BOARD MEETING REMINDER

The **March 4, 2020** Board meeting will begin at **10:00 a.m.** at the **Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board Room.**

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

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

GOVERNING BOARD

Mike Karbassi, *Chairperson*
Councilmember, City of Fresno

Steve Brandau, *Vice-Chairperson*
Supervisor
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Brett Frazier,
Supervisor
Madera County Board of Supervisors

Santos Garcia
Councilmember, City of Madera

Kacey Auston, *Director*
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Carl Janzen, *Director*
Madera Irrigation District

Julie Vance, *Regional Manager*
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Kent Gresham, *Sector Superintendent*
Department of Parks and Recreation

John Donnelly, *Executive Director*
Wildlife Conservation Board

Bryan Cash, *Assistant Secretary*
Natural Resources Agency

Jennifer Lucchesi, *Executive Officer*
State Lands Commission

Karen Finn, *Program Budget Manager*
Department of Finance

Bryn Forhan
Paul Gibson
Vacant
Citizen Representatives

John M. Shelton, *Executive Officer*

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

The San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board will hold a regular meeting on
Wednesday, March 4, 2020,
commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting Location:
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
5469 E. Olive Ave., Fresno, CA 93727

The following location is also open to Board members and the public for attendance via phone conference:
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. ROLL CALL

B. 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))

C. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
Any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may identify the item and recuse themselves from discussion and voting on the matter. (FPPC §97105)

D. PUBLIC COMMENT & BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR
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 not on the agenda and 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.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

E-1 ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes of January 8, 2020

E-2 ACTION ITEM: Authorize Agreements for Fire Prevention/Weed Abatement on Specific Conservancy Properties

F. REGULAR SESSION ITEMS

There are no regular session items.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Information Items. No action of the Board is recommended.

G-1 Organizations' Reports: If time allows, the following oral reports will be provided for informational purposes only, and may be accompanied by written reports in the Board packet.

G-1a. San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

G-1b. RiverTree Volunteers

G-2 Deputy Attorney General Report

G-3 Executive Officer Report

G-4 Board Members' Reports and Comments

H. CLOSED SESSION

Before convening in closed session, members of the public will be provided the opportunity to comment on Executive Session agenda items.

H-1 Government Code Section 54956.8

Consultation with real property negotiators concerning terms of negotiations, including price and terms of payment.

Property:	Slenders Madera County (APNs 048-280-009 and 048-280-011)
Negotiating Parties:	Andrew John and Arlete Slenders
Agency Negotiators:	John M. Shelton, San Joaquin River Conservancy Daniel Vasquez, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

H-2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION

Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9.

San Joaquin River Access Corporation v. San Joaquin River Conservancy and specified Board members, Superior Court of California, County of Fresno Case #19CECG01138

I. NOTICE OF ADVISORY AND BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS, OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS RELATED TO CONSERVANCY MATTERS

None.

J. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2020, location to be determined.

K. ADJOURN

Board meeting notices, agendas, staff reports, 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 the Conservancy at (559) 253-7324.

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GOVERNING BOARD

Brett Frazier, Chairperson
Supervisor,
Madera County Board of Supervisors

Santos Garcia, *Councilmember*
City of Madera

Steve Brandau, *Supervisor*
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Mike Karbassi, *Councilmember*
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John M. Shelton
Executive Officer

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Board Meeting Location:
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
5469 E. Olive Ave., Fresno CA 93727
and
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Ms. Forhan called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and Mr. Karbassi led the pledge of allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

Name	Present	Telecon-ference	Absent	Late
Mr. Frazier			X	
Mr. Garcia			X	
Mr. Brandau	X			
Mr. Karbassi	X			
Ms. Auston			X	
Mr. Janzen	X			
Ms. Vance	X			
Mr. Gresham	X			
Mr. Donnelly	X			
Mr. Cash		X		
Ms. Lucchesi	X			
Ms. Finn	X			
Ms. Forhan	X			
Mr. Gibson			X	

Ms. Gavina confirmed a quorum was present.

