



SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Agenda Item

Item: G-1

May 15, 2013

TO: San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

FROM: Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Informational Report and Board Workshop on San Joaquin River Conservancy Mission and San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan**

RECOMMENDATION:

This informational workshop will provide an opportunity for the Board to examine and discuss among themselves the Conservancy's broad policies and plans. No formal action will be taken. At the discretion of the Board, the opportunity for public comment will be brief and limited at this meeting, and will be generally deferred to the public open house and meetings associated with the San Joaquin River Master Plan Update and to future meetings and hearings wherein specific actions will be considered.

SUMMARY:

The Conservancy Board adopted the San Joaquin River Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in December 1997. The plan is being updated, with public scoping for the Environmental Impact Report to begin in June 2013.

The Master Plan is being revised to reflect regulatory changes; the San Joaquin River Restoration Program; practices, programs, directives, and initiatives that have been developed over the years; lands acquired by the Conservancy; and site-specific adopted and conceptual plans. The core values and policies of the Parkway Master Plan have served the Parkway well, are being implemented cooperatively by the local agencies, and are proposed to remain largely unchanged.

The draft updated Master Plan has benefited from the guidance, involvement, and review of the Interagency Project Development Committee (see item H-3a) and a technical advisory committee consisting of representatives of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Parks and Recreation, Wildlife Conservation Board, State Lands Commission, County of Madera, and San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. City of Fresno Planning Department staff have been consulted to provide coordination between the Parkway Master Plan Update and the pending City of Fresno General Plan. The Planning Center|DC&E is preparing the Master Plan Update and EIR through a contract with the Conservancy.

This workshop will provide the Board an overview of the proposed Master Plan as a preview before the public scoping meeting and open house. Progress toward implementing the Parkway vision will be presented to provide context for the planning opportunities that are presented now,

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which were not available in 1997. The Board will have the opportunity to ask questions about the draft plan and discuss among themselves the direction the Conservancy should take over the next ten years as it implements the Master Plan.

This Board workshop will cover:

- A. Introduction—San Joaquin River Conservancy statutory mission
- B. Parkway accomplishments and progress, briefly
- C. Parkway Master Plan Update and Environmental Impact Report
 - 1. Review new proposed policies
 - 2. Review draft maps—review opportunities, Parkway trail alignments, the Parkway canoe trail, possible Natural Reserves
 - 3. Preview the illustrations of existing buffer policies
 - 4. EIR and public participation schedule

The Board's discussion and educational session at this meeting is only a first step toward the public participation process for the Master Plan Update and EIR. There will be public scoping meetings, formal comment periods on the Draft EIR, a final public hearing by the Board, and more committee involvement. There will be many formal and informal opportunities to allow the public, stakeholders, partners, and agencies to weigh-in.

Draft policies, maps and illustrations follow.