY ITEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$512,423.50.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 2. Approval of Minutes (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Approval of minutes of the November 10, 1994, 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 NOVEMBER 10, 1994, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

* 3. Funding Status as of February 16, 1995 (Informational Only)
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

(a) 1994-95 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$ 750,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 21,802.70
Unallocated Balance	\$ 728,197.30

Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$749,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	-310,000.00
Unallocated Balance	\$ 439,000.00

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

Added to Governor's Budget by Ch. 1241	\$ 572,000.00
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(c) 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	-1,888,317.15
Unallocated Balance	\$ 155,783.34

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(d)	<u>1992-93 Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget	\$2,000,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	-1,817,641.19
	Unallocated Balance	\$ 182,358.81
(e)	<u>1988-89 California Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Direct appropriation to the Wildlife Conservation Board	\$81,300,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	-63,218,508.43
	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	\$16,861,991.57
(f)	<u>1994-95 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget	\$8,703,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	-3,875,827.18
	Unallocated Balance	\$4,827,172.82
(g)	<u>1993-94 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget	\$9,844,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	-2,583,853.39
	Unallocated Balance	\$7,260,146.61
(h)	<u>1992-93 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget</u>	
	Governor's Budget	\$ 9,194,000.00
	Less Previous Board Allocations	-7,048,916.38
	Unallocated Balance	\$ 2,145,083.62

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	\$ 1,167,197.30
<u>1984 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund</u>	\$ 155,783.34
<u>Ca. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u>	\$16,861,991.57
<u>Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u>	\$ 182,358.81
<u>Ca. Environmental License Plate Fund</u>	\$ 572,000.00
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u>	\$14,232,403.05

* 4. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following 27 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.

\$-0- to the Wildlife Restoration Fund,
\$26,683.29 to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,
\$436,916.43 to the Habitat Conservation Fund,
\$38,999.59 to the Calif. Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Pacifica Fishing Pier (Abutment Renovation), San Mateo County

Allocation	\$250,000.00
Expended	<u>-250,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$-0-

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries \$-0-

FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Brown's Creek Salmon & Steelhead Trout Habitat Enhancement, Santa Cruz County

Allocation	\$8,300.00
Expended	<u>-8,293.87</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$6.13

Canon Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$37,118.00
Expended	<u>-37,117.99</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.01

Dark Gulch Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$24,900.00
Expended	<u>-24,771.55</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$128.45

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Elk Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$64,500.00
Expended	<u>-64,498.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1.50

Hollow Tree Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$66,300.00
Expended	<u>-66,259.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$41.00

Lewis Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$16,000.00
Expended	<u>-15,999.80</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.20

Little River Barrier Removal, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$40,100.00
Expended	<u>-40,097.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3.00

McDonald Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$54,500.00
Expended	<u>-54,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Penitencia Creek Bank Stabilization & Sediment Control, Santa Clara County

Allocation	\$27,500.00
Expended	<u>-27,500.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Soda Creek Habitat Enhancement, Lake County

Allocation	\$26,600.00
Expended	<u>- 97.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$26,503.00

Total Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Fund Recoveries \$26,683.29

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

**CCC Del Norte Center Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Enhancement #3,
Del Norte/Humboldt Counties**

Allocation	\$59,800.00
Expended	<u>-59,793.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7.00

**Carbonero Creek Salmon and Steelhead Trout Habitat Enhancement,
Santa Cruz County**

Allocation	\$12,650.00
Expended	<u>-12,641.11</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$8.89

Chorro Creek Steelhead Trout Habitat Enhancement, San Luis Obispo County

Allocation	\$47,400.00
Expended	<u>-45,195.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,205.00

East Walker River Wildlife Area, Mono County

Allocation	\$1,700,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,695,890.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4,110.00

Eel River Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$312,000.00
Expended	<u>-310,057.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,943.00

Green Creek Wildlife Area, Mono County

Allocation	\$392,448.87
Expended	<u>-102,675.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$289,773.87

Green Creek Wildlife Area, Mono County

Allocation	\$117,551.13
Expended	<u>- 0.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$117,551.13

Mattole Canyon Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$103,000.00
Expended	<u>-102,484.99</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$515.01

Upper Sacramento River Wildlife Area, River Mile 147-R, Colusa County

Allocation	\$108,153.23
Expended	<u>-105,180.23</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,973.00

Wetland Conservation Easement Program (DFG)
San Joaquin Wetland Farms, Expansion #1, Stanislaus County/
Victor Ranch (Honcut Creek), Butte County

Allocation	\$455,900.00
Expended	<u>-438,070.47</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$17,829.53

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries \$436,916.43

CA. WILDLIFE, COASTAL & PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Atascadero Creek Ecological Reserve, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$240,000.00
Expended	<u>-232,283.41</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7,716.59

Napa Marsh Wildlife Area, Salt Pond Unit, Napa/Solano/Sonoma Counties

Allocation	\$1,046,490.69
Expended	<u>-534,067.19</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$512,423.50

THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE RECOVERY OF FUNDS.

Napa Marsh Wildlife Area, Salt Pond Unit, Napa/Solano/Sonoma Counties

Allocation	\$38,810.00
Expended	<u>-38,810.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

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Napa Marsh Wildlife Area, Salt Pond Unit, Napa/Solano/Sonoma Counties

Allocation	\$689,699.31
Expended	<u>-689,699.31</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Paynes Creek Wetlands #2, Tehama County

Allocation	\$37,200.00
Expended	<u>-24,696.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$12,504.00

Sonoma Baylands Tidal Marsh Restoration, Sonoma County

Allocation	\$35,000.00
Expended	<u>-35,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$0.00

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area #2, Yolo County

Allocation	\$575,000.00
Expended	<u>-556,221.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$18,779.00

Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land

Conservation Fund Recoveries \$ 38,999.59

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 TO THE 27 PROJECTS LISTED ABOVE AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$26,683.29 TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, \$436,916.43 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, AND \$38,999.59 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

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* 5. Special Project Planning Account (Informational Only)
(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 fund for the pre-project expenses.

Some appropriations now made to the Board do not include a specific budgeted planning line item appropriation necessary to begin a project without prior Board authorization. Pre-project costs are a necessary expenditure in most all capital outlay projects. The Special Project Account would be used for these costs.

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

Wildlife Restoration Fund	\$10,000.00
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- * 6. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$158,900.00
(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 six 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.

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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 six proposed habitat enhancement projects is briefly provided below:

A. Cañon Creek Habitat Enhancement #2, Humboldt County \$28,000.00

This was a proposed cooperative salmon (chinook and coho) and steelhead trout project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Redwood Community Action Agency, a private-nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of the fishery in Cañon Creek, a tributary to the Mad River. All proposed work will be done on Simpson Timber Company land and will consist of developing habitat by placing five boulder structures and logs in the stream to provide woody cover thereby allowing the flow of water to scour pools. Similar structures will be installed to direct the water away from areas where the bank is failing in order to reduce downstream sedimentation. The developed pools and woody cover will also provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile salmonids. In addition, 9,000 trees will be planted along the creek to provide an enhanced riparian canopy and erosion control. This project will be administered by the Redwood Community Action Agency, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

B. Dominie Creek Habitat Enhancement #2, Del Norte County \$10,850.00

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, a fish passage problem exists during moderate to low water flow conditions. These inadequate flows occur during both the winter and summer preventing adequate water under an existing fishway. This project would build a boulder plunge pool under the fishway and a second weir downstream to form a step and pool effect. The project will be administered by Rural Human Services, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

C. Maple Creek Habitat Enhancement #2, Humboldt County \$28,750.00

This was a proposed cooperative salmon (chinook and coho) and steelhead trout project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Redwood Community Action Agency, a private-nonprofit organization, for enhancement of the fishery in Maple Creek, a tributary to the Mad River. All proposed work will be done on the Simpson Timber Company land and adjacent private lands and will consist of developing habitat by placing 10 boulder structures and logs in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scour pools. Similar structures will be installed to direct the water away from areas where the bank is failing in order to reduce downstream sedimentation. The developed pools and woody cover will also provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile salmonids. In addition, 2,500 trees will be planted along the riparian corridor. This project will be administered by the Redwood Community Action Agency, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

D. Rowdy Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$30,000.00

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 chinook and coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout fishery in Rowdy Creek, a tributary to the Smith River. The stream has an excellent riparian canopy and good year-round flows and is noted to be one of the 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 12 log and 7 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. Siskiyou Fork Smith River Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$25,100.00

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 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 10 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.

F. Wilson Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$35,700.00

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 chinook and coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout fishery in Wilson Creek which flows directly into the Pacific Ocean. Recent surveys indicate salmonid presence in Wilson Creek, 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 12 log and 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.

Administrative contract costs to process the contracts for the listed projects is estimated at \$500.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these six salmon, steelhead and resident fish projects as one item as proposed; allocate \$158,900.00 from the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19), which includes \$500.00 to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

A letter of support was received from the Mountain Lion Foundation.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIBBONS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SIX SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$158,900.00 FROM THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19), WHICH INCLUDES \$500.00 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. California Riparian Habitat Inventory and Assessment Project \$50,000.00
(Funding Augmentation) (CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider a funding augmentation for the California Riparian Habitat Inventory and Assessment Project, an important element of the California Rivers Assessment. Funding for the original project, in the amount of \$200,000, was approved at the August 23, 1993, Wildlife Conservation Board meeting. An Interagency Agreement was executed with the University of California at Davis on December 1, 1993, for them to provide technical support for the project.

