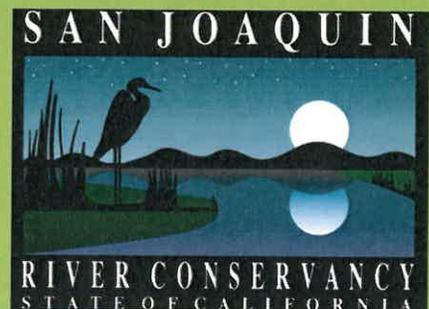
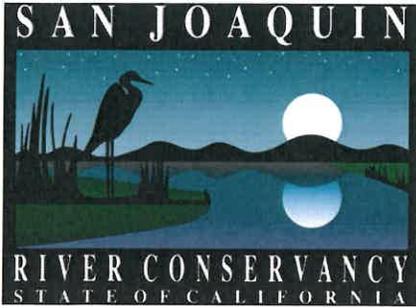


BOARD MEETING REMINDER

The June 1, 2016, Board meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.;
(March through October meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.)

If any Board member would like to visit the Vinnard property in advance of the meeting, please call staff at (559) 253-7324.





5469 E. Olive Avenue
Fresno, California 93727
Telephone (559) 253-7324
Fax (559) 456-3194
www.sjrc.ca.gov

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
Cyndy Dolph
Citizen Representatives

Melinda S. Marks
Executive Officer

250.20

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

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

The San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board
will hold a regular meeting on
Wednesday, June 1, 2016, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting Location:
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board Room
5469 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727

**The following locations are also open to Board members and
the public for attendance via phone conference:**

California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. ROLL CALL

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

A-2 Roll Call

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.

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))

Board Meeting Agenda
June 1, 2016
Page 1

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)

E. MINUTES

E-1 Approve Minutes of March 23, 2016

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

H-1b RiverTree Volunteers

H-2 Deputy Attorney General

H-3 Executive Officer

H-4 Board Members' Reports

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

J. NOTICE OF BOARD, ADVISORY, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

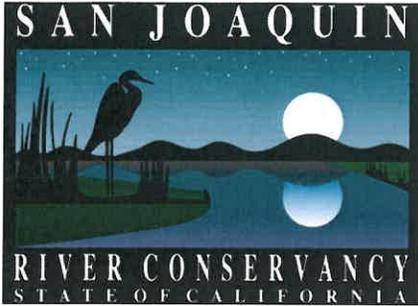
None.

K. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

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

L. ADJOURN

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.



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

Minutes

The San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board
Wednesday, March 23, 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

5469 E. Olive Avenue
Fresno, California 93727
Telephone (559) 253-7324
Fax (559) 456-3194
www.sjrc.ca.gov

GOVERNING BOARD

Andreas Borgeas, Chairperson
Supervisor
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Brett Frazier, Vice Chairperson
Supervisor
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 and Recreation

John Donnelly, *Executive Director*
Wildlife Conservation Board

Patrick Kemp, *Assistant Secretary*
Natural Resources Agency

Michael McKown, *Designee*
State Lands Commission

Karen Finn, *Program Budget Manager*
Department of Finance

Bryn Forhan
Paul Gibson
Cynthia Dolph
Citizen Representatives

Melinda S. Marks
Executive Officer

MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Brandau called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

A-1 Roll Call

Name	Present	Telecon- ference	Absent	Late
Mr. Steve Brandau, Chair	X			
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X			
Mr. Brett Frazier	X			
Mr. Derek Robinson	X			
Ms. Barbara Goodwin			X	
Mr. Carl Janzen	X			
Ms. Julie Vance			X	
Mr. Kent Gresham			X	
Mr. Peter Perrine		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			

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

A-2 Approve Rotation of Board Chairperson to Andreas Borgeas, Fresno County Board of Supervisors, and Vice-Chair to Brett Frazier, Madera County Board of Supervisors (carried over without prior discussion from the February 17, 2016, agenda)

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board nominate and elect a new chairperson, Fresno County Supervisor Andreas Borgeas, as provided for in the San Joaquin River Conservancy Act, and a vice-chairperson, Madera County Supervisor Brett Frazier, each to serve a two-year term of office.

Mr. Borgeas thanked Mr. Brandau for serving as the chairperson for the past two years.

Mr. Janzen made a motion to approve the rotation of chairperson to Mr. Borgeas and vice-chairperson to Mr. Frazier as recommended in the staff report. Ms. Forhan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Peter Perrine	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

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. Barry Bauer, from Herb Bauer Sporting Goods, inquired about updates on several projects.

Ms. Marks responded that the River West Fresno and the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan contracts are intended to expire and all work be completed by the end of this calendar year. She and Ms. West are currently reviewing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan. She will be receiving the EIR for River West Fresno in the next couple weeks for her review. In the next couple of months the drafts for the two EIRs should be out for public review.

Mr. Bob Getz, a resident at Wildwood Mobile Home Park, stated that there is a homeless couple and their dog living on the island next to Wildwood Native Park. He thanked Mr. Richard Sloan, from RiverTree Volunteers, for cleaning up the park and painting over the graffiti. Mr. Getz made some suggestions

regarding the park, including: to have a host on the weekends to look over the property, an on-call maintenance person, more marked trash cans, and additional brush removal.

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 December 16, 2015 (carried over without prior discussion from the February 17, 2016, agenda)

(Informal meeting notes from the February 17, 2016, session, cancelled for lack for a quorum, were available in the Board packet.)

It was moved by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Ms. Forhan to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015, as presented. The voting members unanimously passed the motion. Mr. Frazier and Ms. Dolph abstained, as they were not present during the December meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier			X
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Peter Perrine	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	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:

F-1 Authorize Two-Year Extension of Lease with Bruce Negri for Cattle Grazing on a Portion of Ball Ranch (carried over without prior discussion from the February 17, 2016, agenda)

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board authorize a two-year extension of the Ball Ranch grazing lease with Mr. Bruce Negri, extending the lease termination date to March 31, 2018, as allowed in the lease agreement, with all other terms and conditions to remain the same.

F-2 Authorize Agreement with Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District for Administrative Support and Office Space

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board authorize an agreement with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District commencing in May 2016 and extending through August 31, 2017, providing reimbursement to the District for utilities and janitorial costs associated with the Conservancy's occupancy of three office spaces, hourly administrative and technical support services, and other direct costs.

It was moved by Ms. Forhan and seconded by Mr. Frazier to approve the consent items as recommended. The motion unanimously passed as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Peter Perrine	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

G. DISCUSSION

G-1 Adopt Resolution 16-01 Expressing Appreciation to Jeffrey Single, PhD, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, for Service on the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board (carried over from the February 17, 2016, agenda)

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board recognize and honor the valuable service and contributions to the San Joaquin River Parkway and to the Conservancy of Jeffrey Single, Senior Policy Advisor for the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), by adopting Resolution of Appreciation 16-01.

Ms. Marks noted that at the February meeting, the Board members made remarks commending Dr. Single's service on the Board and to the Parkway.

A motion to approve Resolution 16-01 was made by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Forhan, and unanimously approved by the Board as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		

Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Peter Perrine	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

G-2 Authorize Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, Ecosystem and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grants as Recommended by the Evaluation Panel: (carried over without prior discussion from the February 17, 2016, agenda)

Staff Recommendation: This staff report provides an overview of the grant application process and recommendations. It is recommended the Board consider separately Agenda Items G-4 a, b, and c, and approve the recommendations by the evaluation panel to authorize in total \$1,425,979 in Proposition 1 (2014) bond funds and grant agreements as follows:

- a. River Partners, Ball Ranch Habitat Restoration Plan, for \$28,045;
- b. California Department of Water Resources, Milburn Pond Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvements Planning and Design, for \$438,000; and
- c. Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Local Conservation Corps, Weed Management and Job Creation Project, for \$959,934.

Upon Board approval, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) will be requested to approve the grants at their May 2016 meeting.

Ms. Marks stated that each grant proposal that is recommended requires a separate vote. She noted that Rebecca Harris and Heidi West helped with preparing the staff reports and reviewing the grant proposals.

Ms. Marks reminded the Board that the Water Quality, Water Supply, and Infrastructure improvement Act of 2014 is a \$7.5 billion water bond to improve water quality, water supplies, and restore natural watershed features in California. The total funding available to the Conservancy for the 2015-2016 grant cycle is \$2.8 million. The Conservancy released the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) on September 2, 2015. Solicitation notices were mailed to 42 agencies and interested parties; and another 106 notices were sent to interested parties in the form of an email. The Conservancy staff held a public workshop on September 16, 2015, to explain the grant application requirements and to answer questions.

The Conservancy received three grant proposals. The Conservancy staff reviewed each of the proposals and determined that all three were eligible and complete. All three grant proposals were evaluated and scored by the Evaluation Panel, which consisted of John Shelton from Department of Fish and Wildlife, Randy Collins from State Lands Commission, Heidi West from Wildlife Conservation Board, and Conservancy staff. The review panel individually scored the proposals in accordance with criteria and scoring in the PSP.

Ms. Marks noted that if the Conservancy does not award all funds appropriated this fiscal year, the money will remain available. The appropriation provides three years to encumber the funds.

Board Comments:

On inquiry from Mr. Frazier about Madera County's need for an invasive species control project on the Fresno River, Ms. Marks reported that the County of Madera can apply for Conservancy Proposition 1 grants, but their projects would need to be within the Conservancy's area of jurisdiction. She suggested that the County look into other Proposition 1 grant programs that address invasive species.

On inquiry from Mr. Gibson, Ms. Marks reported that the three scores shown in the staff report are the averages for the three proposals based on each of the panel member's individual scores. She noted the Board adopted the evaluation rubric in the grant guidelines and the PSP, and it's based on a 100 point scale.

Mr. Gibson inquired about the use other sources of funds for planning projects if the Conservancy uses all of the allocated Proposition 1 planning funds. Ms. Marks reported that other fund sources could be used for planning.

On inquiry from Ms. Forhan, Ms. Marks reported that the intent is to get the planning underway so the grantees can eventually carry out the projects. Without CEQA review the Board cannot commit funding to implement a project.

Mr. Janzen commented on the long period of time it takes to plan, fund, design, and contract to complete projects.

Mr. Gerald Hatler, Program Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, noted that no one appreciates just how challenging these timelines and requirements are better than the agencies.

a. River Partners' Proposal for Ball Ranch Habitat Restoration Plan;

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve \$28,045 in Proposition 1 (2014) bond funds and a grant agreement with the River Partners to implement the Ball Ranch Habitat Restoration Planning Project. Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorization would be requested at their May 2016 meeting.

Ms. Marks briefly displayed slides summarizing River Partners' grant proposal. River Partners is requesting \$28,045 in Proposition 1 bond funds for their Ball Ranch Habitat Restoration Planning Project. With the funding requested, they will provide an ecological assessment and restoration plan that will serve as a guide for future restoration and public access projects. River Partners will provide in-depth analysis of land use history including soil types, depth to the water table, topography, and hydrology, which will affect potential restoration projects. The specific goals and objectives identified by River Partners include: contribute to the restoration of river parkways, protect and restore ecosystems and wildlife, improve habitat benefits for threatened and endangered species, and restore habitat diversity.

Board Comments:

On inquiry from Mr. Janzen, Ms. Marks reported that River Partners intends to distribute a draft plan within two months of the contract execution, with a final delivery date within four months.

It was moved by Mr. Janzen and seconded by Mr. Frazier 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. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Peter Perrine	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		

Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

- b. California Department of Water Resources' Proposal for Milburn Pond Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvements Planning and Design; and

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve \$438,000 in Proposition 1 (2014) bond funds and a grant agreement with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to implement the Milburn Pond Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvements Planning and Design Project for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) property. Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorization would be requested at their May 2016 meeting.

Ms. Marks briefly displayed slides summarizing the grant proposal. Department of Water Resources is requesting \$438,000 in Proposition 1 bond funds for their Milburn Pond Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvements Planning and Design Project. There are four phases to the Milburn Pond project. With the funding requested, DWR will be completing phase one which is planning and preliminary design for habitat restoration and public access at Milburn Pond. DWR's scope of work includes the following: collect various types of data, develop and compare at least two design alternatives, develop the alternatives report, and meet with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to discuss the alternatives; they will select an alternative and create a design plan and submit a final report.

Public Comment:

Mr. Louis Moosios, a landowner on the San Joaquin River and owner of San Joaquin River Guide Service, noted that isolating the pond at Milburn may negatively affect the river and his business. He noted that there is public access to the Milburn Pond right now from the river, and this project is going to stop that access. If the planning project does go forward, it should provide opportunities for someone from the private sector who provides guide and fishing services to be involved. He expressed concern that the project could cause a change in flooding conditions downstream on his property.

On inquiry from Mr. Borgeas, Ms. Marks reported that DWR's proposed project will include engineering design, including review and selection of alternatives. Phase two of the project would be the environmental review, which would include public participation.

Mr. Frazier suggested that the Conservancy could require DWR, as the grantee, to meet additional conditions during its work. Once the project is under CEQA review, most of the plan has been completed, and then the public has the opportunity to weigh in on that plan.

