

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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



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

Minutes, May 14, 1996

<u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
1. Roll Call . . . . .	1
2. Funding Status - Informational . . . . .	3
* 3. <b>CONSENT CALENDAR (Items #4-14)</b> . . . . .	5
* 4. Approval of Minutes . . . . .	6
* 5. Recovery of Funds . . . . .	6
* 6. Monte Rio Fishing Access (Augmentation), Sonoma County . . . . .	11
* 7. Lake Tahoe Public Access, Placer County . . . . .	12
* 8. Star Bend Fishing Access, Yuba County . . . . .	15
* 9. Belden's Landing Fishing Access, Phase II, Solano County . . . . .	17
*10. Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Area, Exp. #8, Sonoma County . . . . .	19
*11. Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Tehama County . . . . .	21
*12. Wetland Enhancement (BEE-ESS Properties), Merced County . . . . .	23
*13. Tulare Basin Wetland Restoration (Santura), Phase 2, Kern County . . . . .	26
*14. Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects . . . . .	28
A. Lassen Creek Habitat Enhancement, Modoc County . . . . .	30
B. Redwood Creek Habitat Enhancement, Marin County . . . . .	30
C. Rowdy Creek Habitat Enhancement #2, Del Norte County . . . . .	31
D. Wilson Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County . . . . .	31
15. Wetland Enhancement (Modesto Properties), Merced County . . . . .	32
16. Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, Garibaldi Unit, Solano County . . . . .	35
17. Knights Landing Fishing Access, Yolo County . . . . .	37
18. Steelhead Beach Fishing Access, Sonoma County . . . . .	39
19. Scott River Riparian Restoration, Siskiyou County . . . . .	41
20. Mountain Meadows Wetland Enhancement, Lassen County . . . . .	44
21. Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Exp. #2, San Diego County . . . . .	46
22. McClusky Slough Ecological Reserve, Monterey County . . . . .	48
23. Resolution Honoring Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg . . . . .	51
Program Statement . . . . .	53

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

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



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

MINUTES, MEETING OF MAY 14, 1996

Pursuant to the call of Chairperson Douglas McGeoghegan, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in State Office Building 8, 714 P Street, Auditorium, Sacramento, California on May 14, 1996. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made at this time.

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Douglas McGeoghegan, Chairperson  
President, Fish and Game Commission  
Theresa Parker, Chief Deputy Director,  
Vice, Craig Brown, Member  
Director, Department of Finance  
Jacqueline Schafer, Member  
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ross Sargent,  
Vice, Senator Pat Johnston  
Chris Parta,  
Vice, Senator Mike Thompson  
Assemblyman George House  
Assemblyman David Knowles  
Assemblyman Keith Olberg

Absent: Senator Jack O'Connell  
Senator Daniel Boatwright, Alternate  
Senator Tom Hayden, Alternate

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

**Others Present:** Elverta & Roy A. Jones  
Chuck Mills  
Bill Skinner, Solano County  
Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks  
Bud Thrapp, Department of Water Resources  
Dr. John Crossfield, Modesto Properties  
Dave Patterson, California Waterfowl Association  
Ray Beatte, B&S Duck Club  
Rich Elliott, Department of Fish and Game/Redding  
Ryan Broddrick, Department of Fish and Game/Sacramento  
John Anderson, Department of Fish and Game/Long Beach  
Larry Rillera, County of Yolo  
Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game/Rancho Cordova  
Bob Treanor, Fish and Game Commission

2. Funding Status as of May 14, 1996 (Informational only)

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$390,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 2,500.00
Unallocated Balance	\$387,500.00

Governor's Budget - Minor Projects	\$900,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	-241,800.00
Unallocated Balance	\$658,200.00

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$750,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	-256,802.70
Unallocated Balance	\$493,197.30

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

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

Reappropriation of 1989/90 and 1992/93 - Stream Projects	\$104,535.91
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 43,305.27
Unallocated Balance	\$ 61,230.64

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

Reappropriation of 1992/93	\$ 28,490.35
Plus Previous Board Allocations	+191,900.33
Unallocated Balance	\$ 220,390.68

(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 . . . . .	-72,626,894.95
Less State Administrative Costs . . . . .	- 1,219,500.00
Less Reverted Funds . . . . .	-11,528,799.69
Plus Reappropriated Funds . . . . .	11,528,799.69
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$ 7,453,605.05

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

Governor's Budget . . . . .	\$7,354,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	-2,500,165.16
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$4,853,834.84

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

Governor's Budget . . . . .	\$8,703,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	-5,961,887.60
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$2,741,112.40

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

Governor's Budget . . . . .	\$9,844,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	-9,515,538.57
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$ 328,461.43

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

Reappropriation of 1992/93 . . . . .	\$ 56,005.36
Less Previous Board Allocations . . . . .	- 51,462.94
Unallocated Balance . . . . .	\$ 4,542.42

**RECAP OF FUND BALANCES**

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u> . . . . .	\$1,538,897.30
<u>Environmental License Plate Fund</u> . . . . .	\$209,717.00
<u>1984 Fish &amp; Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund</u> . . . . .	\$ 61,230.64
<u>Wildlife &amp; Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u> . . . . .	\$220,390.68
<u>Ca. Wildlife, Coastal &amp; Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u> . . . . .	\$7,453,605.05
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u> . . . . .	\$7,927,951.09

**\* 3. CONSENT CALENDAR (Items #4-14)**

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Consent Calendar consisted of Item Numbers 4-14. Mr. Schmidt reported two changes regarding the Consent Calendar. Item #13, Tulare Basin Wetland Restoration (Santura), Phase 2, Kern County, all references to 135± acres should be changed to 160± acres. Item #14, Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects, the funding source should be changed to Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) and not the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund (P-19). He then gave the audience and/or Board Members the opportunity to request that an item be removed from the consent calendar. Hearing no requests for removal of any items, he then recommended a vote on the Consent Calendar as proposed in the individual agenda explanations, including the above mentioned changes and funding as noted therein.

Mr. McGeoghegan introduced Miss Jacqueline Schafer, Director of the Department of Fish and Game, Ms. Theresa Parker, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Finance and Mr. Ross Sargent, representing Senator Patrick Johnston, who joined the meeting at this time.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM NUMBERS 4-14 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN AND ALSO INCLUDING TWO CHANGES. ONE CHANGE TO ITEM #13, TULARE BASIN WETLAND RESTORATION (SANTURA), PHASE 2, KERN COUNTY, ALL REFERENCES TO 135± ACRES SHOULD BE CHANGED TO 160± ACRES. ITEM #14, SALMON, STEELHEAD & RESIDENT FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS, THE FUNDING SOURCE SHOULD BE CHANGED TO HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) AND NOT THE 1984 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND (P-19).

MOTION CARRIED.

\* 4. Approval of Minutes (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Approval of the minutes of the February 8, 1996, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 1996 BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION CARRIED.

\* 5. Recovery of Funds (CONSENT CALENDAR)

The following 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.

- \$ 2,820.00** to the **Wildlife Restoration Fund**,
- \$ -0-** to the **Environmental License Plate Fund**,
- \$23,946.79** to the **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund**,
- \$22,704.88** to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**,
- \$ 6,588.50** to the **Ca. Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund**,
- \$ 4,174.00** to the **Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund**.

**WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND**

Cosumnes River Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Sacramento County

Allocation	\$ 150,000.00
Expended	<u>-150,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Mt. Shasta Hatchery Road Easement Exchange, Siskiyou County

Allocation	\$ 3,000.00
Expended	<u>- 180.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,820.00

**Total Wildlife Restoration Fund Recoveries . . . . . \$ 2,820.00**

**ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND**

Cosumnes River Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Sacramento County

Allocation	\$ 150,000.00
Expended	<u>-150,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

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

**FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND**

Bluff Creek #5 Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 18,000.00
Expended	<u>-17,997.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3.00

Booths Run Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 51,702.00
Expended	<u>-51,661.60</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 40.40

Dominie Creek Habitat Enhancement #2, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 10,850.00
Expended	<u>-10,849.99</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ .01

Freeman Creek Habitat Enhancement, Tulare County

Allocation	\$ 15,000.00
Expended	<u>-10,665.06</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,334.94

Mill Flat Creek Habitat Enhancement, Tulare County

Allocation	\$ 11,750.00
Expended	<u>- 5,934.41</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,815.59

Mokelumne River Bank Stabilization, San Joaquin County

Allocation	\$ 41,600.00
Expended	<u>-41,597.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3.00

North Fork Redwood Creek Habitat Enhancement, Mendocino County

Allocation	\$ 39,102.00
Expended	<u>-39,102.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Red Cap Creek #5 Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt County

Allocation	\$ 24,200.00
Expended	<u>-24,197.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3.00

Rowdy Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 30,100.00
Expended	<u>-30,041.31</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 58.69

Siskiyou Fork Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 29,700.00
Expended	<u>-26,960.05</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,739.95

Siskiyou Fork Smith River Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 25,200.00
Expended	<u>-22,483.91</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,716.09

South Fork Winchuck River Habitat Enhancement #2, Del Norte County

Allocation	\$ 48,450.00
Expended	<u>-48,095.57</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 354.43

Tuolumne River Bank Stabilization, Stanislaus County

Allocation	\$ 47,402.00
Expended	<u>-39,524.31</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 7,877.69

Total Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

<u>Fund Recoveries</u> .....	<u>\$23,946.79</u>
------------------------------	--------------------

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Carlsbad Highland Conservation Bank, (Bank of America), San Diego County

Allocation	\$ 1,000.00
Expended	<u>- -0-</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,000.00

Cosumnes River Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Sacramento County

Allocation	\$1,765,000.00
Expended	<u>-1,762,550.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,450.00

Green Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Mono County

Allocation	\$ 10,000.00
Expended	<u>- 4,562.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,438.00

Loch Lomond Vernal Pool Ecological Reserve, Expansion #1, Lake County

Allocation	\$175,000.00
Expended	<u>-172,111.56</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 2,888.44

San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, San Diego County

Allocation	\$1,054,888.87
Expended	<u>-1,043,960.43</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ 10,928.44

<u>Total Habitat Conservation Fund Recoveries</u> .....	<u>\$22,704.88</u>
---	--------------------

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

Cosumnes River Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Sacramento County

Allocation	\$200,000.00
Expended	-194,595.50
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,404.50

San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, San Diego County

Allocation	\$457,111.13
Expended	-457,111.13
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Upper Sacramento River Riparian Habitat (Land Exchange),  
Butte & Colusa Counties

Allocation	\$ 3,000.00
Expended	-1,816.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,184.00

**Total California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation**

**Fund Recoveries . . . . . \$6,588.50**

**INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND**

Wetland Conservation Easement Program (Department of Fish & Game)  
Skyraker Duck Club, Yolo Co.