This project is assessing the current amount and status of the state's remaining riparian resources through a comprehensive, cooperative effort to gather and analyze riparian-related data into a centralized location, provide a standardized evaluation system with the ability to overlay resource information, and to provide information about the significance of riparian resources on a statewide basis. The project will generate several products, including maps and electronic information, which will allow staff to more effectively prioritize actions to protect, restore, and enhance riparian habitat in California.

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

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

Taking a two-pronged approach to the problem, the project work plan calls for the development of a Professional Judgement Assessment (PJA) to provide a quick sketch of the condition of California's major rivers (Phase I, the Professional Judgment Assessment), and the development of a network of river resource databases with a focused assessment to be developed for rivers within thirteen "demonstration basins" (Phase II, the Aggregated Information Model). This work plan also calls for the University to coordinate with the other participating agencies, beginning with the Resource Agency's Coordinating Committee, for the California Rivers Assessment project, which includes representatives from the Wildlife Conservation Board [co-chair], the National Park Service [co-chair], the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and The Nature Conservancy.

The original work plan was developed based upon a prototype questionnaire (PJA) that

included 28 questions. Following several meetings in early 1994, the Coordinating Committee agreed that it was appropriate to expand the scope of the survey to 153 questions addressing five subjects that were of interest and value to the participants. UC Davis printed and distributed the questionnaires to approximately 1,000 potential respondents beginning in June, 1994. The project originally targeted 157 rivers statewide. The data management center at UC Davis has been processing responses since August 1994, and a draft interim report was provided to the Resources Agency on December 15, 1994. Thus far the project has received responses from over 100 respondents providing information on 132 rivers. More responses will be entered into the database as the project continues.

While the change in scope of the PJA will result in substantially more information being made available from this phase of the project, it has required the University to make adjustments in personnel time, database development, and other administrative shifts, resulting in significant additional costs while also taking resources away from the second phase. A meeting was held with UC Davis in August, 1994 to determine the appropriate course of action to take to keep the project on track and to accommodate these increased costs. Following this meeting, UC Davis provided your staff with a revised budget delineating the additional costs. Staff has reviewed this revised budget and concurs with the need for a contract amendment to increase the project funding by \$50,000.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board approve the increase in funding and the amendment to the existing Interagency Agreement as proposed; allocate \$50,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, as made available to the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program; 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 FUNDING AUGMENTATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$50,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, AS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- * 8. Swall Meadows Wildlife Area, Expansion #1, Mono County \$3,000.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This was a proposal to accept a partial donation of 18± acres of land as an addition to the Swall Meadows wildlife area which is located approximately 15 miles north of Bishop. The property is bordered by both the State's ownership and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Access is achieved from Highway 395 through Lower Rock Creek and Swall Meadows Roads and also through the State owned property.

This acquisition will add to the protection of deer winter range and a key migratory corridor for the Sherwin and Buttermilk deer herds while joining adjacent public lands in an area which is being threatened by residential development. Most of the private land in the immediate area has already been developed or is now in the planning stages for development.

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

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

As partial payment for this land, the Department of Fish and Game has agreed to transfer an access easement and an underground powerline easement over the wildlife area to the grantors, thereby allowing for development of their remaining property. It is estimated that the value of the easements are \$4,000, while the value of the land to be donated is estimated at \$165,000±. The owners have agreed to grant the property in exchange for the easements which will allow them to widen their present access road and install a new underground power line. It is estimated that a \$3,000 allocation will be required to cover related acquisition costs, including title insurance, escrow costs and the Department of General Services review charges. In all, the State would be granting an easement valued at \$4,000 and would pay \$3,000 in sales costs to receive the 18± acres, a net gain of \$158,000±. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Section 15313 as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve acceptance of this partial donation as proposed; allocate \$3,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), to cover 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 ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PARTIAL DONATION OF THE SWALL MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #1, MONO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$3,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), TO COVER RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Star Bend Fishing Access, Yuba County \$95,500.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to fund the reconstruction of the boat ramp at the Department of Fish and Game owned fishing access site at Star Bend on the east bank of the Feather River, four miles south of Marysville. Mr. Clyde Edon of staff explained the project.

The Board authorized purchase of this 9 acre site in 1958, and in 1960 approved funds for its development for fishing access. Development consisted of an entrance road, parking area, boat ramp and sanitary facilities. Yuba County has operated and maintained the site under agreement with the Department since project construction was completed in 1962. Historically, the project has been a very popular fishing access site for anglers fishing for striped bass, salmon, shad and warmwater species. The County is highly supportive of the project and is agreeable to continue the operation and maintenance of this site.

