

F1-085

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AUG 22 1997

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on

Agriculture and Water Resources

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JIM COSTA
CHAIRMAN

August 14, 1997

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to encourage your support for the San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program request for funding from Category III of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This \$5.0 million request will help acquire and restore historic floodplain and riparian habitat lands along the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to State Highway 99. Once complete, this proposal will provide multiple biological, ecological, and economic benefits to the Central Valley and the sensitive Bay-Delta ecosystem.

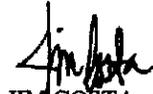
The Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Fish and Game, the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, and the Trust for Public Land have been working together over the last five years to acquire lands for inclusion in the 22-mile San Joaquin River Parkway. The Parkway enjoys strong public support in Fresno and Madera Counties and provides wildlife, recreational, and economic benefits of statewide significance. Along with protecting important habitat, the acquisition portion of this request will reconnect the floodplain to the river channel, thus providing flood management benefits within the San Joaquin River Parkway. The \$5.0 million request will be leveraged by other public funding sources to acquire properties from willing sellers as they become available.

The San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program complements and advances the goals of the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Project, a proposal requesting \$800,000 for riparian restoration projects submitted by the Bureau of Reclamation, Friant Water User's Authority, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and Natural Resources Defense Council. Together, these proposals advance CALFED goals and directly address stresses on the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Lester Snow
August 14, 1997
Page 2

I urge you to support this multi-agency partnership by approving funding from CALFED's Category III program. I am grateful for CALFED's effective leadership on behalf of California's threatened ecosystems and hope that you will continue your support by approving funding for this important project.

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA
Chairman

SJRParkway/snow.11

GEORGE RADANOVICH
19TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
NATURAL RESOURCES WORKING GROUP

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
WATER AND POWER RESOURCES
NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS
FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH



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Washington, DC 20515-0519

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FRESNO, CA 93711
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george.radanovich@mail.house.gov
http://www.house.gov/radanovich

August 6, 1997

AUG 11 1997

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing in support of the San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program request for funding from Category III of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. If approved, these funds would help acquire and restore San Joaquin River floodplain and riparian habitat lands located in the Nineteenth Congressional District.

This program is a multi-agency effort of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the California Department of Fish and Game, the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, and the Trust for Public Land. Along with protecting habitat, the acquisition portion of this request will reconnect the floodplain to the river channel, thus providing flood management benefits within the San Joaquin River Parkway.

Thank you for giving this request careful consideration. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Marianne Morton, Staff Assistant, at my Fresno District Office at (209) 248-0800.

Sincerely,

George Radanovich
Member of Congress

GR:mm

cc: San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0605
(202) 224-3653
senator@boxer.senate.gov
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AUG 01 1997

July 29, 1997

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED
1416 9th Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

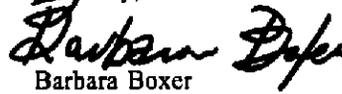
This letter is to inform you of my strong support for the San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program grant application under Category III of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This \$5 million block grant request has been made jointly by the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Fish and Game, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust and the Trust for Public Land. I understand further that funds would be used to acquire full fee title, conservation easements, and agricultural easements within the historic floodplain from willing sellers.

These funds would help leverage monies from other public and private sources to continue the establishment of the 22-mile San Joaquin River Parkway. The San Joaquin River Conservancy will ultimately hold title of these properties.

If approved, this grant would accelerate efforts to preserve and restore an important natural and cultural resource near one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in California. I am impressed by the wide range of support that the effort to preserve and restore the San Joaquin River enjoys within the communities of Fresno and Clovis, and in Madera County. I urge that you give this request your most serious and careful consideration.

