



River West, Eaton Trail Extension Project
Public Scoping Meeting
June 17, 2014

Welcome

This is an Open House style public scoping meeting. It provides the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and alternatives; identify relevant environmental issues and mitigation measures, and provide written comments to the San Joaquin River Conservancy about the issues that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report. Maps showing the proposed project and four alternatives are on display for viewing.

The proposed project and the alternatives were developed from comments provided at previous public scoping meetings. Please sign in, walk around and view the displays, and write your ideas and comments on comments cards available at the sign in table.

If you have questions, please ask anyone wearing a name tag.

Please return comment cards to the sign-in table; you can also send comments by email to melinda.marks@sjrc.ca.gov or by mail to:

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Project Description

The San Joaquin River Conservancy is proposing to extend the existing Eaton Trail from State Route 41 downstream to Spano Park within the San Joaquin River Parkway. The trail would be extended by about 2.5 miles, 22-foot wide with a 12-foot wide paved surface, a parallel 8-foot wide hard natural surface and a 2-foot buffer. The trail will provide opportunities for equestrian use, hiking, bicycling, fishing, and nature observation, consistent with the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan. Unimproved hiking paths to the riverbank will be connected to the trail. The paths may be widened to 6 feet and overlaid with a natural/gravel surface.

A wide staircase with bicycle guides may be constructed from Spano Park to the trail below. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the proposed trail will be provided at three locations: Spano Park, and the W. Riverview Drive and Churchill Ave entrances to the Bluff Trail.

A proposed 12-foot wide trail will connect the Bluff Trail to the proposed Trail extension. The connecting trail would be constructed on the steep bluff slope.

The proposed Project will include a controlled vehicle entrance and a 50-stall parking lot adjacent to SR 41. Vehicle access to the parking lot will be provided by the Perrin Avenue undercrossing of SR 41. The parking area will provide trail access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The parking lot will include up to 3 horse trailer stalls, potable water and a two-vault accessible restroom. A second single vault accessible restroom will be provided along the Trail near the Spano Park stairway.

The trail will be landscaped at intervals with native vegetation for habitat enhancement and shade. Vegetation creating shade and visual buffers will be established at the parking lot. Landscaping will be irrigated until vegetation is permanently established. Picnic tables, benches, and wildlife observations areas will be provided along the trail at various locations.

Alternatives

In addition to the Project as proposed, four alternatives will be evaluated in the EIR. The alternatives are:

1. **Added Parking:** In this alternative an additional controlled vehicle entrance and a public 40-stall parking lot between the H pond and E pond will be provided. A paved road from W. Riverview Drive to the parking lot will provide access. This parking area would not accommodate horse trailers. The added parking could be approved in combination with the proposed or alternative trail alignments.
2. **Commuter Trail Alignment:** In this alternative, the multi-use Trail would be aligned about 300 feet from the base of the bluff. The trail alignment as described in the proposed project description would not be constructed; however, all other amenities described in the proposed project, including the proposed parking lot, landscaping and restrooms will be provided, and the additional parking as described in Alternative 1 may be provided.
3. **River's Edge Trail Alignment:** In this alternative the multi-use Trail would be aligned on the river's edge in the more southerly portion of the site, and remain as proposed in the northerly portion of the site. All other amenities described in the proposed project, including the parking lot, landscaping and restrooms will be provided, and the additional parking as described in Alternative 1 may be provided.
4. **No Parking:** In this alternative no public parking or trailering would be provided on-site. The Trail would be constructed on the proposed or alternative trail alignments. All entrances would be walk-in/bicycle-in only. All amenities other than the entrance station and parking landscaping described in the proposed project would be provided.