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GOVERNING BOARD

Andreas Borgeas, Chairperson
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Brett Frazier, Vice-Chairperson
Madera County Board of Supervisors

Steve Brandau
Councilmember, City of Fresno

Derek Robinson
Councilmember, City of Madera

Barbara Goodwin, *Director*
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Carl Janzen, *Director*
Madera Irrigation District

Julie Vance, *Regional Manager*
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Kent Gresham, *Sector Superintendent*
Department of Parks & Recreation

John Donnelly, *Executive Director*
Wildlife Conservation Board

Patrick Kemp, *Assistant Secretary*
Natural Resources Agency

Michael McKown, *Designee*
State Lands Commission

Karen Finn, *Programs Budget Manager*
Department of Finance

Bryn Forhan
 Paul Gibson
 Cynthia Dolph
Citizen Representatives

Melinda S. Marks
Executive Officer

250.20

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

Minutes

The San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board
Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Meeting Location:
 Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board Room
 5469 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727
and via phone conference:
 California Natural Resources Agency
 1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1311
 Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Borgeas called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

A-1 Welcome and swear-in new Board member, Julie Vance, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Chairperson Borgeas welcomed Ms. Vance to the Conservancy Governing Board. Ms. Vance had signed the Oath of Office prior to the meeting.

A-2 Roll Call

Name	Present	Telecon-ference	Absent	Late
Mr. Andreas Borgeas, Chair	X			
Mr. Brett Frazier	X			
Mr. Steve Brandau				10:21
Mr. Derek Robinson				10:12
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X			
Mr. Carl Janzen	X			
Ms. Julie Vance	X			
Mr. Kent Gresham	X			
Mr. John Donnelly		X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp		X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X			
Ms. Karen Finn			X	
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X			
Mr. Paul Gibson			X	

Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X			
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Ms. Harris confirmed that a quorum was present.

Legal Counsel Present: Michael Crow, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present: Melinda Marks, Executive Officer
 Rebecca Harris, Staff Services Analyst
 Heidi West, Program Manager, San Joaquin River Conservancy
 Projects, Wildlife Conservation Board (via teleconference)

B. PUBLIC COMMENT & BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

The first ten minutes of the meeting are reserved for members of the public who wish to address the Conservancy Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Conservancy. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Board does not respond to the public comment at this time.

Mr. Borgeas reported that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors took no action regarding the Friant Corridor Study. He also thanked Ms. Marks for attending the meeting.

Public comment:

Mr. Louis Moosios, a landowner on the San Joaquin River and owner of San Joaquin River Guide Service, requested an update on the Proposition 1 Milburn Unit project.

Ms. Marks reported that the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) will consider approval of the Proposition 1 grants on Thursday, June 2 in Sacramento. The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) scope of work for their Milburn Unit project was changed to add the public advisory group. DWR should receive their Notice to Proceed a month after WCB authorizes the use of the Proposition 1 funds. Once DWR begins work on the project, they will schedule the public advisory meeting.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Items identified after preparation of the agenda for which there is a need to take immediate action. Two-thirds vote required for consideration. (Gov. Code § 54954.2(b)(2))

None.

D. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussion and voting on the matter. (FPPC §97105)

None.

E. MINUTES

E-1 Approve Minutes of March 23, 2016

It was moved by Mr. Frazier and seconded by Ms. Forhan to approve the minutes of March 23, 2016, as presented. The voting members unanimously passed the motion. Ms. Goodwin and Mr. Gresham abstained, as they were not present during the March meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin			X
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Ms. Julie Vance	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham			X
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed below will be approved in one motion unless removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion:

Due to additional information available after the staff report was prepared, Chairperson Borgeas requested to move F-2 for discussion after F-1 was considered.

- F-1 Authorize Minor Program Service Agreement with Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center for Stewardship and Cultural Education Programs at the Jensen River Ranch "Pathways of Our Ancestors" Garden

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board authorize an agreement for services not to exceed \$2,500 with the Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center to provide stewardship and cultural education programs at the Jensen River Ranch Garden. The agreement will be effective after July 1, 2016, once the State budget is adopted and the standard agreement is executed.

Mr. Janzen moved and Mr. Frazier seconded a motion to approve the agreement recommended in the staff report for F-1. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Ms. Julie Vance	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

F-2 Authorize Minor Program Service Agreement with City of Fresno, Parks, Recreation, After-School, and Community Services Department for Life and Environmental Sciences River Excursions

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board authorize an agreement for services not to exceed \$14,300 with the City of Fresno Parks, After-School, Recreation, and Community Services Department (PARCS) to provide specified community education and recreation programs on Conservancy lands. The agreement will be effective after July 1, 2016, once the State budget is adopted and the standard agreement is executed.

Mr. Robinson arrived at 10:12 a.m., and Mr. Brandau arrived at 10:21 a.m.