Should you or your staff have questions regarding this matter, please contact Tom Bohigian, my Northern California Director, at 209-497-5109. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

BB:tb

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700 MONTGOMERY STREET
SUITE 240
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111
(415) 403-0100 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2250 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
SUITE 545
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245
(310) 414-5700 | <input type="checkbox"/> 650 CAPITOL MALL
SUITE 6544
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 448-2787 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2300 TULARE STREET
SUITE 130
FRESNO, CA 93721
(209) 497-5109 | <input type="checkbox"/> 525 B STREET
SUITE 990
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 239-3884 | <input type="checkbox"/> 210 NORTH E STREET
SUITE 210
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401
(909) 888-6525 |
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**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY
LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM**

F1-08

Fresno & Madera Counties



**A Request for Funding from Category III
of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

Submitted by the:
San Joaquin River Conservancy
Wildlife Conservation Board
Department of Fish & Game
San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust
Trust for Public Land

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a. Project Title/Applicant Name: San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program (San Joaquin River Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, the Trust for Public Land)

b. Project Description /Primary Biological and Ecological Objectives

The San Joaquin River Acquisition Group proposes to acquire riparian habitat and floodplain lands located within the 22-mile reach of the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to State Highway 99. The \$5 million block grant request will be matched by other public agency funds to acquire full fee title, conservation easements, and agricultural easements within the historic floodplain from willing sellers. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), Department of Fish and Game (DFG), San Joaquin River Conservancy (the Conservancy), San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Parkway Trust), and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) will work together to acquire available properties. A committee within the Conservancy is currently evaluating habitat values contained on properties available for acquisition from willing sellers. The Conservancy will hold title and manage the properties and, where appropriate, will jointly manage areas with the DFG and the City of Fresno.

Acquisition of riparian habitat and floodplain lands will permanently protect the river corridor from the increasing threat of development in Fresno and Madera Counties. Acquisition and management of these lands as part of the San Joaquin River Parkway will provide multiple biological and ecological benefits including: 1) the continued flow of water over the existing floodplain thus allowing the natural nutrient cycle to continue 2) the maintenance of water quality and temperature from disruptions associated with increased development 3) protection of habitat for significant wildlife populations and 4) protection of existing riparian zone and Shaded Riverine Aquatic (SRA) habitat. These, and the many other benefits acquisition affords, will complement and advance the request for funding submitted by the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Friant Water User's Authority, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations for the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Project.

c. Approach/Tasks/Schedules

The Conservancy is currently evaluating the properties available for acquisition within the historic floodplain. Once CALFED funds are approved, the Conservancy and its partners will determine the strategy for contacting landowners and completing acquisitions. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will serve as fiscal agent for the \$5 million block grant and will coordinate with CALFED in the release funds as needed for acquisitions. The block grant funds will be used together with other public funding sources for acquisitions within three years. Matching public funding sources include (but are not limited to) the CVPIA Restoration Fund, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Proposition 204 River Parkway Sub-Account, State Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, and the Habitat Conservation Fund Local Agency Grant Program.

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

This project is consistent with and advances the goals of CALFED Implementation Strategies by providing various restoration actions in response to the stressors on the biological and ecological quality of the Bay-Delta. The stressors include physical isolation of floodplain, loss of floodplain and fine sediment deposition, increased urbanization in the floodplain, alteration of flows, and loss of existing riparian zone. The \$5 million block grant will be used to acquire riparian, and SRA habitat and floodplain lands along the reach of the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to State Highway 99.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

Together with matching funds, the \$5 million block grant request will be used for the acquisition of land from willing sellers. All acquisitions will be based on agency approved appraisals. No third party impacts are anticipated as a result of this acquisition program. The San Joaquin River Conservancy Board, consisting of private landowner and public agency representatives, must approve all acquisitions.

f. Applicant Qualifications

The WCB, DFG, and the Conservancy are state agencies vested with the power to acquire land for habitat protection purposes. The Parkway Trust and TPL are private, non-profit organizations with the shared mission of assisting public agencies and private landowners in the acquisition of land for habitat protection and public open space. For the past six years, the group has worked together in the acquisition of several properties now included within the Parkway. The Conservancy, Parkway Trust, and TPL are currently completing the acquisition of 154 acres containing riparian habitat and floodplain lands.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Acreage acquired with CALFED and matching funds will be communicated to CALFED as acquisitions are completed.

h. Local Support/Coordination with Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives

This proposal has significant support from diverse interest groups including the Friant Water Users Authority, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Bureau of Reclamation, Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, San Joaquin River Conservancy, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, the Trust for Public Land, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Fresno County, Madera County, City of Fresno and City of Madera. Private landowner and agency representatives sit on both the Conservancy and Parkway Trust Boards. Planning is being carried out in coordination with other programs including, but not limited to the CVPIA, San Joaquin River Management Program, and Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District's management plan. This project is compatible with CALFED objectives related to the loss of flood plain/wildlife habitat and water quality/temperature that negatively impact the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

II. TITLE PAGE

Title of Project: San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program

Name of Applicant: The San Joaquin River Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, the Trust for Public Land

Type of Organization: Public agencies/Private Non-Profits(501(c)3)

Technical/Financial Contact: Robert Kelley, Executive Officer
San Joaquin River Conservancy
P.O. Box 205, 5290 Millerton Road
Friant, CA 93626
209-822-2877 (phone), 209-822-2710 (fax)

Participants/Collaborators in Implementation

San Joaquin River Conservancy
Wildlife Conservation Board
Department of Fish and Game
Bureau of Reclamation
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
The Trust for Public Land
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Fresno County
Madera County
City of Fresno
City of Madera

RFP Project Group: Acquisition

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

a. Project Description and Approach

The \$5 million block grant request will contribute towards the acquisition of properties from willing sellers within the historic floodplain along the San Joaquin River Parkway. An estimated 2,466 acres are currently available for acquisition from willing sellers. Approximately, 2,000 of the 6,000-acre Parkway is already publicly owned and managed by the Conservancy, DFG and Fresno County. The lands available for acquisition all contain significant wildlife habitat and will link public properties for improved management and habitat protection. The lands containing sensitive wildlife habitat will be managed as ecological reserves. The Conservancy and/or DFG will own and manage the properties to be acquired. Where appropriate, the Conservancy will jointly manage properties with the DFG (e.g. ecological reserves) and the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (e.g. educational programs and restoration projects) and other government agencies (e.g. the city of Fresno). The Conservancy's Land Acquisition Committee (consisting of representatives from WCB, DFG, and Madera County) will coordinate the acquisition of lands with the Parkway

Trust and TPL. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has agreed to act as fiscal agent in the distribution of the block grant.

b. Location/Geographic Boundaries of Project

The San Joaquin River Parkway is located in Fresno and Madera Counties. The 22-mile reach of the river runs from Friant Dam to State Highway 99.

c. Expected Benefits

This proposal will provide ecological and biological benefits related to stressors on the Bay-Delta ecosystem including physical isolation of floodplain and habitat fragmentation, elimination of fine sediment replenishment/loss of floodplain and fine sediment deposition, land use changes in the floodplain (e.g. urbanization, agriculture) and channel form changes (loss of riparian zone). The acquisition of riparian habitat and floodplain lands within the San Joaquin River Parkway will 1) restore and reconnect the floodplain to the river channel, allowing the natural inundation cycle and flooding in historic floodplain areas to continue 2) prevent further loss of riparian zone and SRA habitat 3) provide downriver benefits related to water quality and temperature and 4) permanently protect foraging habitat for birds and other forms of wildlife.

Development removes native vegetation from river banks, exposes soil and, combined with heavy rainfall or high water, results in increased erosion. Acquisition will prevent development and the removal of native vegetation/soils and allow for water to run over the floodplain as part of the river's natural course. In addition to limiting erosion, acquisition will allow the river's nutrient cycle to continue for the benefit of downstream habitat and the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

The San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program will prevent further loss of riparian zone, SRA habitat, and related stressors on the ecosystem including reduced food supplies for fish and wildlife and reduced cover for nesting habitat areas. The riparian and wetland communities found within the San Joaquin River bottom have disappeared at an alarming rate - only 6% of the original habitat remains in the San Joaquin River Parkway. Despite this significant loss, over 250 animal species rely on this area for habitat including bobcat, coyote, mountain lion, bats, beavers, and the San Joaquin pocket mouse. Acquisition will benefit daily wildlife migration routes, including the corridor for the resident deer herd. Bird species represent the most diverse of the wildlife populations using the San Joaquin River corridor, including resident and migratory waterfowl, passerine, and raptor populations. Some of the more common species include great blue herons, egrets, Canada geese, wood duck, mallard, northern pintail, American widgeon, cinnamon teal, great-horned owl, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, and American kestrel. Lands acquired with CALFED and matching funds will connect existing Parkway lands and reserves, creating a contiguous habitat corridor and improved opportunities for management.

