

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
ELEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT AUXILIARY NORTHERN
REGION**

**Division 10 Standing Rules Appendix E – Division 10 Area of
Responsibility**

As provided for in Article XIII, and Article III of the Division 10 Standing Rules the San Joaquin Valley Division 10 Area of Responsibility (AOR) is described as follows:

1. **Division 10 Area of Responsibility** – The San Joaquin Valley Division 10 Area of Responsibility (AOR) extends from the Sacramento – San Joaquin River Delta in the north to the Tehachapi Mountains (Excluding Kern County) in the south, and from the various California coastal ranges (from the Diablo Range in the north to the Temblor Range in the south) in the west to the Sierra Nevada in the east.

Ten counties comprise the San Joaquin Valley Division, including all of Kings County, San Joaquin, Fresno, Merced, and Stanislaus counties, and portions of Calaveras, Madera, Tuolumne, San Luis Obispo, and Tulare counties. The largest cities are Fresno, Modesto, and Stockton. At its northern end, the San Joaquin Valley borders the southern end of the Sacramento Valley. To the west, and east, the San Joaquin Valley extends to the edges of the valley floor. To the south the northern end of Kern County borders it.

It includes the following waterways, and rivers: the great San Joaquin Delta, San Joaquin River, Stanislaus River, Tuolumne River, Merced River, Fresno River, Mokelumne River, Calaveras River, Chowchilla River, Kings River, Kaweah River, and the Tule River. The lakes and Reservoirs include: Calaveras Lake, Camanche Lake, Pardee Lake, New Hogan Lake, New Melones Lake, Beardsley Lake, Eleanor Lake, Cherry Lake, Modesto Lake, Hetch Hetchy Lake, Woodward Lake, San Luis Lake, Tulloch Lake, Don Pedro Lake, Shaver Lake, Pinecrest Lake, Kaweah Lake, Millerton Lake, Pine Flat Lake, Turlock Lake, Hensley Lake, Eastman Lake, McClure Lake, Huntington Lake, South Lake, Wishon Lake, Redinger Lake, Mammoth Pool Lake, Sabrina Lake, Edison Lake, Hume Lake, Eastman Lake, Florence Lake, Courtright Lake, Owens Lake, Mariposa Lake, Success Lake, Bass Lake and the Tulare Dry Lake Basin.

Division 10 currently has four flotillas along the length of the San Joaquin Valley, each sharing in the waterways, Rivers, Lakes and Reservoirs in their community areas; Modesto 10-2, Stockton 10-3, Fresno 10-5, and Kaweah (Visalia) 10-6.

2. **Division 10 Area History and Background** - The San Joaquin River is the largest river of the Central California valleys. At 366 miles (589 km) long, the river starts in the high Sierra Nevada mountains in the south end of the valley, and flows through the rich agricultural region before reaching Suisun Bay. An important source of irrigation water as well as a water recreational corridor, the

San Joaquin is among the most heavily dammed and diverted of California's rivers.

The San Joaquin being the major river in the valley has tributaries from the lower Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, and Fresno rivers. The California Aqueduct also extends the entire length of the San Joaquin Valley. The southern portion of the valley includes the Kings, Kaweah, and Kern Rivers, which drain into closed interior basins. No significant rivers or creeks drain into the valley from the Coast Range.

The San Joaquin Valley is a broad flat valley that is ringed by the Diablo and Coast Ranges on the west and the Sierra Nevada foothills on the east. The growth of agriculture in this Central California Valley has converted much of the historic native grassland, woodland, and wetland to farmland.

Native people of the valley include the Mono and Yokut Indians. Native lands include the Tule River Indian Reservation in Tulare County, Cold Springs Rancheria, and Table Mountain and Big Sandy Reservations in Fresno County, and Santa Rosa Rancheria in Kings County.

The San Joaquin Valley is in the heart of California and is the state's top agricultural producing region, sometimes called "the nation's salad bowl" for the great array of fruits and vegetables grown in its fertile soil. The valley is bordered on the west by the coastal mountain ranges. Its eastern boundary joins the southern two-thirds of the Sierra Mountain Range, which features Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks. It is divided into two parts: the northern section, drained by the San Joaquin River and its tributaries, and the Tulare Basin, in the far southern part of the Valley.

The San Joaquin drains a total of 9% of the state's runoff water, about 6.4 million-acre feet in an average year. There are 5 million acres of irrigated farmlands in the San Joaquin Valley, and valley counties are among the highest in the nation in terms of agricultural revenues. Crops include cotton, corn, grains, grapes, vegetables, orchard fruits, nuts, citrus, and alfalfa.

Interstate 5 and State Highway 99 are the major north-south roads that run the entire length of the San Joaquin Valley. Other main routes include Interstate 205 and State Highways 33, 41, 43, 65, 132, 140, 178, 180, and 198.

Tulare Lake, named Laguna de Tache by the Spanish, is a fresh-water dry lake with residual wetlands and marshes in southern San Joaquin Valley. Even well after California became a state, Tulare Lake and its extensive marshes supported an important fishery: in 1888, in one three-month period, 73,500 pounds of fish were shipped through Hanford to San Francisco. It was also the source of a regional favorite, Western pond turtles, which were relished as terrapin soup in San Francisco and elsewhere. The lake and surrounding wetlands were a significant stop for hundreds of thousands of birds migrating

along the Pacific Flyway. Tulare Lake was even written about by Mark Twain.

Once the largest freshwater lake west of the Great Lakes, in 1849, the lake measured 570 square miles, and in 1879 it was 690 square miles, as its size fluctuated due to varying levels of rainfall and snowfall. Following the floods of 1861-62 and 1867-68, the highest water on record reached between 216 and 220 feet above sea level. At that elevation, the lake overtopped the natural "spillway" (located five miles west of the current community of Halls Corner on state route 41) and flowed northward into the sea via the Boggs and Fresno sloughs and the San Joaquin River. Until the late 19th century, when it dried up after its tributary rivers were diverted for agricultural irrigation and municipal water uses.

Enough water remained so that Alameda Naval Air Station used Tulare Lake as an outlying seaplane base during World War II and the early years of the Cold War. Flying boats could land on Tulare Lake when landing conditions were unsafe on San Francisco Bay. Lemoore Naval Air Station and Defense Depot Tracy/ Lathrop are the only two military facilities still located within the San Joaquin Valley.

The expression "out in the tules," referring to the sedge growing 3-10 feet tall that lined the lakeshore, and is still common in the dialect of old Californian families and means "beyond far away."

Most lowlands of the Central Valley are prone to flooding, especially in the old Tulare Lake, Buena Vista Lake, and Kern Lake beds. The Kings, Kaweah, Tule and Kern rivers originally flowed into these seasonal lakes, which would expand each spring to flood large parts of the southern San Joaquin Valley. Due to the construction of farms, towns and infrastructure in these lakebeds while preventing them from flooding with levee systems, the risk of floods damaging properties increased greatly. Major public works projects beginning in the 1930s sought to reduce the amount of snowmelt flooding by the building of large dams, which today make up a number of recreational lakes. Other counties in the valley that face flooding often are Stanislaus, and San Joaquin.

This Appendix was approved by a majority vote of the Division 10 Board on 5 May 2012.



Affirmed by: WILLIAM H. CORRELL, DCDR-10, 5 May 2012