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GOVERNING BOARD

Steve Brandau, Chairperson
Councilmember, City of Fresno

Andreas Borgeas, Vice-Chairperson
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Brett Frazier
Madera County Board of Supervisors

Derek Robinson
Councilmember, City of Madera

Barbara Goodwin, *Director*
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Carl Janzen, *Director*
Madera Irrigation District

Jeffrey Single, *Sr. Policy Advisor*
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

Eraina Ortega, *Chief Deputy Director*
Department of Finance

Bryn Forhan
 Paul Gibson
 Vacant
Citizen Representatives

Melinda S. Marks
Executive Officer

250.20

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

Item: E-1

MINUTES

**San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board
 Wednesday, May 20, 2015**

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
 and
 Department of Finance
 State Capitol, Room 1145
 Acorn Conference Room
 Sacramento, CA 95814

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Steve Brandau called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance

A. 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. Brian Davis	X			
Dr. Jeff Single	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. Harris confirmed that a quorum was present.

Legal Counsel Present: Michael Crow, Deputy Attorney General
via teleconference

Staff Present: Melinda Marks, Executive Officer
Joshua Morgan, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Rebecca Harris, Staff Services Analyst

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.

None

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 18, 2015

It was moved by Ms. Forhan and seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the minutes of March 18, 2015, as presented. The voting members unanimously passed the motion. Dr. Single and Mr. Donnelly abstained, as they were not present during the March meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Brian Davis	X		
Dr. Jeff Single			X
Mr. John Donnelly			X
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Karen Finn	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

F-1 River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Environmental Impact Report Update

Staff Recommendation: This report is provided for informational purposes. No Board action is recommended.

Chairperson Brandau requested to move F-1 for discussion.

Ms. Marks summarized the Conservancy Board's authorization in September 2014 to amend the agreement with URS Corp. (now owned by and operating as AECOM) to expand the scope of work, increase the budget, and extend the timeline for preparation of the River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In November 2014, Conservancy staff submitted the proposed amendment and non-competitive bid request to the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of General Services (DGS) for final review and approval. During this process, the agreement expired. In April 2015, DGS rejected the amendment on the basis that expired contracts cannot be amended. Mr. Joshua Morgan prepared a letter to DGS appealing the rejection based on the good cause late submittal clause outlined in the State Contracting Manual. As of Tuesday, May 19, DGS reversed its decision and approved the non-competitive bid. The Conservancy still has a couple of processes go through before issuing the notice to proceed and to resume the project.

Public Comment:

On inquiry from Mr. Barry Bauer, Ms. Marks reported that upon issuing a written notice to proceed, the amended agreement would provide the consultant 365 days to complete the expanded scope of work. It might take the consultant about six months after the notice to proceed is given, before the draft EIR is released for public review.

No action was taken.

G. DISCUSSION

G-1 Authorize Executive Officer to Execute Program Services Agreements as Recommended after Evaluation of Applications

- a. City of Fresno Life and Environmental Science Program,
- b. Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center, and
- c. San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve the recommendation by the evaluation panel to authorize program services agreements as follows (this action may be taken as one motion and vote, or as three separate motions and votes):

- a. City of Fresno Life and Environmental Science (LES) Program for \$14,299,
- b. Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center for \$3,000, and
- c. San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust for \$3,000.

Ms. Harris reviewed the purpose of the minor program services agreements and the application process. She reported that five applications were received and evaluated by the review panel. Four programs met the criteria stipulated in the application. Three were recommended for funding and the fourth would be presented to the Board when the scope of services is refined. The fifth proposal did not meet the objective of providing services on Conservancy properties and was not recommended for

funding. She summarized the services to be provided by each of the organizations through the proposed contracts, as further described in the staff report. Each contract will require invoices with itemized rates, services, and backup documentation, as well as year-end annual reports.

Public Comment:

Mr. Richard Sloan, River Tree Volunteers, expressed his support for the three recommended proposals.

On inquiry from Mr. Gibson, Mr. Sloan reported that there is a huge unmet need for programs that will take children to the river.

Ms. Irma Yopez-Perez, Grant Writer for City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Service Department, expressed that there is a “humongous” need in the community. PARCS is thankful for being able to collaborate with other organizations, including RiverTree and the Conservancy, to bring children to the river.

On inquiry from Mr. Gibson, Ms. Yopez-Perez confirmed that the LES program would need more funding in order to increase the number of participants to meet the demand.

Ms. Sharon Weaver, Executive Director of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, expressed thanks that their proposal had been recommended for funding. The Parkway Trust started this program to get more Madera County residents involved in the Parkway, by taking kids to locations that they can go back to with their parents.

Mr. Gibson commented that he had visited Sycamore Island, and complimented the Parkway Trust staff for its thoroughness in closing the site at the end of the day.

On inquiry from Mr. Brandau, Ms. Marks reported that the San Joaquin River Conservancy Fund generated by revenue from long-term property leases such as Bluff Pointe Golf Course and Vulcan Materials. These funds provide for basic repairs, maintenance, and management on Conservancy properties. A portion of the funds remaining in the 2014/2015 fiscal year budget would be utilized for these service agreements.

There was general discussion among Board members and staff regarding bond act requirements and whether the laws might be amended so that the funds could be used for operations and maintenance, rather than acquisitions and capital improvements.

Ms. Finn confirmed that the relevant bond acts as written and approved by the voters could only be used by the Conservancy for capital outlays.

Mr. Crow, Deputy Attorney General, offered to provide a briefing to address the Board's questions.

It was moved by Ms. Forhan and seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve staff's recommendation as presented in the staff report, item G-1, a., b., and c. The Board unanimously approved the motion on the following vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Derek Robinson	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Brian Davis	X		
Dr. Jeff Single	X		
Mr. John Donnelly	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Karen Finn	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		

G-2 Report on Feasibility of Connecting Bluff Pointe Golf Course Drinking Water to City of Fresno Municipal Water System, and Pending Transient Non-Community Drinking Water System Permit Application (carried over without prior discussion from the February 18 and March 18, 2015, agendas)

Staff Recommendation: This report is provided for informational purposes. The Board may provide general direction to staff; however, no formal Board action is recommended.

Mr. Morgan summarized the project: In 2013, the Board authorized \$20,000 in bond funds to complete all studies necessary to secure a transient non-community water system permit from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Bluff Pointe Golf Course drinking water system. The consultant, Blair, Church & Flynn Consulting Engineers completed the feasibility study and concluded that connecting to the municipal system might be infeasible after consulting with the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities. The Conservancy submitted a letter to the City Director of Public Utilities requesting that all City policies supporting the identified constraints be provided in writing so that the Conservancy and consultant can more accurately evaluate the costs and challenges associated with the municipal water system connection.

Mr. Gibson noted that a connection to municipal systems could give the Conservancy the ability to provide reliable drinking water on its properties. This is a stepping-stone to building facilities that could attract businesses to lease the property and/or have a concession.

Chairperson Brandau stated that he had called Mr. Thomas Esqueda, Director of Public Utilities for the City of Fresno, to discuss the possibility of a water system connection to the Bluff Pointe Golf Course. He reported that once Mr. Esqueda heard the rudimentary details, he is willing to discuss the possibility of a small service connection.

Mr. Borgeas stated that the County of Fresno and City of Fresno have an agreement to allow unincorporated areas with the City's sphere of influence to be served by City sewer and water systems.

Mr. Gibson stated that the Conservancy should work toward a comprehensive program to connect the Parkway to municipal infrastructure as the Parkway is built out.

Ms. Marks noted that the Parkway Master Plan could include a policy to connect to public infrastructure in close proximity to the Parkway.

No action was taken.

H. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

H-1 Organizations

H-1a San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

Ms. Weaver expressed appreciation for the general discussion among the Board and staff regarding operations and maintenance needs. She was recently selected as the new Executive Director for the Parkway Trust and one of her the goals is to help both the Parkway Trust and Conservancy figure out solutions to the operation and maintenance problem.

Ms. Weaver reported that the Parkway Trust launched a pilot program that took sixth grade students on three field trips to the river. Madera Unified is so satisfied with the program that they would like to send all 17 elementary schools. She introduced Ms. Sarah Parkes, Program Director, to share some stories about the program.

Ms. Parkes shared observations and comments from some of the several 1,000 students that participated in the field trips.

On inquiry from Mr. Brandau, Ms. Parkes reported that the sixth grade program costs \$25 per student, compared to science camp which can be from \$200-\$300 per student.

H-1b RiverTree Volunteers

Mr. Sloan reported on RiverTree Volunteers' activities, such as cleaning up abandoned camps at Palm and Nees area. They conducted five cleanup activities located across from Sycamore Island. With the help from the California Conservation Corps, they were able to clean up the abandoned camps on the Fresno side of the River. RiverTree has also been helping Department of Fish and Wildlife with the Small Fry Trail at the Fish Hatchery.

On inquiry from Mr. Gibson, Mr. Sloan reported that they are getting the support they need from other sources and did not apply for a Minor Program Services contract this year.

H-2 Deputy Attorney General

Mr. Crow had nothing to report

H-3 Executive Officer

Ms. Marks reported that Ms. Carolyn Nolan, the Madera County citizen representative on the Board, moved from Madera County to Fresno County and is no longer eligible to serve on the Board. Staff will be securing nominations for a replacement for the vacant position. Staff will be attending the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) meeting on May 21 for the gravel pit isolation project. With regard to the Jenco acquisition from the Jensen family, all documents are together and are now in review by the Department of General Services to approve that transaction. The Ball Ranch acquisition continues to be delayed; staff is hopeful the acquisition will be presented to the WCB in August. Ms. Marks expressed thanks to Mr. Morgan and Ms. Harris for processing multiple contracts before the end of the fiscal year. The Draft River Vista Mitigated Negative Declaration is being refined by staff and Madera County staff and will be released for public review in the summer. The Conservancy held the

workshops for Proposition 1 guidelines and there will be a staff report at the June meeting. There will be no Board meeting in July.

H-3a Committee Reports

None.

H-4 Board Members' Reports

Ms. Goodwin reported that the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has been monitoring a bill regarding homeless rights. This bill (SB 608) would give homeless people the right to sleep on public land and in their vehicles parked on public streets and roads. Staff stated they would route the bill to Board members.

Dr. Single stated that he has taken a new position as Senior Policy Advisor for the Department, and will continue to serve on the board. He will be working on the San Joaquin River Restoration Program and San Joaquin River Basin fishery management.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

J. NOTICE OF BOARD, ADVISORY, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

None.

K. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

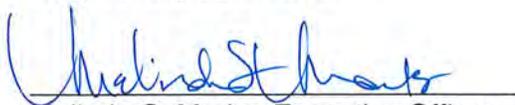
The next meeting of the Board will be held June 17, at 10:00 a.m. (Please note an earlier start time is observed March through October.)

L. ADJOURN

Chairperson Brandau adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:20 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