

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

11 K STREET, SUITE 806  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 445-8448  
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State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

Minutes, November 9, 1995

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Rec'd NHD

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**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

**MINUTES, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 1995**

Pursuant to the call of Chairperson Frank Boren, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 127 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California on November 9, 1995. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made at this time.

**1. Roll Call****WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS**

Frank Boren, Chairperson  
President, Fish and Game Commission  
Diane Cummins, Deputy Director,  
Vice, Russell Gould, Member  
Director, Department of Finance  
C.F. Raysbrook, Member  
Interim 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  
Rick Battson,  
Vice, Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg

**Absent:** Senator Jack O'Connell  
Senator Daniel Boatwright (Alternate)  
Senator Tom Hayden (Alternate)

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

Others Present: Jonathan Motte, Landowner  
Greg Lowther, Citizen  
Ron Prahler, Citizen  
Corey Brown, Trust for Public Land  
J. Rod McGinnis, Sacramento Safari Club  
Eric Thompson, Landowner  
Carol Wagner, Assemblyman Dan Hauser  
Lynn Sadler, Planning and Conservation League  
John Hofnagle, Napa County Land Trust  
Jack Newby, Nor Cal Land & Cattle  
Bill Stridbeck, Nor Cal Land & Cattle  
John Anderson, Department of Fish and Game, Long Beach  
Jeannine DeWald, Department of Fish and Game, Watsonville  
Jim Swanson, Department of Fish and Game, Yountville  
Rich Elliott, Department of Fish and Game, Redding  
Kassandra Fletcher, Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento  
Susan Cochrane, Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento

2. Funding Status as of November 9, 1995 (Informational)

(a) 1995-96 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions . . . . .	\$390,000.00
Governor's Budget - Minor Projects . . . . .	\$900,000.00

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions . . . . .	\$750,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	-206,802.70
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$543,197.30

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Governor's Budget - Minor Projects . . . . .	\$749,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	<u>-749,000.00</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
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	<u>-362,283.00</u>
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$209,717.00

(d) 1995-96 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Reappropriation of 1989/90 and 1992/93 - Stream Projects . . . . .	\$ 84,369.63
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	<u>- -0-</u>
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$ 84,369.63

(e) 1995-96 Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Reappropriation of 1992/93 . . . . .	\$2,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	<u>-2,000,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$ -0-

(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 . . . . .	-64,142,386.40
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 . . . . .	\$15,938,113.60

(g) 1995-96 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget . . . . .	\$7,354,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	<u>- 500,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$6,854,000.00

(h) 1994-95 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget . . . . .	\$8,703,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	<u>-5,388,615.13</u>
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$3,314,384.87

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

Governor's Budget . . . . .	\$9,844,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	<u>-8,126,403.11</u>
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$1,717,596.89

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

Governor's Budget . . . . .	\$9,194,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	<u>-9,194,000.00</u>
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$ -0-

**RECAP OF FUND BALANCES**

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u> . . . . .	\$1,833,197.30
<u>Ca. Environmental License Plate Fund</u> . . . . .	\$209,717.00
<u>1984 Fish &amp; Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund</u> . . . . .	\$84,369.63
<u>Wildlife &amp; Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u> . . . . .	\$ -0-
<u>Ca. Wildlife, Coastal &amp; Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u> . . . . .	\$15,938,113.60
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u> . . . . .	\$11,885,981.76

3. Special Project Planning Account (Informational)

The Board has historically used a special project account to provide working funds for staff evaluation (appraisals, engineering, preliminary title reports, etc.) of proposed projects. Upon Board approval of a project, all expenditures incurred 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 informational item at the next meeting. Accordingly, the planning accounts have been set up as follows:

Wildlife Restoration Fund .....	\$ 2,500.00
Habitat Conservation Fund .....	\$20,000.00

\* 4. **CONSENT CALENDAR (Items #5-10)**

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Consent Calendar consisted of Item Numbers 5-10. Mr. Schmidt gave the audience and/or Board members the opportunity to request that an item be removed from the consent calendar. He then recommended a vote on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Boren asked if there were any questions or concerns with respect to the Consent Calendar, and since there was no further discussion, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CUMMINS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM NUMBERS 5-10 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt welcomed and introduced Mr. Rick Battson from Assemblyman Phil Isenberg's office and Assemblyman Dan Hauser who both joined the meeting at this time.

\* 5. Approval of Minutes (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Approval of minutes of the August 10, 1995, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

AS A CONSENT ITEM HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CUMMINS THAT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10, 1995, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

\* 6. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following 25 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.

\$340.50 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund,  
\$20,166.28 to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,  
\$72,954.35 to the Habitat Conservation Fund,  
\$1,500.00 to the Ca. Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund,  
\$28,490.35 to the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund, and  
\$ -0- to the Environmental License Plate Fund.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

King Clone Ecological Reserve, San Bernardino County

Allocation	\$21,802.70
Expended	<u>-21,802.70</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$-0-

Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion #20, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$10,000.00
Expended	<u>- 9,659.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$340.50

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries . . . . . \$340.50

**FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND**

**Dominie Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County**

Allocation	\$33,200.00
Expended	<u>-32,423.97</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$776.03

**East Mill Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County**

Allocation	\$19,150.00
Expended	<u>- 101.40</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$19,048.60

**Knopki Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County**

Allocation	\$23,300.00
Expended	<u>-23,199.85</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$100.15

**Russell Brook Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County**

Allocation	\$48,650.00
Expended	<u>-48,550.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$100.00

**San Francisquito Creek Habitat Enhancement, Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties**

Allocation	\$97,750.00
Expended	<u>-97,750.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$-0-

**Stansbury Creek Barrier Modification, Mendocino County**

Allocation	\$27,600.00
Expended	<u>-27,462.50</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$137.50

**Tectah Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County**

Allocation	\$48,150.00
Expended	<u>-48,146.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$4.00

**Total Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement**  
**Fund Recoveries . . . . . \$20,166.28**

**HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND**

**Baldwin Lake Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, San Bernardino County**

Allocation \$155,000.00  
Expended -152,411.50  
Balance for Recovery \$2,588.50

**Brood Water and Wetland Enhancement, Glenn County**

Allocation \$200,000.00  
Expended -200,000.00  
Balance for Recovery \$-0-

**Gilsizer Slough Wetlands Restoration, Sutter County**

Allocation \$195,000.00  
Expended -176,111.05  
Balance for Recovery \$18,888.95

**Goodale/Taboose Creek Trout Enhancement, Inyo County**

Allocation \$7,300.00  
Expended - 0  
Balance for Recovery \$7,300.00

**Honcut Creek Wildlife Conservation Area, Expansion #1, Butte County**

Allocation \$45,217.00  
Expended -42,077.68  
Balance for Recovery \$3,139.32

**King Clone Ecological Reserve, San Bernardino County**

Allocation \$127,697.30  
Expended -125,576.37  
Balance for Recovery \$2,120.93

Kinsman Flat Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Madera County

Allocation	\$330,000.00
Expended	<u>-326,203.88</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$3,796.12

Pine Creek Wildlife Area, Modoc County

Allocation	\$724,000.00
Expended	<u>-703,074.30</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$20,925.70

Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, Riverside County

Allocation	\$132,000.00
Expended	<u>-129,314.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,686.00

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, Riverside County

Allocation	\$2,110,000.00
Expended	<u>-2,102,762.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$7,238.00

Wetland Conservation Easement Program (Department of Fish and Game)  
Rancho Rio Chico, Butte County

Allocation	\$252,000.00
Expended	<u>-249,029.92</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$2,970.08

Wetland Conservation Easement Program (Department of Fish and Game)  
Holmstead 2, Yuba County

Allocation	\$171,000.00
Expended	<u>-169,699.25</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$1,300.75

Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries . . . . . \$72,954.35

**CA. WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND**

**San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat (Milburn Unit Access), Fresno County**

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

**Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation  
Fund Recoveries . . . . . \$1,500.00**

**WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND**

**Lake Earl Wildlife Area, Expansion #20, Del Norte County**

Allocation	\$332,500.00
Expended	<u>-309,466.25</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$23,033.75

**Mission Creek Ecological Reserve, San Bernardino County**

Allocation	\$265,000.00
Expended	<u>-259,543.40</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$5,456.60

**Total Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund Recoveries . . \$28,490.35**

**ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND**

**Honcut Creek Wildlife Conservation Area, Expansion #1, Butte County**

Allocation	\$86,783.00
Expended	<u>-86,783.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$-0-

**Total Environmental License Plate Fund Recoveries . . . . . \$-0-**

AS A CONSENT ITEM HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CUMMINS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD RECOVER FUNDS FOR THE 25 PROJECTS LISTED AND CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS. RECOVERY TOTALS INCLUDE \$340.50 TO THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND, \$20,166.28 TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND, \$72,954.35 TO THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND, \$1,500.00 TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND, \$28,490.35 TO THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND, AND \$0- TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND.

MOTION CARRIED.

\* 7. Mud Slough Wildlife Area (Gadwall Unit), Merced County Scope Change  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

On August 25, 1992, the Board approved the acquisition of 780± acres of land located adjacent to and easterly of the City of Los Banos, in Merced County, for the protection of wetland habitat. The site contains approximately 514 acres of seasonal wetlands, 8 acres of permanent wetlands associated with Mud Slough and 258 acres of grassland/upland habitat.

As originally presented to the Board, staff proposed to acquire the property, restore the seasonal wetlands and then sell the property back to the private sector, subject to a conservation easement designed to protect the restored wetlands. At the time of purchase the property was appraised for \$800,000. However, a donation was made by the owner in the amount of \$250,000, thereby reducing the cost to \$550,000.

Since the property was acquired, approximately 514 acres of seasonal wetlands have been restored. Water control structures and water conveyance systems were installed and the property has been managed for wintering waterfowl. The area, used primarily by mallards, northern pintail, green-winged teal, American widgeon and northern shovelers is also used by numerous other wetland dependent species. Since water conveyance systems were installed and water has been applied to the property, the area has also become very productive habitat for many nongame birds such as the great blue heron, great egret, snowy egret, white-faced ibis, long-billed curlew, black-necked stilt, American avocet and raptors such as the barn owl, northern harrier and American kestrel.

