DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	84-AFC-06C
Project Title:	Compliance - Application for Certification of Sycamore Cogeneration Project
TN #:	214816
Document Title:	Commission Order (92-0122-03) Approving an Endowment Request by Nature Conservancy
Description:	Order Approving Request by the California Nature Conservancy Jan 22, 1992
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ORDER NO. 92-0122-03

STATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of:) THE SYCAMORE AND MIDWAY-SUNSET) COGENERATION PROJECTS) DOCKET NO. 84-AFC-6C 85-AFC-3C

ORDER APPROVING ENDOWMENT REQUEST BY THE CALIFORNIA NATURE CONSERVANCY

Based on the record of this proceeding and the comments presented at the hearing on January 22, 1992, the Commission finds the following:

1. Pursuant to the Commission Final Decision in the Sycamore Cogeneration project (84-AFC-6) and Biological Resources Condition 5 of that Decision, the Commission must approve all proposals to use monies from the Sycamore-San Joaquin Kit Fox Preserve Fund. Condition 5 provides that the fund be used "for the purchase of suitable acreage for kit fox habitat preservation and to cover related administrative, site improvement and site protection costs." The Commission has previously approved the purchase of 1,684.21 acres in the Semitropic Ridge Preserve using these mitigation funds.

2. Pursuant to the Commission Final Decision in the Midway-Sunset Cogeneration project (85-AFC-3) and Biological Resources Condition 5b of that Decision, the Commission must approve all proposals to use monies from the Midway-Sunset Special Wildlife Habitat Preservation Fund. Condition 5b provides that the fund be used "for the purchase of suitable acreage for San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and San Joaquin antelope squirrel habitat preservation, and to cover related costs of administration, site improvement, and site protection." The Commission has previously approved the purchase of 548.92 acres in the Lokern Preserve using these mitigation funds.

3. The California Nature Conservancy, a non-profit tax exempt conservation organization that acquires and manages habitat of rare and endangered species, has requested an endowment to be used in managing specified parcels previoulsy purchased with Commission controled mitigation funds as nature preserves located in the Semitropic Ridge and Lokern areas of Kern County. The Nature Conservancy, in a proposal dated May 18, 1991 has proposed establishing a preserve management endowment for these two preserve areas totalling \$900,000.00. Funding would be \$670,826.00 from the Sycamore-San Joaquin Kit Fox Preserve Account and \$229,174.00 from the Midway-Sunset Special Wildlife Habitat Preservation Fund.

4. The biology committees, created by the Commission Decisions in these matters to advise the Commission on the acceptability of parcels, has recommended approval of this proposal contingent upon a signed Memorandum of Understanding between The Nature Conservancy and the Commission. The biology committees agree that the endowment meets the criteria of the Commission Decisions and that the endowment for the previously acquired parcels will help to preserve and protect the habitat for the indicated species.

5. A Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared and signed by The Nature Conservancy and the Commission which covers the use of the endowment fund. Therefore, the Commission hereby orders the following:

A. The proposal from the California Nature Conservancy dated May 28, 1991, attached hereto as Exhibit A, for the establishment of an endowment for the management of mitigation parcel previously purchased with Commission controlled funds is hereby approved.

B. The establishment of the endowment in the amount of \$900,000.00 is hereby approved for release to The Nature Conservancy from the Commission controlled Special Deposit Funds. An amount of \$670,826 shall be provided from the Sycamore-San Joaquin Kit Fox Preserve Account and an amount of \$229,174.00 from the Midway-Sunset Special Wildlife Habitat Preservation Fund account.

C. The monies shall be used by the California Nature Conservancy in accordance with their proposal, Exhibit A attached, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Nature Conservancy and the

Commission, Exhibit B attached.

DATED: January 22, 1992

CHARLES R. IMBRECHT, CHAIRMAN