



#### GOVERNING BOARD

**Robert Macaulay**, Chairperson,  
Supervisor, Madera County Board of  
Supervisors

**Kacey Auston**, Vice-Chairperson,  
Director, Fresno Metropolitan Flood  
Control District

**Garry Bredefeld**, Supervisor,  
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

**Nick Richardson**, Councilmember,  
City of Fresno

**Elsa Mejia**, Councilmember,  
City of Madera

**Julie Vance**, Regional Manager,  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Steve Barber**, Acting Sector  
Superintendent, Department of Parks  
and Recreation

**Jennifer Norris**, Executive Director,  
Wildlife Conservation Board

**Gloria Sandoval**, Deputy Secretary  
for Access, Natural Resources Agency

**Cheryl Hudson**, Public Land Manager,  
State Lands Commission

**Stephen Benson**, Assistant Program  
Budget Manager, Department of  
Finance

Citizen Representatives

**Bryn Forhan**, City of Fresno

**Daniel O'Connell**, Fresno County

**Jose Eduardo Chavez**, Madera County

**Stephanie Ruiz**, Youth

Vacant, Tribal

**Kari Kyler Daniska**  
Chief Executive Officer

PO BOX 28338  
Fresno, California 93729  
[www.sjrc.ca.gov](http://www.sjrc.ca.gov)

The next meeting of the  
San Joaquin River Conservancy  
Governing Board

Will be held on February 4, 2026

**Board Meeting Locations:**  
**Camarena Health Wellness Center**  
**at Tesoro Viejo**  
**4148 Town Center Boulevard,**  
**Madera, CA 93636;**

and California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P. Street, Room: 20-103 (Serpentine Room)  
Sacramento, CA 95814;

California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825;

and online Via Teams  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**1:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER**

**CLOSED SESSION WILL BE  
HELD BEFORE CONSENT AND  
REGULAR SESSION**

**2:00 P.M. OPEN SESSION WILL RESUME  
WITH PUBLIC COMMENT**

**4:00 P.M. PUBLIC STRATEGIC  
PLANNING WORKSHOP**



**Robert Macaulay**, Chairperson,  
Supervisor, Madera County Board of  
Supervisors

**Kacey Auston**, Vice-Chairperson,  
Director, Fresno Metropolitan Flood  
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## The San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board February 6, 2026 Meeting AMENDED Agenda

### A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### B. ROLL CALL

### 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).

### D. CLOSED SESSION

Before convening in closed session, members of the public will be provided the opportunity to comment on Regular Session agenda items.

#### D-1. **Gov. Code, § 11126(c)(7)(A)** Consultation with real property negotiators concerning terms of negotiations, including price and terms of payment.

Title: Proposed Fresno and Madera County Property Negotiations with State Parks Representative  
(APNs: 051-200-026, 051-200-024, 051-200-031, 051-720-012, 300-100-06T, 300-100-07T, 049-101-018, 049-280-010, 049-084-026, 049-084-029, 049-084-030, 049-084-032, 049-084-033, 049-102-004, 049-084-017)

#### D-2. **Government Code Section 11126(a)(1)** Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Title: Executive Officer

**Closed Session is anticipated to last an hour.  
The Board meeting will resume with Public Comment at approximately 2:00 P.M.**

### 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 public comments at this time.

- F-2. INFORMATION ITEM:** Reminder to File Statements of Economic Interest and Complete Biennial Ethics Training, Due Tuesday, April 1, 2026.
- F-3. INFORMATION ITEM:** Proposition 4 Grant Program.
- F-4. INFORMATION ITEM:** Strategic Plan Update.
- F-5. ACTION ITEM:** Approve 2026 Meeting Calendar.

**G. REGULAR SESSION ITEMS**

- G-1. ACTION ITEM:** Elect a Board Chair and Vice Chair.
- G-2. ACTION ITEM:** Adopt Resolution 26-01 Expressing Appreciation for RiverTree Volunteers.
- G-3. ACTION ITEM:** Adopt Resolution 26-02 Expressing Appreciation for Bobby Macaulay.

**H. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- H-1.** Deputy Attorney General Report
- H-2.** Executive Officer Report
- H-3.** Board Members' Reports and Comments
- H-4.** Organizations' Reports: If time allows oral and/or written updates from partners are encouraged, covering current or upcoming events and project updates or other items of relevance to the Conservancy.

**I. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m. at the San Joaquin River Conservancy Headquarters.

**J. ADJOURN**

Board meeting notices, agendas, staff reports, and approved minutes are posted on the Conservancy's website, [www.sjrc.ca.gov](http://www.sjrc.ca.gov). For further information or if you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact [info@sjrc.ca.gov](mailto:info@sjrc.ca.gov).

**STRATEGIC PLANNING PUBLIC WORKSHOP WILL BEGIN 15 MINUTES AFTER THE  
BOARD MEETING IS ADJOURNED APPROXIMATELY AT 4:00 P.M.**



## AGENDA ITEM

**February 4, 2026**

**Item: F-1**

**To:** San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

**From:** Kari Kyler Daniska, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** **INFORMATION ITEM:** Conservancy Budget Update.