Project design has been completed by the Department of Fish and Game engineering staff who will supervise the contract bidding process as well as construction activities. The proposed project will consist of removing the 34 year old deteriorating wooden ramp, which has been patched many times, and replacing it with a new concrete ramp. The ramp is currently protected by an earthen berm that runs parallel to the ramp with an opening on the downstream end to permit boat access to the river. The area from the ramp through the opening will be deepened and cleaned out for better boat access. Also, the area adjacent to the ramp will be deepened to permit placement of a floating dock which boaters can tie up to while retrieving their trailer. A cost estimate for the project is as follows:

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Remove and dispose of existing ramp	\$ 8,500
Cofferdam (for water control during construction)	10,000
Backfill and excavation	10,000
Reinforced concrete ramp	29,000
Rock slope protection	10,000
Floating dock	18,000
Contingencies	<u>10,000</u>
Total	\$95,500

This cost estimate has been reviewed by your staff and appears to be in order. The project, which has been recommended by the Department of Fish and Game, is exempt under CEQA and a Categorical Exemption has been filed as required.

This project qualifies under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act Program and is therefore eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs. Staff will apply for reimbursement under this program.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support had been received from the Mountain Lion Foundation and the Yuba County Board of Supervisors, which indicated the County's willingness to operate and maintain this facility for another 25 years.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$95,500.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; 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 RE-CONSTRUCTION AT THE STAR BEND FISHING ACCESS, YUBA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$95,500.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt introduced and welcomed Ms. Theresa Parker, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Finance, Assemblyman Dan Hauser and Ms. Mary Morgan of Assemblyman Hauser's staff, who joined the meeting during the discussion of the above item.

10. North Grasslands Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration,
China Island Unit, Merced County \$291,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal for a cooperative project between the Board, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc., (DU) to restore approximately 535 acres of wetlands located on the China Island Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Area (WLA). Mr. Bob Schulenburg explained the project. The proposal provides for a grant to be awarded to DU in the amount of \$291,000 for this wetland restoration project. Actual work will be accomplished by DU in coordination with DFG and Board staffs.

The China Island Unit, located immediately north of the Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge in Merced County, was acquired pursuant to action of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) at its February 15, 1990, meeting. The acquisition was a joint effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the DFG and the Board.

The purpose of the acquisition was to preserve the property's existing habitat values and allow for the restoration of wetland habitat that would provide long-term mitigation for the Kesterson Reservoir and assist with the implementation of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture (CVHJV) Plan. This proposed wetland restoration project will contribute toward the overall CVHJV objective of restoring 200,000 acres of wetland habitat in the San Joaquin Basin.

This project will provide the infrastructure necessary to receive the water that should eventually be delivered pursuant to the requirements of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), as specified in the 1989 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Refuge Water Supply Investigation. In response to that effort, staff from DFG, WCB and DU have designed a water conveyance and distribution system capable of receiving the CVPIA water. However, until such time as the CVPIA water is available, short term water supplies will be provided through these facilities from three deep wells and pumped as necessary to maintain the restored habitat.

Once the water distribution system is completed, this project will provide for the restoration of approximately 225 acres of irrigated nesting habitat and winter foraging habitat. An additional 240 acres will be restored to seasonal semi-permanent and permanent wetlands and 70 acres will be planted to cereal crops. The cereal crops will provide a critical food source to migratory and resident waterfowl.

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Consistent with the goals and management plans governing the operation of the China Island Unit of the wildlife area, this project will provide wintering habitat beneficial to the Aleutian Canada geese, cackling Canada geese, Ross and lesser snow geese, ring-neck pheasant and numerous duck species, including northern pintail, mallards, American widgeon, teal, gadwall and wood ducks. The restored property will also provide critical habitat for a large number of nongame birds including lesser sandhill cranes, tundra swan, white-faced ibis and numerous shorebirds, wading birds and raptors.

The water conveyance and related infrastructure will include the installation of 6,310± linear feet of PVC pipeline and appropriate water control structures. In addition, extensive earth work will be required to sculpture approximately 240 acres of wetlands. The cost estimate for the system is as follows:

<u>Description of Work</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
■ 6,310 lineal ft. PVC pipeline	\$115,048
■ Labor/PVC pipeline	27,035
■ Wetland excavation/earth movement	72,217
■ Water controls	11,200
■ Pipeline Ts, gates, junction boxes	5,300
■ Pipeline connection to pumps	9,700
■ Engineering, Planning and Control	<u>50,500</u>
Total Cost Estimate:	\$291,000

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, staff from the DFG will be responsible for preparing any environmental documents necessary to implement this project.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Ed Smith, representing the Department of Fish and Game, was present should there be any questions. Letters of support were received from the Mountain Lion Foundation, California Waterfowl Association and Ducks Unlimited, the proposed grantee.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this project would be carried out under the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, which is a part of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture which is designed to create and protect wetland habitat in the Central Valley.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$291,000.00 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 NORTH GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE AREA WETLAND RESTORATION, CHINA ISLAND UNIT, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$291,000.00 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.

11. San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Expansion #4 (Camp Pashayan),
Fresno County \$259,500.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 19.96± acres of land located in northerly Fresno County, along the San Joaquin River, for preservation and restoration of riparian habitat, and for inclusion in the proposed San Joaquin River Parkway. Mr. Frank Giordano explained the proposed project. Access to the subject is from Herndon Avenue on the east side of State Highway 99 to N. Webber Avenue, which then leads to what now is a private dirt road, to the river and subject. The State, as part of the purchase, will receive an access for public purposes over the private dirt road to the subject. Herndon Avenue is a major east/west avenue which connects Highway 99 with Highway 41 and continues through the cities of Fresno and Clovis.

The first purchase for the San Joaquin River riparian habitat program was the Milburn Unit, which was approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board at its November, 1988, meeting. Since then the Board has approved the Willow Unit (Ball Ranch) in two phases and the Rank Island Unit, bringing the Board's total acquisitions in this program to 796± acres.

The subject property is located along the San Joaquin River and consists of riparian, wetlands and upland habitat. It is generally flat, with a high water table and a potential for flooding. The opportunity exists to increase existing fish, mammal, waterfowl, and bird populations through a properly planned and executed management plan. Historically, the property was utilized for the refinement of near surface layers of sand and gravel. Due to the concentration of such use, wildlife numbers are much reduced from historical accounts. As gravel operations declined, borrow pits filled with seepage from the San Joaquin River, providing a permanent source of water, and riparian vegetation subsequently became reestablished on the banks.

This proposal was negotiated by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, with the owner, the Boy Scouts of America. The Trust acquired an option to purchase

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the entire parcel (31± acres) and has agreed to allow the State to purchase a 19.96± acre portion of this area, with the Trust retaining ownership of the remainder.

Beaver have been noted along the river as well as raccoon, opossum, coyote, snowy egret, and great blue heron. Various species of songbirds also inhabit the area and could be expected to diversify and expand with a proper management program. Also noted on the property is the western fence lizard.

There is minimal public or private consumptive or nonconsumptive use of fish and wildlife resources on this property at the present time. Hunting opportunities are not possible as the area is within the County "No Shooting" zone. The proposed management of this area, from a fisheries viewpoint, is to protect and expand the existing riparian habitat and to provide access and recreational angling opportunities to the general public. This can occur within both the existing gravel ponds and the San Joaquin River. The opportunity also exists for a variety of educational experiences including conservation and ecology. Nonconsumptive uses could also include sightseeing, birding, photography, hiking, and picnicking opportunities. Nature trails, if incorporated into a parkway plan and properly routed, could allow for greater wildlife diversity and enhanced recreational experiences.

Interim management would be by the Department of Fish and Game. However, it is anticipated that an agreement would eventually be entered into with the San Joaquin River Conservancy for operation and maintenance as part of an overall riparian habitat and San Joaquin River parkway complex. Improvements could be made to the extent necessary to provide public access to the property and to permit passive uses compatible with the conservation and enhancement of existing wildlife and natural habitats.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. The property has an approved appraised fair market value of \$249,500 and the owners have agreed to sell it to the State for this price. Any potential State Lands claims have been considered in the appraisal. Expenses of sale, including escrow charges, title insurance, appraisals and Department of General Services review costs, are expected to be about \$10,000, bringing the total recommended allocation to \$259,500.

Mr. Schmidt reported this proposal was being presented in conjunction with the passage of Prop. 70 in 1988 which provided \$4 M for acquisitions of habitat along the San Joaquin River from Highway 99 to Friant Dam. It was further noted that Mr. Dave Koehler, representing the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust, and Mr. Ed Smith, representing the Department of Fish and Game, were both present should there be any questions.

Letters of support were received from Senator Jim Costa, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Mountain Lion Foundation and the Madera County Board of Supervisors.

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Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat, Expansion #4 (Camp Pashayan), property in Fresno County as proposed; allocate \$259,500.00 from the Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund [P-70, Section 5907 (c)(5)]; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

State Lands Commission has no problem with the proposed acquisition and indicated they would lease the property under a 50 year lease agreement. This has been done on other parcels along the river that have been acquired.

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 SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RIPARIAN HABITAT, EXPANSION #4 (CAMP PASHAYAN) PROPERTY IN FRESNO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$259,500.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND [P-70, SECTION 5907 (c)(5)]; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Pine Creek Wildlife Area, Modoc County \$724,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of 2,010± acres of land located along the banks of Pine Creek and lying 6± miles southeast of Alturas. Mr. Frank Giordano described the proposal. Access to the property is achieved by traveling easterly out of Alturas on County Road 56 to Dorris Reservoir, then south on County Road 57 for 3.5± miles, at which point the road veers east toward the subject property. Access is on paved roads except for the last ¼ mile from the property's westerly boundary at which time it becomes a gravel road to Pine Creek Reservoir, located within the property.

The proposed acquisition area is a linear strip of land that includes 4.5 to 5 miles of Pine Creek which originates on the west side of the Warner Mountains and flows westerly to Dorris Reservoir. Most of the reservoir is included within the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge. Pine Creek supports a good population of wild brown and redband trout and is known to be an excellent, fast-action wild trout fishery. In addition to the creek, Pine Creek Reservoir, a 25± surface acre reservoir, is located within the proposed acquisition and is routinely stocked with rainbow trout by the Department of Fish and Game. The State currently has an easement for angling over a 200 acre portion of this ranch, which includes the reservoir. The reservoir is extremely productive and planted hatchery fish attain a large size in a relatively short period of time.

The proposed acquisition area supports a high use by wildlife. It is considered to be critical deer and antelope winter range with as many as 2,300 antelope, the largest herd in California, utilizing portions of the property during winter months. There is also a critical antelope migration route on the property, utilized twice a year by 1,000+ antelope. The area also serves as an important antelope kidding ground.

Several threatened and endangered species, as well as species of special concern, frequent the area including bald eagle, golden eagle, northern goshawk, willow flycatcher, greater sandhill crane, Swainson's hawk, prairie falcon, sage grouse, yellow warbler and northern harrier. There is a documented golden eagle nest in one of the old-growth pines in the canyon.

The primary purposes for proposing this acquisition are to preserve, manage and protect wetland and riparian habitats as well as the area's other natural resources and cultural values, and to provide fishing access for wild trout in Pine Creek and the reservoir in perpetuity. This purchase will also assure open passage through the antelope critical migration route in perpetuity and assure protection and appropriate management of deer and antelope winter range. Pine Creek Reservoir has been used for public purposes and has been the site for annual kids fishing derbies. Management for the reservoir portion of the property, which is now handled by Modoc County, is not expected to change.

This property has been partially subdivided and fenced in anticipation of sale in separate parcels. The Department has recommended posting signs to identify the area for the

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public, along with some fence modifications and removal to assure unobstructed passage for antelope migrating in or out of their winter range.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has acquired an option to purchase the subject and will exercise this option prior to the Board meeting. TPL has agreed to sell the subject at the fair market value as approved by the Department of General Services at \$700,000. Staff recommends an additional \$14,000 allocation to cover posting and fencing modifications. These include the removal of over four miles of fences which pose an obstacle to angler access and a hazard to wildlife, and the removal of all old trespass signs, to be replaced with Fish and Game signs and visitor information signs. It is estimated that an additional \$10,000 will be required to cover administrative and closing costs.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements, which includes acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this particular item was specifically budgeted for \$874,000 in the 1994/95 budget act as an acquisition. Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Nelson Mathews and Mr. Corey Brown, both representing The Trust for Public Land, were present should there be any questions. He further noted that Mr. Chuck Knutson and Mr. Eric Gerstung, representing the Department of Fish and Game, were present. Letters of support were received from the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Caltrout, Planning and Conservation League, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club-Mother Lode Chapter, and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of Pine Creek Wildlife Area, Modoc County, as proposed; allocate \$724,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), for the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Sheila Massey, representing the California Cattlemen's Association, indicated that the Association did not oppose the acquisition but had concerns expressed by several adjacent landowners who were seeking cooperation from the Department of Fish and Game in addressing their concerns as the management plan was being developed. Some kind of letter, agreement, or MOU committing that the Department of Fish and Game would work closely with the adjacent landowners and local government in development of the management plan was requested. Mr. Gibbons indicated that a written commitment could be made and that the Department was always happy and willing to work with the adjacent landowners.

Mr. Jerry Springer, representing California Hunter Magazine, questioned the access for fishing and if there were any other restrictions. Mr. Eric Gerstung, representing the Department of Fish and Game, responded that the property was primarily being purchased for fishing access and that a portion of the bond act earmarked for wild trout was being used for this acquisition. Mr. Gerstung reported that the property would

certainly be available for uses other than fishing, which would be determined by the management plan that would be prepared by the Department of Fish and Game's Northern California Office in Redding. Generally, most Department properties are open to hunting, along with fishing, and this property would be no exception. There would be no real change in management other than to continue protecting the existing habitat.

Mr. Schmidt reported that there was currently 200 acres of property under agreement with Modoc County for public access purposes and that this area is planted with fish by the Department of Fish and Game.

