

SIERRA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, California 95936
Telephone (530) 289-3295
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16 August 2016

John P. Donnelly, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, CA 95811-7137

Subject: Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6, Project ID 2015080

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

This letter is to express our opposition to the above project while the state is in arrears to Sierra County in the sum of excess of \$500,000 for lack of payment in payment of lieu of taxes (PILT) obligations for existing state wildlife areas within the county. That one arm of state government proposes purchasing more land that will be added to the PILT category of lands while existing lands have failed to make their existing obligations for a decade is difficult to understand.

We certainly know that the expansion project is being proposed with Prop 84 funding. However, as we attempt to balance our final county budget with that \$500,000 state debt remaining unpaid, how these new lands are being acquired matters little to us.

We only know that in future years, these are lands that are being added to the category of perhaps we will see future PILT payments and perhaps we won't. Unless and until the above issue is resolved, we remain opposed to any future purchase of lands within Sierra County for the above purpose.

Sincerely,

SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By:

LEE ADAMS
Chair

cc: Assemblyman Brian Dahle
Senator Ted Gaines
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties

Lee Adams
District No. 1
P.O. Box 1
Downieville, CA 95936

Peter W. Huebner
District No. 2
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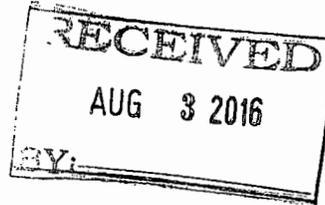
Paul Roem
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P.O. Box 1140
Loyalton, CA 96118

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR, Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
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AUG 01 2016

Sierra County Board of Supervisors
100 Courthouse Square, Room 11
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, California 95936

Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6
Sierra County
Project ID: 2015080

Dear Board Members:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), through the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), is involved in a land acquisition program that is focused on the long-range protection and enhancement of habitat for fish and wildlife. Possible sites for acquisition are identified by the CDFW in response to public interest, legislative mandate and departmental goals.

This letter is to advise you that the WCB will consider the acquisition of 160± acres of wildlife habitat located in Sierra County and identified as Assessor's Parcel No. 016-110-013. This proposal is scheduled for the August 30, 2016, Board meeting. A copy of the preliminary agenda is enclosed for your review. A full agenda will follow within two weeks. You may view all agendas and minutes, and/or subscribe to receive them via email, on our website at www.wcb.ca.gov.

If you have any questions about this proposal or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (916) 445-0137.

Sincerely,

John P. Donnelly
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Senator Ted Gaines
Assemblymember Brian Dahle
Tina Bartlett, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Notice of Meeting
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

August 30, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Natural Resources Building, First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, California 95814

Preliminary Agenda Items

Item Number

1. Roll Call
2. Funding Status — Informational
3. Special Project Planning Account
- *4. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4 – 18)
- *5. Approval of Minutes
- *6. Recovery of Funds

*Proposed Consent Calendar

***7 Big Valley Wetlands, Melo Property
Lake County
\$135,000.00**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Lake County Land Trust to acquire in fee 34± acres of land for the protection of shoreline freshwater wetland, riparian woodland, and wet meadow habitats that support the State threatened Clear Lake hitch along with the western pond turtle, a State species of special concern and to provide future wildlife oriented public use opportunities, located on the northwestern shore of Clear Lake in an area known as Big Valley in Lake County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands outside the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley]

***8. Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6
Sierra County
\$180,000.00**

To consider the acquisition in fee of 160± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as an expansion of CDFW's Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, for the protection of critical winter range and an important migration corridor for the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd, located near Loyalton in Sierra 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 accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, provides corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent fragmentation, protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems including mixed conifer forests. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)]

***9. Jenner Headlands Preserve Highway 1 Public Recreation Parking Lot
Sonoma County
\$250,000.00**

To consider the allocation for a grant to The Wildlands Conservancy for a cooperative project to construct a parking lot, including 30 vehicle spaces, ADA accessible parking and bicycle parking, to enhance public access to the 5,630 acre Jenner Headlands Preserve, located on the Jenner Headlands Preserve owned by the Wildlands Conservancy, located approximately two miles north of Jenner in Sonoma County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the development of public access facilities for hunting, fishing and other wildlife compatible recreational activities. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]

