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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1431 Fax (213) 633-5102

MINUTES

Thursday, July 15, 2004 Meeting
6:00 p.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 374A

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

John Hybarger, Chairperson
Sandra Aronberg, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Martha Littlefield
Ken Wales

Douglas Drummond
Brad Nuremberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hybarger called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 3, 2004 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg, the Commission unanimously approved the June 3, 2004 minutes.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff reported the \$92,604.08 account balance as of June 30, 2004 does not reflect \$5,357.86 in outstanding encumbrances (Steve Holl) and \$8,000 (CDFG) in expenditures to be posted. **On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg, the Commission unanimously approved receiving and filing the financial report.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **National Wild Turkey Federation 'La Brea Turkey Osteological Comparison Project' Final Report:** Chairperson Hybarger summarized the contents of the report relating the comparison of the modern turkey to the remains of turkey bones excavated from the La Brea Tar Pits. The report stated conclusively the relationship of the ancient California turkey and the modern wild turkey.
- **California County Fish and Game Commission Conference Survey and Survey Response:** Staff reported that several responses were received. Some counties, such as Orange County, have responded that they no longer have a fish and game commission. A second inquiry will be sent out to commissions that have not responded. Chairperson Hybarger asked staff to contact Sonkie Mastrup to secure his assistance in revitalizing the desire for a statewide conference.
- **California Department of Fish and Game's Response to the Commission's Inquiry of**

the Use of the Dedicated Sheep Fund and the Fish and Game Preservation Fund:

Chairperson Hybarger stated that the letter did not satisfy the Commission's inquiry. He stated that he spoke with Will Fong and clarified the issues in their conversation on the actual expenditures of those funds. The Department decided to answer the specific inquiry of the letter. Commission agreed to submit another letter with a specific inquiry as to where the funds went after being deposited into the accounts. Commissioner Nuremberg suggested that a copy of the letter should be sent to the State Auditor's office. **On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Drummond the Commission unanimously approved that a response letter be sent with the specifics requested to the Department of Fish and Game.**

- California Department of Fish and Game Bighorn Sheep Update – Rebecca Barboza & Chanelle Davis: Chairperson Hybarger stated that some stakeholders have questions prior to signing off on the restoration agreement. He requested staff notify him and Steve Holl as to when in August the restoration plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors so that they may attend to respond to any questions. Chanelle Davis and Rebecca Barboza presented the Department of Fish and Game's separate efforts to capture and collar bighorn sheep and mountain lions in the San Gabriel Mountains.
- Chairperson Hybarger commented on an article on the recovery program of the sheep in the Eastern Sierras in the Department of Fish and Game's publication Outdoor California for January/February issue.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS REGARDING FISH AND GAME RELATED EVENTS

Chairperson Hybarger reported on the Whittier Narrows event which he attended this past weekend and San Gabriel Bighorn Sheep Volunteer Group meeting that Rebecca Barboza mentioned in her mountain lion presentation.

PRESENTATION ON 'HILLS FOR EVERYONE': Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director, Hills for Everyone, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the efforts of the organization and the State to acquire land for the establishment of a park within the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor and the difficulties they face in acquiring the land.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS SURROUNDING AB 2280 (COGDILL):

Jim Edmondson, Southern California Manager, Caltrout reported on efforts to resurrect a portion of AB 2280 (Cogdill) requiring an audit of the Department of Fish and Game's revenues and expenditures. The last audit was performed in 1987. Since the late 1970's, as of a result of Fish and Game Code 711 and 712, licensing fees were to cover the cost of the Department's hunting and fishing activities. In the late 1980's, the cost of the Department's programs exceeded its revenues requiring the fees to be doubled. In the last few years, the Department's financial problems led to closing some hatcheries. AB 2280 sought to allocate a portion of the fishing license fees to support the continuation of the hatcheries. The bill did not pass the Senate's Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Edmondson discussed Caltrout's efforts to preserve the trout hatcheries still in operation by working with the Governor's office to temporarily move some tideland and oil funds to the Department to avoid any closures. Trout hatcheries play a major part in the management and recreation of trout fishing in California. Caltrout seeks optimal management of the State's wild trout resources. Mr. Edmondson stated that Trout Unlimited and several other fishing organizations joined Caltrout in reviewing the legislation.

For next year, Caltrout is seeking sponsors in the Assembly and the Senate to carry on with the intent of Cogdill to provide greater physical management and transparency of the Department to ensure the fees paid are being used for their intended purposes.

Chairperson Hybarger thanked Mr. Edmonson for an informative presentation and asked that he keep the Commission updated on Caltrout's efforts.

GRANT REQUEST FROM THE RESPONSIBLE ANGLERS ASSOCIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 TO PURCHASE FISH FOR THE "FISHING IN THE CITY"

HOLLENBECK PARK FAMILY FREE FISHING DAY: John Callihan, Executive Director, Responsible Anglers Association made a presentation to request funding to purchase catfish for the event. This event unites the community, and it teaches the preservation of the aquatic environment and its surroundings. **On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Aronberg, the Commission unanimously approved the \$2,500 grant request to purchase catfish for the September 25, 2004 event.**

GRANT REQUEST FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000 TO SUPPORT THE GAME BIRD HERITAGE SPECIAL PHEASANT HUNTS PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Scott Sewell, Wildlife Habitat Assistant I, Heritage and Wildlife Outreach Programs, California Department of Fish and Game made the presentation requesting funding to purchase game birds for the Game Bird Heritage Special Pheasant Hunts Program which will hold 3 hunts within Los Angeles County over the next year. This covers approximately 238 youths at two birds apiece at \$11.00 per bird which comes out to \$5,236. Quail Unlimited donated \$2,000 for the purchase of shirts and hats for the events. Mr. Sewell stated that Departmental funding was cut and to continue this valuable program contributions are required. He approached each county in his district to request program funding. Chairperson Hybarger asked Commissioners to consider that the Commission has not participated in funding the hunting events before. **On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg, the Commission unanimously approved the amended amount of \$5,236 to fund the three hunts within Los Angeles County.**

GRANT REQUEST FROM THE LOS ANGELES ROD AND REEL CLUB FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 TO PURCHASE FISH FOR THE 2005 LOS ANGELES ROD AND REEL UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS FISHING TRIP:

Randolph M. Sharon, Chairman of the Los Angeles Rod and Reel Foundation, made the presentation to request funds for the organization's 'Underprivileged Kids Fishing Trip'. The organization sponsors this event every July and has repeatedly sought assistance in the past from the Commission to assist in this event. Last year they took four hundred youths and their counselors out in four boats. **On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Aronberg, the Commission unanimously approved \$2,500 for this event.**

MATTERS NOT POSTED (TO BE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR A FUTURE MEETING)

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.