



WCB Project Pre-Application:
(Up to 4 pages not including photographs or maps)

Send completed pre-application to WCBpreapps@wildlife.ca.gov. To be accepted by our system, the pre-application must be a **MS Word document** with the phrase "PreApp" or "Pre-App" in the file name. Please include all maps and photos in the same **Word document**. If you need to attach maps or photos as separate files, make sure they are in a .pdf file format only.

Project

Project Name: River Vista Bridge Removal and River Restoration Project

Brief Summary (one paragraph): The Conservancy proposes to remove the derelict bridge remnants within the San Joaquin River channel to improve visitor safety and restore riverbed spawning gravels and habitat for threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon. This project will occur in Madera County.

Total cost (round up to nearest \$1,000): \$5,000,000

Amount requested from WCB (round up to nearest \$1,000): \$5,000,000

Start date: 5/1/2026

End date: 9/30/2026

Project type (select one): Implementation

Primary Habitat Type (select one): Salmonid

Total Acres: 1 acre

Location

Primary County: Madera

Specific location (Assessor Parcel Number or address if available): APN 051-200-031 and APN051-720-012

Nearest City (distance and direction): Project is within the Community of Friant, CA.

Latitude (decimal degrees): 36.99081°N

Longitude (decimal degrees): 119.71396°W

Point represented by the Latitude and Longitude coordinates (e.g., center of project site):
Center of the project site

Is the Project in a Disadvantaged or Climate Vulnerable Community? Use both mapping tools:

[Severely Disadvantaged Community?](#) (select one): No

[75-100th percentile in CalEnviroScreen?](#) (select one): Yes

Applicant

Organization name: San Joaquin River Conservancy

Organization type: State Government

Primary applicant's contact name and title: Kari Kyler Daniska – Executive Officer

Phone: 559-287-2650

E-mail address: kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov

Mailing address: PO BOX 28338 Fresno, CA 93729

Landowner

Landowner name: State Lands Commission and San Joaquin River Conservancy

Landowner type: State Government

Project Overview

The Conservancy is a regionally governed State agency created by the State Legislature in 1992 to develop and manage the Parkway, a planned 22-mile natural recreational area in the San Joaquin River floodplain in Fresno and Madera counties extending from Friant Dam to Highway 99. The Conservancy's mission includes acquiring approximately 5,900 acres of land from willing sellers; developing, operating, and managing those lands for public access and recreation; and protecting, enhancing, and restoring riparian and floodplain habitat.

In 1997, the Conservancy adopted the Parkway Master Plan and certified the associated EIR. The Parkway Master Plan sets forth goals, objectives, and policies that guide the development of the Parkway. Consistent with the goals, objectives, policies, and mitigation measures of the Parkway Master Plan, the proposed project will meet Parkway Master Plan objectives for the project area, including habitat restoration and cultural resources conservation.

The IS/MND for this project analyzes the removal of the derelict bridge remnants within the San Joaquin River channel. The collapsed segments of the old reinforced concrete bridge lie within the Madera County side of the San Joaquin River near the town of Friant, California. The bridge (historically known as the Pollasky Bridge or Friant Bridge) was destroyed by flooding in the late winter of 1950. After the flood, a new bridge (known as the Road 206 bridge) was constructed upstream of the collapsed bridge, and the concrete portions of the failed bridge were removed from the Fresno County side of the river. The six large pieces of concrete rubble remaining on the Madera County side have for many years posed a danger to boaters, waders, anglers, and other recreationists. The gravel upon which they lie is subject to erosion and under-mining.

The Conservancy, proposes to demolish and remove most of the bridge ruins, leaving one support intact to provide a historical reference and interpretive point, facilitating the passive restoration of the San Joaquin River and associated spawning gravels. The bridge demolition phase of the project will have four main components: demolition work in the river, demolition work in uplands, concrete crushing and salvage. It is estimated the duration of bridge demolition will be less than two months, with less than one month affecting the channel. Crushed concrete will be stockpiled onsite to be used by the Conservancy and others for trail and access road gravel.

All construction and demolition and salvage work will be performed during normal working hours, on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Workers' parking and equipment storage will be limited to a small grassland area adjacent to the project site's existing gravel road. During non-work hours, all construction equipment will be parked on the project site's existing gravel road and small adjacent grassland area. The limits of the work area will be delineated with construction fencing. Temporary security fencing may be installed by the contractor around the demolition site. Demolition will require temporary fill to support heavy equipment; the fill will be removed after demolition and removal of the bridge rubble in the channel.

Environmental Review (CEQA)

The proposed project.... (select the appropriate answer):

- ☐ Is not a project under CEQA. Briefly specify why in the box below.
- ☐ Is exempt under CEQA. Provide the CEQA exemption number and specify how the project meets the terms of the exemption in the box below.
- ☒ Requires Neg Dec, MND, or EIR. Specify the lead CEQA agency (the agency preparing the document) and the (expected) completion date in the box below. Please note that WCB will need to review and approve any CEQA document.

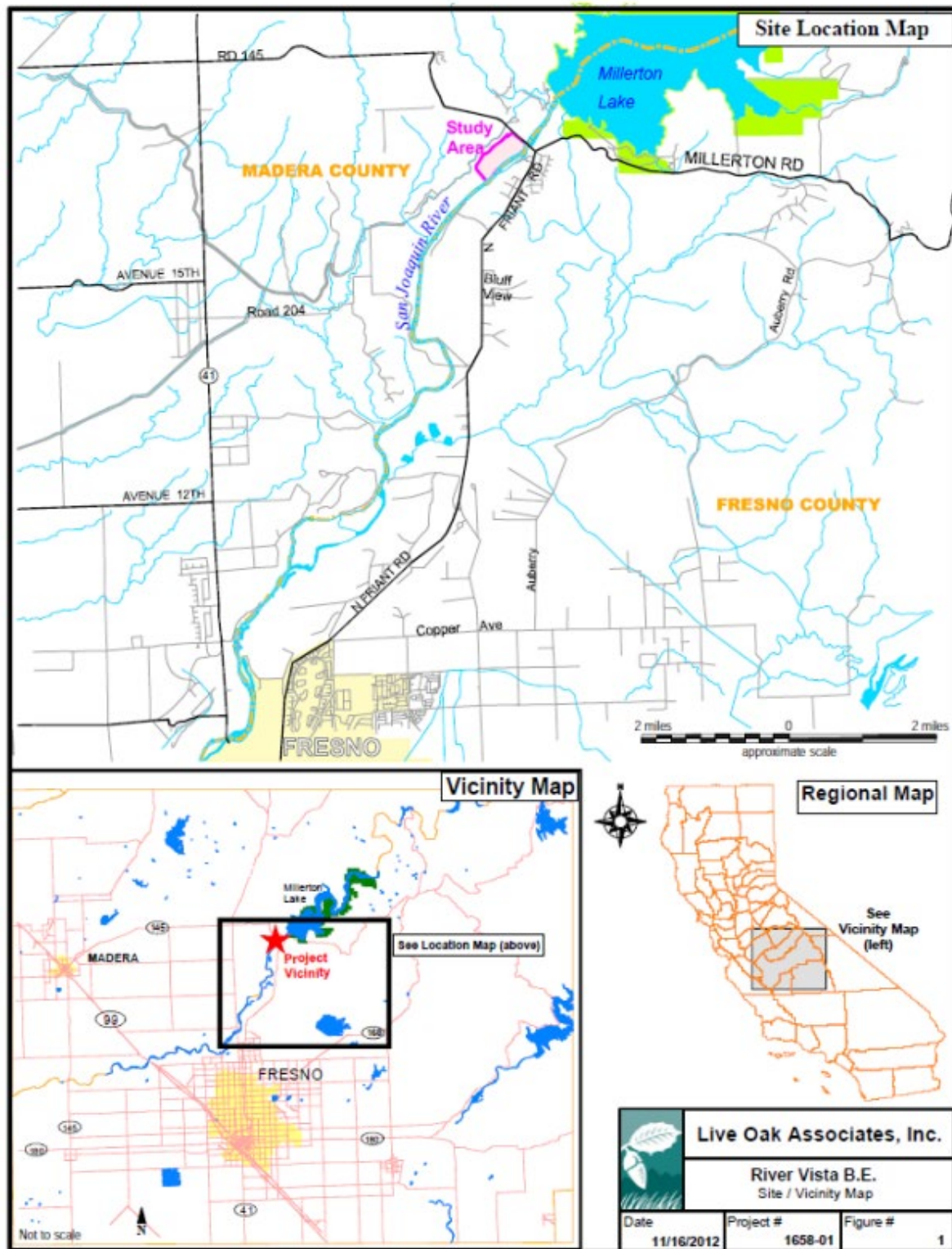
*Note: All WCB project approvals are considered a discretionary action. CEQA applies in situations where a governmental agency can use its judgment in deciding whether and how to carry out or approve a project. A project subject to such judgmental controls is called a "discretionary project" and is subject to CEQA.

1/4/2016 San Joaquin River Conservancy IS/MND SCH#2015091016

Other Funding Sources

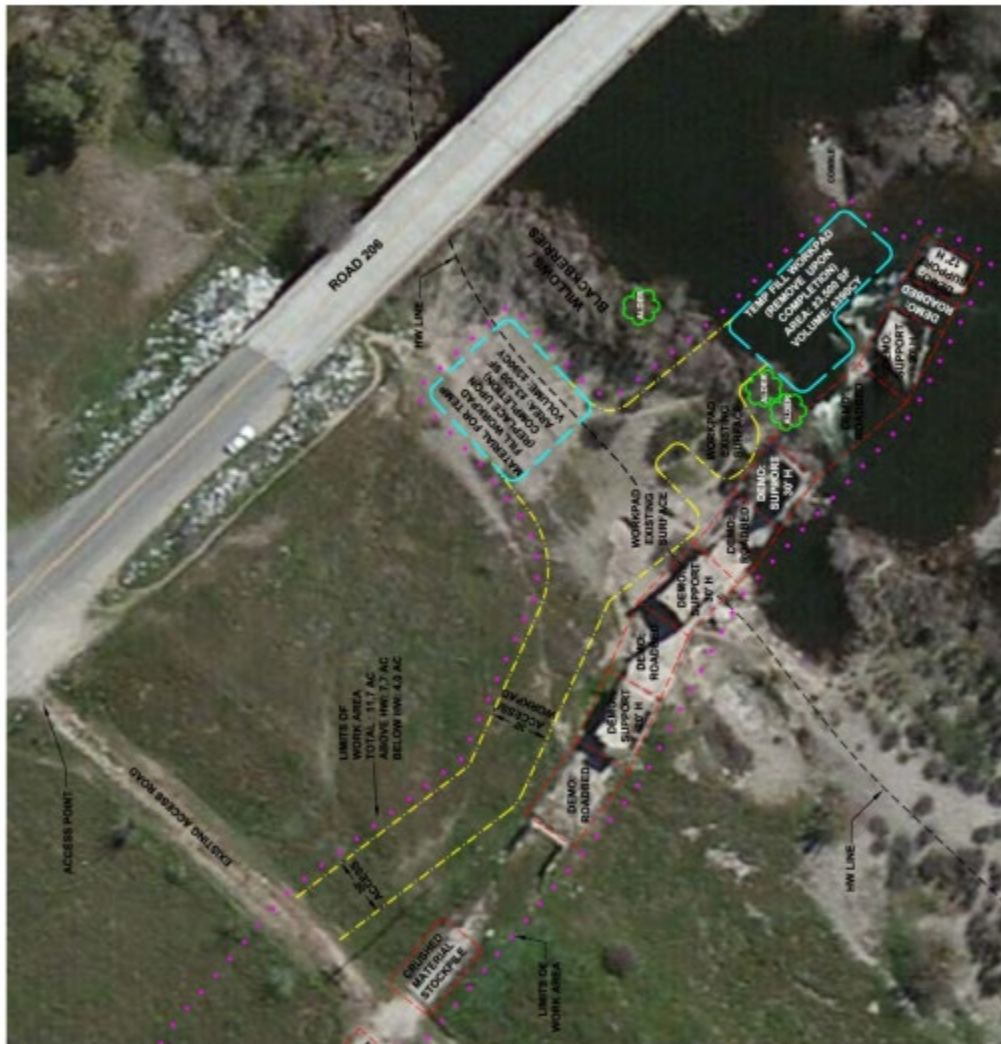
Source	Amount (\$)	Status - Secured / Applied for
Wildlife Conservation Board – Prop 1	5,000,000	Applying for
TOTAL	\$5,000,000	

Maps/Photographs



Site Location Map

Revised March 2023



River Vista Derelict Bridge Demolition Diagram



River Vista Derelict Bridge Remnants