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California

COMMI  
ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

ROOM 2206, STATE CAPITOL,  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814  
19161 445-3284

PATRICK JOHNSTON  
CHAIRMAN

Post-it® Fax Note	571	Date	5/12	Page	2
To	Tom Zuckerman	From	Kishi		
Co./Dept.		Co.	Machado's ofc		
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	209/478-5912	Fax #			



May 3, 2000

Honorable Byron Sher, Chairman  
Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #2  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Sher:

Wildlife Conservation Board  
Budget Item 3600-301-0001

I am writing to request your assistance in providing funding to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for the purpose of acquiring critical lands for the benefit of floodplain management, farmland protection, and wildlife habitat enhancement in the north Delta and the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP).

The CRP has been one of the state's most innovative efforts in building a cooperative program that is friendly to farmers, the public, and to wildlife. The CRP has engendered strong public support in part because of efforts to enhance public access on CRP lands and some nearby private lands.

One of these private properties is Staten Island, which is now on the market. Over the past several years, the farming operations on this island have been managed for the benefit of waterfowl and migratory birds while at the same time generating sufficient farm related income to responsibly manage the farmland infrastructure and maintain the levees. In cooperation with public and private groups, the landowners have been willing to provide limited public access. The potential sale of this property puts the habitat and the public access at risk.

The purchase of this property with the assistance of the state presents not only the chance to acquire scarce habitat but an opportunity to address future costs associated with the management of this and other properties in the area. I am proposing that the WCB purchase Staten Island with the requirement that future farm related revenues be dedicated to the operation and maintenance of CRP lands and other habitat lands in the north Delta. Earmarking these revenues for this purpose will keep this money in the local economy, avoid future management problems, and address current deficiencies in operational funding for state-owned habitat and recreational lands.

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Honorable Byron Sher

To address the accelerating rate of farmland conversion and the loss of habitat in ways that negatively affect the substantial investment made by all the public and private entities it is necessary to take important steps this year to secure the CRP's future. My proposal is contained in the following budget language:

3600-301-0001 - For capital outlay, Wildlife Conservation Board.....\$75,000,000

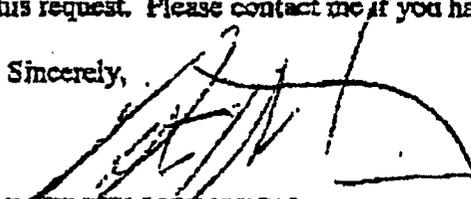
Provisions:

Funds appropriated by this item shall be used by the board as follows:

1. Forty million (\$40,000,000) shall be spent for the acquisition of the property known as Staten Island in the form of grants to a non-profit corporation to manage for farmland protection, wildlife habitat, and flood management benefits. The property shall remain substantially in its current agricultural use, with modifications as appropriate to provide water quality, flood control, and wildlife protection benefits. Revenues derived from the property shall be retained locally for use in the management of this property and the furtherance of farmland protection and wildlife habitat management objectives in the north Delta as set forth in an annual budget prepared by the governing body of the non-profit corporation. Such annual budget and an annual allocation to an operating reserve fund shall be approved by the Secretary of Resources. Any revenues in excess of those approved by the Secretary, which will include support for the Department of Fish and Game personnel, shall be returned to the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.
2. Twenty five million (\$25,000,000) shall be spent for the acquisition of land titles or conservation easements west of Interstate 5 in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties for the purpose of protecting public and private habitat lands. All lands shall remain in agricultural production in a manner that does not pose threats to migratory birds.
3. \$10 million (\$10,000,000) shall be spent for the acquisition of property to reduce the threat of urban encroachment on lands within the Cosumnes River Preserve.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



PATRICK JOHNSTON  
Senator, 5<sup>th</sup> District

PJ: bf