

# 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,  
November 7, 2013  
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 Locations

Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Finance  
State Capitol, Room 1145  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Kevin McKernan  
(619) 645-3183

## 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 September 12, 2013 meeting.

### 3. Public Comment

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's General Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)
6. City of Santee's River Trail/Park – update (*INFORMATIONAL*)  
Santee's Community Services Department Director Bill Maertz will present the City of Santee's recent accomplishments, current plans and future goals related to the San Diego River Trail and Park through the City of Santee.

Presentation:

Bill Maertz, Director, Santee Community Services

7. Consideration of grant awards for permitting and construction of a segment of the San Diego River Trail through the proposed San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park site (*ACTION*)

The Board will consider authorizing the Executive Officer to enter into a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy to access SDRC's Prop 84 set aside funds for the permitting and construction of a segment of San Diego River Trail through the proposed Discovery Center at Grant Park site in Mission Valley. The SDRC proposes to administer the grants funds in partnership with and through a subgrant(s) to the San Diego River Park Foundation

Presentation:

Rob Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation

Recommendation to approve Resolution 13-06

8. 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:

Project Status

- Invasives Control and Restoration

9. Next Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, January 9, 2014, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

10. 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 Kevin McKernan at 619-645-3183.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**  
The Board will consider adoption of the **September 12, 2013** public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **September 12, 2013** Board Meeting are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

**SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)**  
Minutes of September 12, 2013 Public Meeting  
(Draft Minutes for Approval on November 7, 2013)

SDRC Board Chair, Ben Clay called the September 12, 2013, meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:02 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Members Present

Todd Gloria	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 3
Lorie Zapf	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 6
Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Clay Phillips	Department of Parks and Recreation, Designee
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large (arrived at 2:10 pm)
Ann Haddad	Public at Large
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

Karen Finn	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Lee Burdick	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board

Staff Members Present

Kevin McKernan	Executive Officer
Julia Richards	Administrative Services Manager
Hayley Peterson	Deputy Attorney General

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Clay Phillips made a motion to approve the draft minutes for the San Diego River Conservancy's July 11, 2013 public meeting, which was seconded by Todd Gloria and approved **unanimously 8-0**.

**3. Public Comment**

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*)

Ben Clay took the opportunity to introduce San Diego Interim Mayor Todd Gloria who also serves on the SDRC board as an Assembly appointee. The Mayor's office will be designating a representative to serve on the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

#### 5. Deputy Attorney's General Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)

No report.

#### 6. Municipal Stormwater Permit, Order R9-2013-001(*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

Presentation:

Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego, Watershed Protection Program

Presenter did not attend. Tabled.

#### 7. San Diego River Conservancy: 5yr Capital Outlay and Financing Plan 2012-2017 (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), in partnership with San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) staff and input from partner agencies and NGOs, developed the San Diego River Conservancy's Capital Outlay Concept Plan and a "Conservation Funding Toolbox" (Supplement to the San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017), under a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy out of SDRC's Prop 84 set aside funds. This plan outlines the capital costs associated with SDRC's adopted Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017).

Presentation and Report:

Kelley Hart, Associate Director, TPL

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer

**Kevin McKernan** said a lot of research went into putting the SDRC's capital outlay document together. SDRC's 5-year Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in the fall 2012. As part of that document SDRC developed a capital outlay plan outlining associated costs to implement the plan and tied it to the following programs: land conservation, recreation and education, natural and cultural resources, and water quality and flood conveyance.

SDRC entered into an agreement with TPL. They have decades of experience with planning and projects. He introduced Kelley Hart and Virginia Lorne. Kevin's tenure as Executive Officer for the San Diego River Conservancy started midway through this project. He recommends after the presentation and questions today that the San Diego River Conservancy's Board authorize him to incorporate suggested changes and finalize a version for SDRC's files and to submit to appropriate agencies.

**Kelley Hart, Trust for Public Land** has worked with the San Diego River Conservancy on the capital outlay plan to accompany the Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017). In the past the Trust for Public Land worked with SDRC to develop its Addendum SDRC's Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011. This capital plan was developed with the help of the San Diego River Conservancy's former Executive Officer, Michael Nelson and its current Executive Officer Kevin McKernan. The following individuals also contributed to this document: Rob Caringella (Jones, Roach & Caringella), Ann Van Leer (Land Conservation Brokerage), Robin Shifflet (City of San Diego), Rob Hutsel (San Diego River Park Foundation), Robin Rierdan (Lakeside's River Park Conservancy), Mary Niez (County of San Diego), Jason Giessow (Dendra), Matt Rahn (SDSU) and various

staff from TPL. This was a cooperative effort from SDRC's partners to collect the information contained in this capital plan.

The Trust for Public Land began the process by reviewing Department of Finance's guidance document and template, along with SDRC's Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and the addendum. To develop estimates for each SDRC program TPL developed an assessment of needs, current capacity, analyzed alternatives and estimated costs.

This capital outlay plan estimates capital costs associated with each of the San Diego River Conservancy's (SDRC's) program areas over a five-year time horizon. The program areas are described in detail in the San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017). Due to the lapse of one year, the costs estimated start with 2014 and include estimates through 2018.

The Capital Outlay Plan is intended to:

- (a) Supplement the Strategic Plan Update by outlining the capital costs associated with the activities described therein; and
- (b) Meet state guidelines for providing a five-year estimate of capital costs. As such, this plan follows the recommended state format for providing estimates and supporting narratives.

<b>Sum of Estimated Capital Costs of All San Diego River Conservancy Programs (in millions):</b>					
<b>Strategic Plan Element</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<i>Program 1: Conserve Land Along San Diego River</i>					
Secure Key River Properties	\$36.67	\$36.67	\$36.67	\$36.67	\$36.67
Develop and Implement Land Management Protocols					
<i>Program 2: Emphasize Recreation and Education</i>					
Complete the Trail	\$8.76	\$8.76	\$8.76	\$8.76	\$8.76
Develop Recreation and Education Programs					
<i>Program 3A: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources</i>					
Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0.50	\$0.50
<i>Program 3B: Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historic Resources</i>					
Establish a Programmatic Emphasis....					
Expand Partnerships...					
<i>Program 4: Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance</i>					
Continue Collaboration with RWQCB...					
Help Establish the San Diego River Research Center	\$0.10	\$0.40	\$0.10	\$0	\$0
<i>Program 5: Expand the Organization's Capacity and Reach</i>					
Develop and Implement a Funding Strategy					
Develop and Implement a Partnering Strategy					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46.53</b>	<b>\$47.43</b>	<b>\$47.13</b>	<b>\$45.93</b>	<b>\$46.53</b>

**Kelley Hart** estimated the Conservancy needs \$46.5 million a year for capital funding. This can be broken down by the San Diego River Conservancy's program areas. This approach tried to use actual costs, but understand the fiscal environment is constrained. These numbers are not intended to reflect the amount of money TPL thinks the Conservancy can raise each year, rather the amount of money needed to fully deliver on the goals identified in SDRC's Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017).



Program 1: Conserve Land \$183 million over 5 years.

Approximately 1,535 acres are required for fee titled ownership of key properties along the San Diego River. In this analysis some properties were eliminated because they are unlikely to come on the market, had dwellings, were particularly expensive or subject to regulation which would provide benefits sought by SDRC and its partners. This is consistent with the Addendum to the Strategic Plan 2006-2011. Understandably SDRC does not expect all the properties to come on to the market in the next 5 years, but they made this assumption for purposes of this estimate. This rests on the assumption that purchases will be made with willing landowners. TPL estimated fair market value for each property. TPL conducted a very detailed analysis using digital spatial data and information about the location and attributes of the property. They looked at the acreage and zoning and if there was more than one type of zone that applied, they divided the property into acreage by zoning and then applied estimated values for each zone. TPL hired Jones, Roach & Caringella to estimate value of properties by zone using comparable values for recent sales in the area and also included forecast and annual appreciation and decided if a multiplier was needed to obtain estimates for each property. This was only intended to provide a rough estimate for planning purposes. The San Diego River Conservancy donations or dedication of property or easements should be procured whenever possible, and there should be cost savings with contributions from SDRC partners. The San Diego River Conservancy should not bear costs of all acquisition. Cost savings were not figured.

Program 2: Recreation and Education \$43.8 million over 5 years.

TPL relied on KTU+A's Gaps Analysis completed in 2010 for the cost to fill in the gaps on the San Diego River Trail. KTU+A listed every gap and cost estimate to completed the gaps in the San Diego River Trail. Capital funds are needed to fill gaps on the San Diego River Trail, excluding pedestrian bridges, equals \$43.8 million. To include all costs including pedestrian bridges it brings the total to \$136.6 million. For SDRC and purposes of this draft they used the lower figure of \$43.8 million, because pedestrian bridges are viewed as a second tier priority at this time. The San Diego River Trail is a joint effort between the Conservancy, jurisdictions, municipalities, non-profit organizations and volunteers. TPL makes a case for funding to the Conservancy to capitalize on its momentum of a collaborator and to leverage local funds.

Program 3A: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources \$4 million over 5 years.

The only cost for this program in to remove invasive non-native plants and restore the land. TPL contacted SDRC's prior biologist, Jason Giessow to obtain information. The estimate is based on \$20,000 per acre for invasive removal and treatment. Removal of 354 acres of invasive non-native plants is in progress and an estimated \$4 million is needed. The estimate of the program was originally \$5 million and about \$1 million has been spent or encumbered.

Program 4: Water Quality & Flood Conveyance \$605,000 over 5 years.

TPL worked with San Diego State University's Matt Rahn, Ph.D, to obtain information on San Diego River Research Center at San Diego State University. SDRC in partnership with SDSU and the San Diego River Park Foundation, has initiated a long-term watershed monitoring program called RiverNet that collects, shares, and interprets environmental information. The sensor monitoring stations collect basic water quality parameters (temperature, pH, flow/depth, photosynthetic active radiation, cyanobacteria, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and turbidity) and meteorological data. This information serves as a major contributor to watershed management, restoration, and conservation decision-making. The RiverNet monitoring station platform has been collecting data in the San Diego River since 2009, but to complete the comprehensive system the installation of 8 additional sensor stations are needed to provide data throughout the San Diego River watershed.

**Ben Clay** asked if anyone had the idea to ask EPA for funds for water quality watering and management.

**Kevin McKernan** answered program 5 lists where the funding for this type of program exists, and TPL put together a "Conservation Funding Tool Box" to show where the money comes from.

Program 5: Expanding the Organizations Capacity and Reach

There are no capital costs to implement this program. Develop and implement a funding strategy and develop and implement a partners' strategy. The separate funding option is 30 pages, supplemental to the SDRC Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017), as a menu of options for the Conservancy and its partners. Some of the funding sources listed and researched by TPL are included in this document. Many of the funding sources are in the purview of the city or county such as issuing general obligation bonds, sales and use taxes, and impact fees. TPL looked at the average cost to a home and estimated what it would cost the home for different bond amount or sales tax. Tables per jurisdiction are included in this document. TPL also reviewed special districts and storm water/utility fees in addition to state and federal sources. New funding could happen with the new Cal EPA/Air Resources Board's state cap and trade program, and it is likely that trail building activities will be eligible for funding.

**Ben Clay** asked if someone was fined for a illegal use of the river and is that funding source included in the Funding Toolbox under Supplement Environmental Projects (SEP). He asked if procedurally there should be a formal request from the SDRC to the water board for consideration when fines are available.

**Gary Strawn** responded when the California State Water Board fines an organization 50% of that goes to the state emergency clean up funds and the other 50% split between SEPs and other environmental projects such as bird habitat restoration. He suggested SDRC should compose a list of projects so when the fines do come up the water board has an option look at. He believes SDRC has a good relationship with the water board, but he would look into it further. That said it is a matter of convincing people SDRC has shovel ready projects with a scope work to see what the benefits are to the watershed.

**Kevin McKernan** noted maybe something more formalized like a Memorandum of Understanding is needed that recognizes San Diego River Conservancy's watershed wide invasive species plant removal program has been successful in various areas along the river's watershed.

**Kelley Hart** concluded her presentation and asked if there were any questions.

**Ben Clay** said he has been asked the question if the Conservancy is only for the San Diego River, what about the other rivers in the County of San Diego and where do they fit? Is there a strategy we should be thinking about for the rivers, such as Sweetwater, Otay and the others.

**Virginia Lorne** commented that this portion of the capital outlay was only based on the San Diego River watershed.

**Clay Phillips** asked what was the basis for the total dollar amount. He asked how important is it to have an accurate split each year? Typically on a State Park's capital outlay plan the later years are much larger. In this plan it is spread out evenly. In State Parks 80% of the funds are spent in the final 10% of the project.

**Kelley Hart** responded, TPL was not provided with a dollar amount. They built these estimates from the ground up. TPL reviewed SDRC's strategic plan for 2006-2011 and these numbers are much lower. When TPL began this project, Michael Nelson said this was a rough estimate and was excited to have a concerted effort with SDRC and its partners to develop a methodology behind each program.

**Kevin McKernan** said if you look at invasive species removal it decreases in future years because we have taken care of the permit costs upfront. As for land acquisition we assumed property values will increase. These

were based on actual costs, but SDRC cannot predict what will come to market and when. For example, nothing may come on the market for the first two years and then maybe 4 properties the third year. We don't know. For trail construction the costs are pretty straight forward.

**Clay Phillips** asked what about the bridges, are there corridors without building pedestrian bridges?

**Kevin McKernan** responded there have been community proposals for pedestrian bridges at different places along the river. In the Mission Valley area there are bridges costing in the millions of dollars. He pared this down quite a bit. The land acquisition costs were twice what you see. He noted that the City of San Diego recently approved the San Diego River Park's Master Plan and redevelopment will require certain improvements along the river. SDRC does not need to look at acquiring all these properties. Please note all the existing overpasses that exist. Keep in mind we are not going to put in a bridge where there is no trail on either side.

**Clay Phillips** asked as the keeper of the prime historic resource in the San Diego River, why did the historic and cultural resources receive nothing in the capital outlay plan?

**Kevin McKernan** responded when he inherited this project that although the items are listed in SDRC statute, his understanding was the transfer and demolition of the old Caltrans building was taking place using State Park funds, and was under the parks mission. It is important to note the historic and cultural resources on the San Diego River Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-17 are not capital outlay funds but more interpretive projects. He could certainly add things back in, if he and Clay could get together, but keep in mind this is all capital costs such as bricks and mortar, not interpretive costs.

**Clay Phillips** thinks the programs ahead of him are not necessarily in reach of the funding that was set-aside. To tie the site directly to the San Diego River whether under trail construction or in the whole development of the site to re-create the river are not covered under current funding. He said this fits very well with the mission of the Conservancy.

**Kevin McKernan** responded if Clay would like to make the case to be included in part of the capital outlay plan from the State through the SDRC, State Parks should identify a need, provide cost estimates of and scope of projects for consideration.

**Clay Phillips** says his dilemma right now is State Parks has funding for this project but they remain fairly unsure what the total cost will be to remove the existing building because the transfer was in "as is condition." The previous owner of the building does not have to deal with the hazardous materials, which is a big fear factor because of the unknown.

**Lorie Zapf** asked about if there was a spreadsheet to accompany the land acquisition piece. So for the acquisition component this would be if SDRC would actually have to pay for it. If there was redevelopment along the river that would be something that SDRC would not need to pay for. So part of the plan is to give a right-of-way or easement for the San Diego River Trail. Does this estimate include every parcel? Does this include the City of San Diego. Can the SDRC use the developer impact fees to buy easements along the river?

**Kevin McKernan** said he removed those properties where development is pending or now are subject to the City of San Diego's River Park Master Plan. There are some vacant parcels, or partially developed that could be split and the lot and be purchased, but they are no directly adjacent to the river. This number was almost double and he worked with TPL pare it down.

**Todd Gloria** responded that San Diego River Conservancy could use the developer impact fees to acquire property in Mission Valley. Usually the fees need to stay within the area where it is collected. He thinks The City of San Diego and SDRC could be partners in that effort.

**Lorie Zapf** asked what if we put \$5 million in to a pot. She asked if it would be more effective that SDRC can acquire the land having the money available. Wouldn't that be better than waiting for something to be for sale? Is there a way to be proactive and acquire the land, like a mitigation fund?

**Kevin McKernan** responded SDRC does not have the funds or receive developer impact fees. The City of San Diego receives the developer impact fees. At his former job at the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy he approached land owners with voluntary offers to sell because that Conservancy had the bond funds to do so. His suggestion is that SDRC work the City's Park Planners to identify parcels that they would like to go after to complete the San Diego River Park and develop a list, if in fact these funds are available. He would like to work with the city to approach land owners if that is the case.

**Ben Clay** noted Qualcomm Stadium has the potential of becoming a park in the future. He believes SDRC needs to engage the city of San Diego and its staff, and the County of San Diego and its staff, as we look up and down the river to see what is available.

**Kevin McKernan** reminded the Board that SDRC has funded the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to do planning and alignment work for the Qualcomm section of the San Diego River Trail which is a big segment in Mission Valley. SDRC also funded SANDAG to do trail feasibility and alignment on Carlton Oaks Golf Course section of the trail. SANDAG does have funding to build bike trails at an earlier and much more accelerated pace by borrowing off their Transnet funds. Michael Nelson strategically engaged SANDAG early to grant money for trail feasibility studies to have this happen sooner than later.

**Ben Clay** suggested SDRC be light on our feet when talking about another proposal for bond funding and figure out when it moves and how we go after it because we need to move sooner than later.

**Kevin McKernan** reminded everybody that cap and trade refers to a state law to reduce greenhouse gases. Our approach to this funding source is that trails reduce car emissions, and the open space aspect does as well. This document, the 5-year capital outlay plan helps support the facts that we need as much funding as we can get.

**Todd Gloria** asked about preservation of natural and cultural resources. He asked why was it not considered in the capital outlay plan.

**Ann Haddad** responded in the Strategic Plan Update (2012- 2017), the Board added the transfer of the old Caltrans building under preservation of resources because it was imminent. As for some of the historical, educational and interpretive programs, a few years ago she, Michael Nelson and Ann Van Leer tried to develop something along the Historic Flume trail. There is a wealth of opportunities to do so along the entire San Diego River trail.

**Kevin McKernan** reminded the Board of its partnership with the San Diego History Center and the Serra Museum is another capital project for preservation of historic resources.

**Todd Gloria** would like to revisit fees generated in Mission Valley. He stated the City's Planning Director Bill Fulton is updating the Mission Valley Community Plan to identify parcels The City of San Diego wants to turn into public parks and this is a high priority. He mentioned this is something to have on the radar.

**Dianne Jacob** stated the County of San Diego has what we call Park Land Dedication (PLD) fees every time someone builds a house they have to pay into the fund for the Local Park Planning Area. That money collected is for capital projects.

**Kelley Hart** commented this would be like a park ordinance fee. She will include that in the revision.

**Deanna Spehn, Policy Director for Assembly Member Toni Atkins**, stated when the Conservancy was first created by Senator Kehoe it did not include preserving and enhancing cultural and historic resources, that was added in an amendment. At the time to prepare for the amendment to the San Diego River Conservancy Act, they generated a list of cultural and historic sites in order to convince the Senate and Assembly that this was a valid thing to do. One of the primary sites was the old Caltrans building near Old Town San Diego Historic Park and the Historic Flume Trail. Even though most of sites are buried there are cultural resources along the Flume trail as indication of early Native Americans settlements in that area.

**Gary Strawn** said there is part of the fine structure at the State Water Resources Control Board that can be used. He noted the sewage spill in Mission Valley from the power outage a few years ago. This City of San Diego paid a heavy fine and the water board was able to grant that money back to the city to purchase a back-up generator to keep it from happening in the future. Look at the river monitoring station; it would be good to establish an early monitoring system that would reduce damage from the spills and contaminants getting into the San Diego River.

**Ben Clay** asked if there were any other comments.

*Supervisor Dianne Jacob made a motion for the San Diego River Conservancy Governing Board to authorize the SDRC Executive Officer to incorporate suggest changes and prepare a final version of 5-year Capital Outlay and Finance Plan (2012-17) for SDRC's file and submit to appropriate agencies including the California Department of Finance, Lorie Zapf seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously 8-0.*

## 8. 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:

### Water Bond update

**Kevin McKernan** SDRC has never been included directly in a water bond. The last bond from 2009 did not make it to the ballot for voters to decide. Both the California Senate and Assembly have drafted versions of a water bond paring down the price tag from \$11 million to \$6 million. He provided summary and comparison to the Board Members. He noted that State Conservancies are listed in there for watershed protection which helps provide water supply. Also for now, the individual Conservancies are not named nor are called out for specific individual allocations being, he expects that may change in the coming months. He spoke with other Conservancy heads and SDRC partners to justify the need and provide input to best invest the water bond funding through the regional allocations. Chairman Ben Clay provided a letter to the Assembly to that effect.

**Ben Clay** thanked Assemblywoman Toni Atkins for her help and assistance with this and making sure they list the State Conservancies.

**Deanna Spehn** noted that on September 24 in Sacramento there will be a hearing regarding the various bond legislation that are out there. There also may be a third version coming and she is working with

Assembly Member Atkins in the Assembly's Water Bond Working Group and they are following that very closely. Every time the Assembly's Water Bond Working Group meets they are reminded the role the conservancies play in protecting habitat and state resources within their boundaries.

**Kevin McKernan** reminded the Board Members that funds which do not come directly through the conservancies by default are programmed to the Wildlife Conservation Board which is a state-wide agency with state-wide authority. Even without a direct allocation the SDRC successfully implemented \$20 million worth of projects using other funds. Once SDRC receives its own portion of bond funds we will move ahead more quickly.

**Ben Clay** asked if as a strategic policy question for this region, does SDRC do something different to go after as much money as we can on behalf of all river and streams in the county? We should probably kick some things around to see if there should be a regional strategy.

#### San Diego River Conservancy - Project Status

- Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail (Lakeside, in construction)  
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy will install a Stringer Bridge for a section of the trail and they hope to have a ribbon cutting in 2013. This is another segment of the San Diego River Trail that will be in place soon.
- Historic Flume Trail, El Monte Valley (San Diego County, in construction)  
This should be completed this year with work done by the California Conservation Corps. This was granted to San Diego County and funded by SDRC's Prop 84 funds set aside from the State Coastal Conservancy. The trail runs along the flume bench cut in El Monte Valley.
- River Gorge Trail and Trailhead- San Diego River Trail (Ramona, San Diego County)  
The US Forest Service continues to do improvements on the trail and trailhead, including habitat restoration for erosion and other damages to natural resources from the user created trails. The project should be wrapped up in 2014 and it will continue to be theirs for management into the future.
- Invasives Species Plant Control and Restoration program  
Midwest TV land is downstream from Carlton Oaks. Kevin thanked the people from Midwest TV for providing access for this project. There were a lot of encampments along that portion of the river and SDRC would like to thank the City of San Diego's Police Department for conducting sweeps of the area to make sure it was safe for SDRC, the biologist and the contractor to begin biomass removal. SDRC issued a grant to the Lakeside's River Park Conservancy to remove Arundo in the Los Coches Creek watershed which is a tributary to San Diego River funds were provided by SDRC's Proposition 84 set aside funds administered by the State Coastal Conservancy.

## 9. Next Meeting

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held Thursday, November 7th, 2014, 2:00-4:00 pm

## 10. Adjournment

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

ITEM: **5**

SUBJECT: **DEPUTY ATTORNEY'S GENERAL REPORT  
(INFORMATIONAL)**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **CITY OF SANTEE'S RIVER TRAIL/PARK – UPDATE  
(*INFORMATIONAL*)**

Santee's Community Services Department Director Bill Maertz will present the City of Santee's recent accomplishments, current plans and future goals related to the San Diego River Trail and Park through the City of Santee.

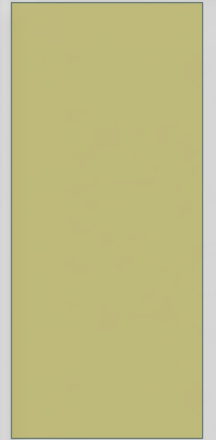
Presentation:

Bill Maertz, Director, Santee Community Services

# CITY OF SANTEE - RIVER PARK UPDATE



PROGRESS REPORT: CITY  
OF SANTEE PORTION OF  
SD RIVER TRAIL



# RIVERFORD ROAD TRAIL IN LAKESIDE



# EASTERN TERMINUS OF WALKER TRAIL AT LAKESIDE BALL FIELD COMPLEX



# DEDICATION OF THE WALKER PRESERVE- DECEMBER 2012



# EAST END OF FUTURE WALKER TRAIL





# FUTURE SITE OF WALKER PRESERVE TRAIL 1.3 MILES LONG



# WALKER PRESERVE - 107 ACRES (LOOKING EAST)



# WALKER PRESERVE RESTORATION



OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE TRAIL SEGMENT 0.2 MILE LONG  
WHEN RCP BLOCK & BRICK PLANT CLOSURES IN 2017



COUNTY PROPERTY WEST OF CHUBB LANE:  
TRAIL IMPROVEMENT (0.386 MILE LONG) TO COINCIDE WITH  
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT



# TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY PARK ON JULY 4, 2013



# LIGHTING PROJECT FOR MARINE MEMORIAL TRAIL (0.53 MILE AROUND) HAS BEEN FUNDED



“

RYAN PARCEL: FUTURE TRAIL SEGMENT (0.874 MILE LONG) ON SOUTH SIDE OF RIVER BETWEEN MAGNOLIA AVE. AND CUYAMACA ST.





FUTURE PAVED BICYCLE TRAIL (.01 MILE GAP) ON SOUTH  
SIDE OF SAN DIEGO RIVER EAST OF CUYAMACA STREET  
FUNDED BY \$281,750 SANDAG GRANT



# SANDAG TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR BICYCLE TRAILS COUNTYWIDE

## 77 Miles of New Bikeways to Include San Diego River Trail in Santee

The \$200 million project approved by SANDAG will complete major bikeways throughout San Diego County.

Posted by [Chris Jennewein](#) (Editor) , September 27, 2013 at 05:17 PM



A bicyclist on the Bayshore Bikeway. Patch photo by Khari Johnson.

[SANDAG](#) on Friday approved a \$200 million project to add 77 miles to the [bike network](#) throughout San Diego County and finish high-priority projects within a decade.

"This is the first time in the history of the San Diego region where a financial commitment of this magnitude has been made to dramatically expand bike infrastructure," said [SANDAG Chairman and Santee City Council member Jack Dale](#).

"Our goal is to create a comfortable riding environment for people of all ages and abilities so biking can become a viable form of transportation."

The plan comprises 42 projects totaling 77 miles of new bikeways that would make it much easier for people to ride their bikes to school, work and other major destinations. The plan will also complete large segments of bike corridors that have been on the drawing board for years, including:

- Coastal Rail Trail – 44 miles from Oceanside to San Diego
- Inland Rail Trail – 21 miles from Oceanside to Escondido
- Bayshore Bikeway – 24 miles around San Diego Bay
- San Diego River Trail that –19 miles from eastern Santee to Mission Valley

# FUTURE TRAIL (1.25 MILES) ALONG CARLTON OAKS GOLF COURSE



\$332,000 GRANT FROM SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY FOR  
PLANNING AND ENGINEERING OF CARLTON OAKS SEGMENT



# CARLTON OAKS TRAIL SEGMENT

Exhibit I: Project Location and Site Maps



Figure 2. Location of proposed alignment for Carlton Oaks trail segment.

# USING THE SAN DIEGO RIVER AS A FOCAL POINT FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



# HOSTING THE LAKESIDE CONSERVANCY SAN DIEGO RIVER RUN IN SPRING



# SANTREE FEST IN SPRING





# HARTFORD FINANCIAL GROUP VOLUNTEERS REMOVING NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS NOV. 2012



# KYOCERA AMERICA VOLUNTEERS INSTALL NATIVE PLANT GARDEN AT MAST PARK WEST NATURE TRAIL OCT. 2012



# SCIENCE FIELD TRIP WITH RIO SECO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS SEPT. 2012 & 2013



# SUMMER CONCERT SERIES JUNE-AUGUST



# BLUES & BBQ EVENT IN JULY



# SANTEE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL IN SEPT.



# RIVER TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



# STATE OF CALIFORNIA NATURE EDUCATION FACILITIES GRANT





# BOY SCOUT PROJECTS

Mural at Carlton Oaks Blvd. underpass



# BOY SCOUT PROJECTS

Foot bridge at Mast Park  
West Trail



San Diego River  
Trail markers



Future projects:

- Owl boxes
- Bat boxes
- Osprey nesting platform

# REMOVAL OF INVASIVE PRIMROSE BY SAN DIEGO URBAN CORPS



# VOLUNTEER "PARK WATCH" PROGRAM: A PARTNERSHIP WITH SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION



State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF GRANT AWARDS FOR  
PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION OF A SEGMENT OF  
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL THROUGH THE  
PROPOSED SAN DIEGO RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER  
AT GRANT PARK SITE (*ACTION*)

The Board will consider authorizing the Executive Officer to enter into a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy to access SDRC's Prop 84 set aside funds for the permitting and construction of a segment of San Diego River Trail through the proposed Discovery Center at Grant Park site in Mission Valley. The SDRC proposes to administer the grants funds in partnership with and through a subgrant(s) to the San Diego River Park Foundation

Presentation:

Rob Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park  
Foundation

Recommendation to approve Resolution 13-06

**Resolution No: 13-06**

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

**Approval of Use of Funds from  
The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood  
Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006  
(Proposition 84)**

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WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above to the California Coastal Conservancy for projects approved by the San Diego River Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy finds the expenditure of funds for developing the San Diego River Trail consistent with its enabling statute, which directs the Conservancy: "to provide recreation opportunities, open space, . . . and lands for educational uses within the area" ; and

WHEREAS, this project is Consistent with Program 2: Recreation & Education Program of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017), the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan, San Diego River Park Master Plan (City of San Diego), the Annual Work Plans of the Conservancy and the San Diego River Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy has reviewed the San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis and approved as capital priorities, trail segments and gaps recommended by the jurisdictions to further the completion of the San Diego River Trail; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) submitted a grant application to the San Diego River Conservancy for the permitting and construction of a segment of the San Diego River Trail near the San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board:

1. Approves the San Diego River Park Foundation grant application for permitting and construction of a segment of the San Diego River Trail through the San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park property.
2. Authorizes the Executive Officer to request from the State Coastal Conservancy's Proposition 84 set aside funds appropriated for projects approved by the San Diego River Conservancy to provide a \$525,000 grant to the San Diego River Conservancy. The grant amount of \$525,000 will include a \$500,000 subgrant(s) to the San Diego River Park Foundation for permitting and trail construction and \$25,000 to the San Diego River Conservancy for oversight and management of the grant.
3. Funds authorized are to provide for permitting, environmental review, associated studies, project administration and construction for a segment of the San Diego River Trail at the San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park.
4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned Project(s).

Approved and adopted the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 7, 2013. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 13-06 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_

Nos: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

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Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer  
San Diego River Conservancy



# GRANT APPLICATION FORM

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## PART A: SUMMARY

### APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Applicant name (organization): The San Diego River Park Foundation

Address: 4891 Pacific Highway, Suite 114, San Diego, CA 92110

Contact name: Rob Hutsel, Executive Director

Telephone: (619) 297-7380 Fax: (619) 862-2257 Email: rhutsel@sandiegoriver.org

Federal Tax ID# 01-0565671

Position(s) whose incumbents are authorized to negotiate agreements and amendments:

Executive Director

Chairman of the Board of Directors

**PROJECT INFORMATION:**

Project name (limit 75 characters): San Diego River Discovery Center and River Trail at Grant Park

Project location: City: San Diego County: San Diego  
Street: Camino del Rio N Cross street: Qualcomm Way

Proposed start date: 1/15/2014 Estimated completion: 9/15/2016

Acreage (if relevant): 17 acre site

APN's (if an acquisition): N/A

Trail length (if relevant – miles or linear feet): 0.20 miles

Stream miles (if relevant – miles or linear feet): N/A

Latitude (e.g. 38.337094): 32.772714 Longitude: (e.g. -122.589652): -117.139379

*Note: Latitude/Longitude can be determined using Google Earth, <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>, and other on-line resources*

What point is represented by the lat/longs (i.e., parking lot, center of site, etc):

Approximate location of the facility on the site.

**Elected Representatives for Project:**

Congressional District(s): [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

District number	Name
53	Susan Davis

State Senate District(s): [www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov)

District number	Name
39	Marty Block

Assembly District(s): [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)

District number	Name
79	Shirley Weber



## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The project includes

1. Obtaining required permits for the San Diego River Discovery Center including a portion of the San Diego River Trail
2. Construction of approximately 1050 linear feet of the San Diego River Trail in two segments (Which have been identified as Segment A + East Boardwalk Segment).
3. Administration of the Grant and Project

Since our founding in 2001, we have been struck by how little people know about the San Diego River, the birthplace of California. The River runs through some of the most urban communities of San Diego, offering incredible potential to provide opportunities for nature discovery, recreation, and outdoor activity for park-deficient communities. Since Mission Valley is largely a built community, there are very few opportunities for parks and nature-oriented facilities. In May 2009 a donation agreement with a longstanding San Diegan family for 17 acres of undeveloped land along the River in Mission Valley was signed. A shared vision was created with the family, the community, environmental interests, and The San Diego River Park Foundation. Finally, the River would have an address, a place where people could come experience the River, enjoy the benefits of being in nature and serve as a model of how future development in Mission Valley could be transformed to embrace the River.

The vision includes extending the San Diego River Trail, the regional river trail system, through the site and creating a river-centric park and education and community center. The property is in the heart of Mission Valley, located at the northeast corner of Qualcomm Way and Camino del Rio North, easily accessible by foot, bicycle, trolley, bus and automobile. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a vibrant and distinctive resource for the community and a signature piece of the San Diego River Park system.

This project is to construct the San Diego River Trail which is designed as part of the overall 17 acre Discovery Center at Grant Park. A donation agreement is in place for this property, which has an estimated value of \$10 million. The first element of this project is to support obtaining the necessary permits for construction. For efficiency, the entire permitting for the Discovery Center at Grant Park including the River Trail will be applied for at the same time. When the permits are received grading and other site preparation will occur. The other major component of this project is to construct the San Diego River Trail through the property. This will allow this project to move forward even if the funds for constructing the entire Discovery Center project have not been secured. This would result in the added benefit of increasing awareness of the overall project which will assist with additional fundraising that might be needed.

### NEED:

The surrounding community is well below national standards for public parks. In fact, there are no parks within walking distance of the site. According to the recent census, approximately 20,000 people live within the community of Mission Valley. However, the only dedicated active park is in the extreme western edge of the community and provides barely 1/10 of the minimum park acreage recommended by national standards for a community of this size. The project extends the vision of the regional San Diego River Trail.

Access to parks and safe outdoor spaces is a critical element to achieving high quality of life for our community, especially for children. Children need safe spaces and trails for unstructured play and nature discovery, and in today's fast-paced technological world, this need is greater than ever. Recent studies have touted the importance of involving children from an early age in nature experiences and stewardship activities. A study from Cornell University found that participation in nature before age 11 is "a particularly potent pathway toward shaping both environmental attitudes and behaviors in adulthood." The study specifically stressed the importance of "wild" nature, where children experience nature through self-guided hiking, walking, and playing in natural areas. Another study in the Journal of Leisure Sciences suggested that early nature experiences can lead a child first to feel attached to specific a place and later to generalize those feelings to the natural environment more broadly. The San Diego River Trail and adjacent natural space on the site will provide the public these opportunities.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The facility is planned with 9,000 square feet of indoor space for meetings and gatherings, two dedicated research rooms for students, a classroom, interpretive area and supporting space. The goal is to have a continuum of opportunities to encourage young people to explore education and careers in science, engineering, math and related fields while providing a unique site-based experience to learn along and in the San Diego River.

Our programs will provide focused activities for families with children in 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades, an age range that is incredibly receptive to hands-on learning. Of course, there will be programs for people of all ages. The programs will be built along three themes:

- The River as a living organism with fish, bugs and other creatures.
- The River through time -- how did the river form and what will it look like in the future?
- The River as an incredibly valuable resource which provides water to a thirsty San Diego.

### Goals:

Annually serve 5,000 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade children in our education programs  
Reach 10,000 additional visitors within two years of opening

**Onsite, the San Diego River Trail will continue east from the neighboring trail segments. The creation of this new section of the River Trail and connecting footpaths will provide unique opportunities for viewing areas, interpretive education, quiet resting areas, and recreation.**

#### SPECIFIC TASKS THAT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN

Funding is being sought to

- 1) Assist obtaining required permitting of the Discovery Center at Grant Park project. A Site Development Permit will be applied for with the City of San Diego. This task involves all aspects including required studies, resource agency permits/authorizations, and additional design work.
- 2) Construction of the San Diego River Trail through the site as a stand-alone project. Two segments have been designed consistent with the City of San Diego's River Park Master Plan. Segment A is adjacent to the River starting at Qualcomm Way and continuing east. The East Boardwalk Segment continues south along an open space area to be restored and continuing to a traffic control device at Camino del Rio N.
- 3) Project Administration

#### WORK PRODUCTS AND DELIVERABLES

Deliverables for the permitting and design phase include:

- Permits approved, Construction documents and final design completed

Deliverables for the construction phase include:

As built drawings, Photo documentation of completed project

**FUNDING REQUEST:**

Funding amount requested from Conservancy: \$500,000

Month and Year Conservancy funding needed: January 2014

**Other Funding Sources (not including in-kind services):**

Source of funds	Amount (\$)	Estimated commitment date
Donations	221,933	Committed/Received
Donations to Be Raised	126,000	07/2014

**Total Project Cost: \$847,933**

**In-kind Services**

*In-kind services or contributions include volunteer time and materials, bargain sales, and land donations. Please describe and estimate value, and differentiate between expected in-kind contributions and contributions (work or other types of contributions) already obtained/completed.*

N/A

**PROJECT GRAPHICS**  
Sent as separate attachment

## PART B: BUDGET, TIMELINE, AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

### PRELIMINARY BUDGET:

*In the budget matrix below, list the major tasks of the proposed project, the estimated cost of the task, and the funding sources (applicant, Conservancy, and other) for the task. The listed tasks should correlate with the tasks described in the Project Description and listed on the Schedule.*

<b>Task Number</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Applicant's Funding</b>	<b>San Diego River Conservancy</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
1	Permitting	181,933	100,000		<b>\$ 281,933</b>
2	Trail Construction	166,000	350,000		<b>\$ 516,000</b>
3	Administration	0	50,000	0	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
					<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 347,933</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 847,933</b>

**SCHEDULE:**

*List the project tasks and all significant project milestones related (for example, California Environmental Quality Act compliance, obtaining of permits, appraisal preparation and other land acquisition documents, commencement of construction, and project completion). For each item provide the expected completion date and any factors that could influence the timely implementation of the project.*

<b>Task or Milestone</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
Site Development Permit- Obtained – CEQA Compliance Met – this depends upon City of San Diego scheduling which applicant cannot control.	1/15/2015
Groundbreaking –This date could be impacted by permit award date. Construction most likely would need to occur outside of nesting season.	9/15/2015
Construction Completed	6/30/2016
Final Invoice and Reporting	9/15/2016

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:**

*Questions 1-7 should be answered by all applicants. For each question, limit your answer to a half page, with one concise paragraph preferred. See grant application instructions for more information.*

- 1. *Project and Applicant History:*** *Provide a history of the project, and any background information not provided in the project description. Is the project related to any previous or proposed San Diego River Conservancy projects? If so, which ones and how are they related?*

The San Diego River Park Foundation was founded in 2001 in response to California's largest sewer spill which dumped 34 million gallons of sewage into the San Diego River. In the last 12 years, The River Park Foundation has been dedicated to reconnecting the community with our region's historic waterway, spearheading conservation and stewardship projects along the 52 mile length, and creating a better future for the San Diego River.

The San Diego River Conservancy has supported the following TSDRPF programs/projects

- Acquisition of 112 acres on Eagle Peak Road
- Acquisition of 180 acres on Eagle Peak Road
- Annual River Days Sponsorship (multiple years)
- River Cleanup Program

This project has a very special history. When the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan was completed in June 2002, it envisioned a completed River Trail through Mission Valley as part of a regional River Trail system and to "provide additional opportunities for recreational areas and trails, and preserve open space for public access" (page 116 of the Conceptual Plan.) The Conceptual Plan also envisioned the River Park system as a connected and cohesive recreational system (page 68 of the Conceptual Plan.)

A few years after the Conceptual Plan was completed The San Diego River Park Foundation began to discuss with the Grant Family the future of a 17 acre property they owned in Mission Valley. The Family desired to give back to the community and to create a special place where people, especially children, could enjoy the San Diego River. They agreed to donate their property to The San Diego River Park Foundation to advance the vision of a new project which would serve the wishes of the family and the community while helping to advance the vision of the San Diego River Park system.

A committee of representatives from various organizations, the family and the community was formed to advance the vision. In addition, The San Diego River Park Foundation began holding open houses, trailside events and community meetings to solicit input on what the community wanted. Nearly \$100,000 was raised in private donations to develop a



preliminary design for the project. A core part of this effort was to advance the San Diego River Trail on the property. With a postal facility adjoining the property on its east, an adaptable design was developed which took advantage of a planned traffic signal to allow for the use of Camino del Rio No. to extend the project to the east and to go around important natural areas while at the same time allowing for a future alignment of the River Trail to the property to the east.

An additional \$440,000 in private donations has been raised to advance this project. The San Diego River Park Foundation is working to secure additional funding as needed to complete required permitting. It is anticipated that permitting will take 8 – 14 months. During this time, The San Diego River Park Foundation will continue fundraising for construction of the overall project. More than \$1 million has been raised for the project's operating fund to support maintenance of the facility after it is constructed.

- 2. **Site Description:** Describe the project site or area, including site characteristics that are tied to your project objectives (i.e.: for acquisition of habitat, describe current vegetation assemblages, condition of habitats, known wildlife migration corridors, etc.). When relevant, include ownership and management information.*

This site is currently undeveloped, located in the heart of San Diego in Mission Valley. This community is densely developed with very few acres of undeveloped land remaining. The land is currently owned by the Grant Family, but a donation agreement has been signed and the ownership and management of the site will transfer the San Diego River Park Foundation before the project is complete. The project site is 17 acres with the San Diego River running through it, presenting unmatched opportunity for creating a park, nature center, and park and trail system for the community to discover, learn, and celebrate the San Diego River. The building and parking area footprint will be limited as much as possible to the disturbed portion of the site, on the southwest area of the site. The portion of the site in the floodway, as well as much of the eastern section of the site will remain free from permanent construction to protect the habitat values. Much of the site has valuable habitat, including open water, aquatic vegetation, marsh, riparian woodland and scrub areas. Some areas are disturbed and restoration is planned to remove non-native vegetation. Mapping of biological resources **has been completed and is available.**

- 3. **Consistency with Plans:** Describe how the project is supported by, consistent with, or in conflict with any applicable local or regional plans, such as the San Diego River Park Master Plan, general plans, county or regional trail plans, specific area plans, regional conservation plans, climate action plans, the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy, Habitat Conservation Plans/Natural Community Conservation Plans, watershed management plans,*

*Integrated Regional Water Management Plans, etc. Identify the pertinent plan(s) and the date adopted by the applicable local/regional entity.*

**The Project is consistent with the**

- A. San Diego River Conservancy – Strategic Plan Update (2012- 2017) : Program 2- Emphasize Recreation and Education – Complete the River Trail.
- B. San Diego River Conservancy – San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis: Segment 16
- C. City of San Diego Adopted San Diego River Park Master Plan – Recommendation 3.1.3A- Create a continuous multi-use San Diego River Park pathway from the Pacific Ocean to the City of Santee.
- D. San Diego River Coalition 2012 Work Plan – Parks, Centers, and Other Improvements- Project #2 – Priority #1.

4. **Support:** *What public agencies, non-profit organizations, elected officials, and other entities and individuals support the project and why? Please provide support letters for your project prior to Board consideration. Consult with SDRC staff ahead of time.*

This project has broad community support. It is included on the San Diego River Coalition Work Plan, which required unanimous support from these organizations.

The San Diego River Conservancy Governing Board included the design services component of this project in their 2012 Work Plan. Letters of support are available as needed.

5. **Regional Significance:** *Describe the regional significance of the project with respect to recreation (regional trails and parks, staging areas, environmental education facilities, etc.) and natural resources (including listed species, identified high priority habitat, wildlife corridors, watersheds, and agricultural soils). Who will benefit from the project? Will it serve a greater than local need?*

The vision for the San Diego River Park is a river-long system of trails, parks, and open spaces, connected by the San Diego River. The Discovery Center will be the centerpiece of the River Park, situated in the most urban part of the watershed. It is approximately halfway between Mission Trails Regional Park and Mission Bay Park, both regional parks which include segments of the San Diego River. This will be a stepping off point to educating the community about other trails and recreational opportunities along the River. The targeted audience for the center is the people living within 15 minutes of the site. With the accessibility of this project by multiple modes of transportation, this encompasses a diverse range of communities including City Heights, Normal Heights, North Park, Hillcrest, Mission Hills, Mission Valley, Allied Gardens, College Area, Old Town, Midway Area, Ocean Beach, Clairemont, Serra Mesa, Linda Vista, and Kearney Mesa.

The primary program focus will be on 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, however, additional programs will be available for younger children. In addition, mentorship programs will be available for 9th grade and older students as well. Our goal is to offer all our regular education programs for children at no cost so that we can serve those students and their families who might not otherwise have this opportunity. As part of our business model, we also seek a broader audience for special events and other programming at the facility.

6. ***Need for Conservancy Funds:*** *What would happen to the project if no funds were available from the Conservancy? What project opportunities or benefits could be lost and why if the project is not implemented in the near future?*

If funding was not available, additional funding sources would be required. This would delay the construction of this facility until funds were secured.

7. ***Compliance with CEQA:*** *Projects funded by the San Diego River Conservancy must be reviewed subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). CEQA does not apply to projects that will not have either a direct or indirect effect on the environment. For all other projects, if the project is statutorily or categorically exempt under CEQA, no further review is necessary. If the proposed project is not exempt, it must be evaluated by a public agency that is issuing a permit, providing funding, or approving the project, to determine whether the activities may have a significant effect on the environment. The evaluation results in a “Negative Declaration,” “Mitigated Negative Declaration,” or “Environmental Impact Report.”*

*If the proposed project qualifies for a CEQA exemption, please specify which exemption and why it qualifies. If the project does not qualify for a CEQA exemption, specify who will be the “lead agency” under CEQA, the status of preparing the environmental review document, and your views as to which type of document would be required for the project. Please note that the Conservancy will need to review and approve any CEQA document. For more information on CEQA, visit: [http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\\_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html](http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html).*

Based upon our consultant analysis and preliminary discussions with the City of San Diego, it is anticipated that a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be required.

8. ***California Conservation Corps:*** *Applicants proposing construction projects are urged to consider using the California Conservation Corps. If your project involves construction, please indicate whether you have contacted the Corps regarding your project and the results of that contact.*

The Urban Corps of San Diego has been contacted regarding this project. It is anticipated that the Urban Corps of San Diego will be used as opportunities are available.

9. **Willing Seller:** *Projects that involve acquisition of property **must** involve a willing seller. If your project includes property acquisition, please describe the status and expected conclusion of landowner negotiations.*

Not applicable, this is not an acquisition project. A donation agreement is in place and the property will transfer to The San Diego River Park Foundation.

10. **Management and Monitoring:** *For projects involving restoration, construction or land acquisition, describe your management and monitoring plans? Who will be responsible for funding and implementing ongoing management and monitoring? Please describe your plans for compiling baseline data, undertaking future monitoring and implementing adaptive management strategies if necessary.*

Management and Monitoring plans will be developed as required by regulatory agencies. The San Diego River Park Foundation has extensive experience managing lands and will use staff and volunteers to monitor the health of the open space areas of the project. Space within the Discovery Center has been allocated for ongoing citizen science. This will include regular surveys of targeted species, bioassessments of the river and other management strategies that will be adapted over time. TSDRPF has an existing Technical Advisor Committee which will assist in guiding these efforts. In addition, in partnership with SDSU, a real-time water monitoring platform has already been installed adjacent to the site. This platform will be used to collect water quality monitoring data.

11. **Sea Level Rise Vulnerability:** *If the project involves a site that is close to a shoreline (i.e. potentially flooded or eroded due to climate change), please identify vulnerabilities of the site in relation to flooding, erosion, and sea level rise/storm surges for the years 2050 and 2100 (assume 16 inches and 55 inches of sea level rise respectively). For reference, see the State of California's [Sea Level Rise Task Force Interim Guidance Document](#). Describe any adaptive management approaches you have considered for addressing Sea Level Rise. What is the expected lifespan or duration of the project?*

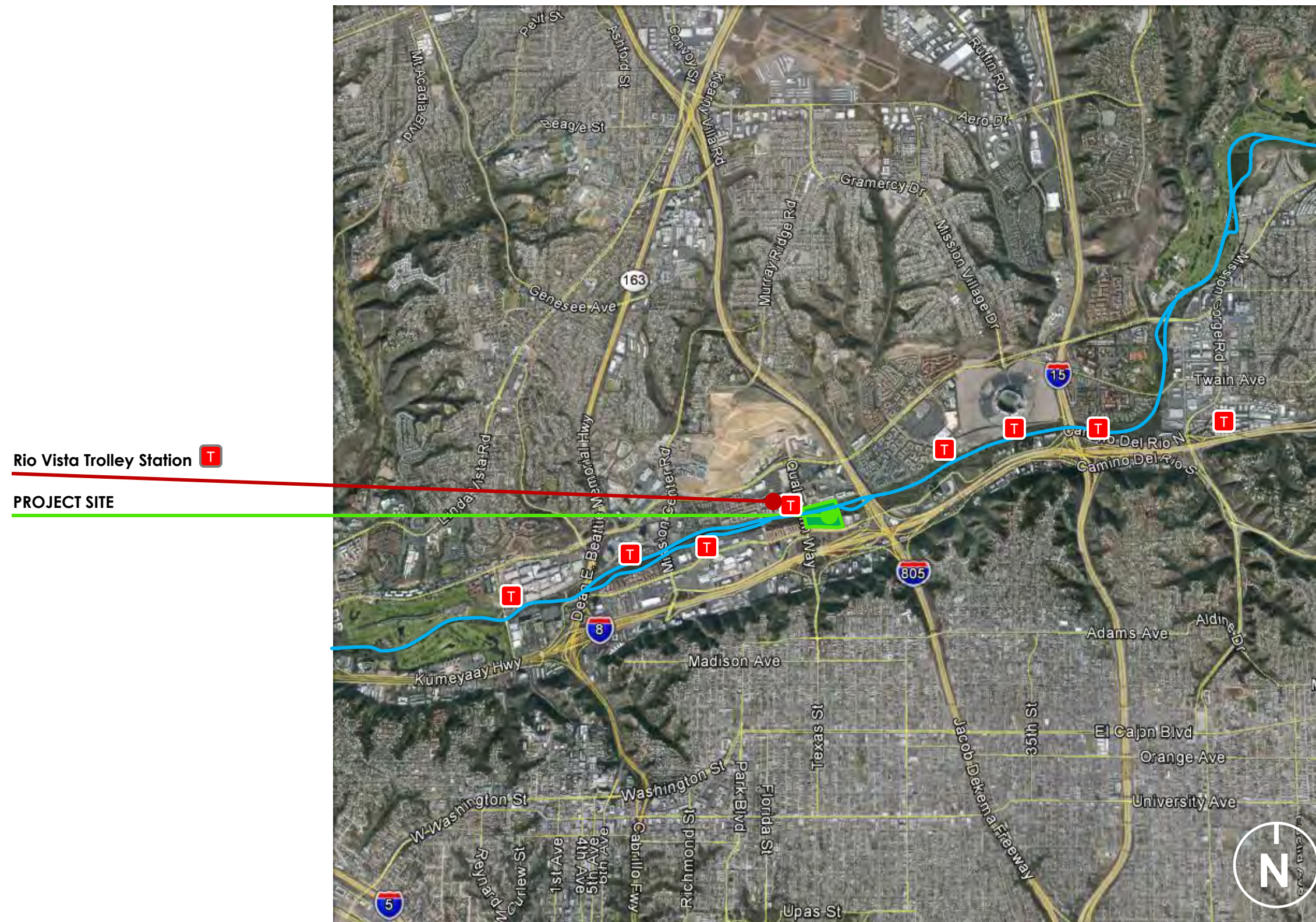
Based upon the altitude of the site it is not anticipated that it will be impacted by sea level rise. The river itself has two major reservoirs upstream which regulate flow. Therefore, flooding of the site is not anticipated.

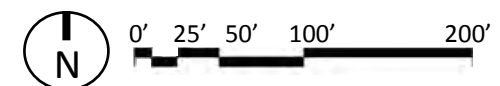
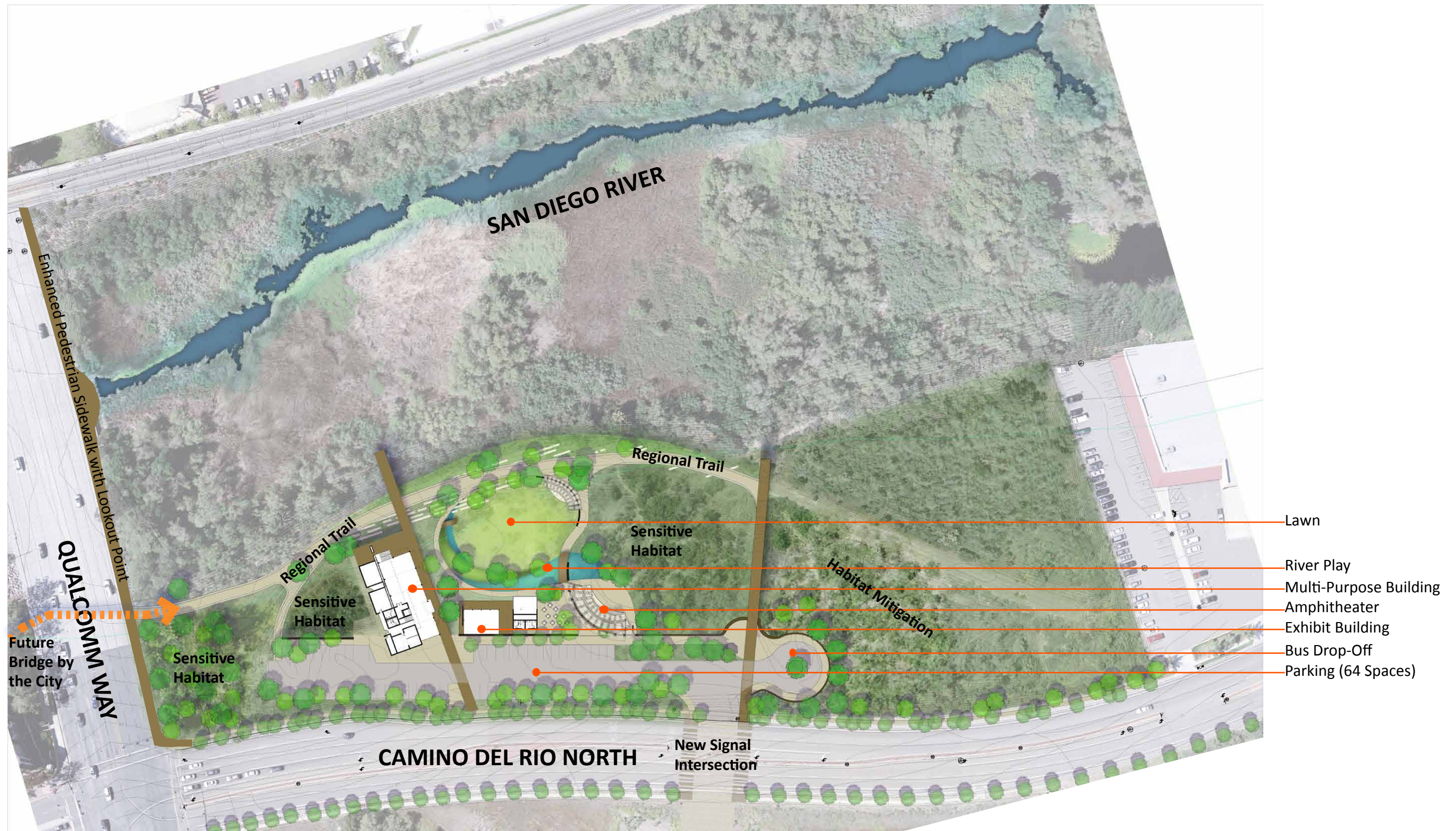
12. **Vulnerability from Climate Change Impacts Other than Sea Level Rise:** *Using [Exhibit F: Climate Change Guidance](#), and the latest regional scenarios, predictions and trends, describe how the project objectives or project may be vulnerable to impacts (fire, drought, species and habitat loss, etc.) from climate change, other than sea level rise, coastal erosion or flooding? What design, siting, or other measures are you incorporating into the project to reduce these vulnerabilities? Describe any adaptive management, project monitoring, and stewardship measures you intend to use.*

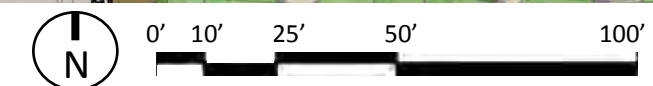
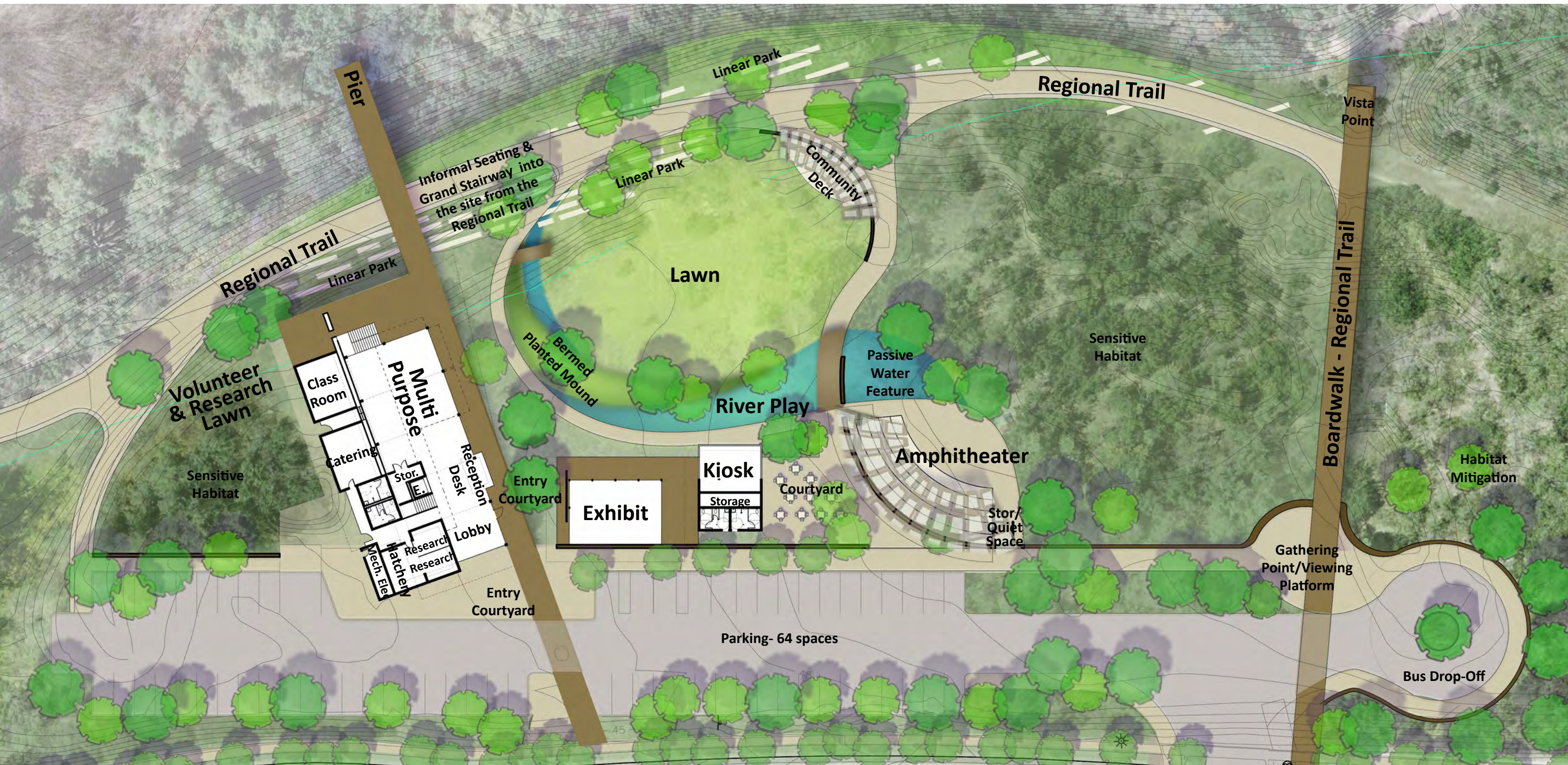
The Discovery Center includes one interpretive theme based upon how the river was formed. This also includes discussion about what will happen to the river system in the future and an action center to give visitors information as well as meaningful stewardship activities.