Finally, the San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program will provide non-structural flood management and restoration of flood damaged areas. Acquisition of available properties

will connect the historic floodplain to the river channel and protect the natural meander. The proposal will also further encourage river corridor planning and advance the efforts of the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Project - public ownership will allow access to SRA and riparian habitat lands for restoration purposes.

d. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

Over the last six years, the group has worked together to acquire and protect acreage for inclusion in the San Joaquin River Parkway. Existing Parkway lands are managed by the DFG and the Conservancy as ecological reserves for habitat protection and as parks for river access where appropriate. Funding sources to date include the WCB Riparian Program (Prop. 117), Prop. 70, ISTEA (Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act), and EEMP (State Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program). The Conservancy and DFG work closely with the City of Fresno in the management of adjacent lands, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District in the management of the floodplain, and the Parkway Trust with recreational and educational programs. Increased urbanization in Fresno and Madera Counties threatens existing floodplain lands and calls for the acquisition of properties within the riparian corridor along the Parkway reach from willing sellers as they become available.

e. Proposed Scope of Work

The \$5 million block grant request will be used to leverage other funding sources to acquire prime riparian habitat and floodplain lands from willing sellers. The Conservancy Land Acquisition Committee is currently pulling together a list of available properties with a total estimated value of \$50 million. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will serve as fiscal agent in the distribution of the \$5 million in CALFED grant funds within three years.

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Acreage acquired with CALFED and matching funds will be communicated to CALFED as acquisitions are completed.

g. Implementability

The Conservancy is evaluating a number of willing seller properties currently available for acquisition along the San Joaquin River Parkway. Properties will be acquired immediately upon receipt of funding. The San Joaquin River Parkway enjoys strong support at the local, state and federal levels. This proposal is supported by the proponents of the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program (BOR, USFWS, NRDC, FWUA, PCFFA).

IV. COSTS AND SCHEDULES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROJECT

a. Budget Costs

An estimated \$50 million worth of properties are available from willing sellers within the floodplain of the 22-mile San Joaquin River Parkway. The \$5 million block grant will be leveraged by other public funding sources (e.g. CVPIA, FEMA, EEMP, Prop. 204, HCF) to acquire properties within the next three years. All property purchases will be based on agency approved appraisals. Funding will be used for land acquisition (full fee and easements) only.

b. Schedule Milestones

Contact with landowners is currently underway for properties with known habitat values. The CALFED block grant will be used within three years. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will serve as fiscal agent in the distribution of the \$5 million in CALFED grant funds within three years.

c. Third Party Impacts

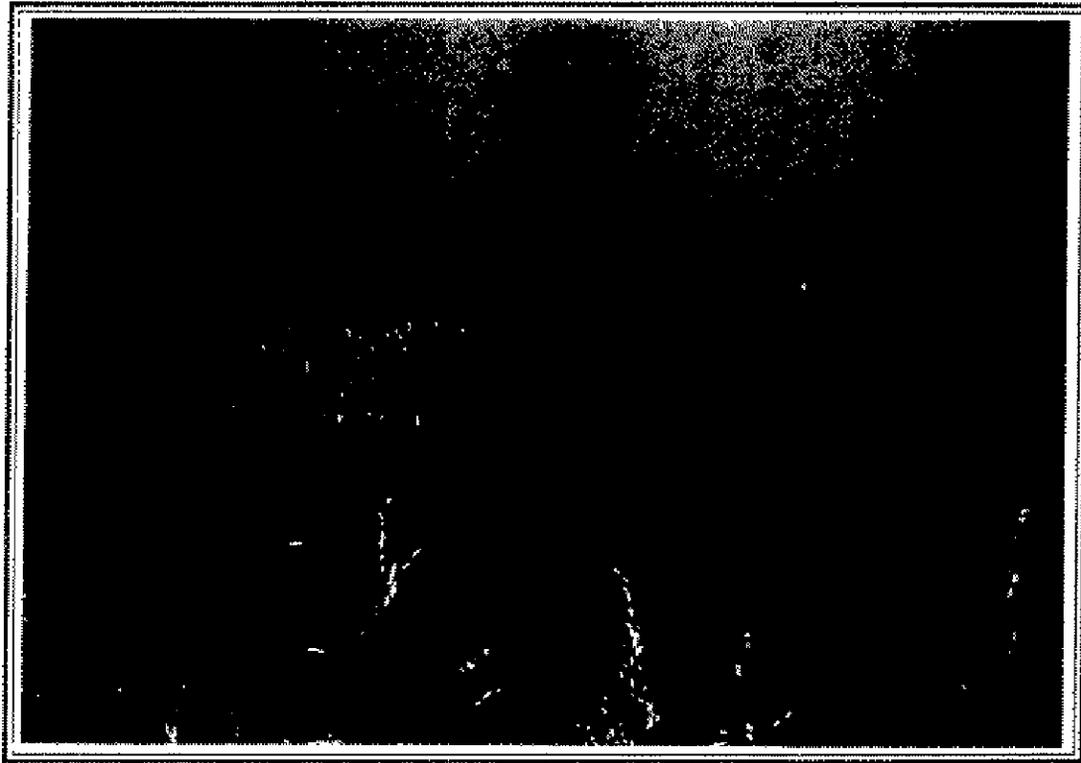
All properties will be acquired from willing sellers. Private landowner and agency staff representatives sit on both the San Joaquin River Conservancy and San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust's Boards. No third party impacts are expected from the completion of the Parkway Land Acquisition Program.

V. APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

The WCB, DFG, and the Conservancy are state agencies vested with the power to acquire land for habitat protection purposes. The Parkway Trust and TPL are private, non-profit organizations with the shared mission of assisting public agencies and private landowners in the acquisition of land for habitat protection and public open space. For the past six years, the group has worked together in the acquisition of land now managed as part of the Parkway.

VI. COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The applicants will comply with standard terms and conditions associated with a CALFED grant award on or before the signing of the Final Contract.



The acquisition of floodplain lands within the San Joaquin River Parkway will help maintain the natural nutrient cycle for downstream habitat, prevent further loss of riparian zone and SRA habitat, provide downriver benefits related to water quality and temperature, and permanently protect foraging habitat for birds and other forms of wildlife that rely on the Parkway lands.



Resident and migratory waterfowl, passerine, and raptor populations rely on this stretch of the San Joaquin River for habitat. Some of the more common species include great blue herons, egrets (rookery pictured above), Canada geese, wood duck, mallard, northern pintail, American widgeon, cinnamon teal, great-horned owl, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, and American kestrel. Lands acquired with CALFED and matching funds will connect existing Parkway lands and reserves, creating a contiguous habitat corridor and improved opportunities for management.

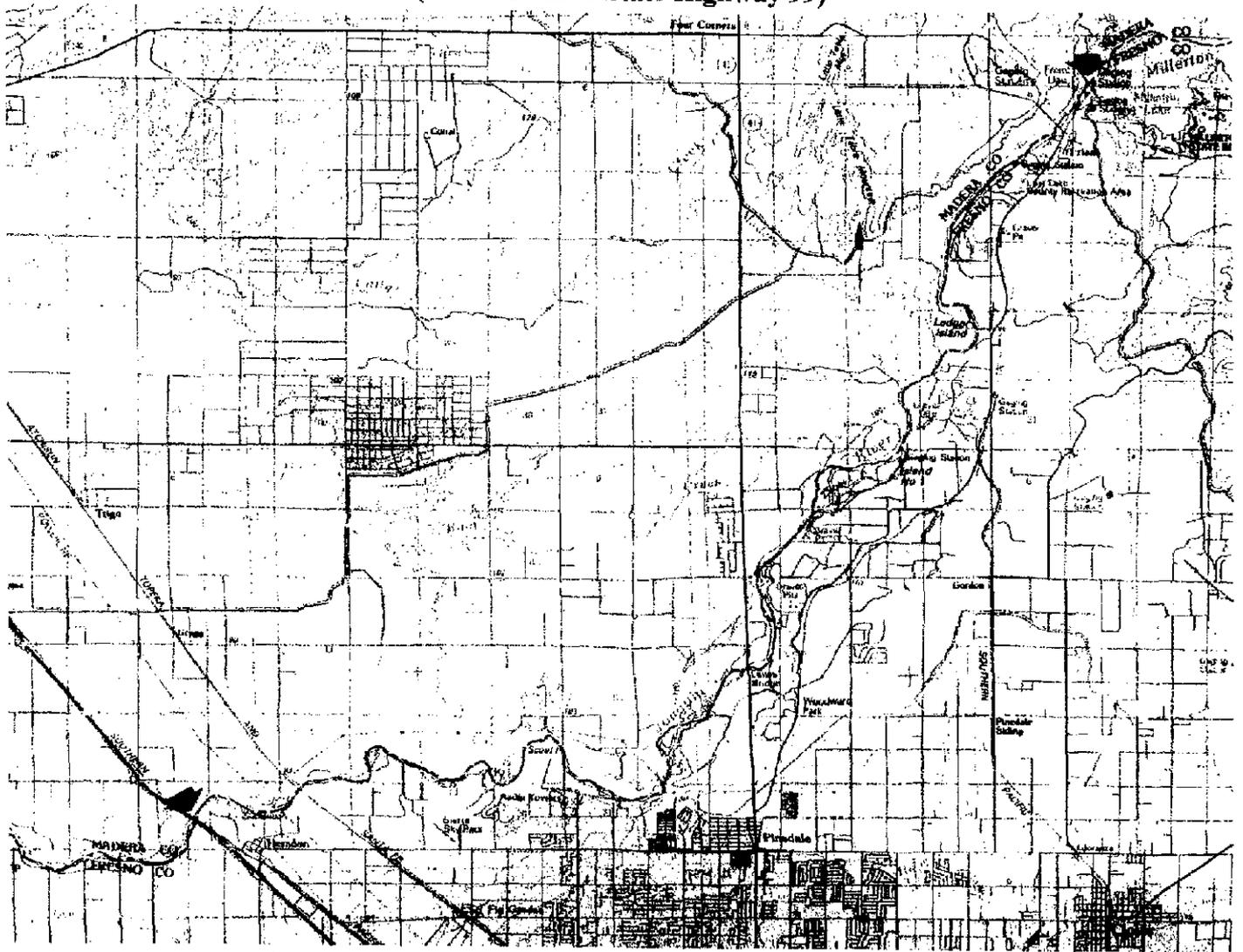


The riparian and wetland communities found within the San Joaquin River bottom have disappeared at an alarming rate - only 6% of the original habitat remains in the San Joaquin River Parkway. The San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program will prevent further loss of riparian zone, SRA habitat, and related stressors on the ecosystem including reduced food supplies for fish and wildlife and cover for nesting habitat areas.



This CALFED block grant request will be leveraged by other public funding sources to acquire critical habitat lands from willing sellers along the San Joaquin River Parkway.

San Joaquin River Parkway (Friant Dam to State Highway 99)



