

Notice of Public Meeting San Diego River Conservancy

A public meeting of the Governing Board of
The San Diego River Conservancy
will be held Thursday,
January 14, 2016
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location

County of San Diego Administration Center (CAC)
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302
San Diego, California 92101

Tele-Conference Location

Natural Resources Agency	Department of Finance
1416 Ninth Street, Room #1311	State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814	Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact:
Julia Richards (619) 645-3188

Meeting Agenda

The Board may take agenda items out of order to accommodate speakers and to maintain a quorum, unless noted as time specific.

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes (*ACTION*)

Consider approval of minutes for the October 5 and November 12, 2015 meetings.

3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. The Board is

prohibited by law from taking any action on matters that are discussed that are not on the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn by the Board's not responding to such matters or public comments.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)

5. Deputy Attorney General Report (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

6. San Diego River Trail – Permits for Discovery Center and Trail Segment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

The project includes permits for a segment of the San Diego River Trail (Gap #16) and the San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park.

Presentation:

Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation

7. Hydrologic Research Center (*INFORMATIONAL*)

The Hydrologic Research Center (HRC) was established as a non-profit, public-benefit research and technology transfer corporation in July 1993. HRC was created to help bridge the large gap existing between scientific research in hydrology and applications for the solution of important societal problems that involve water.

Presentation:

Eylon Shamir, Ph.D, Hydrologic Engineer

Rochelle Graham, Ph.D, Senior Research Scientist

8. Community Roundtable – Helix Water District's surplus parcels (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Summary of facilitated meetings regarding Helix's surplus land which includes 3 parcels (portions of APNs 392-060-29 [18.94 acres], 391-061-01 [2.53 acres], and 390-040-51[15.61 acres]) in El Monte Valley.

Presentation:

Peter MacCracken, Principal, Strategic Communications

Julia Richards, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy

9. San Diego River Conservancy - Proposition 1 Grant Program and projects recommended for funding (*ACTION*)

Conservation of approximately 37 acres of land in the El Monte Valley (Lakeside, County of San Diego) (*ACTION*)

Applicant: City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department

Requested amount: \$540,000.00

Recommended amount: \$540,000.00

Score: 92/113

Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 16-01

This proposal is to conserve 3 parcels of land totaling 37.08 acres in the El Monte Valley located in the San Diego River watershed. This land will be preserved in a public ownership to protect water quality in the basin, ensure Pueblo water rights, provide groundwater sustainability, preserve open space, protect natural resources, provide trail access and assist in formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Agency. The City will provide a management plan and monitor the land. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

**Conservation of approximately 75 acres of Temescal Creek (Julian, County of San Diego)
(ACTION)**

Applicant: The San Diego River Park Foundation

Requested amount: \$380,500.00

Recommended amount: \$355,000.00

Score: 84/113

Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 16-02

This proposal is to conserve 74.94 acres of land located in the headwaters of the San Diego River. An ephemeral wash bisects the property of montane meadow and mixed oak woodland habitat. Adjacent public lands are owned by the USDA Forest Service. The Foundation will develop a management plan to remove grazing from neighboring cattle and address the invasive Goldspotted Oak Borer which has effected onsite Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). In addition, the Foundation will provide a management plan and monitor the land, provide research and education opportunities for the public. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

10. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL / ACTION)

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officer's Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

Flume Trail Extension – Easement filed
Proposition 1 (Water Bond) overview and status update

11. Next Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, March 10, 2016, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Accessibility

If you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Julia Richards at 619-645-3188.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**
The Board will consider adoption of the **October 5, 2015**
and November 12, 2015 public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the Board Meeting are attached for review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of October 5, 2015 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on January 14, 2016)

SDRC Board Chair, Ben Clay called the October 5, 2015 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present

Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Eraina Ortega	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Brent Eidson	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board

Absent

Scott Sherman	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7
Ann Haddad	Public at Large
Vacant	Appointment by Speaker of the Assembly
Lisa Mangat	Department of Parks and Recreation, Designee

Staff Members Present

Julia Richards	Executive Officer
Dustin Harrison	Environmental Scientist
Hayley Peterson	Deputy Attorney General

2. Approval of Minutes

Ben Clay Asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Dianne Jacob moved for approval of the August 6, 2015 minutes which was seconded by Ruth Hayward.

Roll Call: Ayes: (5-0-1) Ayes: Bryan Cash, Eraina Ortega, Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay, and Ruth Hayward. (1 abstention, Brent Eidson)

3. Public Comment (INFORMATIONAL)

Ben Clay Asked if anybody in audience wished to address the board.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

Ben Clay Reported on the Qualcomm Stadium Advisory Board Meeting attended by SANDAG and the Conservancy's Executive Officer. The meeting reviewed a segment of the San Diego River Trail running through southern portion of Qualcomm stadium parking lot. The proposed trail links west end to a path along the river. He saluted the City of San Diego and Mike MacSweeney the general manager of Qualcomm who was very receptive and helpful. A lot of good comments were provided on how to make this work. SANDAG did a good job responding to the technical questions.

The big question is "what happens if they put a new stadium there?" This is a trail and a fence and we're flexible with regards to the location. The stadium board doesn't have money for bike racks. The Conservancy would like to work with them to install bike racks so people can ride bicycles to the games and other events as part of the SANDAG commuter trail. Initially there was going to be K-Rail barriers lining the Qualcomm trail segment area. At the request of the stadium board a chain link fence will be installed to keep trash out of the river and keep the urban outdoorsman from accessing the Qualcomm parking lot during games and events, and will help in case of potential flooding.

For disclosure, he is the Vice Chair of the Qualcomm Stadium Advisory Board. Needless to say he has been very interested making sure this works.

5. Deputy Attorney's General Report

No report.

6. San Diego River Trail / County of San Diego (INFORMATIONAL)

Chuck Tucker Introduced himself as project manager for this El Monte segment of historic Flume Trail. He thanked the Conservancy for funding the project in partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy. He stated this was one of the most enjoyable enlightening projects he can remember.

The San Diego River Conservancy's Gaps Analyses identifies this trail segment as 60A and portion of 63. These segments of the San Diego River Trail consist of 2.5 miles of the historic Flume Trail owned by the County of San Diego. It's a steep switch back trail from El Monte County Park leading up to the historic bench cut. Once on the historic Flume Trail it is easy to walk and has fantastic views of El Monte Valley and the face of El Cajon Mountain (commonly referred to as "El Cap").

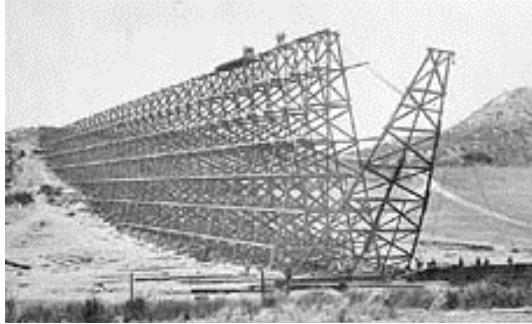
Ben Clay Helped clarify the historic flume bench cut used to be the mechanism for getting water from east.

Chuck Tucker The open redwood flume carried water 37 miles from Lake Cuyamaca to the area near Grossmont Center.

Ben Clay Thanked Chuck and the County of San Diego.

Chuck Tucker stated the California Conservation Corps (CCC) did an amazing job; work started May 2014 and construction was completed December 2014. The CCC crews hiked over a mile every day to the project site, put in 8 hours then hiked home. Over the years, landslides blocked the trails and the CCC hand labor cleared brush and reconstructed the bench cut for this trail.

The trestles and tunnels for the flume were made out of redwood. Over nine million board feet of redwood was brought in from central California. These immense trestles were an amazing feat of engineering for that time.



“Drainage Crossing” ... where wooden trestles once stood spanning the gap



The County created switch backs where the trestles created expanses.

Brush removal and material delivery on the eastern segment of the trail was challenging since there was no access to the trail. On the western side, Lakeside residents allowed the County to use chippers on their property; the crews dragged the brush down and chipped it.



The County used helicopters and bought a specialized chipper that runs on tracks and drives like a tank. In one week they accomplished the work that would have taken 5 months to complete by hand.

The same people that worked on the railroads blasted the tunnels and they still remain there today. One of the tunnels remains, Tunnel #4. Construction started at both ends and worked towards the middle, (705 ft). They took blast rock from tunnel and placed it along the trail.

HISTORIC FLUME TRAIL

705' Cape Horn Tunnel #4

Hand-built retaining walls from blast rock was used in the 1800's and are still in place today

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Back then they had to use mining tools including the sledge hammer, spike and dynamite to remove rock and large boulders. They actually used dynamite to blast the face of the rock so it split. This time around, the County had a jackhammer and used the chemical blasting agent called S-mite. They poured this overnight in the rock cracks. The next day there was a pile of rubble. It's very informative and different how they did it back then and how it is done today.



The San Diego County Parks Department will maintain and operate the trail. The final slide shows is the flume trail interpretive exhibits.



The County bought all the rights for the interpretive signs and put the photos on canvas print. They received mining tools from the Julian gold mine. The exhibit room is in the El Monte County Park. It's free for people to see and we're getting people requesting tours of the trails so the rangers are giving walking tours every so often.

Julia Richards thanked Chuck for his dedication to the trail project.

Ruth Hayward asked if the museum is at El Monte County Park.

Chuck Tucker responded that is correct. It is located near the park office, there's a little front section that was converted into a museum for the Flume Trail.

Ruth Hayward Great job.

7. Helix Water District's Surplus Land and the Conservancy's First Right of Refusal (ACTION)

Julia Richards stated since last board meeting SDRC entered into negotiation period with Helix Water District to put together coalition of willing to buy three parcels recently surplus. The Conservancy has until February 18, 2016 to follow up with Helix regarding sale of the land. In the meantime, a roundtable meeting was held to gather community input and a lot of useful information was obtained. **Resolution 15-04** is before the Board today to allow the Conservancy staff to continue to negotiate and approves authorization from the Board to seek funding for these parcels.

Ben Clay asked if there were any Questions.

Andrew Poat Thanked Mr. Chairman. He asked what amount of money the Conservancy can offer for property. How is fair market value determined and would that be done in closed session?

Ben Clay asked the Executive Officer to review the process.

Julia Richards The State can only pay fair market value to acquire land. The process for the state is we do appraisal title report and other surveys and then negotiate a buy/sell agreement. The Resolution today asks for permission to apply for funding for this process.

Ben Clay added we are not there yet. There exists an appraisal done by Steven L. Bowen & Associates.

Julia Richards said the Conservancy would need to obtain an independent third party appraisal service to determine fair market value.

Ruth Hayward moved to approve the Resolution 15-04 which was seconded by Brent Eidson.

Roll Call (7-0-0) ayes: Brent Eidson, Bryan Cash, Eraina Ortega, Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Andrew Poat.

Ben Clay noted the motion was unanimous.

8. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL / ACTION)

Julia Richards briefed the Board Members regarding filling the position for Administrative Services Manager. The Conservancy received 40 applications of qualified candidates and sent a list to Sacramento for approvals. Interviews were conducted and a list of top three candidates determined. The Conservancy requested final approval from Department of General Services in Sacramento for approval to hire. We expect a job offer to take place by October 10, 2015 and the person will begin with the Conservancy on November 1, 2015.

Julia Richards the community round table meeting regarding Helix Water District surplus property was held on September 24 at the Santee City Hall. It was facilitated by Peter MacCracken and possible acquisition of three parcels in El Monte Valley was discussed. The Board book summarizes different comments that were made. It was very successful meeting and all the people we invited to attend showed up and provided input. She found it very informative and productive meeting.

Ben Clay added he has been to a lot of public meetings where citizens get together. The purpose of the roundtable was to discuss three surplus parcels in the El Monte Valley, whether the Conservancy should buy them, and how to do it. People shared a lot of great ideas. By the end, everyone was busy trying to figure how best to get this moving ahead. Peter MacCraken did a good job gathering input from all participants. He asked if Ruth Hayward had anything to add.

Ruth Hayward responded the meeting consisted of a diverse group of people with diverse interests. They talked about what the three parcels could be used for and expressed their own interests. She noted \$600,000 is a lot of money and is not an easy thing to come up with. Perhaps this meeting might be a benchmark about how to address other problems in the valley.

Julia Richards added the Conservancy plans to hold another community meeting in the community of Lakeside as a follow up to keep this project moving forward.

Last item she reviewed was a summary and status of the Proposition 1 grant program. The Conservancy received a total of 12 Concept Proposals so far with cutoff date September 30. The ones we received prior to last day have been reviewed and provided comments back to proposers and scheduled site visits. Six applications were received on the last day so the Conservancy is proposing to move the final deadline for full applications until mid November to give sufficient time for those groups to submit full applications.

Ben Clay requested to keep the Board apprised of where we are in this process.

Andrew Poat asked when would the Board approve projects?

Julia Richards responded the first six applications are going through the review process of commenting and completing full applications. Staff recommendations will commence at November's Board meeting. Proposals 7-12 on the sheet should be reviewed and site visits completed in December and bring staff recommendations to the Board at the January and March meetings. This is subject to change if anything comes up or any new information surfaces.

Brent Eidson inquired about Concept Proposal 002 Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, Concept Proposal 010 City of San Diego and the Board just approved Resolutions 15-04 for the 37.08 acres in El Monte Valley, how does that relate?

Julia Richards today's Resolution was approved to allow SDRC staff to apply for grant programs to find the funds for acquisition. Right now the Conservancy does not have the entire amount of money available to purchase the property.

Brent Eidson said he understood. He asked about the 37.08 acres and the 115 acres in El Monte Valley, are three actions for the same parcels?

Julia Richards Two Concept Proposals are for the 37.08 acres. The 115 acres is for different parcels in El Monte Valley. Both the City of San Diego and the Lakeside's River Park Conservancy are asking for full or additional funding to acquire the property.

Ben Clay We're reviewing the proposals to see who is investing or not. For example the City of San Diego proposed palm tree removal using helicopter from approximately 2.5 acres. He noted that's an expensive way to remove trees.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY
Minutes of November 12, 2015 Public Meeting
(Draft Minutes for Approval on January 14, 2016)

SDRC Board Chair, Ben Clay called the November 12, 2015 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) to order at approximately 2:03 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present

Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Eraina Ortega	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Brent Eidson	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Scott Sherman	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Ann Haddad	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large (left early)
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
Vacant	Council President, City of San Diego, District 3
Lisa Mangat	Department of Parks and Recreation, Designee

Staff Members Present

Julia Richards	Executive Officer
Wendell Taper	Administrative Services Manager
Dustin Harrison	Environmental Scientist
Hayley Peterson	Deputy Attorney General

2. Approval of Minutes

Ben Clay reported the minutes for the last meeting have not been completed.

3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department will defer until Item number 9.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

Julia Richards introduced and welcomed Wendell Taper to the San Diego River Conservancy. He's been in State service since 2009, has excellent customer service skills and works well with Sacramento. He is in charge of handling the state databases and will be responsible for Fiscal accounting and budgeting program.

Ben Clay welcomed Wendell and asked where he worked before.

Wendell Taper worked for the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Board of Equalization and most recently the Division of State Architect.

Ben Clay thanked Supervisor Jacob and Councilman Sherman for excellent comments about the San Diego River from the KUSI news report. They spoke about the Conservancy's good works in terms of habitat restoration, resource protection and trails. He detected particular frustration from the City of San Diego with ability to remove invasive plants and material in advance of El Nino. He wanted to let SDRC Board Member Sherman know the Conservancy has permits to remove invasive species. These permits are available to the city and county. He would like to offer use of those permits to agencies and non-profits alike.

Scott Sherman stated he would like to meet because the City has frustration through the permit process. The quicker the better.

Ben Clay stated Assembly Bill 392 was signed by the Governor and the San Diego River Conservancy is now a permanent state agency. This requires an annual report to the legislature. He thanked Speaker of the Assembly, and former member of this Board, Toni Atkins for her hard work in getting this important piece of legislation passed.

5. Deputy Attorney's General Report

No report.

6. San Diego River Trail / SANDAG Update -Qualcomm trail alignment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Stephan Vance introduced himself as SANDAG's Senior Regional Planner. The bicycle transportation network is one of SANDAG's high priorities. The two trail segments underway are 0.8 mile section by Qualcomm and 2 miles by Carlton Oaks. The projects are advancing at different paces. The Qualcomm project currently in engineering and environmental stage is scheduled to be adopted February. Alignment of this trail segment starts near Mission Valley Library.

Gary Strawn Inquired if all of the trail would be hard surface?

Stephan Vance Yes, SANDAG will be creating hard surface on wetland area near IKEA. Carlton Oaks is a different story and much more challenging with sensitive areas around possible northern and southern alignments. They have completed an alignment and preliminary engineering is about to start. The most likely alignment is on the south side of the golf course along the river, but faces challenges with least Bell's vireo and flycatcher riparian habitat. SANDAG will consult with resource agencies and property owners as the process moves forward.

Gary Strawn Yesterday he was at that location and hauled trash out near that area and said the berm was washed out. There was erosion near the existing trail.

Stephan Vance noted the comment and said SANDAG has looked at that.

Ben Clay thanked Stephan.

7. San Diego River Trail / Flume Trail Extension Project (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Ben Clay introduced Item number 7 and Adam Dobrowolski.

Adam Dobrowolski appreciated the opportunity to address the Board. The trail will be built on Helix Water District's (HWD) property, off El Monte Road, and connect to Lake Jennings Campground trails in partnership with SDRC. Approximately 2 miles of multi-use trail for pedestrian, equestrian and mountain biking. No motorized vehicles will be allowed. The trails sits on easement granted by HWD at no cost, maintained by County in perpetuity. California Conservation Corps will begin construction November and be completed by April 2016. The trail will be 4 feet wide with 1 ft shoulder each side. Signage for the Proposition 40 project will be installed as well as interpretive signs proposed for historical significance of Kumeyaay Tribe. In addition to the trail construction, the County will install lodge pole fencing, staging area, and new fencing. This project includes a recreational opportunity and is consistent with the County's Community Trails Master Plan and Lakeside Community trails.

Ben Clay stated Sacramento supports this and it is important to emphasize historical significance of this trail.

8. California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Joseph Kean Tierra Data is woman owned small business outside Escondido. Been in business for almost 30 yrs. CRAM protocols are backed up scientifically and peer reviewed. CRAM was developed for California wetlands. It includes riverine protocols, a framework to determine habitat improvements and was developed by multiple agencies.

Ben Clay Asked how do we measure effectiveness of restoration projects?

Joseph Kean CRAM consists of before and after surveys to identify biotic and physical structures. This analysis helps land managers understand limitations of current site conditions.

Andrew Poat Stated this information is on point. How do we communicate this for others to realize the value of our [SDRC] investment and that we spent the money appropriately? He liked the framework that was presented. In the end, the decision to utilize that standard is ours?

Ben Clay responded yes. He said CRAM helps explain improvements to riverine habitat after restoration and shows effectiveness of money spent to other agencies, the Governor and Sacramento as a measurable result.

Joseph Kean CRAM uses objective measurements and requires formal training. Pre and post surveys are conducted by two people in one day.

Dianne Jacob directed a question to the Executive Officer: Looking at cost benefit, how much do these services cost?

Julia Richards under the Conservancy's contract with Tierra Data, less than \$5,000. The CRAM process was adopted administratively as a measurable result and implemented by staff on a couple projects. For example, Sycamore Creek implemented CRAM for invasive removal program.

Ben Clay notes staff was not brought onboard but this should have been done. We have a process in place that Julia's testing. CRAM helps the Conservancy report measurable results to the legislature and Sacramento.

Ruth Hayward It's a good idea. Certainly nice to have quantifiable results, for example my research says removal of one acre of arundo conserves 24 acre feet of water per year. She asked how much before activities and how long afterwards do you suggest CRAM methods?

Gary Strawn How long after project completion do you assess conditions? He asked if water quality data or bio-assessment data is incorporated into CRAM and is that CEDEN State database?

Joseph Kean Depends on project and variables including treatment methods, target species and time of year. Usually 6 months to 1 year. CRAM has an online database, but it is not state database.

9. San Diego River Conservancy - Proposition 1 grant program, projects recommended for funding (ACTION)

Julia Richards summarize the timeline to date. We started early consultation with over 12 organizations from November 2014 – March 2015. On April 12, 2015 guidelines were posted for public comments. The Conservancy hosted public workshops in March. Final guidelines were revised based off public input. The Conservancy accepted Concept Proposals from August to September 2015. Full applications were due in October, a few applicants requested additional time to complete full applications and the Conservancy extended deadline to mid-November. Recommend projects for approval at the November, January 14th and March 10th Conservancy Board Meeting. Early outreach included SDR Coalition and Foundation, Canyonlands, County Water Authority. Watershed Research Center, Regional Board, Lakeside, Santee, El Cajon, Trust for Public Lands and Tribal representatives within San Diego River watershed. Required acceptance criteria is within watershed, eligible entity, jurisdictional support, purposes of Prop 1, well thought out projects, promote State/ regional plans, reporting effectiveness of project, multi-benefits, best science available, prior experience, necessary partnerships, located in disadvantaged community. Up to 14 points for significant matching funds. Total points are 113 with minimum 75 considered for funding. To date, the Conservancy received funding requests for \$8 million, and project applicants provided up to \$5.9 million matching funds.

Bryan Cash Asked How are we able to recommend funding on three projects today without comparing to rest of field?

Julia Richards The Three recommendations today total \$1.9 million, leaving over \$1 million for subsequent projects. There are five remaining for recommendation at future meetings and total requested funds for those projects equal \$1.2 million. If Board Members want to table 3 recommended resolutions today for another date that would be acceptable. The idea behind 3 recommendations today was not to review all proposals at one board meeting.

Ben Clay stated he wanted to get the top three projects started without precluding others that met acceptance criteria.

Bryan Cash responded it sounds like enough remaining funds for consideration.

Ben Clay Each project is reviewed and questioned. There were certain things not allowable for state funding, for example large overhead rates.

Julia Richards Since posting board book, two organizations withdrew/postponed their applications because they were not ready to proceed or did not meet requirements.

Andrew Poat asked how do we weigh matching funds?

Julia Richards Matching funds are weighed against other applications. A lot of projects provided 5-30% matching funds. One project provided 60% matching, where 10% matching funds scored lower than 60%.

Ben Clay Let's run through the recommended projects.

Julia Richards County of San Diego's trash removal and disposal project costs \$306,600.00, requesting 80%, with 20% matching funds. Staff recommends \$197,400. It is a government organization within the watershed, jurisdictional

approval, meets 5 purposes of Proposition 1, complies with strategic plan and other state plans, including California Water Action Plan and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB). Scored 85/113.

SDSU Research Foundation's invasive removal and control project costs \$947,278.00 requesting 68% with matching funds 32%. Staff recommends \$543,500. 00. San Diego State University Research Foundation is a non-profit organization in the watershed, supports 5 purposes of Proposition 1, and is in compliance with state plans and California Water Action Plan, including SDRWQCB. Scored 91/113.

Ben Clay For the record, the Conservancy is not recommending removing palm trees with helicopters which was proposed by the City of San Diego. Also, his wife does not sit on SDSU Research Foundation's board and they do not receive compensation from SDSU Research Foundation.

Julia Richards Last project today is City of Santee Mast Park improvements costing \$7,200,000.00, requesting 31% with 69% matching funds, staff recommends \$1,223,000. 00. Santee is a government organization within watershed, and within the City of Santee and County jurisdiction, 5 purposes, preserve natural resources and increase water quality, complies with California Water Action Plan, SDRWQCB. Scored 97/113. Applicants will provide a power point presentation and answer questions. All information she described is available in board materials and online.

Dianne Jacob Question to counsel Hayley Peterson, is there a conflict of interest with me voting for the County of San Diego proposal?

Hayley Peterson responded this issue has come up with conservancies across the state. Elected officials have been placed as board members for state agencies and there is not a direct conflict and no legal basis to disqualify. It's a personal opinion to recuse yourself.

Dianne Jacob noted she has no personal financial interest in this.

Julia Richards invited the San Diego County representatives to present their proposed project to the Board.

Selected Trash Reduction in the County of San Diego (ACTION)

JoAnn Weber Introduced herself and Eric Klein who are both with Department of Public Works for the County of San Diego. They are stakeholders in the San Diego River watershed and want to implement the trash reduction project to improve appearance, increase flood protection, enhance habitat for wildlife. Importance of trash reduction project complies with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted trash amendment. Based on experience of trash reduction programs in Los Angeles and San Francisco areas, the amendments take a common sense approach of those concentrated efforts for trash removal. Two approaches, install full capture devices on street basins and inlets and Best Management Practices (BMP). These BMPs include public education, increased number of trashcans and clean up events.

Eric Klein Thanked Board Members. County is proposing to install 12 full capture devices in high priority land use areas. In addition they will measure amount of trash captured by selected trash reduction BMPs. The County is partnering with Urban Corps for this project. The map shows project locations, 6 in Lakeside, two each in Bostonia and Alpine and one in Granite Hills and one in Flynn Springs.

Ben Clay asked if lower reaches of San Diego River are hotspots in terms of trash.

Eric Klein responded this project is focused on the storm drain system, not receiving waters. Homeless in receiving waters is significant source of trash. An objective of this project is to remove trash before it enters the San Diego River watershed. The devices catch up to anything 5 mm and above. The County is proposing a two year project beginning July 2016, \$245,280, matching \$61,320 total project \$306,600. Trash reduction will result in beneficial use, habitat enhancement, water quality/ and reducing risk of floods.

Project Locations

Project Description

- Install 12 Full-Capture Trash Devices in High Priority Land Use Areas
- Implement Pilot Trash Reduction BMPs:
 - Organized cleanups
 - Public education
 - Install and service trash cans
- Measure Trash Captured & Compare BMPs

Full Capture Device

Storm Drain Inlet and Connector Pipe Screen Unit

Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and Policies

- California Water Action Plan (Actions 2, 4, 6, and 8)
- San Diego Region Basin Plan
- Inland Surface Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan
- California Ocean Plan
- California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Compliant

Ruth Hayward asked if San Diego County has storm drain system in Flynn Springs and Alpine?

JoAnn Weber responded that County roads are considered storm drain systems.

Ruth Hayward said this pilot project shows two spots in Alpine and one in Flynn Springs. If you don't collect trash at those locations then water flows into San Diego River drainage basin. How often will these be cleaned?

Eric Klein replied every three months.

Gary Strawn reviewed this proposed project and said there's one downside he thinks. He said going after 20-30% of trash in river is not as beneficial as addressing 70% of trash from homeless camps. This project will find out what works and correlates to pictures and determine which areas need this and where it's most effective. Data collected will show which process works and refine the protocol for choosing where to locate trash collection devices. Additionally, some areas particularly Lakeside are low income areas we want to make sure aren't left out of the project.

Andrew Poat asked Gary where that 70% trash in the riverbed was from homeless came from.

Gary Strawn said from his own experience and quoted Rob Hutsel from the San Diego River Park Foundation's presentations. Part of the trash totals are measured by weight.

Andrew Poat asked who will clean out screens from trash capture devices.

JoAnn Weber responded for this project the County will have a contractor.

Andrew Poat said presuming it works accordingly, three years down the road would that become a County function? JoAnn Weber stated the end of this grant, San Diego County will be in compliance and ready to take it over.

Andrew Poat thanked JoAnn.

Ben Clay asked if the Board wanted to vote on the resolutions individually or lump them into one recommendation? He entertained a motion for County of San Diego.

Scott Sherman moved for approval of Resolution 15-05, Andrew Poat seconded it.

Ben Clay requested roll call.

Roll Call; (9-0-0) Ayes: Brent Eidson, Scott Sherman, Bryan Cash, Eraina Ortega, Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay , Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad, Andrew Poat.

Ben Clay introduced the second proposed project for review from SDSU Research Foundation.

Invasive Removal and Habitat Restoration for Upper Alvarado Creek (ACTION)

Tom Zink Introduced himself as the program manager for the Soil Ecology Restoration Group, an organization within San Diego State University (SDSU) in conjunction with SDSU Research Foundation. He introduced three key people involved with this project: Natalie Mladenov (Environmental Engineering Professor), Alicia Kinoshita (Hydrology Engineering Professor) and Julie Lambert (senior project manager) who will serve as botanist and manager for this proposal.

Julie Lambert thanked the Board for the opportunity to present. This project includes restoration of a portion of upper Alvarado Creek located on state owned property between College Ave and Alvarado Road. It's an earthen channel about 1,700 linear feet. SDSU is proposing to restore 2.6 acres. The City of San Diego's reach is upstream of the state owned section was recently cleared in 2015.



She noted the City of San Diego's reach is at the concrete channel. Dense vegetation backs up water during rain events causing City reach to flow over concrete channel into parking areas and office buildings.

She noted project addresses flood control and water quality. To illustrate, in September 2015 it rained for 2 hours and the creek almost flooded. Another rain event in July 2015, the City's reach overflowed, flooded the parking lot and went into buildings. Recently the City commissioned a hydrologic and hydraulic report from Rick Engineering. Even though the creek is in a 100 year floodplain, current condition can only handle 5-10 year storm event. They modeled

different scenarios of maintenance, with vegetation removal from city and state reach increasing capacity to more than 50 year storm event.