***10. Wheeler Ridge, Expansion 5**

Mono County

\$435,000.00

To consider the acquisition in fee of 20± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as an expansion of Wheeler Ridge, for the protection of a habitat/migration corridor for the Round Valley deer herd, located adjacent to CDFW's Round Valley Wildlife Area near Swall Meadows in Mono County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for the development, rehabilitation, restoration, acquisition and protection of habitat that accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, protects habitat corridors, protects significant natural landscapes and riparian and wetland ecosystems [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)]

***11. East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (Coelho)**

Contra Costa County

\$464,239.00

To consider the allocation for a grant to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (ECCCHC) and the acceptance of two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grants and the approval to sub-grant these federal funds to the ECCCHC for a cooperative project with the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire 199± acres of land for the protection and preservation of existing regional wildlife linkages, including alkali grassland, alkali wetland, grassland and creek habitat types within the area covered by the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, located in unincorporated Byron, 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)]

***12. San Joaquin River Parkway (Circle V)**

Madera County

\$1,090,000.00

To consider the acquisition in fee of 21± acres of land, together with an access easement in Madera County (Property) on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the Transfer of Jurisdiction of the Property by CDFW to the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC). The Property will be acquired for the protection of riparian and oak woodlands habitat, and for potential future wildlife oriented public use opportunities within the San Joaquin River Parkway. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for river parkway projects identified by the San Joaquin River Conservancy [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f)]

***13. Elkhorn Slough Land Exchange, Moro Cojo Slough – Calcagno
Monterey County
\$70,391.00**

To consider the exchange of 14± acres for 16± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as an expansion to CDFW's Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve for the protection of wetland habitat, located near Moss Landing in Monterey 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. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 b/c]

***14. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Enhancement, Planning, Design and Pilot
Monterey County
\$485,000.00**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for planning, design, and environmental compliance for a levee stabilization project along Elkhorn Slough, and to install a pilot project to evaluate salinity and plant establishment to inform future planned habitat enhancements for western snowy plover, located on the CDFW Moss Landing Wildlife Area, located 15 miles northeast of Monterey in Moss Landing, Monterey County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands outside the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley]

***15. North Carrizo Water Well Easement
San Luis Obispo County
\$1,100.00**

To consider the acquisition of a water well easement by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the purpose of allowing the CDFW to install water pipelines and appurtenant equipment necessary to access an existing well to provide water for wildlife in North Carrizo Plains near Simmler in San Luis Obispo County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the development, restoration, acquisition, and protection of habitat that accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, protects habitat corridors, protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems, such as oak woodlands, and riparian and wetland areas. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)]

***16. RLA Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Shumway Ranch
Riverside County
\$276,622.00**

To consider the acquisition of 640± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for a cooperative project with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and the acceptance of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 grants, for the protection of high desert habitat that provides linkages and corridors to support the recovery of the Peninsular bighorn sheep and other sensitive species covered

under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, a joint State Natural Community Conservation Plan and federal Habitat Conservation Plan, near Palm Desert in Riverside 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 which allows for the acquisition of habitat on which unique species or natural communities naturally exist. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c)]

***17. Western Riverside MSHCP (2012) - Terra
Riverside County
\$240,000.00**

To consider the acceptance of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grant and the approval to subgrant these federal funds to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (Authority); and to consider a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to the Authority, to acquire in fee 280± acres of land for the protection of threatened and endangered species located near the city of Hemet, 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)]

***18. Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve, Expansion 8
San Diego County
\$120,000.00**

To consider the acquisition in fee of 40± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as an expansion of the Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve for the protection of habitat to support threatened and endangered species located near the city of Jamul 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 of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species; and which allows for the acquisition of habitat on which unique species or natural communities naturally exist. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786 (b/c)]

**19. Anderson Ranch
Lassen County
\$1,195,000.00**

To consider an allocation for a grant to the Feather River Land Trust for a cooperative project with the Natural Resources Agency to acquire a conservation easement over 5,530± acres of land to provide protection for deer, mountain lion, and oak habitats near the town of Doyle in Lassen 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)]

20. Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area, Expansion 2

Plumas County

\$1,755,000.00

To consider the acquisition in fee of 1,066± acres of land by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to expand the Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area and for the protection of riparian and oak woodland habitat and for future wildlife oriented public use opportunities near Beckwourth in Plumas County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the development, rehabilitation, restoration, acquisition and protection of habitat that accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, protects habitat corridors, and protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(b)]

