STATE OF CALIFORNIA-NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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AUG 2 9 2012

NOTICE OF MEETING

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 30, 2012
10:00 AM
1/ State Capitol, Room 112
Sacramento, California 95814

FINAL AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM NO.		PAGE NO.
1.	Roll Call	1
2.	Funding Status — Informational	2
3.	Special Project Planning Account — Informational	7
4.	Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4—15)	7
*5.	Approval of Minutes — May 31, 2012	7
*6.	Recovery of Funds	7

* Proposed Consent Calendar
1/ These facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
*7.	Lower Yuba River – Excelsior – Phase II (Black Swan Ranch) Nevada County	$549,600.00	13

To consider the acquisition in fee of 108± acres of land by the Department of Fish and Game for the protection of riparian, riverine, forest meadow and blue oak woodland areas that serve as critical winter range for the Mooretown deer herd and provide habitat for threatened and endangered species, and to expand public access and fishing opportunities in the Lower Yuba River watershed and surrounding foothill areas, located north of Highway 20, near the community of Smartville in Nevada County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species within a floodplain or flood corridor. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 1E)]

*8.	San Joaquin Multi-Species Conservation Plan (2008), Thomas North Contra Costa County	$393,755.00	16

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC), and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to ECCCHC for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire 135± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including grassland and oak woodland savannah habitat areas within the East Contra Costa County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan, located in the Diablo Mountain Range between the town of Clayton and the City of Pittsburg, in unincorporated Contra Costa County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat for areas in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that assist in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)(SB8)]

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
2012 AUG 27 AM 8:27
FILED

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
*9.	Blue Oak Ranch Reserve CEQA and Planning Santa Clara County	$1,073,000.00	19

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Regents of the University of California to complete design, planning, and California Environmental Quality Act documents for facility improvements at the Blue Oak Ranch Reserve located approximately 9 miles east of the City of San Jose in Santa Clara County. The proposed funding source for this project provides for grants to the University of California for the Natural Reserve System for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055 (b)(3)]

*10.	San Joaquin River Parkway, Sycamore Island, North Channel Crossing Construction, Augmentation Madera County	$94,000.00	22

To consider the allocation for an augmentation to a previously approved grant to the Department of Water Resources to construct a steel arch culvert crossing at the North Channel of Sycamore Island, located in the San Joaquin River Parkway in Madera County two miles downstream of the State Highway 41 bridge. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin River Conservancy. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650 (b)(5)]

*11.	Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Salo Expansion Tulare County	$17,500.00	25

To consider the acquisition in fee title interest in 10± acres of land by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) representing an in-holding and expansion to the DFG's Allensworth Ecological Reserve (Reserve) for the purposes of threatened and endangered habitat protection, located in southern Tulare County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the restoration or acquisition of habitat for threatened and endangered species or for the purpose of promoting recovery of those species. [Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(3)]

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
*12.	Millard Canyon Los Angeles County	$480,200.00	28

To consider the allocation for a grant to Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy (AFC) to acquire 13± acres in Millard Canyon for the protection of oak woodland, riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral habitat and open space watershed areas to be assembled with other protected lands and linked to the Angeles National Forest in the San Gabriel Mountains, located just north of the City of Altadena in Los Angeles County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, to protect deer and mountain lions and the preservation or enhancement of wildlife values to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)(Proposition 1E)]

*13.	Santa Rosa Mountains (Desert Ranch II) Expansion 17 Riverside County	$5,000.00	32

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission to acquire 763± acres of land for the protection of core habitat linkages, fluvial and aeolian sand transport corridors and aluvial fan habitat important for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, Peninsular bighorn sheep, and other species addressed in the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, a Natural Community Conservation Plan, and the Department of Fish and Game Conceptual Area Protection Plan, located southeast of the City of La Quinta in Riverside County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that implements or assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)]

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
*14.	Jacumba Peak (Change of Scope) San Diego County	$0.00	35

To consider a change of scope for a subgrant of an approved U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant to the Anza-Borrego Foundation to acquire 1,081± acres of land, as part of a cooperative project with The Nature Conservancy and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation for protection of threatened and endangered species, located just north of the community of Jacumba in southeastern San Diego County.

*15.	San Diego River (2009 RLA) (Walker) San Diego County	$94,000.00	38

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the City of Santee, and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to the City of Santee for a cooperative project with State Coastal Conservancy and San Diego River Conservancy to acquire in fee 107± acres of land for the protection of habitat that will support the continued recovery of state and federally listed species, located along the San Diego River in the City of Santee in San Diego County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition1E)]

16.	Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 13 Yuba County	$2,740,000.00	41

To consider the acquisition in fee of 679± acres of land by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for a cooperative project with the Trust for Public Land for the protection of blue oak woodland, three miles of riparian habitat along South Honcut Creek, winter range for the Mooretown deer herd, and to provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities as an expansion to the DFG's Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area in the Sierra foothills, in northeastern Yuba County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, necessary to protect deer and mountain lions within a floodplain or flood corridor. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)(Proposition 1E)]

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
17.	Yuba Highlands Conservation Easement Phase II Yuba County	$1,104,000.00	44

To consider the acquisition of a conservation easement over 1,620± acres of land by the Department of Fish Game (DFG) for a cooperative project with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Trust for Public Land for protection of oak woodland and grassland habitats and habitat linkages between DFG's Spenceville Wildlife Area and Beale Air Force Base, located east of Marysville, in Yuba County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, to protect deer and mountain lions. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)]

18.	Conaway Ranch Conservation Easement Yolo County	$7,835,000.00	47

To consider the acquisition of four agricultural conservation easements totaling 6,224± acres of land by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for the protection of threatened and endangered species habitat, wetland and riparian habitat areas, including tri-color black bird, giant garter snake and Swainson's hawk species habitat areas, located east of the cities of Davis and Woodland, and west of the Sacramento River in Yolo County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species within a flood corridor or bypass, and recovery of threatened and endangered species. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition1E); and California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650]

19.	Clos du Bois Vineyard Habitat Restoration Sonoma County	$500,000.00	59

To consider the allocation for a grant to The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship for a cooperative project with Clos du Bois Vineyard to restore and enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat and provide landowner workshops on sustainable and wildlife-friendly farming practices on privately owned land along the Russian River, located approximately 22 miles north of the City of Santa Rosa in Sonoma County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for projects to assist farmers in integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration and wildlife protection. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(d)(4)]

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
20.	Campstool Ranch Calaveras County	$0.00	61

This proposal was withdrawn from consideration at this time.

21.	Oak Woodlands Conservation Easement (Barboni) Marin County	$610,000.00	62

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust for a cooperative project with the State Coastal Conservancy to acquire a conservation easement over 447± acres of land for the protection of native oak woodland habitat, and for protection of other sensitive biological resources, located eight miles southwest of Petaluma in the northern area of rural Marin County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the protection of native oak woodland habitat. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(d)(2)]

22.	Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, Wetland Restoration Construction Alameda County	Informational	65

To provide the Board with an update on the funding status and grant language for a wetland restoration and public access development project, conditionally approved by the Board on May 31, 2012, located on the Department of Fish and Game's Eden Landing Ecological Reserve.

23.	Lower Kern River Panorama Vista Preserve Riparian Restoration Kern County	$900,000.00	68

To consider the allocation for a grant to Kern River Corridor Endowment and Holding Company, Inc., for a cooperative project with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore 159± acres of riparian and associated saltbush scrub habitat for the benefit of listed species, and to provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities, located near the City of Bakersfield in Kern County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of riparian habitat to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(e/f) (Proposition 1E)]

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
24.	Ocean Meadows Santa Barbara County	$910,000.00	71

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to TPL for a cooperative project with Santa Barbara County Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caltrans, Goleta Valley Land Trust, State Coastal Conservancy, and Natural Resources Agency to acquire in fee 63± acres of coastal wetland and watershed habitat for protection of threatened and endangered species, and to enhance a critical connection between the upper and lower reaches of Devereux Slough and provide opportunities for future wildlife oriented public use, located in Goleta Valley in Santa Barbara County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species and coastal wetlands, upland areas adjacent to coastal wetlands and coastal watershed lands in southern California. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 50 SoCal)]

25.	Santa Clara River Watershed (Teyton) Ventura County	$1,010,000.00	75

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Nature Conservancy for a cooperative project with Department of Water Resources to acquire fee title of 34± acres of land for the protection of riparian and floodplain habitat and protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species, located just south of the City of Ventura, in Ventura County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species and coastal wetlands, upland areas adjacent to coastal wetlands and coastal watershed lands in southern California. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 50 SoCal)]

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
26.	Indio Trails Riverside County	$1,010,000.00	78

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC), and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to CVCC, for a cooperative project with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy to acquire in fee 495± acres of land for the protection of core habitat within the Coachella Valley Natural Community Conservation Plan area, located adjacent to California State Park Indio Hills Palms property within the City of Indio in Riverside County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that implements or assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)]

27.	Carlsbad/Northwest San Diego County MHCP HCPLA/NCCP 2009 (Cielo del Norte) San Diego County	$4,629,750.00	82

To consider the acceptance of two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grants and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to The Conservation Fund (TCF), and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to TCF for a cooperative project with the County of San Diego, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game to acquire in fee 240± acres of land for the protection of core California gnatcatcher habitat within the Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Program, located southeast of the City of Escondido between Interstate 5 and Interstate 15 in San Diego County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that implements or assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)]

ITEM NO.			PAGE NO.
28.	San Diego County MSCP (2010) (Sycuan Tribal – Sloan Canyon) San Diego County	$1,165,000.00	86

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Land Conservancy and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Land Conservancy to acquire in fee 609± acres of land for the protection of core areas of coastal sage habitat, secure key regional wildlife linkages and support the existing Multiple Species Conservation Plan, a Natural Communities Conservation Plan, located in southwest San Diego County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that implements or assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)]

29.	Mill Creek Forest Restoration Del Norte County	Special Presentation	90

The Smith River Alliance (SRA) and many project partners have been working to restore the Mill Creek Unit of the Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, acquired with funding provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board and others in 2002. SRA will make a special presentation outlining accomplishments over the last eight years.

30.	Strategic Planning	Informational	92

To provide the Board with an update and to receive direction advancing the planning process.

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 30, 2012

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Game

Ana Matosantos, Member
Director, Department of Finance

Jim Kellogg, Member
President, Fish and Game Commission

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Jean Fuller
Senator Fran Pavley
Senator Lois Wolk

Assembly Member Michael Allen
Assembly Member Richard Gordon
Assembly Member Jared Huffman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Donnelly

2. Funding Status – Informational

The following funding status depicts Capital Outlay appropriations by year of appropriation and by fund source and fund number.

(a) 2012-13 Wildlife Restoration Fund, (0447)

Budget Act	$1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-0.00
Unallocated Balance	$1,000,000.00

(b) 2012-12 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)

Budget Act	$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-0.00
Unallocated Balance	$20,663,000.00

(c) 2011-12 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)

Budget Act	$20,663,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-292,000.00
Unallocated Balance	$20,371,000.00

(d) 2010-11 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)

Budget Act	$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-6,011,010.00
Unallocated Balance	$14,656,990.00

(e) 2008-09 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)
(2012-13 Reappropriation)

Budget Act	$20,668,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-15,650,773.00
Unallocated Balance	$5,017,227.00

(f) 2007-08 Habitat Conservation Fund, (0262)
(2011-12 Reappropriation)

Budget Act	$20,674,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-13,568,306.08
Unallocated Balance	$7,105,693.92

(g) 2006-07 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, (0005)
(2010-11 Reappropriation)

Budget Act	$15,224,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-12,974,881.00
Unallocated Balance	$2,249,119.00

(h) 1999-00 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, (0005)

Continuously Appropriated [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)]	$36,100,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-29,797,243.45
Unallocated Balance	$6,302,756.55

(i) 2004-05 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund, (6029)
(2010-11 Reappropriation)

Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	$11,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-4,529,302.94
Unallocated Balance	$6,470,697.06

(j) 2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund, (6029)

Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650)	$273,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-223,344,935.55
Unallocated Balance	$49,655,064.45

(k) 2003-04 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002, (6031)
(2010-11 Reappropriation)

Budget Act (Section 79568)	$32,500,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-21,681,299.35
Unallocated Balance	$10,818,700.65

(l) 2002-03 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002, (6031)

Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572), including Chapter 81, Statutes of 2005	$814,350,000.00
2003-04 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
2004-05 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-21,000,000.00
2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79565	-4,000,000.00
2005-06 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-3,100,000.00
2006-07 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-17,688,000.00
2007-08 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-5,150,000.00
2008-09 Budget Act Transfer to HCF from Section 79572	-1,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-668,496,370.19
Unallocated Balance	$72,915,629.81

(m) 2010-11 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051)

Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	$3,380,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-0.00
Unallocated Balance	$3,380,000.00

(n) 2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2010-11 Reappropriation)

Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects)	$10,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-2,856,000.00
Unallocated Balance	$7,144,000.00

(o) 2009-10 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051)

Chapter 2, Statutes of 2009 (SB 8)	$24,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-4,097,646.00
Unallocated Balance	$19,902,354.00

(p) 2008-09 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051), (2011-12 Reappropriation)

Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055(c))	$25,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-7,918,436.50
Unallocated Balance	$17,081,563.50

(q) 2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2010-11 Reappropriation)

Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055(c))	$25,000,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-14,079,170.00
Unallocated Balance	$10,920,830.00

(r) 2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 , (6051) (2010-11 Reappropriation)

Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(1))	$14,293,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-11,682,786.00
Unallocated Balance	$2,610,214.00

(s) 2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2010-11 Reappropriation)

Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(2))	$14,293,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-11,628,437.48
Unallocated Balance	$2,664,562.52

(t) 2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051) (2010-11 Reappropriation)

Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(4))	$4,762,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-2,585,339.78
Unallocated Balance	$2,176,660.22

(u) 2006-07 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006, (6051)

Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055a)	$164,700,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-77,401,078.50.
Unallocated Balance	$87,298,921.50

Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055(b))	$123,525,000.00
Previous Board Allocations	-79,756,544.53
Unallocated Balance	$43,768,455.47

RECAP OF FUND BALANCES

Wildlife Restoration Fund (a)	$1,000,000.00
Habitat Conservation Fund (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f)	$67,813,910.92
Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (g) and (h)	$8,551,875.55
California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (i) and (j)	$56,125,761.51
Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (k) and (l)	$83,734,330.46
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r),(s), (t) and (u)	$196,947,561.21
TOTAL – ALL FUNDS	**$414,173,439.65**

RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000

Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000 and Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004 Tax credits awarded through June 30, 2008	$48,598,734.00
Chapter 220, Statutes of 2009 (effective January 1, 2010) Tax credits awarded	$0.00

SUMMARY OF BOND CASH

The following summary provides the status of the up-front general obligation bond sale proceeds that the Wildlife Conservation Board has received since the spring of 2009.

Proposition Bond Fund	Authorized GO Bond Proceeds	Expenditures through 07/27/12	Encumbrances through 06/30/12	Cash Balances Include Encumbrances
Proposition 12	$12,621,973.31	$7,276,435.38	$225,569.75	$5,119,968.18
Proposition 40	$58,555,210.18	$42,599,643.87	$24,799,773.61	-$8,844,207.30
Proposition 50	$99,161,920.79	$40,350,897.01	$8,700,323.45	$50,110,700.33
Proposition 84	$202,973,069.95	$177,692,531.48	$28,189,578.66	-$2,909,040.19
Proposition 1E	$37,491,090.20	$25,586,561.34	$12,080,501.50	-$175,972.64
Grand Totals	**$410,803,264.43**	**$293,506,069.08**	**$73,995,746.97**	**$43,301,448.38**

3. Special Project Planning Account

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 the Board's approval of a project, all expenditures incurred and recorded in the Special Project Planning Account are transferred to the Board approved project account which then reduces the Special Project Planning Account expenditures. This procedure provides a revolving account 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 Planning Account is available to be used for these costs.

