

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 7, 2010
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Meeting Location

San Diego City Hall 202 "C" Street
Closed Session Committee Room, 12th Floor
San Diego, California 92101

Tele-Conference Location: 1416 Ninth Street
Resources Agency Conference Room 1305 Sacramento, CA 95814
(877) 287-0283 / Pass code 606349

Contact: Michael Nelson
(619) 645-3183

Meeting Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes
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.
4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report
5. Deputy Attorney General Report

6. Executive Officer's Report

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

- Proposition 40 Project Status
 - Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail
 - River Gorge Trail and Trailhead- San Diego River Trail
 - Invasives Control and Restoration
(Supplemental Environmental Project – San Diego County Water Authority)
- Walker Acquisition (Santee)
- SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program
 - Land Management Grant Application
- 2010 Work Plan

7. Intergovernmental Working Group: San Diego River Trail

- Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

8. Strategic Plan Addendum – Current Conditions Review

- Trust for Public Land
Kelley Hart
Amy Condon

9. Tributary Canyons – Feasibility Study – Preliminary Planning

- Jim King, SCC &SDRC Consultant
- Dick Rol, Foothill Associates

10. Adjournment

Accessibility

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Michael Nelson at 619-645-3183

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
The Board will consider adoption of the **November 5, 2009** public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **November 5, 2009** Board Meeting are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of November 5, 2009 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on January 7, 2010)

Acting Chairperson Ben Clay called the November 5, 2009 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 1:33 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present

Jerry Sanders	Mayor, City of San Diego
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, Second District
David King	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Miriam Ingenito	Alternate, Department of Finance (via phone)
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Toni Atkins	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
Anne Miller Haddad	Public at Large
Ben Clay	Public at Large

Absent

Donna Frye, Chair	Council Member, City of San Diego
Karen Scarborough	Natural Resources Agency
Ronie Clark	Alternate, Department of Parks and Recreation,
Andrew Poat	Public at Large

Staff Members Present

Michael Nelson,	Executive Officer
Deborah Fletcher,	Deputy Attorney General
Julia Richards,	Administrative Services Manager
Ann Van Leer,	Consultant, San Diego River Conservancy
Jason Giessow	Consultant, State Coastal Conservancy
Jim King	Consultant, State Coastal Conservancy

Mike Nelson welcomed everyone to the Carlton Oaks Golf Course and the site of one of the SDRC's largest Invasives Control and Restoration projects. He announced that the Chair was sick and the Vice Chair was out of town. He further stated that he had consulted with Deputy Attorney General Deborah Fletcher, who advised that one of the Board Members could serve as Chair for the meeting, if there was agreement among the other members in attendance

Diane Jacob made a motion to select **Ben Clay**, as chair for the meeting, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

Mike Nelson introduced **Ben Clay** to the audience and made a statement that the Water Bond enacted in Sacramento included a \$20 million allocation for the San Diego River Conservancy, the largest allocation SDRC has ever received. Though the Water Bond would require approval by the voters in November, it represented a significant accomplishment for the Region's legislative delegation and the work of Senator Kehoe and Mayor Sanders.

Ben Clay also thanked the Mayor Sanders and his team for their leadership on the legislation, and then acknowledged the hard work of Senator Christine Kehoe and the San Diego delegation.

1. Roll Call

Mike Nelson following the roll call said that eight members of the Board were present and that six were voting members, so a quorum existed.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ruth Hayward moved the approval of the minutes, which was seconded by **Ann Miller Haddad**; the motion was approved unanimously.

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.

Rob Hutsel brought three items to the Board's attention: The foundation had closed on a 40 acre acquisition on north side of El Capitan Reservoir; a little celebration would be held that evening at the San Diego Brewing Company; and, an invitation was extended to a fundraiser for the Discovery Center at Grant Park in Mission Valley on November 18th.

Chris Pearson of City Council Member Marty Emerald's staff advised that Arundo removal was not just an environmental issue, but also a crime prevention and public safety issue. He stated that he and Chet Barfield a couple of weeks ago visited the riverbed with representatives of the City of San Diego's Police Department and was astounded by the evidence of criminal activity he observed.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

No Report.

John Donnelly provided a quick update on the Wildlife Conservation Board's ability to pay bills and do new projects. He reported that there had been two significant bond sales which helped advance some projects that had already been approved. Though there was optimism that an

October bond sale would not only provide funding to pay existing bills, but also provide some funding for new projects; unfortunately, that bond sale was not as large as hoped and there was no money for new projects. He stated that he remained hopeful that there will be another bond sale after the first of the year.

