

For Immediate Release

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NONPROFITS LAUNCH SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARTNERSHIP
*Agencies and Legislators welcome nonprofit support in restoring
California's second largest river*

Sacramento, CA – On Thursday, September 24, 2009, eleven regional and national nonprofits came together to celebrate the launch of their new collaborative, the San Joaquin River Partnership. They were joined by representatives from the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, the California Department of Conservation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dave Koehler, Partnership Coordinator, introduced the member organizations, all of which share a vision of a living River and a vibrant Central Valley and support restoring California's second largest river, the San Joaquin. They are Audubon California, Ducks Unlimited, Natural Resources Defense Council, PRBO Conservation Science, Revive the San Joaquin, River Partners, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and Tuolumne River Trust.

"Our Partnership includes an array of scientists, volunteers, and conservationists with decades of experience, eager to participate in bringing the River back to life. All of our organizations have spent many years working in the San Joaquin Valley and are committed to seeing the River restored for future generations," said Koehler.

Several State legislators and staff also attended. Assemblymember Jared Huffman, Chair of Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife, spoke at the Partnership's celebration. He commended the Partnership's commitment to the San Joaquin River and emphasized that the restoration efforts will benefit the economy and the environment.

About the San Joaquin River Partnership: By working with private landowners, government agencies, and community organizations, the San Joaquin River Partnership seeks to support the full implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Program, including the restoration of flows and habitat sufficient to support a natural, self-sustaining salmon population. The Partnership is equally committed to supporting the advancement of the additional opportunities presented by the implementation of the settlement to further benefit Valley residents and the people of California. These 'Restoration Plus' opportunities include:

- Recreational, educational, environmental, public health, and aesthetic benefits for Valley residents and visitors
- The creation of jobs and other economic benefits for local communities
- Improved quality of life for valley residents
- Cleaner, safer and more reliable water supplies
- A robust and sustainable agricultural economy and way of life
- Restoration and protection of the River's upper watershed
- The creation of ecologically significant corridors, riparian habitat, wetlands, and floodplains along the River
- Community pride, awareness, and engagement in the revitalization of the River
- Healthy populations of migratory birds and local wildlife, including the recovery of endangered species
- River restoration that is durable in the face of climate change impacts
- Successful public/private River revitalization partnerships
- Coordination, support and partnership with similar efforts on the River's tributaries

**For more information on the San Joaquin River Partnership, visit:
www.sanjoaquinriverpartnership.org**

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