



San Joaquin River
Parkway and
Conservation Trust, Inc.

April 6, 2021

Mike Karbassi, Chair
San Joaquin River Conservancy Board
Submitted by electronic mail to Mike.Karbassi@fresno.gov

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Executive Director

Re: Agenda Item F-1 on the SJRC Board Meeting Agenda for April 7, 2021

Dear Chairman Karbassi and Members of the Board:

I am writing to express concerns about Action Item F-1, directing the Conservancy's Executive Officer to Engage in discussions with CEMEX regarding a Potential Public-Private Partnership to Develop and Maintain Public Trails, River Access in the Vicinity of Ball Ranch, Ledger Island and Lost Lake Park.

First, the Board does not need to authorize discussions with a property owner adjacent to the river, since communication and coordination with property owners within and adjacent to the San Joaquin River Parkway are part of the Conservancy's purpose as stated in the enabling legislation. For reference please review San Joaquin River Conservancy Act sections 32525-32538, especially section 32533-34, which read:

32533. The conservancy may undertake site improvement projects; regulate public access; revegetate and otherwise rehabilitate degraded areas, in consultation with other public agencies with appropriate jurisdiction and expertise; upgrade deteriorating facilities; and construct new facilities as needed for outdoor recreation, nature appreciation and interpretation, and natural resource protection. These projects may be undertaken by the conservancy itself or by member agencies, with the conservancy providing overall coordination through setting priorities for projects and assuring uniformity of approach.

32534. The conservancy shall administer any funds appropriated to it and any revenue generated by member agencies for the parkway and contributed to the conservancy, and may expend those funds for capital improvements, land acquisition, or support of the conservancy's operations. Subject to Section 11005 of the Government Code, the conservancy may also accept any revenue, money, grants, goods, or services contributed to the conservancy by any public agency, private entity, or person, and, upon receipt, may expend any such revenue, money, or grants for capital improvements, land acquisitions, or support of the conservancy's operations.



CREATING AND PROTECTING THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY

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Since the conservancy has the authority to conduct all of the activities listed in this agenda item, I can only interpret this action as a public statement of support for a multi-national corporation that has as yet provided no actual proposal, commitment of funding, or other verifiable intent to create a trail system on its own property or contribute significant funding or in-kind resources to the creation of public access or trails on any adjacent properties.

I therefore encourage you and your fellow board members to request that CEMEX present an actual proposal to the board for consideration rather than muddying the political waters by providing approval to engage in discussions.

CEMEX is currently requesting a 100 year extension of their mining permit on the San Joaquin River with the addition of blasting through hard-rock adjacent to the river channel. This mining operation will have significant environmental impacts that have yet to be fully described in the project's forthcoming Environmental Impact Report. It is therefore premature to provide direction to your own Executive Officer, and more appropriate to request a formal proposal from the company.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact me at (559) 248-8480 extension 105 or sweaver@riverparkway.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sharon Weaver
Executive Director

CC: Conservancy Board Members
John Shelton
Rebecca Raus
Vanessa Gavina