**13. Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change:** *If the proposed project will result in production of greenhouse gas emissions (including construction impacts and vehicle miles travelled as part of a public access component), describe the measures your project includes to reduce, minimize or avoid greenhouse gas emissions through project design, implementation construction, or maintenance (Refer to [Exhibit F: Climate Change Guidance](#) for resources on Best Management Practices and green building techniques and materials). What, if any, are the possible sources or sinks of greenhouse gases for your project, such as carbon sequestration from habitats at the site? If one of the project goals is to sequester carbon (reduce greenhouse gas concentrations), how do you intend to ensure continued long term sequestration while achieving project objectives? Do you have any plans to seek carbon credits for the carbon sequestration activities on the project site?*

**N/A**











EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

ITEM: **8**

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:

**Water Bond**

- Support letter to the Honorable Anthony Rendon, Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee from the Endangered Habitat League (August 20, 2013)
- Support letter to Senator Fran Pavley, Chair of Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee from the Endangered Habitat League (August 20, 2013)
- Support letter to the Honorable Anthony Rendon, Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee from the San Diego River Coalition (September 25, 2013)

**Project Status:**

- Invasives Control and Restoration

**News Articles**

More money for leeway by the Mission Sea, by Adam Pollack, October 16, 2013. (Examiner.com)

Field Trip Along the River, by Steven Bartholow, October 17, 2013. Santee Patch.

# ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE

DEDICATED TO ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE



August 20, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Chair  
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Water Bond**

Dear Chairperson Rendon and Committee Members:

The Endangered Habitats League (EHL) applauds your work on a water bond and appreciates the opportunity to provide input on its *watershed* component. EHL was formed in 1991 and is Southern California's only regional conservation group.

We urge a minimum of \$500 million for the watershed category and that State of California Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) and regional Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) be specifically referenced as eligible projects.

Across the state, watersheds are currently being effectively protected under NCCP/HCPs. NCCP/HCPs concentrate on rivers and streams, as these are the backbone of wildlife connectivity and ecosystem function. They also focus around existing lakes and reservoirs, protecting the surrounding watersheds from roads and development that degrade water quality. In Southern California alone, hundreds of thousands of acres are now protected, yet many reserves remain incomplete

Through NCCP/HCPs, water bond monies are leveraged in combination with local and federal contributions. And because local government land use authority is used in addition to land acquisition, NCCP/HCPs are highly *cost-effective*. Furthermore, these collaborative, multi-stakeholder efforts are seated at local governments, and enjoy unprecedented levels of support and consensus across the public and private sectors.

We urge you to take advantage of these "off the shelf" programs. The Wildlife Conservation Board and state-chartered conservancies are logical vehicles for disbursing the funds. *However, we would like to work with you further on any allocation formula.*

Thank you for your leadership on the water bond and for considering our views. Please let me know if more information would be helpful.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Silver', is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Dan Silver  
Executive Director

# ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE

DEDICATED TO ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE



August 20, 2013

Senator Fran Pavley, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
State Capitol – Room 2136  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 42 (Wolk)**

Dear Chairperson Pavley and Committee Members:

The Endangered Habitats League (EHL) applauds the introduction of this water bond and appreciates the opportunity to provide input. For your reference, EHL was formed in 1991 and is Southern California's only regional conservation group.

We support Section 79736, providing \$500 million for watershed protection outside the Delta. This should be a minimum amount, though. We also recommend that eligible projects specifically reference State of California Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) and regional Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs).

Across the state, watersheds are currently being effectively protected under NCCP/HCPs. NCCP/HCPs concentrate on rivers and streams, as these are the backbone of wildlife connectivity and ecosystem function. They also focus around existing lakes and reservoirs, protecting the surrounding watersheds from roads and development that degrade water quality. In Southern California alone, hundreds of thousands of acres are now protected, yet many reserves remain incomplete.

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Thank you for your leadership, and for considering our views. Please let me know if more information would be helpful.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Dan Silver', is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Dan Silver  
Executive Director

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# *San Diego River Coalition*

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An association of 78 member organizations with a mission to preserve and enhance the San Diego River, its watershed, and its natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

September 25, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Chair  
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Water Bond**

Dear Chairperson Rendon and Committee Members:

The San Diego River Coalition applauds your work on a water bond and appreciates the opportunity to provide input on its watershed component.

The San Diego River Coalition was formed in September of 2001 to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders within the 440 square mile San Diego River Watershed. More than 520,000 people live within our watershed, and we believe that by working together we can improve the quality of life in our region as well as preserve and enhance the natural, recreational and cultural resource associated with the San Diego River.

We strongly support the notion that a new water bond recognize the importance and value of addressing water quality and supply through a watershed protection approach. Watersheds are the natural ecological context for analysis, planning, and implementation purposes and can be appropriately tiered down to address local needs through local solutions. In the San Diego region, several existing watershed protection programs are already established. They offer an excellent framework for matching local priorities with statewide priorities regarding water policy.

Programmatically, existing state conservancies and local partners including both public agency and nonprofit organizations have the ability to make efficient investments, leverage federal, local, and private funding and coordinate community engagement. This includes our state partner, the San Diego River Conservancy.

Programs such as the state's Department of Conservation Watershed Program have the potential to be outstanding partners in this effort. We fully support sufficient funding in the Water Bond to support the Department of Conservation's Watershed Coordinator Grant program which is an effective and efficient way to harness local, community-based expertise to enhance our watersheds.

We also strongly encourage the Water Bond to include provisions which allow small and medium public agencies and nonprofit to participate. This might include targeted support through the IRWM program or a program such as the highly successful Wetlands Recovery Project which helps to provide smaller grant opportunities and an associated streamlined administrative process. We also believe the State Conservancies are an excellent vehicle for distributing state funds, especially as it relates to partnering with small and medium sized nonprofits and public agencies.

Finally, a water bond should include sufficient funding to effectively manage the grant programs. This includes sufficient funds for state grant administrators to oversee this program. One of our members experienced a Prop 50 reimbursement request which took more than 12 months to process as well as a minor amendment which took an equal amount of time. Clearly, there were not sufficient resources in place to process these matters in a timely fashion. The uncertainty and complexity of this process makes it unlikely that any of our organizations could participate in a similar grant program. A future Water Bond presents an important opportunity to address a key implementation issue often overlooked in state bond measures.

Thank you for your consideration.

We would be very happy to provide addition information or proposals on this item either directly or through the California Watershed Network. If you have any questions, please contact me at 619-297-7380.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Rob Hutsel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Hutsel  
Chair, San Diego River Coalition

# More money for leeway by the Mission sea

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City of San Diego



Adam Pollack | [San Diego Public Policy Examiner](#)

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October 16, 2013

Another federal grant the city asked for to pay for engineering work on the Mission Bay [bridge](#) widening project can prove timely. The project funded in 2000 will move straight forward.

A long way into the engineering design work, the city council decided this week to ask Caltrans for the 137, 295 dollar federal grant. The engineering consultant's guarantee on the 6 lane bridge design is needed before work on the project can be finished.

Two parallel structures with 3 lanes once fully designed and built will give drivers, bicyclists, and walkers a way over the San Diego River on West Mission Bay Drive with more leeway. On the bridge, beach community drivers come in

close distances with locals and bicyclists traveling through the road that has narrow shoulders. Narrow sidewalk crossings force the walkers and bicyclists on the sidewalk to fall in lines not open enough for people to make a move and change course.

The unfinished widening project has been on hand for over a decade. Councilman Kevin Faulconer's promise to make travel by the sea easier was not, during the recession years, put out to bid to the contractors lined up to do work. The council did not have enough money to pay.

Widening the four lane crossing built over the rock shores on the river's banks takes contributions from a full set of carefully selected contractors. The last addition to contractor funding was last year. No funding increases had been made since before the recession.

This latest contract addition counts as one more positive step for the locals who travel between Mission Beach and Pacific Beach and the Loma Portal and Point Loma area.

*This is the latest developing news article for [Open Commitments](#) on every second Wednesday. On the other Wednesdays, the articles are telling commentaries for Post Edition.*

## Field Trip Along the River

The City blog documents the educational trip with the San Diego River Park Foundation where kids learned about the river's wildlife, water quality and ecology.

Posted by [Steven Bartholow](#) (Editor) , October 17, 2013 at 10:43 AM

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A class of Santee fourth graders recently took a [field trip to the San Diego River](#) at Mast Park to learn lessons about the wildlife, water quality and ecology of the river.

Teacher Heather Glanz's led her science class on the educational excursion with the San Diego River Foundation and city staff. Students will take photos and notes back to the classroom for further study on the eye-opening bit of nature that runs through the heart of Santee.

The [Santee Review city blog](#) went along to document the trip, which included lessons on how storm drains bring water and any pollutants in the water to the river, native plant explorations, water quality tests and more.

**[Read more about the excursion and see photos at the City of Santee blog](#)**

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State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

ITEM: **9**

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2014, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of November 7, 2013**

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: **ADJOURNMENT**