



NEWS RELEASE

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SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY AND CONSERVATION TRUST HAILS HISTORIC RIVER AGREEMENT

Proposition 84 Provides Critical Funding for Implementation

[Fresno, CA] — The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust today extolled a landmark agreement to restore the San Joaquin River, a vital public resource for the Central Valley. The Trust calls on its supporters to join with fellow Californians in support of Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act appearing on the November 2006 ballot, as an important tool to implement the accord. Proposition 84 will provide \$100 million to help undertake one of the most important restoration projects in our State's history.

Together, Friant Water Users Authority, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, announced the agreement today and outlined its benefits for farmers, fish and wildlife. The Trust's Executive Director, Dave Koehler, congratulated all the parties for their dedication in reaching an agreement that will improve the river's water quality, streamside forest habitat, and restores an important fishery. The Trust and others have been making good progress in recent years to establish the San Joaquin River Parkway, a 22-mile greenbelt along the river below Friant Dam to State Highway 99 as an area of natural open space, trails, and river access points.

"Restoring the river compliments our work on the San Joaquin River Parkway," Koehler said. "The river is a vital public resource for the Valley and Proposition 84 provides critically needed funds to restore and protect it. Our Board of Directors encourages voters to approve Proposition 84 this November." Koehler noted that Proposition 84 also provides \$36 million to the San Joaquin River Conservancy for Parkway land acquisition, trail projects, and river access.

River restoration and Parkway funding of Proposition 84 are two specific items included in the overall \$5.4 billion Clean Water Bond. The measure will provide critically needed improvements and programs to ensure safe drinking water, local water supply reliability, flood protection, and preservation of California's natural landscapes, including parks, forests, lakes, rivers, beaches, bays, ocean and coastline. More than 400 bipartisan leaders and organizations have endorsed Proposition 84. For more information about it, go to www.yeson84.com.

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust's mission is to preserve and restore San Joaquin River lands having ecological, scenic, or historic significance, to educate the public on the need for stewardship, to research issues affecting the river, and to promote educational, recreational, and agricultural uses consistent with the protection of the river's resources. Additional information about the Trust may be obtained at www.riverparkway.org.

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