Need: Flood Control Aspect

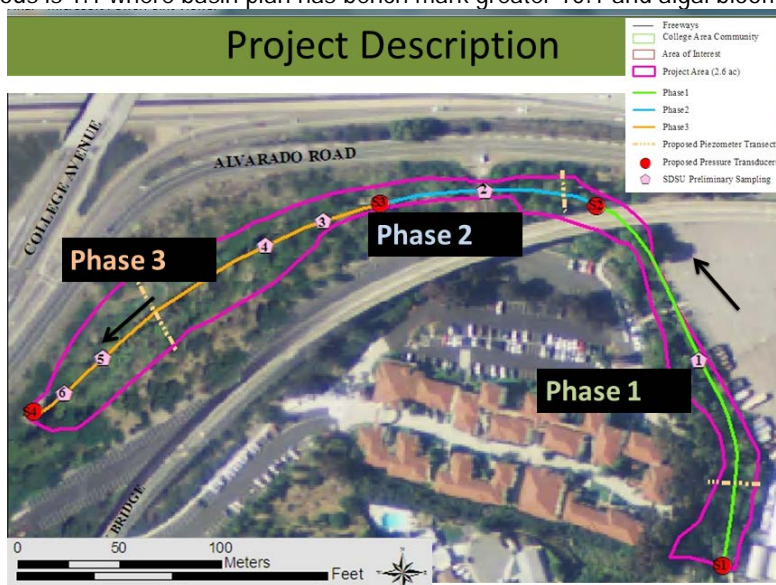
Reach 2 Current Capacity	With Vegetation Removal	Reach 2 Predicted Capacity
1,700 - 2,100 cfs (5-10 yr)	Reach 2 only	2,100 - 3,000 cfs (10-35 yr)
	Reach 2 + Reach 1	>3,400 cfs (>50 yr)

Adapted from Rick Engineering, 2015

Need: Water Quality Aspect

Parameter	Measured value	Basin Plan benchmark	Source
Phosphorus (in UR1)	0.55 mg/L	0.10 mg/L	ENVE 363 Lab
N:P (in UR1)	1.22	> 10:1	Mladenov research group
Enterococcus (in UR2)	1600 CFU/100 ml	151 CFU/100 ml	Rick Engineering Company, 2015

She stated preliminary data found levels of phosphorus almost 5 times higher than water basin plan. Ratio of Nitrogen to Phosphorous is 1:1 where basin plan has bench mark greater 10:1 and algal blooms are a result.



She noted non-native vegetation, along with human trash will be removed in three phases for analysis and to assess restoration. Over 200 palm trees will be removed plus pepper trees, giant reed and castor bean. In terms of measurements, baseline data will be collected.

Throughout the duration of the project continual measurements will be taken along established points of the creek for vegetation composition, cover, weight of debris and trash removed, bio-assessment, total Nitrogen and Phosphorus, fecal coliform and continuous flow measurements. CRAM method will be implemented to assess improvements.

Ben Clay asked if SDSU use San Diego River Conservancy's permits for the invasive plant species permits.

Julia Richards responded yes.

Julie Lambert stated continuous flow measurements during dry and wet weather show interactions between groundwater and surface water. This gives data in high temporal spatial resolution. The project period is three years.

SDSU will provide approximately \$300,000 in matching funds and are requesting \$641,498.00 from the Conservancy. Most of that money goes to removal of invasive species and trash. Monitoring accounts for less than 5% of total budget and total project amount is just over \$940,000.00. She noted Alvarado Creek will become a living learning laboratory for SDSU community. Data will be available through Watershed Science Institute or a data repository like RiverWatch.

Julie Lambert Added Restoration will restore native riparian habitat for sensitive species like least Bell's vireo, restore natural mineralization and other ecosystem functions and restore natural flood conveyance. In addition to immediate benefits and this project will encourage a long term relationship between SDRC and SDSU's research community. Two professors have interest using the creek for research purposes. Restoring a part of Alvarado Creek will help restore the San Diego River watershed. SDSU is very enthusiastic about this project.

Ben Clay thanked Julie.

Councilman Sherman Mentioned Jeff Pasek wanted to speak concerning this item.

Jeff Pasek thanked Chairman Clay and Board Members. He works for the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department who operates the City's water and wastewater system. He wanted to highlight the large sewer main that follows Alvarado Creek in the project area. The City has a project in 2016. He sees no conflict between access needs and the SDSU project, however, the only possible conflict is if the project places a preserve or special status on the project area constraining access. On a personal note, he was a graduate student at SDSU in biology and taught undergraduate laboratory class at Alvarado Creek.

Ben Clay thanked him. He is familiar with that part of the creek and there are flood problems.

Scott Sherman representing that portion of the district and having lived there he knows it takes a long time to get work done. The State's reach needs to be addressed or it won't solve the flooding issue. He is more than happy to help.

Julie Lambert said the project's stages are not necessarily going to follow calendar years; they're more going to follow the rainy season. They want to remove palm trees as soon as possible.

Scott Sherman stated anything his office can do please contact Leila. His office has been living and breathing Alvarado Creek for the last two and a half years.

Scott Sherman made a motion to Approve Resolution 15-06 and the motion was seconded by Brent Eidson.

Ben Clay Stated a motion and second was made. Any questions?

Brent Eidson followed up on what Mr. Pasek said. He wanted to clarify, it is abundantly important that City has access. It's a high priority to make sure sewer mains don't spill again. Alvarado Creek in that area is subject to significant floods. The City would like assurances this project does not create impediment to the City projects.

Julie Lambert stated she is willing to work with the appointed contact to address any concerns.

Brent Eidson said that should make it much easier. He want to make sure the City's comments were on the record.

Gary Strawn added he sees the importance of invasive removal and the leverage of partnering with SDSU. He promised to get historic data.

Ben Clay looks forward to working with SDSU and the president of the university.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brent Eidson, Scott Sherman, Bryan Cash, Eraina Ortega, Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay, Vice Chair Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad, Andrew Poat. (Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0)

Water Quality, Habitat and Public Access Improvements at Mast Park (ACTION)

Bill Maertz Director of Community Services works for the City of Santee. His city council, staff and residents are in line with the mission of the Conservancy Board and excited about this project. The water quality, habitat and public access improvements at Mast Park are bounded by residential development. This is a \$7.2 M project to completely redo entire park. Santee is requesting help with prop 1 funding for some project components: bio-swales, runoff retention pond, increased riparian buffer, native plant infiltration area, permeable path and vegetated creek beds.

Mast Park Project = \$7.2 million



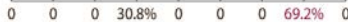
City of Santee

- Park amenities
- Updated playground
- New restroom
- Spine trail
- Fitness loop trail
- Picnic areas & gazebos



Prop 1 Grant

- Bioswales
- Runoff retention pond
- 5-acre riparian buffer
- 13-acre native plant infiltration area
- Pervious riverfront path
- Vegetated creekbeds



The project will modernize and revitalize a riverfront park that was designed in the mid 1980s without the current regulatory and scientific focus on climate change, drought, urban runoff remediation and habitat restoration.

Infrastructure improvements included in the project will reap multiple benefits for the environment, water quality, wildlife and public access.



He gave a high level overview of existing conditions, the process for developing the plan and solutions to modernize and revitalize a riverfront park. This park was designed in 80's without scientific focus on climate change, drought, urban runoff and habitat restoration. He said these infrastructure improvements will benefit the environment, water quality, wildlife and public access.

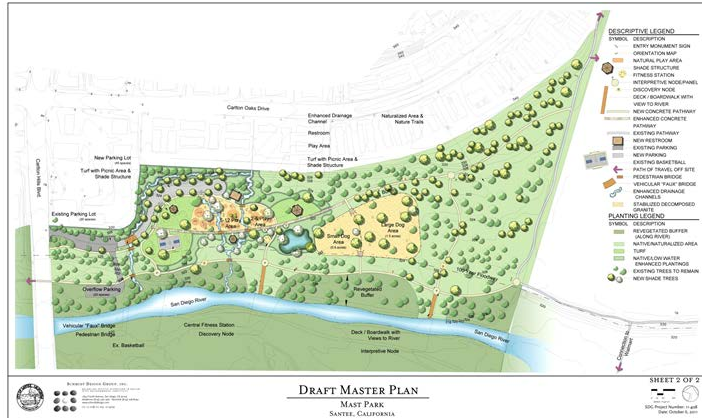
Existing Conditions: Inadequate drainage infrastructure



Mast Park. Winter 2010-11

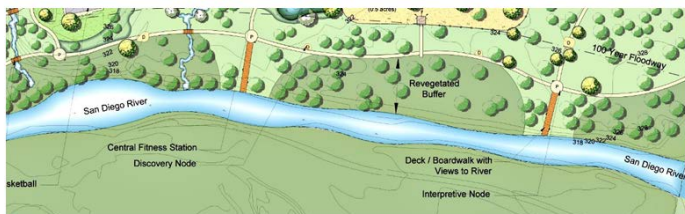
An objective is to eliminate the chance of flooding in this park and reduce runoff downstream. One of the things that happened in the 70's where large apartment buildings built along the northern park. The big parking lots sheet drain through park unfiltered creating storm water erosion runoff into the San Diego River.

Existing Conditions: Erosion from Stormwater Runoff



He state Santee held three community workshops with the public, attended commission meetings, conducted outreach with community groups and city council approved the new master plan. The plan includes bio-retention basins.

5.1 acres of new riparian habitat (“revegetated buffer”)



Stormwater Treatment Features:

- Vegetated rocky drainage channels
- Dry retention basin
- Bioswales
- Native plant infiltration area

He described stormwater treatment features, vegetated rocky drainage channels, dry retention basin, bio-swales and native plant infiltration areas to filter the water before it reaches the San Diego River. He added the asphalt path will be moved 60 ft away from the river and turned into a decomposed granite path that allows water filtration.

Ben Clay inquired if that is recharging the groundwater?

Bill Maertz responded yes. He added groundwater recharge also helps prevent flooding. The plants will sequester carbon which will help with climate change. One of the big things about this project is 13 acres of trees and dirt. Components of this project include reclaimed water, storm water treatment system, improve drainage, improve wildlife habitat, replacing asphalt with pervious trails, and carbon sequestration is a showcase for water quality management which benefits people, wildlife and the San Diego River.

Ruth Hayward asked Bill if equestrians are allowed on the trail. The reason she ask is some folks had concerns at our previous meetings.

Bill Maertz Yes, this is similar to the multi-use recreation trail at the Walker Preserve where the equestrians and other user groups mix together quite well.



Andrew Poat had a couple of questions related to the budget. Santee's requesting over \$2.2M, the recommendation is for \$1.2M, if approved, is Santee able to move forward with the project or will Santee be stuck with a \$1M gap not being able to expend funds? It's pertinent for Board to make sure money granted is spent.

Bill Maertz said Santee looked at phasing the project to start right away. Santee will also seek other grant funds. It is in their capital improvement plan starting 2016-17. The same principal engineer and project engineer for Walker Preserve and Mast Park West Trail and Forester Creek restoration project will be working on this project.

Ben Clay stated Santee has been a joy to work with in terms of projects and quality.

Andrew Poat asked if the western terminus of new decomposed granite trail at Carlton Hills Boulevard connects to the trail on the west side or at-grade crossing.

Bill Maertz responded currently there is a decomposed granite trail underneath Magnolia Bridge and as part of SANDAG project they are looking to connect with Mast Park West to Carlton Oaks.

Dianne Jacob moved to approve Resolution 15-07 and the motion was seconded by Ann Haddad.

Roll Call: (8-0-0) Ayes: Brent Eidson, Scott Sherman, Bryan Cash, Eraina Ortega, Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay, Vice Chair Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Executive Officer's Report (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officer's Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

Julia Richards introduced Wendell Taper as the new Administrative Services Manager with the Conservancy. The last item discussed was a stakeholder interview with City of San Diego (City) on the Mission Valley Plan update. She and Ruth Hayward attended the meeting and shared the Conservancy's mission, programs, projects and reviewed parameters of the San Diego River Park Master Plan that should be included into update. She and Ruth wanted the City to include climate change and sea level rise when creating the plan update.

Ruth Hayward summarized the meeting for the Board. She said the meeting consisted of three City planners and one consultant from San Francisco who wanted to have the plan finished by June 2016. The major thing they wanted to implement was park space because there is none. She asked if they knew the bench mark for park space per resident, 2.8 acres per thousand people in the area. Julia reviewed minimum cross section design for river buffer provided for in the San Diego River Park Master Plan and they didn't think that was

something well implemented in the previous plan. She hoped they use minimum cross section design for river with some banking before water channel. She commented it sounded like they looked for every square foot of buildable space and claimed it's not going to be a Los Angeles River channel. She added something else to think about is the pedestrian bridge toward the end of valley and how that was in the plan. She said someone of importance wanted it there. It connects YMCA and ball fields near Presidio Park. She mentioned the Conservancy Board reviewed a presentation for a bridge near Mission Valley Library to connect valley and get people from trolley into industrial buildings.

Ben Clay would like to see some kind of trail on the Cushman Levi Property on an interim basis. Coronado has shielded bicycle riders along golf course. Whatever City of San Diego wants to do we can adjust the trail. A trail on a temporary basis will help SANDAG complete its bicycle transportation plan from ocean all the way out to Santee. He would love to approach Cushman's. He asked if there were any ideas on how to approach land owners and get them energized to put a trail along trolley shielded with fence.

Inquired about an on the ground crossing rather than a bridge to connect YMCA and ball fields. When dry it works, when flooded it would be closed and when the land is developed move the trail.

Ben Clay Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: **3**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PURPOSE: Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters that are discussed that are not on the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn by the Board's not responding to such matters or public comments.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S AND GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBERS' REPORTS (*INFORMATIONAL*)**

PURPOSE: These items are for Board discussion only and the Board
will take no formal action.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: **DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT
(INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL – PERMITS FOR DISCOVERY
CENTER AND TRAIL SEGMENT (*INFORMATIONAL*)**

The project includes permits for a segment of the San Diego River Trail (Gap #16) and the San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park.

Presentation:

Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: HYDROLOGIC RESEARCH CENTER (*INFORMATIONAL*)

The Hydrologic Research Center (HRC) was established as a non-profit, public-benefit research and technology transfer corporation in July 1993. HRC was created to help bridge the large gap existing between scientific research in hydrology and applications for the solution of important societal problems that involve water.

Presentation:

Eylon Shamir, Ph.D, Hydrologic Engineer

Rochelle Graham, Ph.D, Senior Research Scientist

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE – HELIX WATER
DISTRICT'S SURPLUS PARCELS (*INFORMATIONAL*)**

Summary of facilitated meetings regarding Helix's surplus land which includes 3 parcels (portions of APNs 392-060-29 [18.94 acres], 391-061-01 [2.53 acres], and 390-040-51[15.61 acres]) in El Monte Valley.

Presentation:

**Peter MacCracken, Principal, Strategic Communications
Julia Richards, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: **9**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY'S
PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM, PROJECTS
RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (*ACTION*)**

Overview:

Julia Richards, Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION #1

Conservation of approximately 37 acres of land in the El Monte Valley (Lakeside, County of San Diego) (*ACTION*)

Applicant: City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department

Requested amount: \$540,000.00

Recommended amount: \$540,000.00

Score: 92/113

Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 16-01

This proposal is to conserve 3 parcels of land totaling 37.08 acres in the El Monte Valley located in the San Diego River watershed. This land will be preserved in a public ownership to protect water quality in the basin, ensure Pueblo water rights, provide groundwater sustainability, preserve open space, protect natural resources, provide trail access and assist in formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Agency. The City will provide a management plan and monitor the land. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

Presentation:

Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department

RECOMMENDATION #2**Conservation of approximately 75 acres of Temescal Creek (Julian, County of San Diego) (ACTION)**

Applicant: The San Diego River Park Foundation

Requested amount: \$380,500.00

Recommended amount: \$355,000.00

Score: 84/113

Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 16-02

This proposal is to conserve 74.94 acres of land located in the headwaters of the San Diego River. An ephemeral wash bisects the property of montane meadow and mixed oak woodland habitat. Adjacent public lands are owned by the USDA Forest Service. The Foundation will develop a management plan to remove grazing from neighboring cattle and address the invasive Goldspotted Oak Borer which has effected onsite Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). In addition, the Foundation will provide a management plan and monitor the land, provide research and education opportunities for the public. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

Presentation:**Rob Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation**

Resolution No: 16-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SAN DIEGO
RIVER CONSERVANCY'S PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM TO
THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to further the goals of its enabling legislation by conserving and restoring the lands and waters of the San Diego River watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has provided funds under The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) for \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds to fund ecosystems and watershed protection and restoration, water supply infrastructure projects, including surface and groundwater storage, and drinking water protection; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 6, Section 79730 of Proposition 1 provides for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 6, Section 79731(e) of Proposition 1 provides for Seventeen Million Dollars (\$17,000,000) to the San Diego River Conservancy, for multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy and staff have reviewed the Proposition 1 application and recommend the following proposal for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board, based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Diego River Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, Section 32649)
3. The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$540,000.00 (Five Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars) in grant funds to the City of San Diego to acquire and preserve in public ownership 37.08 acres for the purposes of watershed protection/monitoring, preservation/restoration of habitat, protection of sensitive species and wildlife corridor, trail planning, and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the San Diego River Groundwater Basin (Santee/El Monte)
4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts and other documents needed which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.
5. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule; and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.

Approved and adopted the 14th day of January 14, 2016. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 16-01 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

Julia L. Richards
Executive Officer

San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board Members Roll Call Vote

Name	Ayes	Noes	Abstained
CNRA: Bryan Cash			
DOF: Eriana Ortega/Karen Finn			
DPR: Vacant			
Mayor: Brent Eidson, designee			
County Supervisor Dianne Jacob			
Scott Sherman City of San Diego Councilmember			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
Ann Haddad			
Andrew Poat			
Speaker of the Assembly: Vacant			

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 16-01
January 14, 2016

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to \$540,000.00 to the City of San Diego to acquire three surplus parcels totaling 37.08 acres of San Diego River watershed in El Monte Valley to protect water and other resources.

LOCATION: The proposed acquisition project consists of 3 parcels of land in the El Monte Valley area of the Lakeside community between Willow Road and El Monte Road, in the unincorporated area of San Diego County.

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS: Staff recommends that the San Diego River Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, § 32630 et seq.):

“The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$540,000.00 to acquire land for the purpose watershed protection, preservation/restoration of habitat, protection of sensitive species and wildlife corridor, water quality data collection and monitoring of groundwater and surface water, trail access and implementation of Groundwater Sustainable Plan for the San Diego River Groundwater Basin (Santee/El Monte) specifically as follows:

- City of San Diego: Five Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars to acquire three surplus parcels totaling 37.08 acres of San Diego River watershed in El Monte Valley currently owned by Helix Water District.

Prior to the disbursement of funds each grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Diego River Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 grant program.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Division 22.9 of the Public Resources Code, Chapter 3, and Section 32649. (San Diego River Conservancy Act)”

PROJECT SUMMARY: In August 2015, the Conservancy solicited project proposals aimed at increasing water supply and improving water quality. This solicitation was posted on the Conservancy’s website and emailed to multiple organizations in California. The recommended grant would fund the proposal, as described below:

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

This project would acquire three surplus parcels totaling 37.08 acres of San Diego River floodplain in El Monte Valley owned by Helix Water District. Specifically APN numbers 392-060-29 (18.94 acres); 391-061-01 (2.53 acres); and 390-040-51 (15.61 acres).

The parcels will be preserved in public trust, for the purpose of protecting water resources and other natural resources, and to provide public open space amenities.

SITE DESCRIPTION: The parcels are located in a portion of El Monte Valley that is primarily disturbed riparian forest and wetlands of the San Diego floodplain.

PROJECT HISTORY/NEED: The City of San Diego has water monitoring wells along the San Diego River for regular water level monitoring and sampling of groundwater to measure and record the groundwater quality. The acquired properties will be locations for additional well monitoring. If unexpected changes in the water quality are seen in these monitoring wells, it could be an indicator that something needs to be checked. These wells are central to the management, protection and development of the groundwater plan. Acquisition of the proposed properties would assure on-going groundwater monitoring and invaluable research.

Additionally, the City is a lead agency in the formation and implementation of a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) per requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which established a new structure for managing California's groundwater resources at a local level by local agencies. The SGMA requires, by June 30, 2017, the formation of locally-controlled GSAs in the State's priority groundwater basins and sub-basins (of which the proposed properties in this watershed are overlying the San Diego River Valley groundwater basin that is defined as a "medium" priority groundwater basin and therefore required to complete the GSA formation). Per the SGMA, a GSA shall develop and implement a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to meet the sustainability goal of the basin to ensure that it is operated within its sustainable yield, without causing undesirable results. Good groundwater monitoring and management will provide a buffer against drought, climate change, and strengthen the regions water reliability – sustainable groundwater management is essential to a reliable and resilient water system.

PROJECT FINANCING: The total project amount is anticipated to cost \$617,000.00 with survey, appraisal, land costs and a management plan. Project applicant is requesting \$540,000.00, or up to 88% from the Conservancy. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is an appropriation from Proposition 1 grant funds, for Ecosystem, Watershed Protection and Restoration.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION: This project would be undertaken consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code §§ 32630-32661).

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S): Consistent with Program 1, Conserve land along the San Diego River, from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed acquisition will secure key river properties.

Consistent with Program 3A, Preserve and Restore Natural Resources, from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed acquisition will address

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

invasive non-native plants, restore habitat and preserve water resources.

Consistent with Program 4, Enhance water quality from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed acquisition will enhance groundwater management.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on May 2015, in the following respects:

REQUIRED CRITERIA

- 1) The project is within the jurisdiction of the San Diego River Conservancy (San Diego watershed). Yes. The project area is located near/adjacent to the San Diego River in El Monte Valley in the community of Lakeside, County of San Diego.
- 2) The extent to which the project has support from the jurisdiction over the location of the project. Yes.
- 3) The extent to which the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Proposition 1 (Water Code, section 79732).

Purpose 1 – Groundwater and surface flow monitoring will lead to healthy watershed and improved opportunities for instream flow by early detection and corrective action. The City is committed to maintaining the land and its natural resources, including ground and surface waters. Invasive plant removal, trash collection, and access control will be provided by the City as-needed. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) new Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires the formation and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by 2017 and the subsequent preparation, completion, and execution of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022, both of which will provide groundwater protection and sustainability. In addition, the purchase of these three properties will assure that Pueblo water rights and groundwater sustainability along with monitoring can occur for the benefit of its citizens and the region.

Purpose 3 – The City of San Diego embraces the San Diego River Trail System and will continue to be an active partner in the on-going trail planning and development in this area. Upon acquisition of the properties, the City will assure that trail corridors are established as needed to connect adjacent trails. Upon acquisition of the properties, the City will allow the properties to be used for a trail system as well as other multiple benefits described herein.

Purpose 4 – Public ownership will preclude development and biological resources will be protected with preparation and implementation of a Management Plan. The City of San Diego already has paramount water rights, also known as Pueblo water rights. In addition, these properties are adjacent to or in the immediate area of other properties that have been or will be restored for habitat and wildlife management purposes, further assuring continuity of resource protection.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Purpose 9 – Public ownership by the City will help assure watershed health, protection of property, stormwater, groundwater and surface flow monitoring through habitat management. Public ownership will coordinate with required GSP to ensure sustainable groundwater storage levels within the watershed enforced by the GSA.

Purpose 12 – Public ownership will provide for improved watershed health through on-going groundwater and surface flow monitoring, on-site resource management, and providing for open space amenities such as trails. Public ownership will ensure compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and assist with collaborative efforts to form and implement a GSA, and GSP. Implementation of the Management Plan will provide direction and guidance related to species and habitat protection.

- 4) The extent to which the application includes a complete, reasonable and well thought out proposed scope of work, budget and schedule.

Acquisition of these parcels in El Monte Valley will conserve these properties in public ownership for the purpose of groundwater protection while safeguarding the watershed and surface water supplies in addition to the preservation of open space for public use.

The project is to acquire 37.08 acres of surplus land from the Helix Water District. Upon land acquisition, a site-specific Management Plan will be prepared which will include a site assessment, restoration and maintenance, monitoring, and reporting. Once accomplished, the City will continue groundwater and surface flow monitoring, watershed protection, and preserve open space for public use.

- 5) The extent to which the project promotes and implements state and/or regional plans and policies.

A. California Water Action Plan

- i. Action 2 – Integrated governmental water management;
- ii. Action 4 – wetlands and watershed protection;
- iii. Action 6 – Improve groundwater management.

B. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Department of Water Resources

- i. Formation and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) across all levels of local governments; eventual preparation, completion, and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

C. California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Plan (CASGEM)

- i. On-going regular and systematic groundwater monitoring in the San Diego River Basin (Basin) will ensure compliance with this statewide program.

D. San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan

- i. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is aimed at developing long-term water supply reliability, improving water quality, and protecting natural resources. The City of San Diego and others originally formed the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) to fund, guide, and manage development of the 2007 IRWM Plan. The RWMG is responsible for the day-to-day administration and implementation of the San Diego IRWM Program.

E. California River Parkways Act of 2004 and urban river greenways

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

- i. Acquired properties will allow for trails, public recreational uses, increased water monitoring, and further demonstrate collaboration with local, state, and community entities.

- 6) The extent to which the project employs new or innovative technology or practices.

Once the properties are acquired, the City will continue its coordinated groundwater and surface water monitoring through state-of-the art monitoring and sampling techniques.

- 7) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project.

Upon acquisition of the properties, the City will prepare a Management Plan which will include a site assessment, restoration and maintenance, and reporting schedule for any remediation measures. Annual groundwater and surface water monitoring and reporting; natural resource management (invasive plant removal; trash clean-up, etc.) are other components to be included in this Management Plan.

All reports and data will be shared with the Conservancy and other governmental agencies on at least an annual basis. Monitoring groundwater, surface water, and natural resources will be archived in City Laboratory Information System.

- 8) The extent to which the project provides multiple benefits.

Public ownership of these properties by the Public Utilities Department, City of San Diego, will ensure multiple and on-going benefits to water quality, watershed pretention and resource protection, preservation/restoration of habitat, protection of sensitive species and wildlife corridor, public open space amenities and implementation of Groundwater Sustainable Plan for the San Diego River Groundwater Basin (Santee/EI Monte) and the formation and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency to assure its Pueblo water rights and the quality of groundwater and surface water is protected in perpetuity.

- 9) Whether the project reflects best available science.

The project is solely the purchase of three properties. Once the properties are acquired, the City will continue its coordinated groundwater and surface water monitoring through state-of-the art monitoring and sampling techniques.

- 10) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project.

The City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department, has long-standing ownership and management of over 42,000 acres of land for source water protection around nine reservoirs, most of which are outside the incorporated boundaries. Four of these reservoirs are part of the City's Multiple Species Conservation Plan Cornerstone Lands, one of which is north of the properties that are for sale. In addition, the Public Utilities Department has acquired numerous properties to augment the Cornerstone Lands. Habitat enhancement, invasive plant removal, and feral pig control are some of the many management activities

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

undertaken for assuring water quality safeguards. These lands are also managed for other natural and cultural resources.

11) The project is located within a disadvantaged community.

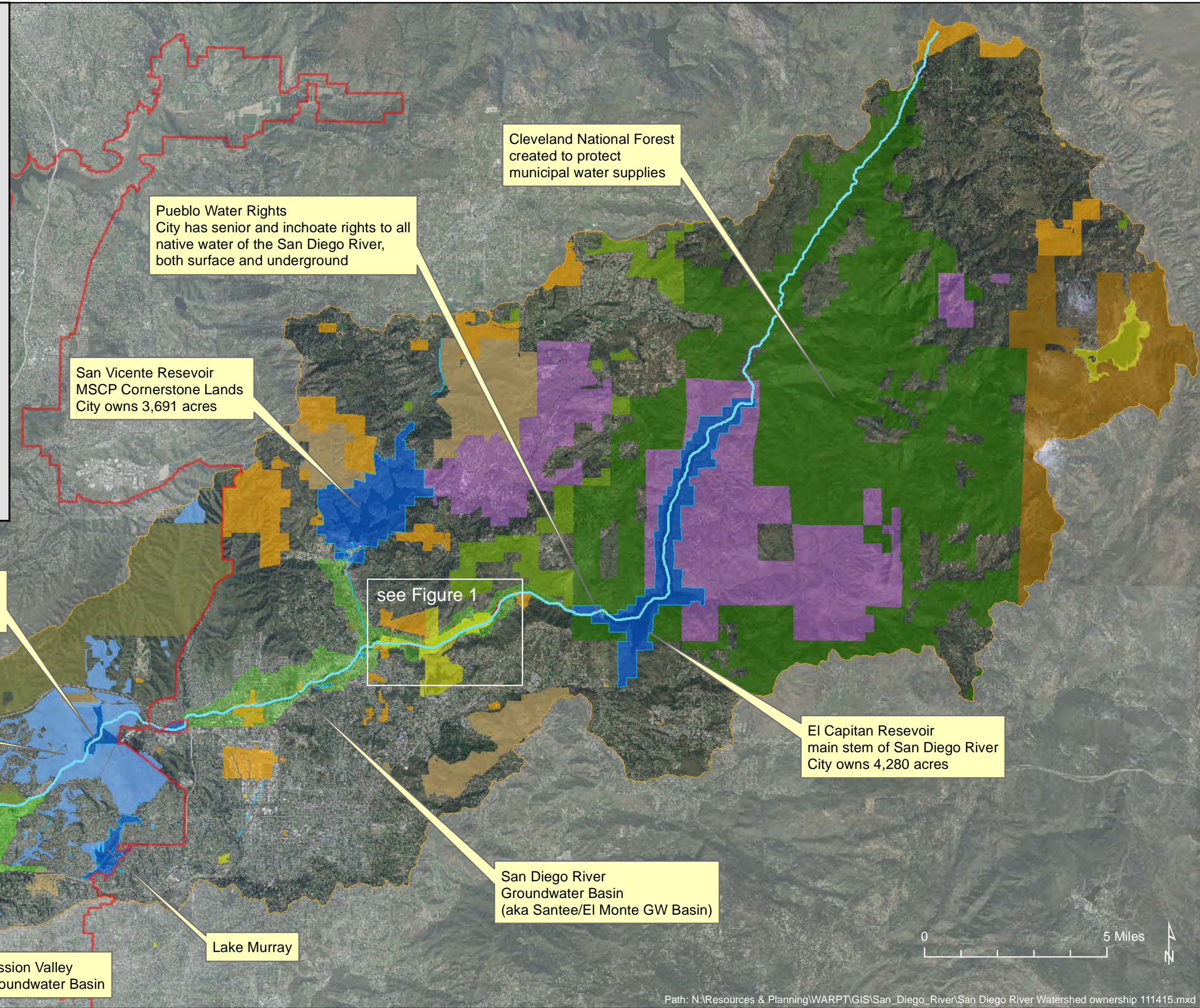
12) Matching funds from applicant.

The applicant is willing to fund \$77,000.00 (12%) of this project.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA: The proposed acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25 (a), (c) and (f).

Figure 2
City of San Diego presence
in the San Diego River Watershed

- City of San Diego, Water Enterprise Fund
- City of San Diego, General Fund
- + City of San Diego boundary
- ~ San Diego River
- + San Diego River Watershed
- + groundwater basins along the San Diego River
- + Cleveland National Forest
- + Bureau of Land Management
- + California State Parks
- + California Fish and Wildlife
- + Helix Water District
- + Barona, Viejas, & Capitan Grande Indian Reservations
- + County of San Diego
- + military reservations



Pueblo Water Rights
 City has senior and inchoate rights to all native water of the San Diego River, both surface and underground

San Vicente Reservoir
 MSCP Cornerstone Lands
 City owns 3,691 acres

Cleveland National Forest
 created to protect municipal water supplies

Mission Dam and Flume
 first water development in California (1813)
 foundation of San Diego's water system

Mission Trails Regional Park

see Figure 1

El Capitan Reservoir
 main stem of San Diego River
 City owns 4,280 acres

San Diego River
 Groundwater Basin
 (aka Santee/El Monte GW Basin)

Lake Murray

Mission Valley
 Groundwater Basin



Figure 1
San Diego River Conservancy
Proposition 1 Rivers Parkway Grant Program
Acquisition of three properties in El Monte Valley
by
City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department

- parcels to be acquired
- Helix Water District lands
- Endangered Habitats Conservancy lands
- San Diego River Groundwater Basin
- San Diego River

APN 392-060-29 (portion)
18.94 acres

APN 391-061-01 (portion)
2.53 acres

APN 390-040-51 (portion)
15.61 acres

El Capitan
High School

El Monte
County Park

Lake Jennings

0 5,000 Feet
1 inch = 1,500 feet aerial image 2011

Path: N:\Resources & Planning\WARPT\GIS\San_Diego_River\SDRC Prop 1 acquisitions in El Monte Valley 11515.mxd

Resolution No: 16-02

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SAN DIEGO
RIVER CONSERVANCY'S PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM TO
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION**

WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to further the goals of its enabling legislation by conserving and restoring the lands and waters of the San Diego River watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has provided funds under The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) for \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds to fund ecosystems and watershed protection and restoration, water supply infrastructure projects, including surface and groundwater storage, and drinking water protection; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 6, Section 79730 of Proposition 1 provides for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 6, Section 79731(e) of Proposition 1 provides for Seventeen Million Dollars (\$17,000,000) to the San Diego River Conservancy, for multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy and staff have reviewed the Proposition 1 application and recommend the following proposal for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board, based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Diego River Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, Section 32649)
3. The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$355,000.00 (Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars) in grant funds to the San Diego River Park Foundation to acquire 74.94 acres of land in the headwaters of the San Diego River for conservation purposes, to restore habitat, remove grazing activities and increase water quality.
4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts and other documents needed which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.
5. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule; and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.

Approved and adopted the 14th day of January 14, 2016. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 16-02 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

Julia L. Richards
Executive Officer

San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board Members Roll Call Vote

Name	Ayes	Noes	Abstained
CNRA: Bryan Cash			
DOF: Eriana Ortega/Karen Finn			
DPR: Vacant			
Mayor: Brent Eidson, designee			
County Supervisor Dianne Jacob			
Scott Sherman City of San Diego Councilmember			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
Ann Haddad			
Andrew Poat			
Speaker of the Assembly: Vacant			

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 16-02
January 14, 2015

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to \$355,000.00 to the San Diego River Park Foundation for acquisition and land conservation in Julian, California.

LOCATION: The proposed located off Eagle Peak Road, and Boulder Creek Road in Julian next to Temescal Creek. The Property is located in unincorporated San Diego County, the headwater of the San Diego River.

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS: Staff recommends that the San Diego River Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Division 22.9 of the Public Resources Code, Chapters 1-5:

“The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$355,000.00 to acquire and conserve land, protection/restoration of habitat, and remove grazing activities specifically as follows:

- San Diego River Park Foundation: Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars to acquire and conserve approximately 75 acres of habitat.

Prior to the disbursement of funds each grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule; and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Diego River Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 grant program.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Division 22.9 of the Public Resources Code, Chapter 3, and Section 32649. (San Diego River Conservancy Act)”

PROJECT SUMMARY: In August 2015, the Conservancy solicited project proposals aimed at increasing water supply and improving water quality. This solicitation was posted on the Conservancy’s website and emailed to multiple organizations in California. The recommended grant would fund the proposal, as described below:

This project is to acquire approximately 75 acres (“Property”) of land in the upper watershed of the San Diego River in order to preserve and protect a water source of the San Diego River. This Property includes the headwaters of Temescal Creek, a tributary to the upper San Diego River.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Neighboring landowners' cattle trespass on this land and continue to graze on the Property. By this acquisition, the Foundation intends to stop cattle grazing on this Property which will increase water quality. Acquisition of the Property will preserve and protect the Property's natural resources by implementation of management plan and monitoring.

The San Diego River Park Foundation has the Property under contract for purchase and is ready to proceed with completing the acquisition. The Property contains the following parcels: Parcel A (47.6 acres) includes the following APNs: 289-180-09, 289-190-38, 289-190-44, 290-070-31, 290-070-32, and 289-190-48; Parcel B (27.4 acres) includes the following APNs: 289-190-37, 289-190-41, 289-190-42, 289-190-49, and 290-070-34

The San Diego River Foundation will conduct monitoring and report to the Conservancy as directed under the grant agreement.

SITE DESCRIPTION: The Property is located in unincorporated San Diego County between Santa Ysabel and Julian and adjacent to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Forest Service lands. Surrounding land uses are agricultural or natural upland. Habitat on the Property includes montane hardwood, mixed chaparral, annual grassland and coastal oak woodland and contains Temescal Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River.

PROJECT HISTORY/NEED: The Property was placed on the market for possible residential construction. Development would need water and require installing wells, which would have negative impacts associated with the headwaters of the San Diego River. In other areas, water has been captured by berms created for onsite use such as grazing, agriculture, etc. This Property is currently degraded by grazing and associated non-compatible uses which can contribute to sedimentation in the creek. Sedimentation is a concern for downstream flow and water quality. Conservation of this land would allow for the Property to be managed by the San Diego River Park Foundation

The San Diego River Park Foundation is in the process of acquiring the adjacent 299 acres in January 2016. The conservation of the Property would complete conservation of Temescal Creek, thereby leveraging a major investment in the 299 acres.

Once acquired by The San Diego River Park Foundation the Property would be available for research and possible recreational activities. As the Foundation works to engage people in caring and becoming stewards for the land, direct access to the upper watershed of the San Diego River plays an important role. This acquisition is adjacent to USDA - Forest Service lands and connects with other open space and San Diego River Park Foundation parcels.

PROJECT FINANCING: The total project amount is anticipated to cost \$478,375.00 with appraisal, monitoring plan and land acquisition. Project applicant is requesting \$380,500.00 or up to 79% from the Conservancy. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is an appropriation from Proposition 1 grant funds, for Ecosystem, Watershed Protection and Restoration.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION: This project would be undertaken consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code §§ 32630-32661).

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

Consistent with Program 1, conserve land along the San Diego River, of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed authorization will protect headwaters of the San Diego River.

Consistent with Program 3A, preserve and restore natural resources, of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed authorization will remove cattle grazing which will in turn help to protect and maintain natural resources in and along the San Diego River watershed.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on May 2015, in the following respects:

REQUIRED CRITERIA

- 1) The project is within the jurisdiction of the San Diego River Conservancy (San Diego watershed). Yes.
- 2) The extent to which the project has support from the jurisdiction over the location of the project. Yes.
- 3) The extent to which the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Proposition 1 (Water Code, section 79732).

Purpose 4 – Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.

Acquisition of the Property prevents development (residential construction) and protects water resources. Protection of these resources would benefit the ecosystem for the upper San Diego River watershed.

Purpose 9 – Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction. This project protects 75 acres of rural lands, including Temescal Creek and adjacent habitat. Acquisition of the Property will eliminate grazing activities which degrades watershed health.

Purpose 11 – Land management of the San Diego River watershed will reduce sedimentation by eliminating grazing on the Property. Grazing activities is a concern for the health of the watershed.

Purpose 12 – The project is located within the County of San Diego's Draft Focused Conservation Area for the East County MSCP. The acquisition of these lands will enable conservation and restoration of the land through management and targeted restoration activities.

- 4) The extent to which the application includes a complete, reasonable and well thought out proposed scope of work, budget and schedule.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

The scope of work for this project is based upon The San Diego River Park Foundation's extensive experience acquiring and conserving land and the steps needed to complete this acquisition. The budget itemizes costs of the transaction. The Foundation's experience includes several transactions funded by State of California bond funded grants.

- 5) The extent to which the project promotes and implements state and/or regional plans and policies.
 - A. California Water Action Plan (Update 2009)
 - i. Action 4 – Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems
 - B. San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
 - i. Objective I: Protect, Restore and Maintain Habitat and Open Space
 - C. The San Diego River Coalition 2015 Work Plan
 - i. The project is on the Coalition's work plan as a land acquisition priority.
 - D. San Diego River Watershed Management Plan (2005)
 - i. Grazing should not be permitted in riparian corridors which should be fenced to prevent access by cattle, but allow passage by native fauna
 - ii. Natural drainage patterns should be maintained to avoid channelization and diversion of streams which can alter seasonal patterns critical to wildlife.
 - E. The San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan (2002) -- San Diego River Park Foundation
 - i. Recommendations for the headwater reach apply to this project.
"Preserve the free flowing character of the river and its tributaries to prevent further alteration of sediment transport processes . . . (page 112).

- 6) The extent to which the project employs new or innovative technology or practices.

The project employs the innovative technique of acquiring open space lands before a stream or watershed deteriorates. This is a preventive measure. Since the project provides access to the headwaters of the San Diego River and it can serve as a baseline for watershed health monitoring as well as adaptation to climate change.

- 7) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project.

The goal of this project is to help protect San Diego River watershed functions. The San Diego Basin Plan identifies multiple beneficial uses for Temescal Creek. This project will ensure the permanent conservation of the land.

The objective of this project is to acquire approximately 75 acres of land within the Temescal Creek Watershed. The other objective is to conserve the land in its current form and to enable future restoration of damaged habitat.

The condition of the Property will be documented by the Foundation and the amount of area impacted by grazing. Associated activities will be documented in its annual reports by creating a GIS layer with boundaries of the habitat and impacts, photo-documentation and field reports and provided to the Conservancy.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

8) The extent to which the project provides multiple benefits.

Acquisition of the Property creates the opportunity to protect the health of the oak woodlands by proactively addressing the invasive Goldspotted Oak Borer. The San Diego River Park Foundation, by acquiring this Property, will be able to manage the entire Oakland system to develop an aggressive and adaptive management program for this and other pests which have been identified on site.

It provides for the opportunity to restore the Temescal watershed area, annual grassland, montane meadow and associated habitat buffer which have been disturbed. By acquiring this land, it can be managed to protect natural resources and improve health of the watershed

This land may provide trail connections to other public lands for implementation of the proposed South Rim Trail, an extension to the San Diego River Trail. This creates a safer access point than the existing Saddleback Trail at the end of Eagle Peak Road. Discussions have occurred with the USDA- Forest Service and County of San Diego about this trail alignment. The San Diego River Coalition has adopted it as the preferred alignment corridor.

This Property connects with The San Diego River Park Foundation's 299 acre Eagle Peak Ranch project (in escrow) and its 160 acre Homestead (owned in fee-title). Therefore, this provides an incredible opportunity to support research and educational opportunities regarding watershed health and resource management. These sites will also be available for students to experience first-hand open space management and the wonders of nature.

9) Whether the project reflects best available science.

According to the EPA, "The most direct way to protect land for preservation purposes and associated non-point source control functions is fee simple acquisition." Furthermore, "The acquisition and preservation of these areas can be extremely important to water quality protection and decrease the cost of implementing structural BMPs source."

According to the South Coast Wildlands' Missing Linkages movements for several species, this branch of the Linkage Design supports habitat for several listed species, including California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), the large-blotched salamander (*Ensatina eschscholtzii klauberi*), and the arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*).

10) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project.

The San Diego River Park Foundation has completed the acquisition of 25 parcels through a multitude of transactions. These transactions have ranged in complexity from a \$25,000 acquisition to \$750,000.00. The Foundation is a member of the national Land Trust Alliance and has adopted Land Trust Standards and Practices. The Foundation is familiar with grant administration and has successfully managed other state grants for acquisition including past experienced with Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 grant programs. The Foundation understands and acknowledges the requirements of State bond funded programs.

11) The project is not located in a disadvantaged community.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

12) Matching funds from applicant.


The applicant is will fund \$97,875.00 (21%) of this project.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA: The proposed acquisition is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15325, Class 25, subdivisions (a), (c), and (f).

The San Diego River Park Foundation

Acquisition of 75.42 Acre Temescal Creek Property

Legend

 Valentine Properties

Temescal Creek

Eagle Peak Rd

Forest Route 13506

Google earth

© 2015 Google





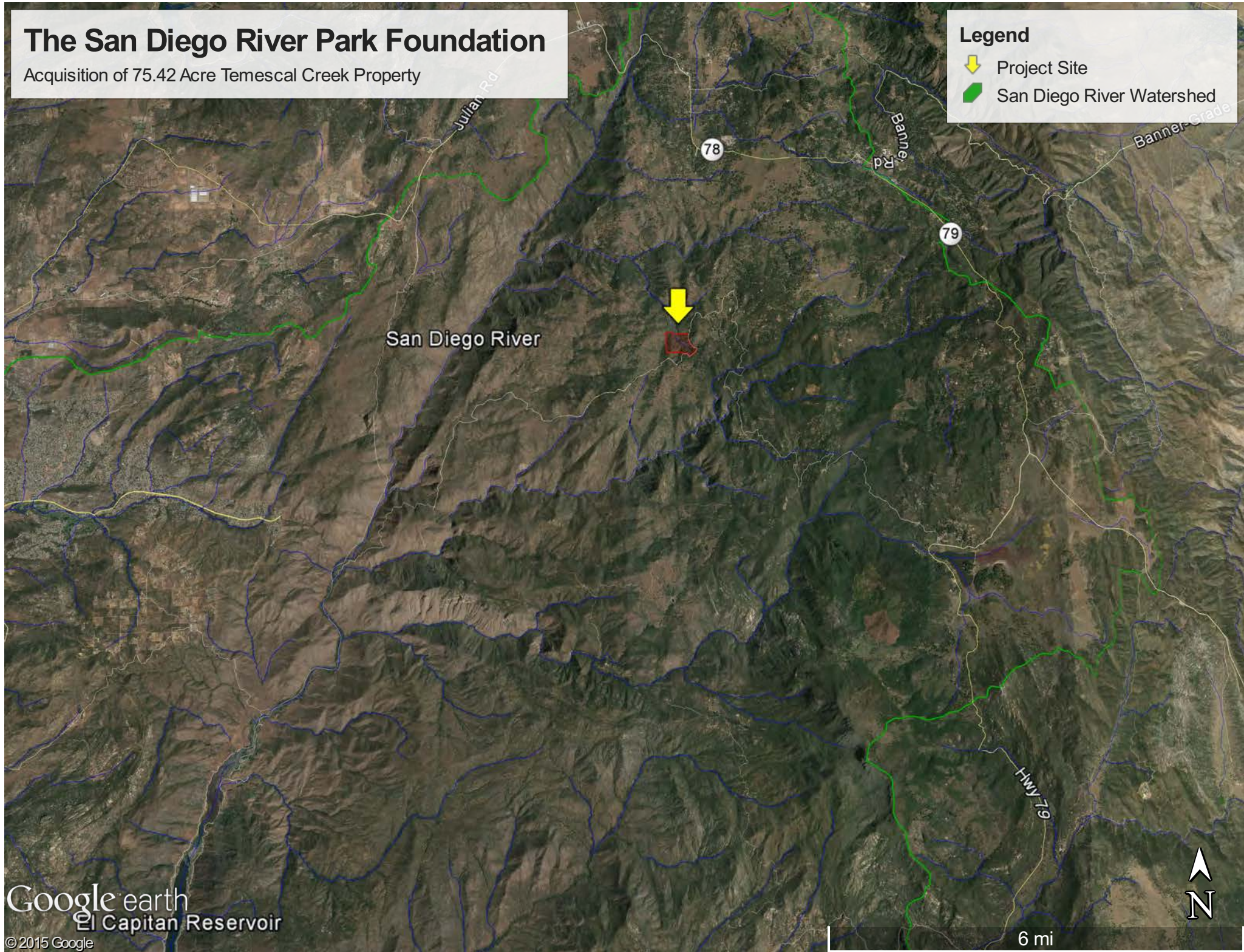
1000 ft

The San Diego River Park Foundation

Acquisition of 75.42 Acre Temescal Creek Property

Legend

-  Project Site
-  San Diego River Watershed



6 mi

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: **10**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)**

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officer's Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

Flume Trail Extension – Easement filed
Proposition 1 (Water Bond) overview and status update

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held Thursday,
March 10, 2016, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of January 14, 2016

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: **ADJOURNMENT**