Assemblyman Dan Hauser inquired if there was any particular management strategy being considered for the brown and redband trout species, as far as a trophy fishery or fly fishing only area. Mr. Gerstung responded that Pine Creek would be managed as a fast-action trout stream, managed for numbers of fish rather than size. Chances of growing fish much larger than eight or nine inches are low in Pine Creek; however, Pine Creek would be used as a broodstock source to establish redband trout in other areas, particularly the tributaries to Goose Lake. In the larger tributaries, redband trout have the capability of reaching a larger size, and are more heat tolerant and are able to live in an 80 degree, turbulent, alkali environment, so it is a potentially important species for management of problem waters elsewhere. Normally a management plan can be developed in a few months. The management plan will probably include maintaining the property's status quo, with the existing access. One of the concerns of the ranchers in the area is that there are four permittees that trail their cattle through the property and want to continue to do so. Department/Regional staff have no problem with allowing the historic use of trailing through the property as long as it is at predetermined points. Regional staff does not have any problem with allowing access to the watering point (box) that is on the property and other things that are needed for management of cattle on adjacent properties. DFG is also planning to continue maintenance of the existing perimeter fence as mentioned before. Adjacent landowners have been trailing cattle the last few years with letter permission only, not an established right. The Department has indicated they will work this out with these adjacent landowners. The status quo does not have any restrictions on hunting in this area; there is open season on deer, waterfowl.

Mr. Gibbons indicated that if anyone was interested in the management plan to contact Mr. Rich Elliott, Regional Manager, Department of Fish and Game, in Redding.

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 PINE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA, MODOC COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$724,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Honcut Creek Wildlife Conservation Area, Expansion #1, Butte County \$132,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of conservation easements over 255± acres of seasonal wetlands, riparian habitat and agricultural lands for the preservation and enhancement of existing habitat and wildlife corridors. Mr. Giordano explained the proposal. The acquisition of these easements will be an expansion of the original 295± acre conservation easement acquired pursuant to Board action taken at their May 5, 1994, meeting. The subject property, which lies directly east and adjacent to the original purchase, is located approximately 15 miles north of Marysville and approximately two miles west of the town of Honcut, lying between the north and south forks of Honcut Creek.

The project area contains 81± acres of riparian and open space habitat and 173± acres of productive rice ground. While the ultimate goal of the project is to protect and restore riparian and seasonal wetland habitat critical to waterfowl and other wildlife, it is essential that the protection efforts take into account, and integrate the surrounding productive farm land. As such, consistent with the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Plan (CVHJV), this project is designed to assist with implementing the Joint Venture's objective of enhancing 443,000± acres of agricultural ground. This project also meets the objectives of the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program which seeks to protect, restore and enhance riparian habitat.

To accomplish this goal, three conservation easements have been developed to protect, in perpetuity, the riparian and open space habitat and the adjacent rice land. Specifically, the open space easement on 35± acres will allow the natural vegetation to regenerate, a riparian easement on 46± acres will protect the riparian habitat and the agricultural easement on 173± acres will allow cropping practices to continue that are compatible with the needs of waterfowl and other wildlife. The agricultural easement is designed to protect the economic viability of the farm ground and allows for the continued farming of crops that are beneficial to wildlife. The easements provide that no further development may take place which would be harmful to wildlife, and are structured so that the preservation of riparian and seasonal wetlands can be economical and compatible with agricultural practices.

The Honcut Creek Wildlife Conservation Area is an area that is rich in wildlife species including deer, wild turkeys, California quail, dove, numerous species of resident and migrating waterfowl, rabbit, fox and coyotes. The woodlands support the endangered bald eagle, and the endangered willow flycatcher. In addition, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, golden eagle, ferruginous hawk, northern harrier, osprey, merlin and prairie falcon are seasonal users of this area. This richness of wildlife species can, in part, be attributed to the mosaic of habitat types found on the subject area. The mixture of riparian and open space, coupled with the productive rice ground provides habitat conducive to and supportive of biological and cultural diversity. The acquisition of the subject easements should protect this mosaic of habitats in perpetuity. Furthermore, this project will demonstrate that critical wildlife resources can be protected without

impacting local economies and farming interests critical to this area. Public use of the subject area will not be provided under the terms of these easements.

The owner has agreed to sell the subject easements to the State at the total approved fair market value of \$126,491. Processing costs are estimated at \$5,509 which includes the cost of appraisal, title, escrow and Department of General Services review charges. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

A letter of support was received from the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the easements as proposed; allocate a total of \$132,000.00, \$45,217.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117), as made available to the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, and \$86,783.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund, as made available to the California Riparian Habitat 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 ACQUISITION OF THE HONCUT CREEK WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA, EXPANSION #1, BUTTE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$132,000.00, \$45,217.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), AS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM, AND \$86,783.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, AS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. (a) **Red Lake Water Rights Purchase Status Report** **Informational**

At the Wildlife Conservation Board's meeting of August 25, 1992, the Board authorized the purchase, from the American Land Conservancy, of approximately 38 percent of the water and storage rights in Red Lake, Alpine County, along with the underlying fee to lands under and surrounding the lake. At that time, the Conservancy also held an option to purchase an additional 37 percent of the water rights, exercisable before December 31, 1994. The Conservancy has continued to hold the option with the intention of enabling the State to purchase these rights for the appraised fair market value of \$1,000,000.00. However, funding has not been available to enable the Board to follow through with the second purchase. This is an important purchase in terms of precluding the export of water to Nevada and protecting the Red Lake fishery.

