

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 13, 1996; 10:00 A.M.
Room 113, State Capitol ^{1/}
Sacramento, CA

Minutes, August 13, 1996

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^{1/} These facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 13, 1996

Pursuant to the call of the Chairperson Douglas McGeoghegan, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in the State Capitol, Rm. 113, Sacramento, California on August 13, 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
Senator Jack O'Connell
Senator Mike Thompson

Absent: Assemblyman George House
Assemblyman David Knowles
Assemblyman Keith Olberg
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
Terri Muzik, Executive Secretary

Others Present:

Elizabeth Riddle, University of California Natural Reserve System
Jerry Wasley, Nevada Irrigation District
Susan Williams, East Bay Regional Park District
Dan Davis, Elk Grove Community Services District
Corey Brown, The Trust for Public Lands
Julie Horenstein, Department of Fish and Game
Bud Thrapp, Department of Water Resources
Greg Wapinsky, Department of Boating and Waterways
Bob Treanor, Fish and Game Commission
B. Noah Tilghman, California State Parks
James Whalen, Helix Land Co.
Gregory Lambron, Helix Land Co.
John Anderson, Helix Land Co.
John Cowan, Citizen
Janay Kruger
Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game/Rancho Cordova
Duke Foster
Patricia Wolf, Dept. Of Fish and Game/Long Beach
David McIlroy, Bureau of Land Management
Gregson W. Posteow, State Capitol, Consultant
Lenora Kirby, Sonoran Institute
Scott Cooper, University of California, Santa Barbara
Carlene Marya
Warren Westrup, Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Joey Garcia
Tom Carey, Land Trust
Bill Wallace, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Lauren Ward

2. Funding Status as of August 13, 1996 (Informational)(a) 1996-97 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$300,000.00
Minor Projects	\$980,000.00
Major Development	\$500,000.00

(b) 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

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

Governor's Budget - Land Acquisitions	\$750,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 292,642.20
Unallocated Balance	\$457,357.80

(d) 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	-74,329,011.45
Less State Administrative Costs	- 1,219,500.00
Less Reverted Funds	-11,528,799.69
Plus Reappropriated Funds	11,528,799.69
Unallocated Balance	\$ 5,751,488.55

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

Reappropriation of 1992/93	\$2,000,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	- 2,000,000.00
Plus Recoveries from Previous Board Allocations	219,024.68
Unallocated Balance	\$ 219,024.68

(f) 1996-97 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$10,047,000.00
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(g) 1995-96 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget

Governor's Budget	\$7,354,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>-2,860,065.16</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$4,493,834.84

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

Governor's Budget	\$8,703,000.00
Less Previous Board Allocations	<u>- 6,287,206.17</u>
Unallocated Balance	\$2,415,793.83

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

<u>Wildlife Restoration Fund</u>	\$ 2,624,857.80
<u>Wildlife & Natural Areas Conservation Fund</u>	\$ 219,024.68
<u>CA Wildlife, Coastal & Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988</u>	\$ 5,751,488.55
<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u>	\$16,956,628.67

Mr. Schmidt reported that Item 2 was an informational item only and in the absence of any questions or concerns, the Board could move directly to Item 3.

*** 3. PROPOSED CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 4-6, 10-12)**

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Consent Calendar consisted of Item Numbers 4 - 6 and 10 - 12. He also pointed out that Items 7, 8 and 9 were informational items only and hearing no objections from the audience and/or Board members, Mr. Schmidt recommended the proposed Consent Calendar be approved.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD ADOPT CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS NUMBER 4 - 6 AND 10 - 12 AS PROPOSED IN THE INDIVIDUAL AGENDA EXPLANATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDING AS NOTED THEREIN.

MOTION CARRIED.

At this point, Mr. Schmidt introduced and welcomed Senator Jack O'Connell who joined the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt then announced that due to some difficulties encountered late in the afternoon

the day before, staff was recommending that item number 19, Mill Creek/Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Expansion #6 be withdrawn. It was Mr. Schmidt's hope that the project would be heard at a later meeting. Mr. McGeoghegan indicated that it was his desire to remove the project if the Board concurred. Miss Schafer concurred but expressed a desire to get the project back on the agenda promptly because it was a very important project to the department. Mr. Schmidt indicated that it was the staff's desire to have the project back on the agenda at the November meeting. Mr. McGeoghegan also felt that it was a good project and should be back on the agenda as soon as possible.

* 4. Approval of Minutes (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Approval of the minutes of May 14, 1996, meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board was recommended

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SCHAFFER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WCB MEETING OF MAY 14, 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 is recommended that the following totals be recovered and that the projects be closed.

\$ 6,575.82 to the Wildlife Restoration Fund,
\$ 206.89 to the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund,
\$118,604.28 to the Habitat Conservation Fund,

Wildlife Restoration Fund

American River Fishing Access, Upper Sunrise, Sacramento Co.

Allocation	\$13,000.00
Expended	- <u>13,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Lake Tahoe Public Access, (CEQA Review)

Allocation	\$ 75,000.00
Expended	- <u>75,000.00</u>
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Plaisted Creek Ecological Reserve, San Diego Co.

Allocation	\$ 16,800.00
Expended	- 11,390.18
Balance for Recovery	\$ 5,409.82

Steelhead Beach Fishing Access, Exp. #1, Sonoma Co.

Allocation	\$ 50,000.00
Expended	- 49,834.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1,166.00

TOTAL WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND RECOVERIES.....\$ 6,575.82

Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Fund

Butte Creek/Parrott-Phalen Fish Ladder, Butte Co.

Allocation	\$ 318,100.00
Expended	- 318,000.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 100.00

Bummer Lake Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte Co.

Allocation	\$ 28,200.00
Expended	- 28,099.14
Balance for Recovery	\$ 100.86

North Fork Feather River Diversion Dam Fish Ladder, Plumas Co.

Allocation	\$273,200.00
Expended	- 273,200.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

Prairie Creek Habitat Enhancement, Humboldt Co.

Allocation	\$ 17,500.00
Expended	- 17,500.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ -0-

So. West Tributary East Branch Mill Creek, Del Norte Co.

Allocation	\$ 32,300.00
Expended	- 32,298.57
Balance for Recovery	\$ 1.43

Tarup Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte Co.

Allocation	\$28,700.00
Expended	- 28,695.77
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4.23

Terwer Creek Habitat Enhancement, Del Norte Co.

Allocation	\$ 29,500.00
Expended	- 29,499.63
Balance for Recovery	\$.37

TOTAL FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
FUND RECOVERIES..... ..\$ 206.89

Habitat Conservation Fund (Prop. 117)

Clover Swale Conservation Easement, Modoc Co.

Allocation	\$ 175,000.00
Expended	- 171,565.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 3,435.00

North Sacramento Valley Wetlands, Riparian Habitat,
& Grazing Restoration, Various Counties (Portion)

Allocation (Caldeer Creek Ranch)	\$ 101,915.00
Expended	- 1,134.90
Balance for Recovery	\$ 100,780.10

Unallocated Project Planning Account

Allocation	\$ 5,000.00
Expended	- 750.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 4,250.00

West Yolo County Water Management and Wildlife
Habitat Plan, Yolo Co.

Allocation	\$ 70,000.00
Expended	- 69,875.00
Balance for Recovery	\$ 125.00

Wetland Conservation Easement, Rancho Rio Chico, Yuba Co.

