



County of Fresno

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February 26, 2019

Honorable Members of the Board
San Joaquin River Conservancy
5469 East Olive Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

**RE: San Joaquin River Conservancy Board Review of Alternative 5B for the
Eaton Trail Extension Project**

Dear Members of the Conservancy Board:

As the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno we are very concerned to learn of a possible policy reversal by the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board, announced at its January 9, 2019 meeting, that would abandon what is known as Alternative 5B, providing for access to the River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project at the Palm Avenue and East Nees Avenue in Fresno. We understand that the Conservancy Board may now consider adopting the option known as Alternative 1, providing for direct access at Riverview Drive in Fresno. Alternative 1 was rejected by the Conservancy Board over a year ago after serious concerns were raised by local governmental entities who are members of the Conservancy. At the time, Alternative 5B was determined to be the most promising alternative and the alternative that could best coalesce the efforts of the Conservancy and local governments to finish the Project in the shortest period of time. Since that initial decision the Conservancy and its partners, including the City of Fresno, the County of Fresno and the San Joaquin River Access Corporation have expended a tremendous amount of time and financial resources working on Alternative 5B. Moreover, the objections raised by area residents and the local governments and possible legal deficiencies that were inherent in Alternative 1 still exist. The Board of Supervisors understands that any delay in meeting benchmarks on Alternative 5B were caused by the Wildlife Conservation Board, and that in any event, the necessary easement had been agreed to before the Conservancy Board's January 9th meeting.

Based on these circumstances, there is no valid basis for a decision abandoning Alternative 5B, and to do so would only delay this important project further. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno reaffirms its strong support for the full implementation of Alternative 5B. Further, we object to this last minute attempt to circumvent the will of local residents and governments by switching back to Alternative 1.

Sincerely,

Fresno County Board of Supervisors



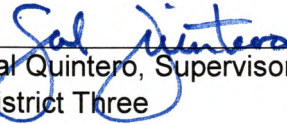
Nathan Magsig, Chairman
District Five



Ernest Buddy Mendes, Vice-Chairman
District Four



Brian Pacheco, Supervisor
District One



Sal Quintero, Supervisor
District Three

District Two, Vacant

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors