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GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH
State Clearinghouse



Steven A. Nissen
DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

MAR 5 2002

March 5, 2002

Kimberly Secrist
San Joaquin River Conservancy
5469 East Olive
Fresno, CA 93727

Subject: Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement and Public Access Plan
SCH#: 2002021087

Dear Kimberly Secrist:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on March 4, 2002, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures

cc: Resources Agency

40

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2002021087
Project Title Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement and Public Access Plan
Lead Agency San Joaquin River Conservancy

Type **Neg** Negative Declaration
Description The Jensen River Ranch project site is a 167-acre parcel owned by the San Joaquin River Conservancy, bordered on the south by the City of Fresno's Woodward Park, on the west by Woodward Bluffs Mobile Home Estates, on the north by the San Joaquin River, and on the east by Friant Road. The proposed project will create a loop hiking trail surrounding restored native habitat areas on the site. Access to the river for fishing and picnic tables are included. Public access has been planned to be compatible with habitat enhancements on the property. The proposed project includes excavation and grading to establish wetland areas, and planting of the wetlands, riparian corridor, and visual buffer for the adjacent residences. The project also includes construction of trails, bridges across on-site wetland and water features, maintenance roads, signs and fencing. The public will access the site from Woodward Park and from the Lewis S. Eaton trail of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Kimberly Secrist
Agency San Joaquin River Conservancy
Phone 559-253-7324 **Fax**
email
Address 5469 East Olive
City Fresno **State** CA **Zip** 93727

Project Location

County Fresno
City Fresno
Region
Cross Streets Friant Road
Parcel No.
Township

Range **Section** **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways
Airports
Railways
Waterways San Joaquin River
Schools
Land Use Nature Conservancy

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Traffic/Circulation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife; Landuse; Other Issues

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 4; Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Reclamation Board; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 6; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Fresno); Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

Date Received 02/05/2002 **Start of Review** 02/05/2002 **End of Review** 03/04/2002

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

49

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1352 WEST OLIVE AVENUE
P. O. BOX 12616
FRESNO, CA 93778-2616
TDD (559) 488-4066
OFFICE (559) 488-4347
FAX (559) 488-4088

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March 4, 2002

2131-IGR/CEQA
6-FRE-41-33.33
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARK
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN
SCH #2002021087

Ms. Melinda Marks, Executive Officer
San Joaquin River Conservancy
5469 E. Olive Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

Dear Ms. Marks:

We have reviewed the San Joaquin River Park Habitat Enhancement and Public Access Plan. The project is bordered on the south by the City of Fresno's Woodward Park, on the west by Woodward Bluffs Mobile Home Estates, on the north by the San Joaquin River, and on the east by Friant Road. Caltrans has the following comments:

It does not appear that access is proposed from State Route (SR) 41. However, please be advised that SR 41 has access-controlled right-of-way along the frontage of the development.

Signage for the development that is directed at highway traffic may require an outdoor advertising permit. A summary of the Outdoor Advertising Permit Requirements is enclosed. Please check with Caltrans Right-of-way Department at (559) 488-7332 if such signage is proposed.

An Encroachment Permit must be obtained from this agency for any work within the State right-of-way. Engineering drawings of all work are to be submitted with the application and shall be prepared in both Metric and dual units (English and Metric). Proposed work planned within the State right-of-way will be performed to State standards and specifications at no cost to the State. Plans for said work must be submitted to the District encroachment permit office. All encroachment permit applications will be reviewed for environmental compliance and subject to functional unit reviews by other departments of Caltrans who may place additional conditions on the project prior to issuance of the encroachment permit. Work started by the permittee upon issuance of the permits constitutes full acceptance of the terms of the permits. Encroachments are subject to removal by the department in accordance with Sections 673 and 720 of the Streets and

4/s

Ms. Melinda Marks


March 4, 2002

Page 2

Highways Code. Permits will be issued in accordance with Caltrans, "Streets and Highways Code (S&HC)," Section 671.5, "Time Limitations."

Please be advised that any future development adjacent to a State Route, whether the entitlement is deemed by the lead agency to be discretionary or ministerial should be sent to Caltrans for review. Please send a response to our comments prior to staff's recommendations to the Governing Board. If you have any questions, please call me at (559) 488-4347.

Sincerely,


JOANNE STRIEBICH
Office of Transportation Planning
District 6

Enclosure

C: Brian Grattidge, SCH

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RIGHT OF WAY DIVISION
OFFICE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING BRANCH
2208 NORTH HAYSTON AVENUE
FRESNO, CA 93703
(877) 746-6787 - Toll Free
(559) 488-7332 - Local
(559) 488-7320 (FAX)



January 4, 2000

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the State requirements for placing an advertising display visible to a public highway.

The following is a summary of those requirements, along with a permit application for a State of California Outdoor Advertising Display. After receipt of your completed application and fees, we must verify that the site location under review is in compliance with the Outdoor Advertising Act and the State Regulations before a permit can be issued. A person who places a display, containing advertising which does not pertain exclusively to their own on-site business, is considered to be in the business of Outdoor Advertising and should need to obtain an Outdoor Advertising Operator's License through our department. A Permit from the Locale Government will also need to be ascertained prior to construction of a Display.

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

In order for an outdoor advertising display application to be considered for a permit, adjacent to an Interstate or primary highway, the following criterion must be met:

DISPLAY LOCATION

- Must be outside the right of way of any highway.
- Must be outside of any stream, or drainage channel.
- There must be an existing business activity within 1,000 feet of proposed display location on either side of the highway.
- Location of property where display is to be placed must be zoned commercial or industrial.
- Must have current property owner's consent.
- Location may not be adjacent to a landscaped* section of a freeway.
- Location may not be adjacent to a scenic** highway.
- If adjacent to a bonus*** segment of an Interstate freeway, the copy, size, and spacing is more restrictive.

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DISPLAY

- Display must be 500 feet from any other permitted display on the same side of any highway that is a freeway.
- Display must be 300 feet from any other permitted display on the same side of any highway that is not a freeway in an unincorporated area.
- Display must be 100 feet from any other permitted display on the same side of any highway that is not a freeway and is within the limits of an incorporated city.
- Display must be 500 feet from an interchange, intersection at grade or safety roadside rest if the highway is a freeway and the location is outside the limits of an incorporated city and outside the limits of an urban areas.
- An electronic changeable message center display must meet the above spacing requirements and be 1000 feet from any other off-premise electronic message center display on the same side of the highway.
- Maximum height for the advertising area of the display is 25 feet in height and 60 feet in length, not to exceed an overall maximum of 1200 square feet.

The above information is to be used as general guidelines and does not guarantee approval. Information regarding landscaped segments, scenic highways, bonus segments, or for any other questions, you may contact me at (877) 746-6787 or the internet web site at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/row/oda/oda.htm

Sincerely,

Ester Sherman, Coordinator, Right of Way Agent
Outdoor Advertising Program
Right of Way

* Landscaped freeway is a section of a freeway which is now, or hereafter may be, improved by the planting at least on one side of the freeway right of way of lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, or other ornamental vegetation which shall require reasonable maintenance.

** Scenic highway is a section of a highway which has been officially designated and maintained scenic pursuant to Section 260, 261, 262, and 262.5 of the Streets and Highways Code or as referred to in Section 131(s) of Title 23 of the United States Code.

*** Bonus segment is any portion of an Interstate freeway which is constructed upon any part of right of way, the entire width of which was acquired for right of way subsequent to July 1, 1956, except those segments of the Interstate system which traverse commercial or industrial zones within the boundaries of incorporated municipalities, as such boundaries existed on September 21, 1959, or other areas where the land use, as of September 21, 1959 was clearly established by State law as industrial or commercial.

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FEB 28 2002

FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

File No. 210.83

February 27, 2002

Ms. Melinda S. Marks Mehlhoff, Executive Officer
San Joaquin River Conservancy
5469 East Olive Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

Dear Melinda,

**Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment for
Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement**

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) is pleased to respond to the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment for Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement and Public Access Plan dated January 2002. Within this project, the District operates and maintains a drainage channel and associated infrastructure that receives and treats storm water and urban runoff from Drainage Area "DK". The District also maintains active flood operation interests in the San Joaquin River Channel.

Our primary concern is to ensure that the proposed project preserves flood flow capacity on the river and the ability for the District to provide the previously mentioned storm water and urban runoff services. District staff have participated in the planning of this project over the past two years and we believe the project as proposed provides an approach that is protective of District's interests.

Based on our review of the project, we provide the following comments:

- 1) The functional operation of the Drainage Area "DK" system must be incorporated into the final design of the proposed project. Currently, Drainage Area "DK" provides several important functions, including the dissipation of energy from incoming flows and the retention of water in a settling basin to remove pollutants.

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We concur (statement on Page 2-4) that engineering of the oxbow features must and will be coordinated with the District.

- 2) Preservation of the existing weir, inlet and outfall structures, and the underground bypass pipe as operational system elements is mandatory.
- 3) Currently, accumulated sediment is removed from Drainage Area "DK" every three to four years. On Page 2-4, the document accurately reflects the need for periodic maintenance of oxbows. Final design will need to allow for access to the entire drainage system to continue sediment removal, maintenance, repair and restoration on an as needed basis. We believe this can be accomplished through close coordination with the District.
- 4) Final system design will need to address floodwater carrying capacity of the channel and related flood plain. For example, trees or dense vegetation in the wrong location can create a dam effect and significantly disrupt floodwater flows. Placement of vegetation will be reviewed by the District as part of final design.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the planning process and look forward to completion of a successful and beneficial community project. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me or David Pomaville of my staff.

Sincerely,



Doug Harrison
General Manager-Secretary

DH/sgb

- c: Frank Franco, Board of Directors, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
Alan Hoffman, Assistant District Engineer
David Pomaville, Environmental Resources Manager