

**San Joaquin River Parkway, San Joaquin Hatchery
Public Access and Trail, Augmentation II
Fresno County**

\$850,000.00

This proposal is to consider the allocation for an augmentation to an existing grant to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to improve public fishing access and enhance riparian habitat on the San Joaquin River and to improve recreational access to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) San Joaquin Fish Hatchery (Hatchery). The Hatchery is located within the San Joaquin River Parkway on the south bank of the San Joaquin River about one quarter mile downstream of the Road 206 bridge in the town of Friant in Fresno County. The proposal was considered for approval and funding by WCB on September 3, 2015. However, the WCB deferred action to provide staff the opportunity to present additional information regarding the increase in project costs related to construction of trails and amenities and for state operations.

LOCATION

The Parkway is defined in State law as approximately 5,900 acres on both sides of a 22 mile long reach of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam in the east and State Route 99 to the west, in Fresno and Madera counties. The San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) was created in 1992 to preserve and enhance the San Joaquin River's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its valued cultural and natural resources and provide educational and recreational opportunities to the local communities. The SJRC's mission includes both public access and habitat restoration within the Parkway.

The Hatchery is approximately one mile west of Friant Dam and adjacent to Lost Lake Park within the Parkway. The Hatchery is situated on four± acres of State-owned land and is operated and managed by CDFW as the Hatchery.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Hatchery is one of the most accessed and explored areas of the Parkway. It is open every day of the week and serves thousands of visitors, many of them school children, but provides inadequate public facilities. For example, vehicle access occurs via a narrow residential road and parking is limited and does not safely accommodate school buses and other large vehicles. Additionally, there are a limited number of pathways among facilities and no recreational trails. Access from the Hatchery to the river is limited.

CDFW coordinated with DWR and the SJRC to develop a plan to comprehensively improve public access. The SJRC Board approved the project as originally proposed on June 8, 2011, and WCB approved a grant to DWR for \$2,230,000 on September 13, 2011. The project was designed to improve vehicle and pedestrian access and safety, connect the San Joaquin Hatchery with Lost Lake Park, and enhance CDFW's interpretive information regarding the significant resource value of the San Joaquin

River. All public access improvements are to be constructed to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

The original 2011 scope of work planned for implementation beginning in October 2012 included design and engineering, project management, construction, and installation of the following project elements:

- Parkway trailhead entrance at the northwest corner of Friant and Flemming Roads with a trail to provide strategic viewing of the Hatchery. This segment of the multiple-purpose Parkway trail will connect Lost Lake Park to Friant Road at a central intersection in the community and lead to the river to provide nature viewing and fishing opportunities.
- Public parking lot with an entrance off of Friant Road, the main vehicle route serving the area.
- Outdoor classroom with amphitheater-style seating, complete with solar lighting.
- Rest areas, drinking water fountains, and bike racks.
- Interpretive signs along the trail, river, and Hatchery grounds.
- Landscaping with native plants around the parking lot, the trailhead entrance, and outdoor classroom.
- Installation of the necessary utilities to serve the new facilities.

In 2014, DWR formally requested a grant augmentation of \$300,000 (Augmentation I) to complete the Design and Engineering project phase, including preconstruction planning, design, final plans and specifications ready for inclusion in the bid package, as well as to increase funding for the Construction phase. DWR requested Augmentation I due to unanticipated costs and time associated with the re-design of facilities to direct storm water away from Friant Road as required by the County of Fresno, increased costs associated with environmental review and compliance, increased coordination with CDFW to avoid impacts to other Hatchery projects not covered under this grant, and rising construction costs. Due to the delays described above, DWR projected that the 4-6 month construction period, originally set to begin in 2012, would commence during the spring or fall of 2015. The SJRC Board approved Augmentation I on June 18, 2014, and WCB approved funding at its August 28, 2014 meeting.

Since August 2014 when Augmentation I was approved, design, environmental review, and all required project engineering reviews and permits for project elements have been obtained, including State Architect approval of the final plans and specifications. However, the DWR Office of Engineering, which finalizes and releases DWR bid packages for the bidding process, completed a standard cost check before release of the bid package in spring 2015, and determined that required changes from the State Architect resulted in costs higher than the previously final estimated construction and DWR project management budgets.

DWR's detailed request for Augmentation II describes the unanticipated high level of coordination between the DWR Division of Engineering and the State Architect to address required changes to the project design.

The DWR scope of work increased significantly over the past year while preparing final plans and specifications. The project has required a high level of coordination with and review by the DWR Division of Engineering and State Architect to address unforeseen changes in design requirements. This has significantly affected the DWR construction and state operations line items; due to the unanticipated extra work, the requested augmentation includes \$309,000 to cover the remaining state operations which consists of construction management costs.

Expanded requirements resulting in increased project design and construction costs are:

- A California Building Code change took effect requiring higher efficiency electrical systems and lighting, resulting in a significant increase in materials and redesign costs for the project's parking lot.
- Relocation of an existing fire hydrant requiring an approval letter from the local Fire Marshal, as well as a design meeting with the state Fire Marshal, resulting in additional design changes before a permit was issued.
- Additional drainage and a culvert were added along portions of the ADA pathway and Parkway trail.
- Concrete abutments for the pedestrian footbridge crossing a small secondary channel of the San Joaquin River were enlarged to avoid sensitive habitat in and around the channel.
- Multiple State Architect reviews and design changes to accommodate evolving interpretation of recent litigation related to ADA access, including the following:
 - An in-depth analysis was conducted to determine the feasibility of alternate designs for the steps and ADA path leading from the parking lot to the hatchery.
 - Addition of a sidewalk extending from the parking lot to Friant Road, providing access for pedestrians entering the site from the road.
 - Redesign of the parking lot to accommodate a drop-off point for buses to meet ADA "path-of-travel" requirements.
 - Redesign of site drainage.
 - Analysis for adding railings, fencing, a wider shoulder, and curbs to the ADA pathway was conducted, resulting in redesign and additional fencing and curbs.
 - Conversion of a planned two-rail fence to a three-rail fence, adding the additional rail to serve as a barrier for small children and to provide visually impaired persons using a walking cane to sense the edge of the path.
 - Additional signage for ADA accessibility in the parking lot and along the trail.

- Existing entry ramps to buildings and drinking fountains, door handles, and signage modifications were required throughout the hatchery (outside the project footprint) to provide visitors accessing the hatchery through the project's ADA path access to the facility's other public amenities.

Cumulatively, the significant design changes and extensive coordination between the DWR District Office in Fresno, Division of Engineering in Sacramento, and the State Architect, not only significantly increased project costs, but also ultimately delayed the project. Other factors contributing to the increased costs include rising wages and oil prices which are expected to result in higher construction costs than projected earlier.

DWR, CDFW, and the SJRC staff have reviewed the project plans for any cost-saving opportunities. Since the project cost increases are either mandated elements or spread among all elements, no one item or series of items can be eliminated without significantly compromising the project's objectives.

Although DWR anticipates construction bids may be less (perhaps significantly) than the engineers' estimate, the requested increase in funding is necessary for approval to bid. Examples of SJRC projects where the construction bids came in under DWR estimates are the Sycamore Island Culvert Crossing (\$300,000 estimate—low bid \$169,000) and Jensen River Ranch, Phase III (\$910,000 estimate—low bid \$555,000).

To cover the estimated additional costs of this project, DWR requested the second grant augmentation of \$850,000 from SJRC, which was approved by the SJRC Board on June 17, 2015. To ensure that all requirements are incorporated and the project is constructed within the time limits of environmental constraints, DWR also requested an extension to the grant agreement to August 31, 2017.

WCB PROGRAM

The proposed augmentation will be funded through the WCB Public Access Program and meets the program's goal of providing public access for hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation statewide. The proposed augmentation will be made with funds allocated to WCB in the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f), which provides for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration and protection of land and water resources located within the boundaries of the SJRC and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The project's planned facilities will comply with the Lost Lake Regional Park Master Plan, Fresno County General Plan, the mission of the CDFW, and the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan. Once the project is complete, operations and maintenance of the new grant-funded facilities will be the responsibility of the CDFW.

PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed funding breakdown for the project and Augmentation II is as follows:

Item	Task Description	Original Grant	Augmentation I	Amended Budget	Augmentation II	Amended Budget
1	<i>Design and Engineering</i>	\$235,100	\$0	\$235,100	\$0	\$235,100
1a	Planning and Meetings	\$7,700	\$0	\$7,700	\$0	\$7,700
1b	Design and Engineering	\$189,000	\$0	\$189,000	\$0	\$189,000
1c	Engineering Estimate	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
1d	Supervision	\$32,400	\$0	\$32,400	\$0	\$32,400
2	<i>Construction</i>	\$1,587,000	+\$72,000	\$1,659,000	+\$541,000	\$2,200,000
2a	Site Preparation	\$105,000	\$5,000	\$110,000	-\$10,000	\$100,000
2b	Parking Lot	\$450,000	\$20,000	\$470,000	\$30,000	\$500,000
2c	Trail and Amenities	\$497,000	\$23,000	\$520,000	\$505,000	\$1,025,000
2d	Drinking Fountain	\$75,000	\$3,000	\$78,000	-\$8,000	\$70,000
2e	Fencing and Gates	\$173,000	\$8,000	\$181,000	\$79,000	\$260,000
2f	Landscaping and Irrigation	\$59,000	\$3,000	\$62,000	\$43,000	\$105,000
2g	Pre-Fab Steel Bridge	\$228,000	\$10,000	\$238,035	-\$98,000	\$140,000
3	<i>State Operations</i>	\$407,900	+\$228,000	\$635,900	+\$309,000	\$944,900.00
3a	Bids/Specs, Project Mgt, Env. Over,	\$407,900	+\$228,000	\$635,900	+\$309,000	\$944,900.00
	TOTAL	\$2,230,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$2,530,000	\$850,000	\$3,380,000.00

Project costs under Augmentation II will be for Construction (i.e., new facility construction, inclusion of ADA upgrades, and equipment and landscaping installation) and State Operations (completion of the bid process, project management, and oversight), engineering drawings and specifications, contract management and

construction oversight. DWR expects that it will complete the project by August 31, 2017.

FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed funding source for this project is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f), which provides for the construction of river parkway projects identified by the SJRC and is consistent with the objectives of this project.

CEQA REVIEW AND STATE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed project is included among the high priority projects recommended by the Interagency Project Development Committee (IPDC), whose role is to evaluate projects to be considered by the SJRC Board. The SJRC Board approved the project as originally proposed on June 8, 2011, and WCB approved grant funding on September 13, 2011. The SJRC Board approved Augmentation I on June 18, 2014, and WCB approved funding at its August 28, 2014 meeting. The SJRC Board approved Augmentation II on June 17, 2015.

As lead agency, CDFW prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CDFW adopted the MND in May 2011. In compliance with CEQA, WCB has prepared proposed written findings related to the current project description. Subject to approval by the WCB, the appropriate Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board adopt the written findings and approve this augmentation as proposed; allocate \$850,000.00 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84), Public Resources Code Section 75050(f); authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed substantially as planned.