Ms. Marks stated that for the past few years the Conservancy has openly solicited for minor program services applications. Due to workload and budget uncertainties, staff did not request proposals for the summer 2016 programs. Instead, staff is recommending continuing to fund, at a very limited scale, the two continuing, successful programs. She noted that on May 26, 2016, the City of Fresno PARCS, Life and Environmental Science (LES) program was selected as a winner of the National Parks' Build Community campaign and will receive a \$20,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and The Walt Disney Co.

Mr. Manuel Mollinedo, Director of the PARCS Department, provided an overview of the grant that PARCS received. He noted that it was a competitive program, and PARCS Department's LES Program was selected to receive the grant.

Ms. Irma Yepez-Perez, Grant Writer for the PARCS Department, stated that with the grant funds the LES program would be able to take kids to the Sierra Nevada and Sequoia National Park, which could not be done without additional funding. This grant allows LES the opportunity to expand the program and to get parents involved. The LES Program provides hands-on science learning in the community centers and provides transportation for participants for river activities in an integrated program. The river excursions funded by the Conservancy have included water safety education at the beginning each activity, and a life jacket is mandatory for every participant. The kids come back year after year and become "River Ambassadors" to support conservation in the future.

Mr. Brandau thanked Irma for the presentation. He stated that in January, the City of Fresno, the Conservancy, River Partners, and Wildlife Conservation Board hosted a planting event at Riverbottom Park. Members of the PARCS Department brought some of the kids to participate in the event. He also noted that the Science Center in Highway City (near the Parkway) is engaging kids in science, environmental education, and outdoor activities.

On inquiry from Mr. Borgeas, Ms. Yepez-Perez reported that the grant funding from Disney and NRPA is not renewable. The PARCS Department's LES Program was one of 15 projects selected to receive grant funding.

Ms. Marks stated the Conservancy minor program services are one time as well, and there is not a guarantee that a program will be funded the following year. The minor program service agreements are awarded to various organizations to implement habitat restoration, cleanups, recreation, and education on Conservancy lands that are otherwise closed to the public.

Mr. Janzen complemented the LES Program on getting people out to the river and especially for educating our up and coming citizens about cleaning up after themselves.

It was moved by Ms. Forhan and seconded by Ms. Goodwin to approve staff’s recommendation as presented in the staff report. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Ms. Julie Vance	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

G. DISCUSSION

G-1 Authorize License Agreement with Revive the San Joaquin to Plant and Maintain Native Trees and Shrubs on the Conservancy’s Liddell Property

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve a five-year license agreement with the Revive the San Joaquin (Revive), a nonprofit organization, to plant, irrigate, and maintain native trees and shrubs on portions of the Liddell property. The agreement shall be subject to the review and approval of Conservancy legal counsel.

Ms. Harris stated that Revive the San Joaquin is requesting a license agreement with the Conservancy to allow for planning, irrigation, and maintenance of approximately 2,800 native trees and shrubs on portions of the Conservancy’s Liddell property. Revive has entered into a five-year agreement with PG&E to propagate, plant, irrigate, and maintain approximately 1,800 native trees. The planting will assist PG&E in meeting environmental mitigation requirements related to projects in other areas of the state that lack suitable sites for habitat restoration. The agreement requires Revive to achieve an 80 percent survival rate. Revive will be responsible for securing all required permits and approvals. This license agreement will not create an encumbrance on the property, or create any new long-term obligation for the Conservancy to maintain the project site. The Conservancy will have no obligation to achieve survival standards.

On inquiry from Mr. Frazier, Ms. Marks reported that the license agreement would state that the Conservancy would not be obligated to secure the necessary permits, maintain the site, or meet the survival standards; those responsibilities would be solely Revive’s.

On inquiry from Mr. Frazier, Ms. Marks reported that the plants would be irrigated from the pond adjacent to the nursery by a portable pump.

Mr. Chris Acree, Executive Director of Revive the San Joaquin, stated that Revive is a grassroots non-profit organization committed to the successful restoration of the San Joaquin River and the conservation of its natural resources. Revive has a license agreement to operate the native plant nursery at the former fish farm on the Liddell property. The current agreement also allows educational programs including volunteer tree planting activities. He noted that the Liddell property is an excellent site for a restoration project.

Ms. Forhan commended Mr. Acree for putting this project and partnerships together. She stated that this project could be used as a model for future opportunities for mitigation within the Parkway.

It was moved by Mr. Frazier and seconded by Ms. Dolph to approve staff’s recommendation as presented in the staff report. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Brandau	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Ms. Julie Vance	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

H. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following oral reports are for informational purposes only, and may be accompanied by written reports in the Board packet. No action of the Board is recommended.

H-1 Organizations

H-1a San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

Ms. Sharon Weaver, Executive Director, mentioned several events that were coming up, including a volunteer workday at Camp Pashayan. She noted that the Parkway Trust has been busy working on the Spano River Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project and they are getting ready to install the main irrigation.

