



POLICY FOR OPENING AND CLOSING PROPERTIES

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD

DECEMBER 2023

The San Joaquin River Conservancy Enabling Act, section 32511 states that the San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) shall be responsible for operations and maintenance of the Parkway. The Conservancy shall close to the public any lands or facilities which it is unable to maintain in a clean and safe manner and to adequately protect the wildlife and rights of adjacent property owners for the public.

This policy establishes standards for operations and maintenance in a clean, safe, and managed manner. It establishes guidelines for opening and closing properties for public access.

At a minimum, to open or remain open for public access, properties shall have the following:

1) Property boundaries identified

- a. Fencing or posted signage shall be in place along Conservancy property boundaries on all sides except the San Joaquin River or its tributaries.
- b. Adequate to designate property boundaries and to protect neighboring landowners.
- c. Sensitive areas or unsafe areas on site are identified in a way to keep visitors from entering those areas.

2) Gate(s)

- a. Functioning and secure gated entry
- b. Dedicated party for opening and closing. In the case of electric gates, the responsible party must check the gate is closed daily.
- c. Main entry gates shall have a Fire Lock or Knox Box with the appropriate fire response jurisdiction lock cylinder in place.
- d. This gate standard is intended for stand-alone properties and not in areas where the Parkway Trail is continuous and does not have specific points of entry.

3) Parking

- a. Dedicated space with adequate parking within Conservancy, state, local, or San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust ownership in or adjacent to open property.
- b. Parking area shall be adequate to prevent a nuisance to neighborhoods or unsafe parking along roadways.

4) Restrooms

- a. A minimum of two restrooms with at least one unisex ADA compliant restroom.
- b. A dedicated cleaning and re-stocking service at least once a week.
- c. Restrooms may be permanent and connected to a private or city septic system, vault or portable depending on the site.

5) Trash and Debris Removal

- a. Multiple trash cans must be on site
- b. Dedicated party for emptying trash cans at least 3 days a week.
- c. Property will be checked for debris and hazards at least 3 days a week.
- d. Property shall have a dedicated way to get trash off site, for example a dumpster service or a system for hauling away trash at least once a week.

6) Signage

- a. Site hours of operation, rules, and regulations shall be posted near the entry or parking area of each property.
- b. Signage shall include the landowner, the organization operating and maintaining the site, and law enforcement contact information.

7) Inspections for Hazards, Trespassing and Overnight Camping

- a. Property will be inspected for hazards, trespassers, or overnight campers at least 3 times a week.
- b. Trespassers shall be reported immediately to law enforcement. Property may remain closed until overnight campers have vacated.
- c. Hazards shall be reported to Conservancy staff immediately when found.



d. If any hazards pose a danger to visitors, then sections or the entire property will be closed. Hazards must be clearly identified before reopening.

- 8) Environmental Compliance Competed, CC&R's, and Cultural Resources Protected
 - a. Completion of environmental compliance and obligations as deemed necessary.
 - b. Cultural or environmentally sensitive areas shall be protected from public access when necessary.
 - c. All Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions, and Contractual Agreements required in the area, in the purchasing agreement, or in the grant agreement have been met.

The Conservancy reserves the right to close properties for other reasons than those listed above due to natural disasters, extreme fire threats, flooding, acts of vandalism, hazardous dumping, or other unforeseeable situations to keep the public safe and/or to protect water quality, natural and cultural resources.

Recognizing the list above are basic features. The Conservancy shall provide additional provisions when feasible to improve the visitors experience and further protect property and natural resources:

- 1) Security patrols
- 2) Fire Fuel Reduction and Vegetation Management
- 3) Landscape and Trail Maintenance
- 4) Drinking Fountains and Hand Washing Stations
- 5) Irrigation for Vegetation and Habitat Restoration
- 6) Boat launching sites
- 7) Personnel on site during open hours of operation
- 8) Caregiver/camp host on site at all times
- 9) Shade Structures, Picnic Tables, Benches, Bike Racks, Lighting, Interpretive Signage