Legal Counsel Present: David Pai, Deputy Attorney General
Deborah Halberstadt, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present: John Shelton, Executive Officer
Rebecca Raus, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Vanessa Gavina, Staff Services Analyst
Heidi West, Program Manager, San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

A-1 ACTION ITEM: Approve Rotation of Board Chairperson to the City of Fresno Council Member Representative, and Vice-Chairperson to the County of Fresno Board of Supervisors Representative

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board nominate and elect a new chairperson, the City of Fresno Council Member representative, as provided for in the San Joaquin River Conservancy Act, and a vice-chairperson, the County of Fresno Board of Supervisors Representative, each to serve a two-year term of office.

Mr. Janzen moved to approve the action item as recommended; the motion was seconded by Mr. Brandau. The motion passed as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Brandau	X		
Mr. Karbassi	X		
Mr. Janzen	X		
Ms. Vance	X		
Mr. Gresham	X		
Mr. Donnelly	X		
Mr. Cash	X		
Ms. Lucchesi	X		
Ms. Finn	X		
Ms. Forhan	X		

B. 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))

There were no additions to the Agenda.

C. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may identify the item and recuse themselves from discussion and voting on the matter. (FPPC §97105)

There were no potential conflicts of interest.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT & BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

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 not on the agenda and 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. Patrick Soles, a Fresno resident with Solar Environmental Consulting, mentioned that he was not there for any particular agenda item, but he wanted to thank the board members for being present, and he also appreciates members from Sacramento taking the time to come down.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

E-1 ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes of December 4, 2019

Ms. Forhan asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the previous minutes.

Ms. Finn stated that the December minutes needed to be revised on the "Roll Call" portion to reflect that she was in attendance via teleconference.

E-2 INFORMATION ITEM: Reminder to File Statements of Economic Interest and Complete Biennial Ethics Training, Due Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Mr. Brandau moved to approve the Consent Calendar, with the minutes amended as recommended; the motion was seconded by Mr. Karbassi. The motion passed as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Brandau	x		
Mr. Karbassi	x		
Mr. Janzen	x		
Ms. Vance	x		
Mr. Gresham	x		
Mr. Donnelly	x		
Mr. Cash	x		
Mr. Lucchesi	x		
Ms. Finn	x		
Ms. Forhan	x		

F. REGULAR SESSION ITEMS

F-1 ACTION ITEM: Authorize Agreement with San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. for a Concession to Provide Public Access and Recreation Services at Sycamore Island and the Van Buren Unit for a Five-Year Term beginning February 2020, as Selected through a Request for Proposals.

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Board authorize the Executive Officer to execute a concession agreement to operate Sycamore Island and the Van Buren Unit with the Parkway Trust substantially in the form of the attached agreement (Exhibit A), to expire December 31, 2024, unless terminated or revoked. Included in that authorization is acceptance of the Parkway Trust's schedule of fees, payments, and operations included in the proposal dated November 13, 2019, except as refined during negotiations as discussed below.

Mr. Shelton stated that the Conservancy released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Sycamore Island Recreation Operations, Programs, Retail, Rental, and Caretaking Services on October 9, 2019. Notices were published in both the Fresno Bee and Madera Tribune, and were e-mailed to known possible candidates. The Conservancy received one written proposal on the deadline of November 13 from the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Parkway Trust). On December 12, the proposal was evaluated by Conservancy staff, Board member Paul Gibson, and Cheryl Moxley from Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). The five panelists reached a strong consensus and recommended the Parkway Trust as the concessionaire.

In the written proposal the Parkway Trust committed to providing the minimum, or "baseline" services, including opening the site on Fridays, weekends, and holidays from February through October, collecting fees, providing bottled water and snack items, providing routine facility and grounds maintenance, and providing two on-site trained park hosts at all times, overseeing visitor activities and communicating with visitors.

The Parkway Trust is in a strong position to continue to expand the educational and recreational programs at the site for underserved residents of the region. They have and will continue to collaborate on various environmental organizations to increase programs and activities. They have fairly strong marketing to promote the Sycamore Island program and services through their proven advertising capabilities.

Mr. Shelton further added that the Parkway Trust does a very good job working with the school districts to get camps and other events at Sycamore Island. They also leverage ongoing habitat restoration, invasive weed removal programs, and the hours of operations cover the highest use-times. The Conservancy hopes are to have expanded operations in the future, but the Parkway Trust's proposal has the baseline days covered. Reduced fees and public access to specific programs and target groups will be offered.

However, the following must be in place to be able to reopen for the 2020 season: the agreement needs to be signed off by legal counsel and the Department of General Services; certificates of insurance obtained; portable toilets secured (Mr. Shelton noted that we do have restrooms there, but there are several areas that also have portable toilets); waste receptacles placed where needed; staff trained; and a $7,000 dollar performance bond posted. Mr. Shelton stated that he is confident we will be able to meet all of those requirements. The term of the agreement expires in 5 years, (December 31st, 2024) and can possibly be extended to 10 years (December 31st, 2029). This extension could be accomplished without another RFP, though the Board will need to act on extending the agreement.

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Executive Officer to execute the concession agreement operating "Sycamore Island and the Van Buran Unit with the Parkway Trust in the form of the attached agreement to expire December 31, 2024, unless terminated or revoked. Included in the authorization are the Parkway Trust's schedule, payment, fees, and other operations included in the proposal dated November 13, 2009, except as refined in negotiations as discussed below." Mr. Shelton invited Mr. Jake Salimbene up to present.

Mr. Salimbene thanked the Board and stated that the Parkway Trust is honored to receive the opportunity to continue park operations at Sycamore Island. The property is an extremely special place to the Parkway Trust, as it gives immense amount of recreational value right here in our own backyard. During the last concessionaire agreement, they were able to provide tremendous opportunities to the public in their weekend operations along with special programs and events. He described how the fishing was one of the backbones of the operations and the different types of fish that are found at Sycamore Island. He also mentioned that over the past couple of years, carp fishing has really taken off. He noted that fishing is just the tip of the iceberg, and that the park presents other recreational opportunities such as educational programs and community events as well. It's these opportunities that the Parkway Trust hopes to expand with the a new concessionaire agreement, with the ultimate goal of increasing the viability of the park, and being able to increase the hours of operation of the park to be able to provide more access to everybody.

He highlighted some of the events they're gearing up for such as the 4th Annual Sycamore Island 5k & 10k Run with San Joaquin Running, which is coming up at the end of the month. He mentioned that they have had a great turnout in the past. Through a partnership with the neighboring Valley Children's, they've hosted the adaptive sport's clinics and provided free recreational visits for those under 21 with disabilities. The Parkway Trust is involved in education programs, as well. They are continuing to host the Madera School District's 6th grade outdoor education for all of Madera Unified. The many activities involved include a scavenger hunt where they photograph items that they find in the scavenger hunt. They also get to canoe in the calm waters of the ponds, which provides a safe experience for beginning paddlers. Clovis Unified has approved trips at Sycamore Island, and they are looking forward to expanding their school programs.

Ms. Vance asked if the RFP had come before the Board before it was released.

Ms. Raus confirmed that it did at the June board meeting.

Ms. Vance inquired about the budget because she did not see a listing of projected expenses and projected income. She clarified that 2% would come to the Conservancy and what it would represent with the projected and overall profit.

Mr. Shelton was uncertain if it was disclosed in the packet what their existing revenues are. However, it's based on what the revenues have been and is arranged that they don't bring a lot of excess funding. Although this might change in the future, it's going to be complicated to evaluate because the park is getting increased hikers/bikers that do not pay a fee, which can be difficult when paying personnel costs. The snack bar and bait shop have been progressing, and people are starting to rent kayaks which also increases opportunities. Another opportunity is informing mountain bikers that tool kits and tubes will be available and sold there. There may be

other prospects for revenue. Also, the Conservancy is still working on getting the Madera River West proposal through to build facilities on the Van Buran properties. If that happens, a new negotiation will be necessary on how it is managed because that will increase the amount of operations and maintenance. Although it might not happen within five years, we are hoping that it goes relatively soon. There is a CEQA document with Madera County already in place, so it's mostly just a matter of getting a request to start building.

Ms. Vance indicated that there are two things that can happen if profits start increasing beyond what happened in past years, either 1) reduce your entrance fees, or, 2) increase profits coming to the Conservancy. It doesn't look like there is an assessment mid-period to do that.

Mr. Shelton responded that there is the ability to renegotiate as it develops.

Ms. Forhan questioned if we have an annual review other than the five-year and the number of visitors that utilize the park. She reinforced that it should be reviewed and assessed annually, and not examined after the five-year period.

Mr. Shelton agreed, saying it was good idea, but that there are other ways to get information to the Board. He offered that reports from the Parkway Trust are available, and it is much better to bring them in front of the Board by having a presentation with a Parkway Trust representative able discuss and share it. They are looking at ways to cut costs. The Conservancy has had discussions with the Parkway Trust about potentially operating Wildwood Park. Their overhead costs have been very reasonable in the past, however, future overhead costs are uncertain. The hope is that the concessionaire will bring in more revenue with the bait shop as a big driver. He agreed with Ms. Vance and believes we can decrease fees when this happens; and although he would like to increase revenue on the properties, he would like to see more people out there.

Ms. Finn noticed when she was reviewing the contract that there was a section "O" under 7 (page 5) which was still in brackets about irrigation services, and she wanted to know if that has been decided.

Mr. Shelton clarified that a lot of it was taken from the existing contract language. He was unsure if irrigation was still occurring. There noted that there are potentially some new restoration areas, a new fishing pier, and revegetation happening. He believes that we will have to negotiate some things and clarified that not much is being irrigated right now.

Ms. Finn asked if that will be part of the contract.

Mr. Shelton replied that we need to discuss with the Parkway Trust what they are currently doing, and if it is still necessary. He asked Mr. Salimbene if any current irrigation was going on. In the existing contract, irrigation had occurred but may not be continuing. We left it in the draft in case it was needed going forward. That is why they had it in brackets. It is a draft contract, and Conservancy staff haven't ran it through the Parkway Trust yet. Staff will go back and revise it.

Ms. Finn mentioned that there is a section that talks about ADA requirements on Section 6, but that there is a general ADA on Section 32, and wondered who is ultimately responsible for ADA,

if they were in conflict, or if one was intended to be more specific. Then, it talks in regard to all operations and activities the contractor will be responsible for ADA.

Mr. Shelton responded that we will review it. The way that things have operated in the past, any of the capital improvements are the responsibility of the Conservancy.

Ms. Forhan asked if there was input from the public regarding the item on agenda, and then brought it back to the Board.

Ms. Lucchesi commented based on Ms. Finn's questions, and inquired if the Board needed to delegate the Executive Officer to make some of those changes pursuant to further negotiations with the Trust.

Ms. Lucchesi moved to approve staff's recommendation with the two additions of delegating the Executive Officer the authority to continue negotiating with the trust on Sections 6, 7, and 32 and also request that in coordination with the Trust, staff bring back an annual review of the agreement and implementation to the Board; the motion was seconded by Mr. Janzen. The motion passed as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Brandau	x		
Mr. Karbassi	x		
Mr. Janzen	x		
Ms. Vance	x		
Mr. Gresham	x		
Mr. Donnelly	x		
Mr. Cash	x		
Mr. Lucchesi	x		
Ms. Finn	x		
Ms. Forhan	x		

F-2 ACTION ITEM: Appointment of Board Ad Hoc Committee, Annual Evaluation of Executive Officer

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the Chairman appoint Board members to serve on ad hoc committee to perform routine annual evaluation of the Executive Officer, with a report to the Board in closed session at the March 2020 meeting.

Mr. Shelton mentioned that it is a similar process they've implemented before with the retired Executive Officer, Melinda Marks, to have an annual review and assess salary. The idea is to get a subcommittee/ad hoc committee together to be able to evaluate this and have these discussions. He also pointed out that there is a recommendation not to have a February Board Meeting since there aren't any action items needed at this time. This meeting-schedule change allows the subcommittee a couple of months to work on the evaluation.

