

Jensen River Ranch Habitat Restoration and Public Access Plan
CEQA Initial Study

Responses to Comments on Proposed Negative Declaration

Presented below are the responses of the San Joaquin River Conservancy to the comments received on the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration. Copies of the comment letters are attached for reference.

1. Response to letter from Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, dated February 27, 2002.

The Conservancy intends to work closely with the District in developing the project's detailed design to ensure flood flow capacity in the river is maintained and the urban storm water drainage system flowing through the site meets the District's standards. It is understood that the detention channel serving the "DK" drainage area, including maintenance structures, access, and capabilities, are to be preserved, and that urban storm water regulatory requirements will not be compromised by the project. The District participated in the advisory committee that cooperatively devised the proposed project. The Conservancy welcomes the District's involvement, review and comments to help make this beneficial project a success.

2. Response to letter from Caltrans, dated March 4, 2002.

The Jensen River Ranch project is not planned to be accessed from State Route 41 nor encroach into its right of way; however, should construction cause encroachment into the right of way, for access and/or staging operations, an encroachment permit will be sought. The Conservancy has no plans to provide signage for the project that would be directed at highway traffic.

3. Response to comments from Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District, discussed at informational meeting, February 19, 2002.

The Jensen River Ranch project will reduce the occurrence of mosquitoes at the site caused by pasture flood irrigation. The project will reconfigure the storm water detention channel flowing through the site to create wetland habitat. The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has experience designing and operating storm water detention facilities in a manner that minimizes mosquito nuisances from their facilities. Their expertise will be enlisted in both the design and operation of the proposed project. The Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District also has expertise in reducing mosquito nuisances. They have agreed to work with the Conservancy to help properly design wetland enhancements, and to monitor mosquitoes and advise the Conservancy during project operation.