

# Central California

## Essential Investments in Central California

With California voters' strong support for ballot measures to fund conservation, our state has invested wisely in protecting our land, water and parks. These essential investments have strengthened the state's economy by enhancing our environment, attracting tourists and creating jobs.

In Central California, these investments are making our rivers more accessible to the public and increasing recreational opportunities. They're preserving critical habitats for wildlife and plants, saving open space for all of us to enjoy and restoring some of the last wetlands left in a state that's lost more than 90 percent of its wetlands.

Although we have made great improvements, there is still much to be done. The future of all of California — from its wide diversity of plants and animals to the wide diversity of people who live here — depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish. Among the noteworthy investments in Central California are:

### AMERICAN RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A partnership of 22 Sacramento-area water providers is increasing water supply reliability and quality, improving flood protection and protecting the lower American and Cosumnes rivers watersheds with a \$25 million investment from Proposition 50. The grant is financing key elements of the Regional Water Authority's management plan, including groundwater wells, surface water pipelines, water treatment plants and water recycling facilities. These projects also benefit the entire state by improving habitat and the quality of water reaching the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an ecologically sensitive estuary that is a critical link in the state's water delivery system.

### SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY

The San Joaquin River Parkway in the Fresno-Madera area is a mosaic of parks, trails and ecological reserves along the river that offers a wide range of outdoor activities, along with numerous environmental and economic benefits. With more than \$25 million invested in the parkway, including funds from Proposition 50, property values surrounding the parkway have risen. The parkway is also expected to generate up to \$4.5 million annually in increased tourism.



**American River Basin (Sacramento County)**  
Photo: American River Conservancy & Mark Leder-Adams



**San Joaquin River Parkway (Fresno-Madera area)**  
Photo: San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust



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## TUOLUMNE RIVER

The headwaters of the Tuolumne River begin at 13,000 feet in Yosemite National Park in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. As the river travels 150 miles to the San Joaquin River, it carves out canyons that provide 27 miles of whitewater for rafters and kayakers. The state has invested millions of dollars from Propositions 40 and 50 to make the river and its surrounding area accessible and enjoyable for Californians. The river also provides irrigation water for Central Valley farms, flood control and drinking water for rural communities in the San Joaquin Valley, hydroelectricity for the San Francisco Bay Area along with boating, swimming, fishing and water skiing at Millerton Lake and Lake Don Pedro.



Tuolumne River  
Photo: Resources Legacy Fund

## CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

The largest program of its kind in the U.S., the California Conservation Corps matches at-risk young people with educational assistance and jobs that help protect and conserve our natural resources. With funding from Propositions 40 and 84, as well as other sources, the corps developed programs and facilities to hire 3,300 youth per year at 27 locations throughout California. The crews work for various local agencies, tackling more than 900 conservation projects annually.



California Conservation Corps at work  
Photo: Los Angeles Conservation Corps

## LAUFF'S RANCH/NAPA RANCH

Investments from Proposition 50 helped purchase the 12,575 acre Lauff's Ranch in Napa County — a significant part of the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area. The purchase protected the stunning landscape and ecosystems within it from being divided into 75 separate parcels for residential development. The ranch is now part of an existing network of public lands that support a critical wildlife corridor for bears, mountain lions, golden and bald eagles and other animals. The property also contains some of the state's most biologically important habitats, including oak woodlands and serpentine chaparral — two highly threatened vegetation types in California.

## MATHER SPORTS COMPLEX AND SOCCER FIELD

The closure of Mather Air Force Base in 1993 rocked the Sacramento region because the military had long been a vital part of its economy. Since then, the sprawling facility has been converted into a site for business and recreation. Nearly \$4 million from Proposition 40 helped pay for new soccer fields and to turn a gym that once served the Air Force into one that serves the community as a busy sports complex.

### CONSERVING CALIFORNIA

A public education program about our essential investments in land, water and parks presented by Audubon California, California Council of Land Trusts, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and WiLDCOAST.

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.conservingcalifornia.org](http://www.conservingcalifornia.org)

