

SEQUOIA
Riverlands Trust
SERVING LAND and PEOPLE

August 14, 2023

City of Visalia
Paul Bernal
Community Development Director
315. E. Acequia
Visalia, CA 93291

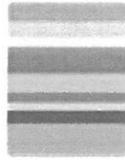
Dear Mr. Bernal,

In response to your request to provide an Executive Summary we respectfully submit the following information for consideration;

Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) was founded in 2000 and its current mission statement is "to conserve the lands and waters of California's heartland." SRT has major programs including a robust environmental education program interacting with students and educators across Tulare County, holding of traditional and agricultural conservation easements (~31,000 acres), fee title ownership and management of multiple nature preserves (~4,000 acres with public access), and land management contracts (~20,000 acres). Approximately 6,500 acres of fee title lands and 6,300 acres of land managed by SRT are in the Carrizo Plain while the majority is concentrated in the southern San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills. SRT's main office is located in Visalia, CA with a second office in the Carrizo Plain, and there are currently 19 full-time staff members.

SRT implemented its first agricultural conservation easement in the San Joaquin Valley in 2009 and has a portfolio that currently includes 30 properties covering ~6,250 cultivated acres. An additional ~2,500 acres of productive rangeland comprising nearly a dozen properties is held in easement in the Sierra Nevada foothills and more than 4,100 acres of rangeland are held in fee-title and managed by SRT. Combined, the properties SRT holds in easement, manages, and owns in the south valley and foothills include a majority of privately conserved land in the region, sustaining agricultural and grazing operations as well as maintaining critical natural habitats.

SRT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and accredited land trust through the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). SRT is managed by a Board of Directors, which meets at least quarterly and includes a diverse range of community leaders and experts in areas such as farming, groundwater management and land use planning.



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While staff are responsible for day-to-day operational decisions, the Board sets organizational policy and supervises the

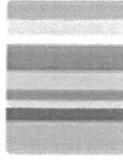
Executive Director, who in turn oversees other staff members. The Board also consults with staff members in specific program areas through standing committees that have both Board and staff representation. In accordance with LTA Standards and Practices, SRT staff do not commit to any land or easement acquisition without providing the full Board information on the conservation values, financial implications and other elements of the transaction, and securing a Board vote of approval.

SRT's board members represent a diversity of experienced leaders interested in conservation and restoration of land in the Tulare Basin region.

DR. AMY FRAME - *Ten Strands' Director of Strategic Partnerships, is a credentialed teacher who has worked at almost every level of the school system, from teaching English, history, and science to coaching and managing curriculum implementation and leading as a principal. She has worked in public, magnet, charter, and independent schools. Amy has a MEd in Instructional Leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education and an EdD in Educational Leadership from UCLA.*

BRIAN W. GRANT - *Brian is the Executive Vice President of a large agribusiness company in the region, with diverse leadership of other large farms and ranches. B.S. in Agribusiness from Colorado State, Master of Public Policy and M.B.A. from Pepperdine University. Serves on a number of water agricultural boards throughout the San Joaquin Valley.*

MARK LARSEN - *Mark is General Manager for Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District in the southern San Joaquin Valley. He joined SRT's Board in 2016 and served as Chair until 2020. At the water conservation district, he manages projects, develops water management policy, and engages in developing and maintaining relationships with various local entities towards groundwater mitigation, water transfers, water education and conservation since 2002. Holds a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from California State University, Fresno.*



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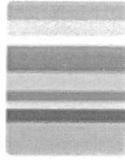
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ROD MEADE – *Former Owner/President of R J Meade Consulting, Rod provided public policy, environmental planning, regulatory and entitlement guidance to a variety of large-scale public and private clients. He was responsible for formulating regulatory approval strategies for clients, including The Irvine Ranch, Tejon Ranch, Rancho Mission Viejo and Yokohl Ranch. Served as the Executive Director of the Governor’s Delta Vision Initiative, was the Restoration Administrator for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, and served as the Land Use and Agriculture Consultant to the Great Valley Center for the Governor’s San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Initiative.*

KEL MITCHEL - *Kel currently serves as a project manager for Renewable Resources Group, bringing years of experience in geology and hydrology to projects in the region and nationwide. He works on a team that identifies and develops opportunities to create more robust water supply portfolios for agriculture around the world. Kel completed his M.S. in Environmental Engineering with Water Resources/Hydrology focus from Stanford University and has extensive training in all aspects of water and geology. His undergraduate studies at Colby College focused on a double-major B.A. in Geology and Mathematical Sciences, with an Environmental Studies minor.*

MIKE OLMOS - *Mike has served in various capacities for the City of Visalia - culminating as City Manager. He led Visalia’s General Plan update, expected to guide the city’s growth through 2030, and Measure N, a local tax measure seeking to fund road maintenance, police, and fire. Mike also oversaw the development and construction of Visalia’s Animal Care Center, Fire Station 53, the Visalia Emergency Communication Center, and a major upgrade to the Visalia Wastewater Treatment Plant.*

MIGUEL RAMIREZ - *Miguel is Public Affairs Manager for SoCalGas in the Central Valley. He brings decades of service as community coordinator with organizations such as The City of Fresno and the Central Valley Community Foundation, building working relationships with various regional non-profits, elected officials and media members to form strategic partnerships. He makes extensive use of social media and app-based communications to inform and bring together groups for strategic management of resources. Miguel has a B.A. in Political Science with minors in History and Global Security from Pennsylvania State University.*



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SARAH RUTHERFORD - Sarah currently serves as Executive Director for the Kaweah Water Foundation. The Kaweah Water Foundation works to provide local residents with domestic well testing for nitrate contamination and where needed provide clean drinking water to impacted households. Prior to working with the Kaweah Water Foundation, Sarah was employed by Provost & Pritchard Consulting, working with various regulatory and permitting agencies. Sarah is experienced with California water policy and management issues, water quality monitoring, water management practices, and the landscape connections between water quantity and water quality.

LARRY SASLAW - Larry is a wildlife management biologist with a B.S. from Humboldt State University. In his career spanning five decades, Saslaw has worked with West Kern Environmental Consulting, McCormick Biological, Inc., Sage Institute, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

If you require any further information or have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Logan Robertson Huecker, PhD
Executive Director
logan@sequoiariverlands.org