21. Sacramento River Valley, Safe Harbor Agreements

Various

\$450,000.00

To consider the allocation for a grant to the CSU Chico Research Foundation for a cooperative project with the Sacramento River Forum to develop plans to enhance habitats, wildlife, and ecosystem function over the long term by creating, executing and monitoring Safe Harbor Agreements with private landowners, which will have sustainable benefits to listed wildlife in the Sacramento Valley. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which can be used for the development of scientific data, habitat mapping and other research information necessary to determine the priorities for restoration and acquisition statewide. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)]

22. Yolo County HCP/NCCP Development, Phase III Augmentation

Yolo County

\$150,000.00

To consider the allocation to augment an existing grant to Yolo Habitat Conservancy to finalize an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for a Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan covering the entire County of Yolo. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source that allows for grants that implement or assist in the establishment of NCCPs. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public resources Code Section 75055(c)]

23. Stewarts Point Ranch

Sonoma County

\$3,020,000.00

To consider the allocation for a grant to Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District for a cooperative project with the State Coastal Conservancy to acquire a conservation easement over 871± acres of forest lands, including large areas of old and new growth redwood, located near Stewarts Point in Sonoma County. The

purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for forest conservation and protection projects in order to promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests through forest conservation, preservation and restoration of productive managed forest lands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitats for native fish, wildlife and plants found on these lands. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(a)]

**24. San Joaquin River Parkway, Weed Management and Job Creation Project
Fresno and Madera Counties
\$959,934.00**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission for a cooperative project with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust and the San Joaquin River Conservancy to conduct weed removal on eight public properties within the San Joaquin River Parkway (Parkway), including property owned or administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Lands Commission, and the Fresno County Office of Education, all located within the Parkway between State Route 99 and one mile upstream of State Route 41 in Fresno and Madera counties. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding sources, which allows for the acquisition, restoration, and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin River Conservancy. [Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), California Water Code Section 79731(g)].

**25. South Central Coast Invasive Weed Eradication
San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties
\$405,000.00**

To consider the allocation for a grant to Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District for a cooperative project with California Department of Parks and Recreation, UC Santa Barbara Reserve, and California Invasive Plant Council to eradicate specific nonnative invasive weeds, located at wetland and upland sites in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding sources, which allow for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands outside the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley, and for the development, rehabilitation, restoration, acquisition and protection of habitat that accomplishes one or more of the following objectives: promotes recovery of threatened and endangered species, provides corridors linking separate habitat areas to prevent fragmentation, protects significant natural landscapes and ecosystems, or implements the recommendations of the California Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy. [Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75055(b)]

**26. Sawmill Pebble Plain Ecological Preserve, Expansion 1
San Bernardino County
\$2,515,000.00**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust for a cooperative project with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District to acquire in fee 240± acres of land as an expansion of the Sawmill Pebble Plain Ecological Preserve, rare pebble plain habitat supporting a wide variety of endemic plant species, located south of Big Bear Lake, in the San Bernardino Mountains, in San Bernardino County. The purposes of this project are consistent with the proposed funding source which allows for the acquisition and protection of habitat to protect rare and endangered species, wildlife corridors and significant natural landscapes and ecosystems, such as old growth redwoods, oak woodlands and other significant habitat areas. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]

**27. DFG Land Management Plans, Inland Deserts Region, Phase II, Augmentation II
Riverside County
\$164,757.00**

To consider the allocation for an amendment to an existing grant to the California Wildlife Foundation to implement environmental review and public participation pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act for the Land Management Plan for the 21,000-acre San Jacinto Wildlife Area on two units located approximately three miles north and ten miles east of Lakeview in Riverside County. The proposed funding source for this project allows for the preparation of management plans for California Department of Fish and Wildlife lands acquired by WCB. [California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40), Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(a)]

**28. North San Diego County Coastal Wetlands Invasive Species Management
San Diego County
\$850,000.00**

To consider the allocation for a grant to the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy for a cooperative project to implement a comprehensive habitat restoration program, remove target nonnative invasive weed species, and restore native habitat on 65 acres of coastal wetlands on several sites located at Agua Hedionda, Batiquitos Lagoon, and San Elijo Lagoon, located from approximately 9 miles north to 5 miles south of Encinitas on privately owned properties and on properties owned by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Parks and Recreation. The purposes of this project are consistent with the authorized uses of the proposed funding source, which allows for the acquisition, enhancement or restoration of wetlands to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or bypass outside the Central Valley. [Habitat Conservation Fund (Proposition 117), Fish and Game Code Section 2786(d)(Proposition 1E), Wetlands Outside the Central Valley]