



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

MINUTES
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY BOARD
Wednesday, January 15, 2014

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

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

GOVERNING BOARD

- Steve Brandau, Chair
Councilmember, City of Fresno
- Andreas Borgeas, Vice-Chair
*Supervisor
Fresno County Board of Supervisors*
- Manuel Nevarez, Supervisor
Madera County Board of Supervisors
- Donald E. Holley
Councilmember, City of Madera
- Barbara Goodwin, Director
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
- Carl Janzen, Director
Madera Irrigation District
- Jeffrey Single, 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
- Eraina Ortega, Chief Deputy Director
Department of Finance
- Bryn Forhan
Paul Gibson
Carolyn Nolan
Citizen Representatives

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairperson Steve Brandau called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

Ms. Leana Lopez, who provided meeting support services, called roll.

Name	Present	Telecon- ference	Absent	Late
Mr. Manuel Nevarez, Chair			X	
Mr. Steve Brandau, V. Chair	X			
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X			
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X			
Ms. Barbara Goodwin				Arv. 10:45
Mr. Carl Janzen	X			
Dr. Jeff Single			X	
Mr. Kent Gresham	X			
Mr. John Donnelly			X	
Mr. Patrick Kemp		X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X			
Ms. Eraina Ortega		Present/non- voting		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X			
Mr. Paul Gibson	X			
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X			

Melinda S. Marks
Executive Officer

Ms. Ortega participated from her office due to constraints on her schedule, and therefore did not participate as a voting member. Ms. Lopez confirmed a quorum was present.

Legal Counsel Present: Michael Crow, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present: Melinda Marks, Executive Officer
Scott McFarlin, Wildlife Conservation Board (via tele-conference)
Leana Lopez, Office Assistant, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

A-1 Approve Rotation of Board Chairperson to Steve Brandau, Fresno City Council, and Vice-Chair to Andreas Borgeas, Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Borgeas noted that he was serving this year as Board of Supervisors' Chairperson, and Mr. Brandau was serving as Council President; therefore, they may have meeting conflicts due to their extra duties for their agencies. **Mr. Borgeas made a motion to approve the rotation of chairperson to Mr. Brandau and vice-chairperson to himself as recommended in the staff report, and to approve Mr. Holley to serve as chairperson pro tem if both the chair and vice-chair are absent at a meeting. Mr. Janzen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the voting members as follows:**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp (phone)	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	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. Radley Reep, Friends of Lost Lake Park, thanked the Board for funding improvements to the campground at the park, and requested that public involvement in the County of Fresno's conceptual master plan for the park be reinitiated.

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 November 20, 2013

Ms. Goodwin arrived at 10:45 a.m.

It was moved by Mr. Holley and seconded by Ms. Forhan to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed by unanimous vote as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp (phone)	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

F-1 Approve Meeting Calendar for 2014

Chairman Brandau pulled item F-1 for discussion, since there was a conflict with the meeting schedule for one Board member, Mr. Nevarez. After some discussion of alternatives, it was determined that most Board members had planned their schedules around the recommended schedule to routinely meet on the third Wednesdays of each month, and there was no alternative that would better minimize conflicts. The time for the meetings was also discussed, with the consensus to continue the established meeting times. **It was moved by Ms. Goodwin and seconded by Mr. Gibson to approve the schedule recommended in the staff report. The motion passed unanimously as follows:**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Steve Brandau	X		
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Carl Janzen	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp (phone)	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

G. DISCUSSION

G-1 Receive Presentation on Breached Gravel Ponds in the Parkway Reach of the San Joaquin River and Update Report on the Proposed Project at Gravel Pond 46e

Ms. Marks introduced the item and speakers, noting that the report was provided in follow-up to the discussion at the November 2013 meeting about the proposed project at gravel pond 46e. The Board had requested information about breached gravel ponds in the Parkway reach of the river and their impacts on the river and Parkway plans. Although there are breached gravel ponds and in-channel excavations throughout Reach 1, from Friant Dam to Skaggs Bridge, they are particularly prevalent on and adjacent to Conservancy lands in the River West area. The gravel pond 46e breach is a high priority for the Conservancy because the project will serve Conservancy's mission to provide for public access and recreation, as well as to restore habitat.