The Board, at the May 6, 1986 meeting, authorized the Executive Director to use up to 1% of a budgeted appropriation to set up and maintain an appropriate planning account with the provision it would be reported to the Board as an informational item.

Accordingly, a planning account has been set up as follows:

Habitat Conservation Fund $45,000.00

Wildlife Restoration Fund $5,000.00

Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund $35,000.00

Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 $20,000.00

*4. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4—15)

*5. Approval of Minutes – May 31, 2012

*6. Recovery of Funds

The following projects previously authorized by the Board are now completed, and some 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.

$0.00 to the **General Fund**
$25,686.00 to the **Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund**
$58,958.00 to the **Habitat Conservation Fund**
$0.00 to the **Wildlife Restoration Fund**
$11,675.12 to the **California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund**
$94,692.24 to the **Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006**

GENERAL FUND

Sacramento River Wildlife Area Riparian Restoration, Wilson Landing Unit, Glenn County

Allocated	$981,900.00
Expended	-981,900.00
Balance for Recovery	$0.00

Total General Fund **$0.00**

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND

Six Rivers (Chalk Mountain Ranch), Humboldt County

Allocated	$35,000.00
Expended	-11,564.00
Balance for Recovery	$23,436.00

Western Riverside County MSHCP, Expansion 6, Riverside County

Allocated	$5,000.00
Expended	-2,750.00
Balance for Recovery	$2,250.00

Total Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund **$25,686.00**

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Bass Hill - Lassen Creek Conservation Easement (Hulsman), Lassen County

Allocated	$426,000.00
Expended	-423,736.00
Balance for Recovery	$2,264.00

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Uplands and Wetlands Enhancement, Solano County

Allocated	$750,000.00
Expended	-750,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$0.00

Lassen Foothills, Expansion 6 (Gaumer Ranch), Tehama County

Allocated	$2,295,000.00
Expended	-2,286,368.00
Balance for Recovery	$8,632.00

Lassen Foothills, Expansion 7 (Kerstiens Ranch), Tehama County

Allocated	$815,000.00
Expended	-805,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$10,000.00

Leavitt Lake Conservation Easement, Lassen County

Allocated	$830,000.00
Expended	-830,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$0.00

Los Vaqueros Ranch Conservation Easement, Phase II, Monterey County

Allocated	$1,210,000.00
Expended	-1,201,938.00
Balance for Recovery	$8,062.00

North Sutter Bypass Ranch Wetland Enhancement, Sutter County

Allocated	$45,000.00
Expended	-15,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$30,000.00

North Sutter Bypass Ranch Wetland Enhancement Fund Shift, Sutter County

Allocated	$30,000.00
Expended	-30,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$0.00

Sacramento River Wildlife Area Riparian Restoration, Wilson Landing Unit, Glenn County

Allocated	$250,100.00
Expended	-250,100.00
Balance for Recovery	$0.00

Total Habitat Conservation Fund **$58,958.00**

WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

South Bonnyview Fishing Access Improvements - Construction, Shasta County

Allocated	$360,000.00
Expended	-360,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$0.00

Total Wildlife Restoration Fund **$0.00**

CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND

DFG Land Management Plans, Northern California-North Coast Region, Phase II, Tehama/Shasta County

Allocated	$67,000.00
Expended	-67,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$0.00

DFG Land Management Plans, Northern Region, Phase II Augmentation, Tehama/Shasta County

Allocated	$28,002.00
Expended	-27,690.69
Balance for Recovery	$311.31

Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area, Expansion 4, San Diego County

Allocated	$708,000.00
Expended	-702,045.00
Balance for Recovery	$5,955.00

Jewett Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration, Tehama County

Allocated	$250,000.00
Expended	-249,591.19
Balance for Recovery	$408.81

Peninsular Bighorn Sheep - Loh, Riverside County

Allocated	$5,000.00
Expended	-5,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$0.00

Salmon Falls Reserve, Expansion 2, El Dorado County

Allocated	$2,370,000.00
Expended	-2,365,000.00
Balance for Recovery	$5,000.00

Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund **$11,675.12**

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006

Bear Creek Working Forest, Siskiyou/Shasta County

Allocated	$7,805,000.00
Expended	-7,803,200.00
Balance for Recovery	$1,800.00

Chickahominy Creek Habitat Restoration, Yolo County

Allocated	$404,000.00
Expended	-380,616.70
Balance for Recovery	$23,383.30

City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan/NW HCPLA 2009 (Bridges), San Diego County

Allocated	$3,214,000.00
Expended	-3,205,368.00
Balance for Recovery	$8,632.00

Ebabias Creek Habitat Restoration, Sonoma/Marin County

Allocated	$288,000.00
Expended	-259,200.06
Balance for Recovery	$28,799.94

Leavitt Lake Conservation Easement, Lassen County

Allocated	$875,000.00
Expended	-872,736.00
Balance for Recovery	$2,264.00

Long Potrero East, San Diego County

Allocated	$1,498,000.00
Expended	-1,489,140.00
Balance for Recovery	$8,860.00

Western Riverside County MSHCP (2006), Expansions 10 & 11, Riverside County

Allocated	$1,042,500.00
Expended	-1,021,547.00
Balance for Recovery	$20,953.00

Total Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	**$94,692.24**

*7. Lower Yuba River – Excelsior – Phase II $549,600.00
(Black Swan Ranch)
Yuba County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition in fee of 108± acres of land by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for the protection of riparian, riverine, forest meadow, and blue oak woodland areas that serve as critical winter range for the Mooretown deer herd, provide habitat for threatened and endangered species, and to expand public access and fishing opportunities to the Lower Yuba River watershed and surrounding foothill areas.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located at the western edge of the Nevada County, just north of State Highway 20, west of Mooney Flat Road. The site is situated northeast of the small rural community of Smartsville and is bordered by Penn Valley, Grass Valley, and Nevada City to the east, and Marysville and Yuba City to the west. The northern edge of the Property lies adjacent to the eastern component of DFG's Lower Yuba River, Excelsior property (DFG Excelsior), a 527-acre acquisition approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in November of 2010, which the Yuba River flows through. The proposed acquisition, when combined with the DFG Excelsior property, will create superior access into DFG properties, thereby enhancing and benefiting public recreational opportunities and access to the Yuba River for angling, hiking, and other recreational and scenic activities.

The proposed acquisition is located within the DFG Lower Yuba River Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) and is situated in a region of foothills located between DFG lands and other protected areas located to the south and north along the same stretch of foothills. The acquisition will help provide habitat between the DFG Daugherty Wildlife Area and the University of California Foothill Research Station, located to the north and the DFG Spenceville Wildlife Area located to the south. The Property is also within the boundaries of the Placer Legacy Program area, a regional conservation planning effort to protect foothill open space areas and habitat, involving Placer County, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Placer Land Trust, and the Trust for Public Land.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The irregularly shaped Property is unimproved and is located within a general agriculture zone with a 40-acre minimum requirement. The terrain is primarily covered with grassland pastures and oak woodlands on level to sloping terrain. There are a number of small pond areas including a large scenic pond feature. The Property is inhabited by a number of diverse non-game species and a number of threatened and endangered species including the western pond turtle, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, western burrowing owl, and peregrine falcon. Other resident wildlife species include the black bear, wild turkey, gray squirrel,

California quail, bald and golden eagles, and a variety of associated riparian and wetland species.

The Property is comprised of two parcels. The northernmost parcel is proposed for acquisition as part of this project. The other parcel, located on the southern end of the Property, is proposed for acquisition by the Bear Yuba Land Trust in a separate transaction. The acquisition of both parcels will merge the DFG Excelsior property with the Black Swan property and provide improved access into the Property from adjacent Mooney Flat Road, and further enhance public recreational opportunities and access to the Yuba River for angling, hiking, and other recreational and scenic activities. Acquisition of the property will also preclude potential development of lands within the Yuba River watershed, helping to protect and maintain water quality and detrimental run-off in this important fishery, as well as help reduce rapid downstream flows within the Yuba River floodplain.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the DFG, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program, the WCB acquires lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the DFG, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be maintained and managed by DFG as an expansion to the DFG's Excelsior property and as part of the North Central Region's lands program overseen by law enforcement staff and wildlife and fisheries unit biologists. Biologists will also conduct annual site monitoring visits documenting any management, restoration, and fire prevention needs.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $700,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to

sell the Property for less than its appraised fair market value at $526,600.00. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB acquisition will require WCB staff to review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. Once approved by the WCB, the transaction must also be reviewed and approved by the DGS.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$526,600.00**
TOTAL	$526,600.00
Other Project-Related Costs:	$ 23,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$549,600.00**

It is estimated that an additional $23,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 1E). The source provides for the acquisition and protection of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species within a floodplain or flood corridor.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, and under Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to approval by the Wildlife Conservation Board, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommended that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $549,600.00.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c)(Proposition 1E), for the acquisition and project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

*8. San Joaquin Multi-Species Conservation Plan (2008) $393,755.00
Thomas North
Contra Costa County

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC), as well as to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to ECCCHC, for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to acquire fee title to 135± acres of land for the protection and preservation of important habitat and regional wildlife linkages within the East Contra Costa County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan area.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located in the Diablo Range, bisected by Kirker Pass Road between the town of Clayton and the City of Pittsburg in unincorporated Contra Costa County. This acquisition is located within the East Contra Costa County combined Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The project will help protect a significant area of annual grasslands, seasonal wetlands and scattered oaks located along the upper elevations of the Property. The Property is located within a habitat linkage running south from the Concord Naval Weapons Station south to the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and beyond to the Altamont pass, and eventually to the northern portions of the San Joaquin Valley. Over the past several years the WCB, USFWS, ECCCHC and EBRPD have partnered to acquire just over 9,000± acres within the HCP/NCCP, protecting essential habitat and connectivity for multiple species designated for protection within the plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is a former cattle ranch and consists of two parcels containing a total of 135± acres located both north and south of Kirker Pass Road. The parcel north of Kirker Pass Road is 80.51± acres and consists of moderate to steep terrain sloping up from Kirker Pass Road; the central portion of this parcel consists of lesser sloped terrain with a valley flanked by two hills. The parcel south of Kirker Pass Road is 54.47± acres. Its topography varies from level in the north and east portions to steeply sloping in the westerly half. The two parcels are connected by a tunnel under Kirker Pass Road that was constructed for cattle and also serves as a wildlife crossing. Elevations range from approximately 330 feet to 620 feet. This acquisition will help further protect a northwest-southeast movement corridor for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox and will protect habitat for the conservation of the threatened California red-legged frog. The NCCP/HCP designates the Property a high priority for acquisition and protection due to its significant habitat for protected species, its

location in a critical linkage between previously conserved areas, and its importance for protecting a continuous reach of stream in the Kirker Creek watershed.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant and subgrant for this project are being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) and enables the WCB to pursue acquisitions on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. The project has been reviewed and approved by the DFG under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for this project has also been reviewed and approved by the DFG as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Once acquired by ECCCH, EBRPD has agreed to manage the property. Funding of future management activities for this Property will be provided by ECCCHC and EBRPD, in large part through wind turbine and cell tower lease revenue from prior acquisitions within the NCCP/HCP. It is anticipated that the area will continue to offer passive recreational uses, an allowed use under the NCCP/HCP. The habitat will be maintained in conjunction with other properties managed by EBRPD.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $863,900.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the USFWS. The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the appraised fair market value of $863,900.00. The USFWS grant funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by EBRPD tax revenues and the proposed WCB grant to ECCCHC that is a part of this project. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and the USFWS subgrant to the ECCCHC provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require ECCCHC to encumber the Property with a conservation easement and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$ 388,755.00**
WCB – Subgrant of USFWS funds	$ 388,755.00
East Bay Regional Park District	$ 86,390.00
TOTAL	$ 863,900.00
Other Project Related Costs:	**5,000.00**
Total WCB Allocation	**$ 393,755.00**

It is estimated that an additional $5,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS appraisal review costs. Under the terms of the USFWS grant the WCB may seek partial reimbursement of these costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)(SB8), that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans and is consistent with the purposes of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; approve the acceptance of a Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant from USFWS in the amount of $388,755.00 and approve a subgrant of these federal funds to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy; allocate $393,755.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c)(SB8) for the grant to East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy and to cover the project-related costs; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

*9. Blue Oak Ranch Reserve CEQA and Planning $1,073,000.00
Santa Clara County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Regents of the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), to complete design, planning, and CEQA documents for facility improvements at the Blue Oak Ranch Reserve located approximately nine miles east of the City of San Jose.

LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The Blue Oak Ranch Reserve is located in Santa Clara County, situated three miles north of Mt. Hamilton Road, nine miles from downtown San Jose, eleven miles from the Lick Observatory on the summit of Mount Hamilton, and shares a south-east border with the Joseph Grant Ranch County Park. Blue Oak Ranch Reserve comprises 3,260 acres of mixed species oak woodland and savanna, coastal chaparral, ponds, and extensive riparian habitat, including two miles of the Arroyo Hondo River, the primary water source for the Calaveras reservoir. Healthy populations of California tiger salamander, western pond turtle, and California red-legged frog occur throughout the reserve, and take advantage of numerous man-made stock ponds for breeding and reproduction.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will initiate environmental studies and site planning, engineering, and architectural design for a future construction project to remodel the Cedar Barn into a field station with dormitory rooms, private apartment(s), administrative office, common kitchen and dining hall, classrooms and meeting spaces, and a small laboratory/workshop. The project will evaluate an upgrade of a current campground to provide year-round accommodations in durable cabin yurts, serviced by a common restroom and outdoor kitchen, and the construction of two modular staff housing units and a maintenance shop. It is expected that utility systems will be upgraded, including a sanitary well, large capacity water tank, fire suppression sprinklers in the barn, a solar photovoltaic energy system tied into the local power grid, advanced human waste management systems, and gravel road work to facilitate year-round access. These additions would dramatically enhance the suitability of Blue Oak Ranch for continuous research, instruction, public outreach activities, and resource stewardship. Completion of these upgrades would allow the Reserve to accommodate up to 50 users, two residence staff members and their families, and provide safe, year-round access for instruction, research, and training.

WCB PROGRAM

The mission of the University of California, Natural Reserve System (UCNRS) is to contribute to the understanding and wise management of the earth and its natural systems by supporting university-level teaching, research, and public service at protected areas throughout California. Under Proposition 84, the

Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) received funding to provide matching grant dollars to the UCNRS for land acquisitions, construction or development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources. To implement this funding, the WCB and the UCNRS developed guidelines for identifying eligible projects, and the UCNRS established an Ad Hoc Advisory Subcommittee to review and set priorities for project proposals to be submitted to the WCB for funding.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The environmental document will evaluate the long-term management requirements of the project.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$1,073,000.00**
University of California, Berkeley	1,073,000.00
Total	$2,146,000.00

Project costs will be for the development of planning and CEQA documents for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources. UCB's contribution will come from a portion of the appraised value of a land donation that expanded the reserve. The remaining value of the donation will be used to match a future phase.

Project details are shown as follows:

	Funding Source	
	WCB	UCB
UCB Mgt, inspections, support staff, and contingency	$486,800.00	
CEQA studies and permits	100,000.00	
Site and Architectural Plans and Engineering	486,200.00	
Property donation	0.00	$4,880,000.00
TOTAL	**$1,073,000.00**	**$4,880,000.00**

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055 (b)(3), which provides for grants to the University of California for the Natural Reserve System for the construction and development of facilities that will be used for research and training to improve the management of natural lands and the preservation of California's wildlife resources, and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed project calls for the preparation and completion of environmental review for the proposed improvements to the Reserve. Including remodeling the Cedar Barn into a field station, the current campground will be upgraded, and two modular staff housing units will be constructed as well as a maintenance shop. The project was vetted through the UCNRS's Ad Hoc Subcommittee and recommended for funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,073,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)(3); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

*10. San Joaquin River Parkway, Sycamore Island, North Channel Crossing Construction, Augmentation Madera County — $94,000.00

This proposal is to consider the allocation for an augmentation to a previously approved grant to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to construct a steel arch culvert crossing at the North Channel of Sycamore Island, located in the San Joaquin River Parkway in Madera County two miles downstream of the State Highway 41 bridge.

LOCATION

The Parkway is defined in State Legislation as approximately 5,900 acres on both sides of a twenty-two mile long reach of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam in the east and State Route 99 to the west, in Fresno and Madera counties. The San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) was created in 1992 to preserve and enhance the San Joaquin River's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its valued cultural and natural resources and provide educational and recreational opportunities to the local communities. The SJRC's mission includes both public access and habitat restoration within the Parkway.

The proposed project is within the 347± acre Sycamore Island Fishing Access site, acquired by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in 2004, and located within the Parkway, approximately two miles west of Highway 41, north of the San Joaquin River and south of Avenue 7½.

When it was still privately owned, the Sycamore Island's six large ponds supported a privately-operated, fee-based public fishing and camping area. This former gravel mine had been used by local anglers fishing for bass and other warm water fish since the early 1960's. At the time of the public acquisition of the property in 2004, the area was closed pending the implementation of public safety and environmental protection improvements. The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust re-opened the facility on an interim basis once these improvements were implemented. Currently, the SJRC has taken over management of the site and collects user fees to cover the costs of waste management, sanitation, area oversight, and visitor information.

In 2006 the WCB and SJRC approved funding to make improvements necessary to protect the environment and public health and safety while continuing to accommodate public fishing access. Improvements consisted of signage, eight picnic tables, a restroom and re-grading of the entrance road. In June 2011 the WCB and SJRC approved funding for DWR to review bridge alternatives, complete environmental review, design and permitting.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sycamore Island is a public fishing and recreation site owned by the SJRC and operated seasonally by a concessionaire. The North Channel of the San Joaquin River bisects the 347± acre site. An under-sized, poorly constructed, and badly eroding pipe culvert is the only crossing on the channel, with a compacted gravel surface not much wider than a vehicle. The pipe is perched above the flow line, blocking fish passage in the channel. The crossing is essential for public land management and emergency response access to one-half of the Sycamore Island site and the entire river frontage.

In September 2011, after evaluating three alternatives in detail, the SJRC Board selected the steel plate arch culvert design with a proposed cost of $361,000.00 for construction. This alternative met all functional criteria and had the lowest cost. At that time engineered plans were preliminary (5% level design). The WCB approved funding this alternative at the December 2011 Board meeting.

DWR has nearly completed working drawings and specifications (95% level design), and prepared a final engineer's estimate. The estimated construction cost is now projected to be 12% higher, an additional $28,000.00. Further, DWR Division of Engineering, located at headquarters, projects that construction management and oversight (state operations) will require an additional $66,000.00. While the increase in the estimate is unfortunate, the original budget was likely too conservative given that only rough estimates could be prepared from the very preliminary design.

WCB PROGRAM

The WCB Public Access Program provides the basis for WCB's ability to provide public access State-wide. In addition, funds were allocated to the WCB within the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650 (b)(5) which provides for the construction of river parkway projects identified by the SJRC and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The channel is a side channel of the San Joaquin River; it is degraded and of particular importance in the restoration of the river for salmonids. Once constructed, it is expected that the crossing will provide safe access to the southern half of Sycamore Island and the San Joaquin River for recreation, patrolling, monitoring, and emergency response, with little or no annual maintenance.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$94,000.00**

The WCB approved $361,000.00 in December 2011 to include costs for project management and operations oversight, construction labor and materials for the development of a structural steel plate arch culvert, including road surface, guardrails, geofabric, and cobble riprap. This project description remains unchanged, but the more detailed design plans completed earlier this year by DWR indicated that management and construction costs would increase by the proposed amount.

FUNDING SOURCE
The proposed funding source is the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650 (b)(5), which provides for the construction of river parkway projects identified by the SJRC and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND-STATE RECOMMENDATION
The proposed project is included among the high priority projects recommended by the Interagency Project Development Committee, whose role is to evaluate projects to be considered by the SJRC Board. The project was accepted by the SJRC Board, which includes a representative with the DFG, on June 13, 2012.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $94,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650 (b)(5); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

*11. Allensworth Ecological Reserve, Salo Expansion $17,500.00
Tulare County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of fee title in 10± acres of land by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) representing an in-holding and expansion to the DFG's Allensworth Ecological Reserve (Reserve). The Reserve consists mostly of valley grassland areas interspersed with wetland areas and supports a number of special status species, including the State and federally-listed endangered San Joaquin kit fox.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located northwest of the City of Delano, southwest of the City of Earlimart, in Tulare County and lies directly north of Road 88 between State Highways 43 and 99. The area is typified as open land, sparsely vegetated and dominated by grassland areas. The Property lies in an area where portions of the Reserve are comprised of small scattered parcels that include various property ownerships. Many of the properties in the area have been, or are currently being, converted to extensive agricultural uses including alfalfa, cotton, milo, grapes, or orchard use. Most of the properties in the immediate area of the Property are owned and managed by DFG as part of the Reserve. The main focus of the Reserve is preservation of valley grasslands and wetland habitat areas for preservation of threatened and endangered species.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Acquisition of the Property will expand the Reserve for purposes of incorporating lands that provide additional habitat area for wildlife within the Reserve. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB/Board) began acquiring parcels for the Reserve in 1991, and to date has acquired 2,468± acres. The Reserve is key to the survival and recovery of a number of wildlife species such as the greater sandhill crane, merlin, western pond turtle, San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and Tipton kangaroo rat. The valley sink scrub community found in the Reserve is also one of the best remaining examples of this type of rare alkali habitat in the southern San Joaquin Valley. The conservation values in the Allensworth area have contributed to listing the area as a significant natural area of California as identified by DFG. The opportune acquisition of this site would help reduce the number of in-holdings located within the Reserve, as well as enhance linkages and connectivity of Reserve properties.

WCB PROGRAM AND AUTHORITY

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the Board's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property

or rights in real property on behalf of the DFG, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program, the WCB acquires lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the DFG, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be managed by the DFG as part of the Reserve, which covers an area approximately three square miles in size. The Property represents a small addition to the Reserve and can be readily absorbed into existing DFG operations. DFG as fee title owner of the Property will be able to manage and monitor the Property within its existing budget.

TERMS

The Property owners have agreed to sell the Property for its appraised fair market value of $12,000.00, which has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition provide that staff of the WCB review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$12,000.00**
TOTAL	$12,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	$ 5,500.00
Total WCB ALLOCATION	**$17,500.00**

It is estimated that $5,500.00 will be needed to cover internal project-related expenses, including DGS appraisal review costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(3). The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $17,500.00 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.350(a)(3) to cover the acquisition cost and the internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

*12. Millard Canyon $480,200.00
Los Angeles County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy (AFC) to acquire 13± acres in Millard Canyon for the protection of oak woodland, riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral habitat and open space watershed areas that will connect other protected lands and link to the Angeles National Forest in the San Gabriel Mountains.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Property is located on the northwesterly side of Millard Canyon, north of Canyon Crest Road in Los Angeles County, with an approximate address of 4570 – 4590 Rising Hill Road in Altadena. The Property is bounded on the north and northeast by an open-space parcel owned and managed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (which in turn is bounded on the north and northeast by the Angeles National Forest); on the east by the Angeles National Forest and an undeveloped private property; to the south by another open-space parcel owned by AFC, and to the west by sparsely developed residential property and property operated by a local water company. The Property rests along a five-mile conservation corridor running east to west that stretches along the Altadena foothills, from the Arroyo Seco in the west to the Eaton Canyon Natural Area in the east. The Property connects National Forest lands to the west and east, providing a continuous low-elevation habitat in the front range of the Angeles National Forest.

Protection of Millard Canyon is also included within a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) for the Altadena Foothills Conservation Corridor, as well as the local Altadena Conservation Plan. In the CAPP, DFG ranked Millard Canyon as the number-one priority for acquisition for its importance to water supply, wildlife and native plants, scenic and recreation values, and for its value as a historic site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Millard Canyon is varied in topography, soil type, slope and the availability of water, and provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife. The canyon includes five natural biotic communities: southern oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, riparian woodland, and warm freshwater wetlands. Several rare, threatened, and endangered species have been recorded in the Altadena foothills; notably the endangered California gnatcatcher in coastal sage scrub, the endangered Southwestern arroyo toad in moist canyon bottoms, and the rare San Diego coast horned lizard in dry, gravelly chaparral habitat.

Because Millard Canyon is a major watershed and adjacent to the vast open space of the Angeles National Forest, it is believed to support and provide habitat

for many of the mammals found in the forest. Black bears have been observed on the Property, and mountain lions are also known to roam the slopes and canyons in the foothills. Other mammals commonly seen in the Altadena foothills include the mule deer, coyote, gray fox, and bobcat, along with rabbits, squirrels, mice, kangaroo rats, and pocket gophers. The Arroyo toad, a federally-listed endangered species, is also known to inhabit the sycamore-cottonwood woodlands, oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

The Property's wide range of topography allows it to provide habitat for a variety of bird species. In particular, riparian zones found in several drainages throughout the Property provide essential habitat for numerous bird species, including the red-shouldered and red-tailed hawk, merlin, wren-tit, northern mockingbird, California thrasher, California quail, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, wren, warblers, sparrows and finches.

The Millard Canyon and watershed is subject to seasonal downstream flooding due to its steep terrain and downstream sections which are channelized and located within urban developed areas. As a result, there is a number of catch basin and flood protection improvements within the watershed. One of the added benefits of the project is that it will allow for continued ground recharge and flood protection through the reduction of future development and related impermeable surfaces helping to reduce accelerated runoff and downstream flooding.

WCB PROGRAM

The project is being proposed under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) land acquisition program. This program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) to acquire areas that can successfully sustain wildlife and provide for suitable recreation opportunities. Under this program acquisition activities are carried out in conjunction with the DFG, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a CAPP. The CAPP is then submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee for review and approval and later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned and managed by the AFC. The preponderance of the Property is natural open space and will be maintained as such. It is hoped that historic trails, currently in disuse, can be re-established for use by the public on docent led tours, and that trails that are currently in use to the east and the west will be linked by the restoration of one or more trails over the Property. This restoration would bridge a gap in the historic Altadena Crest Trail. A new trailhead from the southern boundary of the Property is desired to provide future access to the existing trail system.

TERMS

The property owners have agreed to sell the property to the AFC for $475,200.00. Its appraised fair market value of $530,000.00 has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The terms and conditions of the proposed grant provide that WCB staff must review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary reports, documents connected with the purchase and sale including escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds into the escrow account established for the sale. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the AFC to encumber the property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$ 475,200.00**
Total Purchase Price	$ 475,200.00
Other Project-Related Costs	$ 5,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$ 480,200.00**

It is estimated that an additional $5,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS review costs and escrow fees.

For the Board's information, the AFC has a pending application for $100,000.00 of additional project funding from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC). The award of these funds is expected to be made within 30 days after Board's consideration of this project. The WCB does not anticipate disbursing funds on this project until after the final action has been taken on the SMMC grant application. If approved, the SMMC grant funds would apply towards the purchase price and reduce the WCB grant by $100,000.00. Staff is recommending approval of funding at this time because the purchase price under AFC's option agreement for the Property is predicated on closing escrow prior to the Board's next scheduled meeting in November of 2012.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the WCB's Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)(Proposition 1E), that provides funding for protection of deer, mountain lion, and oak habitats and for the protection of habitat within a floodplain or flood corridor and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $480,200.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a)(Proposition 1E) to cover the grant amount and internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

*13. Santa Rosa Mountains (Desert Ranch II) $5,000.00
Expansion 17
Riverside County

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subrgrant these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) to acquire fee title to 763± acres of real property for the protection of core habitat linkages and alluvial fan habitat that benefit the Peninsular bighorn sheep and other species addressed in the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan, and the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Coachella Valley Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP).

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located in an unincorporated area of Riverside County, south of the City of Coachella and west of Highway 86 and is surrounded by the Santa Rosa Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. The Property lies at the mouths of both Sheep Canyon and Martinez Canyon. It is irregularly-shaped with gently sloped terrain and desert floor areas. The Property contains some of the last unprotected alluvial fans in the region which are critical to the Peninsular bighorn sheep. There are 100-year and 500-year floodplain designations across most of the Property, as it sits at the bottom of the 51 square mile Martinez Canyon Watershed, a tributary to the Salton Sea. Acquiring the Property would further a conservation strategy by the USFWS, DFG, and CVCC to link public and private lands to create a landscape-scale preserve that will provide sheep foraging corridors and prevent habitat fragmentation. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) previously approved a number of grants for Expansions 1 through 16 within the Santa Rosa Mountains. With this acquisition, the total area protected within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Area would be approximately 121,000 acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed acquisition consists of five parcels of undeveloped vacant land, totaling approximately 763.13 acres and is zoned open space/rural. However, the owner's original plan was to develop the Property as an exclusive golf course resort community. The acquisition of the Property will provide core habitat linkages, alluvial fan habitat and foraging corridors which are important for the Peninsular bighorn sheep, Coachella Valley round tailed squirrel, Palm Springs pocket mouse, Le Conte's thrasher, desert tortoise, Least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, summer tanager, and the yellow warbler. The Property is a linkage for habitat connectivity between the lower elevations, near sea level, and higher elevations rising to 9,000 feet. Preliminary climate change models show the increasing importance of protecting the Property's remaining undeveloped alluvial fans in order to maintain these important linkages.

Placement of this area in public ownership will add a significant buffer from the nearby developing residential lands to the north and east.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) which authorizes the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the DFG, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the Program the WCB acquires and funds the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The Property is located within the DFG's Coachella Valley CAPP and has been reviewed and approved by the DFG under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by DFG as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be owned and managed by CVCC. Due to the close proximity of the Property with DFG owned lands in the area, DFG and CVCC will work cooperatively in managing the Property's resources. The acquisition of the Property is part of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan, which outline management and monitoring targets as well as provide a funding source from development fees that can be used to manage and monitor properties within the CVMSHCP. Currently the Property has unauthorized access through private property. With this acquisition, CVCC and DFG will be able to manage access and improve resource protection on the Property.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $1,260,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The owner has agreed to sell the Property for $1,260,000.00. The USFWS will provide Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant funds in the amount not to exceed $826,748.00. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by CVCC in the amount of $433,252.00. The terms and conditions of the proposed subgrant of USFWS grant funds to the CVCC provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account

established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the subgrant terms, the WCB can require CVCC to encumber the Property with a conservation easement and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

USFWS Section 6 Grant	$826,748.00
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission	$433,252.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	$1,260,000.00
Other Project Related Costs	$5,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$5,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $5,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS review costs. Under the terms of the USFWS grant the WCB may seek partial reimbursement of these costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c), which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that implements or assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The project has been reviewed by DFG through the establishment and approval of the CVMSHCP and has been recommended for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; approve acceptance of the Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant from the USFWS in the amount of $826,748.00, and approve a subgrant of these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission; allocate $5,000.00 to cover internal project-related expenses from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

*14. Jacumba Peak (Change of Scope) $0.00
San Diego County

This proposal is to consider a change of scope for the subgrant of an approved U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Land Acquisition grant to the Anza-Borrego Foundation (ABF) to acquire 1,081± acres of land, as part of a cooperative project with The Nature Conservancy and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation for protection of federally endangered species, including the Quino checkerspot butterfly and the Peninsular bighorn sheep, and to maintain a landscape-scale connectivity with other protected lands. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) originally considered this project at its February 24, 2011 meeting as a subgrant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). DPR has since determined it cannot take title to the subject property and in its place the ABF is willing to accept the subgrant and acquire the property.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The 1,081± acre Jacumba Peak property (Property) is situated between the Interstate 8 Freeway and Old Highway 80, less than one-half mile northwest of the Jacumba townsite in San Diego County. This is a remote, high desert area of southeastern San Diego County that is mostly in an undeveloped natural state. The international border with Mexico is roughly one mile south of the Property, while Imperial County line is less than five miles to the east. The southern boundary of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park abuts the Property's northern property line. The Property is bordered to the northwest by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carrizo Gorge Wilderness Study Area and to the northeast by the BLM Table Mountain Area of Critical Concern designated under the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Jacumba Peak is 1,081± acres in size and consists of five assessor parcels zoned for General Rural Use. The Property supports semi-desert chaparral and saltbush scrub, whose plant and wildlife communities represent an ecological transition between communities along the higher elevations of the Peninsular Range and the Sonoran Desert. Species to benefit from the proposed acquisition include both the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and the federally endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep. The Quino checkserspot butterfly has declined to near extinction as a result of habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation associated with development and off-road vehicle impacts. It is believed that the Property supports a core population of the species. While the Property does not provide primary habitat for Peninsular bighorn sheep, there is a small drainage across the Property that flows from south to north into Carrizo Gorge and is an important water source for the sheep populations that reside mainly within the Carrizo Gorge.