Allocation	\$247,200.00
Expended	-243,026.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,174.00

**Total Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund Recoveries . . . . . \$4,174.00**

\* 6. Monte Rio Fishing Access (Augmentation), Sonoma County \$37,000.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This was a proposal to augment a May 6, 1993, allocation of \$97,200.00 to renovate and upgrade a cooperative public access project with the Monte Rio Park and Recreation District on the Russian River. In the spring of 1965, the Board authorized the acquisition of approximately one acre of land adjacent to several acres owned by the District. The combined property was subsequently developed as a public fishing access project with Board funding authorized at the September 1965 meeting. Since that time the District has operated and maintained this popular fishing access site at their cost under a cooperative agreement with the Department of Fish and Game.

At the May 1993 Board meeting, approval was given to renovate and upgrade the access facilities after 27 years of use, which included some years of project area flooding. The project included the construction of a new barrier free restroom as well as some parking lot repairs and asphalt overlay. Unfortunately, project costs did not allow a sufficient fund balance to complete some repairs as well as finish the restrooms in a manner which will protect them sufficiently from weather conditions. Work will consist of painting and doing minor repairs to the facilities including repairing paved areas due to water damage and land settling.

Cost estimates have been prepared by Department of Fish and Game engineers and reviewed and approved by staff as follows:

Repair damaged drains	\$ 800
Pave low spots to eliminate standing water	27,000
Tape, plaster and paint restrooms (interior & exterior)	4,050
Pipe & install hose bib	1,500
Administrative Costs (5%)	1,667
Contingencies	<u>1,983</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>

This project qualifies under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) program and is therefore eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs. Staff will apply for reimbursement under this program which, if approved, will result in a net cost to the State of \$9,250 for this work. It is exempt under Section 15302 of CEQA, reconstruction of existing structures, and a Categorical Exemption has been filed.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$37,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE FUNDING AUGMENTATION FOR THE MONTE RIO FISHING ACCESS PROJECT, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT; ALLOCATE \$37,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\* 7. Lake Tahoe Public Access, Placer County Amendment  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to amend the action taken by the Board at its May 5, 1994, meeting when the Board approved the first phase of a cooperative project to expand and upgrade the Lake Tahoe Public Access facilities. The overall project was approved in concept by the Board at its May 10, 1990, meeting at which time funds were provided for an engineering study to determine the feasibility of doing this project and for preliminary plans and cost estimates.

The Lake Tahoe Public Access project was originally constructed, pursuant to Board action in 1961, on Department of Fish and Game land located on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, approximately one mile east of Tahoe City. This project, which includes a boat ramp, fishing/boarding pier, parking lot, restroom and primitive camping sites, is operated by the Tahoe Public Utility District (District).

Due to continued heavy use and deterioration this project is in need of major renovation. In addition, it has also been proposed that measures be taken to correct a boater safety issue at this site which has continually plagued users. Currently, prevailing offshore winds, especially in the afternoon hours, create a hazard for boaters launching or retrieving their boats. Part of this proposal is to build a new pier/wave attenuation structure to reduce wave action which now hits directly into the boat ramp. The existing pier, located on the easterly side, which is in very poor condition, would be removed as part of this project.

At the May 5, 1994, meeting, the Board allocated \$250,000 for Phase 1 of this project which was to include ramp extension and widening, construction of the new pier with a wave attenuation system and pier lighting. However, due to continuing problems in obtaining the necessary approvals from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), amendments to the May 5, 1994, Board action are necessary to allow this project to proceed.

The original action allocated funds for ramp lengthening and widening as well as for construction of a pier/wave attenuation facility to the west of the ramp. However, as noted approvals for construction as originally approved have not been obtainable from TRPA necessitating redesign of the pier and deletion of the ramp portion. Fortunately the boater safety element of this project, while being redesigned, is not being lost as the pier/wave attenuation system will provide safer access even without the ramp work which is not possible under TRPA regulations. This wave attenuation system as originally proposed was to include the construction of wave dampeners under the pier as well as some sheet pile walls.

Cost figures for the original Phase I proposal were as follows:

Repair, widen and lengthen ramp	\$ 40,000
Relocate, extend and reconfigure pier	100,000
Install wave attenuation	40,000
Install facility lighting	35,000
Construction/Engineering	10,000
Contingency	<u>25,000</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$250,000

Cost estimates for the new design, which will now include a rock cribbing wave attenuation system with a pier placed on its top, gangways for boater pier access and tie-up, and a handicapped lift access are shown below. These figures represent the cost of the first 168 feet of this pier/wave attenuation system. Future phases will extend the pier, curving it to the east to provide additional wind/wave protection.

Cost specifics which have been prepared by the District and reviewed by your staff are as follows:

<u>PHASE 1</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
Demolish existing pier	\$ 8,000
Turbidity barrier	5,000
New Pier (138' x 8" wide walk to 30' x 14' wide pier head)	91,440
Relocate riprap	3,000
Cribbing (90' x 6' wide and 30' x 8' wide)	103,500
Gangway (4' wide with rails)	4,000

Adjustable catwalk (4' wide x 30' panels)	12,000
Handicapped access lift	<u>5,000</u>
Subtotal	\$231,940
10% Contingency	<u>18,060</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	\$250,000

As previously discussed and approved in concept, future phases will include, in addition to the completion of the pier/wave attenuation system, an expanded and improved parking lot, new kiosk and gate, improved project drainage and landscaping and lighting.

The District is currently completing the CEQA and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency environmental review requirements. They also circulated a Notice of Preparation and carried out scoping meetings during the fall of 1993. Based on the scoping meetings and response to the Notice of Preparation, the District prepared a Negative Declaration for the restoration work planned for the boat ramp site. A Notice to Adopt was circulated on February 19, 1994, and the District Board has adopted the Negative Declaration under CEQA. However, they will not certify the document as the Final Negative Declaration for the purpose of gaining regulatory agency permits until all findings and mitigation are included within the document.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board-Lahontan Region is requesting additional review and investigation of water quality issues. These items will be completed during this spring-early summer season. It is uncertain at this time when all permits and approvals will be received by the District.

However, in preparation for implementing Phase 1 of the restoration work as early as possible, approval of this amendment is being sought at this time to allow the project work to begin as soon as possible. Staff will prepare the appropriate project contracts with the District, however, a notice to proceed will be withheld until all approvals and permits are obtained by the District.

Staff recommended that the Board amend their May 5, 1994, action for the above construction at the Lake Tahoe Public Access project as herein proposed; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned, contingent upon the District obtaining all permits and approvals.

Letters of support were received from the U.S. Coast Guard and North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE AMENDING THEIR MAY 5, 1994, ACTION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AT THE LAKE TAHOE PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT AS HEREIN PROPOSED, CONTINGENT UPON THE DISTRICT OBTAINING ALL PERMITS AND APPROVALS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\* 8. Star Bend Fishing Access, Yuba County \$125,000.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This was a proposal to consider funding a cooperative project with Yuba County to replace the deteriorating boat ramp at the Department of Fish and Game owned fishing access site at Star Bend, on the east bank of the Feather River. This project, which is located about four miles south of Marysville, was previously approved for funding at the February 16, 1995, Board meeting. However, because of high flows in the Feather River, construction could not take place this past summer and funds were recovered.

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

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

Remove and dispose of existing ramp	\$ 5,000
Construct and remove cofferdam (for water control during construction)	25,000
Backfill and excavation	16,000
Reinforced concrete ramp	20,000
Rock slope protection	12,000
Floating dock	40,000
Contingencies and project administration	<u>7,000</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

This cost estimate has been reviewed by your staff and appears to be in order. The project, which has been recommended by the Department of Fish and Game, is exempt under Section 15302 of CEQA, reconstruction of existing structures, and a Categorical Exemption has been filed as required.

This project qualifies under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) grant program and, if approved will be eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs. Staff will apply for reimbursement under this program. The net cost to the State after reimbursement will be \$31,250.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$125,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION AT THE STAR BEND FISHING ACCESS PROJECT, YUBA COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH YUBA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT; ALLOCATE \$125,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\* 9. Belden's Landing Fishing Access, Phase II, Solano County \$250,000.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to fund the second phase of a public fishing access project on Department of Fish and Game property located at the junction of Grizzly Island Road and Montezuma Slough, in the Suisun Marsh. The project area is located approximately five miles south of Suisun City and can be reached by traveling south on Grizzly Island Road from Highway 12.

The 10± acre subject project site was approved for purchase for fishing access purposes pursuant to action of the Board in November 1986. It is proposed that approximately one-half of the property will be used for fishing and boating access facilities while the remainder will be retained in, or enhanced, as wetland habitat.

As explained in a previous Board meeting, this project is completely new, with no existing facilities on site; the total effort will be phased to correspond to anticipated funding availability. Therefore, this is proposed as a three phased cooperative effort between the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), Solano County and the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW). Solano County has passed a resolution in support of the project and will provide operation and maintenance at no cost to the State for 25 years and will administer over the construction contracts.

The DBW will provide all design and engineering services including construction supervision and will assist WCB with funding of the first phase of the planned work in 1996/97. DBW will also assist the County with preparation of technical specifications and construction plans to be included in the County's standard bidding documents.

The site is a very popular location for fishermen and will provide a much needed boating access site in the Suisun Marsh. The nearest boat ramp to this location is in Suisun City, which requires travel over many miles of winding sloughs to reach the San Joaquin-Sacramento River. Fishermen in these waters report catches of catfish, striped bass, sturgeon and an occasional salmon or steelhead.

The total project development for both boating and fishing access facilities is estimated to cost approximately \$976,410. However, the total estimate is likely to be reduced by a very generous offer of volunteer labor from the Telephone Pioneers of America. They have offered to provide all the labor necessary to construct the walkways and fishing pier at no cost. All of the project facilities will be designed to be barrier free and will satisfy American Disabilities Act requirements.

It is proposed that the final project will include a boat ramp with slope protection, parking lot, restroom facilities, water and septic system, fishing pier, walkways, boat boarding float, landscaping, fencing and signs.

Cost estimates for the entire proposal have been prepared by DBW and reviewed and approved by staff as follows:

Permit for applications, testing	\$ 39,000
Site work	72,750
Slough shore side protection	47,000
Boat launch ramp	67,825
Boat boarding float	31,200
Asphalt paving	161,600
Concrete curbs and walks	57,400
Fishing pier	147,200
Restroom	80,000
Utilities	137,300
Misc. items, i.e. landscaping, fencing, gates, signs	96,340
Contingencies	<u>38,795</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$976,410</b>

Cost estimates for the Board's portion of Phase II, which will include restroom facilities, utilities and a fishing pier, have been reviewed and approved by staff as follows:

Fishing pier	\$147,200
Restrooms	40,000
Utilities	40,000
Contingencies	<u>22,800</u>
<b>TOTAL PHASE II</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

Landscaping, fencing, gates, signs, walkways and other planned project features will be included in Phase III. This project qualifies under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) program and is therefore eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs. Staff will apply for approval under this program and reimbursements received will be shared with DBW. The net cost to the State for this phase, after reimbursement, will be approximately \$62,500.

The Department of Fish and Game has long recommended that this project be constructed and has been involved in planning efforts. The County has completed a Negative Declaration as required by CEQA and will review the need for and obtain all additional approvals and permits required for the project.

Staff recommended that the Board approve Phase II of this project as proposed; allocate \$250,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE PHASE II OF THE BELDEN'S LANDING FISHING ACCESS PROJECT, SOLANO COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH SOLANO COUNTY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS, AS PROPOSED, INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT; ALLOCATE \$250,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\*10. Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Area, Expansion #8, Sonoma County \$52,000.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of 10± acres of land located in and adjacent to the Laguna de Santa Rosa flood plain, in the City of Sebastopol. Access to the property is provided by means of a 20-foot access easement which extends in a southerly and easterly direction from the end of Hutchins Road, which is a minor street extending from Gravenstein Highway (State Highway 116).

The Wildlife Conservation Board staff, using Department of Fish and Game funds, initiated acquisition in this area in 1980 with the purchase of the first 75± acre parcel to protect seasonal vernal pools, valley oaks and endangered species. Beginning in 1989, and to date, the Board has authorized the acquisition of a total of 433± acres which actually lie within the Laguna at varied locations. The Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan (CAP) prepared by the Department of Fish and Game for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wildlife Area proposes to connect these parcels.

The proposed acquisition is considered a "first priority" parcel within the CAP, as a property that contains the highest wildlife species or habitat values (existing or restorable). First priority parcels include the core wetland habitats of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, seasonal upland floodway and the bottom wetlands of the Laguna channel.

The subject proposal will primarily benefit wetland associated species, resident as well as migratory. The wetland habitats of the Laguna ecosystem contain or support a number of rare or endangered species. These include, among others, the western yellow-billed

cuckoo, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, California freshwater shrimp and California tiger salamander. State-listed rare, threatened or endangered plant species found in the Laguna area include white sedge, Burke's goldfields, Sebastopol meadowfoam and many-flowered navarretia. The Laguna de Santa Rosa is a wetland of major significance and interest to federal, state and local agencies.

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

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

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

The owner has agreed to sell the subject property for the approved appraised fair market value of \$50,000.00. In addition to the purchase price, it is estimated that an additional allocation of \$2,000.00 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; allocate \$52,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988/P-70, Section 5907(c)(10); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Letters of support were received from Mr. Chester Locklear, a neighbor; Supervisor Ernie Carpenter, Sonoma County; and the California Waterfowl Association.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #8, SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$52,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988/P-70, SECTION 5907 (c)(10); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\*11. Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion # 2, Tehama County \$215,000.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider the acquisition of  $47.7 \pm$  acres of land for preservation of riparian, woodland and wetland habitat and to improve public access to the adjacent Battle Creek Wildlife Area. The subject property is located about six miles east of the town of Cottonwood and within one mile of the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. The existing Battle Creek Wildlife Area, totaling approximately  $458 \pm$  acres, is located on Battle Creek near its confluence with the Sacramento River, in both Shasta and Tehama Counties.

The Fish and Game Commission designated the Battle Creek Wildlife Area in 1983 after over 100 acres of land were acquired pursuant to action of the Wildlife Conservation Board. Since 1983, additional lands have been acquired by the Board along Battle Creek to further protect the fisheries, riparian and wetland habitats and to provide public access to the creek. The Department currently operates a public information and education program within the wildlife area for local schools, utilizing volunteers to assist staff with the program. In addition, the wildlife area is used for special events during the year, including the annual "Return of Salmon Festival" in October and the Department's twice-per-year "Free Fishing Days". Along with the public use activities, the Department is presently engaged in an active program to enhance and increase the wetland and riparian habitats within the wildlife area. This acquisition will provide linkage to the existing wildlife area and add acreage and resource diversity to a unit already well known for a wide variety of habitat types.

The subject acquisition proposal consists of approximately 27 acres of annual grassland and blue oak woodlands,  $10 \pm$  acres of riparian habitat along the south bank of Battle Creek corridor and some  $10 \pm$  acres of riparian and wetland habitat that has developed along the margins of an irrigation ditch system located on the property. Of the nine listed threatened or endangered plants and animals found in the general area, seven are known

to occur within a few hundred yards of the acquisition site, including the State threatened bank swallow and the federal threatened Valley elderberry longhorn beetle. The site is also within the breeding territory of the State and Federally listed bald eagle, with one nest site documented within one mile of the subject property (on the Coleman Fish Hatchery property). This acquisition would provide additional protection for both the breeding territory and a portion of the foraging territory for the eagle. In addition, valley oak, a plant species identified as sensitive, is present on the site.

Four distinct races or runs of chinook salmon depend on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, such as Battle Creek: the fall-run, the late fall-run, the winter-run and the spring-run. In recent years, all except the State listed endangered winter-run have been documented in Battle Creek. This acquisition includes 1/2 mile of riverine habitat along Battle Creek. Besides Battle Creek proper, riparian habitat is also associated with the irrigation ditch that crosses the subject property. This area provides critical habitat and significant spawning areas, especially for fall-run chinook salmon, steelhead and rainbow trout.

The entire corridor along Battle Creek is used by migratory waterfowl and raptors which also allows for the movement of local species such as deer, ring-tailed cat, river otter, raccoon, gray fox, red-shouldered hawk and the great-horned owl. Acquisition would provide linkages to the existing wildlife area and prevent development or activities that could disrupt movement within the wildlife corridor.

A public access facility and parking lot, owned by the Department and managed by Shasta County, is available to access the wildlife area. However, portions of the wildlife area south of Battle Creek are currently difficult to access. Acquisition of the subject would provide additional access and increase the opportunities for public use. The Department of Fish and Game has recommended this purchase, which will be managed in conjunction with the management of the existing wildlife area. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of categorical exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conversation purposes.

The landowners have agreed to sell the subject property for the appraised fair market value of \$205,000, or approximately \$4,250 per acre for the 47.7± acre property. The Department of Fish and Game has been approved for a grant from the Cantara Trustee Council under its 1996 Grant Program which will provide a \$165,000 reimbursement to the Board, making the Board's final net expenditure \$50,000 for acquisition and expenses of the purchase including appraisal fees, escrow and title expenses and state administrative review costs.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the proposed acquisition and acceptance of the proposed grant, as proposed; allocate \$215,000.00 as follows: \$50,000.00 from the Environmental License Plate Fund; \$38,659.50 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund and \$126,340.50 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 (Aquatic/Riparian); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

A letter of support was received from the California Waterfowl Association.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BATTLE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA, EXPANSION #2, TEHAMA COUNTY, INCLUDING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$165,000.00 FROM THE CANTARA TRUSTEE COUNCIL GRANT PROGRAM, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$215,000.00 AS FOLLOWS: \$50,000.00 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND, \$38,659.50 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND AND \$126,340.50 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 (AQUATIC/RIPARIAN); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- \*12. Wetland Enhancement (BEE-ESS Properties), Merced County \$23,051.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This wetland restoration proposal was to consider an allocation to award a grant of \$23,051, to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for the enhancement of approximately 770 acres of wetlands in Merced County.

The San Joaquin Valley is comprised of two large drainage basins and is approximately 85 miles long and 40 miles wide, covering 3,400 square miles. Historically, the San Joaquin Basin's major wetland areas were found east and west of the San Joaquin River, near Los Banos and Merced. This area is critical for migratory waterfowl and other wetland dependent species such as numerous species of shore birds, American and snowy egrets, white-faced ibis, great blue herons and various raptors such as the northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, black-shoulder kite and burrowing owl.

Consistent with the goals and objectives of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, this project will contribute toward the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture objective of enhancing wetlands on 291,000 acres of privately owned wetlands. The project is designed to enhance and maintain quality migratory waterfowl habitat, provide nesting cover for waterfowl and create additional seasonal wetlands by improving the water supply and delivery systems.

In addition, this project will also contribute toward the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture objective designed to enhance waterfowl habitat on 443,000 acres of agricultural ground. Specifically, the project will incorporate the use of cattle grazing as a tool to manage the wetland habitat. By rotating the cattle from the native uplands in the late

winter, the upland grasses are allowed to reach suitable height to provide good spring nesting habitat for waterfowl and other nesting birds.

Further, the cattle will be used to control the unwanted and excessive cattail and tule growth which chokes out shallow wetland ponds, thus decreasing their habitat values. Controlled grazing will also provide critical habitat for migrating geese, as geese prefer short, cropped grasses. Thus, good habitat can be managed through rotational cattle grazing practices.

The BEE-ESS Properties has been managed for close to a 100 years as a marginal seasonal wetlands and a cattle operation. The 770± acre site has been extensively grazed and the production of quality wetland vegetation has been marginal. Further, there are no interior fences to control livestock grazing. Water is delivered to the property from the Grassland Water District and then lifted, via an electrical pump, to irrigate the 770± acres.

This project would convert the water delivery system to a gravity fed system, thereby saving the landowners approximately \$3,000 per year in electrical pumping costs. Portions of the water delivery ditch will be enlarged and several water control structures will be installed to improve the distribution and management of the water. One mile of fence will be constructed to restrict the cattle on an 80± acre site to provide waterfowl nesting cover and brood habitat. The \$3,000 saved in electrical pumping costs will be reinvested for future habitat enhancement and management costs.

The cost estimates for the proposed work are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Water Control Structures	\$ 7,626
Channel Excavation	6,674
Hardware & Gravel	2,000
Fencing	7,200
Habitat Restoration Labor	3,000
CWA Project Design	1,600
CWA Project Monitoring and Control	2,000
Survey & Engineering (in-kind services)	500
Contingency	<u>2,951</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$33,551</b>

**PROPOSED SOURCES OF REVENUE**

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$23,051
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$ 5,000
Landowners <sup>1/</sup>	\$ 5,000
Grassland Water District (in-kind services)	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,551</b>

1/ This does not include the \$3,000 per year landowners will be expending on additional habitat improvements nor does it represent the costs associated with maintaining the wetlands for 20 years.

The capital improvements associated with this project are estimated to last approximately 15 to 20 years. As such, the landowners have agreed to manage and maintain the project according to provisions contained in the management plan for 20 years. If for some unknown reason the landowner is not able to manage and maintain the wetlands according to the provisions of the agreement, they have agreed to reimburse the State for the amortized cost of the project.

Consistent with the provisions of CEQA, this project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1 (i), maintaining fish and wildlife habitat to protect wildlife habitat and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

This project represents a true public/private partnership involving the private sector, nonprofit organizations, federal and state entities and a cost-effective opportunity for the conservation of critical wetlands. Furthermore, this project is consistent with and supports Governor Wilson's Comprehensive Wetland Policy that emphasizes (1) wetland conservation efforts through landowner incentives, (2) preservation of productive agricultural lands and (3) the development of private and public partnerships.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$23,051.00 from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund; and authorize the staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

A letter of support was received from the California Waterfowl Association.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE GRANT OF FUNDS FOR THE COOPERATIVE WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT ON BEE-ESS PROPERTIES, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$23,051.00 FROM THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- \*13. Tulare Basin Wetland Restoration (Santura), Phase 2, Kern County \$35,300.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This wetland restoration proposal was to consider an allocation to award a grant of \$35,300, to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for the restoration of 160± acres of wetlands in Kern County. This is the second phase of a project approved by the Board at its August 10, 1995, meeting. The project site is located in Kern County approximately four miles southeast of the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Consistent with the objectives of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, this project is designed to address the need to enhance wetlands on 291,000 acres of public and private wetlands.

In the early 1960s, the Kern-Wasco and Goose Lake areas of the Tulare Basin supported approximately 8,000 acres of privately owned wetlands. Since that time, increased groundwater pumping costs, coupled with poor waterfowl populations, have resulted in the loss of nearly 70 percent of these wetlands. The remaining 2,489± acres of wetlands are threatened with further loss unless steps can be taken to secure a better water supply and improve wetland and waterfowl use of these properties. Many Tulare Basin private wetlands cannot receive surface water at the present time because they do not have access to a surface water conveyance system.

The Santura wetlands represent 160± acres of critical wetland habitat in the Kern-Wasco area. Although these wetlands are extremely important to wintering northern pintail and migratory shore birds, habitat management is severely restricted by an inadequate water delivery and drainage system. Timely spring drawdowns and irrigations, which are essential for providing moist soil plants for waterfowl cannot be efficiently executed at the present time due to the lack of appropriate water management capabilities.

The purpose of this project is therefore intended to restore approximately 160 acres of wetland habitat utilizing a tailwater return system. Utilizing a tailwater return system will allow the landowners to drain wetlands into a holding pond where the water can be held

and then recycled for second and third irrigations of the wetland habitat. This system will reduce pumping costs and, allow the critical water to be simultaneously drained and redistributed over the wetlands for maintenance of brood ponds and water storage for April and May waterfowl food plant irrigations.

The establishment of a good water distribution and drainage system will allow the optimal production of quality waterfowl food plants. The addition of shallow channels and loafing bars will increase habitat diversity and make the wetlands much more attractive to wintering waterfowl and other shore birds. Construction of the water delivery and drainage system will require the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimate Cost</u>
Construct channel levee (16,334 ± c.y. @ \$.75/c.y.)	\$12,250
Construct levee along return ditch & repair existing levees (14,583 c.y. @ \$.75/c.y.)	10,937
42" Drop Board Risers, with pipes	2,000
Five 15" Flash Board Risers, with discharge pipes	3,000
Five HP return lift pump	8,000
Plants with drip irrigation system	3,500
Seed (prevent soil erosion on levee)	800
Labor	4,500
CWA Project Design	1,600
Monitoring and Control	<u>3,500</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$50,087</b>
Less Tulare Basin Wetland Association Services	-4,500
Less Landowners Contributions	<u>-13,500</u>
<b>Less Contributions</b>	<b>-18,000</b>
Contingency (exclusive of in-kind & landowners contributions)	<u>3,208</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:</b>	<b>\$35,295</b>

To protect the State's investment, the landowners have agreed to manage and maintain the property to benefit waterfowl and other wetland dependent species for 25 years in accordance with a detailed management plan. If during the 25-year life span of this project, the landowners determine they are no longer able to manage and maintain the property to benefit wetlands and waterfowl, they have agreed to reimburse the State a prorated and amortized cost of the project.

Consistent with the provisions of CEQA, this project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1 (i) maintaining fish and wildlife habitat to protect wildlife resources.

This project represents the second phase of a multi-year effort to restore wetlands in the Tulare Basin consistent with the objectives of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture. This particular phase is a direct result of the first effort that has been successfully implemented and neighboring landowners wanting to participate in the program. Recognizing that approximately 70 percent of the remaining wetlands in the Central Valley are located on private lands, this project further exemplifies the importance of public/private partnerships and the Governor's Wetland Policy that calls for providing incentives to private landowners. In addition, this project is consistent with the Fish and Game Commission's policy to provide incentives to assisting landowners in developing wetland habitat, since most of the California's wildlife is located on non-State owned areas.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$35,300.00 from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

A letter of support was received from the California Waterfowl Association.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE GRANT OF FUNDS FOR THE COOPERATIVE WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT FOR THE TULARE BASIN WETLAND RESTORATION (SANTURA), PHASE 2, KERN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$35,300.00 FROM THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

\*14 . Salmon, Steelhead & Resident Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects \$79,504.00  
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

It was proposed that the Board allocate funds for the enhancement and rehabilitation of salmon, steelhead and resident fish spawning and rearing habitat on four (4) waterways in California.

The anadromous fishery resource in California has suffered a severe decline over the past thirty years. For example, records indicate that the chinook salmon population in the Klamath River Basin has declined from a historic level of 500,000 to 180,000 by 1963, 115,000 by 1978, 55,000 by 1984 to 33,000 by 1991. One of the major causes for this decline is degradation of natural habitat due to stream and watershed disturbances from logging, road construction, mining and other activities associated with modern development. There has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of artificially produced

fish returning to the Klamath system since 1985. In 1994, 76,000 fish were recorded in the Klamath River Basin. Returns of naturally produced salmon are still very low, however, due to the recent drought and widespread loss of habitat.

In addition, the 1964 flood, which produced record high flows in many waterways in northern California, caused serious damage or completely destroyed miles of productive salmon and steelhead habitat. In addition to thousands of cubic yards of debris and sediment being deposited in the lower gradient sections of the streams, miles of flood riffles were also created by the high flood waters.

Flood riffles are broad, shallow stream sections commonly referred to as "bowling alleys" which are composed primarily of 6 to 8 inch cobbles or boulders. These areas lack pools and provide little if any spawning or rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. Some streams have usable spawning and rearing habitat that is blocked by a rock or log barrier. Modification of these barriers can open miles of good habitat that currently can not be reached by anadromous fish. Flood waters also caused the loss of bank stability and associated streamside shade canopy which is needed to maintain cooler summer water temperatures required for survival of juvenile salmon and trout. Since anadromous fish spend the juvenile portion of their life cycle in their natal stream, the need for adequate rearing habitat is a significant factor relative to the overall status of a population.

Habitat enhancement and restoration is also needed on many interior streams that support populations of resident fish species. Over the years grazing and timber harvest practices, coupled with damage from high storm flows, has caused serious impacts to many of California's smaller interior streams resulting in an overall degrading of habitat.

Many of the problems associated with the larger coastal streams are also common to the smaller interior waterways. Long stretches of some interior streams also lack the proper pool-riffle ratio and require log-rock weir structures and boulder clusters to re-create the proper habitat diversity. Unstable streambanks are common and create conditions that reduce stream habitat values.

Streambanks lacking cover generate increased sedimentation which smothers spawning gravel and fill pools needed for rearing habitat. The lack of streambank riparian growth also results in higher water temperatures, less hiding cover and a reduced food source. Some segments of streams that are heavily fished lack adequate hiding and holding cover which reduces angler success and lessens the fishing experience. Stream habitat modifications are also necessary to protect, enhance and restore populations of threatened or endangered species of fish.

The following stream restoration projects have been recommended by the Department of Fish and Game. They are exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1 (i), maintaining fish habitat and stream flows to protect fish. A Notice of Exemption or other appropriate environmental documentation has been filed for each project. The projects listed in this item are intended to correct or enhance situations identified above. The

Department of Fish and Game will, in all cases, either administer projects themselves, or monitor the work of public agencies or nonprofit organizations.

Site specific information for each of the four (4) proposed habitat enhancement projects is briefly provided below:

A. Lassen Creek Habitat Enhancement, Modoc County \$ 9,500.00

This was a proposed Department of Fish and Game project on Lassen Creek, which flows through the western side of the Warner Mountains on Modoc National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and private lands, to its confluence with Goose Lake. It is historically one of the main spawning streams for Goose Lake Redband Trout which is listed as a California Department of Fish and Game "Species of Special Concern" and is a category 2 candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The watershed has been used for many years for extensive livestock grazing particularly in the lower meadow area. The stream channel in this meadow area has been damaged by livestock trampling, irrigation water extraction structures, and even attempts to modify the channel to maintain fish passage. The channel has downcut as much as 10 feet in some locations and the stream banks are undercut, with large sections falling into the stream during high flows.

The project will consist of constructing 10 vortex rock weirs to collect sediment and stabilize the creek banks. The Department of Fish and Game has 500 tons of large rock which was obtained as mitigation for a nearby pipeline installation project and then stockpiled at Lassen Creek. Heavy equipment is needed to place the rock in the stream channel to continue the restoration work. The project will be completed by the Department of Fish and Game.

B. Redwood Creek Habitat Enhancement, Marin County \$12,889.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and the Marin Conservation Corps, a private-nonprofit organization, for enhancement of the coho fishery in Redwood Creek, which flows directly into the Pacific Ocean. All proposed work will be done on Muir Woods National Monument land and will consist of developing habitat by placing seven log structures in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scout pools. The developed pools and woody cover will also provide better summer rearing conditions for juvenile salmonids. This project will be administered by the Marin Conservation Corps, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

C. Rowdy Creek Habitat Enhancement #2, Del Norte County \$30,221.00

This was a proposed cooperative project between the Department of Fish and Game and Rural Human Services, Inc., a private-nonprofit organization, for the enhancement of the chinook and coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout fishery in Rowdy Creek, a tributary to the Smith River. The stream has an excellent riparian canopy and good year-round flows and is noted to be one of the more productive small tributaries to the Smith River. However, spawning opportunities are somewhat limited. This project will provide rearing and adult escape cover as well as enhanced spawning opportunities through the construction of 30 log and boulder structures in selected spots along the stream. Specifically, the boulder structures will include clusters and upstream "V" weirs to create rearing pools as well as sort and store spawning gravel. Woody structures, in the form of multiple digger logs and weirs, will be installed for rearing and overwinter refuge habitat. This project will be administered by Rural Human Services, Inc., under the direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

D. Wilson Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte County \$26,785.00

This Department of Fish and Game proposed project consists of constructing 15 stream enhancement structures on Wilson Creek, which flows directly to the Pacific Ocean, for the enhancement of the steelhead trout and salmon fishery. All work will be done on Simpson Timber Company land and will consist of developing habitat by anchoring logs and root wads in the stream to provide woody cover and allow the flow of water to scour pools. The developed pools and woody cover will provide better summer rearing and overwinter refuge habitat conditions for juvenile salmonids. The project will be completed by the California Conservation Corps crews from the Del Norte Center, under direction of the Department of Fish and Game.

Administrative contract costs to process one of the contracts is estimated at \$109.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve these four (4) salmon, steelhead and resident fish projects as one item as proposed; allocate \$79,504.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117-Aquatic & Riparian), which includes \$109.00 to cover the Department of General Services contract review costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE FOUR SALMON, STEELHEAD AND RESIDENT FISH PROJECTS AS ONE ITEM AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$79,504.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117), WHICH INCLUDES \$109.00 TO COVER THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE

STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED  
SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Wetland Enhancement (Modesto Properties), Merced County \$69,617.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this wetland enhancement proposal was to consider an allocation to award a grant of \$69,617, to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) for the enhancement of approximately 1,925 acres of wetlands and associated upland habitat in Merced County. Mr. Schulenburg described the proposed project.

The subject property, known as the Modesto Properties, is located approximately 20 miles west of Merced and south of State Highway 140 in Merced County. At one time, this area was considered to be one of the finest wetlands in the East Grasslands Ecological Area. The proposed project consists of 1,925± acres of which approximately 60 percent are wetlands and 40 percent are uplands. Past demands for water by agriculture and upstream flood control efforts have diminished the extent and value of the wetlands in this area. Wetland and upland habitat have been further depleted by extensive livestock grazing and limited availability of surface water and high ground water pumping costs have limited the expansion and management of the wetlands.

This project is designed to enhance and maintain quality goose habitat, provide nesting cover for waterfowl and create additional wetlands by improving the water supply and delivery system. Consistent with the goals of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Program, this project reflects an innovative method of contributing toward the Agricultural Enhancement Objective of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Plan (CVHJV) which is designed to eventually enhance waterfowl habitat on 443,000 acres of private agricultural ground. In addition, this project contributes toward the CVHJV goal of enhancing waterfowl habitat on 291,000 acres of public and private wetlands in the Central Valley.

While the Modesto Properties is privately owned, the area is protected in perpetuity, with a federal conservation easement. The property, which is primarily used as a cattle ranch, will use rotational grazing practices to create a mosaic of habitat types consisting of permanent grazing pasture, uplands and seasonal wetland habitat. Pursuant to the terms of a detailed management plan, cattle will be rotated between the permanent pasture and seasonal wetlands to maintain goose habitat and control unwanted and excessive cattail and tule growth which chokes out shallow wetland pools.

By rotating the cattle from native uplands in the late winter, the upland grasses will be allowed to reach suitable height to provide good spring nesting habitat for waterfowl and other upland nesting birds. This mosaic of permanent pasture and restored seasonal wetlands provides excellent habitat for foraging snow geese and a variety of other wildlife

species.

To achieve this multi-use project, designed to enhance the economic viability of cattle while providing enhanced habitat for geese, 25 water control structures and over five miles of channels will be installed. An irrigation return system will be created to conserve water and reduce pumping costs. Four miles of fence will be constructed to control livestock grazing.

The cost estimates for the proposed work are as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
25 Water Control Structures	\$28,160
Distribution & Drainage Channels	33,893
Fencing (20,275 ± ft.)	28,950
1 Pump Gear Head - Crane Field	3,000
Project Design	2,500
Project Monitoring and Control	3,000
Contingency	<u>10,598</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$110,101</b>

#### **PROPOSED SOURCES OF REVENUE**

Wildlife Conservation Board	\$69,617
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$12,000
Landowners	<u>\$28,484</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,101</b>

As previously mentioned, the project site area is protected in perpetuity with a federal conservation easement. In addition to the above noted sources of revenues, the landowners will also be responsible for managing and maintaining the property for 20 years.

To protect the State's interest, if prior to the completion of the 20 year period the landowner is unable to continue in this project, they will be responsible for reimbursing the State for the amortized cost of this grant. Consistent with the provisions of CEQA, this project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1 (i), maintaining fish and wildlife habitat to protect wildlife resources and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

This joint venture project involving the private sector, a nonprofit organization, federal and state entities reflects an environmentally productive and cost-effective opportunity for the conservation of critical wetland habitat. Furthermore, this project is consistent with the Governor's Comprehensive Wetland Policy that emphasizes (1) wetland conservation

efforts through landowner incentives; (2) preservation of productive agricultural land and (3) the development of private and public partnerships.

Mr. Schulenburg noted that Mr. Dave Patterson from the California Waterfowl Association was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Schmidt reported that letters of support were received from the California Waterfowl Association and the Grassland Water District. He further added that there was a change in the total cost of the project. The agenda showed \$76,102.00 and it should be \$69,617.00 due to some changes on the itemized estimated cost estimate.

Staff recommended that the Board approve funding for this project as proposed; allocate \$69,617.00 from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. McGeoghegan inquired as to the source and cost of the water. The water is from the Modesto Irrigation District at \$25.00 per acre foot.

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

**IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE GRANT OF FUNDS FOR THE COOPERATIVE WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT ON MODESTO PROPERTIES, MERCED COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$69,617.00 FROM THE INLAND WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

It was clarified for the record that the Wildlife Conservation Board has adopted Senate parliamentary rules which do not require a second to a motion.

16. Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, Garibaldi Unit, Solano County \$7,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to accept a donation of  $279 \pm$  acres of land and improvements as an expansion to the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Cordelia Slough Unit). The property is located adjacent to Highway 680 in the west Suisun Marsh area and can be accessed from Highway 680 onto the Gold Hill Road overpass (approximately three miles southerly of Interstate 80) to Ramsey Road, and then  $.5 \pm$  miles south to the property. Mr. Frank Giordano explained the proposal.

In August 1986 the Board approved the acquisition of  $320 \pm$  acres, the first portion of the Garibaldi Ranch, as the "Suisun Marsh-Cordelia Slough Unit". In addition, a donation of a  $48 \pm$  acre conservation easement was also approved, providing a buffer between the State ownership and the grantors' remaining lands lying easterly of highway 680. The owners now propose to transfer to the State the underlying fee to the  $48 \pm$  acre conservation easement area, plus an additional  $231 \pm$  acres of the ranch. The property is improved with a residence, barn, storage shed, workshop (former small airplane hanger) and other farm structures.

This proposed acquisition and the previous acquired lands contain habitat of particular importance to migratory waterfowl of the Suisun Marsh and Pacific Flyway. Numerous other species of wetland-oriented wildlife also use the area. These include herons, egrets and shore birds as well as small mammals. Currently, the property is provided some protection through County zoning, land use planning and the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act provisions. However, this acquisition would assure a larger, permanently protected refuge in this area of the marsh.

The parcel is of area-wide importance as a refuge for waterfowl on the west side of the Suisun Marsh. The primary purpose of the original acquisition and this proposed expansion is to provide a resting area for wintering waterfowl, thereby increasing waterfowl use in the west Suisun Marsh. In addition, nesting waterfowl and other wetland birds and mammals also use the area as breeding and nesting habitat. It is estimated that the combined area may accommodate in excess of 7,000 to 10,000 waterfowl, with an estimated 20-70 pairs of ducks nesting annually. In addition, the proposed acquisition area has been heavily used for many years by resting and grazing Canadian geese, a use which is expected to continue and to be improved. The Department has highly recommended the acceptance of this area and has indicated that it will be set up as a refuge with no hunting.

