

APPENDIX A2

Notice of Availability for the Partially Revised DEIR



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TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

FROM: Melinda Marks, Executive Officer
 San Joaquin River Conservancy

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Partially Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Joaquin River Conservancy River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21091 and 21092, and California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (State CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15087, and 15105, that a Partially Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the San Joaquin River Conservancy River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project (proposed project), State Clearinghouse No. 2014061017, is available for public review from August 17, 2017, through October 2, 2017.

PROJECT TITLE: San Joaquin River Conservancy River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The study area is located along the San Joaquin River between State Route (SR) 41 and Spano Park within the city limits of Fresno. The boundary extends from the San Joaquin River south to the bluffs and westward from SR 41 to Spano Park, near the intersection of Palm Avenue and Nees Avenue. The project area is sited within Sections 21, 28, and 29 of Township 12S, Range 20E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, Fresno North 7.5-minute series, U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project plans to extend the existing Lewis S. Eaton Trail by constructing a multipurpose trail extension approximately 2.4 miles, from the Perrin Avenue alignment near SR 41 on the east to Spano Park on the west. The trail would be about 22 feet wide, with a 12-foot-wide paved surface, a parallel 8-foot-wide hard natural surface for equestrian use, and a 2-foot shoulder (opposite the natural surface area) and generally would proceed from SR 41 to a point below the Spano Park overlook.

A parking lot (Perrin Avenue parking lot) for 50 vehicles with a controlled vehicle entrance would be constructed adjacent to SR 41. Vehicular access to the parking lot would be at the Perrin Avenue undercrossing of SR 41. A gate and unmanned parking pay station would be included to manage vehicle access.

Pedestrian and bicycle access would be provided at four locations: Perrin Avenue, Spano Park, and the West Riverview Drive and Churchill Avenue entrances to the Bluff Trail. An emergency/service

gate would provide access to the trail extension for emergency first responders and maintenance staff.

The trail extension would be landscaped at intervals with native vegetation for habitat enhancement, visual screening, and shade. Picnic areas, tables, benches, public safety and information signs, and wildlife observation areas would be provided along the trail extension at various locations. An Americans with Disabilities Act–accessible vault restroom would be included at the Perrin Avenue parking area and near the toe of Spano Park. Portions of the alternative trail alignments travel across land that was formerly used as a landfill and listed by Gov. Code 65962.5 as a Cortese site.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS AND PURPOSE OF PARTIALLY REVISED DEIR: The San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy), as Lead Agency, previously circulated a DEIR for a 45-day public review period from February 15, 2017, to April 15, 2017. The DEIR analyzed the proposed project’s impacts on all 17 environmental topic areas: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems. The DEIR analysis determined that with implementation of best management practices and application of proposed mitigation measures (e.g., for Aesthetics and for Biological Resources), all potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed project would be avoided or reduced to less-than-significant levels.

The EIR also analyzed a no project alternative and 5 action alternatives, and discussed proposed mitigation measures to minimize, offset, reduce, or avoid significant environmental impacts. The Conservancy has determined that various sections of the DEIR for the San Joaquin River Conservancy River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2014061017) should be revised and recirculated to analyze a new public access alternative, Alternative 5B, and to revise other portions of the EIR to address issues raised in comments received during the public review of the original DEIR.

Consistent with the procedures in CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5, the following sections and chapters from the circulated DEIR have been revised in the Partially Revised DEIR:

- Section 3.11, “Land Use and Planning”
- Section 3.17, “Transportation”
- Section 4.2, “Environmental Justice—Disadvantaged Communities”
- Chapter 5, “Alternatives”

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: This Notice of Availability, the Partially Revised DEIR, and all other documents referenced in the DEIR are available for public review at the Conservancy website, www.sjrc.ca.gov, from August 17, 2017, through October 2, 2017. A printed copy of the Partially Revised DEIR may also be viewed at the San Joaquin River Conservancy, 5469 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727, during regular business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. An electronic copy of the Partially Revised DEIR on CD may be requested from the Conservancy by calling (559) 253-7324.

COMMENTS: Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties, including members of the public, must submit any comments on the Partially Revised DEIR in response to this notice no later than October 2, 2017. Please send written comments by first-class mail to Melinda Marks, Executive Officer, San Joaquin River

Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

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Conservancy, 5469 E Olive Ave., Fresno, CA 93727, or via electronic mail to Melinda.Marks@sjrc.ca.gov with the subject line "Partially Revised Circulated DEIR" **Comments must be postmarked or emailed by October 2, 2017.**

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5(f)(2), the Conservancy requests that reviewers limit their comments to the revised text provided in the Partially Revised DEIR. The Conservancy will prepare a Final EIR that will address comments previously received on the original DEIR as well as new comments submitted on the Partially Revised DEIR.