Mr. Borgeas thanked Ms. Weaver for attending the Fresno County Board of Supervisor’s meeting.

H-1b RiverTree Volunteers

None.

H-2 Deputy Attorney General

None

H-3 Executive Officer

Ms. Marks mentioned that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has been working on several Conservancy projects, including managing construction for the Sycamore Island Pond Isolation Project and the Fish Hatchery Visitor Improvement and Trail Project. She noted that for the last four weeks, DWR had been monitoring a pair of Swainson Hawks in the Sycamore Island Pond Isolation Project area.

The Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) have been busy preparing the three grant agreements for the Proposition 1 funding. The Conservancy Board approved the grants at the March meeting. Two of the three applications will be considered at the WCB June meeting, and the third application will be considered at their August meeting.

Ms. Marks announced that Ms. Harris was recently promoted to the position of Associate Governmental Program Analyst after applying, interviewing, and being selected for the position. The Conservancy will conduct another recruitment to fill Ms. Harris' vacated position in the coming months.

On inquiry from Mr. Borgeas, Ms. Marks reported that San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan Administrative Draft EIR should be completed before the contract expires at the end of this year. Ms. Marks and Ms. West have reviewed the biological chapter and returned it to the consultants with comprehensive feedback. The consultants are revising the draft document at no additional cost to the Conservancy. The Master Plan will be released for public review once the Conservancy is satisfied with the Draft EIR.

After questions by the Board and responses by staff related to the document preparation, staff review, delayed completion, and the remaining budget, staff was directed to provide a status report at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Marks provided a brief update on the River West Fresno EIR. She stated that she has reviewed over two hundred pages of the River West Fresno EIR. The consultant is finishing the traffic and air quality chapters. The documents reviewed so far have been satisfactory. The Conservancy is planning to extend the contract so that the EIR can be certified and the project approved in the spring 2017.

On inquiry from Mr. Brandau, Ms. Marks reported that the Sycamore Island Pond Isolation Project went to bid in April. DWR received bids in May that came in under the engineer's estimate. Construction will begin on this project this summer.

H-4 Board Members' Reports

Mr. Janzen mentioned that the Bureau of Reclamation has been releasing more water than is needed to meet obligations at Gravelly Ford for the holding contracts, and the water is not getting to the Mendota Pool. Reclamation might plan to increase flows in the fall. The Restoration Program is working on issues such as sand removal, seepage easements, and kangaroo rats.

Mr. Borgeas mentioned that he had a meeting with Amanda Stevens, from the Trust for Public Lands. This organization is seeking partnerships with the County of Fresno and the City of Fresno to inventory

potential green space in our community and conduct polling to see if a ballot initiative would be supported for a master green space plan.

Ms. Marks mentioned that the Conservancy has attended meetings convened by community groups to consider possible ballot initiatives for parks.

Mr. Janzen stated that the Trust for Public Lands should consider adding County of Madera and City of Madera to its analyses.

Mr. Borgeas mentioned that Mr. Brandau and he participated in a river trip with RiverTree Volunteers.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Public Comment:

Prior to convening in Executive Session, members of the public may address the Board on Executive Session agenda items.

- I-1 Government Code Section 54956.8
Consultation with real property negotiators concerning terms of negotiations, including price and terms of payment.

Property: Ball Family Trust, Cemex plant site
Fresno County (APNs 300-007-56 through 60)

Negotiating Parties: David Wasemiller, Realtor, agent for Ball Family Trust
Robert Hillison, Attorney for Ball Family Trust

Agency Negotiators: Melinda Marks, San Joaquin River Conservancy
Teri Muzik, Wildlife Conservation Board

- I-2 Government Code Section 54956.8
Consultation with real property negotiators concerning terms of negotiations, including price and terms of payment.

Property: Circle V Property, Miriam Vinnard Family Trust
Madera County (APN 049-062-002)

Negotiating Parties: Gerald Vinnard and Arnold Vinnard, Co-Trustees

Agency Negotiators: Melinda Marks, San Joaquin River Conservancy
Elizabeth Yokoyama, Wildlife Conservation Board

Mr. Crow reported out of Executive Session that with regard to item I-1, the Board gave direction to staff. With regard to item I-2, the Board approved making an offer to purchase the property.

Mr. Borgeas left at 11:28 a.m.

J. NOTICE OF BOARD, ADVISORY, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

None.

K. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE


The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for August 3, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting was subsequently canceled. (Please note, an earlier start time will be observed March through October.)

L. ADJOURN

Vice-Chairperson Frazier adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Board meeting notices, agendas, and approved minutes are posted on the Conservancy's website, www.sjrc.ca.gov. For further information or if you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Rebecca Harris at (559) 253-7324 or Rebecca.Harris@sjrc.ca.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer