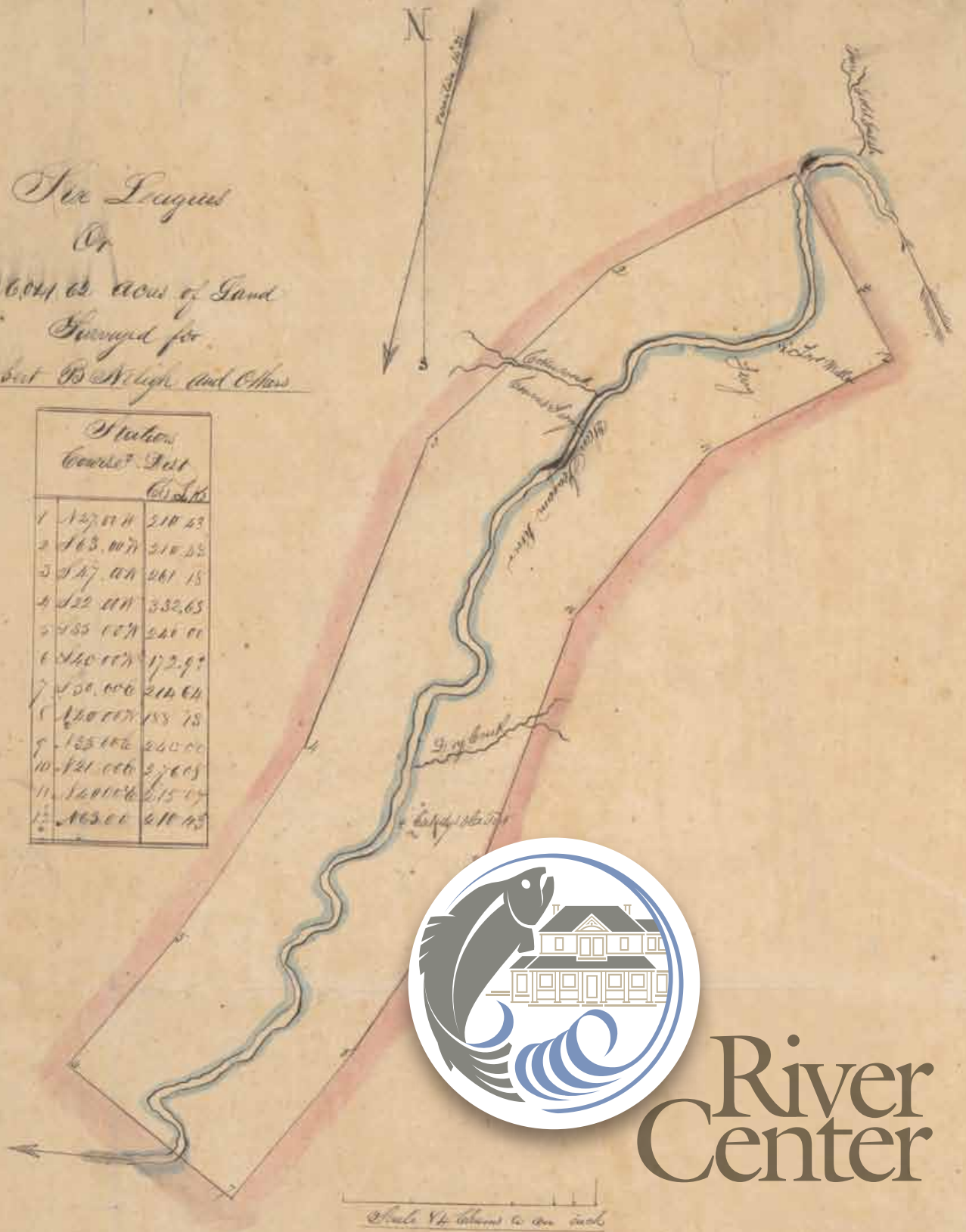


Six Leagues  
 Or  
 26,041 62 acres of Land  
 Surveyed for  
 Robert B. Leigh and Others

| Station | Course      | Dist   | Ch. Lts |
|---------|-------------|--------|---------|
| 1       | N 27° 11' N | 210 43 |         |
| 2       | S 63° 00' W | 210 43 |         |
| 3       | S 47° 00' W | 461 15 |         |
| 4       | S 22° 00' W | 332 65 |         |
| 5       | S 83° 00' W | 241 00 |         |
| 6       | S 10° 00' W | 172 99 |         |
| 7       | S 50° 00' W | 210 64 |         |
| 8       | S 10° 00' W | 188 78 |         |
| 9       | S 85° 00' W | 240 00 |         |
| 10      | S 21° 00' W | 270 05 |         |
| 11      | S 20° 00' W | 215 47 |         |
| 12      | N 63° 00' W | 410 45 |         |



River Center

A VISION FOR  
**RIVER CENTER**

The Coke Hallows Center for River Studies  
 At Riverview Ranch  
 El Rancho Del Rio San Joaquin

|    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |

# A VISION FOR RIVER CENTER

The Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies  
At Riverview Ranch  
*El Rancho Del Rio San Joaquin*

A HISTORIC RANCH ON THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SINCE 2002

---

“Our River Center vision is to give voice to the story of the San Joaquin River and its people—by preserving a place and creating opportunities for the river’s water, land, and all living things to be enjoyed and cared for.”

---



## **Introductory Summary – Our Vision & Plan through 2018**

THE RIVER CENTER is our point of origin on the San Joaquin River, *it is...*

Center for **Discovery of the River’s Natural and Cultural History**

Center of the **San Joaquin River Parkway**

Center of the **Largest River Restoration and Salmon Recovery Project in California**

River Center is the **Hub & Portal of Our Organization** and the work that we do

AT THE RIVER CENTER *we will...*

**Take people to the river** by creating a hiking trail to the river’s edge at Owl Hollow; by hosting lively natural and cultural history tours; and by building restroom, picnic, and canoe facilities to support our outdoor programs.

**Foster river stewardship and discovery...**by creating a 4th Grade California History field trip for students and a catch and release fishing program for young children and their families. We will stabilize our very old, rare, and weathered dairy barn and transform it into an engaging space for storytelling, connecting it to the Parkway’s Lewis S. Eaton Trail. We will feature work underway to restore the river and reintroduce salmon through creative programs and exhibits.

**Gather the community...**by utilizing the historic grounds as a space for a Farmer’s Market, building a covered picnic shelter for our River Camp programs and family group activities. We will improve our agriculture restoration site into a community supported program growing local fresh foods and promoting healthy and active lives.

FROM THE RIVER CENTER *we will...*

**Advance the San Joaquin River Parkway and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program...**drawing upon our experience and expertise we will continue our work to implement the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan and its trail system; and to undertake projects in support of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program and the recovery or reintroduction of salmon.

**Expand outdoor recreation and education programs...**to diverse families of the Valley; providing opportunities for children and adults to develop a long-term personal connection to the San Joaquin River and its stewardship.

## Giving Voice to the Story of the San Joaquin River and its People

---

We are drawn to rivers. Throughout American history stories of rivers have been recorded—we've explored them, enjoyed them, and used them. Rivers provide us with food, power our economy, and are a source of great beauty and inspiration.

---

A journey along the San Joaquin River is to discover the story of a vital California waterway traversing its way through some of the most famous places of the American landscape. The San Joaquin River's North and Middle forks originate from the slopes of Yosemite National Park, Mt. Banner, and the Minarets Range of the Sierra Nevada. These forks initially flow south, plummeting into a deep canyon gorge where they are joined by the South Fork of the San Joaquin River. The South Fork's headwaters form in Kings Canyon National Park at Martha Lake, on the east side of Mt. Goddard, with streams from Evolution Valley joining in. Together, their gathered waters continue to plunge and carve their way out of the Sierra, flowing west into California's Great Central Valley, meandering through some of the richest and most productive farmland in the world. From the Valley floor, the river makes its dramatic turn north at the historic town of Firebaugh, reaching the sea through the San Francisco Bay-Delta, the largest estuary on the West Coast.

Over the past two centuries, the San Joaquin River has attracted a growing population of people from an array of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. As the 19th Century began, the indigenous Yokut and Monache people flourished on the river's bounty of fish and wildlife. California's Gold Rush era gave rise to waves of new people coming to the Valley--miners, ranchers, and

entrepreneurs—seeking their fortune or a better life. Torn asunder by the Civil War, families from the South forged new lives for themselves by beginning Valley farms. By 1900, the Valley's agricultural boom was well underway, and the land and waters of the San Joaquin attracted more immigrants. For many people escaping the Midwest States affected by the Dust Bowl years of the 1930's, the San Joaquin Valley was the point of relocation and even more people moved here during the Post World War II, period accelerating the pace of change. The end of the Vietnam War brought a new group of settlers as immigrants from the affected countries sought a new life and were attracted to the river's rich irrigated fields. The San Joaquin Valley is culturally diverse with nearly everyone in some way being connected to the River.

Throughout generations, the people of the Valley have drawn their livelihood from the San Joaquin, and have also enjoyed it. Together, we swim it, fish it, farm it, paint it, canoe it, camp by it, write songs and poems about it; and, when we need to rest, we lay down on its banks and gaze at the stars.

Our River Center vision is to give voice to the story of the San Joaquin River and its people--by preserving a place and creating opportunities for the river's water, land, and all living things to be enjoyed and cared for.



## About this Vision

*This document presents our working vision for River Center over the next five years and contains the ideas and possibilities we plan to achieve during the period. It is not a point of beginning nor does it represent a conclusion. It is a vision for a finite period of time in which we have defined measurable outcomes to advance the River Parkway Trust's mission and thereby enhance the lives of all those who enjoy the cultural and natural history of the San Joaquin River.*

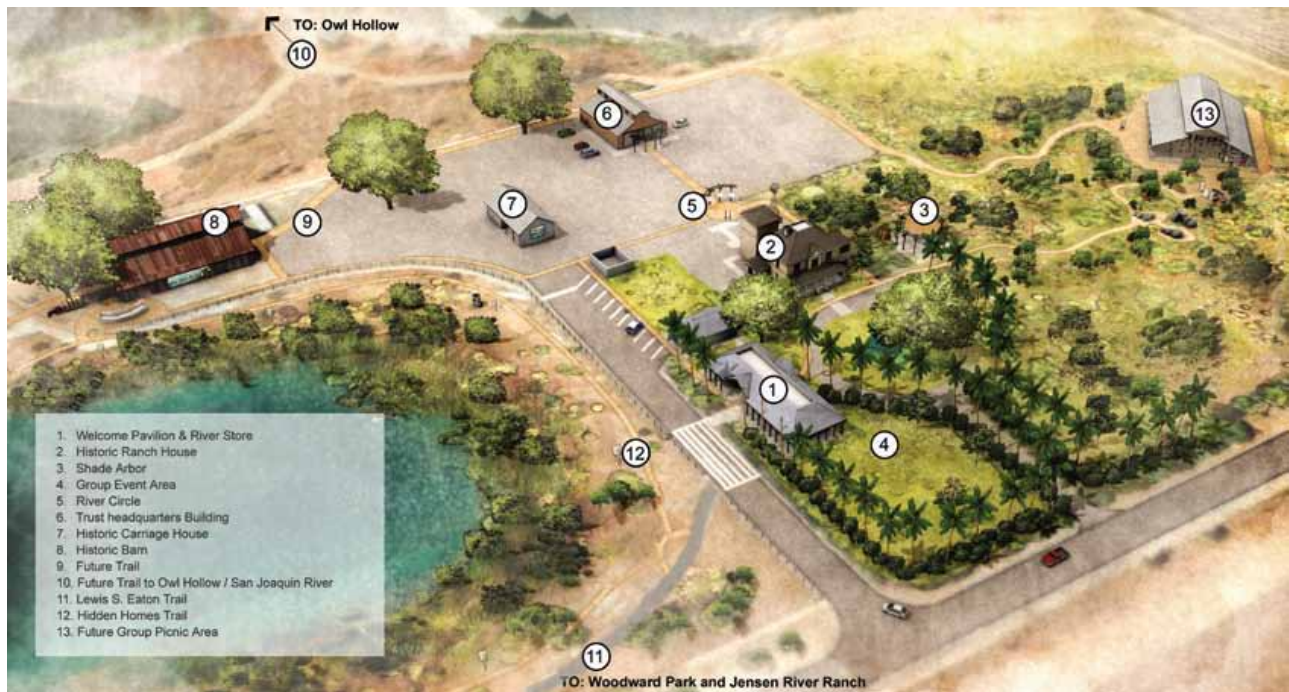


### **River Center: its Name and Geography**

River Center is our short handle name for the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies, which is its formal name. The River Parkway Trust's Board of Directors selected this name to recognize Coke Hallowell for her early vision to restore the old ranch buildings as an interpretive center and include it in plans for the emerging San Joaquin River Parkway. Built in 1890 by the pioneering nurseryman William Macca Williams, the ranch house has had many owners, several names and varied in size in the many decades that have followed. By 1920, the target year of the ranch house restoration, it was owned by the Phillips Family; they named it River Ranch. In the mid 20th century its name was changed to Riverview Ranch, which it is often still called today. By the 1980's the Rank family owned the property and it was part of their ranch, El Rancho Del Rio San Joaquin, which takes its name from the nomenclature used for Spanish land grants made along many of California's rivers. For us today, the size and shape of River Center land may be changeable; it can be expanded as willing seller opportunities present themselves and as we advance our land conservation goals and the mission of the River Parkway Trust.

### **Building on Success**

Today, the River Center consists of 54 acres of land owned and operated by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust as the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies. It is anchored by the historic Williams-Phillips ranch house. The River Parkway Trust restored the historic home with help from numerous partners and opened it to the public as a river interpretive center in 2002. This dramatic restoration effort was made possible by a lead gift of land from Vulcan Materials Company. Embracing the vision of the property as part of the San Joaquin River Parkway, the company donated the declining ranch buildings along with 20 acres to the River Parkway Trust in 1998. Other properties of today's River Center are the 6-acre Owl Hollow river access site acquired from the Rank family, plus 28 acres donated by the Caglia family, which the Trust plans to restore to a producing community agriculture farm. These assets, along with the River Parkway Trust's established track record for delivering successful projects, represent the body of work, experience, and commitment that propels us forward.



### Center for Discovery

River Center is a symbol of our history and an important part of our community today. A visit to River Center reconnects visitors to their cultural past and draws them outdoors to discover the fish and wildlife that depend on the river. Over the past two centuries, a great diversity of people have immigrated here and River Center gives an important voice for their experiences and stories to be told. From its source to sea, the San Joaquin River provides limitless boundaries for discovery.

### Center of the San Joaquin River Parkway

River Center's profile on the landscape is marked by a stately row of century old palm trees that wrap around the historic grounds of the two-story ranch house, making the property an iconic image of the San Joaquin River Parkway. River Center is located in the heart of the Parkway, a 22-mile stretch of the river from Friant Dam to Highway 99, a greenway of trails, protected natural lands, and river access sites. River Center is an important hub of the Parkway's Lewis S. Eaton Trail, which connects River Center downstream to Woodward Park and additional trails at Jensen River Ranch. Integrated into the Parkway by form and design, River Center today is host to about 20,000 guests a year that participate in a variety of River Parkway Trust programs and activities.

### Center of the Largest River Restoration and Salmon Recovery Project in California

With the San Joaquin River being identified by the Department of Interior as one of the top priority river restoration efforts in the United States, River Center is located in an area of prime spawning grounds for the recovering Chinook salmon. Vital to supplying ecosystem services for California, it is currently the largest river restoration and recovery effort in California and perhaps the United States. What does it take to restore a river? Visitors of River Center will discover restoration efforts underway, learn about the salmon's unique life cycle, visit their spawning grounds, and experience the many contributions that a restored river brings to our community.

### Hub and Portal of our Organization

River Center is headquarters of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, the base camp of our Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers. From the River Center we advance our mission, which 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."*

## River Center Additions By 2018

### NEW OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 A trail to the river – a walking trail that will take visitors to the river’s edge at Owl Hollow and loop back to the historic ranch house
- 2 Restroom facilities and picnic shelter at Owl Hollow – key improvements to support programs such as River Camp and canoeing
- 3 Stabilization of the historic dairy barn with an open air river restoration and salmon recovery exhibit that features an engaging walk-through interpretive trail
- 4 Farmer’s Market and group picnic shelter—to be located northeast of the historic ranch house, doubling as an inviting stop along the new walking trail. The improvement will provide support for group activities, River Camp, and will be a venue for a farmers market featuring fresh locally grown produce
- 5 Catch and Release Fishing Program in Ponds—fun fishing opportunities close to home with organized youth and family program activities
- 6 Guided Tours—cultural and natural history hiking tours; river restoration and salmon recovery interpretive hikes; explorations to Rank Island for nature study
- 7 Organized activities for young children and their families utilizing the Hidden Homes Trail and other features of River Center
- 8 Enhanced Respite by the River series—community gatherings for special outdoor programming focused on cultural arts

### LAND PROJECTS

- 9 It is anticipated that opportunities for acquiring land between the historic ranch and the river will become available. These opportunities for providing additional river access, protected open space and land for community supported agriculture will be explored.

### CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMMING

- 10 New exhibits in the historic ranch house—engaging exhibits following the progress of the river’s restoration and reintroduction of salmon; continuing a focus of telling the story of the river’s rich cultural and natural history
- 11 Program development for 4th grade school field trips to River Center on California History



*Community Supported Agriculture Site*



*Land Ownership Overview*

## River Center Program Priorities

River Center programs are developed based on the following program priorities:

- Create outdoor recreation opportunities engaging ethnically diverse communities of the San Joaquin Valley in the enjoyment, restoration, and stewardship of the San Joaquin River. Develop programs that help River Center visitors make a personal connection to the river through interpretive activities that highlight the river's diverse cultural and natural history
- Provide hands-on environmental education and outdoor activities for Valley youth, supporting growth and the emergence of new voices for San Joaquin River conservation
- Protect and restore the San Joaquin River through land conservation and management, habitat restoration and protection, and supporting science and policy to ensure conservation of the river's natural resources. Support the San Joaquin River Restoration Program including the reintroduction and recovery of salmon
- Improve the quality of life for Valley communities through providing outdoor programs that improve physical and mental health; build awareness of the San Joaquin River Parkway and San Joaquin River Blueway systems for promoting healthy lifestyles
- Create hands-on sustainable agriculture programs that engage and connect the community to the river as a source of fresh locally grown food. Promote farming practices that contribute to a healthy riparian ecosystem

## Enhanced Capacity for Stewardship and Sustainability

Assuming success in raising funds and securing grants for making these capital improvements, we must also increase our capacity for operational support. Our plan for addressing this need includes doubling our annual membership during the five year period through a focused outreach campaign to individuals and businesses. The membership campaign will highlight benefits that River Center programs and nearby access to the river's preserved open space provide to individuals, families, and businesses in the community. Operation revenue will also be created from the program fees collected from activities such as community agricultural production, farmers market, fishing programs, and other River Center organized events.



---

### *An Invitation to Join Us*

We invite you to help implement our River Center vision.

Will you join us?

---



Front Cover: *Permission to publish  
the map made possible by The  
Bancroft Library, University of  
California, Berkeley. Land Case  
Map D-136. Six Leagues or  
26,041.62 acres of land surveyed for  
Robert B. Neligh. 1854.*

---

*Robert B. Neligh was the claimant  
and land agent for Commodore  
Stockton*



**San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust**

11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno, CA 93730-9701 559-248-8480

[www.riverparkway.org](http://www.riverparkway.org)