Mr. Dave Encinas, Department of Water Resources, presented aerial photos of the river in 1938 before gravel mining, contrasted to a post-mining aerial. He presented information on the numbers, locations, area of the gravel ponds, and volume extracted from gravel ponds and the channel. An astounding volume of gravel has been excavated from the river and floodplain, approximately 95% of it in the Parkway reach, and 30% in the River West area. These changes impact river function and habitat. In-channel excavations have affected sediment transport, incision, erosion, and flow line. Off-channel excavations constrict the channel, reduce floodplain area, increase erosion, attenuate flood flows, reduce peak flows, and affect sediment transport. All of the excavations have raised water temperature, creating unfavorable conditions for salmon. Warm water species thrive in ponds. The ponds will capture reintroduced salmon, where they become prey to bass and other warm water fish.

Mr. Encinas reported that the San Joaquin River Restoration Program settlement calls for isolation of gravel pits. Other projects, such as projects to reestablish a river channel between Gravelly Ford and the confluence of the Merced River, are high priorities. Gravel pit isolation projects to improve the outcome of salmon reintroduction are currently secondary priorities. The agencies are working to identify high-priority pits, determine temperature impacts, perform predator surveys, and develop pits for off-stream fishing to mitigate the potential impacts of the restoration on recreational fishing.

Mr. Steve Thao, Trout Unlimited Outreach Coordinator, distributed a letter from Dr. Rene Henery in support of the proposed project at pit 46e. Mr. Thao emphasized that the project will eliminate a

dangerous area for juvenile salmon and create new opportunities for off-stream fishing. A video of the Salmon Festival recently held at Lost Lake Park was shown to highlight the public's interest in the restoration program and in recreational fishing.

Public Comments:

Upon inquiries from Mr. John Lowkowski, Fresno resident, Ms. Marks explained the differing roles of the Conservancy and San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust in developing the Parkway, and Mr. Encinas explained that—in contrast to pre-dam conditions—there is no gravel, sand, and sediment moving from the upper watershed into the river below Friant Dam.

Board Comments:

Mr. Gibson asked about gravel reserves remaining in the region, and the potential for gravel extraction in areas mined in earlier times when mining was much shallower. Mr. Encinas noted that there are very few areas left with unmined reserves, although there may be some on the Conservancy's Spano property, and in areas with shallow excavations, such as Ball Ranch and Ledger Island, may have reserves.

Upon inquiry from Mr. Holley, Mr. Encinas explained the how the wider, slower river flows increased water temperatures. Salmon need to survive summers in the river, so slight temperature changes can be significant.

Upon inquiry from Mr. Brandau, Mr. Encinas listed the state and federal government agencies involved in the restoration investigations. Nonprofits, including Trout Unlimited, provide outreach and advocacy.

Mr. Janzen commented on the tight timelines and limited appropriations available to the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. He emphasized the need to be very conscientious in implementing the program.

This item was informational; no action was taken.

G-2 Receive Annual Report on Program Services, Many Lightnings American Indian Legacy Center

Many Lightnings was not available to present its report. Chairman Brandau postponed this item to the next meeting.

G-3 Receive Annual Report on Services at Sycamore Island, Ball Ranch, and Camp Pashayan, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

Ms. Sharon Weaver, River Parkway Trust, provided a summary of operations for the 2013 season at Camp Pashayan, Ball Ranch, and Sycamore Island. The Trust is concession contractor at Sycamore Island, agreed to operate Camp Pashayan for five seasons, and opened Ball Ranch for a pilot project with a minor amount of supplemental funding from the Bureau of Reclamation. User fees did not cover costs this year, and the Trust will be working to draw new users.

Ball Ranch—March and April had the highest attendance and “happy anglers”; they would like to open only in March and April in 2014, open more of the property for public use, create a “base” for the staff, and increase maintenance of the dirt roads; there might not be outside funding for this program in 2014.

Sycamore Island—served 5,238 visitors, with the highest use in early spring; they plan to have new events and sponsor the Fishing Derby a second time to draw new visitors; they report that the traditional clientele has expressed their appreciation for the Trust's operations; the needs at the site include grading and graveling the road, a potable water system, and more vault toilet restrooms; they will request changes in the agreement to allow reduced staffing at times, and they would like to have assistance with the cost of portable toilets and hand-washing stations.

Camp Pashayan—there were only 330 visitors over five months of weekend operations; they plan to draw more families, increase use for water play and the good boating access; they will request changing the season to cover the summer months.

Public Comments:

None.

Board Comments:

Ms. Forhan expressed appreciation for the Trust's services, and encouraged them to allow increased outreach and word-of-mouth to improve visitation before reducing services.

Mr. Holley cautioned that providing two staff at Sycamore Island at all times may be necessary to provide for employees' and visitors' safety.

Ms. Goodwin noted the potential for outreach to service clubs to help increase visitors.

Mr. Janzen expressed his pleasure at hearing that the visitors are satisfied with operations at Sycamore Island. He noted that the short water supply will result in reduced flows in the river and reduced water levels in the ponds.

This item was informational; no action was taken.

G-4 Appoint Board Members to Ad Hoc Committee: Strategic Direction for Developing Operations and Maintenance Resources for the San Joaquin River Parkway (*carried over from the November 20, 2013, meeting*)

After brief introduction of the issue by staff, Mr. Borgeas spoke in support of establishing a committee as recommended in the staff report to explore partnerships, leverage funding, capitalize on alliances, explore ballot initiatives and assessments, etc. It was noted that as an ad hoc committee, it would focus on developing more immediate strategic direction and identify tasks to develop reliable resources to operate and maintain the Parkway. If its activities develop into a standing Board committee the meetings will be publicly noticed.

Board comments:

Board members discussed the desire to include representatives for Fresno city, Fresno county, and Madera county.

Ms. Forhan stated that the lack of operations and maintenance resources is holding back development of Parkway public access and recreation.

Ms. Nolan expressed her agreement that the key issue is operations and maintenance resources.

Due to other obligations, Chairman Brandau left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.; Vice-Chairman Borgeas continued the meeting. Mr. Janzen and Ms. Forhan left at approximately 12:35 p.m. A quorum of members remained.

Public comments:

Richard Sloan, River Tree Volunteers, noted that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has enlisted the support of core business groups.

Ms. Weaver expressed the support of the River Parkway Trust.

Mr. Borgeas moved, and Mr. McKown seconded a motion for Mr. Borgeas, Mr. Brandau, and Ms. Nolan to serve on the ad hoc committee. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Mr. Andreas Borgeas	X		
Mr. Donald E. Holley	X		
Ms. Barbara Goodwin	X		
Mr. Kent Gresham	X		
Mr. Patrick Kemp (phone)	X		
Mr. Michael McKown	X		
Mr. Paul Gibson	X		
Ms. Carolyn Nolan	X		

H. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

H-1 Organizations

H-1a San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

Ms. Weaver introduced Mr. Tom Stearn, the River Parkway Trust's new park operations supervisor.

H-1b River Tree Volunteers

Mr. Richard Sloan reported on a large project at River Vista, where River Tree enlisted volunteers from a local club, Central Valley Prospectors, to fill holes and cleanup litter left behind by gold panning hobbyists.

H-2 Deputy Attorney General

No report.

H-3 Executive Officer

Ms. Marks thanked Ms. Lopez for her assistance at the meeting, and reported on the Governor's proposed fiscal year 14-15 budget for the Conservancy, AB 1506 introduced by Assemblymember Perea to provide for infraction penalties for violation of Conservancy regulations, progress on the Lost Lake Park campground

improvement project, the Notice to Proceed for URS to perform the Environmental Impact Report for the River West Fresno project, and other current activities.

H-3a Committee Reports

None.

H-4 Board Members' Reports

Mr. Holley requested staff to distribute Board members' contact information among the Board members.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Public Comment:

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

There was no public comment. The Board convened in closed session at approximately 12:45 p.m.

I-1 Government Code Section 54956.8
Consultation with real property negotiators concerning lease negotiations

Lease: Islewood Golf Course
APN 502-020-46P (Fresno County)

Negotiating Parties: Mr. Don and Mrs. Sarah Jones, lessees

Agency Negotiators: Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer
Michael Crow, Attorney General's Office

Mr. Crow reported out of Executive Session that the Board received a status report about the subject lease; no action was taken.

J. NOTICE OF BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

None.

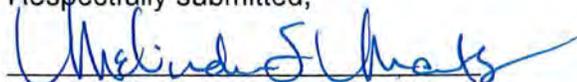
K. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Board will be held February 19, at 10:30 a.m. (Please note a later start time is observed November through February.)

L. ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Holley, second by Mr. Gibson, and unanimous consent of the members, Vice-Chairman Borgeas adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer