

Our investments in rivers and river parkways are improving our water quality, enhancing surrounding property values and creating recreational space...

# Rivers & River Parkways

## Essential Investments in Rivers and River Parkways

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 California's economy by enhancing our environment, attracting tourists and creating jobs.

Our investments in rivers and river parkways are improving our water quality, enhancing surrounding property values and creating recreational space for California visitors and families to enjoy outdoor activities and healthier lifestyles. They're also protecting and restoring critical habitats for fish and wildlife. With our investments, we are giving many endangered and threatened species a better chance at survival.

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 many noteworthy investments in California's rivers and river parkways are:

### CARMEL RIVER PARKWAY

By building trails and increasing access to the area, residents and visitors can enjoy the beautiful Carmel River now more than ever. Funds from Propositions 12 and 40 helped establish a network of trails on the Monterey Peninsula to provide safe access and connections to existing public parklands. Ultimately, the Carmel River Parkway will link schools, shopping centers, businesses and parklands in a "walkable town" that will reduce highway traffic and enhance the local community.

### 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.

### SAN DIEGO RIVER

The 52-mile river that flows from eastern San Diego County to the Pacific Ocean at Oceanside provides ample opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and the region's natural beauty. The river is home to wildlife and plant species, including threatened and endangered ones, such as the arroyo toad, least bell's vireo and the southwestern pond turtle. Proposition 40 has provided \$2.2 million to increase public access to the river and continue preserving its diverse wildlife habitats. The five reservoirs of the San Diego River also provide drinking water for more than 750,000 of the region's residents.



**Carmel River Lagoon (Monterey County)**  
Photo: Big Sur Land Trust



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





The future of all of California...depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish.

### **BIG RIVER CONSERVATION PROJECT**

This project permanently protected 7,300 acres of the lower Big River watershed, including the entire 8.2-mile-long estuary in Mendocino County. The acquisition of this extraordinary property linked more than 100 miles of public trails and connected 60,000 acres of wildlife habitats, including habitats for 27 endangered and threatened species. It also protected an outstanding scenic resource at the entrance to the town of Mendocino. The \$25.6 million purchase included \$5.48 million from Proposition 12 with the rest of the funding coming from other governmental and private sources, including the Mendocino Land Trust and the Trust for Wildland Communities.

### **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.

### **LOS ANGELES RIVER**

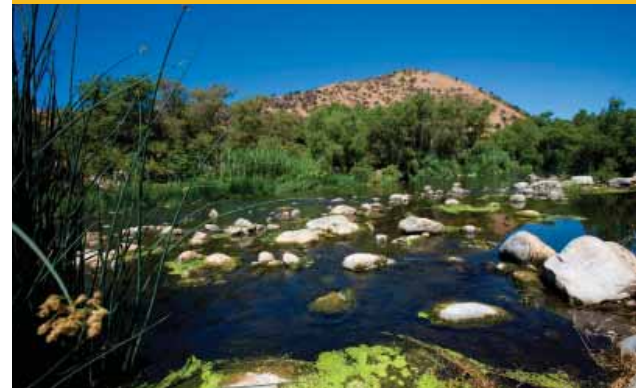
Once so blighted that a lawmaker proposed turning it into a freeway, the Los Angeles River is coming back to life and providing outdoor recreation for families. The Los Angeles River passes through 13 cities and countless communities as it flows from the western end of the San Fernando Valley to the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach. Proposition 40 and other public investments are transforming the land along the river's 51-mile course and bringing more parks to Los Angeles, the city with the fewest acres of parkland per person in the U.S.



**Big River Conservation Project (Mendocino County)**  
Photo: Matt Gerhart



**Tuolumne River**  
Photo: Resources Legacy Fund



**Los Angeles River (Los Angeles County)**  
Photo: Friends of the Los Angeles River & Peter Benett

#### **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)