On inquiry from Mr. Borgeas, Ms. Marks confirmed that the Conservancy can request DWR to add to the scope of work securing input from landowners and stakeholders.

Ms. Marks noted that the objective of the Milburn Pond Habitat Restoration and Public Access Improvements Planning and Design Project is to isolate the gravel pond consistent with the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP).

Mr. Hatler stated that one of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's key objectives for this project is to provide public access and recreational opportunities. While Mr. Moosios' concern is allowing motorized boat access from the river into the pond, the San Joaquin River has lost thousands of acres of historic habitat, and the natural channel configuration has been lost over time due to land uses and development. One of the key

components to the SJRRP is to develop an effective conveyance system by eliminating some of these breached berms at the gravel pits. This project will be consistent with those objectives as well.

Mr. Moosios suggested that some features, such as a seasonal gate on the berm, might be able to allow access in and out of the pond.

Ms. Sharon Weaver, Executive Director San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, mentioned that there was a previous study done in this project area in early 2000. She asked if this data would be considered during the planning project. Ms. Marks noted that the data would be reviewed, but would need to be reconsidered because changes in the river flow regimes due to the settlement came after these studies were conducted.

Mr. Frazier stated that although he understands what the project is designed to do, the Board, in granting this money, could have DWR create a citizen advisory board, made up of no less than 3 members and no more than 5 members—one landowner from Fresno County and one from Madera County, and at least one business owner that operates within the area.

Ms. Marks noted that the Conservancy could support DWR and the Department of Fish and Wildlife by helping with the meetings.

Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Hatler to comment on the idea. Mr. Hatler responded that the Department of Fish and Wildlife planned to meet the public participation requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, and plans other stakeholder outreach for the project, including working with outside resource people to help design a better project.

Ms. Marks noted that the letter dated December 18, 2015, from Ms. Julie Vance, Regional Manager of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, stated that DFW would provide staff time to support the project and help coordinate with stakeholders.

Mr. Gibson asked whether the Conservancy had any prior plans for the Parkway at Milburn Pond. Ms. Marks reported that the Parkway Master Plan recognizes that ecological reserves, including the Milburn Unit, exist within the Parkway, but the public access to those ecological reserves is under the management of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is more restricted than land under the Conservancy management and ownership. Other than the Parkway Master Plan, there was no prior Conservancy planning for public access at Milburn Pond.

Mr. Hatler stated that with the berm failure, the pond has been heavily infested with red sesbania. One of the objectives of isolating the pond would reduce the maintenance cost and consequences of having an invasive species in the pond. He noted that the department has ceased stocking trout on the San Joaquin River. One of the intentions for this project is that isolating the pond would then allow the department to stock the pond with trout and allow the public to fish for them.

Mr. Bauer stated that majority of this project seems to directly align to the SJRRP, and maybe they should be paying for the planning. Ms. Marks stated that the leveraged funding in DWR's proposal is the SJRRP's contribution to the project. Mr. Bauer also remarked that the warm-water pond would not be conducive to trout.

Mr. Frazier moved to approve item G-2b, adding the requirement to convene a citizen advisory group, with no less than three and no more than five members, consisting of property owners and stakeholders as well as businesses that operate in the project area, from Fresno County and Madera County. Mr. Borgeas seconded. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Brett Frazier	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Peter Perrine	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

Mr. Frazier left at 11:24 a.m.

- c. Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Local Conservation Corps' Proposal for Weed Management and Job Creation Project

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve \$959,934 in Proposition 1 (2014) bond funds and a grant agreement with the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Local Conservation Corps (Fresno LCC) to implement the Weed Management and Job Creation Project on State-owned and other public properties. Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) authorization would be requested at their May 2016 meeting.

Ms. Marks stated that the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission is requesting \$959,934 in Proposition 1 bond funds for labor associated with a Weed Management and Job Creation Project. In September 2015, the Bureau of Reclamation awarded approx. \$1.5 million to the Parkway Trust, with River Partners as a subcontractor, for a comprehensive project to remove invasive species on the river. The funding does not include labor to remove vegetation; it only contributes to a portion of management, supervision, data gathering, reporting, and supplies costs. In January 2016, River Partners was awarded a Proposition 1 grant from Department of Fish and Wildlife for approx. \$1.5 million to contribute to the overall project. To complement the implementation of the comprehensive Weed Management and Jobs Creation Project, the Fresno LCC submitted a Proposition 1 proposal to the Conservancy. With the funding requested, they will be able to provide the labor to remove invasive vegetation in the Parkway reach for three years. The Fresno LCC will collaborate with the River Parkway Trust to implement this project. The River Parkway Trust will provide the invasive species removal procedures and protocols and site work plans. The Fresno LCC will be responsible for crew supervision and labor. Their goals and objectives for this project are: to preserve and restore the riparian corridor, reduce the extent of invasive species, and to supplement and support the other grants.

Board Comments:

Mr. Janzen mentioned another organization that could provide labor to remove invasive vegetation. Ms. Marks commented that the River Parkway Trust will be glad to hear that because much of their work on this project is downstream from the Conservancy's jurisdiction.

On inquiry from Mr. Gibson, Ms. Marks reported that these applications include monitoring, outcome, and reporting requirements. The River Parkway Trust and River Partners are responsible for identifying the populations of these plants and monitoring the needs and success of the effort.

Ms. Weaver reported that they plan to provide semiannual reports to the Conservancy regarding this project.

Mr. Borgeas stated that those receiving Proposition 1 grants that come back for the next cycle should document how they successfully implemented their projects before the Conservancy considers investing in them again.

Mr. Gibson noted that it is a requirement to provide evaluation reports. It is written in the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines and PSP.

Ms. Marks stated that there are two kinds of accountability associated with these grants. First, are measures of whether the invasive species eradication investment is succeeding. Second, are accounting records and documentation to determine the grant funds are being properly spent. Built into the grantees' contracts with the Wildlife Conservation Board there will be reporting, outcomes, and fiscal accountability.

Mr. Shawn Riggins, Director of the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Local Conservation Corps, introduced two of his Corps members to share their experiences. Mr. Samuel Johnson and Ms. Jennifer Silva remarked on the opportunities provided by working for the LCC, and their enjoyment and educational experiences working on the river.

Mr. Riggins noted that this project would provide 36 positions for young people just like the ones who spoke today.

It was moved by Ms. Forhan and seconded by Mr. Gibson 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. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Peter Perrine	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Cynthia Dolph	X		

G-3 Approve Board Meeting Calendar for 2016 (carried over without prior discussion from the February 17, 2016, agenda)

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve the calendar for the regular meetings scheduled for January through December 2016.

