



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

GOVERNING BOARD

Bryn Forhan, *Chairperson*
Citizen Representative

Brett Frazier, *Vice-Chairperson*
Supervisor
Madera County Board of Supervisors

Mike Karbassi,
Councilmember, City of Fresno

Steve Brandau,
Supervisor
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Santos Garcia,
Mayor, City of Madera

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

Andrea Scharffer, *Deputy Assistant*
Secretary
Natural Resources Agency

Jennifer Lucchesi, *Executive Officer*
State Lands Commission

Matt Almy, *Program Budget Manager*
Department of Finance

Paul Gibson
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant
Citizen Representatives

John M. Shelton, *Executive Officer*

250.20

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Board Meeting Location:
Fresno City Council Chambers
2600 Fresno St., Fresno, CA 93721
and via Zoom

MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Frazier called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

Name	Present	Telecon- ference	Absent	Late
Ms. Forhan			X	
Mr. Frazier	X			
Mr. Karbassi	X			
Mr. Brandau	X			
Mr. Garcia	X			
Ms. Austin	X			
Ms. Vance	X			
Mr. Gresham	X			
Ms. Fris		X		
Ms. Scharffer		X		
Ms. Lucchesi		X		
Ms. Lukenbill			X	
Mr. Gibson	X			

Ms. Gavina confirmed a quorum was present.

Legal Counsel Present: Christina Morkner Brown, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present: John Shelton, Executive Officer
Rebecca Raus, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Vanessa Gavina, Staff Services Analyst

Erin Aquino-Carhart, Program Manager, San Joaquin River
Conservancy Projects, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

B. 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)

None.

C. 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.

None.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

D-1 ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes of February 2, 2022

D-2 ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes of April 6, 2022

Mr. Frazier inquired if any members of the Board would like to make a motion to approve the item.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Frazier	X		
Mr. Karbassi	X		
Mr. Brandau	X		
Mr. Garcia	X		
Ms. Auston	X		
Ms. Vance	X		
Mr. Gresham	X		
Ms. Fris	X		
Ms. Scharffer	X		
Ms. Lucchesi			X
Mr. Gibson	X		

E.**REGULAR SESSION ITEMS**

E-1 ACTION ITEM: Discuss and Approve the Operations and Maintenance Priorities List for the 15 Million Dollars Allocated to San Joaquin River Parkway.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board approve three operation and maintenance priorities for the Conservancy and direct staff on the next set of priorities to be funded by the 15 million dollars allocated to the San Joaquin River Parkway.

Mr. Shelton stated this is an action item that staff are asking for approval on from the list of tasks that were previously discussed in the workshop. The Conservancy has already received authority with some of the items to move forward from the motion in our December meeting, but staff wanted to bring them back so the Board can weigh in on discussion and get public input. As a result of the workshop, the Conservancy staff is recommending the first three priorities:

The first priority is Security and Safety. The Conservancy staff is currently in the process of setting up a meeting with the County of Fresno. The County of Fresno's Sherriff's Office is working to put together a proposal. Likewise, staff met with the County of Madera and would like to meet again to discuss moving forward with a proposal. Also, Councilmember Karbassi assisted in setting up a meeting with the City of Fresno's Fire Department; however, we would like to be able to meet the City's Police Department. While there have been discussions with the City, an actual proposal has not been received. Staff will follow up on these discussions. Mr. Shelton stated that he believes between now and our August meeting, we should be able to come back to the Board with these proposals. Once the proposals are received, staff will return to the Board for the necessary approvals. The Conservancy is also interested in retaining fire abatement services, especially for properties that are near residential areas. An interagency contract has been entered with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for the Conservancy's Liddell, Wildwood Native Park, and Circle V properties. In the past, the CCC's have assisted in chipping up wood and clearing tall trees that could present a fire hazard. Similarly, the Conservancy partnered with the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) for their local conservation corps to provide related services to River West. These are services that both the CCC's and the Fresno EOC crews have done in the past. The contract with Fresno EOC is nearly in place but needs a few more signatures from State Parks.

For the next priority area, the Conservancy staff would like to open Wildwood Native Park, Sycamore Island, and Van Buren seven days a week. The Conservancy is still in its preparation phase for its Request for Proposals. The hope is to get those completed within the next 30 days. Staff would like to bring these to the May Board meeting for approval, and then at that point, it can move forward. The RFP is to the Conservancy's current concession agreement to operate Sycamore Island and Van Buren. Presently, we have a concession for three days a week with the San Joaquin Parkway and Conservation Trust (Parkway Trust). However, this would move it into a seven-day, year-round operation, other than days where the river flows prevent public safety. The Board will be notified when the RFP is released, and staff will come back for the final approval at that time.

For Wildwood Native Park, two small businesses were utilized in the past. For this change to seven day a week of operations, we will go out for an Invitation for Bid (IFB), as it is beyond the Conservancy's delegated authority under state procedures to be able to secure these services without a bidding process. The first IFB will be for janitorial services. This will consist of opening the park, cleaning restrooms, picking up litter and trash, and removing graffiti. The second IFB will be for security service. Currently, the Conservancy utilizes Fresno County Private Security. They close the park in the evening by monitoring and ensuring all the vehicles have left and closing the gate. At some point, the aim is to have an automatic gate that will close on a timing system, as it would be more efficient; however, a security service will still be necessary to ensure everyone is out of the park by closing time. Releasing these two IFB's for Wildwood Native Park will allow us to increase operations of the park from three to seven days a week. Mr. Shelton reiterated that this estimate falls within the delegated authority, but staff will come back to the Board for final approval.

The last priority is to open other properties not currently formally open for public use. To do this, the Conservancy would release an RFP for Ball Ranch and Ledger Island and provide porta potties and trash services along designated areas. Staff will notify the Board once the RFP has been released and then return to the Board for final approval. Currently, two proponents that have expressed interest in operating the Ball Ranch and Ledger Island concessionaire, and there may be more. However, we are not as certain with Sycamore Island. The last time an RFP was released for this property, staff only received one proposal. If only one is received and it meets satisfaction, it will be brought to the Board. If multiple proposals are received, the Conservancy will put together a review panel and choose the one that best fits our vision. Regarding restroom facilities, an IFB will be released for porta potties and hand washing stations, which will include once a week service. Staff will then come back to the Board for final approval. Staff has identified several locations on our properties where the restrooms should go, and then they can be opened to the public. The Conservancy would also like to provide trash services at various locations. Again, an IFB can be released for trash service. Staff also recommends that the Conservancy enters into a public entity contract with the City of Fresno to open the Jensen River Ranch restroom. There may be the ability for the City of Fresno to assist the Conservancy by utilizing Measure P funding for this project; irrespective of this, we would like to ensure that the restroom at Jensen River Ranch is opened and operated. Another prospective item, as suggested at the workshop, was investigating replacing porta potties with vault restrooms in the near future, where practical and useful. This will most likely be put out to bid, and staff will work through the process.

Mr. Frazier queried if there were any questions from the Board members.

Ms. Vance stated that from what she understood, this list did not include security costs, vault restrooms, and automatic gates. She asked Mr. Shelton if that was correct.

Mr. Shelton confirmed that was correct, but he does have some ideas. From discussions with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, they have estimated \$250,000 a year for security. Madera County would most likely be comparable. Whereas the City of Fresno may be up to twice that amount. In total, he believes it might be close to a million dollars to have the aforementioned law enforcement agencies involved. Also, staff has had discussions with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) wardens. They use the boat launch

at our Lane's property. It was mentioned that if they needed supplementary funding for additional staffing, the Conservancy would be interested in discussing it further. Also, there has been some dialogue with Mr. Gresham regarding the possibility for his staff at State Parks to do something similar. They currently provide some park ranger services for the Conservancy's Friant Cove and Wagner properties, but there has not been any in depth talks with respect to providing funding for additional staff.

Mr. Gresham stated that he currently has four vacant ranger positions, so expanding their operations is a challenge.

Mr. Shelton said that California Highway Patrol (CHP) does state police efforts for us. In a meeting with Vice-Chair Frazier and a CHP officer, Mr. Shelton spoke to the officer about the potential for CHP to assist. They do not necessarily have staff that can get out in the local office to do wildland's work, but there is the capability to introduce them to more of our properties, so that if they have to stop at an area and write reports while in their vehicle, they can do that at Wildwood or another Conservancy property. Although this would not be funded, it would be a good way to get everyone working together and proactive.

Mr. Frazier inquired whether this would also pay for different policing vehicles to go to the area and monitor. He knows motorcycles and electric bikes are often used, but he believes having actual vehicles is important.

Mr. Shelton replied that the Conservancy will work with different law enforcement agencies to figure out what is needed to move forward. The Conservancy spoke with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, and equipment use was discussed. He has also had that discussion with the City of Fresno's Police Department. The City has a horse unit and motocross bikes for outdoors, along with bicycles.

Ms. Vance asked if the provided attachment will be included and updated for future meetings, as there are more details and estimates.

Mr. Shelton confirmed.

Ms. Vance added that it would be helpful to insert a status column and a total at the bottom regarding the status of the \$15 million. That would be helpful, so that in future meetings, Board members are aware of how much of the funding there is left. She asked if the prices for gates that are listed on the attachment were for Ball Ranch, and if those prices were for automatic gates or regular gates.

Mr. Shelton answered that those costs were conjectures. Someone will have to come out and give an estimate to see what the actual installation would cost. Another area we are very interested in getting an automatic gate is Wildwood.

Mr. Frazier said having a line item for ongoing maintenance in the attachment would be useful because gate maintenance for automatic gates is not a one-time cost, and it would be beneficial to show how the \$15 million is being spent.

Ms. Vance stated in regard to the Ball Ranch item, she would like to have a meeting between the Conservancy staff and her staff before the RFP goes out, so that we can discuss how to minimize the impacts to the adjacent CDFW land. She furthered that

people are going to want to go to the river, and there is no fencing or distinction between what is Conservancy and CDFW land. This should be discussed before an RFP goes out.

Mr. Shelton agreed and noted that we have an upcoming bimonthly meeting scheduled with CDFW staff on May 11, and he indicated this will be an agenda item. The Conservancy is hoping to get the RFP out and bring it back to the Board for the August meeting, and in between that time, there will be two meetings with Ms. Vance and her staff. If there are details that need to be worked out, the Conservancy can work with her land staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Sarah Parkes, Assistant Director of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Parkway Trust) stated that she cannot wait to see it open. She serves as a member of the City of Fresno's Parks Recreation and Parks Commission, and at the recent meeting, the City of Fresno's Public Works department did a presentation about Measure P funding for the Parkway. It was mentioned that repairing the foundation and concrete issues would occur this month. It is her understanding that the City is intending to use Measure P funds to do the internal repairs and possibly look at an automatic locking mechanism.

With no other questions from the public, Mr. Frazier brought it back to the Board for action.

Mr. Frazier moved to approve the action item; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vance. The motion passed as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

Name	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Frazier	X		
Mr. Karbassi	X		
Mr. Brandau	X		
Mr. Garcia	X		
Ms. Auston	X		
Ms. Vance	X		
Mr. Gresham	X		
Ms. Fris	X		
Ms. Scharffer	X		
Ms. Lucchesi	X		
Mr. Gibson	X		

E-2 INFORMATION ITEM: Status and Progress Report on River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project.

Mr. Shelton stated this is an item that the Board has requested the Conservancy continue to bring back to all upcoming meetings in order to keep them apprised on progress. Back in September of 2021, the Conservancy Board authorized bond funds for 3.1 million dollars for the City of Fresno to begin and complete final engineering design and secure permits for the River West Fresno Eaton Trail Extension Project. This project will extend

the current Lewis S. Eaton trail by nearly 2.4 miles, beginning at the Perrin Avenue alignment and ending at Spano Park. The trail will be 22 feet wide and contain a 12-foot-wide paved surface and a parallel eight-foot-wide hard natural surface for equestrian use, along with a two-foot shoulder. Additionally, the project will consist of three access lots on Perrin Avenue, Riverview Drive, and North Palm Avenue. In November of 2021, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) met and approved the project, and a grant agreement that was issued January 7, 2022. On April 22, the City of Fresno released Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the project. Statement of Qualifications are due on Friday, May 27, 2022, at 5:00 pm. Mr. Shelton informed the Board that no proposal have yet come in. However, there are two groups that have expressed interest and have contacted us for information. It is not certain if they have a proposal. They are both quality operations with both being local. He mentioned that he will continue to update each of the Board members through emails and meetings, as this is a high priority item for everyone.

Mr. Frazier called for questions from Board members.

Mr. Gresham inquired if there is an opportunity to use the \$15 million that we have for operations and maintenance to fund the engineering design and permitting for the Fresno River West Eaton Trail Extension and save the \$3.1 million on funds for future years.

Mr. Shelton stated he would need to check with our partners at WCB. The Conservancy has moved a few of its costs to this funding, but it is an insignificant portion of the \$15 million.

Mr. Frazier said this is a great idea, and it would save for a lot of things down the line that the Conservancy typically uses bond funds for. He asked if there were any questions or comments, and with none, he proceeded to the next item.

E-3 INFORMATION ITEM: What Operations and Maintenance Means to You: Results from a Survey Regarding San Joaquin River Parkway Operations and Maintenance.

Mr. Shelton introduced Ms. Sharon Weaver, Director, and Ms. Sarah Parks, Assistant Director of the San Joaquin River and Conservation Trust (Parkway Trust) to present.

Ms. Sharon Weaver stated that staff talks about operations and maintenance (O&M) often, and most know what that term means. However, she has learned over the years that when she has talked to the public about parkway O&M, she often gets people unfamiliar with that term. She stated that this is because when you start talking to people that are not actively managing public open space or parks, or even doing something related to public spaces, they do not have a real understanding. The Parkway Trust began conducting surveys to make sure everyone was familiar with O&M and using similar language.

Ms. Parkes expressed one of the significant things that she has been working on in the last several years is building the Parkway Trust's O&M endowment, which is fundraising for that effort. As Parkway Trust staff started to do that, they realized it was important to be in sync with the Parkway Trust Board, Conservancy Board, and their support base about what O&M means and what people want to see on the Parkway. Thus, they began

meeting with Conservancy Board members from October of 2021 to March 2021. This helped them to listen and understand Board members' perspectives. As a result, they adapted the survey questions that were previously developed for their own board of directors and support base and tailored them for the roles of Conservancy Board members. Depending how the conversations went, additional questions were added based on the agency or entity Board members were representing. For this presentation, themes were selected from each of the questions and a couple of quotes to illustrate their outlooks. Below are the questions and answers Ms. Sarah Parkes obtained that resulted from the survey:

Question 1: When you think about quality operations and maintenance, what does it look like to you?

The first theme that emerged and was mentioned quite regularly was cleanliness. This includes: no trash, clean and open restrooms, and no graffiti. The second theme was security, such as having a regular presence on site, a schedule for opening and closing gates, appropriate fencing, and the ability to repair them when necessary. The third theme was that they are accessible. It is important that facilities are open, they make visitors feel welcomed, and there is access for all abilities. The fourth theme was safety, which includes: addressing attractive nuisances, removing debris from trails, and identifying other safety issues with the State's liability in mind. The fifth theme was law enforcement. It would be beneficial to have enforceable rules and regulations in place and have regular river bottom patrol. The sixth theme was signage. This will be useful in providing direction, information about rules and regulations, along with interpretive signage. The last theme was education. Ongoing public education is vital for the appropriate use of public lands.

Question 2: Can you provide examples of places or parks you've visited that had exceptional operations and maintenance?

Some of the Wildlands Conservancies that were mentioned were: Wind Wolves Preserve in Bakersfield, Eel River Canyon Preserve in Northern California, and the Jenner Headlands Preserve. The Center for Natural Lands Management and the Sierra Foothill Conservancy also came up because they are an organization that does not take on liability without appropriate O&M funding and an endowment in place. The Sierra Foothill Conservancy was mentioned, specifically the McKenzie Preserve, because of the way they are effective at managing public access. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Consumnes River Preserve were other prime examples of exceptional O&M. The Bolsa Chica Wetlands are a great model of O&M efforts to balance public access with habitat management and restoration through the State Lands Commission (SLC), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partnerships.

Question 3: How do you feel about public/private partnerships, specifically the River Parkway Trust operating Parkway properties?

The benefits are that they enhance the State's capacity. Partnerships can support building the State's capacity to provide services. They are complimentary. Partners bring different expertise to the table and can provide services complimentary to the State's services. They involve community. Local partners understand the Parkway and are embedded in the community, meaning they can help disseminate information to more people. However,

there are some considerations to keep in mind, such as partnerships should be developed to ensure the State's goals are met; the State's financial and legal liability; patience with the process since going through State's process is slow and ensuring; and all appropriate law enforcement and enforceable regulations are in place.

Question 4: What do you think about the Parkway becoming part of the State Parks system?

There are many benefits. State Parks are a well managed public resource, and our local State Parks staff is doing a great job managing Parkway resources like Friant Cove. There would be enforceable rules and regulations to help address issues on the Parkway. There could be potential for more State funding to flow into the Valley if the Parkway became part of the State Parks system. There are also some challenges and hurdles to overcome. For instance, multiple landowners create jurisdictional challenges. Another challenge is local control. Properties like Lost Lake Park, Woodward Park, and Riverbottom Park are examples of Parkway areas unlikely to become part of a State Parks, as they are managed by local municipalities. Lastly, there is concern about the State's liability. State Parks system has significant deferred maintenance, and there is apprehension about the State taking on more financial liability.

Question 5: What legacy do you want to leave for the Parkway?

Legacies that Board members would like to leave for the Parkway included: Fresno River West, where the project has been successfully completed and is open to the public; a conserved acreage goal, in which the goal to conserve 6,000 acres of land in the Parkway reach has been met; a legacy where our children are introduced to the river; a pedestrian bridge that provides a crossing to connect Fresno River West and Madera River West; and a world-class facility, where other communities view the Parkway as an example to emulate.

Ms. Parkes then spoke about themes that came out of the surveys from the Parkway Trust's Board of Directors. Their Board had a slightly different take on good operations and maintenance. These included: daily operations, such as clean restrooms, regular trash collection, no graffiti, and the properties appear well cared for; signage, like road signs to direct visitors to Parkway properties, monument style signs at property entrances, directional signage for trails, posted rules, and interpretive signage; staff on-site like security, groundskeepers, and park hosts to welcome visitors, provide information, and monitor activities that are happening on the property; lastly, no deferred maintenance and having systems in place to address vandalism, repairs, erosion, safety hazards, and other damage as soon as possible. Other themes included: ample trees for shade and beautifying Parkway properties and trails; recreational amenities like picnic shelters, grass for families, more trails, exercise stations, accessible parking, attention to maintaining natural areas, not having an overbuilt environment; and focusing on habitat restoration by utilizing O&M funding to maintain habitat restoration projects 5+ years beyond the initial grant funding period. This concluded Ms. Parkes presentation, and she asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Vance asked if she could have a copy of the Parkway Trust's slideshow presentation.

Mr. Shelton stated that he would send it out to the Board members.

Mr. Frazier inquired if there was any public comment, and with none given, he moved to the administrative and committee reports.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Information Items. No action of the Board is recommended.

F-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.

F-1a. San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
None.

F-1b. River Tree Volunteers
None.

F-1c. Central California Off Road Cyclist (CCORC)
None.

F-1d. San Joaquin River Access Corporation (SJRAC)
None.

F-1e. San Joaquin River Socials
None.

F-2 Deputy Attorney General Report
Ms. Christina Morkner-Brown mentioned that she will be stepping down from her position as Deputy Attorney General in June and is separating from State. She introduced Ms. Jackie Vu, who would be taking over the Deputy Attorney General position with the Conservancy. Ms. Morkner-Brown stated it was great working with everyone and assisting in the River West project.

F-3 Executive Officer Report
Mr. Shelton stated that while he does not have a written report, he would like to share a few updates. He attended the All-State Conservancies Meeting a few weeks prior. On the first day, they got together and went to the African American museum, which is a part of the California Natural Resources Agency. There was a very good presentation, and a lot of networking happened with the members, Executive Officers, and other staff. The second day, they went to the Baldwin Hills overlook, which is part of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Something important to note is the Baldwin Hills overlook is managed by State Parks. There is a county park within walking distance with a nice trail that goes through. He met with some of the county staff from Los Angeles County, and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy staff spoke about some of the operations and maintenance that they do. One of the interesting programs Mr. Shelton hopes to emulate their greenhouse leadership program, something that Baldwin Hills has been doing now for 15 years. This program takes high school students and gives them the paid opportunity to

work on the ecosystem and outdoor recreational activities. Through this, the Baldwin Hills overlook has been restored to a native plant community. It was previously a brown field with wells that were heavily impacted. He talked to one of the mentors and leaders of the program. Her idea was that seed sources and other things could be created within the greenhouse operation to be able to plant. He liked that it did not have a lot of irrigation systems, and it was successful by mainly using local rainfall. He noted the rainfall in that area was comparable to Fresno, and this is one of the things he would like to reproduce. Alumni gave presentations. They were involved in the greenhouse leadership program and went to college as a part of this program, and then came back and now work in related fields or other professional areas. This is an important program in an area that is a disadvantaged community. Mr. Shelton mentioned that he made some contacts not only from the program, but also with staff from the state assembly and senate that had been part of the program. The program has great support from corporate sponsors. That might be something to consider; with Conservancy funding and the City having Measure P funding, we can start looking into a corporation to assist us in doing some things long-term. He has reached out to a few people with information on this, and he will follow up to discuss more ideas.