In a mid-December, 1994, meeting with The Nature Conservancy and State Lands Commission (SLC) personnel, your staff became aware of the potential availability of funding through an environmental trust fund managed by the State Controller and recommended Red Lake water rights as a possible project for the funds. Following that meeting, the Commission staff conducted a thorough but timely review of the benefits of the proposed purchase and recommended to the Controller that the water rights be purchased to assure their preservation for Californians in perpetuity. With the further strong support and recommendation of Senator Tim Leslie and of Alpine County, Controller Gray Davis approved the purchase, with escrow closing on December 31, 1994. Many people were involved in seeing that this transaction was approved and completed in a two week period of time thus enabling the state to now control 75 percent of the water rights in this lake.

The Controller's Trust proposes to enter into a long-term lease of the water rights to the Department of Fish and Game for management of this critical resource for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

14. (b) Vallejo Pier Closure Status Report

Informational

The Vallejo Fishing Pier is a converted portion of the former Highway 37 draw bridge that once spanned Napa River. The structure, which was constructed in 1946, was used as a bridge until 1964. In 1968, pursuant to Board action, the easterly 1,000 feet was acquired and converted to a fishing pier; opening to the public in 1973.

Through a cooperative maintenance and operation agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) has operated and maintained the facility since its conversion. It is the only pier in California that is owned by the Department of Fish and Game. As the owner of the facility, the State has been responsible for major repairs and capital improvements, which have included several projects to repair fire damage and other structural problems. GVRD has assumed the responsibility of minor maintenance and upkeep. The parking lots and concession building are included in the operating agreement. GVRD has had concession agreements with various operators over the years; the current agreement expiring on March 31, 1995.

A recent decision to close the Vallejo Fishing Pier, which was conveyed to the Board at the November 10, 1994, Board meeting, is the culmination of over five years of work in an attempt to avoid this very decision. The following is a recap of the steps taken since the late 1980's in an effort to repair, or replace the pier:

- 1989 - An engineering report was completed which provided a range of costs to repair or replace the pier. The engineers recommended replacing the existing pier with a new concrete structure adjacent to the existing deck, using the deck from the existing structure. Estimated cost was \$2.7 million. The engineers estimated the existing pier had 5 to 10 years of useful life.
- 1992 - A supplemental engineering analysis was completed confirming the feasibility of using the existing deck on a new structure. Information was provided on design elements that would reduce replacement cost.
- 1993 - On May 6, 1993, the Board approved the initiation of the CEQA process and permit applications for reconstruction.
- 1994 - Based on the preliminary engineering report, the Board, at its May 5, 1994, meeting allocated \$500,000 for plans, specifications and engineering documents to prepare for construction; with the unused balance of funds to be held in a construction account.
- 1994 - The June initiative, which included funds for public fishing pier improvements, failed.

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In October, 1994, the GVRD recommended that the 1989 study be updated to determine the pier's current structural integrity. The updated Vallejo Fishing Pier report indicates that deterioration was proceeding as predicted, but noted that some areas were worse than anticipated. As an interim measure, the engineers recommended restricting vehicular use until a second opinion could be obtained. Your staff authorized placement of the existing bollards to prevent all but pedestrian access.

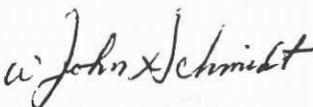
WCB staff then requested a second opinion from the California Department of Transportation. Their analysis concludes that "there is a serious question as to public safety and for this reason the closure of the structure for all traffic, including pedestrians, would be recommended".

GVRD was notified to close the pier on November 8, 1994. They have since obtained bids and design for a closure fence. As materials for the fence were unavailable during the holidays, the pier could not be closed at year end. It is anticipated that closure will be completed during the week of January 23, 1995. Costs for this closure which are estimated at \$15,000 will come from the construction account.

Staff is continuing to seek a means of funding the pier's replacement.

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

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on February 16, 1995, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$350,739,651.66. 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	\$ 16,006,219.06
B.	Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement	21,027,334.59
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	14,926,133.35
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	467,219.86
	4. Marine Habitat	646,619.07
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects	1,923,749.26
C.	Fishing Access Projects	35,995,277.50
	1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 2,973,174.92
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	8,184,125.32
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,605,043.45
	4. Piers	18,232,933.81
D.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E.	Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement	266,765,306.53
	1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$163,049,892.21
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	4,557,361.60
	3. Wildlife Areas/EcoReserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	97,460,805.72
	4. Land Conservation Area	1,247.00
	5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	1,596,000.00
	6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	100,000.00
F.	Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57
G.	Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	8,782,014.87
H.	Special Project Allocations	870,090.42
I.	Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	659,115.63
J.	Sales and/or exchanges	<u>2,500.00</u>
	 Total Allocated to Projects	 \$350,739,651.66