### RECOMMENDATION:

This report is provided for informational purposes only. No action by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board is required.

### PROPOSITION FUNDS:

*Enc. 06/30/28, Revert. 06/30/30*

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 (Proposition 84) (6051)	\$36,000,000.00
Program Delivery	(1,800,000.00)
Expenses	(33,203,665.13)
Committed Funds (SJRC Board)*	(996,334.87)
<b>    Balance</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>

*Enc. 06/30/26, Revert. 06/30/28*

WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND (Proposition 1) (6083)	\$10,000,000.00
Program Delivery	(500,000.00)
Expenses	(3,688,911.57)
Committed Funds (SJRC Board)*	(2,000,000.00)
<b>    Unallocated Balance</b>	<b>\$3,311,088.43</b>

*Enc. 06/30/28, Revert. 06/30/30*

THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (Proposition 68) (6088)	\$6,000,000.00
Program Delivery	(450,000.00)
Expenses	-
Committed Funds (SJRC Board)*	(5,550,000.00)
<b>    Unallocated Balance</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>

SAFE DRINKING WATER, WILDFIRE PREVENTION,  
AND PROTECTING COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL  
LANDS FROM CLIMATE RISKS OF 2024

(Proposition 4)		\$11,000,000.00
Program Delivery		(770,000.00)
Expenses		-
<b>    Unallocated Balance</b>		<b>\$10,230,000.00</b>

**GENERAL FUND (July 2021- June 2027):**

GENERAL FUND (0001)		\$15,000,000.00
Expenses		(7,453,072.50)
<b>    Unallocated Balance</b>		<b>\$7,546,927.50</b>

**FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026:**

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND (14000)		\$444,000.00
Expenses		(430,402.01)
<b>    Unallocated Balance</b>		<b>\$13,597.99</b>

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY FUND (10002)		\$450,000.00
Expenses		(\$148,432.44)
<b>    Unallocated Balance</b>		<b>\$301,567.56</b>

PROP 84-PROGRAM DELIVERY (10006)		\$512,000.00
Expenses		(420,493.64)
<b>    Unallocated Balance</b>		<b>\$91,506.36</b>

\* The funds have been authorized by the SJRC Board and are currently pending approval by the WCB Board for encumbrance.

For additional information, you may direct inquiries to San Joaquin River Conservancy Chief Executive Officer, Kari Kyler Daniska, at [kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov](mailto:kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov).



## AGENDA ITEM

**February 4, 2026**

**Item: F-2**

**To:** San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

**From:** Kari Kyler Daniska, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** **INFORMATION ITEM:** Reminder to File Statements of Economic Interest and Complete Biennial Ethics Training, Due Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

### RECOMMENDATION:

This report is provided for informational purposes only. No action by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board is required.

### SUMMARY:

The Political Reform Act requires public officials and employees who serve in positions designated by an agency's conflict-of-interest code to annually disclose personal assets and income by filing a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). **The statement is due on April 1 of each year.** The Form 700 can be completed on the online eDisclosure system at <https://form700.fppc.ca.gov/> or the original copy can be mailed to the Conservancy.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 91013, late statements are subject to a fine of \$10 per day up to a maximum of \$100. The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) will consider a request to waive the payment of a late fine if the request is based on a "good cause" such as medical reasons or lost records, among others. However, FPPC will not waive the fine for reasons such as a vacation or waiting for professional assistance from a financial advisor. Additional information can be found on the FPPC website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) or you may call FPPC at 1-866-275-3772.

California law requires State officials to complete an ethics training course within six months of their hiring or appointment, and every two years thereafter. Conservancy Board members must take the course specifically for State officials. To help State officials meet this requirement, the Attorney General's Office and the Fair Political Practices Commission have developed an online, interactive training course, available at <http://oag.ca.gov/ethics/course>. Additional information regarding ethics training for State officials can be found on the California Attorney General's website at <http://oag.ca.gov/ethics>. State ethics training certificates can be emailed or mailed to the Conservancy, attention Ashley Bybee, PO Box 28338, Fresno, CA 93729.

For additional information, you may direct inquiries to San Joaquin River Conservancy Chief Executive Officer, Kari Kyler Daniska, at [kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov](mailto:kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov).



## AGENDA ITEM

**February 4, 2026**

**Item: F-3**

**To:** San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

**From:** Kari Kyler Daniska, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** **INFORMATION ITEM:** Proposition 4 Grant Program.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is provided for informational purposes only. No action by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board is required.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond of 2024 (“Proposition 4”) was enacted by the voters on November 5, 2024, to fund \$10 billion in public improvements throughout the State of California. The primary objective of Proposition 4 is to tackle our most urgent climate needs by investing in preventing devastating wildfires, providing clean, safe drinking water and boosting water supplies, and protecting California’s iconic landscapes. Proposition 4 project investments aim to assist communities that have been historically underserved by allocating a minimum of 10 percent of available funds to severely disadvantaged communities and a minimum of 40 percent of available funds to disadvantaged communities.

The Conservancy has received approximately \$11 million to support local assistance grants under its Proposition 4 Grant Program. The funds are allocated as follows:

- \$82,500 – Bond Fund Fee
- \$770,000 – Program Delivery
- \$10,147,500 – Projects

### **SUMMARY:**

On December 16, 2025, the Conservancy submitted proposed emergency regulations for Proposition 4 to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The submittal was accepted as complete on the same day.

Subsequently, on December 24, 2025, the OAL approved the Conservancy's Proposition 4 Emergency Regulations, which became effective immediately upon approval. Approved Regulations are included as Attachment 1.

With this approval, the Conservancy's Proposition 4 Grant Program is now officially active. As a result, \$5,115,000 in Proposition 4 funding allocated for Fiscal Year 25–26 is currently available for eligible projects. An additional \$5,035,000 in Proposition 4 funding is anticipated to become available on July 1, 2026.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult with the Conservancy's Chief Executive Officer and submit a Letter of Intent outlining their proposed project to [info@sjrc.ca.gov](mailto:info@sjrc.ca.gov). Additional information about the Conservancy's Proposition 4 Grant Program, including eligibility criteria and application guidelines, is available on our website.

For additional information, you may direct inquiries to San Joaquin River Conservancy Chief Executive Officer, Kari Kyler Daniska, at [kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov](mailto:kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov).

**State of California  
Office of Administrative Law**

**In re:**  
**San Joaquin River Conservancy**

**Regulatory Action:**

**Title 14, California Code of Regulations**

**Adopt sections:** **25040, 25040.1, 25040.2,  
25040.3, 25040.4, 25040.5,  
25040.6, 25040.7, 25040.8**

**NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY  
REGULATORY ACTION**

**Government Code Sections 11346.1 and  
11349.6**

**OAL Matter Number: 2025-1216-03**

**OAL Matter Type: Emergency (E)**

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In this emergency action pursuant to Government Code section 11346.1, San Joaquin River Conservancy establishes procedures and selection criteria used to select projects for grant funding under Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 90135(e)(1), this is a deemed emergency and remains in effect until repealed or amended by OPC.

OAL approves this emergency regulatory action pursuant to sections 11346.1 and 11349.6 of the Government Code.

This emergency regulatory action is effective on 12/24/2025 and remains in effect until repealed or revised by the San Joaquin River Conservancy pursuant to Public Resources Code section 90135(e)(2).

Date: December 24, 2025



Ashita Mohandas  
Attorney

For: Kenneth J. Pogue  
Director

Original: Kari Daniska, Executive Officer  
Copy: Kari Daniska

## NOTICE PUBLICATION/REGULATORY ACTION SUBMISSION

STD. 400 (REV. 10/2019)

## EMERGENCY

For use by Secretary of State only

OAL FILE NUMBERS <b>Z-</b>	NOTICE FILE NUMBER <b>Z-</b>	REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER	EMERGENCY NUMBER <b>2025-1216-03E</b>
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For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only

OFFICE OF ADMIN. LAW  
2025 DEC 16 PM3:08

## NOTICE

## REGULATIONS

AGENCY WITH RULEMAKING AUTHORITY  
San Joaquin River ConservancyAGENCY FILE NUMBER (If any)  
**N/A**

## A. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE (Complete for publication in Notice Register)

1. SUBJECT OF NOTICE Proposition 4 Grant Program		TITLE(S) 14	FIRST SECTION AFFECTED 25040	2. REQUESTED PUBLICATION DATE
3. NOTICE TYPE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice re Proposed Regulatory Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other		4. AGENCY CONTACT PERSON Kari Kyler Daniska	TELEPHONE NUMBER (559) 287-2650	FAX NUMBER (Optional)
OAL USE ONLY	ACTION ON PROPOSED NOTICE <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Modified <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved/ Withdrawn		NOTICE REGISTER NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE

## B. SUBMISSION OF REGULATIONS (Complete when submitting regulations)

1a. SUBJECT OF REGULATION(S) San Joaquin River Conservancy Proposition 4 Grant Program	1b. ALL PREVIOUS RELATED OAL REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER(S)
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2. SPECIFY CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE(S) AND SECTION(S) (Including title 26, if toxics related)

SECTION(S) AFFECTED (List all section number(s) individually. Attach additional sheet if needed.)	ADOPT See attached
TITLE(S) 14	AMEND
REPEAL	

3. TYPE OF FILING <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Rulemaking (Gov. Code §11346) <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn nonemergency filing (Gov. Code §§11349.3, 11349.4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency (Gov. Code, §11346.1(b))	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Compliance: The agency officer named below certifies that this agency complied with the provisions of Gov. Code §§11346.2-11347.3 either before the emergency regulation was adopted or within the time period required by statute. <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn emergency filing (Gov. Code, §11346.1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Readopt (Gov. Code, §11346.1(h)) <input type="checkbox"/> File & Print <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Changes Without Regulatory Effect (Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100) <input type="checkbox"/> Print Only
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4. ALL BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES OF AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED REGULATIONS AND/OR MATERIAL ADDED TO THE RULEMAKING FILE (Cal. Code Regs. title 1, §44 and Gov. Code §11347.1)

5. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGES (Gov. Code, §§ 11343.4, 11346.1(d); Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100) <input type="checkbox"/> Effective January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 (Gov. Code §11343.4(a))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effective on filing with Secretary of State	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Changes Without Regulatory Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Effective other (Specify) _____
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PER AGENCY REQUEST  
AM

12/23/25

6. CHECK IF THESE REGULATIONS REQUIRE NOTICE TO, OR REVIEW, CONSULTATION, APPROVAL OR CONCURRENCE BY, ANOTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance (Form STD. 399) (SAM §6660)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Political Practices Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> State Fire Marshal
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		

7. CONTACT PERSON Kari Kyler Daniska	TELEPHONE NUMBER (559) 287-2650	FAX NUMBER (Optional)	E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional) Kari.Daniska@sjrc.ca.gov
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8. I certify that the attached copy of the regulation(s) is a true and correct copy of the regulation(s) identified on this form, that the information specified on this form is true and correct, and that I am the head of the agency taking this action, or a designee of the head of the agency, and am authorized to make this certification.

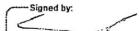
For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only

ENDORSED APPROVED

DEC 24 2025

Office of Administrative Law

SIGNATURE OF AGENCY HEAD OR DESIGNEE



TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY

Kari Kyler Daniska, Executive Officer

DATE  
12/16/2025

San Joaquin River Conservancy – Proposition 4 Grant Program

B.2 – ADOPT: 25040, 25040.1, 25040.2, 25040.3, 25040.4, 25040.5, 25040.6, 25040.7,  
25040.8.

**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY**  
**TITLE: PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM.**  
**DIVISION 10: SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY**  
**CHAPTER 4: SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY GRANT PROGRAM**

**FINAL TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS**

**Subchapter 1. General Provisions**

**§ 25040. Applicability and Scope.**

This chapter shall be known as the San Joaquin River Conservancy Proposition 4 Grant Program. These regulations apply to Grants funded by the Conservancy from Proposition 4, otherwise known as SB 867 (Allen 2024), The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

**§ 25040.1. Definitions**

The following definitions shall apply wherever the terms are used throughout this Chapter.

- (a) "Conservancy" means the San Joaquin River Conservancy established pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 32504(b).
- (b) "Disadvantaged Community" means a community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.
- (c) "Environmental Justice" means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, income, and national origin with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies consistent with Public Resources Code section 71110 and Government Code section 65040.12.
- (d) "Grant" means an award of funds made by the Conservancy, in the form of advance payment or reimbursement to the Grantee for actual expenditures incurred in performing an eligible project described in section 25040.3.

(e) "Grant Agreement" means an arrangement between the State and Grantee specifying the payment of funds by the State for the performance of specific objectives by the Grantee within a specific project performance period by the Grantee.

(f) "Grantee" means an applicant that has a Grant Agreement.

(g) "Joint Powers Authority" means any entity formed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, if at least one of the parties to the joint powers agreement qualifies as an eligible applicant consistent with section 25040.2.

(h) "Nonprofit Organization" means any nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.

(i) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency consistent with Public Resources Code section 90135.

(j) "Severely Disadvantaged Community" means a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.

(k) "Tribe" means a federally recognized Native American Tribe or a non-federally recognized Native American Tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.

(l) "Vulnerable Population" means a subgroup of a population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

## **Subchapter 2. Eligibility and Eligible Costs**

### **§ 25040.2. Applicant Eligibility.**

Eligible applicants are public agencies, local agencies, Nonprofit Organizations, special districts, Joint Powers Authorities, Tribes, public utilities, local publicly owned utilities, and mutual water companies.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

### **§ 25040.3. Project Eligibility.**

The following projects are eligible for a Grant:

(a) Acquisition Projects that:

- (1) Must be from willing sellers at a price no greater than fair market value, and the property must carry a perpetual deed restriction in favor of the Conservancy to ensure use consistent with its conservation mission.
- (2) Preserve and maintain natural and cultural areas that are critical to and for species that are endangered or threatened or that are critical to the health of the natural ecosystem.
- (3) Support land conservation, where conserved land reduces greenhouse gas emissions by both preventing emissions and sequestering existing gases.
- (4) Support the California 30x30 initiative (Governor's Exec. Order No. N-82-20 (Oct. 7, 2020)) in acquiring private lands and returning them to conservation or expanding existing conservation areas or create new ones and protect vital ecosystems.

(c) Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Projects that:

- (1) Remove invasive plants that contribute to global warming, use excessive amounts of water, or harm endangered or threatened species of plants or animals and replace them with native plants.
- (2) Enhance watershed related natural features, such as washes, channels, streams or riverbeds.
- (3) Improve groundwater supply by enhancing flow into the aquifer through washes, alluvia fans, or streams.
- (4) Improve the ecosystem through restoration work that supports biodiversity, resilience to disturbances, and the ability to support a wide range of plants and animal life, including healthy soil, dust suppression, and clean water.
- (5) Prevent wildfires through the removal of invasive plant species to enhance fire

prevention by reducing fuel loads, preventing fire spread, and allowing native fire-resistance vegetation to thrive.

**(d) Increase Public Access. Eligible projects include:**

- (1) Enhancing access to outdoor recreation, including but not limited to:**
  - (A) Visitor-serving improvements (including buildings, visitor center facilities, native plant landscaping and shade infrastructure), in parks, public open spaces or recreational areas.**
  - (B) Trails through urban or natural landscapes, whether for hiking, biking, walking or equestrian use.**
- (2) Community access project improvements, such as disabled access improvements, interpretative features that provide education about habitat conservation, cultural artifacts or local history.**
- (3) Restoration projects that support natural features and habitat areas that expand public access and enhances access to outdoor recreation.**

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

**Subchapter 3. Application**

**§ 25040.4. Letters of Intent and Request for Proposals.**

- (a) The Conservancy shall solicit letters of intent on its website from interested applicants when Grant funding is available. In its request for letters of intent, the Conservancy shall identify priority project types for the funding opportunity as provided in section 25040.3, any program priorities listed in section 25040.6(b)(2), or fiscal limitations applicable to the available funding. Letters of intent shall be short-form documents intended to allow technical staff to ascertain whether the applicant and/or project are eligible for program funding prior to submitting a more detailed application and proposal. Letters of intent shall be submitted as a Microsoft Word document to info@sjrc.ca.gov and the narrative shall not exceed four (4) pages. All maps and photographs should be included within the Word document; if**

separate files are necessary, they must be submitted in PDF format. At a minimum, all letters of intent shall include the following information:

- (1) Name of applicant and preferred email or mail address or other preferred contact information.
- (2) Applicant's eligibility pursuant to section 25040.2.
- (3) Project type.
- (4) Project summary.
- (5) Project location and description of anticipated public access if the project includes acquisition or restoration of real property.
- (6) An explanation of the project's eligibility under section 25040.3.
- (7) Amount sought by the Grant.
- (8) Project duration.
- (9) Does the project have matching funds? (Yes/No — if yes, specify source and amount.)
- (10) Does the applicant or project serve or provide meaningful and direct benefits to a Vulnerable Population, a Disadvantaged Community, or a Severely Disadvantaged Community?

(b) Letters of intent will undergo an administrative review to determine whether applicant and project eligibility requirements in section 25040.2 and 25040.3 respectively are met. Applicants or projects determined ineligible will be disqualified. Applicants or projects determined eligible will be invited to submit full applications and proposals.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

#### **Subchapter 4. Application Submittal, Proposal Review, and Grant Awards**

##### **§ 25040.5. Applications and Proposals.**

- (a) Each applicant determined to be eligible pursuant to Section 25040.4(b) shall be invited to submit a full application. The written narrative shall not exceed ten (10) pages. Full applications must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document to info@sjrc.ca.gov. All

maps and photographs should be included within the Word document; if separate files are necessary, they must be submitted in PDF format. Full applications shall, at a minimum, include the following information:

- (1) Name of applicant and preferred email or mail address or other preferred contact information.
- (2) Project description, location maps, and amount sought.
- (3) Introduction summarizing applicant's interest, goals, and project, and rationale for the project goals and approach.
- (4) A scope of work and narrative description illustrating how the project would advance one or more of the goals and objectives identified in section 1 of Proposition 4.
- (5) Approach and methods.
- (6) Anticipated outcomes and deliverables.
- (7) Anticipated community engagement and benefits, including workforce education and training, contractor, or job opportunities for Vulnerable Populations.
- (8) Proposed letters of support.
- (9) Proposed project timeline.
- (10) Proposed budget, including need for advance funding and description of external sources of funding (not required for project selection.)
  - (A) Labor costs for Grantee employees directly implementing a project shall be reimbursed at rates equal to the actual compensation provided, including salary and benefits (such as fringe benefits). Costs for staff time dedicated to specific project tasks—for example, preparing a management plan or determining trail alignments—must be included in the budget under the corresponding tasks.
  - (B) If the scope of work includes a task titled “Project Management,” this task shall cover labor costs not otherwise billed under project implementation. Examples include administering the Conservancy Grant, managing contracts, paying consultants, billing, maintaining accounting records, and

other activities related to overall project administration.

- (C) All other direct costs shall be billed at actual cost, with no markups.
- (D) The Grantee shall include the cost of one sign acknowledging the Grant funding source (San Joaquin River Conservancy, Proposition 4 Grant Program.) as well as associated costs for social media outreach and press releases.
- (E) Overhead or indirect costs refer to non-project-specific expenses incurred in the general operation of a Grantee organization. Examples of such costs include rent, computers, telephones, office supplies, internet access, copy machines, and electricity.
- (F) Certain expenses are not allowed as overhead under Conservancy Grants, including food and beverages, fundraising activities, lobbying, and entertainment. Additionally, any costs billed as direct expenses may not be included in overhead calculations. The terms “overhead” and “indirect costs” are considered interchangeable and refer to the same category of expenses.
- (G) Grantees intending to charge overhead to a Conservancy Grant must provide documentation to substantiate these charges. Overhead recovery is limited to a maximum of 12% of the total Grant amount. The final 10% of the Grant will be withheld until all deliverables, including signage installation, are complete. This withheld amount will be released as a final payment upon satisfactory project completion.

(11) Project team experience and qualifications of the lead staff, as demonstrated through submitted résumés. Where determined feasible by the applicant, this shall include the use of services provided by the California Conservation Corps or a certified community conservation corps, as defined in Public Resources Code section 14507.5.

(12) Identification of relevant permit compliance requirements and a plan to obtain applicable permits.

(13) Website accessibility compliance where relevant.

(b) The Grantee shall submit a plan to the Executive Officer describing how the Conservancy's support will be acknowledged, including proposed signage. At a minimum, the plan shall include press releases, social media posts during project implementation, acknowledgment of Conservancy funding in communications with the media, volunteers, and the public, and a description of the project on the Grantee's website that credits the Conservancy.

(c) The Grantee shall maintain, for the duration of the Grant period, and provide to the Conservancy, certificates of insurance evidencing coverage for Workers' Compensation, Commercial General Liability (with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate), and Automobile Liability (with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage), together with all required endorsements.

(d) Funds must be expended in accordance with the requirements of the funding source. Examples of ineligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Projects involving the acquisition of land through eminent domain.
- (2) Projects that include the acquisition of property at a price exceeding fair market value.
- (3) Projects that combine both property acquisition and development activities.
- (4) Projects intended to address deficiencies resulting from inadequate routine maintenance.
- (5) Projects undertaken to satisfy mitigation requirements imposed by law.
- (6) Projects that establish or increase an endowment.
- (7) Projects to complete environmental mitigation requirements for other projects.

(e) Grants shall be awarded as funding is available and authorized.

(f) Allocation of funds is contingent on the enactment of the state budget. The Conservancy does not disburse funds until the budget has passed and is signed by the Governor.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

**§ 25040.6. Evaluation of Proposals.**

(a) All proposals shall be reviewed by a review committee of state-staff experts on climate change impacts on communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and public access, or other relevant qualifications based on the nature of the funding available and the Conservancy's priorities.

- (1) If state staff with relevant expertise are unavailable, the Conservancy may invite non-state staff experts to participate in the review committee.
- (2) All review committee members are subject to applicable laws on conflict of interest.

(b) Each Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

(1) Alignment with and response to the program declarations listed in Section 1 of Proposition 4, including advancing funding to Vulnerable Populations, Disadvantaged Communities, or Severely Disadvantaged Communities, and advancement of Environmental Justice principles.

(2) Alignment with program priorities which shall include the following:  
(A) Reduce risks of climate change impact upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources.

(B) Increase Public Access.

(3) Demonstration of public benefits anticipated to be derived from the project, including direct and meaningful community benefits, workforce development and training, or the inclusion of community partnerships, where applicable, including tribally-led projects or partnerships.

(4) Demonstrate readiness and the capacity to complete the proposed project. This includes, but is not limited to, having all required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation

completed prior to the Board meeting for funding approval.

(5) Inclusion of services by the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 14507.5, where determined feasible by the applicant.

(6) Inclusion of innovative and/or effective methodology supported by science.

(7) Relative need of the project, based on geographic or environmental vulnerability factors, as described in the request for proposals pursuant Section 25040.4.

(c) Proposals that are consistent with established local plans and contribute to the implementation of existing environmental, recreational, climate change, or related initiatives.

(d) Proposals for acquisitions or conservation easements shall submit required spatial data to the California Conserved Areas Database and/or the California Conservation Easement Database, administered through the California Protected Areas Database (<https://calands.org/>).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

#### **§ 25040.7. Grant Awards.**

(a) The review committee will consider which proposed Grant projects will best meet the criteria in section 25040.6(b) and make award recommendations to the Conservancy for the full or partial amount requested, or denied, based on the extent to which proposed projects best satisfy the goals of Proposition 4. Each applicant that submits a full application pursuant to section 25040.5 shall be notified of the review committee's recommendation prior to the Conservancy meeting for final decision. A notice of intent to award a Grant for the full or partial amount requested will be based on the following factors:

(1) Amount of available funding;

(2) Number of Applicants;

(3) Amount of funding requested by Applicants; and  
(4) The Conservancy's funding priorities.

(b) The review committee will submit its recommendations for funding to the Conservancy. The Conservancy shall review the review committee recommendations and will approve, modify, or deny these recommendations based on the information provided and the record before it. Upon a final vote, the Conservancy shall notify successful applicants of a Grant Award, including the amount of a Grant.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

#### **§ 25040.8. Grant Agreements.**

(a) The terms and conditions of a Grant shall be set forth in a Grant Agreement entered into by the Conservancy and the Grantee. A Grantee has the sole responsibility for the fiscal management of Grant funds, project-specific recordkeeping and reporting, performance of the Project, and all other aspects of compliance with this Chapter and the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Grant amount and any need for advance payment.

(2) Grantee contact information.

(3) Grant duration.

(4) Scope of the Project funded by the Grant award.

(5) Budget.

(6) The Grantee's agreement to comply with existing laws.

(7) Other project-specific terms as may be necessary to protect the state in administering its fiduciary obligations.

(b) The Grantee shall retain financial records related to the Project for a minimum period of three (3) years following final payment and shall make such records available to the Conservancy upon request.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 32501, 32503, 32510, 32534, 32537, 93020 and 90135 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 32537 and 93020 Public Resources Code.



## AGENDA ITEM

**February 4, 2026**

**Item: F-4**

**To:** San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board  
**From:** Kari Kyler Daniska, Chief Executive Officer   
**Subject:** **INFORMATION ITEM:** Strategic Plan Update.

### RECOMMENDATION:

This report is provided for informational purposes only. No action by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board is required.

### SUMMARY:

The Conservancy has initiated the strategic planning process and has created a timeline showing the anticipated steps and milestones (Attachment 1).

The Chief Executive Officer has open office hours on Tuesdays from 9-11 AM, started meeting with stakeholder groups and community members to gather feedback, and has regular meetings with an internal steering committee for the development of the strategic plan.

Potential goals or areas of focus in the Strategic Plan include:

- Strengthen Tribal Partnerships and Advance Equity in Land Stewardship
- Advance Land Acquisition to Protect Habitat, Expand Public Access, and Support Regional Conservation Priorities
- Accelerate and Scale Habitat Restoration to Protect Biodiversity and Build Climate Resilience
- Expand Equitable Public Access while Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources
- Align Investments to Accelerate Parkway Development and Expand Equitable Public Access in Response to Evolving Recreation Trends
- Advance Adaptive Management through Science, Monitoring, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Find Opportunities for Long-Term, Stable Funding

Additionally, three public workshops will be held to gather comments. Workshops will be held in Fresno and Madera County after regularly scheduled Board meetings. The final

presentation of the strategic plan to the Governing Board is anticipated to take place in August of 2026.

For additional information, you may direct inquiries to San Joaquin River Conservancy Chief Executive Officer, Kari Kyler Daniska, at [kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov](mailto:kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov)



## AGENDA ITEM

**February 4, 2026**

**Item: F-5**

**To:** San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

**From:** Kari Kyler Daniska, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** **ACTION ITEM:** Approve Board Meeting Calendar for 2026.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board approve the meeting schedule reserved for the 2026 calendar year.

### SUMMARY:

For the past year, the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board has generally met on the mornings or afternoons of the first Wednesday of each month.

For 2026, the meetings will continue to be scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month. Individual meetings will be given for any board members who wish to be apprised of current and upcoming projects, these meetings are optional but recommended. Workshops may also be scheduled in conjunction with monthly meetings and do not need a quorum of board members to be present. Workshops will be informational only and do not include any action items for consideration.

Upon approval, the schedule for 2026 Conservancy Governing Board meetings will be as follows:

March 4 –	Morning Meeting	August 5 –	Afternoon Meeting
April 1 –	Afternoon Meeting	September 2 –	Morning Meeting
May 6 –	Morning Meeting	October 7 –	Afternoon Meeting
June –	No Meeting	November 4 –	Morning Meeting
July –	No Meeting	December –	No Meeting

The start time will be 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. for meetings held January through December, unless otherwise specified. Meetings will be held in a hybrid fashion, allowing for both virtual and in-person participation. Physical meeting locations may vary, and the location will be posted upon dissemination of the agenda. Every effort will be made to host meetings in both Fresno and Madera County. Board meetings are canceled at times when the issues can be postponed and consolidated into fewer meetings; however, to the extent possible, staff will work with the Chairperson and Vice-chair to schedule meetings and set agendas to keep the anticipated duration between two and three hours.

For additional information, you may direct inquiries to San Joaquin River Conservancy Chief Executive Officer, Kari Kyler Daniska, at [kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov](mailto:kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov).



## AGENDA ITEM

**February 4, 2026**

**Item: G-1**

**To:** San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

**From:** Kari Kyler Daniska, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** **ACTION ITEM:** Elect a Board Chair and Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2026.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Board nominate and elect a new chairperson, as provided for in the San Joaquin River Conservancy Act, and a vice-chairperson, each to serve a one-year term of office.

### SUMMARY:

#### Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Under Public Resources Code, §32519 of the San Joaquin River Conservancy: "Voting members of the Board shall annually elect from among the voting members a chairperson and a vice chairperson. If the office of the chairperson or vice chairperson becomes vacant, a new chairperson or vice chairperson shall be elected by the voting members of the Board to serve for the remainder of the term. A person shall not serve as chairperson for more than two consecutive years."