Allocation	\$ 269,888.00
Expended	- 259,873.82
Balance for Recovery	\$ 10,014.18

TOTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND RECOVERIES

\$ 118,604.28

***6. Special Project Planning Account
(CONSENT CALENDAR)**

(Informational only)

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

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

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

Wildlife Restoration Fund (96/97)	\$3,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (96/97)	\$20,000.00

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, MS. SCHAFER MOVED THAT THE WCB APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO PROVIDE WORKING FUNDS FOR STAFF EVALUATION (APPRAISALS, ENGINEERING, PRELIMINARY TITLE REPORTS, ETC.) AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$3,000.00 FROM

THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND AND \$20,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. 1996-97 State Operations Budget (Informational Only)

The following items are specifically itemized in the proposed 1996-97 Wildlife Conservation Board's Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) support budget for funding transfers to other Departments:

A.	<u>Department of Water Resources</u>	<u>\$970,000.00</u>
1)	Trinity River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program	\$350,000.00
2)	San Joaquin River Management Plan	\$200,000.00
3)	Upper Sacramento River Habitat and Riparian Plan	\$300,000.00
4)	San Joaquin Valley Drainage Relief Program ...	\$120,000.00
B.	<u>Department of Fish and Game</u>	<u>\$5,492,000.00</u>
1)	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	\$636,000.00
2)	Natural Communities Conservation Planning Program	\$210,000.00
3)	Napa Wetlands	\$196,000.00
4)	Environmental Enhancement Project	\$460,000.00
5)	Habitat Restoration	\$1,300,000.00
6)	Waterfowl Lease Program	\$200,000.00
7)	Comprehensive Wetland Habitat Program	\$1,500,000.00
8)	Habitat Restoration Grants (Salmon and Steelhead Projects)	\$990,000.00

- C. Department of Conservation \$140,000.00
 - 1) Agricultural Land Stewardship \$140,000.00

8. 1996-97 Local Assistance Budget (Informational Only)

The following items are specifically itemized in the 1996-97 Wildlife Conservation Board's Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) budget for funding transfers to other Departments:

- A. Department of Conservation -
Agricultural Land Stewardship Program \$860,000.00
- B. Department of Water Resources-
Delta Protection Program \$800,000.00
- C. Department of Fish and Game -
Natural Communities Conservation
Planning Program \$600,000.00

9. 1996-97 Capital Outlay Budget (Informational Only)

The following items are specifically itemized in the proposed 1996-97 Wildlife Conservation Board's Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117) capital outlay budget for funding transfers to other Departments:

- A. Department of Water Resources -
San Joaquin Valley Drainage Relief Program \$1,000,000.00
- B. Department of Fish and Game -
Wetland Restoration Projects \$500,000.00

- *10. Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, (Salmon Falls Unit Expansion #2),
El Dorado County (CONSENT CALENDAR) \$95,000.00

This proposal was for the acquisition of an 86.4± acre parcel of land to the Salmon Falls Unit of the Pine Hill Ecological Reserve. The Salmon Falls Unit is located about 3 1/2 miles north of the urban El Dorado Hills area and is in the path of growth of that community. More specifically, the land is on the east side of Folsom Lake, about 5 miles south of Pilot Hill and about 1 mile southeast of the Salmon Falls Road Bridge crossing the South Fork of the American River.

To date, 133.5± acres have been acquired at this reserve as mitigation through the Fish and Game Commission and 80± acres have been acquired pursuant to action by the Wildlife Conservation Board. This is the third proposal to be considered by the Board in this area for land that supports an extremely rich and important ensemble of rare plants found only in this general area and nowhere else in the world. The unusual condition in this area is primarily a result of a unique soil type known as the gabbroic soil type, in the Rescue Series.

The primary vegetation type found in this area is chamise chaparral which is composed of chamise, Lemmon's ceanothus, manzanita, redbud and many oak species. The rare Pine Hill ceanothus occurs in cleared or open areas on Rescue soils found within the more common chaparral type. Some slopes support pines and many oak species, including blue oak, interior live oak, black oak, scrub oak, leather oak, valley oak and canyon live oak. The hill on which this parcel is located supports the best known populations of both El Dorado morning glory and Pine Hill ceanothus, as well as a good representation of soaproot. Butterweed and mule-ears are found scattered over much of the area while bedstraw occurs under the ponderosa pines on the north-facing slopes. According to the Department of Fish and Game, wildlife use in this area includes resident deer and mountain lion, as well as numerous game birds including dove, quail and wild turkey.

This area is seriously threatened by development with upscale small lot subdivisions moving north toward the area from El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park. There is also great pressure in the immediate area for development of small acreage residential homesites. In fact, the subject parcel is currently zoned for up to 8 residential homesites which would destroy the rare plant communities found there. The Department of Fish and Game has highly recommended purchase of this parcel. The project is categorically exempt from CEQA and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

It is proposed that the area will be maintained as an ecological reserve with limited public access with the primary management goal of maintaining and protecting the existing populations of rare or endangered plants. Future management costs would be limited to possible fencing and posting, as well as periodic on-site monitoring of the area.

The owners of the property have agreed to sell their land to the American River Conservancy for its approved fair-market value of \$300,000.00. This purchase would be

a bargain sale to the Board in that the Conservancy will place \$210,000.00 into escrow toward the purchase from two separate grants they have received. It is proposed that the Board allocate the remaining \$90,000.00, plus \$5,000.00.00 for processing costs; for a total WCB contribution of \$95,000.00.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this property as proposed; allocated \$95,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 for the purchase price and related costs; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE WCB APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE PINE HILL ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, (SALMON FALLS UNIT, EXPANSION #2) IN EL DORADO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$95,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117) TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED

MOTION CARRIED.

*11. Greenhorn Reservoir Fishing Access, Siskiyou County \$37,618.00
(CONSENT CALENDAR)

This proposal was to consider an allocation to construct a barrier free public fishing access and trail at Greenhorn Reservoir in cooperation with the City of Yreka. This 27 ± acre reservoir, which is located on city owned property, approximately 1/2 mile westerly of downtown Yreka, has been maintained by the City as a year-round public fishing access site since 1959. The reservoir provides fishing opportunity for rainbow trout as well as warm water fish and is planted by the Department of Fish and Game.

In 1986 and again in 1988, a sinkhole opened up at the bottom of the reservoir, nearly emptying it through an old abandoned gold mine shaft. The City of Yreka has now repaired the hole and the Department of Fish and Game has implemented many fisheries habitat project such as adding brush shelters, deepening areas along the shore, constructing islands for waterfowl nesting use and adding pea-gravel to shallow areas to enhance warm water game fish spawning habitat.

Physically impaired persons visiting the reservoir do so with some difficulty and risk since the existing four access areas are not handicap accessible and the available parking is a considerable distance from the fishing areas. Their safety has been a concern since the reservoir was built but funding shortfalls have precluded anything from being done to remedy this situation. A 2,100-foot-long pathway is now being proposed to provide

shoreline access as well as access to the four fishing access areas along the southerly bank of the reservoir. Under this proposal, three of the existing fishing access areas will be reinforced with concrete retaining walls and railings will be installed to make them safer for handicapped users. The existing rock peninsula access area will be covered with concrete to provide a safer, more accessible surface. In addition, a handicapped parking area will be constructed at the head of the trail leading to the fishing areas to provide easier access to the fishing sites. A handicapped restroom will also be installed.

The City of Yreka will be contributing to the project by assisting with the installation of the septic tank and pumps for the restroom facility, as well as replacing some existing gates for security purposes.

Cost estimates for the proposed projects have been prepared by the Department of Fish and Game and reviewed by the Board staff as follows:

Trail and Parking Area	\$28,000.00
Improve 3 Fishing Access Points with concrete retaining walls and rock riprap.	\$ 4,580.00
Improve the Fishing Peninsula with a concrete surface and rock riprap.	\$ 3,820.00
Barrier-free restroom	\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous - including railing, benches & signs	\$ 3,000.00
In kind construction services	<u>\$17,700.00</u>
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>	<u>\$59,100.00</u>

The total actual cost for this project is estimated to be \$59,100 with contributions from other partners proposed as follows:

City of Yreka (In Kind)	\$ 10,000.00
Department of Fish and Game (In Kind)	\$ 7,700.00
Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission (Materials)	\$ 4,000.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>\$37,400.00*</u>
<u>Total Project Cost</u>	<u>\$59,100.00</u>

*An additional \$218.00 will be necessary to pay for Department of General Services contract review fees.

The City of Yreka is highly supportive of this proposal and has agreed to enter into a 25 year agreement to provide for the operation and maintenance of the proposed access facilities.

The project is exempt under CEQA and the City has filed the appropriate notice in compliance with the act. The City will also obtain all permits and approvals prior to beginning construction.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this proposal, in cooperation with the City of Yreka for the construction of a barrier free public fishing access and trail at Greenhorn Reservoir, as proposed; allocate \$37,618.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund which includes Department of General Services review fees; 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, MS. SCHAFER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BARRIER FREE PUBLIC FISHING ACCESS AND TRAIL AT GREENHORN RESERVOIR IN SISKIYOU COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF YREKA, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$37,618.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED

*12 Elk Grove Fish Hatchery-Transfer of Well and Pump Site
Sacramento County (CONSENT CALENDAR)

\$-0-

This proposal was to consider the transfer of a well and pump, together with approximately one half acre of land on which the facility is located, to the Elk Grove Community Services District (EGCSD) in exchange for the District's assumption of a Department of Fish and Game's permanent obligation to provide water into Laguna Creek. It is also proposed that a 25 year easement, which is now being used as a bike and jogging trail, be modified and converted to a permanent easement so that in addition to the current public use, the District can also use it as access to the pump site.

The well and pump are located in Sacramento County within the Community of Elk Grove at the Department of Fish and Game's inactive Elk Grove Fish Hatchery. The 40± acre hatchery site is located at the southwest corner of Elk Grove-Florin and Bond Roads. The subject well is one of three wells located on the hatchery grounds.

Since 1992, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has had a permanent obligation to provide 1/2 cubic foot per second into Laguna Creek during the months of March through November of each year, an obligation that has been costing the Department in excess of \$3,000.00 per month during the pumping season. About three years ago, the EGCSD approached the State with a proposal to purchase one of the wells so that they could pump

water into Laguna Creek, for their use down stream. This would also serve to provide the instream water now being provided by the Department.

An appraisal of the pumping facility has been prepared and approved by the State's Department of General Services. It values the pump and well site at \$70,780.00 and the Department's pumping obligation at \$100,560.00 (pumping in perpetuity). The EGCSO has agreed to accept the well, pump and land and to assume the Department's pumping obligation at no further cost to the State. Additionally, the 25 year easement to the EGCSO, which became effective January 18, 1990, and now provides a hiking, biking and equestrian trail for general public use is proposed to be modified and to be made a permanent easement to include the right of access for ingress and egress to the well site.

This proposal was presented to, and approved in concept by, the State of California Fish and Game Commission at their meeting of April 1996. However, as the Commission does not have legal authority to authorize a transfer of land, the Board is being requested to provide this authorization. DFG will cover the administrative transfer expenses related to this transaction. The transfer is exempt from CEQA under Class 12 of Categorical exemptions as a sale of excess property.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the transfer of the pump, well and site and the granting of an access easement as proposed, and authorize staff and the DFG to proceed substantially as planned.

AS ONE OF THE CONSENT ITEMS HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, MS. SCHAFER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THE PUMP, WELL AND SITE AND THE GRANTING OF AN ACCESS EASEMENT AT THE ELK GROVE FISH HATCHERY IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY AS PROPOSED, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Scotts Flat Fishing Access, Nevada County \$159,218.00

Mr. Schmidt report that this was a proposal to consider an allocation to construct a barrier free public fishing float and other improvements at Scotts Flat Reservoir in cooperation with the Nevada Irrigation District . The project is located on District owned land at Scotts Flat, on Deer Creek, approximately five miles east of Nevada City. Mr. Schulenburg described the proposed project.

The District has maintained a year-round public camping facility on the shore of the reservoir since 1964. The facility, which is currently operated under lease to a concessionaire, provides over 165 campsites, a launch ramp, a fish cleaning station and

a marina area. With over 8 miles of shoreline and 750 surface acres, the reservoir provides fishing opportunities for small and large mouth bass, rainbow and brown trout and kokanee. The facility recorded over 123,000 visitor days during 1995.

The District is proposing to restore marina docking facilities and the parking area using funding assistance from the Department of Boating and Waterways. In addition to the restoration work, the District is requesting WCB assistance to provide a barrier free fishing float and to improve an existing parking area which will serve all users, but particularly the physically impaired. The dock is proposed to be constructed along the shore line adjacent to the marina, in an area that provides adequate depth to ensure year-round fishing opportunities. It is proposed that the float, which will contain approximately 500 square feet of surface area will be held in place with pilings. In addition, a handicapped accessible walk way will be constructed connecting the parking lot to the fishing float and a new barrier free restroom will be constructed to replace the existing portable facility.

Cost estimates for the proposed project have been prepared by the District and reviewed by the Board staff as follows:

Excavation, site preparation and paving	\$60,000.00
Cement curbs and walkways	5,000.00
Fishing float (10' x 50')	35,000.00
Fish cleaning station	10,000.00
Restroom (ADA approved)	20,000.00
Utilities, lighting, signing, landscaping and other ancillary items	13,000.00
Engineering, design, administration	16,000.00
<u>Total estimated cost</u>	<u>\$159,000.00*</u>

*An additional \$218.00 will be necessary to pay for Department of General Service's contract review fees.

The District has reviewed this proposal with Department of Fish and Game which supports the development of this barrier free public fishing access. They have also passed a Board resolution in support of this project and have agreed to provide operation and maintenance of the project for the twenty-five year term of their project area lease to the State. In addition, the project is supported by the Nevada County Consortium of Special Education and the Nevada County Association for Developmentally Disabled.

The project is exempt under CEQA and the District has filed the appropriate notice in compliance with the act. The District will also obtain all permits and approvals prior to project start up.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this proposal, in cooperation with the Nevada Irrigation District for the construction of a barrier free public fishing access improvements at Scotts Flat Reservoir as proposed; allocate \$159,218.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund which includes Department of General Services review fees; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Two letters of support were received on this project; one from the Nevada County Consortium for Special Education and the other from the Nevada County Association for the Developmentally Disabled.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BARRIER FREE PUBLIC FISHING ACCESS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AS PLANNED AT SCOTTS FLAT RESERVOIR IN NEVADA COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$159,218.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked Mr. Schmidt whether the Board has had a working relationship with the Nevada Irrigation District in the past. Mr. Schmidt indicated that during his tenure with the Board, they had not worked with the Nevada Irrigation District but he believes they are a reputable organization and does not anticipate any problems.

Mr. McGeoghegan then questioned Mr. Schmidt as to whether the reservoir was subject to differing water levels and whether the project could withstand the variations in water level. Mr. Schmidt replied that the project was located in a finger of the lake that would not be affected by the water levels.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Eckley Fishing Pier, Contra Costa County \$125,218.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that was a proposal to consider a cooperative project to construct a public fishing pier at Eckley Cove, in Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline park, in cooperation with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The project is located on District and State Land Commission owned property, which totals 2,533± acres along the south shore of Carquinez Strait, between the City of Martinez and the town of Crockett. Mr. Schulenburg described the proposed project.

EBRPD is a diversified land and water management system of 54 regional parks, recreation areas, wildernesses, ecological preserves, land bank areas and 20 regional inter-park trails on 81,000 acres. Their area of jurisdiction covers 1,745 square miles on the

east side of San Francisco Bay in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. They have identified a deficiency of sport fishing opportunities at Eckley Cove, a site where fishery resources are plentiful and sport fishing has historically occurred. Land side access for fishermen at Eckley is currently restricted by an unprotected crossing of the Southern Pacific Railroad's main line. Water access is limited to small boat anchorages along the shore.

A fishing pier at Eckley will be within thirty minutes driving time of more than one million residents from Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties. The Association of Bay Area Governments statistics indicate that the populations of these counties will grow by more than 25% by 2010 increasing the need for close-in recreational opportunities in this highly urbanized area.

The water quality of the area is influenced by fresh water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and by more saline waters entering from the west through San Francisco Bay. Thus, the pier will be located in the pathway of migrating anadromous fishes and in the vicinity of bottom dwelling species. This rich habitat will attract fishermen from all over the state seeking king salmon, sturgeon and striped bass on their seasonal migrations upriver. At mean low water level the end of the pier will be located over water with a depth of 15-20 feet.

EBRPD proposes to construct a 230 foot long pier which will include a 200 foot long by 8 foot wide access pier to a 30 foot by 40 foot fish platform at its end. The access way pier will be constructed of prefab-aluminum decking on steel piles and the end platform will have a concrete deck and be supported by steel piles.. The railing will be metal with wood or concrete supports with cutting boards incorporated into the railings. Sections of the rail will be constructed to provide persons using wheelchairs greater ease in fishing. Pier amenities will include lighting, benches, wind screens, a drinking fountain, a fish cleaning station, telephone and interpretive signage.

Cost estimates for the proposed project have been prepared by EBRPD and reviewed by WCB staff as follows:

Pier and ancillary items	\$508,425.00
Railroad crossing	\$172,400.00
Restrooms	\$ 40,000.00
Utilities, grading and paving	<u>\$279,175.00</u>
Total Project Estimate	\$1,000,000.00*

Funding for this project is proposed as follows:

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission	\$438,664.00
East Bay Regional Park District	\$436,336.00
Wildlife Conservation Board	<u>\$125,000.00*</u>

Total projects cost \$1,000,000.00

*An additional \$218.00 will be necessary to pay for Department of General Services' contract review fees.

The District has reviewed this proposal with Department of Fish and Game which highly supports the development of this public fishing pier. They have also passed a Board resolution in support of this project and have agreed to provide operation and maintenance of the project for the twenty-five year term of their project area lease to the State.

The project is exempt under CEQA and the District has filed the appropriate notice in compliance with the act. They will also obtain all permits and approvals prior to beginning construction.

Mr. Schulenburg added that Ms. Susan Williams from the East Bay Regional Park District was present should there be any questions. Mr. Schmidt pointed out that this was a very good opportunity to provide fishing access in an area that has good fishing. He also noted that this was a good partnership project in that there were three partners in a \$1,000,000.00 project and the WCB was being asked to contribute \$125,000.00.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Congressman George Miller, The State Lands Commission and Assemblyman Campbell all had written letters in support of the project.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this proposal, in cooperation with the EBRPD for the construction of a public fishing pier at Eckley Cove as proposed; allocate \$125,218.00 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, which includes Department of General Services' review fees; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Parker asked Mr. Schmidt whether BCDC had approved their participation in this project. Mr. Schmidt explained that the funds are in a trust fund and are approved for distribution and ready for allocation. Mr. Schulenburg elaborated on the specifics of where the funds were and how they were going to be distributed. Ms. Parker then asked whether any further action was required by the commission and Mr. Schulenburg deferred the question to Ms. Susan Williams who explained that a permit was required and when that process was expected to be completed.

Miss Schafer then asked when construction would be completed so the fishing could begin and Mr. Schulenburg gave an approximation of the construction schedule. Ms. Williams elaborated on the access road construction. Mr. McGeoghegan asked a question regarding the railroad tracks and funding regarding the safe crossing. Ms. Williams explained the funding process. Miss Schafer asked about handicapped access and Ms. Williams explained the access availability.

At this point, Mr. McGeoghegan introduced Senator Mike Thompson as he joined the meeting. Mr. McGeoghegan explained the current project to Senator Thompson and asked if there were any questions.

IT WAS MOVED BY MISS SCHAFFER THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THIS PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC FISHING PIER AT ECKLEY COVE IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$125,218.00 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PROCEED AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

15.	<u>Sedgwick Ranch, Santa Barbara County</u>	<u>\$800,000.00</u>
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Mr. Schmidt reported that project is a proposal for a grant of \$800,000.00 toward the purchase, by the University of California (U.C.), of approximately 783 acres of land in the Santa Ynez Valley, about 25 miles northwesterly of Santa Barbara. The purchase by U.C., together with grant conditions attached to the Board's grant, would assure protection of a complete watershed and ecosystem; a block of nearly 5,900 acres. Jim Sarro explained the proposal.

In 1988, by virtue of a donation from the estate of Francis ("Duke") and Alice Sedgwick, the U.C. received a 75% interest in the Sedgwick Family ranch, an intact holding of 5,896± acres. Eventually, by agreement with the Sedgwick heirs, the property was divided, with U.C. receiving title to 5,113± acres (The "Regents' Parcel") and the Sedgwick heirs receiving title to 783± acres (the "Heirs' Parcel"). In the years since that split, a wide-ranging coalition of local interests has sought funding and agreements to acquire the Heirs' Parcel and to assure permanent habitat protection for both the Heirs' Parcel and the Regents' Parcel as an ecologically viable unit.

Following some rather complex negotiations, The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (Land Trust) acquired an option to purchase the Heirs' Parcel for a total of \$2,754,000.00, the appraised fair-market value of the property. After raising funds and seed money from various sources, including the U.C., local donors and The Nature Conservancy, the Land Trust applied for WCB grant funds to cover the shortfall of \$800,000.00. Of significance is the date at which the option expires; December 31, 1996.

Sedgwick ranch rises from an elevation of about 1000 feet in the Santa Ynez Valley up to 2,500 feet on the southern flank of Figueroa Mountain, about 25 miles northwest of Santa Barbara and about 4 miles northeast of Los Olivos. The northeastern part of the ranch is contiguous with the Los Padres National Forest while the southwestern part of the ranch

is bordered by a subdivision. All other neighboring land consists of cattle ranches of varying sizes.

The Heirs' Parcel, which lies in the southeastern quarter of the ranch, consists of valley bottom grassland and savanna, with majestic valley oaks and an important riparian corridor. It also includes Figueroa Creek, with incised creek beds lined with ancient sycamores, willows and live oaks. In the creek bed, perennial springs create a stream of fresh water of hundreds of gallons per minute that persists even after the most severe summer droughts of California's Mediterranean climate. Testifying to the antiquity of this water supply are the nearby remains of Alisuez, one of only two known middle period (2,000 years ago) Chumash Indian villages. The other is now covered by the Lake Cachuma reservoir. Also on the Heirs' Parcel are some very nice stands of Coastal Sage Scrub with gray pines, some blue and mixed oak woodlands, substantial patches of native bunch grass grassland, and a degraded vernal pool that could be restored.

The Heirs' Parcel of Sedgwick Ranch functions as a wildlife corridor for migration and for replenishing wildlife on nearby properties. The confluence of Lisque Creek and Figueroa Creek drainages represents an important corridor for wildlife moving from the San Rafael Mountains and Wilderness Area of the Los Padres National Forest to and from the riparian areas and large ranches surrounding the Santa Ynez River. Springs in the upper reaches of the Figueroa drainage and perennially flowing water in the lower part of the creek on the Heirs' Parcel provide important natural water sources, which may become critical for migrating or stationary wildlife during the most severe summer droughts. As a wildlife stocking area, Sedgwick is well known to be an important deer fawning ground, and probably is important as a nursery and feeding area for many other wildlife species including feral pigs, bobcats, mountain lions, golden eagles, prairie falcons, badgers, coyotes and gray foxes.

On the Regent's Parcel, there is a rare assemblage of live, valley and blue oaks (mixed oak woodland) in the valleys and on the northern slopes. On southern slopes is some of the most pristine coastal sage scrub remaining in southern California. In one valley are two unusual vernal pools, complete with their specialized, endemic flora and fauna, which become surprisingly large and picturesque in wet years. As one moves north and upward in elevation on the Regents' Parcel, there is a sprinkling of gray pine and yucca on steeper, rockier slopes, and in the northwestern quarter of the ranch are some of the most impressive stands of blue oak to be found in California. These are especially noteworthy because Sedgwick Ranch occurs at the southern-most boundary of the range of blue oaks. Still higher in elevation and toward the middle of the ranch are mature stands of chamise and Ceanothus which dominate hard chaparral on the northern side of the Little Pine Fault, showing a distinct change in substrate from the Paso Robles formation on the south to the Franciscan formation on the north. The Franciscan formation includes extensive areas where greenish serpentine rock appears at the surface and is overlain by a large, impressive grassland at the top of the ranch. Because of the very peculiar mineral composition of serpentine rocks and soil derivatives, native grasses and forbs, which have

evolved in the presence of serpentine, tend to have a competitive advantage over alien plants.

The ecological value of the ranch is greatly enhanced by the fact that the property lines were drawn on ridge lines, unlike the ecologically arbitrary property lines of most land divisions. Also, the fact that the confluence of the two main drainages of Sedgwick Ranch - Lisque Creek and Figueroa Creek - is contained on the Heirs' Parcel makes the Heirs' Parcel especially valuable at the watershed level. It is here that ecological processes are finally integrated into a series of biological and geological inputs and outputs to and from the land above. These include migrations of animals through this important wildlife corridor and the export of dissolved and particulate materials to the Santa Ynez River.

Between the Heirs' Parcel and the Regents' Parcel, the ranch is known to contain a wide variety of threatened, endangered and candidate plant animal species as well as California Species of Special Concern (SSC). Among the plants are the Santa Barbara jewel flower, Catalina mariposa lily and Plummer's baccharis along with the valley oak savanna and coastal sage scrub habitats. The ranch is also known to be host to the California legless lizard (SSC) and western pond turtle (SSC), as well as the threatened western spadefoot toad, California horned lizard and two-striped garter snake. Birds using the Sedgwick Ranch are the northern harrier, sharp-skinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk and prairie falcon, all Species of Special Concern, along with at least 18 other candidate Species of Special Concern.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has evaluated the grant request for funds to purchase the Heirs' Parcel and has recognized its significant ecological values, provided that assurances exist for permanent protection of the entire ranch ecosystem. Therefore, staff has worked with UCSB staff to include the following DFG-recommended provisions in the proposed grant agreement:

1. That the entire 5,896± acres of the ranch be permanently included in the U.C. Natural Reserve System (NRS) whose mission is, essentially, to contribute to the understanding and wise management of natural ecosystems through education, research and public service at protected natural areas throughout California.
2. That DFG assume a seat on the NRS' management committee.
3. That DFG and the NRS jointly develop a management and habitat restoration plan for the entire ranch providing for:
 - a) management of grazing in riparian and wetland areas, including vernal pools;
 - b) restoration of oak woodlands;
 - c) public access for hunting, to be managed by the DFG; and
 - d) annual joint NRS/DFG review of the management plan.
4. That in the event any of the above provisions are not met or cease to be complied with, the grant amount plus interest would be refunded to the Board.

The U.C. Regents have agreed to these terms and have authorized the execution of the grant agreement accordingly. The agreement calls for WCB to deposit the \$800,000.00 to the U.C.'s purchase escrow when all remaining necessary funds are deposited and title is capable of being satisfactorily vested in the U.C. Regents. Funds for this grant would be available from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Prop. 117), designated for preservation of native oak woodlands and habitat for deer and mountain lions.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that the property has numerous wildlife values and that Ms. Patty Wolf, the Regional Manager from the Region 5 office was present and could answer any questions posed. He went on to explain the ultimate goal would be management by the University of California under their Natural Reserve system. Mr. Schmidt reported that the department has recommended that hunting continue to be allowed on the property and that a letter of support had been received from the Sportsman Council of Central California encouraging that use. The Department of Fish and Game would also become a member of the Natural Reserve system's management team for the area.

Mr. Schmidt reported that numerous letters of support had been received; 129 personal letters of support and numerous other groups - Don Crawford, Executive Vice Chancellor of the University, Santa Barbara County Supervisor Tom Urbanski, The Nature Conservancy, The Land Trust of Santa Barbara County, the Los Angeles Audubon Society, Endangered Habitat League, the Sonoran Institute and Elizabeth Chandell, Chairperson of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Mr. Schmidt reported that staff recommended the grant be made as proposed in the agenda. It was felt that it was a good deal for the State in that it provided protection for almost 6,000 acres. It was also pointed out by Mr. Schmidt that this opened up 6,000 acres to potential hunting opportunities. Senator O'Connell commented that he was impressed with Mr. Schmidt's ability to bring the interested parties together and to leverage the money necessary to bring the deal together. He also added that within the last couple of days his office had received about 30 more unsolicited letters of support including one from Arizona. He reported the community support from the business groups and organizations and The Nature Conservancy, as well as all the work of the Wildlife Conservation Board to leverage the additional resources needed to preserve the unique area in terms of riparian habitat and the watershed. Senator O'Connell introduced Tom Carey, representing The Land Trust of Santa Barbara County. Mr. Carey thanked the Board for the cooperation of their staff and the tremendous effort that went into the project. He also reported that this project was being supported by many members of the community. Mr. Carey also reported that Mr. Scott Cooper, campus director of the Natural Reserve system at UCSB and Ms. Liza Riddle, the acting Director of the NRS system wide were present with him at today's meeting. He reiterated that Santa Barbara County supported the proposal and that Mr. Bill Wallace, Supervisor from 3rd District in Santa Barbara County was present to that end. Mr. Wallace brought letters of support and also testified in support of the project. He pointed out that the Board of Supervisors had approved the acquisition and also had approved of all the proposed land uses, including hunting.

Staff recommended the Board approve the grant of funds under the proposed grant agreement; allocate \$800,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (P-117); and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

MISS SCHAFER THEN MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE GRANT OF FUNDS UNDER THE PROPOSED GRANT AGREEMENT TOWARD THE PURCHASE, BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, OF THE SEDGWICK RANCH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$800,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND (P-117); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Schmidt thanked Senator O'Connell, on behalf of the Board, for his comments. Mr. Schmidt stated that Mr. Sarro from his staff, worked very hard on the project and pointed out that local efforts made the project possible. He then thanked the members of the audience who came up from Santa Barbara to support the project.

16. Bodega Bay Monarch Butterfly Grove, Sonoma County \$255,000.00

Mr. Schmidt report that this was a proposal for the acquisition of 3.5± acres of land located within the community of Bodega Bay to assure permanent preservation of a critical overwintering grove of trees for Monarch butterflies. Acquisition of various historic monarch groves is among the projects specifically mandated by the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (Proposition 70). Ms. Debra Townsend explained the proposal.

Under a contract with the Department of Fish and Game, the Monarch Project of the Xerces Society, Portland, Oregon, has identified and prioritized specific sites along the California coast, with the Bodega Bay property being among the highest priorities for protection with Proposition 70 funds. To date, the Board has acquired four other identified sites located in the Counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz and Marin. The Xerces Society has reported that the Ranch Road grove in Bodega Bay is a very important site because it is in the most northerly area of their overwintering range.

The subject property is located in the unincorporated area of Bodega Bay, in Sonoma County, about 20 miles west of Santa Rosa. It may be reached from State Highway 101 in Santa Rosa via State Route 12. Access is provided from Ranch Road, a private unpaved road west of Highway 1. The property is bordered on the north by state park lands within the Sonoma Coast and Bodega Dunes State Parks.

The subject property is currently vacant land. However, a subdivision of the property has recently been approved allowing for two homesites, with an area to be set aside and intended to protect the butterfly grove. It is felt that property development cannot readily avoid impacting the butterfly habitat since it covers nearly the entire parcel. As such, public acquisition is considered the only way to assure permanent preservation of this grove.

The Department of Fish and Game highly recommends acquisition of the property which now contains the remnant population of one of the largest Monarch butterfly wintering sites on the California coast. The site, once part of a much larger colony that was destroyed on Department of Parks and Recreation lands as a result of storm-downed trees, still supports large numbers of butterflies. Staff of the Board and the Department are optimistic that the Department of Parks and Recreation will enter into a long term agreement to manage the property in conjunction with its adjacent State Park.

The owner of the property has agreed to sell to the State for the approved fair market value of \$250,000.00. Processing costs including the appraisal, title costs and Department of General Services review expenses are estimated to be \$5,000.00. The project is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that, as mentioned earlier, the Department of Fish and Game had laid out the priorities for acquisition of this butterfly habitat. He went on to state that in the mid-80s the Department contracted with the Xerces Society in Portland to do a study to determine which areas in the State are the most beneficial and important for the habitat. From that study, this area was determined to be on the top priority list.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this purchase as proposed; allocate \$255,000.00, which includes \$5,000.00 for General Services and escrow fees, from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988 (P-70), under Section 5907(c) (2) as specifically authorized for the acquisition of Monarch butterfly habitat; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt reported that County Supervisor Ernie Carpenter had written a letter of support for this project. Mr. McGeoghegan asked if there were any questions or comments from the Legislative members. Senator Mike Thompson indicated this was a good buy.

MISS SCHAFFER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE BODEGA BAY MONARCH BUTTERFLY GROVE IN SONOMA COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$255,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND OF 1988 (P-70), UNDER SECTION 5907(C) (2) AS SPECIFICALLY

AUTHORIZED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MONARCH BUTTERFLY HABITAT; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Otay Mountain Ecological Reserve, San Diego County \$2,895,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal for the acquisition of two separate ownerships in southwestern San Diego County in furtherance of the goals of the regional multiple species habitat preserve for the area. The properties, totaling $843 \pm$ acres, are considered critical to the goal of successful completion of this region's Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) program. Mr. Schmidt explained that the agenda indicated that the proposal was for two parcels, however, Mr. Sarro, who would explain the proposal, would also explain the adjustment being made in the proposal to take out one of the parcels. Mr. Sarro then explained the proposal.

The subject parcels are strategically located, such that acquisition would significantly enhance the ability of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the County of San Diego, and other state, federal and local agencies to establish a regional ecosystem-based habitat reserve system as called for in the DFG's NCCP program. Important sensitive habitats located on these sites include coastal sage scrub, southern interior cypress forest, rock outcroppings, riparian and oak woodlands. A portion of the Tijuana River, with both its banks intact, runs through one of the parcels. Open water pools provide a water source for wildlife utilizing the wildlife corridor.

The location of these properties adds to their importance, being adjacent to over 18,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land designated primarily for management of biological resources. Establishment and protection of large blocks of natural habitat to serve as biological core areas are critical to the long-term viability of the NCCP preserve system. The Otay Mountain region of San Diego County is considered a critical biological core area. Acquisition of these properties would prevent fragmentation of this core, and would solidify the southern-most extent, and largest contiguous block, of the preserve system in San Diego.

The properties are referred to here as the "North" parcel, consisting of $480 \pm$ acres, and the "Border" parcel, consisting of $363 \pm$ acres. The North parcel is located on the northwest-facing slope of the San Ysidro Mountains, below Otay Mountain, and south of the eastern arm of Lower Otay Reservoir. The site supports rugged topography, with elevations ranging from 700 feet on the northern portion of the parcel to 1,400 feet on the southern portion. Access to the property is by means of a dirt road off of Otay Lakes Road, just east of the eastern arm of Lower Otay Reservoir. It lies within the state-designated Otay Mountain Significant Natural Area. The site supports a very diverse

group of vegetative communities, which translates into a great variety of wildlife, plant species and habitat types, including chamise chaparral, southern mixed chaparral, coastal sage scrub, southern interior cypress forest, riparian woodland and oak woodland.

Three sensitive wildlife species are known to occur on the property. Fifteen sightings (approximately 5-6 pairs) of the federally-threatened California gnatcatcher were made during field visits to the site in 1994. Both breeding pairs and juveniles were seen. The site is part of a larger biological core area in southwestern San Diego County that is very important to the long-term survival of the California gnatcatcher and other coastal sage scrub dependent species. In addition, the southern California rufous crowned sparrow and western whiptail were also observed. Both of these species are federal C2 candidate species and DFG Species of Special Concern (SSC). Mule deer are also present, and it is likely that mountain lion also occupy the property.

Nine sensitive plant species, either federal candidate species (C2) or species listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), are known to occur on-site, and a number of others are known to be present in adjacent areas on Otay Mountain. The nine species observed on-site include:

- a. Tecate cypress (C2). Found on the dry upper slopes on the southern portion of the property.
- b. Cleveland golden star (C2). A localized population of this species was found in a coastal sage scrub/grassland habitat on the central part of the site.
- c. San Diego barrel cactus (C2). Approximately 25 individuals were observed.
- d. Variegated dudleya (C2). Approximately 100 individuals were noted in coastal sage scrub habitat.
- e. Western dichondra (CNPS). Found within openings in chamise chaparral habitat.
- f. Engelmann oak (CNPS). Found within the oak woodland habitat on the southern portion of the site.
- g. San Diego sunflower (CNPS). Found commonly within the coastal sage scrub habitat on-site.
- h. Munz's sage (CNPS). Occurs within the coastal sage scrub community on-site.
- i. California adolphia (CNPS). This species is found within mixed chaparral on the property.

The North parcel is also a key area for regional conservation associated with Otay Mountain and Otay Ranch. The site abuts lands with high biological resource values as well as designated open space on Otay Ranch and City of San Diego watershed lands around Lower Otay Reservoir. Acquisition would prevent the fragmentation of this important biological core area and preclude the introduction of development activities into one of the most regionally significant and biologically diverse blocks of land remaining in San Diego County.

The Border parcel also lies within the state-designated Otay Mountain Significant Natural Area and is surrounded on three sides by U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land and by the U.S.-Mexico border on the south. The site is also designated by the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) as a core biological area. Dominant habitat types on this site include southern mixed and chamise chaparral, coastal sage scrub, scrub oak woodland and Baccharis scrub. The chaparral, coastal and sage scrub and scrub oak woodland habitats predominate on the upland slopes and canyons, while the Baccharis scrub is found only in the floodway of the Tijuana river, which runs along and parallel to the southerly boundary of the property.

While surveys indicate an abundance of wildlife, including mule deer, gray fox, red-tailed hawk and Pacific tree frog, no sensitive wildlife species are known to occur on this site. However, the main canyon bisecting the property from north to south is the largest canyon coming off of the south side of Otay Mountain and is a significant wildlife corridor connecting BLM lands to the Tijuana River.

One state-listed endangered plant species, willowy monardella, occurs on this parcel, within the sandy bottom of the main canyon. In addition, three federal candidate species (C2) are also present: Tecate cypress, San Diego barrel cactus and Otay Manzanita. Three other plant species found on the property and considered sensitive by the California Native Plant Society include the Munz's sage, San Diego sunflower and Mantillija poppy.

Acquisition of this property would preserve the sensitive species and habitats discussed above, prevent fragmentation of a large and ecologically significant block of natural habitat within the proposed NCCP preserve system, and sustain a wildlife corridor between Otay Mountain and the Tijuana River.

Management of these properties would primarily focus upon habitat preservation. It is anticipated that interim management would be by DFG. However, in view of the adjacency of the Border parcel to BLM lands, an exchange of lands with BLM is likely in the future. There also exists the possibility, discussed below, that BLM will directly acquire the Border parcel through the State's escrow for this proposed acquisition. As the North parcel is located within BLM's Otay Mountain/Kuchamaa Cooperative Management Area, it is planned that long-term management would be by the BLM as well. All of the agencies involved in NCCP share the same management goals for the properties that are selected for public acquisition, regardless of which agency actually carries out any particular acquisitions. The program anticipates a number of cooperative agreements will eventually be entered into, all aimed at assuring the most logical, beneficial and cost-effective management of the lands and their habitats.

The appraised fair market value of the two subject parcels, as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS), is \$2,880,000.00 for the North parcel and \$1,090,000.00 for the Border parcel. The owner has agreed to sell to the State for these prices, conditioned on both parcels being acquired at the same time. The purchase is also conditioned on the owners and the NCCP participating agencies reaching agreement on open space,

development and mitigation requirements concerning other major land holdings of the owners within the NCCP region. It was anticipated that agreement would be finalized prior to the Board's consideration of this agenda. In addition to the purchase price, staff estimates that \$15,000.00 will be necessary to cover the costs of appraisal, DGS review and closing expenses, bringing the total suggested allocation by the Board to \$3,985,000.00.

Both acquisitions are exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemption as acquisitions of land for wildlife conservation purposes and the appropriate notices have been filed. .

Mr. Sarro reported that BLM has made arrangements to acquire the Border parcel directly which would be a savings to the Board. Miss Schafer asked whether the parcel would remain in their (BLM) hands and Mr. Schmidt replied that it would. Mr. Schmidt then asked Mr. Sarro to introduce the landowner. Mr. Sarro introduced Gregory Lambron and James Whalen. Mr. McGeoghegan inquired about how far development is from the edge of the property today. Mr. Whalen explained where the current development is and where the planned development would be. Mr. McGeoghegan then asked about the cost per acre and whether \$4,700.00 per acre was a good buy. Mr. Sarro explained that this figure was the average between the cost per acre of each of the two parcels and was well supported by the appraisals that were done.

Staff therefore recommended that the Board approve the acquisition of the Otay Mountain Ecological Reserve, North parcel, as proposed; allocated \$2,895,000.00, which includes \$15,000.00 for costs, from the following funds to cover the purchase price and cost as follows: \$1,895,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 as specifically identified in the budget for the acquisition of NCCP sites, and \$1,000,000.00 from the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Fund; and authorize staff and the Department of proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Schmidt reported that a letter of support had been received from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Sarro then added that the agreement with the landowner does provide that if one parcel doesn't sell, the landowner is able to withdraw from selling either parcel but that there is a 99% certainty that Bureau of Land Management will acquire the Border parcel so he did not anticipate any problems with the acquisition.

Mr. McGeoghegan asked the Legislative members if there were any questions or comments. There were none forthcoming so a motion was made by Miss Schafer.

MISS SCHAFFER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE OTAY MOUNTAIN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, NORTH PARCEL, IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATED \$2,895,000.00 FROM THE

FOLLOWING FUNDS TO COVER THE PURCHASE PRICE AND RELATED COSTS: \$1,895,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 AS SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED IN THE BUDGET FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NCCP SITES, AND \$1,000,000.00 FROM THE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE, COASTAL AND PARK LAND CONSERVATION FUND [SECTION 5907 (C)(3); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, Expansion #3
Riverside County \$310,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal to consider the acquisition of the 719.8± acre "Mesa de Burro" property at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in exchange for the State transferring 100± acres of non-sensitive Department of Fish and Game (DFG) owned land, together with a cash payment of \$300,000.00 to TNC. It is anticipated that the funds provided by this transaction will enable TNC and the County of Riverside to complete the purchase of a 1,000± acre addition to the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, known as the "Sylvan Meadows" property. It is proposed that TNC will then transfer title to the 100± acre parcel to Metropolitan Water District (MWD) with the condition that the property be held until a loan from MWD to TNC, for use toward the purchase Sylvan Meadows is paid off, or until 10 years pass, whichever comes first. If the loan is not repaid within 10 years, MWD could sell the 100± property. If the loan is paid off before 10 years time, title to the 100± acre parcel will be deeded back to TNC by MWD. Mr. Sarro described the project.

The Sylvan Meadows parcel, which is located across Clinton Keith Road from the main reserve, is considered a critical addition to the reserve. The Mesa de Burro property is currently part of the preserve and is now protected. However, purchase by WCB, together with the TNC loan from MWD, coupled with Riverside County and TNC funds, will provide the means for protection of the 1,000± acre Sylvan Meadows addition. It will also expand the Department's contiguous ownership on the "Plateau".

The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, a multi-agency cooperative project, was started in 1984 with TNC acquiring 3,100± acres of the Plateau. In 1991, Riverside County, the MWD and The Wildlife Conservation Board acquired an additional 3,825± acres of land, then called the Santa Rosa Springs Ecological Reserve. The Board authorized an additional acquisition of 435± acres at its May 4, 1995 meeting which brought the reserve to its current size of 7,360± acres. The DFG now hold title to 2,371 acres; 1,103± acres of which were acquired by the Board in 1991 and 1995 and 1,268±

acres of which were acquired as mitigation pursuant to a Fish and Game Commission authorization in 1993.

The Santa Rosa Plateau lies at the southern end of the Santa Ana Mountains, in southwest Riverside County, approximately 85 miles southeast of Los Angeles and about 50 miles north of San Diego. The reserve and the subject property can be accessed from Interstate 15 at Clinton Keith Road off-ramp by going west to the ecological reserve.

The Plateau is a fault block which rises to 2,200 feet in elevation, about 1,100 feet above Temecula and Murrieta Valleys to the east and southeast. The southern edge of the plateau consists of a rim of four flat-topped mesas. These are erosional remnants of a once extensive basalt flow which occurred approximately 5.5 million years ago.

The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve includes four of California's most threatened habitat types, encompassing excellent examples of upland native bunchgrass, Engelmann oak woodlands, southern sycamore alder riparian woodlands and southern coast live oak riparian forests. The site also supports fine examples of the more common Venturan sage scrub, northern mixed chaparral and chamise chaparral plant communities. In addition, the property contains some of the largest contiguous areas of upland native bunchgrass that remain in southern California. The prairie is dominated by such native perennials as purple needle grass, slender needle grass and malpais bluegrass. Ecologists generally agree that this is the finest preserved bunchgrass prairie left in California. The Engelmann oak woodland community type is found on the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve in both the open or savannah phase and the riparian phase. Engelmann oak, the dominant species, was once widespread in southern California but is now reduced to a few significant sites ranging from the Santa Ana Mountains to San Diego.

In addition to the threatened habitat types described above, at least three rare plants are found in the reserve. These plants include the peninsular manzanita, thread-leaved brodiaea, and the San Miguel savory. Also, either special amphibian, reptile and/or mammal species are found here including the southwestern pond turtle, San Diego horned lizard, coastal rosy boa, Hammond's Two-striped garter snake, mountain lion, and the American badger. Birds of special concern include the Cooper's hawk, golden eagle, black-shouldered kite, burrowing owl and yellow warbler.

The Santa Rosa Plateau is listed in the 1988 Annual Report of Significant Natural Areas of California prepared by the Land and Natural Areas Program as an "ensemble" site (three or more highly ranked elements). It has been described as containing "the greatest concentration of different endangered ecosystems in California".

The 719.8± acre Mesa de Burro property has been appraised for \$2,160,000.00, a value which has also been approved by the Department of General Services. The 100± acre parcel which is proposed to be transferred to TNC has an approved fair market value of \$570,000. Therefore, this transaction will result in an actual savings of \$1,290,000.00 in the purchase price of the Mesa de Burro site, and of equal importance will assist in

providing for the protection of the Sylvan Meadows property. In addition to the allocation of \$300,000 and authorization to transfer the 100± acre parcel to TNC, it is estimated that it will be necessary to allocate \$10,000 to cover costs of the acquisition including escrow, title policy and the Department of General Services charges. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA under Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions and a Notice of Exemption has been filed.

It is anticipated that the area, if acquired, will continue to be managed in accordance with the Land Use and Management Master Plan for the Santa Rosa Plateau which has been adopted by the DFG, the County of Riverside, the MWD, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and TNC.

Staff recommended that the Board approve this acquisition and transfer as proposed including the authorization to transfer the 100± acre parcel; allocate \$310,000.00 and authorize the disposal of the 100 acre parcel, as follows: \$90,975.32 from the Habitat Conservation Fund/P-117 (Significant Natural Areas) and \$219,024.68 from the Wildlife and Natural Areas Conservation Fund [Section 2720 (a)]; and authorize staff and DFG to proceed substantially as planned.

Miss Schafer asked Mr. Schmidt what the difference was between the \$300,000.00 payment to The Nature Conservancy and the \$310,000.00 requested, pointing out the \$10,000.00 difference. Mr. Schmidt indicated the \$10,000.00 was closing costs and any other review costs. Mr. McGeoghegan commented that the property was very unique and wanted to know how much more land was available for future acquisitions. Mr. Sarro explained that the acquisition plan was complete at this point. He further explained the ramifications of having the property deeded back. Senator Thompson asked what the property would be used for. Mr. Sarro explained that the primary use would be habitat preservation. A portion would also serve as a mitigation bank, with restoration accomplished using mitigation fees. Non-sensitive portions would be used as bicycle and equestrian trails. Mr. Schmidt also pointed out that Ms. Patty Wolf, Regional Manager of Region 5 was present and could answer any questions. Miss Schafer asked how much access and how much use is in the protected areas. Mr. Sarro answered that it is primarily passive recreational use and it is accessible. Mr. Schmidt pointed out that this project has considerable community support. Mr. McGeoghegan pointed out the climatic changes between the valley and the plateau and commented on how desirable the property is.

MISS SCHAFFER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE BOTH THE ACQUISITION OF THE SANTA ROSA PLATEAU ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, EXPANSION #3 IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY, AND THE TRANSFER OF THE 100± ACRE PARCEL OF NON-SENSITIVE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OWNED LAND, TOGETHER WITH A CASH PAYMENT OF \$300,000.00 TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$310,000.00 AS FOLLOWS: \$90,975.32 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-

117 (SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS) AND \$219,024.68 FROM THE WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION FUND [SECTION 2720 (A)]; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Mill Creek/Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Expansion #6 \$1,774,000.00
Humboldt and Butte Counties

This was a proposal to consider a multi-party acquisition between the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), American Land Conservancy (ALC), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy and the Board, involving valuable habitats in Humboldt and Butte Counties. Specifically, the agreement provides for the purchase of 358 ± acres of land, plus timber, located in Humboldt County, for the protection of Mill Creek watershed-related critical habitats for threatened and endangered species with title to be held by BLM. In addition, it provides for State acceptance, pursuant to Board authorization, of 750± acres of land located in Butte County, which is considered very important to improve water delivery and distribution to Gray Lodge Wildlife Area to the protect its riparian and historic wetlands habitats.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, MR. SCHMIDT REPORTED THAT THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA AND WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME.

20. Bodie Bowl Ecological Reserve, Mono County \$500,000.00

Mr. Schmidt reported that this was a proposal for the grant of \$500,000.00 to the State Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to assist in its purchase of 517± acres of private lands adjacent to the Bodie State Historic Park (BSHP) and more than 6,000 acres of adjoining federal lands. It is proposed that the property be included in the BSHP and be managed under a cooperative management plan between the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and DPR. Mr. Sarro reported on the proposal.

The subject property is located in Mono County, approximately 13 air miles (20 road miles) southeast of Bridgeport and 10 miles north of Mono Lake. Vehicular access can be obtained by way of State Highway 270, 13 miles east of its intersection with U.S. Highway 395 to Bodie State Historic Park, which adjoins the subject property on the west. From this point the project site can be accessed either by a 2/3 mile walk east of the park's parking lot via Green Street or from the Bodie-Aurora County Road one mile north and east of the park and thence southwest by jeep road along Taylor Gulch. Direct access

from the south is available over 10 miles of the dirt Cottonwood Canyon County Road from State Highway 167.

The flora of the 390 square mile Bodie Hills is predominately a mixture of Sierran and Great Basin species. The subject property is a sagebrush dominated steppe, of which approximately 50% has been disturbed to some degree by 19th century mining activity or cattle grazing. However, the site is characterized by an absence of introduced species. Because it is a transition zone between the Sierran and Great Basin landscape provinces, there is a relatively high and diverse population of 30 terrestrial mammals within a three mile radius of this location. Species using this area include, among others, the pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and sage grouse. In fact, the Bodie Hills area is considered to be a vital mule deer and antelope migration corridor. There are sage grouse leks in the immediate area. A number of Species of Special Concern occur on the subject property, including golden eagle, sage grouse, ferruginous hawk, northern harrier, prairie falcon, Townsend's big-ear bat, pygmy rabbit, western white-tailed hare and American badger. Also, recorded on-site are the Sierra Nevada rosie finch, Sierra Nevada pika, ringtailed cat, mountain lion and long-tailed weasel.

Bodie State Historic Park contains the only representative selection of these landscape types and vegetative communities within the California State Park System. The larger the area that is ultimately within that unit, the better would be the ecological sample under protection. The addition of this property to Bodie State Historic Park would make a significant contribution to rounding out state and federal land ownership in the area. More specifically, the acquisition would result in: 1) acquisition of mineral rights which will result in the extension of the same public benefits to over 6,000 acres of adjoining federal public land within the Bodie Bowl; 2) safeguarding hunting and recreational opportunities in the Bodie Hills to the public; 3) providing assurance that adjoining critical viewshed properties will not be adversely developed with an open pit mine, which is their most likely use; 4) assuring that private development will not have an adverse effect on existing historic park structures (such as the vibration associated with mine blasting) and the visitor experience of a rare ghost town; 5) providing protection to historic and nationally recognized sites within the historic Bodie Mining District; and 6) providing protection and interpretation of the flora and fauna of a landscape province which is not well represented in California.

The proposed acquisition would also round out and complete existing state park and federal ownership and is critical to maintaining the habitat values of the adjoining Bureau of Land Management Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The BLM property received the designation as an ACEC in 1993 under criteria of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 because of the national significance of its natural and cultural values. It was also designated at that time as a Special Recreation Management area. On October 31, 1994, the Bodie Protection Act of 1994 became law, withdrawing federal lands of the Bodie Bowl from new mineral entry, and requiring that existing valid mineral claims be subject to regulation no less stringent than that provided within national parks. BLM currently estimates that approximately 95 of the 332 mineral claims of the Bodie

Bowl lie within the known area of mineralization and may be found to be valid. Mineral development of the private properties in question would most likely result in at least two open pit mines with associated milling and cyanide heap leach recovery operations, on both the private and public lands. Acquisition of the private properties and their associated mineral rights will forestall the possibility of future threats of mineral development and the consequent impacts to the natural resources of the adjoining 6,000 acre Bodie Bowl, as well as potential threats to other downstream habitats of the Bodie Creek/Walker River watershed.

Prior to acquisition, the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Parks and Recreation would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding or Management Agreement to facilitate implementing the management objectives listed below for the Bodie Project lands:

- a. Management would emphasize preservation and protection of wildlife species, natural community values, and cultural resources.
- b. Regulated passive public recreational uses, such as interpretation and hiking will be provided. Because of the presence of a number of unsafe mine shafts, adits, and structures, and in an effort to provide public safety, discrete portions of the subject property may be placed out of bounds by State Park Superintendent Order pending stabilization and/or fencing if necessary. Such fencing, much of which is currently in place, will provide habitat protection while not affecting existing or future hunting opportunities. All structural modifications including fence installations, will be "wildlife friendly" in design and require timely consultation and approval by the Department of Fish and Game and BLM to assure construction and placement have minimal impacts on wildlife including bats that may utilize mine shafts on the property.
- c. Presence of game species suggests the area will support a managed hunting program, provided that sensitive species and cultural resources could be protected.
- d. Appropriate areas for hunting will be identified by the Department of Fish and Game with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Because of the proximity to the core attraction of the Bodie Townsite, management may limit the method of take. The aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding will establish appropriate hunting and passive recreational areas which would minimize impacts to sensitive natural and cultural resources.

The fair market value of the property, as approved by the Department of General Services, is \$6.2 million. The sale price is in negotiation between DPR staff and representatives for the owners, but will be at or below the approved fair market value. DPR does anticipate a shortfall of at least \$500,000.00 and has, therefore, requested a contributing grant of WCB funds in that amount. In consideration of the wildlife benefits provided by the

property and the management agreements anticipated between DPR, DFG and the Bureau of Land Management, the Department supports the grant of the requested funds.

Mr. Schmidt then asked Mr. Noah Tilghman if he would like to speak. Mr. Tilghman elaborated on the mineral rights and development of the property. Senator Thompson inquired about the hunting rights. Mr. Tilghman answered that hunting would be an integral part of the management plan. Mr. McGeoghegan asked about the mining activity on the property. Mr. Tilghman affirmed it was in the area Mr. McGeoghegan indicated. Mr. McGeoghegan asked about whether there would be any clean-up or abatement of the mining tailings. He was concerned about the use of cyanide. Senator Thompson indicated that the mining was surface mining. Mr. Tilghman discussed the impact of the mining on the land and current habitat. Mr. McGeoghegan then clarified the rights being acquired in the transaction as fee to 500± acres with mineral rights on 6,000 acres of federally owned property. He then inquired as to which federal entity currently owns the fee. Mr. Tilghman confirmed it was BLM. A discussion between Senator Thompson and Mr. Tilghman concerned the proposed clean-up and planting of the property. Ms. Schafer indicated that she had visited the site and gave a little history of the town of Bodie. Ross Sargent discussed his experiences having grown up in Bodie along with a discussion of the past mining practices and possible future practices and expressed his support of the project. Mr. Schmidt indicated that several letters of support had been received including one from Andrea Lawrence, supervisor in the area, one from Andrew Smith, professor of zoology at University of Arizona, the Mountain Lion Foundation, Mono Wildlife Council, Bureau of Land Management, Senator Pat Johnston, the California Rifle and Pistol Association and California Sportsman Lobby. The letters from the California Rifle and Pistol Assn and California Sportsman Lobby contained conditions of their support based on continued access and hunting allowed on the property. Mr. Schmidt recommended the Board approve the project.

MS. SCHAFER MOVED THE BOARD APPROVE THE GRANT OF \$500,000.00 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO ASSIST IN ITS PURCHASE OF THE BODIE BOWL ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, IN MONO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED ; ALLOCATE \$500,000.00 FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND/P-117 (DEER AND MOUNTAIN LION HABITAT); AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

MOTION CARRIED.

21. Resolution Honoring Assemblyman Dan E. Hauser

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

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Dan E. Hauser has served with distinction as a member of the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board for five years; and

WHEREAS, with his genuine interest in the programs of the Wildlife Conservation Board, together with his love for the outdoors, wildlife conservation, camping and fishing, he has served the Board and the welfare of the wildlife resources of California exceedingly well; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Dan Hauser's sound judgment, wise counsel and good humor have greatly helped the Board and staff in carrying out its duties and responsibilities and have gained him the utmost respect of those who have worked with him;

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 Hauser our sincere thanks and appreciation for his dedication and valuable 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 Hauser.

MS. SCHAFER MOVED THAT THE WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE RESOLUTION
HONORING SENATOR HAUSER.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 by Mr. McGeoghegan.

Respectfully submitted,



W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on August 13, 1996, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947 totaled \$376,248,528.64. 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	20,900,907.96
1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$ 3,063,613.05
2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	14,719,206.72
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	36,882,753.83
1. Coastal and Bay	\$ 2,973,174.92
2. River and Aqueduct Access	9,000,534.52
3. Lake and Reservoir Access	6,801,879.45
4. Piers	18,107,164.94
D. Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
E. Wildlife Habitat Acq., Development & Improvement	290,039,611.82
1. Wildlife Areas (General)	\$173,559,907.13
2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	4,682,865.96
3. Wildlife Areas/Eco Reserves, (Threatened, Endangered or Unique Habitat)	106,926,557.48
4. Land Conservation Area	3,247.00
5. Inland Wetlands Conser. Grants & Easements	2,725,151.22
6. Riparian Habitat Conser. Grants & Easements	762,383.03
7. Other Wildlife Habitat Grants	1,379,500.00
F. Hunting Access Projects	484,898.57
G. Miscellaneous Projects (including leases)	10,148,040.86
H. Special Project Allocations	870,090.42
I. Miscellaneous Public Access Projects	757,615.63
J. Sales and/or exchanges	<u>11,496.00</u>
Total Allocated to Projects	\$376,248,528.64