



San Joaquin Valley Western Monarch Collaborative

Letter of Intent

Letter of Intent to Collaborate

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Date: January 23rd, 2026

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) serves as a symbol of health and resilient ecosystems; its remarkable lifecycle and beauty have earned the species a place in the minds, hearts, and imaginations of people and cultures throughout history. However, this generation of natural resource stewards is challenged by an alarming decline of the western population of monarch butterflies. In response to this decline of monarch populations and understanding the complex resource challenges facing the San Joaquin Valley, the San Joaquin Valley Western Monarch Collaborative aims to advance the conservation and recovery of the species and its habitat for the benefit of future generations.

We, the undersigned organizations, submit this Letter of Intent to express our shared intent to work collaboratively as part of **the San Joaquin Valley Western Monarch Collaborative (Collaborative)**, a non-regulatory voluntary effort to facilitate, enable, and implement monarch and pollinator habitat restoration and conserve and protect existing habitat within the San Joaquin Valley. The work of the Collaborative is aligned with existing efforts such as the MultiAgency Collaborative Working Group, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' 50-year Conservation Plan (WAFWA), and the California Native Seed Strategy. Building on these existing efforts, the Collaborative establishes a targeted strategy with a set of immediate actions focused on monarch conservation in the San Joaquin Valley.

Purpose

The purpose of this Letter of Intent is to illustrate the engagement and commitment of participating organizations to improve monarch habitat conditions in the San Joaquin Valley through participation in the Collaborative. By signing, we indicate our shared vision for a healthy western monarch butterfly population, and our organizations' intention and willingness to contribute to the development and implementation of elements of a regional San Joaquin Valley Monarch Conservation Strategy.

The Mission Statement for the SJV Monarch Conservation Strategy is as follows:

Through an aligned and collaborative approach, the San Joaquin Valley Western Monarch Conservation Strategy aims to provide quality habitat for forage, breeding, and shelter on a mix of public and private lands across California's San Joaquin Valley to support the western monarch. This Strategy builds on existing opportunities and initiatives to address water scarcity, support resilient agriculture, and establish strong communities in support of monarch and pollinator conservation. Important elements of the Strategy include the deployment of collaborative research and monitoring efforts, sharing of existing expertise and information, and providing tools and resources to landowners and land managers to support their participation. Additionally, this Strategy includes coordination to increase the production and accessibility of regionally appropriate native plant materials that are critical to monarch conservation efforts.

Shared Goals

The Collaborative will coordinate with partner organizations, to the extent possible, by communicating, sharing resources, and providing technical support to advance the Collaborative's shared goals:

- Develop and implement monarch habitat projects in the SJV to improve rearing and nectaring opportunities and conditions.
- Support research and dissemination of information in the SJV by identifying research needs, engaging in collaborative monitoring efforts, and promoting ongoing research and monitoring.
- Increase landowner engagement and access to incentive programs by increasing transparency around funding availability and needs, developing recommendations for landowner incentives, and supporting landowners in the adoption of conservation actions.
- Improve native plant material availability for implementers, with a focus on improved volume, pricing, and ecotype availability to the extent reasonable, while helping stabilize the native plant and seed supply chain.
- Update the public on proactive conservation actions happening through the Collaborative in the SJV, while increasing inter-team communications and collaboration.

Roles and Contributions

Each organization may play a different role based on its capacity, expertise, and abilities to participate, and we agree—to the extent possible—that our organizations will:

- Act in good faith with collaborators, respecting the challenges and intentions of partnering organizations
- Participate in Action Team and/or Collaborative meetings
- Contribute to regional monarch conservation strategy documents of the Collaborative
- Support habitat restoration and conservation efforts when possible
- Communicate with collaborators to progress monarch butterfly conservation activities

Timeline

The SJV Monarch Strategy will be updated every 5 years. As signatories, we are committing to facilitate, enable, and implement monarch and pollinator habitat restoration and conservation within the San Joaquin Valley for the same period. This Letter of Intent is non-binding and does not commit any signatory to financial contributions. Signatories may withdraw their participation at any time, or may be added over that 5-year Strategy term.

Signatories

By signing below, we affirm our commitment to collaborate in good faith and contribute to the success of the **San Joaquin Valley Western Monarch Collaborative**.

Organization	Representative Name & Title	Date
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Adam Johnson, Assistant Regional Director of Ecological Services	03/23/2026
Monarch Joint Venture	Wendy Caldwell, Executive Director	03/27/2026
Pollinator Partnership	Kelly Bills, Executive Director	04/08/2026
Valley Eco	Reyn Akiona, Executive Director	04/14/2026
California Department of Food and Agriculture	Karen Ross, Secretary	04/21/2026
Grassland Water District	Ric Ortega, Executive Director	4/27/2026
Grassland Resource Conservation District	Ric Ortega, Executive Director	4/27/2026
Lockwood Seed & Grain	Doug Iten, Business Development	04/29/2026
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation	Scott Black, Executive Director	04/29/2026
Hedgerow Farms	Jeffery Quiter, Farm Manager	04/29/2026
Audubon California	Andrea Jones, Vice President, California, National Audubon Society	04/29/2026

University of Illinois Chicago - Sustainable Landscapes Program	Caroline Hernandez, Assistant Director	05/04/2026
River Partners	Julie Rentner, President	05/06/2026
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts	Nancy Wahl- Scheurich, Executive Director	05/14/2026
Sustainable Conservation	Josette Lewis, CEO	05/19/2026
Great Basin Institute	Peter Woodruff, CEO	05/23/2026
Almond Alliance	Alexi Rodriguez, President and CEO	06/09/2026
Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust	Nick Reed-Krase, Executive Director	06/26/2026
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager, Region 4-Central	07/09/2026
Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District	Amy Siliznoff, Executive Director	07/27/2026
The Nature Conservancy	Abigail Hart, Project Director, Water Program California	07/27/2026
East Merced Resource Conservation District	Zachary Wells, Executive Director	07/27/2026
Tranquillity Resource Conservation District	Steve Haze, Executive Director	08/17/2026
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District	Gabriela Cervantes, Director of Restoration	08/17/2026
California Native Seed Supply Collaborative	David Festa, Co-Founder	08/24/2026
Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Jonathan Vaughn, Land Stewardship Manager	08/28/2026
Center for Land-Based Learning	Mary Kimball, CEO	09/11/2026

Organization Logos:





Tule Basin
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION TRUST