Ms. Marks stated that after the board packet was sent, Conservancy staff sent out another poll, and more Board members are available on the first Wednesday than on the third or fourth. Staff is recommending the calendar that was emailed to Board members prior to the meeting. Conservancy staff will send the approved calendar in an email to all Board members and their assistants.

It was moved by Ms. Forhan and second by Mr. Janzen to approve the meeting calendar as revised, with the May meeting on the second Wednesday, the remainder of the monthly meetings on the first

Wednesday of each month, and no meeting in July. The motion was unanimously passed as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Peter Perrine	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	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. Weaver presented Mr. Rich Sloan from RiverTree Volunteers, a gift, a framed photograph of a tire.

H-1b RiverTree Volunteers

None.

H-2 Deputy Attorney General

Mr. Crow provided the Board with a memo regarding the Brown Act's quorum requirements relative to teleconferencing.

Mr. Borgeas suggested the Conservancy could ask the State Legislature to amend the San Joaquin River Conservancy Act so that it would be subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act rather than the Brown Act.

Ms. Forhan stated it might be difficult and time consuming, but staff could try.

H-3 Executive Officer

None.

H-4 Board Members' Reports

Mr. Hatler noted that the Department of Fish and Wildlife would like to hold a fishing derby at the Milburn Pond once it is isolated from the river.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Public Comment:

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

Mr. Sloan, noted that the Vinnard property would be a great asset to the Parkway.

Ms. Weaver, seconded Mr. Sloan's comment.

I-1 **Government Code Section 54956.8**

Consultation with real property negotiators concerning terms of negotiations, including price and terms of payment.

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

Negotiating Parties: Gerald Vinnard, Trustee, Miriam Vinnard Family Trust

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 provided staff with direction regarding negotiating with the landowner.

J. NOTICE OF BOARD, ADVISORY, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

None.

K. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

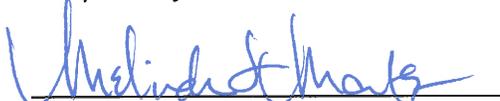
The next scheduled meeting is April 27, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (The regularly scheduled April and May meetings were subsequently cancelled.)

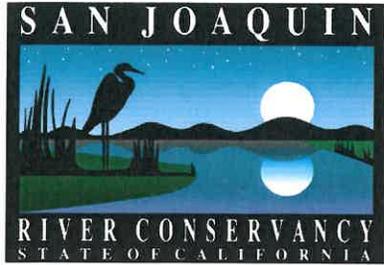
L. ADJOURN

Chairperson Borgeas adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:04 p.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



SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Agenda Item

Item: F-1

June 1, 2016

TO: San Joaquin River Conservancy
Governing Board

FROM: Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: 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

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.

SUMMARY:

Minor program service agreements have been approved by the Board for various organizations to implement habitat restoration, cleanups, recreation, and education on Conservancy lands that are underutilized. As directed by the Board in April 2009, the intent of these service agreements is to accomplish fundamental property management by increasing the quality and frequency of property stewardship through cooperative, supervised public recreation, conservation, and education services.

Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center is a nonprofit entity that works with various governmental organizations to address issues relating to the wellness of the American Indian community. The organization is engaged in American Indian community ceremonies and celebrations, the protection of sacred lands through education, environmental awareness, Indian responsibility issues, and social justice issues.

With this program service agreement, Many Lightnings will continue and expand volunteer participation, maintain and enhance the Conservancy's Native American garden, Pathways of Our Ancestors, at Jensen River Ranch, and provide cultural educational programs at the site. Many Lightnings will provide maintenance of the garden, and reach an important, under-represented audience and participant group.

For the past few years the Conservancy has openly solicited for minor program services applications; in the past year Many Lightnings was one of only three applicants. 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, two continuing, successful programs offered by Many Lightnings and City of Fresno PARCS (see item F-2). At a later date, the

Board may be asked to consider also funding the second year of a program service agreement with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust to help fund field trips to Sycamore Island for Madera Unified School District.

The attached year-end activity summary report provided by Many Lightnings details the activities that took place during the 2015/2016 program year.

DISCUSSION:

This service agreement is made possible by from the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) Fund, which is generated by revenues from the Conservancy's long-term property leases. Annual appropriations in the SJRC Fund are utilized for fundamental property management purposes. These funds provide for repairs, maintenance, and management of Conservancy lands. For the 2016/2017 fiscal year, \$126,000 is proposed to be appropriated to the Conservancy in the SJRC Fund. Approximately 85% of these funds will be allocated to various contracts for property maintenance services such as Friant Cove operations, weed abatement/fire prevention, and fence and gate repairs. A portion of the funds in the 2016/2017 fiscal year budget will be utilized for this agreement totaling \$2,500. The Conservancy may enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations not to exceed \$4,999 without bidding.

The Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center agreement will enhance Conservancy land management and public access by expanding services on an underutilized Conservancy project, the Pathways of Our Ancestors Native American Garden, and reaching an important, under-represented audience and participant group. Many Lightnings will provide the same services that they have provided successfully during the last several years. Services include outreach and educational programs, involve multiple tribal groups from a wide geographic area, and provide continued improvement and maintenance of the garden. The program also includes significant in-kind and outside sponsors and support. The budgeted costs to be covered by the agreement include non-profit insurance for volunteers, weed matt, mulch, plant mesh and caging, and other irrigation and garden maintenance supplies. Weed control equipment purchased through the \$3,000 fiscal year 2015/2016 agreement will continue to be utilized.

These contractual services help the Conservancy meet its property management goals of increasing public access and recreation opportunities, providing land stewardship education, and establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships with other individuals and local non-profit organizations. This contract increases the frequency and quality of property stewardship, aids in monitoring Conservancy properties, increases public awareness, and increases participation in supervised education activities.

This service agreement will conform to State contracting procedures. The Conservancy will provide formats for submitting billing and program reports. Property inspection reports will be submitted with all invoices for activities conducted on Conservancy-owned properties.

The Conservancy appreciates the valuable services this organization is providing to support the Parkway.



Rebecca Harris
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment



**MANY LIGHTNINGS AMERICAN INDIAN LEGACY
CENTER, INC.**

Laura L. Wass, Executive Director
PO Box 3306, Clovis, CA 93612 Phone: 559.313.7060

To: San Joaquin River Conservancy Board of Directors
5469 E. Olive Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

**Iuhpin': Native Garden at Jensen River Ranch
Year End Activity Summary: May 2015-May 2016**

Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy center, Inc., (MLAILC), had a very successful fiscal year at Iuhpin'; the Native Garden at Jensen River Ranch. We have secured new collaborations with County and Native organizations, designed and are implementing new programs, and growing our participant population.

MLAILC had more challenges than normal this year with our stewardship of Iuhpin'. Keeping the area cleared of forests of new invasive weeds due to all the welcomed rains has been a daunting task. We have also been dealing a lot more with the homelessness and vandalism increasing in the area. Due to these challenges, we have not begun to develop the adjoining acreage south of Iuhpin' which was our year's goal. We are hoping to begin planting the area no later than spring of 2017.

MLAILC began a new collaboration with Fresno American Indian Health Project (FAIHP), and Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health through which mental health support and prevention programs are being held at Iuhpin'. Funding has been provided by Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health for a period of three years to FAIHP behavioral health staffing to deliver mental health support for Native families and individuals in a natural environment more suitable to the Native American population. The client feedback has been overwhelmingly favorable. MLAILC assists FAIHP staffing on each occasion at the Native Garden.

MLAILC became the fiscal sponsor of members of the California Basket Weavers Association who have begun teaching basketry on a monthly basis at Iuhpin'. We are proud to be a part of this rare opportunity to learn an art being revived by Native elders' teachings to the youth.

Valued heavily is our dedication to the visitors of the Jensen River Ranch trails. We consistently welcome passerbys to join us in our classes and many have. They have also rolled their sleeves up on more than one occasion and worked to help us maintain the area.

Local tribes and tribal organizations have become more engaged in the teachings Iuhpin' has to offer their families and are taking advantage of the educational programs we facilitate:

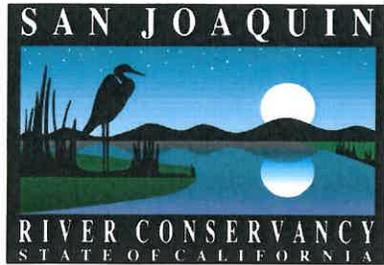
- North Fork Rancheria
- Choinumni Tribe of the Kings River
- Big Sandy Rancheria
- Cold Springs Rancheria
- Owens Valley Career Development Center; Tribal TANF
- Sierra Tribal Consortium

Our programs and classes include, but are not limited to:

- Sacred Connection and Responsibility to Mother Earth
- Tribal Histories of the Local Tribes
- Culture and Protocol
- Plant usage for Sacred Medicines, Medicinal, Tools, Foods, Shelter (includes hands on harvesting, preparation, and construction)
- Basketry Classes
- Native Youth Programs
- Substance abuse Prevention and Maintenance
- Family and Individual Behavioral Health Support
- Historical Trauma Teachings and Support
- Volunteer Picnic and Workdays

MLAILC remains highly appreciative for the continuing support given to our organization by the San Joaquin River Conservancy. These opportunities have given our Native community a place they can revive so much rich culture and teachings. It has also allowed us to share knowledge with the public at large and build new lasting relationships.

Laura L. Wass, Executive Director MLAILC, Inc.



SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Agenda Item

Item: F-2

June 1, 2016

TO: San Joaquin River Conservancy
Governing Board

FROM: Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer 

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

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.

SUMMARY:

Minor program service agreements have been awarded by the Board to various organizations to implement habitat restoration, cleanups, recreation, and education on Conservancy lands that are otherwise closed to the public. As directed by the Board in April 2009, the intent of these agreements is to supplement property management by increasing the quality and frequency of property use and stewardship through cooperative, supervised public recreation, conservation, and education services.

PARCS has an on-going Life and Environmental Science (LES) Program that provides activities at City parks and contracted school sites. The program has invested in an experienced Recreation Specialist/Naturalist and support staff, trained volunteers and interns, two mobile environmental Science teaching labs, and vans to transport participants.

With this agreement, the LES Program will provide up to 20 environmental service learning activities, such as canoe trips, hiking, river water quality testing, and invasive plant removal on Conservancy properties. The program will serve more than 200 residents, primarily consisting of low income, at-risk youth from underserved communities, and will provide these programs at no cost to the participants.

PARCS has been a beneficial partner in meeting the Conservancy's need for supervised recreation and education programs, as well as its need for an increased presence for oversight of Conservancy lands. Program services include field excursions, hiking, litter removal, invasive plant removal, overnight camping, fishing, canoe trips and paddle-abouts, environmental education and games, and nature observation and bird watching. The program involves service, recreation, and restoration activities.

For the past few years the Conservancy has openly solicited for minor program services applications; in the past year PARCS was one of only three applicants. 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 offered by PARCS and Many Lightnings (see item F-1). At a later date, the Board may be asked to consider also funding the second year of a program service agreement with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust to help fund field trips to Sycamore Island for Madera Unified School District.

The attached interim activity summary report provided by the LES Program details the activities that have been sponsored to date for the 2015/2016 program year.

DISCUSSION:

Service agreements are made possible by from the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) Fund, which is generated by revenues from the Conservancy's long-term property leases. Annual appropriations in the SJRC Fund are utilized for fundamental property management purposes. These funds provide for repairs, maintenance, and management of Conservancy lands. For the 2016/2017 fiscal year, \$126,000 is proposed to be appropriated to the Conservancy in the SJRC Fund. Approximately 85% of these funds will be allocated to various contracts for property maintenance services such as Friant Cove operations, weed abatement/fire prevention, and fence and gate repairs. A portion of the funds in the 2016/2017 fiscal year budget will be utilized for this service agreement totaling \$14,300. The Conservancy may enter into agreements with local agencies without bidding.

The LES Program agreement will provide supervised recreation, education, and environmental stewardship programs on Conservancy lands. The agreement will contract for services similar to the program services they have provided successfully over the past six years. The program's budget allows funding for program planning, implementation, and administration; equipment and supplies; and transportation. Services include hiking, camping, bird watching, paddle boarding, environmental games, and other field excursions. The activities will primarily take place on Conservancy-owned properties, with an emphasis on properties not otherwise open to the public, such as River Vista, Ledger Island, and River West.

These contractual services help the Conservancy meet its property management goals of increasing public access and recreation opportunities, providing land stewardship education, and establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships with other individuals, and local non-profit organizations. This contract increases the frequency and quality of property stewardship, aids in monitoring Conservancy properties, increases public awareness, and increases participation in supervised education activities.

This service agreement will conform to State contracting procedures. The Conservancy will provide formats for submitting billing and program reports. Property inspection reports will be submitted with all invoices for activities conducted on Conservancy-owned properties.

The Conservancy appreciates the valuable services this organization is providing to support the Parkway.



Rebecca Harris
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY
City of Fresno PARCS Department
Life and Environmental Science Program
2015 Program Services

Program Description:

Fresno's Parks, After School Recreation, and Community Services (PARCS) Department's offers an award winning program on the San Joaquin River thanks to our partnership with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC).

- The Community Science - Life and Environmental Science (LES) Program targets the key goal of increasing public recreation and educational use of Conservancy Lands in a managed and supervised manner.
- The program served 163 participants through various excursions along the San Joaquin River including: Spano Park, and Riverbottom Park. LES will start again in June under the 2015/2016 agreement as soon as school is out for summer.
- Participants picked-up garbage on all excursions, and they also helped plant native trees and shrubs as part of the Wildlife Restoration Project at Riverbottom Park.
- Ninety eight percent of the participants were at-risk urban youth and more than half of them had never been exposed to canoeing, hiking or camping along the river despite the proximity to the City.

Program demographics:

- Low income, at-risk youth from underserved communities
Latino 40%, Black 45%, Native American 10%, White 2%, Asian 3%,

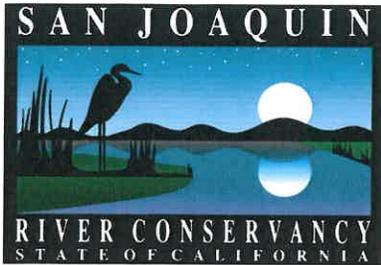
Benefits of the LES Program

- Health benefits of exposing youth to the great outdoors - they are involved in physical activities such as hiking, walking, canoeing, and paddle boarding.
- Gain knowledge about
 - A. The San Joaquin River flora, fauna, and importance of conservation of natural resources.
 - B. The importance of water safety
 - C. Stewardship of the environment

Additional benefits:

LES offers a wealth of learning opportunities, socializing and fun activities. During the 2015 summer camp, participants wanted to fish and an hour per group was set aside for fishing. Soon it became a race to see who caught the first and the largest fish. Two fish were caught and the students had a great time trying to identify the kind of fish that was caught and then watching them swim away when they were placed back into the river. During lunch staff shared crazy fishing stories, camping stories and other outdoors stories about their careers and the students also had many tales to tell. Participants learned lessons about river ecology, water safety and why River restoration is so important.





SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Agenda Item

Item: G-1

June 1, 2016

TO: San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

FROM: Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer 

SUBJECT: **Authorize License Agreement with Revive the San Joaquin to Plant and Maintain Native Trees and Shrubs on the Conservancy's Liddell Property**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Board approve a five-year license agreement with the Revive the San Joaquin (Revive), an 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.

SUMMARY:

Revive is requesting a five-year license agreement with the Conservancy to allow for the planting, irrigation, and maintenance of up to 2,856 native trees and shrubs on portions of the Conservancy's Liddell property.

Revive's proposed Liddell Property Habitat Enhancement Project will establish native trees and shrubs on approximately 55 acres of previously disturbed areas of the Liddell property (please see Attachment 1, Proposal, and Attachment 2, Map). The project includes the restoration planting, irrigation, and maintenance of native trees and shrubs on the project site, including maintenance and monitoring for five years. The plants will be irrigated from the pond adjacent to the nursery by a portable pump. Plantings on the northern half of the project may be supplied by groundwater irrigation systems existing at the golf course or portable pumps using water from the ponds. A part of the planted area is within the Bluff Pointe Golf Course lease. A letter of support from the operator of the golf course is attached to the proposal.

Revive has entered into a five-year agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (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 at the end of the five-year term. This initial planting may be followed by additional plantings in the future at the same site. PG&E will assist Revive with technical guidance and permitting.

The plantings would enhance Conservancy lands, while allowing mitigation planting in areas that best meet regional conservation goals. Habitat plantings in regional conservation areas like the San Joaquin River Parkway create greater wildlife benefits than incremental improvements

June 1, 2016
Agenda Item G-1

on fragmented, noncontiguous, and less protected lands. Beyond the five-year period of allowing revegetation activities on the Conservancy's property, the 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 in conservation or to protect or maintain the plantings. The Conservancy will have no obligation to achieve survival standards—that obligation will rest solely with Revive.

The following are specific goals and objectives identified by Revive for their habitat enhancement project.

- *Goal 1.* Restore self-sustaining riparian, upland, and wetland native plant communities to provide the public benefits of wildlife habitat protection and observation, environmental interpretation, and natural landscapes for future recreational use including shade and trails.
- *Goal 2.* Contribute to establishing wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity within the San Joaquin River Parkway.
- *Goal 3.* Facilitate Revive's contract with PG&E to plant, maintain, and monitor native riparian plants on the San Joaquin River.
- *Goal 4.* Provide limited access to lands being restored to promote increased opportunities for environmental education and stewardship.

A CEQA categorical exemption for minor alterations to land applies to the proposed action. Staff will prepare and post the categorical exemption at the State Clearinghouse. The following permits and approvals are required for implementation of the project:

1. A Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is in progress.
2. The State Water Resources Control Board requires a Statement of Use to be filed for a riparian diversion after the first year of operation.
3. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board requires a permit to be filed for projects within 300-feet of the State Designated Floodway. Initially, this project will not infringe on the designated floodway; therefore, no permit is needed.
4. The State Lands Commission requires a lease for any improvement project that lies within the Low Water Mark Boundary lines.
5. The Army Corps of Engineers requires a 404 Nationwide Permit 27 for habitat restoration within waters of the U.S., including wetlands. PG&E staff will be conducting a wetland delineation, an assessment to determine the appropriate permitting, and submitting an application where necessary based on consultation. If a 404 permit is required a 401 certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board will also be secured.

DISCUSSION:

Revive is a grassroots non-profit organization committed to the successful restoration of the San Joaquin River and the conservation of its natural resources. Their organizational goals include, but are not limited to: promoting a collective stewardship that sustains the economic, environmental, and recreational benefits of the San Joaquin River, including adequate flows, habitat, and native fisheries; conserving and enhancing the wildlife habitat and scenic values of the river; and promoting balanced management of the river to support restoration and economic activities related to the river.

When the Conservancy acquired the Liddell property in 2005, it assumed two existing leases on the property. One lease is currently held by lessees James Perez and Kevin Cameron, who operate the Bluff Pointe Golf Course facility on the property. Richard Rombold, who operated a fish farm business on the property, held the other lease. The fish farm lease has been terminated. The Bluff Pointe golf course remains operational under the lease agreement, which is in effect through 2031. The golf course is located on the northernmost portion of the property.

Revive has a license agreement to operate a native plant nursery at the former fish farm site. The agreement also allows educational programs including volunteer tree planting activities. However, since Revive is requesting use of the Liddell planting sites for five years, staff is recommending a license agreement specific to this planting proposal. The license agreement, like all other Conservancy license agreements, will require the licensee to meet the State's minimum insurance requirements and comply with all applicable laws, rules, ordinances, orders, and regulations. The Conservancy will reserve the right to revoke the license if Revive fails to meet the conditions of the license, by providing the licensee with 30 days written notice prior to the termination.



Rebecca Harris
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment 1

Liddell Property Habitat Enhancement Project

A Proposal by Revive the San Joaquin, Funded by Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Summary

Revive the San Joaquin (Revive) is requesting a License Agreement with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) to allow for the planting, irrigation, and maintenance of up to 2,856 trees and 2,856 shrubs on portions of the State-owned Liddell property under the Conservancy's management jurisdiction (hereinafter, Conservancy-owned property). The license would remain in effect for five years. The result of this planting will be to restore habitat diversity, provide riparian shading, resting cover, and food sources for fish and wildlife on the Conservancy's property and adjacent to the Milburn Unit of the San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve. This area has been identified for environmental restoration from historical sand and gravel mining in the Conservancy's San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan (1997; Parkway Master Plan). Restoration of the site would enhance conditions such that riparian plant associations could be re-established and native plants and animals would benefit.

Location and Property Description

Revive is proposing a native plant enhancement project on approximately 55 acres of the Conservancy-owned Liddell Property (APN# 502-020-43ST). The Liddell Property was previously used for a gravel mining operation which greatly modified the natural state of the riparian lands within this property. After the mining operation ceased, the site was left as four distinct terraces at varying elevations with a small riparian corridor along the river of approximately 20ft - 100ft bound by a small berm with a road. Approximately 14.7 acres along the bluff were then converted to use as a fish farming operation, which further modified the landscape creating a series of holding ponds that were excavated approximately 6ft below the surface level of this southernmost terrace and plumbed. The property was later purchased by the Conservancy, which assumed the existing leases with the fish farm operation and a golf course. The fish farm lease has been terminated. The Bluff Pointe golf course remains operational under a lease agreement on the northernmost portion of the property.

Project Description

The Liddell Property Habitat Enhancement project will establish native trees and shrubs on previously disturbed areas of the Liddell property. The project includes the restoration planting, irrigation and maintenance of native trees and shrubs on the project site, including maintenance and monitoring for five years. The plan contributes to the broader objective of restoring natural vegetation and enhancing ecological function to the San Joaquin River corridor below Friant Dam as envisioned by the Parkway Master Plan. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) is working on restoring hydrology, reconnecting habitat of the San Joaquin to the Merced River, and re-introducing Chinook salmon. Restoring riparian forest to the Liddell property will be an important contribution to the overarching goals of restoring the entire corridor.

The purpose and need for restoration are listed as Project Goals below:

Goal 1. Restore self-sustaining riparian, upland, and wetland native plant communities to provide the public benefits of wildlife habitat protection and observation, environmental interpretation, and natural landscapes for future recreational use including shade and trails.

Goal 2. Contribute to establishing wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity within the San Joaquin River Parkway.

Goal 3. Facilitate Revive the San Joaquin's contract with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to plant, maintain, and monitor native riparian plants on the San Joaquin River.

Goal 4. Provide limited access to lands being restored to promote increased opportunities for environmental education and stewardship.

Trees and shrubs will be established according to common native plant associations for Riparian Forest and Oak Woodlands based on the character of available planting locations within the project site. Plant communities will be established to support local and regional river restoration efforts and benefit Federal and State-listed Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Species that may potentially occur near the Liddell property. Propagation and plantings will be carried out by Revive staff and volunteers and conform to Best Management Practices and Avoidance and Minimization Measures for native plant establishment. It is estimated that 50-250 trees per acre will be planted over the total 55 acres. PG&E biologist and environmental staff will assist with technical guidance and permitting.

Irrigation water will be drawn from the pond adjacent to the native plant nursery by a portable pump to irrigate the new plants. Plantings on the northern half of the project may be supplied by groundwater irrigation systems existing at the golf course or portable pumps using water from the ponds. The total irrigation draws from the San Joaquin River or on-site wells would be a maximum of 0.071 acre feet of water over the project life, or up to 0.042 acre feet per year. Water supplies will be delivered to distributed storage tanks using portable pumps and then feed into a temporary (2-3yr) drip irrigation system. Water use recycling and efficiency measures will be included wherever possible or cost effective. A Statement of Use will be filed with the State Water Resources Control Board after one full year of irrigation.

Monitoring and maintenance will be carried out after installation of vegetation, for a duration of five years. Maintenance may include watering, surveys, cage maintenance, weed clearance, and other plant-health related activities. Access and use of the property by Revive the San Joaquin will be limited to project activities and environmental education subject to access limitations of 20 participants at any one time.

A part of the proposed planting area is within the Bluff Pointe Golf Course lease. A letter of support from the operator is attached.

Environmental Compliance

This request for a License Agreement with the Conservancy will facilitate the proposed scope of work described in the sections above, and further described in the *"PG&E Proposed Mitigation Plan for Trees Removed under the Master Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification No. 1600-2008-0001-0000-HQ,*

San Joaquin Habitat Conservation Plan” which will be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Department. The following is a list of permits and approvals that must be secured by Revive to implement the project:

1. A Streambank Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is in progress.
2. The State Water Resources Control Board requires a Statement of Use to be filed for a riparian diversion after the first year of operation.
3. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board requires a permit to be filed for projects within 300ft of the State Designated Floodway. Initially, this project will not infringe on the designated floodway, therefore no permit is needed.
4. The State Lands Commission requires a lease for any improvement project that lies within the Low Water Mark Boundary lines.
5. The Army Corps of Engineers requires a 404 Nationwide Permit 27 for habitat restoration within waters of the U.S., including wetlands. P.G.& E. staff will be conducting a wetland delineation, an assessment to determine the appropriate permitting, and submitting an application where necessary based on consultation. If a 404 permit is required a 401 certification from the Regional Water Quality Board will also be secured.

Funding

Revive the San Joaquin; a grassroots non-profit organization committed to restoration and conservation of the San Joaquin River will be implementing the plan, funded by a contract with PG&E. Revive is not requesting any additional funding for this project. The Liddell Property Native Plant Restoration Project is funded by under a Master Streambed Alteration Agreement Mitigation Agreement between Revive and P.G. & E., and will be carried out in partnership with the Conservancy, and Bluff Pointe Golf Course. Revive membership dues and donations will also be used to support the project actions.

