

Position Title: San Joaquin Valley Regional Director
Status: Full-time, Exempt
Location: Modesto, California or home office in the San Joaquin Valley
Reports to: Director of Development



River Partners is recruiting a leader to bring new life back to river landscapes in California’s San Joaquin Valley. The San Joaquin Valley is the most productive agricultural region in the world and was historically one of the most productive and diverse ecosystems on earth. Today, it is facing a social and ecological crisis. The economically disadvantaged region has the fewest acres of parks and open space per capita than any other region of California. Climate change will bring severe drought and flood cycles that will further threaten the regions’ fragile social and ecological fabric unless we act now to build a more resilient future for the natural and human communities of the Valley. If you want to serve as a catalyst that creates a brighter future for California, there is not a better place to offer your talents than the San Joaquin Valley.

Who We Are:

A tenacious nonprofit founded in 1998, River Partners brings life back to California rivers. We advance an innovative model of conservation that harnesses the power of restored riverways to create a thriving future for the states' environment and communities. We revive and reconnect entire river landscapes, critical wildlife corridors, and vast ecological regions across California. We achieve this bold pace and scale of restoration by blending modern farming practices, cutting-edge science, and diverse alliances. Each year, we plant hundreds of thousands of native trees and vegetation across thousands of acres along California's most imperiled rivers.

Why We Do It

Healthy rivers are essential for a vibrant California. They provide fresh water for growing our food, economy, communities, and wildlife found nowhere else. Rivers support more species and in greater numbers than any other ecosystem in California – making our state a worldwide biodiversity hotspot. Yet just 5% of our native riverside habitat remains. What’s left needs reviving. The actions we take during this decade will decide California's future. With their exponential benefits for wildlife, natural resources, and communities, healthy rivers are critical for a flourishing Golden State for generations to come.

Why Our Work Matters

Our work supports a range of wins for wildlife, flood safety, climate resiliency, water conservation, healthy communities, and local economies statewide. This includes supporting the recovery of dozens of imperiled species, boosting flood safety for communities in flood-prone regions, and growing California’s climate resilience by planting more than 2.5 million trees that capture 1 million tons of greenhouse gases each year.

We've led hundreds of major projects in more than 20 watersheds across nearly 17,000 acres throughout California. River Partners has restored more habitat along impaired California rivers than anyone else in the West.

Position description:

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Director is responsible for developing grant-funded channel and floodplain restoration projects for our organization across a broad geographic range, extending from the Delta to the Kern River. The San Joaquin Valley Regional Director works with the Directors of Development, Acquisitions, Conservation, and Science to identify potential on the ground projects, match projects with funding opportunities, and secure funds through grant writing and partner engagement. The Director will be responsible for networking with restoration partners and evaluating the conservation landscape to identify new project opportunities and secure funding to plan, design, permit, and implement multi-million dollar and multi-year restoration projects.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Director reports directly to the Development Director.

Significant travel in the region is required. Travel is expected and could require upwards of 6 days per month.

Essential functions and responsibilities of this position include:

- Secures funding necessary to implement the regional restoration vision as a primary responsibility.
- Identify new/recurring funding opportunities/programs from federal and state agencies and advise organizational teams (peers in Science, Operations, and Development departments) on strategic approaches to developing successful restoration project proposals that leads to awards securing funding. Some projects will require large, complex proposals and the Regional Director is expected to work closely with colleagues and external partners in building strategic alliances and effective teams to advance River Partners' mission and projects.
- Provide detailed grant proposal development direction for projects in the San Joaquin Valley region, including management throughout all stages of proposal concept development and refinement.
- Develop and submit successful proposals to fund restoration projects. After project award, negotiate contracts and grant agreements with Agency staff to set up successful implementation of River Partners' projects.
- Assist with responses to "requests for proposals" or fee-for-service restoration contract work.
- Steward relationships with grant program managers to ensure compliance with grant agreements and provide oversight and support of internal organizational processes of tracking and coordinating deliverables and meeting timelines.
- Support River Partners' President, senior-level managers, and regional staff in developing strategic plans, budgets, and marketing materials.
- Actively participate in regional planning efforts including the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (BOR), the Central Valley Flood Protection Planning efforts (DWR), the Middle San Joaquin Regional Flood Management Plan (RD 2092), USFWS and CDFW endangered species recovery efforts, and local and regional water quality and supply initiatives.
- Establish and coordinate productive partnerships with the agricultural community, conservation organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies.
- Represent River Partners before the public, elected officials, agencies, stakeholders, and non-profits to generate support for River Partners programs.
- Other duties as requested.

Essential Knowledge Skills and Abilities:

- Must be articulate, courteous, and flexible. Possess the ability to work effectively with diverse population and consensus-building skills.
- Excellent verbal, analytical, organizational, and written skills.
- Grant writing experience and ability to delegate and coordinate numerous tasks to meet a hard deadline.
- Must have the ability to drive change and deliver results, anticipate problems, and initiate new and effective ways of achieving goals.
- Possess knowledge of ecological restoration techniques and California plants, riparian ecology, hydrology, soils and /or wildlife.
- Ability to work on both a **team environment and independently**.
- Integrity and ethics beyond reproach.
- Commitment and enthusiasm to carry out River Partners mission.

Qualifications:

- Demonstrated success in writing grant proposals that lead to awards.
- Demonstrated ability to produce high quality written product on deadline.
- Background in natural resources management, ecology, engineering, watershed science, environmental planning, agriculture, environmental law, or related field. JD, MBA, MPA all encouraged to apply.
- Graduate degree preferred. In the interest of being inclusive, River Partners will consider outstanding candidates that do not have a college degree.
- Minimum of five years of appropriate work experience.
- Professional contract management experience utilizing project management software desired (i.e. system that integrates with a modular financial reporting and/or ERP system).
- Demonstrated understanding of environmental permitting requirements and environmental restoration projects.
- Experience developing subcontract agreements with standard general provisions and sourcing subcontractors.
- Experience working with Microsoft Office Suite software.

To apply email your resume, cover letter and 3 references to:

Jobs@riverpartners.org, Subject: San Joaquin Valley Regional Director Position

Or send an application via mail to:

River Partners
Attn: San Joaquin Valley Regional Director Position
580 Vallombrosa Avenue, Chico CA 95926.
Please no telephone calls.

River Partners is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, religion, age, status as a protected veteran, status as an individual with disability, or any other protected group status or non-job-related characteristic as directed by law.