

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

## **GOVERNING BOARD**

Brett Frazier, Chairperson Supervisor, Madera County Board of Supervisors

Santos Garcia, Councilmember City of Madera

Nathan Magsig, Supervisor Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Steve Brandau, Councilmember City of Fresno

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 & Recreation

John Donnelly, Executive Director Wildlife Conservation Board

Julie Alvis, Deputy 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

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Gavin Newsom, Governor

## **MINUTES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019** 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 and

United Way Fresno and Madera Counties 4949 East Kings Canyon Fresno, CA 93727

## **MEETING AGENDA**

## CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Frazier called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. and Mr. Shelton led the pledge of allegiance.

#### A. **ROLL CALL**

Name	Present	Telecon- ference	Absent	Late
Chairperson Bret Frazier	х			
Mr. Santos Garcia	Х			
Mr. Nathan Magsig	-		Х	
Mr. Steve Brandau	Х			
Ms. Kacey Auston		Х		_
Mr. Carl Janzen	Х			
Ms. Julie Alvis	Х		-	
Ms. Julie Vance	Х			
Mr. Kent Gresham	Х			
Mr. John Donnelly	Х	-		
Ms. Jennifer Lucchesi			Х	
Ms. Karen Finn	X			
Ms. Bryn Forhan	X	_	-	
Mr. Paul Gibson	X			

Ms. Bains confirmed a quorum was present.

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Legal Counsel Present: Christina Morkner-Brown, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present: John Shelton, Executive Officer

Melinda Marks, Special Consultant

Rebecca Raus, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Jasanjit Bains, Staff Services Analyst

Heidi West, Program Manager, San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) - via teleconference

## 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 conflicts of interest.

## D. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

D-1 Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9. Potential case (SJRAC)

The Board convened into Executive Session at 10:38 a.m.; Ms. Morkner-Brown announced the closed session item as a conference with legal counsel for anticipated litigation in response to a letter received from the San Joaquin River Access Corporation (SJRAC).

There were no comments from the public before the Board convened in closed session.

The Board reconvened at 11:14 a.m.; Ms. Morkner-Brown reported out of closed session stating the Board held a conference with legal counsel regarding significant exposure to litigation and that there was no reportable action.

## E. PUBLIC COMMENT AND 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.

Ms. Sharon Weaver, with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (SJRPCT), stated that they are interviewing applicants for River Camp leadership team and other seasonal staff. One of the cover letters from an application for the Junior Leader Director position was very good. She took

the time to read this letter to the Board . Ms. Weaver stated she is thankful that she has the opportunity to work with individuals who care about the environment.

## F. CONSENT CALENDAR

F-1 ACTION ITEM: Approve the Modified Board Meetings Calendar for 2019

#### Staff Recommendation:

It is recommended the Board approve the modified schedule for the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board meetings reserved for the 2019 calendar year.

F-2 ACTION ITEM: Approve Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2019

Ms. Forhan moved to approve the items on the Consent Calendar; Mr. Janzen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G-1 ACTION ITEM: Rescission of Actions Taken on Item F-1 at the January 9, 2019 Meeting: in response to correspondence alleging Brown Act violations, the Board will consider a vote to rescind the motions and votes taken on item F-1.

### Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board vote to rescind actions taken on three motions on January 9, 2019, related to Discussion Item F-1 pertaining to the Achievement of the River West Fresno Eaton Trail Extension Project (Project). Staff is proposing this action in response to correspondence received by the Conservancy Board, and if approved, will have the effect of voiding those actions taken on January 9, 2019, related to Item F-1.

Mr. Shelton stated that this is an action item and is requesting a vote on whether to rescind actions taken on item F-1 of the January 9, 2019 meeting. This item is in response to correspondence alleging a Brown Act violation and recommends the Board rescinds the motions and votes taken on item F-1 of the January Board meeting.

There were no comments from the Board.