Schedule

The following Table 1 shows a schedule and timeline for project activities to be conducted at the Liddell Property. Planting activity will be carried out as soon as permitting allows and installed trees will be maintained and monitored for a period of five years.

Table 1. Liddell Property Habitat Restoration Project Timeline

	2016				2017				2018				2019				2020			
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Planning and Permitting																				
Site Preparation																				
Irrigation Install																				
Planting																				
Maintenance																				
Monitoring																				
Management																				

Bluff Pointe Golf Course and Learning Center

8225 N. Milburn Ave.

Fresno, CA 93722

5/4/16

San Joaquin River Conservancy

5469 E. Olive Ave.

Fresno, CA 93727

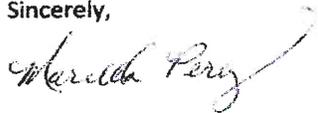
ATTN: Melinda Marks

RE: Proposal for a Revive the San Joaquin license agreement including restoration activities at the golf course

Dear Melinda Marks,

Bluff Pointe Golf Course and Learning Center operates a privately owned golf course under license agreement with the San Joaquin River Conservancy at the Liddell Property. We have reviewed the proposal for the Liddell Property Habitat Restoration Project as presented by Revive the San Joaquin. We understand that a portion of the proposed planting areas are located within the boundaries of the golf course operation, at the southern and northern edges of our property. We have reviewed the planting maps and are clear as to which areas are to be planted. We also understand that the trees planted are part of a mitigation agreement with P.G. &E. that requires those trees remain established for a minimum five year period. We support the effort to bring back native habitats and support the project and the proposed license agreement being presented to the Conservancy Board.

Sincerely,

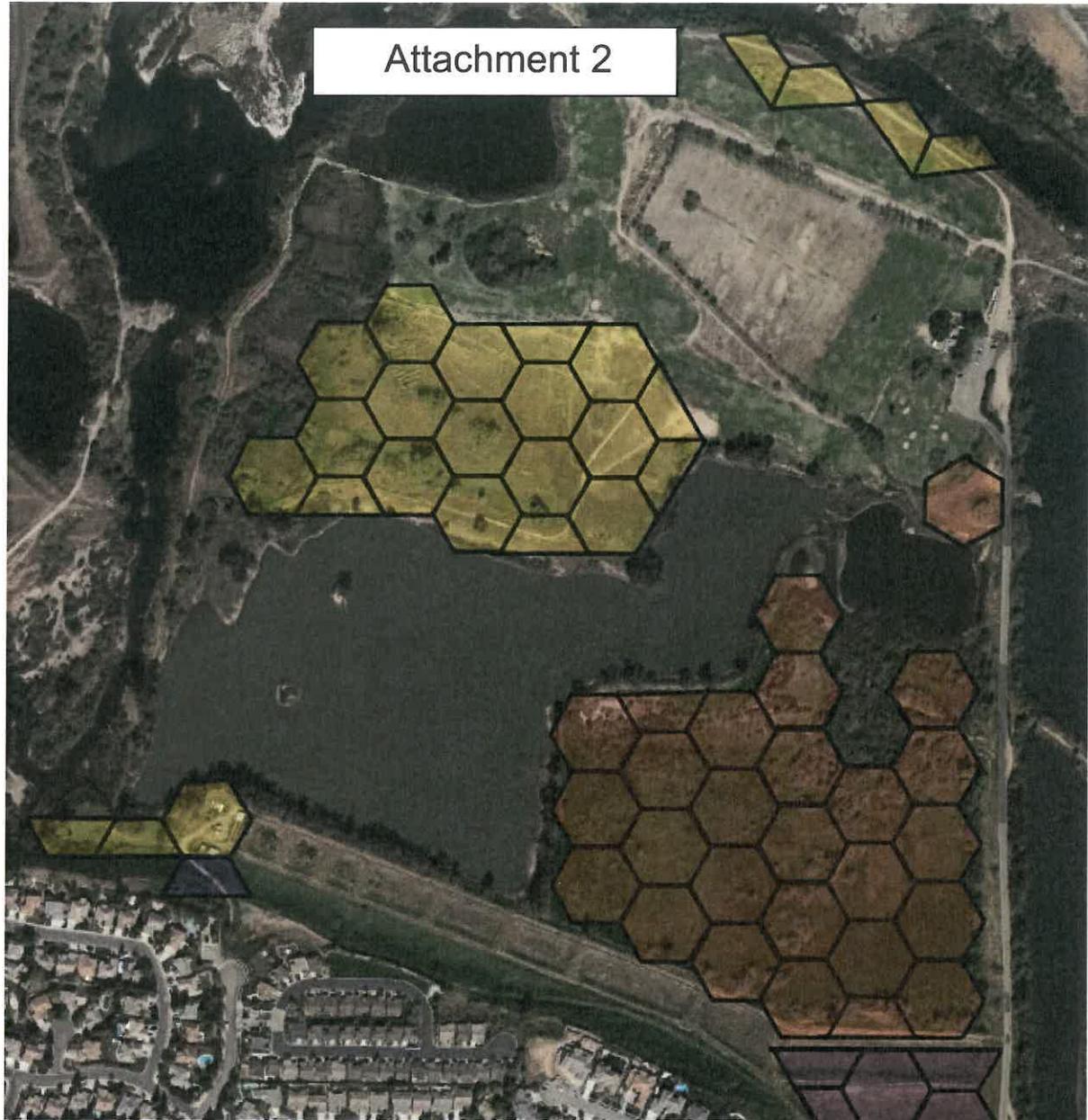


Jim Perez

Marcella Perez

Bluff Pointe Golf Course and Learning Center

Attachment 2

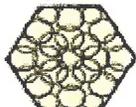


LIDDELL PROPERTY HABITAT RESTORATION PLANTING PLAN



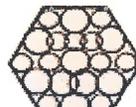
FLEXIBLE STEM RIPARIAN FOREST

32 TREES/ACRES - 20FT DIAM.



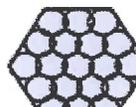
MIXED RIPARIAN FOREST 1

13 TREES/ACRES - 30FT DIAM.
9 TREES/ACRES - 20FT DIAM.



MIXED RIPARIAN FOREST 2

9 TREES/ACRES - 30FT DIAM.
15 TREES/ACRES - 20FT DIAM.



ONK WOODLAND

10 TREES/ACRES - 30FT DIAM.



HEXAGRAM = 1 ACRE



30 FT CROWN DIAMETER = .06 ACRES



20 FT CROWN DIAMETER = .03 ACRES