The Property is also a key conservation target for the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative (Initiative). The Initiative is a partnership among The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Biology Institute and Pronatura, a Mexican Non-Governmental Organization, with the goal to create a network of conserved lands that represent the unique biodiversity of southern San Diego County and northern Baja California. The area south of Carrizo Gorge serves as a regionally important landscape-scale linkage between wildlands associated with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and those wildlands south of the United States border. This desert cross border linkage is an essential connection between extensive areas of existing public conservation investments in California and the Sierra-Juarez in Baja California, Mexico.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed subgrant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program the WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The project has been reviewed and approved by the DFG under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS Recovery Land Acquisition grant proposed and accepted for this project has also been reviewed and approved by DFG as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The ABF proposes to acquire the Property, and DPR proposes to help manage the site in cooperation with the ABF as an extension of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, consisting of approximately 650,000 acres of adjacent land. The Property consists of 1,081± acres, less than one percent the acreage of the existing park. It is anticipated that the additional costs for management will be nominal for both ABF and DPR, as the property is unimproved remote desert habitat with minimal public use anticipated.

TERMS

If approved, the funds approved by the Board at its February 24, 2011 meeting will be subgranted to the ABF. At the time of the original approval, the Property was appraised as having a fair market value of $2,086,000.00. The appraisal was reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of

General Services and USFWS. The Property owner is still agreeable to selling the Property for $1,500,000.00. The $600,000.00 grant provided by the USFWS requires a non-federal match that is being provided by The Nature Conservancy ($586,000.00) by agreeing to sell the Property for less than fair market value and a contribution by the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation ($900,000.00). The terms and conditions of the proposed subgrant of USFWS grant funds to the ABF provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the subgrant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

WCB – Subgrant of USFWS funds	**$ 600,000.00**
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation	$ 900,000.00
TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE	$1,500,000.00
Other Project Related Costs:	$ 0.00
TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	**$ 0.00**

Originally, the Board approved $10,000.00 for WCB administrative expenses, including appraisal and DGS review costs. Most of these expenses have occurred and have been paid for, and no additional WCB funding is necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed for pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; approve the change of scope to subgrant the prior approved USFWS Recovery Land Acquisition grant of $600,000.00 to the Anza-Borego Foundation; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

*15. San Diego River (2009 RLA) (Walker) $94,000.00
San Diego County

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the City of Santee, and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to the City of Santee for a cooperative project with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), San Diego River Conservancy (Conservancy), and the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to acquire fee title to 107± acres of land for the protection of habitat to support the recovery of the State and federally listed as endangered least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher, and the federally listed as threatened California gnatcatcher.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located along the San Diego River within the City of Santee in San Diego County. More specifically, the Property is located on the eastern side of North Magnolia Ave and west of Highway 67. The Property is located within jurisdiction of the Conservancy and is listed as a priority acquisition in Conservancy's workplan (Workplan). The Workplan focuses on the protection and restoration of the riparian corridor along the San Diego River, as well as development of a trail system. This acquisition is an important acquisition project on the San Diego River because it preserves critical habitat, allows for potential restoration of the river's natural hydrology, and supports the continued recovery of threatened and endangered species in the area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is primarily level areas with some steep rises toward the northeast. The Property has frontage on two public streets, one of which is a major artery in the area and the other a smaller residential street. This transportation infrastructure and close proximity to urban areas increases the potential for development of the Property and loss of the existing habitat values.

The major habitat type found on the Property is riparian, with some coastal sage in the higher elevations. The acquisition of this Property will help support the continued recovery of the State and federally endangered least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher by preserving habitat for those species. The Property is located within areas identified conservation in the USFWS Recovery Plan for the least Bell's vireo. The USFWS Recovery Plan for the southwestern willow flycatcher also identified two reaches along the San Diego River as management units within the Coastal California Recovery Unit where recovery efforts should be focused. This Property is located between the two identified units and will provide additional habitat areas for bird species that make use of the San Diego River riparian corridor.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant and subgrant for this project are being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or right in real property on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program the WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The project has been reviewed and approved by the DFG under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by DFG as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The City of Santee will own and manage the Property in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant and subgrant agreements. The City of Santee will be responsible for allowing designated staff of WCB to access the Property not less than once in any period of three calendar years to assess compliance with the terms, covenants, and conditions of the grant and subgrant agreements. The Property will be managed to facilitate the recovery of the above mentioned species in accordance with the federal grant.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $2,140,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the USFWS. The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value of $2,140,000.00. TPL secured a purchase and sale agreement with the landowner and entered into a purchase and sale agreement with the City of Santee, directing the landowner to deed the Property directly to the City of Santee. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match which, if approved, will be provided by the WCB allocation proposed here, and a grant of $1,200,000.00 from the SCC. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to the City of Santee, and the USFWS subgrant, provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions, and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant or subgrant terms, the WCB can

encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$84,000.00**
WCB – subgrant of USFWS funds	856,000.00
State Coastal Conservancy	$1,200,000.00
TOTAL purchase price	$1,240,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	$10,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$94,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review. The City of Santee will pay the fees and costs of escrow, all documentary tax, sales tax, or real Property transfer tax, if applicable, and the premium for the title policy. Under the terms of the USFWS grant the WCB may seek partial reimbursement of these costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition1E), which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $94,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition1E) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; accept the USFWS Recovery Land Acquisition grant in the amount of $856,000.00 and authorize the subgrant of these funds to the City of Santee; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

16. Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, Expansion 13 $2,740,000.00
Yuba County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of fee title to 679± acres as an addition to the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area). A cooperative project with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the acquisition will protect oak woodlands and deer winter range habitat.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located in the Sierra Foothills, in northeastern Yuba County, specifically on the west side of Los Verjeles Road approximately ¼ mile north of Loma Rica Road near the community of Loma Rica. The Property is adjacent to the Wildlife Area and northeast of the University of California Foothill Research and Extension Center.

The northwestern Sierra Foothill region has been identified by the DFG and other conservation groups as one of the most impacted habitat areas in the State as a result of increased urban and residential development, causing fragmentation of larger habitat areas into smaller acreage sites. Over the last 40 years the northern Central Valley areas have undergone rapid residential and urban development. Some of this growth pressure has extended up into the adjoining foothills areas, from those seeking a more rural lifestyle and escape from the highly developed valley floor areas. As a result, what were once large tracts of undeveloped land and ranches have been subdivided into smaller holdings and ranchette-type developments. This fragmentation has especially impacted wildlife migration corridors that run between the valley floor up into the higher elevations of the Sierra Mountains.

The Property provides excellent and essential deer winter range which has been rapidly subdivided and developed over the last decade. The Property is located along the migratory corridor for the Mooretown deer herd, comprising a portion of the species' lower elevation wintering grounds and providing important foraging habitat for the deer herd. DFG has recognized the need to protect this area through development of DFG Daugherty Hill Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The Property is listed in the CAPP as a priority acquisition because of the Property's habitat values and location within the migration corridor for the wintering Mooretown deer herd.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of rolling to steep ground with elevation ranges from approximately 500 – 800 foot above sea level. Blue oak woodlands dominate the site, which also contains annual grasslands, interior live oak, grapy-pine woodlands and Central Valley oak riparian habitat. There are fresh emergent wetlands, wet meadows, seasonable wetlands and seasonal swales throughout the Property. This habitat supports a wide variety of wildlife including foothill

yellow-legged frogs, wild turkey, quail, mountain lion, bobcat, the valley elderberry longhorn beetle and the northwestern pond turtle. Suitable nesting and foraging habitat for raptors is also found on the Property.

The Property also has approximately three miles of frontage on South Honcut Creek, a major foothill tributary of the Yuba River. Portions of Honcut Creek have been impaired by adjoining agricultural uses impacting the creek's natural floodplain and riparian vegetation. Protection of the creek will allow riparian features to improve along with expanded floodplain areas, improving water quality and reducing downstream flooding on the lower portions of the Yuba River.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB/Board) Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) that authorizes WCB to acquire areas that can successfully sustain wildlife and provide for suitable recreation opportunities. Under this Program acquisition activities are carried out in conjunction with the DFG, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE)/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The DFG will be the owner in fee simple and will add this Property to its adjacent Wildlife Area. DFG regional staff anticipates that nominal management costs would be associated with some perimeter fencing and signage for the Property. Given the Property's location adjacent to lands currently managed by the DFG as part of the Wildlife Area, additional management funds for staffing will not be required. Public access to the Wildlife Area is currently provided for low-impact recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching and photography. In addition, bicycling and equestrian use are allowed during summer months.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $2,720,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the property for the appraised fair market value of $2,720,000.00.

TPL has secured a purchase and sale agreement for this Property from the current owner. Subject to approval by the Board, TPL, the landowner and DFG will enter into a Property Acquisition Agreement for the approved, appraised

value under which the landowner will agree to deed the Property directly to the State. The terms and conditions of the proposed acquisition provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. Once approved by the Board, the transaction will also be subject to review and approval by DGS.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$2,720,000.00**
TOTAL Purchase Price	$2,720,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	$20,000.00
TOTAL WCB ALLOCATION	**$2,740,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $20,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related expenses, including DGS review costs, escrow fees and closing costs, bringing the total proposed allocation for this project to $2,740,000.00.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) (Proposition 1E) that allows for the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, necessary to protect deer and mountain lions and for the preservation or enhancement of wildlife values to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $2,740,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(a) (Proposition 1E) for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

17. Yuba Highlands Conservation Easement – Phase II $1,104,000.00
Yuba County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of a conservation easement over 1,620± acres of land by the Department of Fish Game (DFG) for a cooperative project with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for protection of oak woodland and grassland habitats and habitat linkages and open space buffers between DFG's Spenceville Wildlife Area (SWA) and Beale Air Force Base (BAFB).

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Property is located approximately four miles southwest of Smartsville, in the southwest quadrant of Chuck Yeager Road and Hammonton-Smartsville Road in Yuba County. Grass Valley and Penn Valley are located several miles east, and Marysville and Yuba City lie directly west of the site. The Property is currently used for livestock grazing and is situated between the SWA on the east and north; and the Beale Air Force Base on the south and west. The site is also located within DFG's Lower Yuba Watershed Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) area and is identified as a priority site for protection. The CAPP and surroundings are comprised of a series of foothills, grassland and oak savanna areas rising up from the east side of the Sacramento Valley.

The surrounding neighborhood is rural in nature and is comprised of rolling hills and grasslands used primarily for agricultural grazing. Major urban development projects are planned nearby along the Highway 65 corridor in Yuba County, including the 4,000 acre Hop Farm, a planned community consisting of over 14,000 residential units to accommodate 44,000 people.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At its February 24, 2011, meeting the Board approved the acquisition of the Phase I Yuba Highland conservation easement. The 833± project was comprised of two separate parcels of land, funded entirely by DOD. The current project is located between the two separate Phase I parcels and will link these parcels creating one contiguous 2,453± acre conservation easement, stretching between BAFB located to the west and the Spenceville Wildlife Area (Spenceville WLA) located to the east. The project helps expand and create a wildlife linkage between the Spenceville WLA and the open space expanses of BAFB and at the same time creates an undeveloped open space buffer for BAFB operations.

This Property consists of rolling hills and grasslands with a small dispersion of interior live oak trees, riparian areas, and seasonal wetlands. The Property is currently used for seasonal cattle grazing, which will continue under the terms of the easement. The Property provides high quality habitat for wintering migratory deer herds and year-round habitat for resident deer. The Property also provides

important foraging habitat for resident raptors, prairie falcons, and the red-tailed hawk.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the DFG, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program the WCB acquires funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the DFG, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation /Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

According to the terms of the conservation easement, DFG will take the primary role in monitoring and enforcing the terms of the conservation easement; however, the DOD shall at all times retain equal rights to monitor and enforce the terms of the easement. DFG has determined that existing staff resources will be sufficient to monitor the conservation easement, which will be adjunct with activities on the Spenceville Wildlife Area. Since the conservation easement is on private land, general public access will not be allowed. Livestock grazing practices will be permitted to continue in perpetuity conserving the Property's natural resource values, which includes the protection of native oaks. The conservation easement will also provide a national defense buffer for Beale Air Force Base.

TERMS

The conservation easement has been appraised as having a fair market value of $3,240,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the conservation easement for less than the appraised value at $2,500,000.00.

The conservation easement deed includes a provision for the assignment of TPL's interest in the conservation easement to the DOD. The assignment of TPL's interest to DOD would occur during the escrow process. Consequently,

ownership interest in the conservation easement would be jointly held by both DFG and DOD, similar to the ownership and management structure currently used for Phase I of this project.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$1,079,000.00**
DOD	$1,420,000.00
Trust for Public Land	1,000.00
TOTAL	$2,500,000.00
Other Project Related Costs	$25,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$1,104,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $25,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal and transaction review.

FUNDING SOURCE
The proposed funding source is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code section 2786(a) that allows for the acquisition and protection of deer, oak woodland and mountain lion habitats and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION
The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,104,000.00 from the from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code section 2786(a) to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

18. Conaway Ranch Conservation Easement $7,835,000.00
Yolo County

This proposal is to consider the acquisition of four conservation easements totaling 6,224± acres of land by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for the protection of threatened and endangered species and wetland, floodplain, and riparian habitat areas. Three of the easements are designated toward protection and recovery of specific species; specifically, a 1,000-acre Swainson's hawk conservation easement, a 1,000-acre giant garter snake easement, and a 224-acre tri-colored black bird conservation easement. The fourth conservation easement encumbers 4,000 acres and protects existing aquatic and migratory bird habitat values by restricting land uses to current wildlife friendly agricultural practices on the property. All the easements allow for continuation of agricultural uses so long as those uses maintain the resource values as described under the conservation easements.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The proposed conservation easements are located on the Conaway ranch (Ranch). The Ranch is located in eastern Yolo County, between the cities of Davis, located to the southwest, Woodland, located to the northwest, and West Sacramento, located to the southeast. The Ranch is bounded on the east by the Sacramento River, separated by only a small strip of privately held farm lands. To the north, Interstate 5 runs through a portion of the Ranch. The south portion of the Ranch is bounded by Interstate 80.

The main land use in the immediate vicinity of the Ranch is agricultural farming, located to the north, south, and west. To the east of the property, on the opposite side of the Sacramento River within Sacramento County, much of the area has been converted from agricultural to residential development. Running north to south and across the Ranch is the Yolo bypass floodway (Floodway). The Floodway is the central feature of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project, which conveys floodwaters from the major valley rivers, including the Sacramento, American, and Feather Rivers, and their tributaries.

Floodwaters passively enter the Floodway over the Fremont Weir, located approximately 5 miles north of the Ranch, when the Sacramento River stage reaches an elevation of 32.8 feet. From here, the Floodway transports flood waters south across agricultural lands, then under State Route 5, onto and across the Ranch, then continuing south under State Route 80, onto and across DFG's Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and then further south reentering the Sacramento River north of the community of Rio Vista.

The Floodway corridor acts as a buffer against encroachment from development, while at the same time preserving and allowing for compatible agricultural uses.

In addition to Sacramento River floodwaters, at times the Floodway also carries floodwaters from Cache Creek and Willow Slough, two other watersheds that flow into, and terminate, on the Ranch.

Surrounding Protected Lands and Important Resource Areas

Just south of the property and south of State Route 80 is the 16,000-acre DFG Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Similar to the Ranch, much of the area within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is subject to flooding, and contains wildlife friendly agriculture, managed wetlands, and riparian corridors. The property supports many of the same species found on the Ranch, including giant garter snakes, Swainson's hawk, tri-color black birds, sandhill cranes, as well as numerous other waterfowl, shore birds, and raptors. When linked with the easements on the Ranch, it creates a continuous protected habitat area approximately 25 miles in length, containing mixtures of wetlands, valley floodplain, riparian areas, and wildlife friendly agricultural land uses.

Located approximately 5 miles north of the Ranch, southeast of the community of Knights Landing, is DFG's 1,460-acre Fremont Weir Wildlife Area. This wildlife area is named after the weir structure located on its north side connecting it with the Sacramento River. Most of the wildlife area is located within the Floodway and contains tall weedy vegetation, brush, valley oaks, willows, and cottonwood trees providing habitat for a number migrating birds, waterfowl, raptors, and other species associated with valley floodplain and riparian habitat.

There are a number of major environmental factors that make conservation of a portion of the Ranch an important project. One of the main contributing factors is the location of the property within the Pacific Flyway. The Pacific Flyway is a major north-south route of travel for migratory birds in America, extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Every year, migratory birds travel some or all of this distance both in spring and in fall, following food sources, heading to breeding grounds, or travelling to overwintering sites. Because of the large amount of flooding, wetland and adjoining agricultural upland areas, the Yolo basin and adjoining uplands provide one of the largest habitat and resting areas along the Pacific Flyway for migratory waterfowl.

When flooded, the Floodway also supports large numbers of fish, and provides one of the largest and most significant off channel riverine habitats for Sacramento River fish populations. Specifically, juvenile Chinook salmon can enter the Floodway and related floodplain habitat with the flood waters. Recent evaluations on the Floodway have shown that juvenile Chinook salmon grow faster when seasonal floodplain habitats are available, evidenced by positive gains in adult returns. It is believed that current agricultural practices form the basis for the abundant food web present in the Floodway, which allows for the

exceptional growth rate of juvenile Chinook salmon that are documented in the Floodway.

Located on portions of the Ranch are other designated habitat areas. On the south side of the Ranch are the Davis Wetlands, a 400-acre public open space in-holding that contains a mosaic of habitats, providing food and cover for numerous wildlife species. Davis Wetlands include permanent open water, seasonal wetland, native grassland, riparian woodland, and mudflats habitats. Open water habitat serves as a refuge and brooding habitat area for wintering and resident waterfowl and the giant garter snake. Seasonal wetlands and mudflats host shorebirds, migrant and resident songbirds, and an array of mammals. The grasslands and riparian woodland provide important habitat for birds-of-prey, song birds, mammals, reptiles, and nesting waterfowl.

On the north portion of the Ranch is the 1,100-acre Cache Creek Settlement Basin (Settlement Basin). The Settlement Basin is the terminus of Cache Creek and serves as a leveed flood protection structure. Portions of the Settlement Basin are farmed, but the majority of the area is maintained as undeveloped wetland and riparian habitat. Large wooded areas exist within the basin, providing habitat for a large array of bird and other riparian animal species. Many of these species rely on the adjacent Ranch lands for foraging. During high flow events, Cache Creek can flow out of the Settlement Basin east into the Floodway. Willow Slough is another major waterway and flood maintenance corridor in Yolo County that flows into the Ranch from the west. The slough provides quality wetland and riparian habitat along certain reaches on and off the Ranch. During periods of high water flows, Willow Slough can also flow east into the Floodway.

Resource Studies and Conservation Plans

Substantiating the Ranch's biological resource values are a number of conservation studies and plans developed in and around the Ranch, identifying the need to protect and conserve the property. DFG developed a Conceptual Area Protection Plan for areas around the Ranch, as well as a Land Acquisition Evaluation specific to the Ranch resources. These plans identify the wildlife friendly agricultural areas, wetland, riparian, and riverine habitat areas in the vicinity of the Ranch as providing important habitat for a large number of threatened and endangered species, such as those being protected by the proposed conservation easements, along with a large number of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, amphibians, fish, and native plants.

The Ranch is also located within the planning area of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture (CVJV) formed in 1988, which was one of the original six priority joint ventures under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The CVJV enlists the membership of twenty-one federal and State agencies,

conservation organizations, and one corporation. One of the duties of the CVJV is development of an implementation plan to identify habitat conservation and protection needs within the boundaries of the CVJV. The current CVJV implementation plan estimates an additional need of 8,000 acres of waterfowl habitat restoration or protection within the Yolo Basin, which includes the Ranch.

At the county level, Yolo County is in the process of developing a county-wide Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan, with a 653,820-acre planning area, referred to as the Yolo Natural Heritage Program (YNHP). The YNHP will develop a plan and strategy for conserving natural open space and agricultural landscapes that provide habitat for many special status and at-risk species found within the County habitats and natural communities. The YNHP will describe the measures that will be undertaken to conserve important biological resources, obtain permits for urban growth and public infrastructure projects, and continue Yolo County's rich agricultural heritage. The Ranch contains areas identified within the YNHP for conservation of resources, as well as some of the species identified for protection under the proposed easements, including the Swainson's hawk, tri-color black bird, and giant garter snake. Currently the plan is going through environmental review before it can be implemented. Discussion with YNHP staff indicates the habitat species protection provided by the proposed conservation easements and continued agricultural use is consistent with the proposed goals of the plan.

Land Use Conversion and Threats

Over the years, much of the valley floor areas in Yolo basin have come under intense pressure to develop due to their relatively flat terrain, close proximity to urban centers and related infrastructure. In many cases, this development pressure has been staved off by Yolo County's desire to retain agricultural resources and lands. In addition, properties located within the floodway areas in the eastern part of Yolo County are restrained from development due to the high frequency of flooding.

Although agricultural values can be retained, not all agricultural uses provide the same amount of habitat value and protection as those currently in place at the Ranch. Swainson's hawk, tri-color blackbird, and giant garter snake habitat in the central valley may be under more threat from conversion of agricultural lands to vineyards and orchards than by conversion to development. Many areas in the Yolo basin, as well as the adjoining areas of the central valley, have undergone this type of agricultural conversion. At best, the resulting vineyards and orchards provide marginal habitat when compared to the superior habitat values that are associated with rice and other field crops currently in production at the Ranch. This is due, in part, to the greater biodiversity documented on rice and these other field crops, as well as the higher frequency of wetlands, canals

and open foraging areas that are important to a wide variety of central valley wildlife species.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Giant Garter Snake Conservation Easement (GGS Easement)

This is a 1,000-acre conservation easement over the southern portion of the property that contains agricultural fields, irrigation canals and ditches and is used primarily for growing rice. The current zoning is Agricultural Preserve, 80-acre parcel minimum, which allows continuation of agricultural practices. The property has some future development potential for other types of crops and permanent plantings such as grape vines and orchards, which are not compatible as GGS habitat.

The GGS Easement encircles the City of Davis wetlands (Davis Wetlands). The area within the GGS Easement, as well as the Davis Wetlands, is known to contain GGS. Located east and adjacent to the GGS Easement is the main irrigation canal on the ranch that also contains GGS. This confluence of areas and habitat makes the location of the easement ideal for supporting GGS populations.

The following are the main components of the GGS Easement: it does not allow future development; water rights must be maintained to sufficiently maintain the Baseline Conditions of the Property as the conservation values identified in the Management Plan; it limits future water sales; requires the current habitat conditions to continue; establishes a baseline conditions report; allows agricultural uses to continue so long as they are conducive to supporting GGS; does not allow conversion to orchard, vineyards and other agricultural uses not compatible with GGS. Within the GGS Easement, approximately 150 acres will be dedicated to habitat preservation and will not be farmed. The remaining 850 acres can be farmed in a GGS and wildlife friendly manner. As a requirement of the GGS Easement, the landowner and DFG must develop a management plan to ensure the easement area is managed in manner that maintains habitat values for GGS. Additional details on the management of the easement are discussed below under the MANAGEMENT Section of this agenda item.

Maintenance of canals and levees for GGS

The Ranch manages most of the levee slopes, canal slopes and ditches on the property in a manner that support GGS throughout the Ranch. Although management of levees could allow the area to be completely stripped of vegetation for maintenance purposes, the Ranch always maintains some form of vegetated cover on at least one side of the canal slopes and ditches at all times to provide refuge for GGS during maintenance of the canals and ditches. This practice will be part of the future management of these areas within the GGS Easement.

Tri-Colored Black Bird Conservation Easement (TCB Easement)
This is a 224-acre conservation easement located near the midwest portion of the property that contains a portion of Willow Slough, a flood management corridor, and is used primarily for growing rice and maintenance of TCB habitat. The current zoning is Agricultural Preserve, 80-acre parcel minimum, which allows continuation of agricultural practice. The historic use has been high-quality rice production, as well as periodically row crops. The property has some future development potential for other types of crops and permanent plantings such as grape vines and orchards, which are not compatible as TCB habitat.

Within the TCB Easement is a relatively large managed wetland area along Willow Slough, created primarily for enhancement of TCB habitat. TCB nesting is occurring within the wetland habitat, with foraging occurring in the surrounding rice and upland areas. This habitat area was voluntarily created by the current ownership over an area that covers up to 50 acres depending on water flows in Willow Slough. However, there is no current contractual agreement that restricts agricultural conversion of this area to crops or potentially non-compatible TCB uses. Preservation of this area would be required under the TCB Easement.

The following are the main components of the TCB Easement: it does not allow future development; water rights must be maintained to sufficiently maintain the Baseline Conditions of the Property as the conservation values identified in the Management Plan; it limits future water sales; requires the current habitat conditions to continue; establishes a baseline conditions report; allows agricultural uses to continue so long as they are conducive to supporting TCB; does not allow conversion to orchard, vineyards and other agricultural uses not compatible with TCB. Within the TCB Easement there are up to 50 acres dedicated to TCB habitat preservation; the remaining 172 acres can be farmed in a TCB and wildlife friendly manner. As a requirement of the TCB Easement, the landowner and DFG must develop a management plan to ensure the easement area is managed in manner that maintains habitat values for TCB. Additional details on the management of the easement are discussed below under the MANAGEMENT Section of this agenda item.

Swainson's Hawk Conservation Easement (SH Easement)
This is a 1,000-acre conservation easement over the southwest portion of the property that contains agricultural fields, irrigation canals and ditches and has been historically used for row crops, field crops, and growing rice. The current zoning is Agricultural Preserve, 80-acre parcel minimum, which allows continuation of agricultural practice. The property has some future development potential for other types of crops and permanent plantings such as grape vines and orchards, which are not compatible as SH habitat.

Unlike the GGS and TCB Easements, the SH Easement does not currently maintain optimal agricultural use for SH. As a condition of the SH Easement,

suitable SH compatible crops and uses have been identified and made a requirement for future agricultural activities within the SH Easement. More specifically, it is required that alfalfa crops be maintained on 50% of the agricultural areas at all time. Alfalfa is recognized as a desired habitat friendly crop for SH. Conversely, growing rice, which is the current highest and best use for the SH Easement area, is not allowed.

During the spring migration of SH from the southern hemisphere, hundreds of SH can be observed on the Ranch and adjoining lands at any time. Additionally, nesting pairs are also found on the Ranch during the summer. Once the SH Easement area is converted to a SH compatible crop, there is a high degree of certainty the SH Easement area will be utilized by SH, as is the case with other alfalfa fields in the Yolo basin. The Ranch owner has obtained and received a letter from James Estep, a professional biologist with expertise in SH habitat, confirming the potential resource value of the land as SH habitat, and DFG has also confirmed the SH value as well, once the terms of the SH Easement are implemented.

In addition to the compatible crops requirements stated above, the main components of the SH Easement include the following: it does not allow future development; water rights must be maintained to sufficiently maintain the Baseline Conditions of the Property as the conservation values identified in the Management Plan; it limits future water sales; does not allow conversion to orchard, vineyards and other agricultural uses not compatible with SH habitat; does not allow growing rice; requires the habitat conditions established under the baseline report be based on an approved list of crops and agricultural uses allowed under the SH Easement. As a requirement of the SH Easement, the landowner and DFG must develop a management plan to ensure the easement area is managed in manner that maintains habitat values for SH. Additional details on the management of the easement are discussed below under the MANAGEMENT Section of this agenda item.

Agricultural Conservation Easement, Creating Enforceable Restrictions in Perpetuity (AG Easement)

This is a 4,000-acre conservation easement that is located within the Floodway area of the Ranch and runs along the eastern Ranch border. This area has been utilized predominately for high-quality rice production with some vine seed production. The current zoning is Agricultural Preserve, 80-acre parcel minimum, which allows continuation of agricultural practice. Unlike the three conservation easements described above, the AG Easement does not have a specific species designated for protection under the terms of the easement. However, there are valuable and notable resource values on the property, including wetland and agricultural areas that support a wide variety of waterfowl, migrating birds, including sandhill cranes and raptors, including Swainson's hawk. The canals and ditches also provide habitat for GGS. During flood events, the floodplain

areas provide habitat for salmonids and other fish seeking floodplain feeding areas and refuge off the main channel of the Sacramento River. There is also approximately 600 acres within the AG Easement that is unfarmed and has been allowed to revert back to a more natural state. Under the terms of the AG Easement, these 600 acres will remain unfarmed in their current natural condition.

Encumbering the AG Easement area is a floodway easement that allows for the passage of all flood waters of the Yolo Bypass, as granted to Sacramento and San Joaquin drainage districts. Due to the floodway easement and resulting flood waters, there is no real ability to develop the property beyond its current agricultural use. However, the landowner does have the ability to change agricultural practices on the property, which could be detrimental to wildlife and the habitat values currently present within the AG Easement.

Located near the southern portion of the AG Easement are rice fields and managed wetlands, used by the current ownership and leased to duck clubs for waterfowl hunting. When natural flooding is not sufficient, these areas are flooded to enhance waterfowl habitat and foraging areas. Ranch water operators flood the rice fields in the fall, winter and spring, creating excellent waterfowl and migratory bird habitat. The current topography and habitat conditions within the AG Easement also provide waterfowl upland feeding, brood ponds and loafing areas that further enhance waterfowl habitat values. Another agricultural practice that promotes optimal habitat is "rice rolling." This operation requires flooding rice fields and rolling them to dispose of the rice straw after harvest is complete, providing additional wetland habitat conditions. The habitat values created by the current management of water and wetland areas within the AG Easement will become part of the baseline condition to be maintained under the terms of the AG Easement.

The AG Easement area also provides excellent floodplain habitat for splittail fish and juvenile salmonids during periods of flooding. Flooding occurs when the Sacramento River overtops the Fremont Weir to the north, flooding the Yolo Bypass, and flowing south across the AG Easement. Additional flooding can occur from west side streams, such as Cache Creek and Willow Slough that terminate on the Ranch. The current agricultural practices and floodplain areas within the AG Easement help provide an abundant food source and benefit for juvenile Chinook salmon and other fish that swim onto the floodplain areas and forage within the AG Easement during periods of flooding.