In light of the tremendous response by numerous wetland dependent species, and the desire to open this area to hunting and other public uses, such as wildlife observation, the Department of Fish and Game has requested that the property be retained in public ownership. Under their proposal, it would continue to be managed by Department staff

as part of the Mud Slough Wildlife Area.

Staff concurred with this request and recommended that the Board approve the Department's request to retain ownership of the Mud Slough (Gadwall Unit) property and continue operating and maintaining the property as part of the Mud Slough Wildlife Area.

AS A CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CUMMINS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES THE SCOPE CHANGE APPROVING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME'S REQUEST TO RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF THE MUD SLOUGH (GADWALL UNIT) PROPERTY AND CONTINUE OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE PROPERTY AS PART OF THE MUD SLOUGH WILDLIFE AREA, MERCED COUNTY.

MOTION CARRIED.

- \* 8. Graybrook Ranch Wildlife Conservation Area, Humboldt County \$2,000.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider accepting a donation of a conservation easement over 258± acres of land in the community of Hydesville, south of Eureka in the Fortuna-Rohnerville area. The property, which fronts on Highway 36 between Johnson Road and Hill Lane, is situated on a coastal bluff above the Eel River at an elevation of about 200 feet above sea level. It is currently in agricultural use but is surrounded by properties used for rural residences, some of which are as small as ½ acre. The subject property itself has three residences, a barn, some outbuildings and exterior and interior pasture fencing. Under the terms of the proposed conservation easement, there is a provision for habitat enhancement and to allow the current uses in perpetuity.

The subject area includes a 75± acre seasonal wetland, formerly known as Goose Lake, which was partially drained in the 1940's to improve the property's overall agricultural value. In spite of the drainage efforts, the area maintained its wetland characteristics. Eventually, intensive agricultural use of the wetland area was terminated, with uses now being limited to livestock grazing. The overall wetland area is characterized by periods of shallow standing water in the wet season with vegetation composed of a variety of pasture grasses, sedges, rushes and other water tolerant species. Riparian vegetation is present along a small water course that passes through the property and some remnant stands of conifers are also present. Overall, the property provides habitat for a variety of water-associated birds, raptors, songbirds and small mammals. Protection and enhancement of the wetlands is expected to increase wildlife use for such species as the bald eagle, red-tailed hawk and the red-legged frog, a California Species of Special Concern, and one which is proposed for Federal listing as endangered.

The primary purpose of accepting this conservation easement, which is highly recommended by the Department of Fish and Game, is to protect this property from the encroachment of development, and to enhance its wetlands and riparian areas. No DFG management would be required other than providing advice to the landowner in wildlife habitat improvement projects and monitoring the terms of the easement. The land would continue to be managed by the owner as a cattle ranch and no public uses of the area will be permitted without the landowner's permission.

The acquisition is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 13, acquisition of land for wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement. It is estimated that \$2,000 will be needed to cover costs of accepting this easement including Department of General Services review costs and related closing expenses.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of this conservation easement as proposed; allocate \$2,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund/P-70, Section 5907 (c)(1)(B), to cover the costs of accepting this donation; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

**AS A CONSENT ITEM HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CUMMINS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT AT THE GRAYBROOK RANCH, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$2,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND/P-70, SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B), TO COVER THE COSTS OF ACCEPTING THE DONATION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

- \* 9. Noyes Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion #4, Siskiyou County \$4,000.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This was a proposal to consider accepting a phased donation of a conservation easement covering an area, up to 3,852± acres in Noyes Valley, as an expansion of the 5,921± acre Noyes Valley Wildlife Area. The property is located in Siskiyou County, just east of Scott Valley; approximately 16 miles southeast of Etna, and approximately 47 miles southwesterly of Yreka.

The acceptance of this easement, when fully received, will expand the Noyes Valley Wildlife Area which is located in an area where larger ranches are being subdivided into small parcels (40 to 160 acres) for use as rural or mountain ranchettes. Such division could certainly lead to eventual development which will, according to the Department of Fish and Game, have a detrimental effect on this critical deer winter range for the Klamath Deer Herd. If a conservation easement is placed on the property, future building will be prohibited. The owners of this property, who have already donated easements over 3,100 acres, are now considering further conservation easement donations over much of the remaining ranch area. This proposal is to grant authority to accept these donations at the owner's convenience. It is anticipated that there will be two donations; one in calendar year 1995 and one in calendar year 1996.

The property is presently used for cattle grazing in the mountainous portions and farming in the valley area. Under terms of the easement, it will continue to be used for these purposes or for other agricultural or forest related uses that will not adversely affect fish and wildlife habitat values. The Department of Fish and Game has therefore recommended acceptance of this conservation easement as available.

Management of this area will be assumed by the Department of Fish and Game. However, this would be limited to occasional inspections and monitoring to ensure compliance with the terms of the easement. It is proposed that the property be left in its existing condition with some minor habitat improvements possible in the future. The easement does not include the right of public access over the property but does give the Department the right of access for management purposes, including the right to improve habitat.

This proposal falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements and a Notice of Exemption has been filed. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes.

The landowners, in their continuing program of donating conservation easements over a portion of the ranch until much of the entire ranch is included, have offered to donate up to 3,852± acres, bringing the total area protected by conservation easement to 9,773± acres. Approximately \$4,000 will be necessary for related processing costs of accepting this donation in phases, including title insurance and Department of General Services charges.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of this conservation easement, in phases, as proposed; allocate \$4,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 (P-99); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS A CONSENT ITEM HEARD AT THE BEGINNING THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CUMMINS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT AT NOYES VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #4, SISKIYOU COUNTY, IN PHASES, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$4,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 (P-99), TO COVER THE COSTS OF ACCEPTING THE DONATION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- \*10. Plaisted Creek Ecological Reserve (Development),  
San Diego County \$16,800.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This was a proposal by the Department of Fish and Game to improve access and fencing, as well as do minor habitat improvements at the Plaisted Creek Ecological Reserve. This 457± acre reserve, located in northeast San Diego County, approximately 20 miles north of Escondido, was acquired pursuant to Board action in May 1991. The primary purpose of the acquisition was to protect the property's pristine riparian habitat found along three creeks (Plaisted Creek, Bishop Creek and an unnamed Creek) which traverse the property, eventually joining with the San Luis Rey River in Pauma Valley. Other important habitat types found on the property include oak woodlands and chamise chaparral.

To further protect and safeguard these resources, site security is necessary. It is recommended that gate structures and fencing be installed to distinguish and maintain the boundaries and control entry to the reserve. It is also proposed that road access be improved from Highway 76 and that culvert structures be installed at strategic points to prevent road washouts. Exotic and invasive plant species will also be removed from the reserve under this proposal before they are able to expand into and degrade the present habitat. The Department of Fish and Game is requesting funds to complete the project based on the following cost estimates which have been reviewed and approved by staff:

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<u>Proposed Work</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Road construction and repair	\$6,250
Gate structures & fencing (Posts, wire & clips, end posts, cement)	7,050
Exotic plant removal (chemicals)	500
Boundary and internal signs	500
Contingencies	<u>2,500</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,800</b>

It was proposed that work will be completed under the supervision of the Department of Fish and Game.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$16,800.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

A letter of support was received from Senator David Kelley.

AS A CONSENT ITEM HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CUMMINS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES THE DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS AT THE PLAISTED CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$16,800.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Expansion #6 (Mystic Lake)  
Riverside County \$475,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider an allocation of \$475,000 to be applied toward the joint purchase of 121± acres of land located near the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Mr. Howard Dick of staff explained the project. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has acquired an option to acquire a 921± acre parcel, known as the Mystic Lake area, which is located on the easterly side of the wildlife area. The option, which includes this proposal, can be exercised in up to seven phases over a period of 42 months.

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area is located in the San Jacinto Valley of southern California, approximately 18 miles southwest of downtown Riverside and just north of the community of Lakeview, in western Riverside County. The western boundary of the 5,538± acre State wildlife area is contiguous with the 8,300 acre Lake Perris State Recreation Area. To the northwest is the City of Moreno Valley, whose current authorized sphere of influence wraps around the northern and northeastern borders of the wildlife area.

The cooperative purchase of the subject property is proposed to be funded by two Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Grants (Caltrans), the Riverside County Transportation Agency, the Trust for Public Land and the Wildlife Conservation Board. It is anticipated that the remaining phases of the 921± acre optioned area will be acquired through grants and mitigations from numerous sources. When completed, the 921± acre Mystic Lake acquisition will place approximately two-thirds of the old San Jacinto lake bed in public ownership. The lowlands comprise an historic sump of the San Jacinto River, which in the past formed an extensive freshwater wetland at this location. An early attempt at flood water diversion has largely deteriorated, and at the present time substantial flood flows often break out of the diversion and enter the historic lake bed. Placement of this area in public ownership will facilitate restoration of the historic flows back into the lake bed for wetland restoration.

According to the Natural Heritage Division of the Department of Fish and Game, the entire 921± acre site meets the Significant Natural Areas criteria due to the presence of Stephens' kangaroo rat, and two plant species, the Wright's trichocoronis and Coulter's goldfields. In addition, the site provides excellent habitat for a large variety of more common wetland species, especially birds and migratory waterfowl.

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area and adjoining lands support 38 species of amphibians and reptiles. The high number is attributable to the location at the northern end of the Peninsular range, which allows both coastal and desert flora and fauna to contribute to the area's biodiversity. Twenty-two overwintering raptor species, including six species of owls, are known to utilize the San Jacinto Valley. The valley consistently ranks in the top one to two percent in species diversity for the North American Christmas bird counts. Five species listed as federal or state endangered species have been recorded at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. These included the Stephens' kangaroo rat which, as noted earlier,

is a resident mammal, the bald eagle, which is a regular winter visitor, peregrine falcon, brown pelican and Swainson's hawk all of which have been rare visitors at the wildlife area.