Ms. Forhan asked if there was interest from Board Members to serve on the ad hoc.

Ms. Lucchesi, Mr. Janzen, and Ms. Forhan volunteered to participate.

Mr. Shelton also suggested that they could reach out to some of the other members that are not currently at the meeting to see if they might be interested. He will work with Ms. Forhan, and staff will schedule a date that works for everyone.

Mr. Brandau moved to approve with the addition we can still outreach to other members who are absent today; the motion was seconded by Mr. Karbassi. The motion passed as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Brandau	X		
Mr. Karbassi	X		
Mr. Janzen	X		
Ms. Vance	X		
Mr. Gresham	X		
Mr. Donnelly	X		
Mr. Cash	X		
Mr. Luchessi	X		
Ms. Finn	X		
Ms. Forhan	X		

G. <u>ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>
Information Items. No action of the Board is recommended.

G-1 Organizations' Reports: If time allows, the following oral reports will be provided for informational purposes only, and may be accompanied by written reports in the Board packet.

G-1a. San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
Ms. Sharon Weaver, Executive Director of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, revealed that they are nearing completion on the Owl Hollow's improvements project, for which the majority of funding did come from the San Joaquin River Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board. She will notify us when they have the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, which they are expecting sometime in February. They are also getting underway with some improvements at the River Center that includes a new picnic shelter and a solar power system. Those are things she is working on, and this is sort of their slow season in terms of programs. They are ramping up for new programs this year, which will include a new camp program at Owl Hollow now that the property has been improved. It will be a camp specifically for middle school students up until 8th grade, and will be focused on leadership activities.

G-1b. RiverTree Volunteers

Mr. Richard Sloan with the RiverTree Volunteers stated that they're really excited for 2020. They are planning on doing a canoe and kayak clinic, which they have done in the past at Lake Millerton. They are hoping to be able to do that at the ponds at Ledger Island in the near future. Members are still working on the San Joaquin River trail. He mentioned they got up to the last mile before it descends down from Redinger Dam to the San Joaquin River, which meets up with the trail head at Horseshoe Bend. They're still doing river trips. Their last trip was this past Thursday. Hopes are to do cross-country runs again, as they have had them every year at Ball Ranch and Ledger Island. He also mentioned that there is excitement about the Tesoro Viejo development because they are starting to get a lot of volunteers from residents from the development. Mr. Sloan further added it would be a good idea to put money aside for bridges because many bridges are needed along the San Joaquin River trail and the San Joaquin River Parkway.

G-2 Deputy Attorney General Report

Ms. Deborah Halberstadt noted that there was nothing to report.

G-3 Executive Officer Report

Mr. Shelton mentioned that we have a grant writing class coming up. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy, along with the Sierra Nevada Alliance will be giving it. It is a class that has been taught throughout the region by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and we offered to host it so that it can be held locally. The class is set-up for fifteen participants and we were given eight of those seats to fill. It has filled up very quickly, including having a waiting list of a couple of people. A few of the registered participants are from Madera County, Building Healthy Communities, Central California Off-Road Cyclists (CCORC), Department of Fish and Wildlife (one from their fisheries unit and two from their land's unit), and a staff member from the Conservancy. The idea for the class is for each participant to arrive with a concept, and at the end of the class have a proposal written out. It is not designed specifically for one Agency's Request for Proposal (RFP), but the premise is that by the end of the class, the concept is fully fleshed out and ready to fit into an RFP. Mr. Shelton is hoping participants can choose a project along the river and within the Parkway area that we can later bring to the Board. We may have some that come in for the March Board Meeting. We have had a few different suggestions from Madera County. They have CEQA work already done for Van Buran Unit (the River West Madera properties), and also for the River Vista, which is the old, broken bridge at Friant.