Also, important to fish that enter the AG Easement area during flooding, is the current network of ditches, canals and berms used to manage rice and other agricultural crops. Under the current configuration, the berms tend to run north to south and drain into lateral ditches and canals which then drain to the east and

into the Tule canal located next to the Floodway corridor levee that runs along the eastern border of the property. Tule canal then flows south into "toe" drain within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, also located along the eastern Floodway levee. Within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, the "toe" drain also links to Putah Creek - another watershed draining from the west, which supports a small run of spawning salmon. The "toe" drain flows south along the entire length of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and continues south flowing into the Sacramento River north of the City of Rio Vista.

The importance of the current berm and ditch configuration is that it minimizes the potential for trapping fish on the property that may swim onto the property during flood events. As flood waters recede, the configuration provides an available exit for fish to swim off the field areas into deeper waters (canals and ditches) and eventually off the property through Tule canal. This practice will be maintained under the terms of the easement.

In a broader sense, the area within the AG Easement is currently and generally farmed in a wildlife friendly manner. If the landowner desired, larger rice fields could be developed through intensive leveling of areas, creating larger, more productive rice fields, having less ditches, less natural habitat areas and potentially a different configuration that does not drain in a manner which provides for easy fish escapement. The current less intensive agricultural use has helped create a larger percentage of habitat areas and values within the AG Easement that will now be maintained in perpetuity, providing habitat for a large number and wide variety of fish and animal species. Also, the current less intensive agricultural use allows for fish escapement, thus minimizing the occurrence of fish stranding events when floodwaters recede.

The following are the main components of the AG Easement: it does not allow future development; water rights must be maintained to sufficiently maintain the Baseline Conditions of the Property as the conservation values identified in the Management Plan; it limits future water sales; historic and current agricultural use must be maintained; disallows the future possibility of different crop types and permanent plantings that could become financially feasible and maximally productive, but do not maintain habitat values; requires the current habitat conditions to continue, as established by a baseline conditions report; allows agricultural uses to continue so long as they are conducive to maintaining existing habitat values. Within the AG Easement, approximately 600 acres will be dedicated to habitat preservation and will not be farmed. As a requirement of the AG Easement, the landowner and DFG must develop a management plan to ensure the easement area is managed in manner that maintains current habitat values. Additional details on the management of the easement are discussed below under the MANAGEMENT Section of this agenda item.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed acquisition is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the DFG, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program the WCB acquires funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the DFG, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation/Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee (ROC) for review and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund. The project area has also been reviewed by the DFG under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program further substantiating the biological values of the property.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

According to the terms of the conservation easement, DFG will take the primary role in monitoring and enforcing the terms of the conservation easement. As a requirement of the conservation easements, the property owner will develop baseline conditions reports that will be reviewed and approved by DFG, and will be the basis for future monitoring to determine if habitat values are being maintained. In addition, management plans will also be developed between the property owner and DFG to further guide property uses and ensure habitat values are conserved and maintained.

In general the management plans will include the following elements:

- A detailed description of the existing Conservation Values of the Easement;
- Continuation of the historic and existing agricultural practices within the conservation easement areas;
- Maximization of existing habitat conditions to the extent practicable consistent with the historical conditions and existing agricultural practices.

TERMS

The conservation easements have been appraised as having a combined fair market value of $11,800,000. The values are based on a before and after valuation of the property, as encumbered by the conservation easements. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The specific fair market values for each easement are shown below.

SH Easement 1,000 acres valued at	$3,000,000.00
GGS Easement 1,000 acres valued at	3,000,000.00
TCB Easement 224 acres valued at	800,000.00
AG Easement 4,000 acres valued at	5,000,000.00
Total Fair Market Value	$11,800,000.00

The property owner has agreed to sell the conservation easements for the approved appraised fair market value $11,800,000. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB acquisition provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. Once approved by the WCB, the transaction must also be reviewed and approved by the DGS.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$7,800,000.00**
DFG	4,000,000.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	$11,800,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	$35,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$7,835,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $35,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including appraisals, and DGS appraisal and transaction review and closing costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding sources, Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition1E); and California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650, which allow for the acquisition of

habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species within a flood corridor or bypass, and recovery of threatened and endangered species.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat, including transfers to preserve animal habitats and allow continued agricultural use. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $4,035,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b)(c) (Proposition 1E), and $3,800,000.00 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650, for the acquisition and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

19. Clos du Bois Vineyard Habitat Restoration $500,000.00
Sonoma County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship (the Center) for a cooperative project with Clos du Bois Vineyard to restore and enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat and provide landowner workshops on sustainable and wildlife-friendly farming practices on 556± acres of privately owned land, along the Russian River, approximately 22 miles north of the City of Santa Rosa.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The 556± acre project site is a privately-owned vineyard in eastern Sonoma County, along the Russian River, six miles north of the City of Healdsburg and 22 miles north of the City of Santa Rosa, in Sonoma County. The property borders approximately 2.6 miles of the Russian River. The native riparian habitat along this section of the river is approximately 1000 feet wide.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will restore and enhance canopy cover for wildlife migratory corridors and increase plant species diversity to support beneficial insect and pollinator populations on the Clos du Bois property. The enhanced ecological landscape will directly support local wildlife, including the declining western bluebird, and populations of beneficial insects, European honeybees and native California bees. The project includes hedgerow installation, native plant installation, and consultation on Beneficial Management Practices, farmer educational workshops/seminars and community volunteer days of celebration. The overall project can be broken down into the following three components.

The first component will install five insectary hedgerows. The proposed hedgerows increase the habitat for beneficial insects, native California bees, European honey bees, and wildlife. Hedgerows can improve value to cropland by aiding in weed suppression, increasing wildlife and beneficial insect populations, reducing soil erosion, and increasing water infiltration and sediment trapping. Hedgerows and riparian corridors provide foraging habitat for terrestrial insect populations which are a significant food source for salmonids, especially during summer months when other aquatic macro-invertebrate availability is low. Hedgerows support beneficial insect populations known to prey on pest species including leafhoppers, thrips, and mites. Research has shown that these beneficial insects will travel from a hedgerow up to 350 feet into an adjacent crop to prey on pest species. One hedgerow extends through the center of the vineyard, and the remaining four expand the riparian habitat along the Russian River. The hedgerow locations were chosen to address site-specific requirements, and sun and drought tolerant plant species were chosen that will increase canopy cover for migratory wildlife and foraging habitat for honeybees and other pollinator species.

The second component consists of services provided by the Center to install 46 cavity-nesting bird boxes and 10 native California bee nesting boxes. Throughout California, the loss of suitable nesting habitat typically found in old-growth oak woodland (including decomposing trees, caves and crevices) has caused a decline in the populations of cavity-nesting birds and native bees. When properly constructed, dispersed and managed, nesting boxes for birds and native bees provide a viable resource to support wild populations, while encouraging sustainable farming practices.

The Center will coordinate with Sonoma County Beekeeper's Association and Clos du Bois to place European honey bee colonies adjacent to hedgerows and cover crops that provide a diversity of plant species for foraging. The Center will build and install native California bee nesting boxes placed within and adjacent to the installed hedgerows. In the hedgerow designs, the Center will also clearly mark open areas, placed with logs and other decomposing wood, designated specifically as burrowing habitat for native bees to build their underground nests. Clos du Bois Vineyard staff will be instructed on the proper care and maintenance of bee nest boxes and burrowing habitat.

The third component of the project is community education and outreach. The Center will host three landowner education workshops and eight community volunteer days to provide community members and farmers with opportunities to witness and learn about the diverse components of the Clos du Bois Project. Workshops will include guest speaker presentations and guided tours of all project components, including color maps and educational hand-outs to increase awareness of ecological restoration on agriculture land. The work to be performed in the Clos du Bois Project will serve as a "forever living-laboratory" for regional farmers and landowners and community members to gain knowledge and reference for the purpose of incorporating sustainable agriculture practices in support of the ecological landscape.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands Program and meets the program's goal of assisting landowners in developing sustainable wildlife friendly practices on their properties that co-exist with their agricultural operations.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Grant Agreement requires the Grantee to provide annual access to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) staff for inspections and monitoring. The Grantee has agreed to manage and maintain the improvements for 25 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the grant. If at any time during the life of the project, the Grantee is unable to manage and maintain the project

improvements, they will refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING
The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$500,000.00**
The Center	33,930.00
Clos du Bois Vineyards	$102,325.00
TOTAL	$636,255.00

Project costs will be for planting and irrigation, nursery plants, materials, vegetation maintenance, consulting, and project signs; and project design, construction supervision, and administration.

FUNDING SOURCE
The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(d)(4), which assists farmers in integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration and wildlife protection, and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
This restoration project is exempt under Section 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines as a minor alteration to land because the project will consist of a minimal amount of earthmoving, and there will be no negative impacts to the physical environment that would reduce its ability to produce native or agricultural plants. Subject to approval by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $500,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(d)(4); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

20. Campstool Ranch — $0.00
Calaveras County

This proposal was withdrawn from consideration at this time.

21. Oak Woodlands Conservation Easement (Barboni) $610,000.00
Marin County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) for a cooperative project with the State Coastal Conservancy to acquire a conservation easement over 447± acres of land located eight miles southwest of Petaluma in the northern area of rural Marin County for the protection of native oak woodland habitat that includes coast live oak, Canyon live oak, blue oak, and valley oak and for the protection and preservation of sensitive biological resources.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The project, known as the Bassi Ranch (a portion of the Barboni Ranch complex), is located roughly eight miles southwest of Petaluma and 12 miles northwest of Novato; and approximately one mile northwest of the intersection of Hicks Valley Road and Red Hill Road. The general terrain in the area is rolling to steep hills with agriculturally developed valley areas. The predominate habitat types include oak woodland, grasslands, riparian, and wetland areas. The subject property (Property) is situated in the upper reaches of the Tomales Bay watershed, along the Arroyo Sausal drainage and is adjacent to Marin County's Soulajule Reservoir, which includes several acres of riparian corridors and associated wetland habitats.

The surrounding area is rural in nature and includes properties ranging in size from a few acres to several hundred acres. The larger properties are generally developed and operated as farms and ranches, the smaller parcels include small ranchette type uses and single family residences. The close proximity to the Bay Area makes this area desirable for both full- time residents as well as a growing population of second-home owners.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is rectangular in shape and is zoned for agriculture use and located within a designated land conservation district. The Property consists of rolling to fairly steep sloping hills that encompass pastures, grassland and oak woodlands (coast live oak, canyon live oak, blue oak, and valley oak), montane hardwoods, box elder, Oregon ash, California bay forest, and Douglas fir. Historically, the Property was operated as a dairy farm. This use has changed to a certified organic, grass fed livestock operation that includes cattle, sheep, and goats. Improvements include a residence, various agricultural buildings, agricultural stock ponds, interior access roads, and developed utilities. The Property is also subject to a Land Conservation Contract under the Williamson Act, which can remain in effect under the terms of the proposed conservation easement.

The ranch's extensive oak woodland areas meet Marin County's general plan policies, including a Native Tree Preservation and Protection Ordinance and its Oak Woodlands Management Plan under the Oak Woodlands Conservation Program. The oak woodlands and riparian areas on the Bassi Ranch provide habitat for diverse species of wildlife. A biological assessment completed in spring 2010, identified 15 special status species on the Property, and noted the likelihood of others, given the high quality of habitats on the ranch. These species included a previously unknown pair of nesting northern spotted owl, Cooper's hawk, burrowing owl, grasshopper sparrow, California red legged frog, river otter, American badger, and the southwestern pond turtle.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant for this project is being considered under the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Oak Woodlands Conservation Program (Program). Grant proposals are evaluated and selected for funding by WCB staff based on established criteria, and must be located within a county that has adopted an Oak Woodlands countywide management plan. The Program is designed to assist local efforts achieve oak woodland protection. Importantly, this Program also provides a mechanism to bring ranchers and conservationists together in a manner that allows both to achieve sustainable ranch and farming operations and healthy oak woodlands.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Consistent with the purposes of the Program, the conservation easement will preserve and protect the Property's oak woodlands and its associated resident wildlife, as well as, protect its scenic open space and agricultural values. Under the terms of the conservation easement, livestock operations can continue while land conversion and future development are restricted. MALT will be responsible for administration and monitoring the terms and conditions of the conservation easement, utilizing an approved monitoring protocol together with a baseline conditions report to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of the conservation easement. MALT has an established and proven track record in terms of managing conservation easements and maintains an extensive and successful portfolio of similar conservation easements in northern Marin County.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $1,346,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved fair market value. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to the MALT, provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the

acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the grant or require the grantee to transfer the conservation easement to the WCB or another qualifying entity.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$600,000.00**
State Coastal Conservancy	$200,000.00
Marin Agricultural Land Trust	$546,000.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	$1,346,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs	$10,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$610,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including the DGS appraisal review.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code section 75055(d)(2), which provides funding for grants for the preservation of native oak woodland habitat pursuant to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (Fish and Game Code section 1360 *et seq.*).

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $610,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(d)(2) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

22. Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, Wetland Restoration Construction Alameda County — Informational

This proposal is to provide the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB/Board) with an update on the funding status and grant language for a wetland restoration and public access development project on the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (ELER), which was conditionally approved by the Board on May 31, 2012.

The approximately 230-acre project site is made up of Ponds E12 and E13, which are part of the 5,500 acre ELER owned by DFG, and were acquired in 2003 as part of the 16,500± acre South Bay Salt Pond (SBSP) acquisition. That acquisition also included the Alviso and Ravenswood pond complexes, which are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The ELER is located on the eastern shore of the South San Francisco Bay west of the City of Hayward and Union City in Alameda County, between the San Mateo Bridge and the Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel.

At the May 31, 2012 WCB meeting, the Board directed a number of questions to WCB staff and to staff with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), the Grantee for this project. Questions mainly centered around funding amounts, funding partners, construction timing, and the specific language in the grant that would allow for additional funding sources to be used to assist with this project. The Board approved this project pursuant to the staff recommendations, with the provision that no Notice to Proceed is to be issued until staff comes back to the Board with the detailed project budget and the implementation agreement language to confirm the reimbursable element. The following is a response to specific questions from the Board.

Regarding total project cost, the WCB has been a significant, but certainly not the largest, source of funds for wetland restoration for the SBSP. Since the property was acquired in 2003, nearly $106,000,000 has been expended on planning and restoration, of which nearly $20,000,000 has been expended by the WCB. The WCB has traditionally focused on DFG-managed properties, but even here on the ELER, the WCB funding makes up only about 56% of total restoration costs to date at about $12,000,000 in WCB funds out of total project cost of about $21,000,000.

Regarding a question on the role of the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), they have been instrumental in developing plans for the current restoration effort, and assisted DU and the DFG in applying for additional funds from the Cosco Busan settlement account and the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) for this project. While the application for funding from Cosco Busan was

denied, the DBW funds are still a possibility. These funds, if approved, would reduce the WCB's cost share for this project. Any specific project elements funded by DBW would be invoiced directly to them by DU.

In addition, the SCC and the WCB often have identical goals, objectives and funding sources. As such, when both agencies have an interest in funding certain restoration projects, staff with the two agencies will work together to develop the most cost-effective way of accomplishing our mutual goals. That often can lead to one agency funding planning for a future construction project, while the other funds the actual improvements. This project is a prime example of that collaboration, with the SCC assisting with the planning and the WCB committing to implement the restoration on DFG's property.

The Board also requested to review the specific language within the grant agreement that provides for changes in overall cost of the project or to allow for a reduction in WCB's cost share. That language is below:

The attached Exhibit B - BUDGET (Budget) is an estimate of the Grantee's anticipated costs for the Project and discloses all funding sources for the Project, including all amounts applied for or obtained from sources other than Grantor. Should the Budget not disclose all funding sources for the Project, Grantor may refer this grant to the Department of Finance for a Project audit. Grantee may seek additional funding from sources other than Grantor, with Grantor's approval, to cover cost increases or to reduce Grantor's cost share. Should Grantee obtain additional funds from sources other than Grantor, Grantee shall promptly notify Grantor of the amounts and sources of the additional funding and submit a proposed new budget reflecting any changes to Grantor for its approval.