Until recently, western Riverside County, as part of the Inland Empire of Southern California, has been one of the most rapidly urbanizing areas in California. It is anticipated that this trend will continue in the long term. This particular property would be developed, probably to some form of recreational use such as a campground or golf course if not acquired.

The Department of Fish and Game has recommended the purchase of the entire 921 ± acres, including the 121 ± acre subject proposal, which would be incorporated into and managed in conjunction with the existing wildlife area. It is anticipated that the area will offer both nonconsumptive and consumptive recreational uses as the habitat is maintained and developed in conjunction with the wildlife area. There are no claims of sovereign State land ownership within the property since the area is within a former Spanish land grant. The proposal is exempt from CEQA as an acquisition for wildlife conservation purposes.

This subject property has an approved fair market value of \$10,500/acre or \$1,265,250 for the 121 ± acres. It is anticipated that a total allocation of \$475,000.00 will be required to cover WCB's portion of this cooperative purchase; \$465,250 toward the purchase price and \$9,750 toward acquisition costs including escrow and Department of General Services review costs. The remaining contributions to complete this acquisition are from two Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Grants (\$685,000), Riverside County Transportation Agency (\$105,000) and the Trust for Public Land (\$10,000). The State would take title to the entire 121 ± acre parcel.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this particular proposal under the optioned area, the Trust for Public Land has obtained an option for the entire 921 ± acres, and the recommendation at this time was that the Board become involved in acquiring the first 121 ± acres. Eventually, through various other funds, the intent would be to buy the entire piece.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Expansion #6 (Mystic Lake), as proposed; allocate a total of \$475,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 [P-70, Section 2720 (a)] to be applied toward the purchase price and costs of acquisition; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt reported for the record that letters of support were received from the Ramona Hunting Club, Planning and Conservation League, Friends of Northern San Jacinto Valley, Sierra Club-San Geronio Chapter, Senator Bill Leonard (has written two letters), San Bernardino Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, Mystic Lake Duck Club, and Ducks Unlimited. In addition, a letter was received from Don and Geraldine

Walker opposing the funding and purchase of this property because the property was not contiguous to the existing Fish and Game property (in fact they feel it is a considerable distance away) and it would limit any future development, reduce their lake frontage, and devalue their property.

Mr. Schmidt added that a letter was received from Wayne Minor, Vice-President of Agri-Empire, in which he expressed conditional support for this proposal. Mr. Schmidt paraphrased the letter and read for the record the following:

"All property owners that I know of agree to one extent or another that this is a worthy project that represents a unique opportunity to provide for both improved environmental quality and management of surface and ground water. We are, however, quite concerned that there is no management plan or other evidence of coordinated planning to show how the various interests such as Eastern Municipal Water District, Riverside County Flood Control District, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, are going to interact and what land use restrictions and decrease of land values and water rights may occur. As a condition of approval of this partial acquisition, please direct the Game and Fish Department to initiate an integrated planning effort involving both the multi-levels of agencies and the landowners who border the lake in its various configurations."

Mr. Schmidt added that a letter was received and signed by four adjacent landowners (Mr. Franklin Motte, Mr. Jonathan Motte, Mr. Oliver Elliot and Mr. Fred Thomen). The letter basically indicated that they would not be opposing the governmental acquisition of Mystic Lake but asked that certain conditions be imposed, that Fish and Game cooperate in future planning of the area, and that their properties not be decreased in value. Mr. Thomen called prior to the meeting and again indicated he supported the Mystic Lake acquisition but wanted the Board to hear his concerns that the acquisition not include the use of his property as an unofficial buffer zone. He felt that with Fish and Game owning the property restrictions would be placed on his adjacent properties. Mr. Schmidt indicated that this would not be the case, the State would have no more right to impose restrictions on his property than any other property owner would.

Mr. Schmidt indicated staff would recommend the project as proposed. He added that Mr. John Anderson, representing the Department of Fish and Game's regional office in Long Beach, was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Jonathan Motte, property owner in the Mystic Lake area, addressed the Board at this time. As a landowner he feels there has to be some uses where private landowners can come into these projects and have some type of buffer zone but also have some land use that is compatible with the surrounding area. He felt the proposed project should go back to the local level as far as land uses is concerned. He also felt that Riverside County, Riverside County Flood Control District and the Eastern Municipal Water District should

act as the lead agencies because the project at this point is at a status quo gridlock but also felt it was a good project and that the Lakeview Land Investment Property being considered for purchase by the WCB should be approved, concerns of the landowners that have land that goes in and out of Mystic Lake need to be addressed at the same time. They feel they may be zoned out of using their property and wanted cooperation from the Department to put in an RV park. Mr. Motte again stated he did not oppose the acquisition as long as the property rights beyond the 1430 flood plain are not affected. Lastly, Mr. Motte asked that the attached, noted as Attachment #11 be included with the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that the Board would have no authority over county zoning, and that we are proposing to buy this land for the Department of Fish and Game. Furthermore, it was his understanding that Mr. Motte is involved in some positive discussions with Fish and Game. Mr. Schmidt summarized that the property owners have to take it back to the County and Fish and Game would speak as a neighbor.

Assemblyman Hauser asked, recognizing that this Board does not have the authority to do anything other than the acquisition, if it would be possible for the Board to encourage the Department, through written correspondence, to communicate its interest in working with the property owners and the County on the zoning and development of the area?

Mr. Raysbrook indicated that certainly whenever the Department can act as a facilitator it would be anxious to do that and the use envisioned by Mr. Motte and other property owners is not inconsistent with the acquisition. He added that he was satisfied with the nature of the RV park and that its use would be consistent in the area.

It was agreed that the Board would write a letter of encouragement to the Department to work with the landowners in this area.

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

**IT WAS MOVED BY MR. RAYSBROOK THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES THE JOINT ACQUISITION OF THE SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #6 (MYSTIC LAKE), RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$475,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 [P-70, SECTION 2720 (a)] TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THE PURCHASE PRICE AND COSTS OF ACQUISITION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Schmidt formally introduced Mr. Raysbrook, Interim Director, Department of Fish and Game, who was not present during the introductions at the beginning of the meeting.

12. Cedar Roughs Wildlife Area, Napa County 7,480.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of three separate ownerships of land near Pope Valley totaling  $413 \pm$  acres, for habitat preservation and restoration and to provide public access to adjacent federal lands. Ms. Georgia Lipphardt described the proposal. The properties are located west of Lake Berryessa and south of Pope Canyon Road in northern Napa County, and have been specifically identified by the Department of Fish and Game for acquisition, as required by Proposition 70 (1988). Two of the properties, totaling  $240 \pm$  acres, adjoin Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land at Lake Berryessa to the east, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties to the south, and contain a section of Pope Creek that flows into the lake. The acquisition would provide access from Pope Canyon Road to BLM's  $5,875 \pm$  acre Cedar Roughs Wilderness Study Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (WSA/ACEC). The third parcel, containing  $173 \pm$  acres, is located northwest of the other subject parcels and contains portions of Pope and Maxwell Creeks, as well as areas of valley grassland and oak woodlands. This property is also located on Pope Canyon Road and has additional access for administrative use via an abandoned County Road located south of the parcel.

The Cedar Roughs WSA/ACEC supports a variety of common terrestrial wildlife species, including black bear, and is the only known area in Napa County where black bear breed. The area also supports mountain lion, deer, upland game species such as California quail and wild turkey, and a variety of songbirds. The dominant feature of the Cedar Roughs area is a 3,000 acre stand of sargent cypress. Sargent cypress occurs only in California and while this occurrence itself is not unique, this stand is noteworthy because of its size and, unlike other California cypress communities, it exhibits no sign of hybridization with McNab cypress. Currently, these federal WSA/ACEC lands do not have legal access, as they are entirely surrounded by private property without any easements for public use. The majority of current recreational use within the federal lands is by local landowners. Also, a hunting club has access on the southeast side through private land. Acquisition of the  $240 \pm$  acres will open up the federal Cedar Roughs WSA/ACEC to public use. Management of this area will be accomplished through a Cooperative Management Agreement with the Clearlake Resource Area, Ukiah District Office of BLM similar to those already in place for the Cache Creek and Indian Valley Management Areas. It is anticipated that joint management will be for a variety of public recreational uses, with BLM constructing the necessary trail system from Pope Canyon Road to the Cedar Roughs WSA/ACEC.

The  $173 \pm$  acre parcel includes a portion of both Maxwell and Pope Creeks, which are perennial streams with somewhat degraded riparian corridors. This portion of the acquisition will provide an opportunity for enhancement of the riparian habitat along these

creeks, as well as in the valley grassland and oak woodland habitats located on the property. Over 90 years of grazing and farming has modified the environment and produced eroding gullies, yellow star thistle infestation and other maladies of an over-used rangeland. The present owner manages the property for moderate livestock grazing, which has resulted in improved range conditions. Eliminating the grazing would further improve the grassland and oak woodland habitats. The Pope Creek riparian zone is reestablishing itself from damage received from past gravel mining activities and could also be substantially improved by eliminating the existing cattle grazing. Both streams support warmwater fish populations including white catfish, green sunfish, bluegill and small mouth bass. In the past, rainbow trout from Lake Berryessa utilized Pope and Maxwell Creeks for spawning. It is anticipated that restoration and enhancement efforts could also reestablish trout populations in the creeks. In addition to the species mentioned above, the variety of habitat types on this parcel would support great blue heron, great and snowy egrets, waterfowl and wintering birds of prey, such as the bald eagle and golden eagle.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. The Department of Fish and Game has highly recommended the project.

The landowners have agreed to sell the subject properties for the approved appraised fair market value of \$118,000, \$146,772 and \$380,974, respectively, or a total of \$645,746. In addition to the purchase price, it is estimated that an allocation of \$21,734 will be required to cover the costs of escrow, engineering services, Department of General Services review and related acquisition expenses.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that this project has two main purposes. The Board is criticized on a regular basis for not allowing the areas acquired be open to public hunting and this proposal would, in fact, open 5,800± acres of good deer hunting land to the public. The other purpose would be to allow the opportunity for riparian restoration work on the creeks that go through the parcels and also the opportunity for instream restoration work.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support were received from the Napa County Land Trust and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. He added that Mr. Jim Swanson, from the Department of Fish and Game's Yountville Office, was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; allocate \$667,480.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund/P-70, Section 5907 (c)(12) for expenditure in Napa County as designated by the Department of Fish & Game; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish & 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. RAYSBROOK THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES THE ACQUISITION OF THE CEDAR ROUGHS WILDLIFE AREA, NAPA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$667,480.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND/P-70, SECTION 5907 (c)(12), FOR EXPENDITURE IN NAPA COUNTY AS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Napa Marsh Wildlife Area (Tolay Creek), Expansion #3, Sonoma County \$142,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 53.5± acres of land located adjacent to Tolay Creek, north of San Pablo Bay and south of Highway 37 in the North San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Lipphardt explained the proposal. The Department of Fish & Game manages 190± acres north of Highway 37 on Tolay Creek that was acquired pursuant to Board action between 1990 and 1992, and an additional 105± acres on Tolay Creek, south of the subject, that was acquired by the Department through mitigation in 1986. To date, the Board has authorized and staff has completed the purchase of over 11,000± acres in the Napa-Sonoma Marsh area, which includes properties in Napa, Sonoma and Solano Counties.

As part of its management of the Napa-Sonoma Marsh Wildlife Area, the Department, and other landowners in the area are required to conduct levee maintenance activities. These activities are subject to the permit authority of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and the Army Corps of Engineers.

On behalf of the numerous landowners required to participate in the levee maintenance, the Southern Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD) has pursued a general permit for all required levee work. As a condition of the permit approval, mitigation is required for wetland and endangered species impacts. Specific conditions of the subject permit require restoration of approximately 70 acres of tidal marsh habitat for the salt-marsh harvest mouse and the California clapper rail. The required mitigation would address all mitigation which may be required under this and any further permit reauthorizations.

The Department, in conjunction with the RCD, the permitting agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), has developed a plan which would meet permit conditions and allow levee maintenance activities to proceed. The plan calls for restoration of the upper reaches of Tolay Creek between Highway 37 and the San Pablo Bay. In addition to meeting mitigation requirements, the restoration will allow for enhancement of an

additional 300 acres, currently managed by the Department and USFWS, and resolve long-standing mosquito abatement and flooding problems. The Department's permit participation will be satisfied by acquiring the subject 53.5± acres of diked farmland. The other permittees' participation will be to restore the 53.5± acres to tidal influence to provide an upstream tidal prism to keep the tidal channels re-established downstream scoured out. The action recommended in this proposal includes authorization of grants of such temporary rights in the property as are necessary to enable the remaining permittees to accomplish the restoration.

This acquisition and restoration project fits into the overall planning for the area by the Department to acquire, enhance and preserve a diverse ecological wetland system within the 48,000± acre Napa-Sonoma marsh complex which includes tidal, diked and seasonally flooded wetland, sloughs, rivers, salt ponds and diked agricultural fields. The creation, restoration, enhancement and protection of tidal salt and brackish marshes, managed salt and brackish marshes, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands and the accompanying upland components is the focus of the Department efforts in the North Bay area. Much of the area was "reclaimed" around the turn of the century for agricultural uses and in the 1950's additional areas were diked and used for solar salt production. This complex provides a diversity of habitat types that support a wide variety of plant, fish and wildlife species. Some 128 species of birds have been identified in the marsh including twenty-five species of waterfowl, as well as the endangered California clapper rail, the threatened California black rail, the threatened salt marsh yellow throat and the western snowy plover. The endangered salt-marsh harvest mouse is endemic to the San Francisco Bay area and occurs in the Napa Marsh. Acquisition and restoration of the subject would increase the habitat base for this species and contribute to its recovery. An increase in habitat for fish, benthic organisms and other marine life would also be realized.

After the described restoration work is completed, the property would be managed in conjunction with the Department's management of the Napa-Sonoma Marsh and Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Areas. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA, under Class 13 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The landowners have agreed to sell the subject property for the approved appraised fair market value of \$135,000. In addition to the purchase price, it is estimated that an allocation of \$7,000 will be required to cover the costs of escrow, Department of General Services review and related acquisition expenses.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition as proposed; authorize the grant of such temporary rights in the property as may be necessary to enable the remaining permittees to carry out the described habitat restoration; allocate \$142,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund/P-70, Section 5907 (c)(10); 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. BOREN THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES THE ACQUISITION OF THE NAPA MARSH WILDLIFE AREA (TOLAY CREEK), EXPANSION #3, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE THE GRANT OF SUCH TEMPORARY RIGHTS IN THE PROPERTY AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE REMAINING PERMITTEES TO CARRY OUT THE DESCRIBED HABITAT RESTORATION; ALLOCATE \$142,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND/P-70, SECTION 5907 (c) (10); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Watsonville Slough Wildlife Area, Expansion # 1, Santa Cruz County \$56,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to consider the acquisition of 12.73± acres of land together with a 0.54± acre access easement, as an addition to the Department of Fish & Game's Watsonville Slough Wildlife Area. Ms. Lipphardt described the project. The property is located about 2 miles inland from the coast and consists of two parcels that lie on either side of Highway 1 near the City of Watsonville in southern Santa Cruz County. Struve Slough crosses through both parcels, connecting with Watsonville Slough to provide one of the major drainage systems for this area. Access to the subject parcels is provided via an easement over intervening private property which fronts on Lee Road, a light-duty route located approximately 0.25 miles southwest of the intersection of State Highway 1 and Harkins Slough Road. The property is south of, and contiguous with, the existing Watsonville Slough Wildlife Area; a 109± acre area acquired by the Board in 1982, consisting of wetlands, marsh and grasslands. Lee Road forms the westerly boundary of the Wildlife Area and Harkins Slough Road forms the northerly boundary.

Located within an area known as the Watsonville Slough complex, the property ranges in elevation from approximately 10 feet mean sea level (MSL) in the slough to approximately 40 feet MSL on the knoll above the slough. Transitions between the slough floor and the knoll are steep, forming a plateau or terrace above the wetland. The area typifies the physical land patterns of low valleys between coastal terraces creating a network of sloughs.

The Watsonville Slough complex is the most important resting area for migratory waterfowl between Pescadero Marsh, about 40 miles to the north and Elkhorn Slough,

about 5 miles to the south. The overlap of wetlands, marsh and grasslands creates a diverse ecosystem that provides a rich food supply for a variety of species. Approximately 120 bird species are known to use the Watsonville Slough complex, including the peregrine falcon, black-shouldered kite and great horned owl which also breed on the area, depending on its plentiful source of meadow mice, ground squirrels and other rodents found in adjacent uplands. The northern harrier, a Species of Special Concern, has also been observed in the vicinity during the breeding season. This species requires extensive grasslands adjacent to marshy vegetation. Other mammals such as coyote, raccoon and long-tailed weasel are also a part of this unique environment. In addition, migrating herons, rails and passerine species take advantage of the marsh habitat during their seasonal migrations. Other species nesting in the area are the green heron, black-crowned night heron and several swallow species.

The Watsonville Slough complex, including the project site, is identified as a Significant Natural Area SCR-029 by the Natural Heritage Division of the State Department of Fish & Game. The predominate reason for classifying this area as a Significant Natural Area is due to the occurrence of the following species and conditions: 1) the California red-legged frog, which is proposed for Federal listing (endangered) and is a State species of Special Concern; 2) the tricolored blackbird, which is a State species of Special Concern; 3) the Santa Cruz tarplant, which is a State-listed endangered plant; and 4) generally, for its coastal and valley freshwater marsh habitat.

Acquisition of this property will protect more of the Watsonville Slough complex by expansion of the area of public ownership, prevention of potential future impacts from industrial uses adjacent to the slough, and enhancement of conservation of wetland resources. Additionally, restoration of grassland on the upland portions of the site will provide more habitat and nesting areas for a variety of species.

The property would be managed in conjunction with the Department's management of the existing wildlife area, which currently requires minimal caretaking duties. The Watsonville Wetlands Watch, a local volunteer group, has participated with the Department on several habitat improvement projects in the wildlife area, and is available for future projects. Local groups, such as the Santa Cruz Bird Club, have also conducted bird watching tours in the wildlife area.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

The landowners have agreed to sell the subject properties and the access easement for the approved appraised fair market value of \$51,037.50. In addition to the purchase price, it is estimated that an allocation of \$4,962.50 will be required to cover the costs of escrow, Department of General Services review and related acquisition expenses.

Mr. Schmidt reported that a letter of support was received from the Watsonville Wetlands

Watch. He added that the project shows how the Department and the Board can work together with local industries by protecting adjacent areas. He also noted that Mr. Jim Swanson, from the Department of Fish and Game, was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this transaction as proposed; allocate \$56,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 [P-70, Section 2720(a)]; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish & 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 MS. CUMMINS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES THE ACQUISITION OF THE WATSONVILLE SLOUGH WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #1, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$56,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 [P-70, SECTION 2720 (a)]; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Ash Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion #3, Lassen & Modoc Counties      \$677,190.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of 739± acres of land, located in Lassen and Modoc Counties, as an expansion of the Ash Creek Wildlife Area. It was also proposed to subsequently exchange and/or sell portions of the 739± acres (approximately 440 acres), which contain habitat of a less critical nature, as well as portions of the existing Ash Creek Wildlife Area lands that the Department has recommended for disposal. Mr. Jim Sarro explained the proposal in detail. Mr. Sarro noted that Mr. Frank Giordano, of WCB staff, was responsible for completing the negotiations.

The purpose of the acquisition is for the protection of high quality riparian and wet meadow habitats lying on both sides of Ash Creek, which support migratory and resident wildlife, and to secure additional water rights to improve the management and development potential of the entire Ash Creek Wildlife Area. In order to secure this habitat, it will be necessary to acquire the entire ownership. Access to the property may be achieved through the State's existing wildlife area. The property is also accessible from the east off Cemetery Road, from the town of Adin and from the north off Road 87 (Adin-Lookout Road).

The original Ash Creek Wildlife Area was acquired pursuant to Board action in 1985, as

the "Big Valley Wildlife Area". Since then, through multiple WCB actions, the wildlife area has grown to over 14,000 acres.

The habitat types and amounts, located within the subject property, which will be retained by the State are approximately equal in acreage between wet meadow and riparian complex vegetation. The wet meadow type consists largely of native great basin rye bunch grasses and wetland species such as juncus. While exotic grasses do occur throughout the property, a surprising quantity and quality of native species still dominate. The riparian habitat consists of willow, Oregon ash and cottonwood trees along both sides of the main channel, as well as numerous side channels of Ash Creek. This acquisition would directly benefit deer, Swainson's hawks, bald eagles, greater and lesser sandhill cranes, Canada geese, various waterfowl species, numerous shorebird species, mourning doves and various song birds.

This unimproved property, except for fencing, is currently used for cattle grazing. A large concrete dam is located across the main channel of Ash Creek and a right to regulate water by use of this dam runs with title to the property. Acquisition will protect this area from overgrazing and will allow for habitat restoration as deemed necessary. Primary management objectives on the proposed acquisition area would be to utilize Ash Creek water rights for the purpose of maintaining year-round wetlands in suitable locations throughout the wildlife area. No pond development is proposed on the new acquisition area, but existing ditch and dam facilities will be used to divert water through a series of wet meadows and back into the main channel of Ash Creek. It was proposed that wood duck nest boxes be installed at appropriate intervals along the main channel and any suitable tributary channels and that goose nest structures be installed on the upland areas. Public access for angling purposes is proposed to be developed at the extreme eastern end of the property, subject to the consideration that it not impact the cemetery. There are neighboring landowners who also own water rights in Ash Creek, and cooperative agreements will be needed between these parties and the Department to assure timely regulation of flows at the dam on the property.

The owners have offered the entire ownership to the State, but are not agreeable to a sale of only a portion. Given this, coupled with the extremely high wildlife value of portions of the property, staff recommends the purchase, with the further recommendation that the portions not deemed necessary by the Department of Fish and Game for habitat protection be promptly sold to private parties. Of the proposed 739± acres, it is the intent of the Department to retain approximately 300± acres which will constitute a core running along both sides of Ash Creek. This core contains the critical habitat described above, along with all the water rights, while the other acreage is primarily suited for grazing.

It is anticipated that all of the Lassen County property and the nonessential Modoc County property will be sold or exchanged. A 40± acre parcel, from the subject proposal is already scheduled to be exchanged with an adjoining owner for a 40± acre inholding parcel located at the western end of the existing wildlife area. Additionally, the

Department has previously identified other lands within the existing wildlife area, about 229 acres, which contain marginal wildlife habitat and are located on the periphery of the wildlife area, where management is most costly. It was DFG's and staff's recommendation that the Board authorize these lands to be either sold or exchanged for land which contains more valuable and manageable wildlife habitat.

The owners have agreed to sell the property at the fair market value as approved by the State Department of General Services, which is \$665,190.00. It was estimated that an additional \$12,000 will be needed for expenses which include appraisal costs, title, escrow, survey and Department of General Services review costs, bringing the total to \$677,190.00. Additional costs may be incurred during the sale/exchange of the disposable acreages which will come from the proceeds of those sales. The Board has been approved for a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant in an amount up to \$269,593.00, which will be reimbursed to the Board after the purchase of the subject property is completed. The actual reimbursement amount will be based on the final settlement and disposal details.

The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. The sale/exchange of the disposable lands is exempt from CEQA under Class 12, Section 15312.

Therefore, staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the 739± acre property as proposed; authorize staff to either sell the disposable property, including those areas located in the existing wildlife area, for fair market value or exchange/trade those acres for property of substantially equal value; authorize the exchange for and acceptance of the 40± acre inholding located at the westerly end of the wildlife area; allocate \$677,190.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 [P-70, Section 2720 (a)] for the purchase and related costs for the 739± acre parcel; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that Mr. Rich Elliott, representing the Department of Fish and Game's Redding Office, was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Schmidt reported that this project had been a long time in coming, involving a lot of discussions with the local community. The Modoc County Lands Committee has been very helpful in putting this proposal together. Modoc County Board of Supervisors heard this proposal before their Board a few days before the WCB meeting and have sent a letter of support. This support letter included some conditions. Mr. Schmidt then read for the record the three conditions expressed in the letter from the Modoc County Board of Supervisors.

"Stipulations for County support are:

- 1) that the approximately 439 newly-acquired acres deemed not critical be

designated surplus and returned to private hands in a timely manner, and any exchange of these 439 acres, other than the 40-acre exchange with John Nance, must be exchanged for private lands outside Modoc County;

- 2) that a haying, grazing, and farming program (plans for which are already underway) be implemented on the wildlife area and that the retained acreage be a part of that plan;
- 3) that the 240 acres of previously designated surplus land be returned to private hands in a timely fashion."

Mr. Schmidt indicated there was no problem with stipulation #1, but would like to keep the exchange language in because some of that land could be exchanged for other lands elsewhere in the state. Mr. Schmidt added that there was also no problem with condition #3. Mr. Elliott, representing the Department of Fish and Game's office in Redding, indicated that condition #2 would not be a problem. He reported that the grazing issue had been dealt with and wanted the county to work with DFG to implement a managed grazing program through the Resource Conservation District.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CUMMINS THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVES THE ACQUISITION OF THE ASH CREEK WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #3, LASSEN AND MODOC COUNTIES, AS PROPOSED; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EITHER SELL THE DISPOSABLE PROPERTY FOR FAIR MARKET VALUE OR EXCHANGE/TRADE THOSE ACRES FOR PROPERTY OF SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL VALUE; AUTHORIZE THE EXCHANGE FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 40± ACRE INHOLDING LOCATED AT THE WESTERLY END OF THE WILDLIFE AREA; ALLOCATE \$667,190.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 [P-70, SECTION 2720 (a)] FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FOR THE 739± ACRE PARCEL; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Information and Discussion - Monitoring of State-owned Land and Conservation Easements by the Department of Fish and Game

Ms. Susan Cochran, Chief, Natural Heritage Division, made a presentation on the Annual Department of Fish and Game Monitoring of Land. She distributed a couple of handouts to the Board Members which are included with these minutes, as Attachment 16. Ms. Cochran gave an overview of the information which was distributed. There was a concern expressed on how and where complaints were handled regarding land management problems. She reported that all letters of complaints were investigated and responses sent and actions taken. Mr. Raysbrook commented that letters of complaints regarding alleged mismanagement of lands were received which were frequently caused from perception problems. Clearly, some areas require more immediate attention than others. After the land is transferred to the Department, an interim management plan must be completed within six months, with a very thorough format and requirements as to what the long-term management plan must include.

17. Information and Discussion - California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (P-117) Funding Allocation (Habitat Conservation Fund)

Mr. Schmidt made a presentation to the Board Members on requirements and funding for the Habitat Conservation Fund. Also, pursuant to a Board request at the August 10, 1995, Board meeting, Mr. Schmidt provided an explanation, with the assistance of charts, of the funding and expenditures of the fund since its creation. A handout was presented to the Board members and is attached to these minutes, as Attachment 17.

OTHER BUSINESS

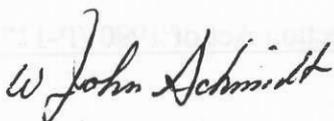
18. Mr. Schmidt recognized that Clyde Edon, Assistant Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, who turned 60 years young today was attending his last Board meeting, today, as a State employee as he was retiring in December after 28 ½ years of State service (10 ½ years of that was with the Board and the rest was with the Department of Fish and Game). Mr. Schmidt added that he really enjoyed having Clyde as part of staff; he was an asset to the Department, and also a friend and hated to see him leave. Clyde appreciated the recognition and thanked the staff.
19. Mr. Boren commented and thanked especially Assemblyman Dan Hauser who personally continually attends the Board meetings and pays an interest in what the Board does. Furthermore, in referring to several donations on the consent calendar, Mr. Boren noted that citizens of California, not just from economic benefit but from trying to preserve more of the State, are donating more and more land to the State. He recommended that a high publicity event be held once a year for those who have come forward with donations to be recognized because these people are making sacrifices out of their estates or families. Another observation Mr. Boren made is that when there isn't enough funds available to

protect habitat, people who are passionate about protecting the environment go to the only tools they have which ends up being the Endangered Species Act or CEQA or similar things. Many times we spend more money on the process and the legal industry and the consulting industry than we would have had to if we had the money to protect habitat without forcing people to take these extreme measures.

Mr. Boren added that the Board staff was a very good professional team which works well with the Trust for Public Land, the Conservancy and others and that it was a pleasure working with them.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. by Chairperson Boren.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt  
Executive Director

Attachments

OTHER BUSINESS

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on November 9, 1995, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$359,544,651.85. 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 .....	20,802,252.37
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement .....	\$ 3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement .....	14,620,551.13
3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams .....	547,719.86
4. Marine Habitat .....	646,619.07
5. Fish Screens, Ladders and Weir Projects .....	1,923,749.26
C. Fishing Access Projects .....	35,766,865.83
1. Coastal and Bay .....	\$ 2,973,174.92
2. River and Aqueduct Access .....	8,206,700.52
3. Lake and Reservoir Access .....	6,605,043.45
4. Piers .....	17,981,946.94
D. Game Farm Projects .....	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement .....	275,233,183.44
1. Wildlife Areas (General) .....	\$165,922,364.52
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ....	4,547,265.96
3. Wildlife Areas/Eco Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat) .....	100,999,105.77
4. Land Conservation Area .....	3,247.00
5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements ...	2,141,420.69
6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements ...	412,779.50
7. Other Wildlife Habitat Grants .....	1,207,000.00
F. Hunting Access Projects .....	484,898.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases) .....	9,561,132.04
H. Special Project Allocations .....	870,090.42
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects .....	657,615.63
J. Sales and/or exchanges .....	<u>15,500.00</u>
 Total Allocated to Projects .....	 \$359,544,651.85

# MYSTIC LAKE

## Planning Goals

- Protect private property rights.
- Establish compatible land uses
- Implement the River Corridor Plan.
- Maximize the cooperative use of available water resources.

Land use and flood control are the keys to resolving problems in the Mystic Lake area. Riverside County is the agency with legal authority on these issues. Cooperative planning must occur under the auspicious of Riverside County.



Resource Development

# MYSTIC LAKE

## Recommendations

- The County of Riverside, as the agency with appropriate legal authority, should assume leadership in resolving baseline planning issues in the Mystic Lake area.
- Planning issues should include a water resources management element, in addition to flood control, land use compatibility, and habitat elements.
- The Planning Task Force, with the concurrence of the lead agency, should be utilized as a forum in developing consensus on planning issues in the Mystic Lake area.



Resource Development

# Memorandum

To : Regional Managers

Date : June 3, 1995

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject : Annual Department of Fish and Game Land Monitoring

I would like to thank you for the excellent response from your staff to FY 1994-95 land inspection and monitoring effort. Based on the number of reports which were sent to the Lands Program, greater than 93 percent of lands we administer were inspected by regional biologists and wardens in Regions 1, 2 and 3. In Regions 4 and 5, 64 and 80 percent, respectively, were inspected.

Overall, this is a very good beginning for the Department's annual lands monitoring program, mandated last year by Deputy Director Curtis. Already the information obtained during these inspections is being used by your staff to plan maintenance and repair activities with FY 1995-96 lands O&M funds. In addition, Headquarters Lands Program staff will analyze the regional reports and prepare a report on the status of our lands statewide.

We have considered a suggestion to reduce the monitoring frequency to every other year. It may be feasible to have, and we will evaluate the possibility of, a stratified monitoring scheme with certain properties scheduled for monitoring yearly, bi-annually, or perhaps every five years, depending on need or other factors. However, at this time we believe it is important to have at least two years of data before making any changes. This is necessary, in part, because last year there were many forms that were copied and filled out only on one side. We believe two years of monitoring reports will be needed in order to provide sufficient data for determining future inspection scheduling as well as for use in budget planning.

This memo, therefore, is also a reminder to have your field staff inspect the lands in your regions again this year. They should use the same form as last year (copy attached). The form should be copied on both sides before distribution to field staff.

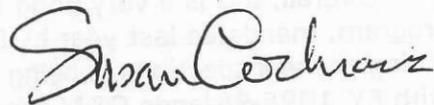
Also, for FY 1994-95, the type of data reported on public use were inconsistent, probably because the terminology used on the form was not interpreted the same way by everyone. We have attempted to rectify this problem by preparing a separate instruction sheet (attached). Please make sure that these instructions are given to every individual responsible for monitoring.

Regional Managers  
June 3, 1995  
Page Two

We have prepared diskettes which contain the inspection form on Quatro Pro V.4 software, and the instructions on Wordperfect 5.1. If your lead person for coordinating the monitoring effort (last year it was the Assistant Regional Lands Coordinator) would like a diskette, please have them contact Ms. Bonnie Turner in our Lands and Natural Areas Program (8-485-9992).

We ask that completed monitoring forms be returned to Natural Heritage Division no later than December 15, so that we can provide public use information to WCB in time for inclusion in their annual legislative report.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mr. Steve Nicola, LNAP Coordinator, at 8-492-6469, or Ms. Bonnie Turner. Thanks again for your cooperation in this important endeavor.



Susan A. Cochran, Chief  
Natural Heritage Division

**Attachments**

cc: Mr. Al Petrovich, Jr., Deputy Director  
Mr. Banky Curtis, Deputy Director  
Mr. Terry Mansfield, WMD  
Mr. John Schmidt, WCB

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game

PROPERTY INSPECTION/MONITORING REPORT  
(FOR LANDS OWNED, LEASED OR OTHERWISE ADMINISTERED BY DFG)

Region: _____	Property Name: _____
County: _____	Location: _____
Inspection Date: _____	Acreage: _____
Name of Inspector (Print): _____	
Other knowledgeable individuals: _____	Phone No: _____
(Contacts, area experts or others who contributed to report)	

FACILITIES	X =				CONDITION	
	Present	Good	Fair	Poor	Note Repairs Needed/Other Comments	
Boat Ramp						
Fishing Access/Pier						
Handicapped Access						
Parking Lot						
Restrooms						
Drinking Water						
Trash Containers						
Name Sign						
Interpretive Sign(s)						
Regulatory Sign(s)						
Boundary Sign(s)						
Walking Trail(s)						
Gate(s)						
Lock(s)						
Fencing						
Road(s)						
Dwelling(s)						
Barn(s)						
Viewing Stand(s)						
Kiosk(s)						
Overnight Area						

Is the property open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No)  
 Is there a sign to indicate that this is WCB or DFG property/project? \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No)  
 Number of People Observed: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimate of Visitor User Days per Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type(s) of use(s) observed: \_\_\_\_\_

Is landowner complying with terms of conservation easement or is management agency complying with terms of MOU?:

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Describe Signs of:	
Vandalism	
Litter	
Livestock Trespass	
Other Inappropriate Use/Conditions	

Describe any disturbance, degradation, problem on the property or incompatible activity or development in the immediate area which may affect fish, wildlife and plant values:

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For boat ramps, fishing access and pier projects: Is expansion of facilities necessary? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

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---

General Comments and/or Site Recommendations:

---

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Signature of Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Regional Lands Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
The information obtained from this form will serve many purposes. It will be used by the Wildlife Conservation Board to report to the Legislature annual public use on projects funded by WCB; it will be used by both WCB and the Department to correct management problems; and it will be used by the Department for budget planning purposes.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING MONITORING REPORT FOR DFG LANDS

Prepared May 22, 1995

by Bonnie Turner, Lands and Natural Areas Program

QUESTIONS ?? (916) 445-9992

1. Please use the officially designated department name for the property. If you prepare a report for separate parcels, please use the complete property name along with the unit or parcel name. Your Assistant Regional Lands Coordinator has the appropriate department designation and number of acres per parcel.
2. Don't forget to fill in the date of inspection and your name. Print so that it is legible, please.
3. If NO facilities are present, draw a diagonal line through the entire facility evaluation section to acknowledge this fact.
4. If at least one facility is present, mark it with an "x" in the appropriate box, AND rate its condition as either good, fair, or poor. This is extremely important information. In this case, all facilities not present should be left blank.
5. If the property is open to the public, circle YES, if closed, circle NO. Do the same if WCB or DFG property/project signs are present.
6. The number of people observed is the number of people you see while you're making your inspection.

The estimated visitor user-days per year is an estimate of the total number of visits made to a property during the fiscal year. It does NOT mean the number of days that the property is open or available for visitor use. For example, last year it was estimated that a total of 52,000 visits were made to Gray Lodge WA and 25-50 visits were made to Calhoun Cut ER. This information is a "seat of the pants" estimate, but it will suffice for now.

7. State the type of use you observed during your visit or that you know, for a fact, occurs at other times.
8. The first question on the back of the form should be answered for only two types of properties: 1) those which we do not own in fee title, but have an interest in, such as a conservation easement, MOU, management agreement, or lease from another agency or private owner; or 2) those which we own but are managed by some other agency for us (such as the county or Forest Service). Do NOT answer this question if we own and manage the property ourselves.
9. Please make sure you and your Regional Lands Coordinator (Lands Committee representative) sign the report form before it is copied and sent to headquarters.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game

LANDS INVENTORY FACT SHEET  
October 2, 1995

CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF PROPERTIES	TOTAL ACREAGE
Wildlife Areas	98	597,795
Ecological Reserves	97	102,691
Undesignated Lands	166	102,398
Public Access	168	6,753
Fish Hatcheries	21	861
Miscellaneous Lands	32	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>810,648</b>

PRIMARY MANAGEMENT PURPOSE <sup>1</sup>	ACREAGE OWNED <sup>2</sup>	ACREAGE ADMINISTERED <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL ACREAGE
Public Access	5,160	162,459	167,618
Deer Habitat	110,358	10,651	121,009
Interior Wetlands	101,110	16,328	117,438
Bighorn Sheep Habitat	29,612	77,886	107,499
T&E Species Habitat	70,655	25,076	95,731
Coastal Wetlands	32,952	30,966	63,918
Marine Habitat	0	39,671	39,671
Grasslands/Uplands	19,864	9,476	29,340
Special Habitats	10,317	15,705	26,022
Riparian Habitat	23,409	14,893	38,302
Fisheries Habitat	2,925	164	3,089
DFG Facilities	445	563	1,008
Property Rights	1	0	1
Right of Way Easements	0	<1	<1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>406,809</b>	<b>403,839</b>	<b>810,648<sup>4</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>This is an overview of DFG-managed or owned lands, not a detailed report. Many properties have multiple management objectives; only the primary purpose is listed here. Public Access totals differ within above tables. Over 161,000 acres classified as Wildlife Areas in first table are placed into the public access management purpose category in second table. Most of this acreage consists of BLM lands in Region 5 regulated to control public access on 2 wildlife areas.

<sup>2</sup>In fee title.

<sup>3</sup>Administered by DFG through MOUs, leases, management agreements, and easements.

<sup>4</sup>Discrepancies in total acreage between tables and columns are due to rounding errors.

If you have questions, or require additional information, call Ms. Bonnie Turner, Lands and Natural Areas Program, (916) 445-9992. landfact.sht:10/2/95

10/1/95

**CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT OF 1990**

The following provides a brief analysis of the funding provisions of the "California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990". This analysis does not address Chapter 10 (Mountain Lions) of this initiative.

- 1) **FUND** - The initiative creates the Habitat Conservation Fund (Sec. 2786) which is to be **funded annually in the amount of \$30 M (Sec. 2796).**
- 2) **USE OF FUNDS** - With a minor exception as noted in Sec. 2787 (a)(3), which permits the Department of Parks and Recreation to fund 50% local matching projects (\$2 M annually) for wildlife corridors, trails, nature interpretative programs, etc., funds are designated to be used for four main categories as follows:
  - a) **2786 (a).** The acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, necessary to protect deer and mountain lions. **[1/3 of total in each 24 month period - Sec. 2791 (b)]**
  - b) **2786 (b)(c).** The acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species and acquisition of habitat to further implement the Proposition 70 Habitat Conservation Program beginning with Section 2721 which includes the following items:

To acquire, enhance, restore, or protect lands in California on which any of the following naturally exists:

- (a) A unique species or natural community, whose existence at a single location in California is the only known occurrence in the world of that particular species or natural community.
- (b) A species that occurs in only 20 or fewer locations in the world, at least one of which is in California.
- (c) A natural community that occurs in only 50 or fewer locations in the world, at least one of which is in California.
- (d) As assemblage of three or more highly rare species or natural communities, or any combination thereof, of which at least one of the species or natural communities is found only in 20 or fewer locations in the world.

**[2/3 of total in each 24 month period, Section 2791 (b)]**

- c) 2786 (d). The acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands. [Approximately \$6 M in each 24 month period - Section 2791 (c)]
- d) 2786 (e) & (f). The acquisition, enhancement or restoration of aquatic habitat for spawning and rearing anadromous salmonids and trout and riparian habitat. [Approximately \$6 M in each 24 month period - Section 2791]
- e) Furthermore, Section 2791 (e) requires ½ of the funds to be spent in northern California and ½ in southern California.
- f) 2791 (f). \$2 M to be used for an agency to be created by the Legislature. Assembly Bill 4325 (Baker, et al.) became law January 1, 1991, creating the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, to be located within WCB, to receive these funds.

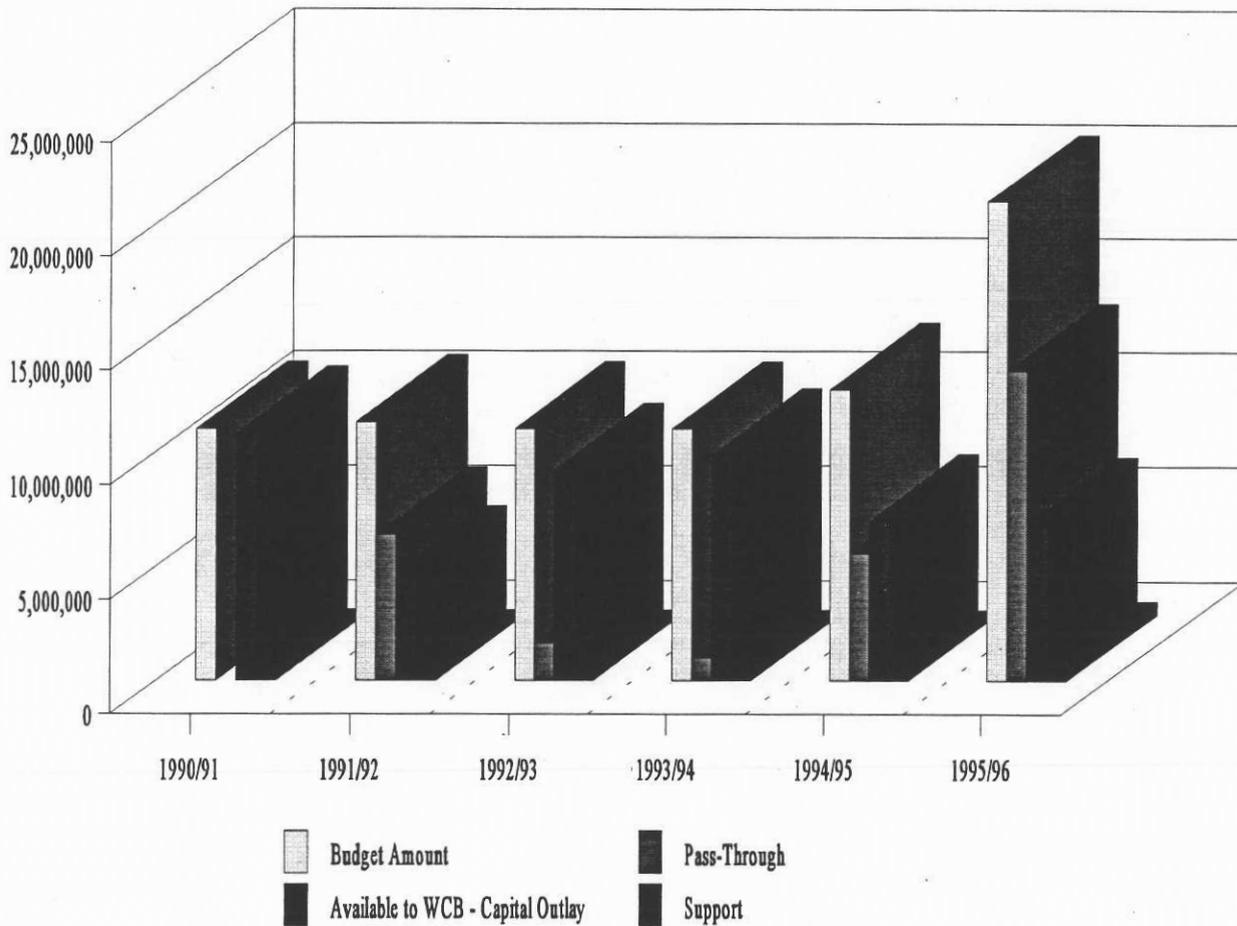
NOTE: As can be readily noted above, in each 24 month period, 1/3 of the funds are to be used for Section 2786 (a) and 2/3 of the funds are to be used for Section 2786 (b) & (c). However, in addition \$6 M is to be used for Section 2786 (d) and \$6 M is to be used for Section 2786 (d) & (e). Since 1/3 and 2/3 equals the total amount (not including the additional \$12 M) this is an obvious contradiction in the initiative. One can only assume that the intent is to fund projects which meet the 1/3 - 2/3 split but also contain habitat elements qualifying them for one of the \$6 M funds. In any event, the funding disbursement is certainly subject to interpretation.

- 3) FUNDED AGENCIES - Section 2787 specifies five agencies to be funded through this initiative, through the year 2020.
  - a. Department of Parks and Recreation      \$4.5    M/year
  - b. State Coastal Conservancy                    \$4      M/year
  - c. Santa Monica Conservancy                    \$10    M/year (1st 5 yrs only)
  - d. Tahoe Conservancy                              \$ .5    M/year
  - e. Wildlife Conservation Board                  Balance of Fund (Approximately \$11 M/yr-1st 5 years; then approximately \$21 M/yr)
- 4) ACCOUNTABILITY - Each agency shall report yearly (by July 1) to WCB the amounts spent for each purpose for which funds were allocated. Thereafter, WCB will be responsible to see that funds allocated to WCB (Sec. 2791) are spent so that the allocations noted in #2 above are fulfilled (using its funding allocation).

- 5) FUNDING MECHANISM - The fund shall be established at \$30 M/year as a direct Controller transfer (Section 2966) from the General Fund, less any amount placed in the fund from the:
- a) Unallocated account from the Cigarette & Tobacco Products Surtax Fund - a 10% direct Controllers transfer (Section 2795).
  - b) California Environmental License Plate Fund.
  - c) Endangered and Rare Fish, Wildlife and Plant Species Conservation and Enhancement Account.
  - d) Any other non-General Fund Accounts created by the legislature for purposes consistent with this act.
  - e) Any bonds authorized after July 1, 1990, which are consistent with the purposes of this act. (The legislature has interpreted this to not exclude bonds passed prior to July 1, 1990.)
  - f) Wildlife Restoration Fund.

# HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117)

## WCB ANNUAL BUDGET



<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>BUDGET AMOUNT</b>	<b>PASS-THROUGH</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>AVAILABLE TO WCB CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>
1990-91	\$ 11,000,000.00	-0-	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 10,800,000.00
1991-92	11,295,110.00	\$ 6,403,000.00	165,000.00	4,727,000.00
1992-93	11,000,000.00	1,641,000.00	165,000.00	9,194,000.00
1993-94	11,000,000.00	991,000.00	165,000.00	9,844,000.00
1994-95	12,718,000.00	5,562,000.00	165,000.00	6,991,000.00
1995-96	21,000,000.00	13,570,000.00	576,000.00	6,854,000.00

**P-117 (H.C.F.) - 1995/96**  
**FUNDING BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORIES**

<b>B U D G E T</b>		
SECTION 2786:	OTHER DEPTS	WCB
a) <i>Deer/Mtn. Lion/Oaks</i>		
D.O.F. - Forest Improvement	84,000	
b/c <i>T &amp; E Species/SNA</i>		
WCB - N.C.C.P. Land Acq.		\$1,700,000
d) <i>Wetlands</i>		
DFG-Wetland Habitat	1,500,000	
DFG-Environmental Enh. Projects	700,000	
DFG-Waterfowl Leases	200,000	
DFG-Napa Wetlands	196,000	
DFG-Yolo Bypass	636,000	
DFG-Minor Wetlands Projects	500,000	
WCB-IWCP		1,000,000
WCB-South San Francisco Bay (P-70)		1,800,000
e/f <i>Aquatic/Riparian</i>		
DFG-Habitat Restoration Grants	990,000	
DFG-Habitat Restoration Grants	1,300,000	
DWR-Upper Sacramento River Rest. Plan	300,000	
DWR-San Joaquin River Mgmt. Plan	200,000	
DWR-Trinity River Rest. Plan	164,000	
WCB-San Joaquin River Acq.		200,000
<b>UNCLASSIFIED AS TO CATEGORY</b>		
Caltrans-EEM Program	5,000,000	
DWR-Delta Flood Protection	600,000	
DWR-San Joaquin Valley Drainage	1,000,000	
WCB-Habitat		2,354,000
<b>SUPPORT</b>		
Staff/Admin. & Rivers Assessment		376,000
	\$13,370,000	\$7,630,000
	<b>\$21,000,000</b>	