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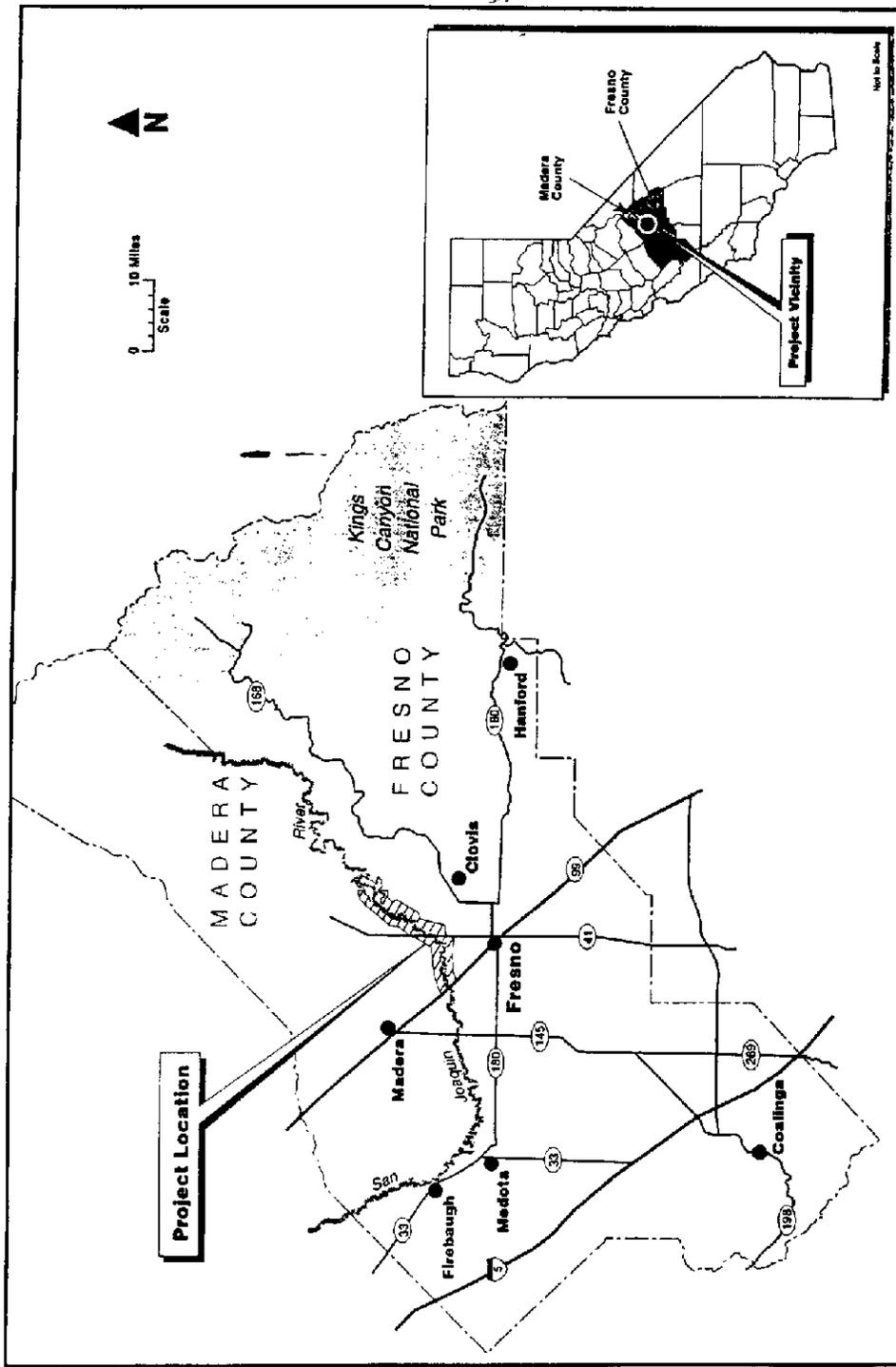


Figure 1-1
Project Location Map

July 25, 1997

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Acquisition and Restoration of Riparian Habitat and Floodplain Lands along
the San Joaquin River

Dear Mr. Snow:

The San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program and the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program share the common goal of restoring and permanently protecting the river's habitat resources. Each program has submitted a separate request for funding from Category III of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program for activities related to restoration of riparian habitat and floodplain lands along the San Joaquin River. The two proposals complement and advance the overall river protection effort, both for the benefit of the riparian habitat and floodplain and the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The two programs have formed a joint committee to coordinate our efforts and ensure that progress to date along the river continues. We are hopeful that CALFED will support this collaborative effort by approving these requests for funding.

Sincerely,

Wildlife Conservation Board
Department of Fish and Game
San Joaquin River Conservancy
San Joaquin River Parkway and
Conservation Trust
The Trust for Public Land

Friant Water User's Authority
Natural Resources Defense Council
Pacific Coast Federation of
Fishermen's Associations



FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

File No. 720.62

July 24, 1997

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

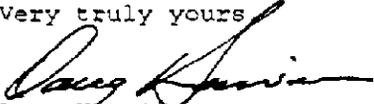
**Acquisition and Restoration of Riparian and Floodplain Habitat
Lands Along the San Joaquin River**

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has interest in the preservation of the natural flood conveyance capabilities of the San Joaquin River. It is our understanding that the San Joaquin River Parkway Land Acquisition Program and the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program share this objective and have submitted separate requests for funding from Category III of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The requests, as we understand them, are for acquisition and restoration of riparian and floodplain habitat lands along the San Joaquin River which are consistent with the District's interest.

It is our understanding the two programs have formed a joint committee to coordinate efforts and ensure that progress to date along the river continues.

We are hopeful that CALFED will support this collaborative effort by approving requests for funding for critical reaches of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam.

Very truly yours


Doug Harrison
General Manager-Secretary

DH/ems

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CELEBRATING

40

YEARS OF
SERVICE

5469 E. OLIVE • FRESNO, CA 93727
(209) 456-3292 • FAX (209) 456-3194

8/2/97

JUL 24 '97 15:09 FRESNO FLOOD CONTROL 209/4563194

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