Ms. Lucchesi will be coming down for a field trip in a couple of weeks. Part of that is to look at Ledger Island, but Mr. Shelton said he would love to take her to a few other places to give her a hands-on feel for the Parkway. We offered to take DWR's tribal liaison office out on the Parkway because there are multiple significant cultural sites. Their Tribal Liaison and some of her staff will be coming down for a field trip tomorrow. In addition, the retired US Forest Services' Sequoia and Sierra Forests tribal coordinator, Dirk Charley, who is a member from the Dunlap Mono Tribe, will be attending. As coordinator with the forest service, he has great contacts throughout this region and is considered a tribal elder. We will work with Mr. Charley, Lara Wass, who runs our Many Lightening's native plant garden on

our Jensen Ranch property, and Chris Acree, who represents and works with the local Dumna tribes to help share the Parkway's opportunities. Mr. Shelton expressed hope that we will do similar trips in the future with other groups.

G-4 Board Members' Reports and Comments
None.

H. CLOSED SESSION

Before convening in closed session, members of the public will be provided the opportunity to comment on Executive Session agenda items.

Mr. Patrick Soles, private citizen of Fresno, said he is personally all for anything that can be done to further public access, knowing budgetary restriction and land and easement issues, and neighborhood concerns. Also, if we would need an outside party to provide information, he would be more than willing to offer help and give examples of what he's accomplished in various other access projects and issues in Southern California.

H-1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION

Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9.

San Joaquin River Access Corporation v. San Joaquin River Conservancy and specified Board members, Superior Court of California, County of Fresno Case #19CECG01138

Ms. Halberstadt stated there is nothing to be reported out of closed session at this time.

I. NOTICE OF ADVISORY AND BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS, OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS RELATED TO CONSERVANCY MATTERS

None.

J. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2020, location to be determined.

K. ADJOURN

Board meeting notices, agendas, staff reports, 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 the Conservancy at (559) 253-7324.

Ms. Forhan adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Shelton
Executive Officer- San Joaquin River Conservancy

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Agenda Item

Item: E-2

March 4, 2020

TO: San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

FROM: John M. Shelton, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **ACTION ITEM: Authorize Agreements for Fire Prevention/Weed Abatement on Specific Conservancy Properties**

RECOMMENDATION:
It is recommended the Board authorize fire prevention, weed abatement and fuel-load reduction agreements for various Conservancy properties as specified below.

SUMMARY:
The Conservancy has taken responsibility for performing fire prevention and weed abatement on its properties adjacent to urban development. For many years, the Conservancy has contracted these labor-intensive services from two local conservation-related vocational training programs: the Local Conservation Corps (LCC) operated by the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, and the California Conservation Corps (CCC), a state agency. Contractors provide all required work utilizing appropriate mechanical equipment and tools (disking, grading, dragging, mowing, manual or power-operated hand tools, etc.) as necessary to effectively reduce weeds within perimeter firebreaks. Services also include clearing and disposing of all trash, debris, weeds, and other waste and refuse materials collected from the property. No burning is permitted in the performance of this work.

The LCC will provide weed disking services to create a firebreak on the Conservancy's Spano property. Disking is done along the maintenance and access road on the property, along the entrance road, around the private residence on the site, and at the base of the bluff beneath residences.

The CCC will perform weed abatement on the bluff of the Liddell property to create a 30-foot firebreak adjacent to residences. Services will also include a firebreak adjacent to the mobile homes at Wildwood Mobile Home Park. Any remaining contract funds may be used for additional property maintenance and fuel reduction services at other Conservancy properties, such as Circle V Ranch and Ball Ranch.

DISCUSSION:
The Conservancy's Spano and Liddell properties lie adjacent to urban residential areas. They must meet the City of Fresno's requirement that owners of vacant, unirrigated property are required each spring to disk a firebreak along boundaries with developed property, and around any structures on the property. The County of Madera has similar requirements for weed

abatement. These requirements apply to Wildwood Native Park, which is adjacent to a mobile home park.

These preventive measures help protect adjacent urban development from wildland fires.

Standard state agreements will be utilized, consistent with state contracting policies and risk management practices.

Rebecca Raus
Assoc. Govt. Program Analyst