Grantee has applied for the following additional funding for the Project:

Department of Boating and Waterways	$180,000.00
Cosco Busan Settlement Account	$1,400,000.00
Total	**$1,580.000.00**

Grantee shall use good faith efforts to obtain such funding and shall keep Grantor informed of the status of its applications. The Grant Amount set forth in the Funding Certification shall be reduced by the amount of any additional funding awarded for the Project.

And finally, at the request of the Board, the following is an outline of the budget for the proposed project:

ITEM	TOTAL
TASK 1: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	$520,000
TASK 2: CONSTRUCTION	$5,752,550
TASK 3: MONITORING	$560,000
Subtotal	$6,832,550
Project Administration	$478,279
Contingency	$689,171
Total	**$8,000,000**

23. Lower Kern River Panorama Vista Preserve $900,000.00
Riparian Restoration
Kern County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to Kern River Corridor Endowment and Holding Company, Inc., for a cooperative project with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Program (CVPIA), the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to restore 159± acres of riparian and associated saltbush scrub habitat for the benefit of rare species, including the Bakersfield cactus, San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and yellow billed cuckoo, and to provide potential future wildlife oriented public use opportunities on the Lower Kern River Panorama Vista Preserve (Preserve) located near the City of Bakersfield in Kern County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Preserve is owned by the non-profit Kern River Corridor Endowment and Holding Company, Inc. (KRCEHC), a non-profit public benefit corporation focused on the preservation of open space and natural habitats for the benefit of people and wildlife. It is located in the eastern Tulare Basin, at the border of the San Joaquin Valley and Sierra ecoregions, in the southernmost portion of the San Joaquin Valley. To the east of the Preserve lie the Sierra Nevada foothills. The Kern River canyon rises to Lake Isabella, which provides controlled flows to the Lower Kern River. The Preserve straddles the city limits of northeastern Bakersfield and unincorporated lands of northern Kern County. Immediately north of the Preserve is the active 11,000-acre Kern River Oilfield. The northern boundary of the Preserve roughly follows the Beardsley Canal, which separates the active oil fields from the conserved Preserve habitat. The Panorama Bluffs delimits the southern boundary. The bluffs are steep 200-foot sandstone formations that host a remnant population of the federally endangered Bakersfield cactus.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The once extensive riparian forests of the late 1800's and early 1900's are now reduced to narrow strands of vegetation along the banks of the river. The main objective of this four-year project is to restore and enhance 159 ± acres of high quality riparian habitat and associated saltbush scrub habitats along the floodplain of the lower Kern River at the Preserve. Additionally, this project will fund the completion of planning and permitting in support of the potential restoration of an additional 268 acres at the Preserve, which would occur during a future phase of habitat restoration.

The restoration project activities include ground preparation and weed abatement, collecting, propagation and planting of an appropriate riparian/oak

woodland species mix; irrigation installation, and long-term maintenance and monitoring. Biological monitoring will occur to determine irrigation needs, plant survival, wildlife species use, and project success to inform adaptive management decisions during the 25-year life of the project specified in the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Grant Agreement.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed project will be funded through the WCB's California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program and meets the program's goal of increasing riparian habitat across California by implementing riparian habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project will advance the following goals and objectives described in the Panorama Vista Preserve Master Plan (2008):

- To preserve, protect, and enhance the educational, recreational, environmental, scientific, cultural, and historical values in the Preserve
- To maintain the Preserve in its natural state with large areas of dense vegetation consisting of mature trees, shrubs and vines, and an area of open native grasses
- To preserve and enhance the plant and animal habitat along this stretch of the river

The KRCEHC, who is landowner and the grantee, will maintain the project through the 25-year life of the project. If at any time during this time, the KRCEHC does not manage and maintain the project improvements, the Grant Agreement requires the KRCEHC to refund to the State of California an amortized amount of funds based on the number of years left on the project life.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$ 900,000.00**
CVPIA	$ 235,000.00
NRCS	$ 48,500.00
NFWF	$ 40,000.00
KRCEHC (in-kind)	$ 61,331.00
USFWS	$ 40,000.00
TOTAL	$ 1,397,120.00

Project costs will be for site assessment, ground preparation, irrigation installation, planting, long-term maintenance and monitoring of restoration sites to determine plant survival and ensure project success, and planning for potential future restoration phases.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (e/f) (Proposition 1E), which allows for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of riparian habitat to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass, and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

This project is exempt from the CEQA under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304(b), as a minor alteration to land. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse. The DFG has reviewed this proposal and recommends it for funding by the WCB.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $900,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (e/f) (Proposition 1E); authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

24. Ocean Meadows $910,000.00
Santa Barbara County

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to The Trust for Public Land (TPL), and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to TPL for a cooperative project with the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Caltrans, Goleta Valley Land Trust, California State Coastal Conservancy, the University of California, Santa Barbara and the California Natural Resources Agency to acquire fee title to 63± acres of coastal wetland and watershed habitat for protection of threatened and endangered species including the tidewater goby, California least tern, snowy plover and California red-legged frog. In addition, acquisition of this site will preserve a critical connection between the upper and lower reaches of Devereux Slough and offer the potential for future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The Ocean Meadows property (Property) is located in the coastal zone, just north of Coal Oil Point and adjacent to the City of Goleta in unincorporated Santa Barbara County. Devereux Creek flows through the Property for approximately 1,700 linear feet into the lower portions of Devereux Slough and from there into the Pacific Ocean. Devereux Slough is part of the University of California Natural Reserve System's (UCNRS) Coal Oil Point Preserve. Historically, the Property supported wetland habitat and was a functioning part of upper Devereux Slough. The entire watershed encompasses 2,400-acres of coastal watershed and wetland areas.

The majority of the land surrounding the Property is protected open space. To the south and west of the Ocean Meadows Property is the 69-acre South Parcel on which the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County holds a conservation easement. Just west of the South Parcel is the permanently protected 230-acre Sperling Preserve at Ellwood Mesa, owned by the City of Goleta. To the south and southwest is the 170-acre UCNRS Coal Oil Point Preserve and UCSB's 37-acre West Campus Bluffs Nature Park. To the east is the DFG Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve, part of a separate watershed, which includes recently restored wetlands, sloughs and upland areas. The restoration of the Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve was funded by the WCB.

This project is also located within the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) work-plan area, a collaborative conservation effort involving local, State and federal conservation agencies and groups, including participation from DFG and the WCB staff. SCWRP is focused on protecting and restoring southern California coastal wetlands and watersheds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 1965, the wetlands on the Property were filled in to create the nine-hole Ocean Meadows golf course. More than 500,000 cubic yards of soil was moved from adjacent land, causing severe degradation of the borrow sites and raising the estuary elevation between six and ten feet. This fill not only reduced the capacity of the floodplain, but also significantly reduced habitat for estuarine and palustrine-dependent wildlife, including fish, birds, insects, and mammals of concern. The golf course delivers excessive nutrients to the local lagoon, displaces wetland habitat, interferes with flood control, and significantly limits the potential to restore adjacent degraded areas due to the lack of original soil or topography.

Acquisition of the Property would help to connect the approximately 650 acres of surrounding land permanently protected for natural resources, open space, aesthetic values, public access, passive recreation and education, and allow for the potential future restoration of the site's historic wetlands. The Property provides a critical connection between these adjacent protected areas and Devereux Slough. Permanent protection of the Property will also offer an unprecedented opportunity to create a wildlife corridor linking the Goleta Slough to the east with the existing protected lands to the west and south of the project site.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Code Section 1300, et seq.), which authorizes the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the Program the WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has been reviewed and approved by DFG as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process. The project has also been reviewed, evaluated and approved under the SCWRP work-plan which includes participation by DFG and WCB staff.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property will be managed and owned by The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). UCSB intends to develop plans and seek funding to restore the tidal and slough

functions of the upper Devereux Slough on the Property and connect to the lower portions of Devereux Slough within the Coal Oil Point Preserve.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $7,000,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value of $7,000,000.00. The USFWS grant requires a non-federal match that is being provided by the groups listed below and the proposed WCB grant to TPL that is a part of this proposal. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to TPL and the subgrant of USFWS grant funds to TPL provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$900,000.00**
USFWS Section 6 Grant	$500,000.00
Santa Barbara County Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund	$750,000.00
Caltrans EEMP	$350,000.00
Goleta Valley Land Trust	$500,000.00
California Coastal Conservancy	$2,500,000.00
USFWS – Coastal Grant	$500,000.00
California Natural Resources Agency (Urban Greening Grant)	$1,000,000.00
Total Purchase Price	$7,000,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs:	$ 10,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$ 910,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition 50 SoCal), which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species and coastal wetlands, upland areas adjacent to coastal wetlands and coastal watershed lands in southern California.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and allow restoration of natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $910,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition 50 SoCal), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; accept the USFWS Recovery Land Acquisition grant in the amount of $500,000.00 and authorize the subgrant of these funds to the Trust for Public Land; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

25. Santa Clara River Watershed (Teyton) $1,010,000.00
Ventura County

This proposal is to consider the allocation for a grant to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for a cooperative project with the Department of Water Resources to acquire fee title to 34± acres of land for the protection of riparian and floodplain habitat along the lower reaches of the Santa Clara River. The Santa Clara River is one of the largest watersheds in southern California without a major dam obstruction and provides important habitat for the federally and State-listed endangered southern California steelhead.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is a privately owned agricultural parcel located within the floodplain of the Santa Clara River south of the City of Ventura. More specifically, the Property is east of Harbor Boulevard, west of Victoria Avenue, south of Olivas Park Drive, and north of W Gonzales Road. Because the Santa Clara River is one of the largest watersheds in southern California without a major dam, it is a priority of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), along with numerous other conservation groups, for protection and restoration. This project is identified in the DFG's Santa Clara River Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). It is also identified in the work plan of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP). SCWRP is a collaborative conservation effort involving local, State and federal conservation agencies and groups, including DFG and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) staff, focused on protecting and restoring southern California coastal wetlands and watersheds.

At its November 18, 2010 meeting the Board approved a grant to TNC to acquire 123± acres of land located to the west of the Property. TNC currently owns five properties in the immediate area of the Property. This project and TNC's prior acquisitions in its vicinity are part of a larger effort to protect and restore the river and floodplain ecosystem from channelization, conversion, encroachment and other actions that may impact the river's riparian habitat areas and floodplain processes. Ultimately, TNC intends to partner with other conservation groups to develop plans which may consider methods to expand and improve habitat along this reach of the river. For now, the properties will remain in agricultural leases compatible with maintaining existing river and floodplain resource values, until planning and necessary environmental review can be implemented.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property abuts and is located within the lower floodplain of the Santa Clara River and has been farmed over the past seventy-five years. The Property is unimproved except for agricultural-related infrastructure, including irrigation systems, wells and pumps. During high rain events the Property is subject to flooding. Protection of the Property will support efforts to provide additional

watershed protection for the southern steelhead trout. Eventually, if plans are approved for restoration of the site, the project could help expand the river floodplain, providing additional refuges for spawning steelhead along with creating expanded floodplain and riparian habitat areas beneficial to a host of other species, including State threatened and endangered species such as the southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, arroyo toad and California red-legged frog.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) which authorizes WCB to acquire and grant funds for the acquisition of areas that can successfully sustain wildlife and provide for suitable recreation opportunities. Under the program acquisition activities are carried out in conjunction with the DFG, which evaluates the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation /Conceptual Area Protection Plan (LAE/CAPP). The LAE/CAPP is then submitted to DFG's Regional Operations Committee for review and approval and, if approved, later transmitted to the WCB with a recommendation to fund.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Under the terms of the grant, TNC will manage the Property for the benefit of threatened and endangered species. The agricultural use will continue under specific seasonal leases managed by TNC. Monitoring of the agricultural leases will be conducted by TNC, and the leases will be modified to achieve the maximum protection of resource values. If appropriate for the Property, levees may be allowed to diminish or be removed over time, allowing a more natural occurring floodplain and creating a wider riverine and riparian habitat area.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $2,600,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The owner has agreed to sell the Property for $2,440,000.00. The terms and conditions of the grant between WCB and TNC provide that staff of the WCB will review and approve all title documents, appraisals, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require TNC to encumber the Property with a conservation easement and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$1,000,000.00**
DWR Grant	$1,440,540.00
Total Purchase Price	$2,440,540.00
Other Project-Related Costs	$10,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$1,010,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review.

FUNDING SOURCE

The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition 50 SoCal), which allows for the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species and coastal wetlands, upland areas adjacent to coastal wetlands and coastal watershed lands in southern California.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,010,000.00 from the Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(b/c) (Proposition 50 SoCal) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

26. Indio Trails $1,010,000.00
Riverside County

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC), and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to CVCC for a cooperative project with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy to acquire in fee 495± acres of land for the protection of core habitat for the Mecca aster desert wildflower, Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel, and Palm Springs pocket mouse.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property), known as Indio Trails, lies within the city limits of Indio, Riverside County, northwest of Washington Street and is surrounded by State Park land known as the Indio Hills Palms property, as well as the original Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard Preserve. The Property is at the mouth of the Pushawalla watershed, a drainage that emanates from the Little San Bernardino Mountains in Joshua Tree National Park and cuts through the San Andreas fault, or Indio Hills, eventually terminating into the last remaining active sand dunes in the Coachella Valley. The landscape consists of a canyon mouth and expansive alluvial fan, or 'bajada', characterized by episodic floods that cut new and meandering channels, facilitating sand transport and creating habitat and habitat corridors for several species. Other WCB projects nearby include the landmark Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard Preserve, a partnership effort of land acquisition and management among various agencies and the local community. The Property itself also lies within the Thousand Palms Conservation Area designated under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP/NCCP).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Indio Trails is a 495± acre property consisting of three assessor parcels which fall within a specific plan allowing for development of approximately half of the acreage, into 1,150 housing units. The original developer was never able to complete the project and eventually lost the Property to foreclosure. Currently, the Property has no development other than a few dirt roads and remnants of seismic testing activity in the form of a few excavated earthen berms. The Indio Trails project area includes modeled core habitat for Mecca aster, Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel, and Palm Springs pocket mouse, and other conserved habitat for Le Conte's thrasher. The Thousand Palms Conservation Area, including all of the area within the project boundary, is a linkage area for habitat connectivity with the Indio Hills Palms Conservation Area and the East Indio Hills Conservation Area. This Property also provides key wildlife linkages in

east/west and north/south directions which will facilitate adaptation in the face of climate change.

There are 100-year and 500-year floodplain designations across most of the Property as it sits at the bottom of the 32 square mile Pushawalla watershed, a tributary to the Whitewater River feeding the Salton Sea. Although rainfall totals only amount to 2"-4" per year in this area, meaning a dry wash condition 99% of the time, the San Andreas fault, which bisects the watershed, causes an uplift in groundwater flow near or at the surface, providing a year-round water source or oases in some places. These 'oases' contribute to the one-of-a-kind native palm groves that the area is known for. Also, during episodic flash floods when powerful surface flow is achieved, the canyon and associated floodplain on which the Property sits, provide a significant source of alluvial sand transport which is vital to recharging the last remaining active dune system in the Coachella Valley. In addition to the significant natural features on the Property, historic and pre-historic cultural resources are also present in the form of trails, gathering areas, and former encampments.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the DFG, grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant theses federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program the WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The project has been reviewed and approved by the DFG under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the property and recommending it for funding. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by DFG as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Property is located within the Thousand Palms Conservation Area of the CVMSHCP/NCCP. DFG issued the NCCP Permit for the CVMSHCP on September 9, 2008. The USFWS issued the final permit for the CVMSHCP on October 1, 2008. The plan lays out management and monitoring targets as well as a funding mechanism based on development fees throughout the Coachella

Valley. The Property, in particular, will be managed under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between California Department of Parks and Recreation and the CVCC. The CVCC has also developed a more specific Reserve Management Unit Plan (RMUP) that addresses this area under the CVMSHCP/NCCP and regularly convenes coordination meetings among the various land managers in the implementation of that plan, including the DFG.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $4,800,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value of $4,800,000.00. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match that is being provided by the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and a WCB grant to CVCC. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant to the CVCC and the subgrant of USFWS grant funds to the CVCC provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$ 1,000,000.00**
WCB – subgrant of USFWS funds	3,120,000.00
Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy	680,000.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	$ 4,800,000.00
Other Project Related Costs	$ 10,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$1,010,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $10,000.00 will be needed to cover project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review. Under the terms of the USFWS grant, the WCB may seek partial reimbursement of these costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c), that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans and is consistent with the purposes of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The acquisition has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,010,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c), for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant in the amount of $3,120,000.00 and authorize the subgrant of these funds to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

27. Carlsbad/Northwest San Diego County $4,629,750.00
MHCP HCPLA/NCCP 2009 (Cielo del Norte)
San Diego County

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grants and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to The Conservation Fund (TCF), as well as to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to TCF for a cooperative project with the County of San Diego (County), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to acquire fee title to 240± acres of land for the protection of core California gnatcatcher habitat within the Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located southeast of the City of Escondido between Interstate 5 and Interstate 15 in San Diego County. Most of the surrounding area includes residential and rural residential development. Areas of remaining habitat consist mostly of coastal sage scrub and mixed chaparral in undeveloped hilly areas with riparian corridors found on the valley floors. The WCB has participated in projects in the vicinity of the Property that have protected nearly 1,000± acres of habitat throughout the years.

The San Diego region has been identified as a major "hot spot" for biodiversity and species endangerment while experiencing very rapid growth in population and urban development. The WCB has been an active partner in protecting habitat in San Diego for several years. In 1991, the State of California enacted the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act that closely complements the habitat conservation planning (HCP) process of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. California is the only state to enact such a law. Soon after the State enacted the NCCP Act, the northwestern seven cities of San Diego County (Carlsbad, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, Solana Beach, San Marcos and Vista), with the help of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), chose to pursue a regional umbrella NCCP/HCP plan to address the growing conflict between conservation and development for the 175 square miles within their city boundaries. This sub-regional plan was finalized in March of 2003, and is referred to as the Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP).

The MHCP covers 61 species, including 22 species federally listed as endangered or threatened and 39 unlisted species. To date, only the City of Carlsbad (City) has a completed and permitted subarea plan, referred to as the Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan (HMP). The HMP includes the need to conserve a core population of coastal California gnatcatchers. Because the subregion does not include a habitat area large enough to meet the requirements

of the Carlsbad HMP, the MHCP includes a requirement to conserve 500 acres in the adjacent unincorporated areas. The MHCP gnatcatcher core area, located in an unincorporated area to the southeast of the City, is needed to ensure the continued viability of gnatcatcher populations within the MHCP.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The general topography of the Property is rolling hills. Habitat types found on the Property include coastal sage scrub, mixed chaparral, willow scrub and small areas of fresh water marsh. Endemic plant species include Del Mar manzanita, San Diego thornmint and San Diego ambrosia. Along with the gnatcatcher, several other important bird species observed on the site include the sharp shinned hawk, northern harrier, and rufous crowned sparrow. The City and MHCP gnatcatcher core area continue to face intense development pressure. This demand has led to extremely high land costs that have hindered land acquisition for conservation.

The Property was originally part of a larger parcel under a single ownership. The entire larger parcel was approved under a tentative subdivision map for a 154-lot custom home development. The Property has been split off from the larger parcel by a lot line adjustment completed through the County of San Diego. The Property contains 77 of the tentatively approved custom home lots. Acquisition of the Property will greatly enhance the conservation goals of the HMP and MHCP by preserving core areas of habitat for gnatcatchers and other species covered by those plans.

The Property is also located within the DFG Escondido Creek Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP). The CAPP covers an area that includes the second largest population of gnatcatchers in northern San Diego County and the core population of gnatcatchers identified within the MHCP. Within the CAPP, the Property is identified as a priority acquisition for protection of gnatcatcher habitat.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant and subgrants for this project are being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program (Program). The Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) and enables the WCB to pursue acquisitions on behalf of the DFG, make acquisition grants to third parties, and accept federal grant funds to facilitate acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. The project has been reviewed and approved by the DFG under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for acceptance for this project has also been reviewed and approved by DFG as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

TCF will acquire the Property with the intention of eventually transferring ownership to the County for long-term management. The County has expressed interest in eventually owning the Property and providing managed public access, utilizing existing hiking trails throughout the Property that would not interfere with the biological values found on the Property. The County has initiated plans and public notice to acquire; however, because of the time needed to complete this process and the potential expiration of federal funding this year coupled with the owner's urgency to sell, it is necessary for TCF to proceed with the purchase. Both TCF and the County hold and have experience managing conservation properties in the vicinity of the Property.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $11,500,000.00. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the appraised fair market value of $11,500,000.00. The USFWS grant funds require a non-federal match that would be provided by the WCB's proposed grant funding allocation that is a part of this proposal. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and the USFWS subgrant to TCF provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require the grantee to encumber the Property with a conservation easement and seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$4,619,750.00**
WCB – Subgrant of USFWS funds	6,880,250.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	$11,500,000.00
Other Project-Related Costs:	$10,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$4,629,750.00**

It is estimated that an additional $10,000.00 will be needed to cover project related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review charges.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055 (c), that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that implements or assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed acquisition is has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $4,629,750.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055 (c) for the grant and to cover internal projected-related expenses; accept both of the USFWS Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grants totaling $6,880,250.00 and approve the subgrant of these funds to The Conservation Fund; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

28. San Diego County MSCP (2010) $1,165,000.00
(Sycuan Tribal – Sloan Canyon)
San Diego County

This proposal is to consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Land Conservancy (Conservancy) and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to the Conservancy to acquire in fee 609± acres of land for the protection of core areas of habitat that will benefit threatened and endangered species found on the property, secure key regional wildlife linkages and enhance the existing Multiple Species Conservation Plan, a Natural Communities Conservation Plan in southwest San Diego County.

LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located about 19 miles east of downtown San Diego and 8 miles east of the City of El Cajon in eastern San Diego County. Highway 8 lies about 6 miles north. Sloan Canyon Road runs through the Property connecting with Dehesa Road a mile to the north, which provides access to El Cajon.

Originating in the Cuyamaca Mountains, the Sweetwater River flows from east to west through roughly the middle of the Property for approximately two miles before flowing off-site and into Lake Emma. The water is distributed to various users downstream, with unused water ultimately flowing to San Diego Bay.

The surrounding land use is generally semi-rural area with small residential communities occurring within stretches of undeveloped open space. Small residential communities in the area include Crest, Granite Hills, Dehesa, and Harbison Canyon. Other developed areas include the Sycuan Resort, owned and operated by the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation (Sycuan), and a few private residences located mainly on Model A Road in Sloan Canyon.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) San Diego National Wildlife Refuge lands lie directly to the west and partially border the Property. The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) refuge lands are located directly east and partially border the subject property.

The Property is located within the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) area. The MSCP is a long-term regional conservation plan created by the County and the resource agencies designed to establish a connected preserve system that protects the County's sensitive species and habitats and provides a process to offset impacts from development on habitat for listed and other covered species.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property is an irregularly shaped assemblage of nine assessor parcels. It is steep sloping mountainous land bisected by the Sweetwater River. The eastern 545± acres are zoned S-88, Specific Plan Area Use Regulations and are identified as part of the Sloan Canyon Sand Company/Sweetwater Project Specific Plan Amendment (SPA 88-007). The western 65± acres are zoned A-72, General Agricultural Regulations, a designation intended to create and preserve areas for the raising of crops and animals. The Property is not being used, and there are no structures on the Property today.

Upland vegetation onsite is primarily composed of Diegan coastal sage scrub and southern mixed chaparral, with areas of southern coast live oak riparian forest and southern cottonwood riparian forest along the Sweetwater River corridor. A mature riparian corridor occurs along the river through the Property. As is typical of rivers and creeks in arid climates, the Sweetwater River is characterized by sequences of flood events followed by low-flow or dry periods. The bed and banks of the Sweetwater River are primarily sand with sparse shrubs such as mule fat, willow species and herbaceous vegetation. The riparian woodland adjacent to the river is characterized by the mature cottonwood and sycamore forest with valley oaks near the northern and western end of the Property. The Property is considered by many to be one of the best stands of riparian forest in the County.

The Sweetwater River provides a dispersal corridor and water source for terrestrial wildlife species. The Sweetwater River within the Property is designated as Critical Habitat by the USFWS for the Arroyo toad, a federally endangered species. The extreme northwest corner of the Property contains scrub habitat for the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. This area is bordered to the west by lands off-site that are designated as Critical Habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher within the USFWS San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. Riparian habitat in the northern portion of the Property provides suitable habitat for the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. Also, a recorded occurrence of the federally endangered least bell's vireo is located to the northwest of the Property adjacent to the tribally-designated wildlife corridor and Lake Emma.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed grant is being considered under the WCB's Land Acquisition Program. The Land Acquisition Program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, *et seq.*) authorizing the WCB to acquire real property or rights in real property on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property and accept federal grant funds to facilitate

acquisitions or subgrant these federal funds to assist with acquisitions of properties. Under the program the WCB provides funds to facilitate the acquisition of lands and interests in land that can successfully sustain or be restored to support wildlife and, when practicable, provide for suitable wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. The project has been reviewed and approved by the DFG under its Natural Community Conservation Plan program, substantiating the biological values of the Property and recommending it for funding. The USFWS grant proposed for and accepted for this project has also been reviewed and approved by DFG as a participant in the USFWS Land Acquisition grant selection and review process.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Conservancy represents eight member tribes. Its mission is to "Reconnect the Kumeyaay people to the aboriginal use areas of the ocean, the mountains, and the desert." The Conservancy intends to preserve and protect land of significant cultural value and cultural uses to the Kumeyaay people, and to promote public education as the land's natural and cultural heritage. The Conservancy accomplishes this mission through, among other things, protective land management, cooperative agreements, and educational programs. The Conservancy manages six properties throughout San Diego County where it partners with member tribes to conserve sensitive habitats and sacred sites on these lands. The Conservancy commits to funding for and implementation of management of the Property in perpetuity consistent with the purposes of the proposed subgrant and grant.

TERMS

The Property has been appraised as having a fair market value of $3,300,000. The appraisal has been reviewed by WCB staff and reviewed and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) and USFWS. The property owner has agreed to sell the Property for the approved appraised fair market value. Under the terms of the grant agreement, the Grantee will convey a conservation easement to the Endangered Habitats Conservancy immediately after taking title. The terms of the conservation easement will ensure the habitat values of the Property are protected in perpetuity. The USFWS grant requires a non-federal match that would be provided by the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Fund of 2006. The terms and conditions of the proposed WCB grant and the subgrant of USFWS grant funds to the Conservancy provide that staff of the WCB must review and approve all title documents, preliminary title reports, documents for purchase and sale, escrow instructions and instruments of conveyance prior to disbursement of funds directly into the escrow account established for the acquisition. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can seek specific performance of the grant or seek reimbursement of funds.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

Wildlife Conservation Board	**$1,155,000.00**
WCB – subgrant of USFWS funds	2,145,000.00
TOTAL Purchase Price	3,300,000.00
Other Project Related Admin. Costs	$10,000.00
Total WCB Allocation	**$1,165,000.00**

It is estimated that an additional $10,000.00 will be needed to cover DGS appraisal review costs.

FUNDING SOURCE

The source of the proposed WCB funding is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c). The purposes of this project are consistent with this proposed funding source that allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat that implements or assists in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The acquisition has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposed as exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space and existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. Subject to authorization by the WCB, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this project as proposed; allocate $1,165,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(c) for the grant and to cover internal project-related expenses; accept the USFWS Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition grant in the amount of $2,145,000.00 and authorize the subgrant of these funds to the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Land Conservancy; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned.

29. Mill Creek Forest Restoration — Special Presentation
Del Norte County

During the last ten years, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has been a lead partner in a unique protection and restoration effort in the Smith River watershed. The project area is known as the Mill Creek watershed and is an addition to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. A presentation by the Smith River Alliance and Save-the-Redwoods League will review WCB's involvement in the acquisition of the Mill Creek watershed and will provide an in-depth look at the integrated restoration program which will continue for decades to come.

Mill Creek is a 38-square mile tributary of the Smith River - California's only major undammed river and one of the premier "salmon strongholds" in the lower 48 states. In 2002, WCB joined a team of public agencies and non-governmental organizations to purchase the 25,000-acre property in the heart of the Mill Creek watershed and immediately upstream from the treasured old growth redwood forests of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. The Mill Creek watershed was an acquisition priority for nearly a century as native redwood forests up and down the California coastal region were systematically harvested. Early protection efforts secured many important groves and also led to the establishment of redwood state parks and Redwood National Park (RNP) in 1968, which was expanded in 1970 to protect some unique groves and watershed land along Redwood Creek in Humboldt County.

The partners involved in the historic Mill Creek acquisition recognized an extraordinary opportunity to protect some of the most productive salmonid habitat remaining in California while also linking the majestic ancient redwood forests of Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwood State Parks with the 460+ square mile Smith River National Recreation Area. Landscape scale protection was achieved for redwood and temperate rainforests and a rich association of terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species.

Mill Creek's salmon species include thriving populations of Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and Coastal cutthroat trout - as well as coho salmon, which are threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act and endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. Annual escapement surveys have also documented a remnant population of chum salmon.

Since 2002, WCB's project partners have made significant investments and outstanding progress through an integrated program of restoration across the Mill Creek watershed. Project components include 1) sediment prevention and road decommissioning projects on the former industrial timberland infrastructure of logging roads and "landings"; 2) forest restoration and ecological thinning of overly dense timber production-era plantation stands; 3) in-stream habitat

restoration and riparian conifer planting to expedite recovery of critically important aquatic habitat areas; and 4) a fisheries monitoring program to provide ongoing oversight on the natural production and health of salmonid species.

The results have been impressive. The Mill Creek watershed is now recognized as a model for cooperative restoration programs. This progress is encouraging because watershed restoration is always a long-term endeavor and our native salmonid species require healthy watersheds to survive and thrive.

30. Strategic Planning Informational

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) was created by legislation in 1947 to administer a capital outlay program for wildlife conservation and related public recreation. Since that time, the WCB has administered the outlay of over 2 billion dollars in State and federal funds for habitat conservation, restoration and outdoor recreation. Today, the WCB staff and organization remains relatively small, allowing projects to be selected, funded and implemented efficiently and effectively.

The programs administered by the WCB have expanded over the decades, each defined by legislative or voter intent, fund requirements, and diverse conservation goals and objectives. Program needs and project proponents compete for limited funds.

The WCB recognizes the need for a Strategic Plan to document existing processes and identify new approaches to effective project selection and administration in the future. Transparency in WCB operations and project ranking and selection processes should be an overarching goal of the WCB Strategic Plan.

The WCB serves and works with many partners including other State agencies, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations including private nonprofit conservation groups. It is critical to engage these stakeholders in the development of a Strategic Plan, and staff anticipates soliciting and incorporating input from stakeholders and the public as we move forward.

It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan will assist the WCB in all current and future processes by:

- Articulating clear goals and objectives both for the organization and the individual mandated programs;
- Recognizing and identifying approaches to integrate larger landscape scale conservation efforts into its activities including climate change adaption, infrastructure mitigation, federal, local agency and non-profit conservation initiatives;
- Defining strategies that adhere legal mandates but also ensure a transparent, integrated process for ranking and selecting projects across program areas; and
- Establishing metrics for measuring, monitoring, and reporting the activities and progress of the WCB program areas.

Following open discussion, staff will receive direction from the Board.