

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # *IX.A.

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE July 14, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval of a Letter of Support for Funding for the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge for Land Acquisition

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for funding for the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge for land acquisition.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The House of Representatives has included \$2 million in funding for the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. If supported in the Senate and ultimately approved, the San Joaquin region would receive \$2 million to acquire land for inclusion in the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. There is no fiscal impact to Stanislaus County associated with this item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-485

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Grover

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

The acquisition of land for inclusion in the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge is expected to protect native grasslands and wetlands that are essential for long-term survival of the Aleutian Canada goose. It will also protect a large piece of riparian habitat valuable to a variety of wildlife species. Congressman Dennis Cardoza has been a strong advocate for the preservation of this critical habitat and has requested County support for this funding proposal. The project cooperators include the State of California CALFED Bay Delta Grant Program.

If approved, funds would be used to acquire two (2) tracts consisting of approximately 213 acres. These properties are predominantly native, irrigated pasture and will be protected by means of a perpetual conservation easement. The biggest threat to the property is residential development and the conversion from grasslands and wetlands habitat to croplands, orchards, or dairy operations that will provide little or no benefit to wildlife. The acquisition of these properties will provide long term viability to the grassland and wetland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

The interest to be acquired in the 213 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason there will be little to no long-term management costs associated with this acquisition.

POLICY ISSUES:

The funding proposal, if approved will provide resources that will help to protect native grasslands and wetlands essential to the long term survival of the Aleutian Canada goose. This action is consistent with the Board's priority of a well planned infrastructure system.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item

San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, California

Acquisition Authority: Endangered Species Act 1973
FY 2010 LAPS Rank: No. 16 of 85

Location: Approximately 10 miles west of Modesto, California to the north and south of Highway 132

Congressional District: 18 **Region:** 8

Total Appropriations: \$10,950,000

FY 2010 Budget Request: \$ 2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Ownerships	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Through FY 2008*	10	10,095	\$ 38,379,548	\$ 3,802
Planned FY 2009**	1	141	\$ 1,311,379	\$ 9,300
Proposed FY 2010	1	213	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 9,389
Remaining	<u>1</u>	<u>3,464</u>	<u>\$ 24,309,073</u>	<u>\$ 7,017</u>
Totals	13	13,913	\$ 66,000,000	\$ 4,743

*Includes Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED), State grants and flood money funding sources.

**Includes \$413,379 in LWCF appropriations

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect native grasslands and wetlands that is essential for long-term survival of the Aleutian Canada goose. It will also protect a large piece of riparian habitat valuable to a variety of wildlife species.

Project Cooperators: State of California CALFED Bay Delta Grant Program

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire two (2) tracts consisting of approximately 213 acres. These properties are predominantly native, irrigated pasture and will be protected by means of a perpetual conservation easement. The biggest threat is residential development and the conversion from grasslands and wetlands habitat to croplands, orchards, or dairy operations that will provide little or no benefit to wildlife. The acquisition of these properties will provide long term viability to the grassland and wetland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

O & M Costs: The interest to be acquired in the 213 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason there will be little to no long-term management costs associated with this acquisition.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on the DOI Managed and Influenced Land and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.



William O'Brien, 1st District
Vito Chiesa, 2nd District
Jeff Grover, 3rd District
Dick Monteith, 4th District
Jim DeMartini, 5th District

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Phone: 209.525.4494 Fax: 209.525.4410

July 15, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support of Funding Proposal for the Expansion of the San Joaquin River National
Wildlife Refuge

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Thank you for your ongoing support of the residents of Stanislaus County and your leadership in the area of environmental preservation.

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors requests your support of Congressman Dennis Cardoza's \$2 million funding request to expand the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. The acquisition of land for inclusion in the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge is expected to protect native grasslands and wetlands that are essential for long-term survival of the Aleutian Canada goose. It will also protect a large piece of riparian habitat valuable to a variety of wildlife species.

If approved, funds would be used to acquire two (2) tracts consisting of approximately 213 acres. These properties are predominantly native, irrigated pasture and will be protected by means of a perpetual conservation easement. The biggest threat to the property is residential development and the conversion from grasslands and wetlands habitat to croplands, orchards, or dairy operations that will provide little or no benefit to wildlife. The acquisition of these properties will provide long term viability to the grassland and wetland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

The interest to be acquired in the 213 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason there will be little to no long-term management costs associated with this acquisition.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim DeMartini, Chairman
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

cc: Congressman Dennis Cardoza
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors