



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
CONSERVANCY**

GOVERNING BOARD

Robert Macaulay, Chairperson
Supervisor
Madera County Board of Supervisors

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

Mike Karbassi,
Councilmember, City of Fresno

Steve Brandau, *Supervisor*
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Santos Garcia, *Mayor,*
City of Madera

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

Kent Gresham, *Sector Superintendent*
Department of Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Norris, *Executive Director*
Wildlife Conservation Board

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

Jennifer Lucchesi, *Executive Officer*
State Lands Commission

Matt Almy, *Program Budget Manager*
Department of Finance

Citizen Representatives
Bryn Forhan, *City of Fresno*

Daniel O'Connell, *Fresno County*

Jose Eduardo Chavez, *Madera*

County Vacant, Tribal

Vacant, Youth

Kari Daniska
Executive Officer

PO BOX 28338
Fresno, California 93729
www.sjrc.ca.gov

November 15, 2024

**Subject: Request for Motion - City of Fresno Parks,
Recreation, and Arts Commission**

The San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) requests that the City of Fresno Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission consider the following improvement project for FY 26 Measure P budget consideration.

River West Fresno Improvement Project

River West Fresno is a 290-acre property that was purchased by the Conservancy in 2003. River West Fresno does not meet the Conservancy Governing Boards (Board) minimum criteria for opening safely and is currently closed to the public.

In 2020, the Conservancy entered into a Settlement Agreement to develop, construct, and open the River West Fresno Project (Project). When constructed, the Project will have a trail system, site furnishings (restrooms, picnic tables, trash cans, etc.), 3 trailhead access points, plantings with irrigation, and a bus turnaround.

The Conservancy has fully funded the design and permitting of the Project (\$3,100,000 million), which is currently in 60% design. Once design is complete and permits are obtained, the construction package can go out for bid. The construction package is anticipated to go out for bid in Fall/Winter 2025. Prior to releasing the construction package, all construction funding will need to be identified.

At the January 2024 Conservancy Board meeting, the Board allocated \$9,300,000 million to the construction of the Project.

At the October 2024 Conservancy Board meeting, the Board directed Conservancy Staff to move forward with funding a subset of the Project, also known as the Core Project, which is consistent with the 2020 Settlement Agreement. The Core Project includes the trail system, 1

trailhead access point with associated site furnishings, plantings, and irrigation.

The City of Fresno anticipates that construction of the Core Project will be \$10,030,000 million plus administrative costs.

The Conservancy needs additional funding to construct the Core Project.

The Conservancy anticipates that up to \$1,000,000 will be needed to completely fund the construction of the Core Project.

Request for Motion

The San Joaquin River Conservancy requests that the City of Fresno Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission make a motion to allocate remaining FY 26 funding to the River West Fresno Improvement Project, up to \$1,000,000 million, and present this motion to the City Council for FY 26 Measure P budget consideration.

This motion is specific to site improvements only. Additional funding will be required for the operation and maintenance of each property once minimum criteria for opening safely is met.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kari Kyler Daniska

Executive Officer

San Joaquin River Conservancy