Funding by Departments:

WCB - \$7,630,000  
DFG - \$6,022,000  
DWR - \$2,264,000

DOF - \$84,000  
Caltrans - \$5,000,000

\*\$5,830,000 Represents new Money

10/1/95

**FUNDING BREAKDOWN  
OF P-117 FUNDING  
1995/96**

<b>P-117 (HCF) BREAKDOWN</b>	<b>PER STATUTE (2 yrs. Available to meet this average)</b>	<b>PER 1995/96 BUDGET</b>	<b>WCB BREAKDOWN 95/96</b>
<b>SECTION 2786:</b>			
a) Deer/Mt. Lion/Oaks (1/3)	\$4,895,000 (R)	\$1,038,000 <sup>1)</sup>	\$954,000 <sup>1)</sup>
b/c) T&E Species/SNA (2/3)	\$9,790,000 (R)	\$2,550,000 <sup>2)</sup>	\$2,550,000 <sup>2)</sup>
d) Wetlands (\$3M/yr)	\$3,000,000	\$6,782,000 <sup>3)</sup>	\$3,050,000 <sup>3)</sup>
e/f) Aquatic/Riparian (\$3M/yr)	\$3,000,000	\$3,454,000 <sup>4)</sup>	\$500,000 <sup>4)</sup>
<b>SUPPORT</b>	\$315,000	\$576,000	\$576,000
<b>UNSPECIFIED</b>	-0-	\$6,600,000	-0-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,000,000</b>	<b>\$21,000,000</b>	<b>\$7,630,000</b>

- 1) Includes \$954,000 of Undesignated HCF Appropriation  
2) Includes \$850,000 of Undesignated HCF Appropriation  
3) Includes \$250,000 of Undesignated HCF Appropriation  
4) Includes \$300,000 of Undesignated HCF Appropriation

10/1/95

**FUNDS AVAILABLE TO WCB  
FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY ALLOCATION**  
(Breakdown by Prop. 117 Formula)

	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96
Section 2786 (a) Deer/Oak Habitat	1,026,000	974,000 <sup>(1)</sup>	954,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
Section 2786 (b) & (c) T&E/SNA	5,818,000	1,595,000	2,550,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
Section 2786 (d) Wetlands (Inc. Inland Wetlands Cons. Program)	1,500,000	1,701,000 <sup>(1)</sup> 500,000 <sup>(1)</sup>	3,050,000 <sup>(3)</sup>
Section 2786 (e) & (f) Aquatic/Riparian	1,500,000	500,000 <sup>(1)</sup> 1,721,000	500,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,844,000</b>	<b>\$6,991,000</b>	<b>\$7,054,000</b>

1993/94 - Breakdown per budget

- <sup>(1)</sup> Breakdown of unspecified funds (1994/95)
- <sup>(2)</sup> Includes funds from Proposed breakdown of unspecified HCF appropriation (1995/96)
- <sup>(3)</sup> \$1.8 M is from Prop. 70 and must be expended for wetlands in the South San Francisco Bay. Includes \$250,000 from Proposed breakdown of unspecified HCF appropriation (1995/96)

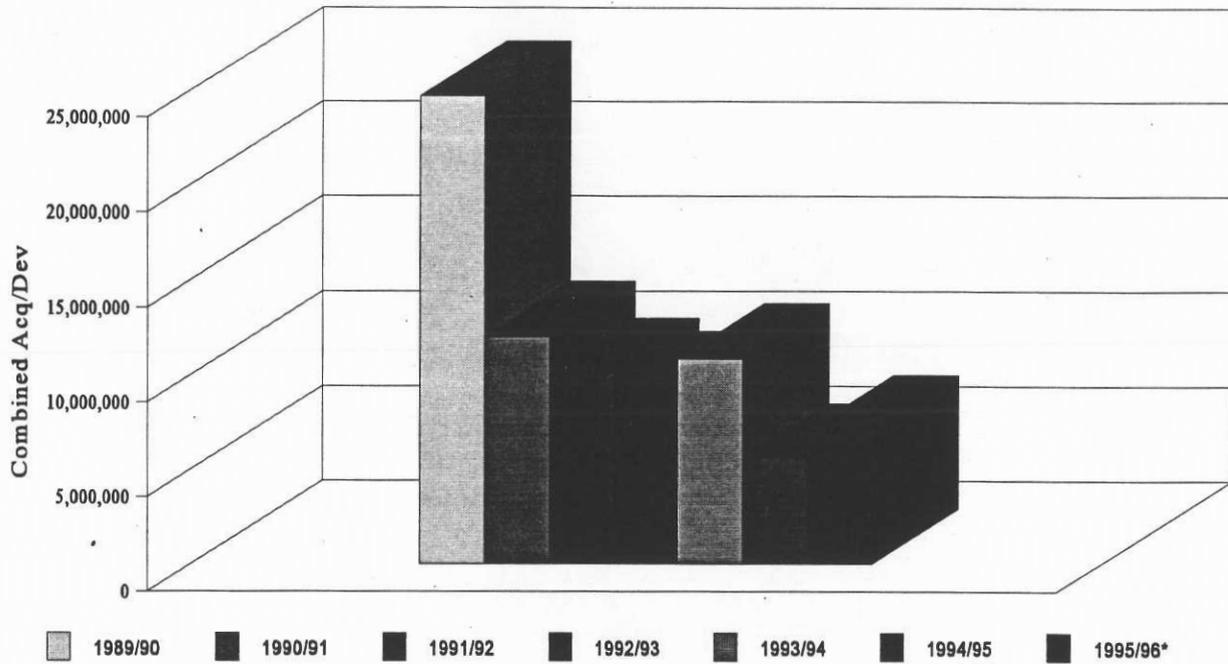
10/1/95

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD  
P-117 RECAP**

	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96
<b>SUPPORT</b>			
Wildlife Conservation Board	165,000	165,000	576,000
Department of Fish and Game	991,000	3,110,000	5,522,000
Department of Water Resources		740,000	1,664,000
Department of Forestry & Fire Protection			84,000
<b>LOCAL ASSISTANCE</b>			
Department of Water Resources			600,000
Caltrans			5,000,000
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>			
Wildlife Conservation Board	9,844,000	6,991,000	7,054,000
Department of Fish and Game		1,712,000	500,000
Department of Water Resources			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,000,000</b>	<b>\$12,718,000</b>	<b>\$21,000,000</b>

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Annual Capital Outlay Budget for Acquisition

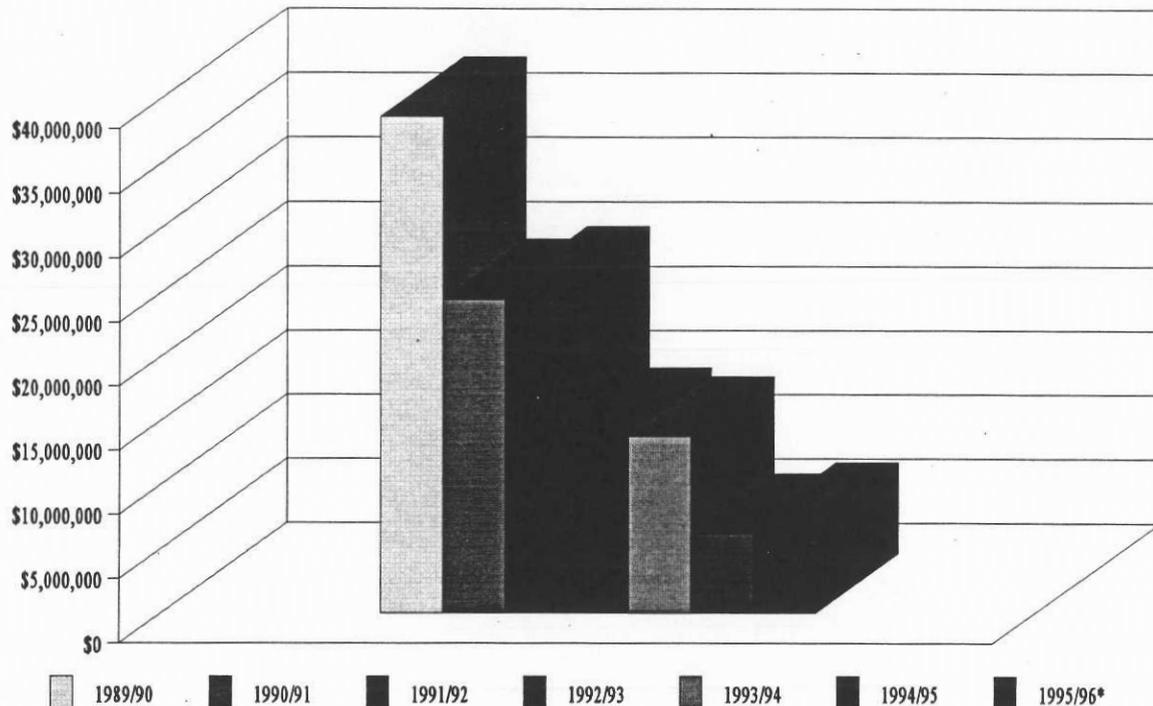


FY 1989/90	\$24,678,249.65
FY 1990/91	\$11,974,946.79
FY 1991/92	\$10,038,808.62
FY 1992/93	\$9,356,729.58
FY 1993/94	\$10,816,000.00
FY 1994/95	\$5,546,000.00
FY 1995/96*	\$7,054,000.00

\*Includes \$1.8M of continuously appropriated funds (P-70)

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

## Annual Capital Outlay Budget for Acquisition



Including Expenditures from Prop. 70, Stat. 1988  
(These are non-budgeted, authorized by Bond Act.)

FY 1989/90	\$38,583,819.65
FY 1990/91	\$24,427,434.79
FY 1991/92	\$25,439,831.62
FY 1992/93	\$14,448,450.58
FY 1993/94	\$13,745,227.00
FY 1994/95	\$6,186,377.00
FY 1995/96*	\$7,054,000.00

\* Note: Includes \$1.8M of continuously appropriated funds (P-70)