He also spoke about the Conservancy hosting the CNRA Tribal Liaison Meeting this past Friday. We did this at the Circle V property. Sub-grantees, Advocate for Indigenous California Laborer Survival (AICLS), assisted in conducting a cultural sensitivity training. Liaisons from other state agencies that report to CNRA were also present for this training. The training was combined between remote and in person. There were also discussions on how to help move this project forward. The Conservancy will need additional partners when it gets to the construction phase of this project, and it is beneficial to have CNRA involved. Mr. Shelton also mentioned the other two processes that are occurring with the project. These are the outreach and stakeholder communication meetings and voluntary events at Circle V to do landscaping and other minor maintenance work. There have been a lot of tribal elders that have been working the sedge bed and getting that prepared so it is in better shape. In doing this, it has gotten a lot of the vegetation back to a healthier state. The grantees have also come a long way with programming to decide next steps. The sub-contractor is Art Dyson. They have a clear idea of directions they are getting from stakeholders and have been putting together a plan.

The other Conservancy project that has made it into the news recently is the Western Reaches Activation Access Plan. Fresno Building Healthy Communities (FBHC) is the main grantee, WRT and Sheila Hakimipour (Urban Diversity Design) as their sub-consultants. They had a public event day nearly a month ago, and approximately 300 people showed up. There was a lot of good information, but mainly, it was just to get people out there. They have worked hard to get communities of color and others out to the area that do not know about the river. Mr. Shelton mentioned there are aims to get the Sikh community out and involved in the Parkway because there seems to be a good-sized community in that area. In passing, there are a lot of elders walking, but they are not seen down at the

river. Because of this, there was a special outreach done through the Measure P Committee and the Parks and Arts Council.

Mr. Shelton mentioned he would like to give an update to the Board about the Vulcan lease. The Conservancy is moving forward with that. Staff checked in with Department of General Services (DGS), specifically about the lease, and they concur with staff's opinion to go ahead and move through. In acting with the Board's motion from the last board meeting, we consulted with DGS, and based on their response, the Conservancy moved forward; and the lease has been signed. Vulcan is now moving into the reclamation phase.

Lastly, one of the Board members inquired about the Conservancy's status on its state budget and personnel. The Staff Recreation Specialist and the Park Maintenance Worker II positions are still in our budget, and this should be in the May revise. Mr. Shelton spoke to the Department of Finance and our budget analyst, and he was informed that the Conservancy was in a good position, and it would be on the consent calendar. Having those discussions left the Conservancy staff fairly certain that it will make it through the budget. Also, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) has been working on another packet of funding. As it stands, the Conservancy has the \$15 million in O&M and \$1.3 million from the climate resiliency and safety program. There is an additional \$1.3 million that will be awarded as part of General Funds, under the local assistance program. This is money that can be spent. The Conservancy is working with Fresno and Madera County about potentially taking out the bridge abutment. There are a few other projects staff would like to move through. The \$15 million should be spent relatively soon rather than any of the bond funds. The bond funds will be around for a while.

F-4 Board Members' Reports and Comments

Mr. Frazier stated that he and Ms. Forhan had a great meeting with some of the Board members from the Parkway Trust, and it was positive and mostly about how to move forward. He noted that they will most likely keep that going in order to keep both the Conservancy Board and the Parkway Trust's Board working together in a great way.

G. 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 11126 (a) (1)

Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: Executive Officer

Mr. Frazier stated this closed session would be postponed for the upcoming August Board meeting.

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

None.

I. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 3, 2022, location to be determined.

J. ADJOURN

Mr. Frazier adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:
John M. Shelton
BD85257A1B334F2...

John M. Shelton
Executive Officer- San Joaquin River Conservancy