

## **SJRC Property Naming Contest Submission Information & Rules**

The State of California San Joaquin River Conservancy is inviting community input on renaming its Ball Ranch property and potentially other properties in the future. Many State Conservancy properties are informally referred to by the sellers' family name, including Ball Ranch. Soon, the property will re-open under the management of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (River Parkway Trust). The Ball Ranch Renaming Contest is an opportunity to leave your mark and help find the perfect property name that reflects the land and honors the many uses of natural resources found along the San Joaquin River.

We invite you to participate by getting creative and thinking of names that capture the essence of the rich environment and honor those who've stewarded the land to sustain life over time. By participating in the contest, you agree to accept and comply with the Official Rules.

### **Property Description:**

Ball Ranch is owned by the State of California San Joaquin River Conservancy and operated by the River Parkway Trust. Ball Ranch is a 360-acre property, located north of Birkhead Road on Friant Road, between Fresno and Friant. This property is bordered by Friant Road, Little Dry Creek, California Department of Fish and Wildlife's San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve, and Sumner Peck Ranch.

This vital resource features mixed riparian habitat, open space, valley oak riparian forest, valley oak woodland, mixed riparian forest, willows, sycamores, and upland habitat consisting of grasslands. Water features include ponds and freshwater marshes, which were mostly created by previous mining activities. The property has sustained life over the years, providing a home and abundant resources for Indigenous communities as well as shelter, space, and habitat for wildlife. The Yokuts people are the original caretakers of this precious land. Later, the property was farmed and mined for sand and gravel.

### **Eligibility:**

The contest is open to legal residents of the United States and its territories.

### **Rules:**

- 1) Complete the official entry Google form (available [HERE](#)) by 11:59 p.m. PST on Saturday, August 31, 2024.
- 2) Entries can be made anonymously but an email is still required to submit an entry.
- 3) To be considered as a potential name it must follow the following guidelines:
  - a. Names should be original, easy to remember, and relevant to the history, tradition, environmental setting, unique characteristics, geographic, cultural, or environmental characteristics.
  - b. Specific and memorable names are preferred over more general names.
  - c. Names that celebrate Indigenous culture and traditions are encouraged.
  - d. Submissions should NOT include names of people or other properties and places.

### **Prizes:**

One (1) winner will receive either:

- 1 voucher for a full week of River Camp 2025 (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) OR

- 1 River Tour Certificate for five participants

The winning entry will be announced on the River Parkway Trust's, San Joaquin River Conservancy's, and other partnering websites, social media accounts, and e-mail.

**Review Panel:**

On September 10, 2024, from 5:30-7:30 pm, the San Joaquin River Conservancy will host the Parkway Action and Community Engagement (PACE) meeting at Fresno County Woodward Park Branch Library. Community members will review and judge entry names that meet the criteria above. The top 2-3 names will be selected at this meeting and then presented to the San Joaquin River Conservancy Governing Board of Directors on October 2, 2024. For more information about PACE [CLICK HERE](#) join us!

**Modification and Use of Winning Name:**

The final name is subject to modification by the State Conservancy Board, which will retain the rights of ownership for all final names commissioned via this solicitation. The Conservancy reserves the right to use the name for additional purposes, such as websites and print materials. If no entry is selected, The Conservancy reserves the right to declare no winner and choose a name through a different process.

For additional information, contact Bryna De Fede at [bdefede@riverparkway.org](mailto:bdefede@riverparkway.org) or (559) 248-8480 ext. 216.

Photos by David Hunter

