



Technical Advisory Council

Item 8: Case Study - Sequoia Riverlands Trust

August 22, 2025

Introduction

Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) is a regional, accredited nonprofit land trust dedicated to conserving the lands and waters of California's heartland, including habitat and agricultural land in the Southern Sierra, San Joaquin Valley and Carrizo Plain. Since its founding, SRT has conserved over 50,000 acres, including seven fee title nature preserves, more than eighty conservation easements and multiple mitigation properties where SRT acts as land manager. SRT has been part of the Power in Nature Coalition since 2020, and has been a consistent advocate for increased investments in conservation to help meet the state's 30x30 goals.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust and 30x30

SRT's conservation work in a region grappling with climate change, groundwater depletion and extreme socioeconomic disparities, illustrates both the potential and the limits of California's 30x30 initiative. Successful land protection projects and long term stewardship of preserves, easements and mitigation sites show how strategic conservation investments can benefit people and nature alike in a historically disadvantaged region of the state. But the question of what counts toward 30x30 – particularly for projects that include both habitat/climate and agricultural conservation values – bears further discussion. And given the likely need for hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural land in the San Joaquin Valley to transition to less water-intensive uses in the coming years, there may be significant potential for landscape-scale conservation and restoration of retired farmland to contribute to the state's 30x30 goals.

Discussion Questions

- To what extent should easements that protect both habitat and agricultural conservation values count toward the state's 30x30 goals?
- Given that the San Joaquin Valley's groundwater situation will almost certainly entail repurposing of some agricultural land to less water-intensive uses, how can the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) and related conservation investments be leveraged to support 30x30?

- To what extent could dedicating a greater proportion of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund revenues to nature-based solutions, including but not limited to conservation and restoration projects, help the state meet its 30x30 goals?