In February 2025, Madera County Supervisor, Bobby Macaulay, was elected to serve as the chairperson and Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Director Kacey Auston was elected to serve as the vice chairperson.

In accordance with the San Joaquin River Conservancy Act, the chairperson will call for nominations for each position, the office of chairperson and vice chairperson will be the nominees that receive a majority vote of the Board. The process will be as follows, unless the

Board determines otherwise:

1. Chair Macaulay will accept nominations for the chairperson;
2. Upon being nominated, the Board member who has been nominated can accept or decline the nomination (the nomination does not require a Second);
3. When there are no more nominations, the Chair will ask for a roll call vote after the close of discussion among the Board members;
4. The Clerk to the Board will call roll and report the result to Chair Macaulay. The nominee that receives a majority of the votes will be selected as the chairperson for

2026. If none of the nominees receive a majority of the votes, the nominees with the highest and second highest number of votes will be included in a second roll call vote to determine the chairperson for 2026, continuing until one nominee receives a majority of the votes;

5. This same method of nomination, acceptance, and roll call voting will be carried out for the vice chairperson.
6. Both the chairperson and vice chairperson will assume their positions on March 4, 2026.

For additional information, you may direct inquiries to San Joaquin River Conservancy Chief Executive Officer, Kari Kyler Daniska, at [kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov](mailto:kari.daniska@sjrc.ca.gov).



## AGENDA ITEM

**February 4, 2026**

**Item: G-2**

**To:** San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

**From:** Kari Kyler Daniska, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** **ACTION ITEM:** Adopt Resolution 26-01 Expressing Appreciation for RiverTree Volunteers.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board adopt Resolution of Appreciation 26-01 for RiverTree Volunteers for outstanding environmental stewardship and community service.

### SUMMARY:

RiverTree Volunteers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the care, restoration, and stewardship of the San Joaquin River and its watershed through volunteerism, education, recreation, and environmental restoration. Since 2003, RiverTree Volunteers has played a significant role in improving river health and public access through clean-ups, habitat restoration, and community engagement activities.

Since its founding, RiverTree Volunteers has removed more than 8,900 tires and hundreds of tons of trash and recyclables from the San Joaquin River, its banks, and tributaries, improving water quality, public safety, and the overall condition of the river corridor. The organization has also supported and coordinated multiple Eagle Scout projects in partnership with the Conservancy and other organizations, providing meaningful restoration benefits to the river and surrounding communities.

Approval of this item will formally recognize and commend RiverTree Volunteers, its volunteers, partners, and supporters for their exceptional contributions and continued dedication to preserving and enhancing the San Joaquin River for present and future generations.



## AGENDA ITEM

**February 4, 2026**

**Item: G-3**

**To:** San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board

**From:** Kari Kyler Daniska, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** **ACTION ITEM:** Adopt Resolution 26-02 Expressing Appreciation for Bobby Macaulay.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board adopt: Resolution of Appreciation 26-02 for County of Madera Supervisor, Bobby Macaulay to commend and thank him for his service to the San Joaquin River Conservancy and his dedication to the development and implementation of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

### SUMMARY:

Bobby Macaulay was elected to the San Joaquin Conservancy Board in 2023 and served approximately three years during his term. Throughout his term, Mr. Macaulay was a highly valued and engaged member of the Board. He served as Board Chair and Vice Chair and consistently participated in Board deliberations, ensuring that alternatives were thoroughly considered and that recommendations were well-reasoned and informed.

Mr. Macaulay's leadership and vision for the Conservancy were instrumental to its mission, and he was among the strongest advocates for advancing efforts to create a safe and accessible San Joaquin River Parkway. Mr. Macaulay has stated that his greatest accomplishment during his service was supporting staff development and fostering a strong, cohesive team.

### DISCUSSION:

During Mr. Macaulay's term with the Conservancy, he has helped guide the Conservancy's work on several capital improvement projects and many property management issues. Items that were authorized by the Conservancy Board during his service included work on:

- The acquisition of properties for habitat conservation and enhancement, public access, recreation, and environmental education.
- Adopted the Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project.
- Grant to the Department of Water Resources for the Sycamore Island Fishing Pond Enhancement Project.
- Grant to the City of Fresno for the River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project.

- Grant to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust to acquire the Sumner Peck Winery.
- Grant to the Department of Water Resources for the Milburn Pond Planning, Design and CEQA.
- Contract to the City of Fresno for the Installation of a Traffic Light at the Del Mar and Audubon Intersection.
- Operation Agreement for the operation and maintenance of Sycamore Island and Van Buren Unit to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.
- Operation Agreement for the operation and maintenance of Ball Ranch and Ledger Island to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

The Conservancy appreciates the dedication that Mr. Macaulay has demonstrated toward the development of the San Joaquin River Parkway and increased quality of life for the community that enjoys it. His guidance and voice have been key in establishing and furthering the Conservancy's goals, objectives, and priorities.