Nonconsumptive uses would include group educational opportunities such as nature study and bird watching. In addition, a portion of the property could easily be developed into a headquarters area with facilities for public use.

The grantor desires to impose certain conditions upon the donation of the property to the state as follows: 1) that the property be designated as the "Garibaldi Unit" of the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (which has already been authorized by the Fish and Game Commission at its June 1994 meeting); 2) that a sign be erected on the property noting the

wildlife area name; 3) that the land be used as a refuge with no hunting allowed; 4) that the grantors reserve the right to restore and enhance habitat on approximately 15 acres of the subject land for possible mitigation needs that may be required due to the development of their remaining lands lying westerly of Highway 680 (upon completion of all mitigation requirements, the 15 ± acres would be transferred to the State); and 5) that they reserve the right for five years to store their personal equipment on the property and retain the sole use of the residence. The Department, which has been quite involved in the negotiations, has agreed to these conditions and has also agreed to allow the grantor to volunteer to perform the necessary work to maintain and enhance habitat on the site that is beneficial to waterfowl needs.

The appraised value of this property, as approved by the State's Department of General Services, is \$498,000. As noted earlier, the grantors have agreed to donate this property subject to the noted conditions. Acquisition costs are estimated to be an additional \$7,000, which includes appraisal costs, title insurance fees and Department of General Services review costs. The purchase is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Mr. McGeoghegan introduced and welcomed Assemblyman House and Assemblyman Olberg, two new Legislative Advisory Committee Members, who joined the meeting at this time.

Assemblyman Knowles asked once the property was donated, who would be the recipient and what name would the property vest. Mr. Schmidt replied that the property would vest in the State of California and the recipient would be the Department of Fish and Game for management purposes. He added that Mr. Brian Hunter, Regional Manager from the Department of Fish and Game, was present should there be any questions.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of this donation as proposed; allocate \$7,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988, Prop. 70, Section 5907 (c)(1)(B), to cover the costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

The Garibaldi's were not present at the meeting but it was acknowledged that a letter would be sent thanking them for the donation.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION AND LAND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE GRIZZLY ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA, GARIBALDI UNIT, SOLANO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$7,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988, PROP. 70, SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B), TO COVER THE COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Knights Landing Fishing Access, Yolo County \$45,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to fund a cooperative project with Yolo County to improve the Knights Landing Fishing Access site, a 4.2 acre site located on Sycamore Slough, ¼ mile from the Sacramento River; about ¼ mile north of the town of Knights Landing. Mr. Schulenburg described the project.

This State-owned site was acquired pursuant to action by the Board in 1957 and has functioned as a very popular access site since the completion of facility construction in 1959. Knights Landing is well known to area fisherman for its excellent salmon and striped bass runs as well as year round catfish and sturgeon fishing. Recreational usage of the facility has risen through the years. In an attempt to provide quality service and to discourage vandalism, which has been a problem in recent years, a park host was placed on the site by Yolo County in 1995.

Due to erosion at the end of the ramp there has been some damage caused to both boats and trailers which launch during low water levels. This problem can be rectified by extending the ramp thereby allowing users to back up further on the ramp without dropping off the end. It is proposed that a precast, reinforced concrete slab be added to the ramp's end thereby extending it to a distance which will provide safe boating access. In addition, it is proposed that a concrete pad will be poured for the park host and that utility services be provided to the pad. An entrance gate and perimeter cable barrier will also be installed to prevent vandalism and curb off-hour use.

Cost estimates have been prepared by Department of Fish and Game Engineers and reviewed and approved by staff as follows:

Engineer and construct concrete ramp extension	\$30,000
Construct concrete pad and utilities for park host	3,900
Fabricate and install entrance gates	1,200

Construct concrete pad for chemical toilets	800
Install barrier along roadway and park boundary	4,700
Contingencies	<u>4,400</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>

The project is exempt under Section 15302 of CEQA, reconstruction of existing structures, and a Categorical Exemption has been filed by the County as required. This proposed work qualifies under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) program and is therefore eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement of project costs. Staff will apply for reimbursement under this program, which if approved will result in a net cost to the state of \$11,250 for this project.

Mr. Schulenburg noted that Mr. Larry Rillera, from the County of Yolo, Parks and Facilities, was present should there be any questions. Mr. Schmidt indicated that this was a very important safety project on state-owned land and recommended the project be approved.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$45,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt explained that the Sport Fish Restoration Fund is a Federal reimbursement fund that is derived from the motorboat fuel tax. It is a Federal tax on motorboat fuel sales and the money comes into the Department of Fish and Game for sport fish programs of which 12 percent must be used for motorboat access projects. That can include boat ramps, parking lots for boat ramps, any improvements such as restrooms, pads for security, gates, as long as it is related to the motorboat access project. Assemblyman House asked how the tax was identified for motorboat fuels only. Mr. Schmidt indicated he did not know the answer but would find out.

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

**IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE KNIGHTS LANDING FISHING ACCESS, YOLO COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH YOLO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED, INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT; ALLOCATE \$45,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

18. Steelhead Beach Fishing Access, Sonoma County \$200,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to fund the construction of a boat and shoreline fishing access project on the Russian River at the State owned Steelhead Beach site. The property is located between River Road and the river just north of the community of Forestville. Mr. Schulenburg explained the project.

The subject 47± acre site was purchased pursuant to the recommendation of the Department of Fish and Game and to Board approval in 1993 and 1996, for the specific purpose of developing the area as a public fishing access. The development will include the construction of an entrance road, parking area, boating access and habitat restoration.

The Russian River has been very popular with steelhead and salmon fishermen for years. However, because public access is extremely limited, access is often limited to trespassers and those with boats that are able to reach popular stretches of the river from distant locations. The stretch of river at and near Steelhead Beach has long been considered a prime fishing area but, like so much of the river, has been unavailable to the general public.

Sonoma County is highly supportive of this proposed project and has agreed to enter into a long-term agreement with the State to provide for the operation and maintenance of this access area and to maintain the sensitivity of the unique river environment and the natural landscape character of the site. Since the first acquisition, staff from the Department of Fish and Game and the Board have been working closely with County staff to develop a conceptual site plan which proposes to include a small boat launch area with associated parking, a nature trail, interpretive areas, day use picnicking areas, some camping and restroom facilities. It is proposed that Sonoma County will absorb the cost of the facilities not normally funded by the Board. Revegetation and habitat enhancement throughout the property is also proposed. A cost estimate for this proposal has been prepared by Sonoma County and reviewed by Board staff is as follows:

Driveway and road entrance improvements	\$10,000
Fencing and gates	30,000
Site grading and parking	95,000
Boat launch area	30,000
Habitat restoration	15,000
Engineering and Design	<u>20,000</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

The project has been recommended by the Department of Fish and Game and Sonoma County has met the requirements of CEQA by preparing a Negative Declaration for this project.

Mr. Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks, stated it was a great pleasure to be here today, after three years of working with the Board staff on this project. He added that they have been conducting studies on the Russian River which have indicated there is an extremely high demand for public access. Presently, there is very limited access opportunities along the river and the acquisition of this property by the Board will help address the issue. The Board of Supervisors adopted a negative declaration for this project in March 1996, and the total project cost will eventually be close to \$1.7 million. The \$200,000 being considered today was part of the funding for the first phase which totals about \$390,000. Mr. Sales continued that they were looking forward to working with WCB on a 25-year agreement to operate the property and see the project as a great investment both in wildlife habitat restoration and public access. He thanked Senator Thompson and the Board staff for their time and effort on this project.

This project does not qualify for reimbursement under the Sport Fish Restoration Fund because this was not a motorboat access project. It was clarified that the approval of the \$200,000 was for Phase 1, which is a project that costs \$390,000. The balance of the overall project cost is \$1.3 million, and Sonoma County Regional Parks would not likely be requesting any additional funds from the Board in the future.

Specifically, the \$15,000 for habitat restoration would be used to rehabilitate existing areas, plantings, and protection of native plants to the area.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$200,000.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Brian Hunter, Regional Manager for the Department of Fish and Game, was present should there be any questions. He added that this particular property was acquired specifically for the purpose of providing public fishing access on the Russian River where access opportunities are limited and fishing is very popular.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE STEELHEAD BEACH FISHING ACCESS, SONOMA COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$200,000.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Scott River Riparian Restoration, Siskiyou County \$400,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal is to consider a grant to the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District to restore and enhance approximately 4½ miles of the upper reaches of the Scott River, for coho and chinook salmon, steelhead trout and riparian associated wildlife species. The Cantara Trustee Council has approved a \$200,000 grant in funds to reimburse the Board for 50 percent of the costs of this important stream enhancement project. Mr. Schulenburg described the proposed project.

The Scott River, a major, and one of the more important tributaries of the Klamath River Basin, flows through Scott Valley, a valley that has historically provided a corridor of riparian and montane habitat for fish and wildlife. Unfortunately, much of the valley's native vegetation has gradually been cleared for farming of crops and the raising of livestock.

The scope of this proposed project focuses on rehabilitation efforts including bank stabilization, instream fishery structures, riparian revegetation, screening water diversions and livestock exclusion fencing. Methods toward achieving this restoration plan include:

1. Bank stabilization which will consist of instream structures to limit river encroachment into agricultural land, reduce erosion and improve stream diversity. Bank stabilization methods will include the construction of rock deflectors and placement of tree root wads to direct the energy flow away from the eroding banks while creating scour pools used by fish for holding and rearing.
2. Since a major emphasis of the project is riparian restoration, it is proposed that approximately 64 acres be planted to willows, cottonwood and ponderosa pine. In addition to providing increased riparian habitat, a stabilized growth of trees and shrubs will serve to increase sediment deposition on the banks and improve the water holding capability of the soil.
3. Fencing will be provided along the corridor to limit and exclude livestock competition on the planted species. Grazing will be considered as a management tool when trees and shrubs are established and an approved grazing plan is in effect.
4. Two ditches within the project area currently divert water from the river for irrigation. It is proposed that these ditches will be screened to provide protection to aquatic resources currently existing in the upstream portion of the river.

This proposal is truly a partnership project involving a number of organizations as well as local landowners. It has the support of the Scott River Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) team who were instrumental in preparing the Board's grant application to Cantara Trustee Council for the \$200,000 matching funds.

Cost estimates for this proposed project have been prepared by the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (SRCD) and reviewed by staff, are as follows:

Fencing (Build or improve approximately 4.2 miles of fencing)	\$ 29,280
Stream Restoration & Bank Stabilization (Stabilization of 3,800± ft. of streambank)	109,200
Diversion Screens	7,822
Riparian Planting & Plant Watering Systems (64± acres to riparian plants & water for 2 years)	150,301
Stock Watering Systems (Wells & stock water systems, pumps, pressure tanks, irrigation pipe, floats, and misc. material)	44,136
Contingencies @ 8%	23,719
Project Administration	<u>35,542</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

In addition, project partners which include local landowners, the Department of Fish and Game, the CRMP team, and the SRCD are providing in-kind labor, technical assistance, travel expenses and other direct project costs (fencing materials and screen components, etc.) as a local cost share. The estimated value of these services exceeds \$35,000.

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposed project and recommends it for funding by the Board. Consistent with the provisions of CEQA, the project is exempt under Section 15301, Class 1 (i), maintaining fish and wildlife habitat to protect wildlife resources and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Information about the background of the Cantara Trustee Council was requested. Mr. Banky Curtis, Regional Manager, DFG Region 2 and member of the Council, briefly explained that the Cantara Trustee Council was set up after the inland chemical spill by Southern Pacific Railroad on the Sacramento River at Cantara Loop and the funding was provided through litigation. The Council administers a fund of \$14 million, \$1.5 million annually. Because of interest being accrued over time, the total amount of funding from the Council will be approximately \$20 million over a five year period. The Council has representatives from the Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Regional Water Quality Control Board and nonvoting members from the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association and Sport Fishing Alliance.

The Battle Creek Wildlife Area, Expansion #2, Tehama County, item number 11 on the consent calendar of this meeting, was also approved for a \$165,000.00 reimbursement from the Cantara Trustee Council.

Mr. Schmidt noted that the Board was asking for the full allocation of \$400,000.00 and after the project was completed, a reimbursement for \$200,000 would be received from the Cantara Trustee Council.

Mr. Schmidt also noted that letters of support were received from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, Scott River Watershed (14 groups including Board of Supervisors, landowners and Cattlemen's Association).

Staff recommended that the Board approve this restoration project and acceptance of the proposed grant as proposed; allocate \$400,000.00 as follows: \$66,497.14 from the Environmental License Plate Fund and \$333,502.86 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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

**IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE GRANT FOR THE SCOTT RIVER RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT, SISKIYOU COUNTY, INCLUDING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$200,000.00 FROM THE CANTARA TRUSTEE COUNCIL GRANT PROGRAM, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$400,000.00 AS FOLLOWS: \$66,497.14 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND AND \$333,502.86 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Assemblyman Knowles excused himself from the meeting and stated that this being his first meeting he was impressed on how rapidly items are moved along. Mr. McGeoghegan thanked Mr. Knowles for his participation and presence.

20. Mountain Meadows Wetland Enhancement, Lassen County \$85,600.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to make a grant to the California Waterfowl Association to assist with a cooperative project to enhance 1,500± acres of upland meadow habitat, at Mountain Meadows Reservoir, for waterfowl and other associated wetland species. This 6,553 acre reservoir is located about one mile south of Westwood, in Lassen County. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), the owner of the reservoir and surrounding 10 foot contour around the reservoir, operates the reservoir as a regulating pool for generating hydroelectric power. Mr. Schulenburg explained the project.

The proposed project site is located on uplands adjacent to the east side of the reservoir, an area that is predominately meadows and wet meadows, dominated by grasses, grass-like plants and forbs. Much of the adjacent reservoir is relatively shallow and could potentially support extensive stands of emergent aquatic plants.

PG&E has traditionally allowed public access to the reservoir for hunting and fishing, with livestock grazing being a long-term secondary use of their adjacent uplands. Unfortunately, timing and duration of past livestock grazing practices has severely reduced the quality and quantity of woody and herbaceous vegetation on the project site for nesting ducks.

Past grazing practices has also reduced wildlife habitat values, affecting waterfowl production on the property. Grazing of the uplands has reduced residual vegetation used as nest sites by local breeding ducks, while grazing in shallow areas of the reservoir near the uplands has eliminated emergent wetland vegetation, a critical habitat component for waterfowl broods, overwater nesters, and other wildlife. The primary waterfowl species that will benefit from the proposed project include mallard, redhead, cinnamon teal, gadwall, ring-necked ducks, lesser scaup, northern pintail, and the Great Basin Canada goose. Other waterfowl species and a diversity of water dependent wildlife will also benefit including the greater sandhill crane and the bald eagle.

This proposed cooperative project includes many components which are not normally funded by the Board but are still very important to the overall success of this project. In addition to habitat enhancement and restoration, which will include the creation of new islands and the repair of existing island for nesting birds, revegetation and fencing, the project will include population studies and project maintenance activities.

If approved, Wildlife Conservation Board funding would be limited to the habitat enhancement and restoration elements of the project. This will include the construction of approximately 2.5 miles of fence which will be added to the existing fence to control livestock access to the project area and the repair and construction of 18 nesting islands. The fence will be designed to allow the passage of antelope. Also included will be the nesting island repair and construction. PG&E will provide funds for maintaining the fence during the 10 year project period and, in conjunction with the Department of Fish and

Game and California Waterfowl Association, will monitor vegetative conditions and waterfowl nesting on the uplands and brood use on the shallower portions of the reservoir.

Cost estimates for the entire proposal have been prepared by California Waterfowl Association and reviewed and approved by staff as follows:

Fencing, gates, hardware	* \$19,800
Boundary survey	* 1,000
Construct islands and repair existing islands	* 54,200
PG&E vegetation and nesting monitoring (in-kind)	24,000
Bird banding (in-kind)	16,200
Bird banding operation	10,500
Department of Fish & Game technical assistance (in-kind)	6,600
Project design and management	* 11,000
Fence maintenance	49,500
Contingencies	* <u>14,600</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$207,400</b>

\* WCB funding would be limited to participation in these project areas.

As previously noted, this project would include many participants, a true cooperative venture. These participants and their proposed involvement is as follows:

#### PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES

Department of Fish and Game (in-kind)	\$ 6,600
California Waterfowl Association (in-kind)	1,200
PG&E (in-kind)	24,000
PG&E	60,000
Volunteers	15,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	15,000
Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>85,600</u>
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING</b>	<b>\$207,400</b>

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposed project and recommends it for funding by the Board. Consistent with the provisions of CEQA, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301, Class 1 (i), maintaining fish and wildlife habitat to protect wildlife resources and a Notice of Exemption has been filed. Local residents have indicated strong support for managing the reservoir to provide improved habitat for fish and wildlife resources and increased recreation opportunities.

Mr. Dave Patterson, representing the California Waterfowl Association, was present should there be any questions.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that there was no known opposition and that there was great local support for it. In fact, the principal and science teacher of the local high school wanted to use the area as an educational opportunity. Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support were received from the Lassen County Board of Supervisors and the California Waterfowl Association. He added that this was a very popular project and accepted in the County.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this project as proposed; allocate \$85,600.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund (P-70), Section 5907 (c)(1)(B); and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION APPROVE THE COOPERATIVE PROJECT FOR THE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS WETLAND ENHANCEMENT, LASSEN COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$85,600.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND (P-70), SECTION 5907 (c)(1)(B); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Assemblyman Olberg excused himself from the meeting and thanked the Board for letting him be part of the proceedings.

21. Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, San Diego County \$360,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of a 94.7± acre parcel of land located adjacent to the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve in the City of Poway. Purchase of the original 317± acre ecological reserve was authorized by the Board on February 23, 1989, followed by two additional acquisitions totaling 149.8± acres which were authorized at the Board's February 10, 1994, meeting. This proposed purchase would fulfill yet another step in the state's efforts to protect properties under the Natural Communities Conservation Plan program. Mr. Howard Dick described the project.

The reserve is located about three miles east of Interstate 15, fronting on Espola Road just north of, and adjacent to Lake Poway Park. The subject property is located on the north side of the reserve adjoining it on the north and east boundaries. The Department of Transportation has purchased the property on the west boundary for mitigation purposes. Although the subject property has no legal access, Green Valley Truck Trail, which runs

through the reserve crosses the southeast corner of the property. The current owner has filed a lawsuit against the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for access on this road based on a claim of prescriptive rights. Previously, the DFG closed this road to protect the habitat and proposes to keep the road gated. A Deputy Attorney General and the owner of this parcel, working with DFG staff attorneys, have agreed to settle this case with the state acquiring the property for \$350,000. This proposed settlement is well below the approved appraised value of the property which is \$710,000. This would result in a donation to the State of \$360,000, in land value.

The proposed settlement will allow the DFG the opportunity to protect the property's wildlife habitat values and add this area to the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve. The primary habitat on the subject parcel is coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitat which contains a diversity of endemic and migratory birds, mammals and amphibians. In fact, the area has been designated by the DFG as the Green Valley Significant Natural Area because of its significance for sensitive species, including three rare or threatened species, the California gnatcatcher (Federal threatened), San Diego sagewort (Federal endangered) and the slender pod jewelflower (State rare). The property is also located within the "Biological Core and Linkage Area" identified in City of Poway's Natural Community Conservation Plan.

The DFG has highly recommended the acquisition of this land for its high habitat values as well as for solving management problems on the existing reserve which could arise if the area were to be sold and developed. It is staff's opinion that with legal access and as the economy picks up, this property could be developed, since the Poway area was growing rapidly prior to the recession.

The proposed acquisition is within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes. It is estimated that in addition to the land cost of \$350,000, it will also be necessary to allocate an estimated \$10,000 to cover costs of appraisal, escrow, title insurance and State Department of General Services administrative expenses, bringing the total required allocation to \$360,000.00.

Mr. Schmidt stated that this was a partial donation but also part of a settlement of a lawsuit against the Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Schmidt reported that letters of support were received from Senator Kelley, Mayor Don Higginson-City of Poway, and the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, Expansion #2, San Diego County, as proposed; allocate \$360,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117, as specified for the acquisition of areas qualifying under the Natural Community Conservation Plan, to cover the purchase price and related estimated costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Parker inquired if there was a letter on file from the Attorney General recommending

agreement to the settlement. Mr. Schmidt reported that the Board did not have such a letter but assumed that the Department of Fish and Game Legal Section would probably have a letter. Mr. Schmidt noted that a release from the Attorney General's Office would be needed prior to closing of escrow.

The name Ecological Reserve generally implies normal passive nonconsumptive type uses but is up to the Fish and Game Commission what regulations they want to apply to it.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #2, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$360,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117, AS SPECIFIED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AREAS QUALIFYING UNDER THE NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN, TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED ESTIMATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

22. McClusky Slough Ecological Reserve, Monterey County \$350,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this proposal was to acquire up to 43 acres (subject to a pending survey), in two separate ownerships, of coastal seasonal wetlands, riparian and vernal pool habitats in northwestern Monterey County, about one mile north of the community of Moss Landing. The property is located adjacent to the Zmudowski State Beach, about one hour driving time southwest of San Jose and 20 minutes north of Monterey. Mr. Jim Sarro explained the project in more detail.

The primary purpose of this proposed acquisition is to preserve a breeding pond and the surrounding terrestrial habitat of the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (SCLTS) within the McClusky Vernal Pool. Recent research has documented that the pond supports a breeding population of the State and Federally Endangered SCLTS and potentially supports a breeding population of the California red-legged frog, currently in the final stages of review for Federal listing.

The SCLTS was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1967, one of the first species to be protected under this legislation. It is one of five subspecies of long-toed salamanders found in the western United States. In 1971, it was protected in the State of California by the California Endangered Species Act. A Recovery Plan was published by the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1977, followed by a revised Recovery Plan that was approved by the USFWS in 1986 and published in 1993. The McClusky Slough area is specifically listed in the recovery plan.

There are eleven known population sites for this subspecies, all clustered in coastal areas of southern Santa Cruz and northern Monterey Counties. The McClusky Vernal Pool is the latest population to be documented for this species and, given its uniqueness when compared to other known breeding locations, may expand the characterization of critical habitat for the species.

This site, classified according to the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (WHR), has several habitat components. These include a vernal pool, a freshwater slough, perennial grassland, coastal dune scrub and developed cropland, all with a maritime influence. The dominant native plants in the coastal dune scrub community include the yellow sand verbena, mock heather, beach burr, bush lupine and beach morning glory. Two nonnative dominant plants in the coastal dune scrub community include ice plant and european dune grass. Both of these nonnative plants are recognized by the California Pest Plant Council as important weeds of California.

The log books compiled by Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) rangers list many species utilizing the site. These include the California vole, long-tailed weasel, brush rabbit, striped skunk, raccoon and the nonnative red fox. Birds utilizing the freshwater slough are American coot, mallard, cinnamon teal, canvasback and red-winged blackbird. Birds utilizing the perennial grassland are the northern shrike, red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, marsh hawk and American kestrel. Some common birds utilizing the coastal dune scrub are the song sparrow, American goldfinch and common crow. These entries are daytime observations; therefore the species list will diversify with daytime and nighttime species surveys as well as surveys throughout the year.

Field investigations and surveys of the property were conducted in November 1993 and February 1994 and documented adult long-toed salamanders to be utilizing the upland areas immediately adjacent to the vernal pool. Subsequent surveys, conducted in March and April of 1994 also documented long-toed salamander eggs both in the vernal pool and the artificial drainage north of the pool. These latter surveys also found California red-legged frogs in the drainage. However, no eggs or larvae were observed; only juvenile frogs.

The habitat components of the site are highly uncharacteristic of other SCLTS localities in its range, thus increasing the significance of the discovery as well as its need for preservation. None of the other known localities are situated as close to the saline waters of the Monterey Bay, nor do they appear to have similar soil or botanical characteristics as are associated with coastal dune habitats.

One of the subject parcels (containing  $42 \pm$  acres) is about one-half mile long and is separated from Zmudowski State Beach and parking lot by the second parcel, a long-

abandoned 1.2± acre railroad right of way. The Big Sur Land Trust, anticipating the possibility of WCB acquisition of the larger parcel, purchased the right of way at a County tax sale in early April and has agreed to transfer it to the State for its cost, about \$2,000.00, if the parcels are approved for purchase by WCB. This would make the entire property contiguous with the State Beach.

The adjacency to Zmudowski State Beach and its existing parking lot is important for two reasons namely: 1) for efficient management; and 2) to afford outstanding opportunities for restoration of the wetlands and the adjacent sand dune habitats.

Currently, DPR's parking lot for the beach is carved into the sand dunes. From DPR's point of view, this makes the parking area difficult to maintain while also taking up biologically significant dune habitat. As part of this proposed transaction, DPR has agreed to assume operation and maintenance of the 43± acre site under management guidelines devised by the Department of Fish and Game. DPR would also relocate the parking lot to a nonsensitive location within the subject property, most likely along the existing county road that provides access to the State Beach. DPR and DFG are now in discussions with the State Coastal Conservancy aimed at conducting a dune restoration project and improving public access to the beach.

The 42± acre site has been appraised at \$8,000 per acre, the appraisal has been approved by the Department of General Services and the owners of this site have offered it to the State for appraised value. As noted above, the actual acreage is subject to survey, but staff estimates \$336,000 will be sufficient to cover the purchase price. An additional \$2,000.00 would cover the costs of Big Sur Land Trust in acquiring and transferring the railroad right of way to the State. Costs of the survey, appraisal, escrow fees, title insurance and Department of General Services review charges are expected to be about \$12,000.00, hence, the total recommended allocation of \$350,000.00. The acquisition is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

Finally, WCB staff and State Coastal Conservancy staff are in discussions with the Department's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) regarding the possible use of oil spill settlement funds to pay some portions of the purchase price and restoration costs. Should some of these funds become available for this purchase, the proposed Board allocation will be reduced accordingly.

Mr. Schmidt noted that letters of support were received from the Monterey County Planning Department, State Department of Parks and Recreation, State Coastal Conservancy, Elkhorn Slough Natural Estuarine Research Reserve, Elkhorn Slough Foundation, 18 letters from Madonna del Sassa School in Salinas, and 15 letters signed by a total of 61 additional persons. He added that there was no known opposition. Mr. Brian Hunter, Regional Manager for the Department of Fish and Game, was present should there be any questions.

Miss Schafer asked staff to work with the Department of Parks and Recreation for increased presence for safety reasons.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the two parcels as proposed; allocate a total of \$350,000.00, \$93,219.86 from the Environmental License Plate Fund and \$256,780.14 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117, to cover the purchase price and related costs, approve the acceptance of possible Oil Spill Settlement Funds; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE MCCLUSKY SLOUGH ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, MONTEREY COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE A TOTAL OF \$350,000.00 AS FOLLOWS: \$93,219.86 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND AND \$256,780.14 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117, TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS, APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF POSSIBLE OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT FUNDS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

23. Resolution Honoring Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg

The following resolution was submitted for enactment by the Wildlife Conservation Board and Mr. Schmidt read the resolution for the record.

**WHEREAS**, Assemblyman Phillip Isenberg has served with distinction as a member of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board for thirteen years; and

**WHEREAS**, because of his love for the outdoors, coupled with his knowledge, concern and interest in wildlife matters, he has furthered the objectives of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the welfare of the wildlife resources of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Assemblyman "Phil" Isenberg's sound judgement, wise counsel and leadership, drawn from his long career in the California Legislature has greatly assisted the Board and its staff while furthering the cause of wildlife conservation and related recreation;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee, and the Board staff convey to Assemblyman Isenberg our sincere thanks and appreciation for his noteworthy contributions to the Wildlife Conservation Board and extend to him our very best wishes for the future, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Assemblyman Isenberg.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RESOLUTION HONORING ASSEMBLYMAN ISENBERG.

MOTION CARRIED.

24. Mr. Schmidt reported that this was the last meeting for Sandy Daniel, who has been the Executive Secretary of the Board for 10 years, and wanted to thank her publicly for the support she has provided to him and to the Board. Sandy will be joining the staff of the Fish and Game Commission.

Assemblyman House apologized for arriving late at the meeting but indicated he looked forward to working with the Board and attending future meetings. Mr. McGeoghegan thanked the Board Members and Legislative Advisory Members for their presence.

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

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt  
Executive Director

## PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on May 14, 1996, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$371,192,611.66. This total includes funds reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Accelerated Public Works Program completed in 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Anadromous Fish Act Program, the Pittman-Robertson Program, and the Estuarine Sanctuary Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act, the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund, the Bagley Conservation Fund, the State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act of 1974, the General Fund, the Energy Resources Fund, the Environmental License Plate Fund, the State, Urban and Coastal Park Bond Act of 1976, the 1984 Parklands Bond Act, the 1984 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Bond Act, the California Wildlife Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund of 1988, California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 and the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

A.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects .....	\$ 16,006,219.06
B.	Fish Habitat Preservation, Development & Improvement .....	20,901,114.85
1.	Reservoir Construction or Improvement .....	\$ 3,063,613.05
2.	Stream Clearance and Improvement .....	14,719,413.61
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 .....	36,561,865.83
1.	Coastal and Bay .....	\$ 2,973,174.92
2.	River and Aqueduct Access .....	9,001,700.52
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 .....	285,294,361.77
1.	Wildlife Areas (General) .....	\$173,563,342.13
2.	Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev. ....	4,682,865.96
3.	Wildlife Areas/Eco Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat) .....	102,076,967.33
4.	Land Conservation Area .....	3,247.00
5.	Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements ...	2,775,666.27
6.	Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements ...	812,773.08
7.	Other Wildlife Habitat Grants .....	1,379,500.00
F.	Hunting Access Projects .....	484,898.57
G.	Miscellaneous Projects (including leases) .....	10,158,055.04
H.	Special Project Allocations .....	870,090.42
I.	Miscellaneous Public Access Projects .....	757,615.63
J.	Sales and/or exchanges .....	11,496.00
Total Allocated to Projects .....		\$371,192,611.66