#### Public Comments:

Mr. Kinsey, legal counsel for the San Joaquin River Access Corporation, stated he still has a calendar entry marked for today as a work group meeting with the intent to discuss implementation of the core project and Alternative 5B. He had hoped that was how he would be spending his Wednesday but instead he is talking about Brown Act violations. He is hopeful that the Board can unwind these actions that were taken on January 9, 2019 so that progress can be made again on the project and indicated that his agency would rather work with the Conservancy than against it. He mentioned that the SJRAC now has three properties on the river bottom that are along the future trail alignment.

Mr. Janzen made a motion to accept the staff recommendation for the Board to vote to rescind actions taken on three motions on January 9, 2019, related to discussion item F-1; the motion was seconded by Ms. Forhan. The motion passed unanimously.

## H. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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No action of the Board is recommended.

## H-1 Organizations

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

H-1a San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

Ms. Sara Parkes reported the SJRPCT, in partnership with San Joaquin Running Company, held their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Sycamore Island 5k & 10k Run/Walk with over 350 participants. The race was held entirely on the Sycamore Island property. She mentioned there are participants in the running community that continue to mention that they did not know that there are resources such as these trails and river access available in the area. Further, many participants conveyed their appreciation for how wonderful it is that Sycamore Island and the Van Buren unit are accessible to local runners, bikers and hikers. Ms. Parkes added that Sycamore Island opened to the public on February 1, 2019. Also, she reminded the Board that a Valentine's Day membership adoption package, where the public will have the opportunity to symbolically adopt a roadrunner, is available for purchase from the SJRPCT. The package includes a plush roadrunner with Valentine's Day candy. The SJRPCT adoption package recognizes the roadrunner that hangs out in the River Center and is regularly spotted by both the staff and visitors.

H-1b RiverTree Volunteers

There were no items reported.

H-2 Deputy Attorney General Report

There were no items to report.

## H-3 Executive Officer Report

Mr. Shelton stated that he has been meeting with Board members and there are still some that he would like to meet with. He mentioned the he and his wife hiked to Sycamore Island last Saturday from Wildwood Park. He was amazed at the amount of people out in the area and saw a number of fatherson and father-daughter groups fishing and doing other activities. He took advantage of the great mountain vistas on Wednesday by visiting several parkway locations to take pictures. While taking pictures of the River Center and the newly reconstructed barn he saw a bald eagle perched in a tree and eating a fish. He mentioned that the spring bloom is coming and had noticed that the bush poppies in the Sycamore Island area had lots of buds and should be beautiful in a few weeks.

Mr. Shelton also reported that he has now made several trips to River Vista where the old bridge is located. He believes that there is strong support to get the old bridge removal and parking area project going. He thanked Mr. Gresham for the tour with Mr. Garcia.

Mr. Frazier mentioned the graffiti on the bridge. Mr. Shelton added there is tile work graffiti there as well.

H-4 Board Members' Reports and Comments

Mr. Garcia thanked Mr. Gresham for the tour of the River Vista site and thanked Mr. Shelton for the opportunity to come along. He mentioned that his best friend was fishing at Sycamore Island on Saturday and that he made commitment to purchase an annual pass. His friends intends to teach fishing to high school kids that have never fished before.

Mr. Janzen reported this will be a good water year, and Mr. Frazier added that with the rain, this will be a good year for farmers, too.

# I. NOTICE OF ADVISORY AND BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS, OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS

None.

#### J. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

Mr. Shelton mentioned the next Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2019, will be at the Fresno City Hall Council Chambers.

## K. ADJOURN

Chairperson Frazier adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Board meeting notices, agendas, staff reports, and approved minutes are posted on the Conservancy's website, <a href="www.sjrc.ca.gov">www.sjrc.ca.gov</a>. For further information or if you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Jasanjit Bains at (559) 253-7324 or <a href="Jasanjit.Bains@sjrc.ca.gov">Jasanjit.Bains@sjrc.ca.gov</a>.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Shelton

Executive Officer- San Joaquin River Conservancy