5. Deputy Attorney General's Report

No Report

6. Executive Officer's Report

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

- 2010 SDRC Meeting Schedule
- San Diego Natural History Museum - Habitat Journey Exhibit
- Proposition 40 Project Status
 - Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail
 - River Gorge Trail and Trailhead- San Diego River Trail
 - Invasives Control and Restoration
(Supplemental Environmental Project – San Diego County Water Authority)

Mike Nelson stated that one of the more important items in his my report was consideration of SDRC's 2010 meeting schedule; he said that he had sent out a poll to members of the Board and it seemed from the responses that the afternoon dates and schedule polled the strongest.

Anne Miller Hadaad made a motion to approve the afternoon dates.

Diane Jacob seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mike Nelson stated that his next item was the San Diego Natural History Museum "Habitat Journey Exhibit". He recalled the Board's approval of a sponsorship for the H2O exhibit and reported that he had been informed that the museum's strategic plan included a permanent exhibit that would allow visitors to take a habitat journey through the County of San Diego. They concluded that the Habitat Journey could follow the San Diego River. The Museum was attempting to obtain a grant from the National Science Foundation and would soon submit an application. He said that it was his intention to execute a strong letter endorsing the application unless the Board had concerns.

Ben Clay asked the Board if there were any concerns and disclosed that he was a member of the Natural History Museum Board of Trustees and if funding was involved he would not vote.

Mike Nelson testified that SDRC had originally received a \$10 million set aside of Proposition 40 funds within the budget of the Natural Resources Agency and that the San Diego River Conservancy and this Board has agreed to assume lead responsibility for three of those grants: Riverford Road Trail in Lakeside, River Gorge Trail in Cleveland National Forest and Invasives Removal and Restoration at Carlton Oaks. He reiterated that that Prop. 40 is a

reimbursable program, so it was difficult for a small agency like SDRC with a \$300,000 operating budget to upfront the cost for approximately \$2.5 million of projects. He gave the status for the three projects: 1) Riverford Road - The County of San Diego and its Redevelopment Agency (USDRIIP) had executed a financing agreement with SDRC to provide the advance funds necessary to execute a contract with Robin Reirdan of the Lakeside River Park Conservancy to build the project. 2) River Gorge Trail - The Forest Service is considering accepting a contract for approximately \$1 million for which disbursements will occur in \$75,000 increments. 3) Invasives Control and Restoration, San Diego State University Research Foundation, Carlton Oaks Golf Course. SDSURF have executed a grant agreement with SDRC to manage the project. He noted that SDRC had received a Supplemental Environmental Project(SEP) for approximately \$300,000 from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and the San Diego County Water Authority to provide funding for additional invasives control on private property at Carlton Oaks.

7. City of San Diego - San Diego State University Qualcomm Redevelopment Discussions

Mike Nelson introduced Phil Rath, the Mayor's Deputy Director of Policy and explained that there was a recent article which referenced discussions between the City of San Diego and San Diego State University regarding the future use of the Qualcomm site, and opportunities that its redevelopment could have for both parties. He indicated that Phil Rath of the Mayor's office and he had spoken and both agreed that the Conservancy's governing board should be briefed on the nature of these conversations.

Phil Rath stated that several months ago the City was approached by the Chancellor of the California State University System. The genesis of the System's interest was SDSU's continued growth; they were becoming landlocked; and, were experiencing significant friction with neighboring communities as they expanded. Consequently, a discussion ensued between the Mayor, Chancellor, and President of SDSU. The University expressed its desire to explore the property's potential because it would allow the University to grow and utilize its educational possibilities, while enhancing the San Diego River. He characterized their discussions and inspections as a pre-due diligence phase, where information is exchanged; the parties become acquainted with each other and better understand each other's processes as public agencies, while exploring the site's redevelopment opportunities. He stated that the University has stated an interest in an array of redevelopment opportunities that included athletic facilities, faculty housing, classrooms, a biotechnology research campus and an integrated park and open space design that would enhance and restore the river. He concluded by saying that the University would engage a group to examine how a phased expansion might occur and that the San Diego River Conservancy would be a major stakeholder as the process unfolded.

Ruth Hayward asked whether the talks involved the entire site.

Phil Rath responded that presently the talks did include the entire 160 acre site, but at this point the optimal acreage was unknown.

Diane Jacob asked if the property was in a redevelopment area.

Phil Rath said that it was not.

Diane Jacob applauded the Mayor for entering into these discussions, stating that it had been a long time coming.

David King asked whether Kinder Morgan's clean up timetable was in the mix, since their plan would not remediate the underground plume until 2013.

Phil Rath suggested that it was in the mix, but it was difficult to access the risk associated with the plume for both parties at this stage. He said that the City has examined their legal position and believe that proceeding with the redevelopment of the property would only speed up the improvement of the toxic site, not slow it down.

Mayor Sanders said that 2013 may seem like a long time, but it is really not. He said the City was excited because it represented a much better use of the property. He continued by pointing out that the trolley would soon connect to UCSD which would link the three universities. UCSD, USD and SDSU would be located on the trolley system, so there could be shared housing opportunities for the student bodies and faculties. He agreed with Phil Rath's comment that this proposal would expedite the Kinder/Morgan issue, and said that to date they have been very slow to respond. He emphasized that his conversations with the Chancellor and President Weber had been excellent and that all parties were excited about exploring it conceptually. He emphasized that the City was trying to put all the pieces on the table. He advised that even though the site may appear to be a big parking lot, it is very complicated property, when you consider issues such as the plume and the San Diego River. He also stated that the City was trying to determine the property's value. He remarked that he felt everyone in San Diego thinks it is worth hundreds of millions of dollars, but doubted that it could withstand the density you might normally consider because of the contamination.

Kathy Keehan executive director of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition and San Diego River Coalition stated that the property may not be worth hundred or millions, but the property had great value to the ecology, hydrology and recreation potential of the San Diego River. She said she hoped at a subsequent meeting that the Conservancy would make certain that the development of the river park through the parcel is folded into the mix.

Mike Nelson reminded the Board that they had executed a cooperative agreement with San Diego State University and the Park Foundation which would give the Coalition an opportunity to advocate the position Kathy just articulated.

Rob Hutsel, chairman of the San Diego River Coalition emphasized that the redevelopment of the property had long been a top priority for the Coalition, which comprises 76 organizations. He added that site planning is something it has worked on for years and hoped that everybody works together on this and the Coalition is included.

Diane Jacob asked whether a plan had been adopted that made recommendations regarding the River Park through this site.

Mike Nelson stated that a San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan had been completed and that it was embedded in the Conservancy's enabling statute. Moreover, the City of San Diego's Draft Master Plan for San Diego River Park is consistent with this Conceptual Plan.

Diane Jacob questioned whether the Conservancy should do more than the Conceptual Plan and take it to the next level and put a more precise plan together; or is it too soon?

Ben Clay asked Phil Rath about the process that was underway and how he envisioned it unfolding.

Phil Rath said that it was his understanding that there were multiple plans overlaying this site that need to be dealt with in the City's discussions with SDSU; however one of the most important is the Community Plan for Mission Valley, which is very old and is currently being updated and will address traffic, air quality and additional land use issues. Recognizing that the City's San Diego River draft master plan is presently being worked on, it will address how the multiple plans that overlay the site are integrated. Are they too specific or not specific enough? Since at this point, we don't know the answers, I would not suggest going for more specificity until it is necessary.

8. Intergovernmental Working Group: San Diego River Trail

Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

Mike Nelson recalled the formation of the Intergovernmental Working Group, which brings together local governments and agencies along the river to develop a broad framework and capital strategy for the San Diego River Trail. He further stated that the Coastal Conservancy and the River Conservancy had begun a gap analysis for the Trail and had selected KTU+A to prepare it. A gap analysis would identify what is built and what is proposed. He said the contract was suspended, but fortunately restarted. The Working Group had scheduled and held its first meeting; at that meeting it was decided to first assemble trail development plans and proposals that existed along the river. He introduced Mark Carpenter from KTU+A. to brief the governing board.

Mark Carpenter presented and described a set of maps that represented the existing conditions for some of the planned sections along the Trail. He said he is now attempting to validate these plans with jurisdictions and agencies along the river and better understand what exists on the ground today; what are the planned or programmed projects versus those that are more conceptual; where are the true gaps where no one has actually put much thought into how the trail might actually make its way through and connect in a particular area. He explained that the Working Group had adopted a phased approach that would first focus on the Trail from the El Capitan Reservoir to the Pacific Ocean. A second priority would be to examine a connection from the Reservoir to the River Gorge Trail in Cleveland National Forest, and finally, an alignment and linkage that heads toward Santa Ysabel Open Space and the Pacific Crest Trail that and potentially connect to yet another large regional trail system ,the Trans County Trail.

He testified that he is presently meeting with key staff with agencies along the river to ground truth the status of projects. He described his meetings with the City of San Diego, the City of

Santee and the Forest Service and was still working to coordinate with Trail planners and MSCP staff with the County. He stressed the importance of understanding the dynamic between land acquisitions for preservation, versus land acquisition for recreation.

He reviewed three large maps and approximately 50 +/- miles of the river corridor and demonstrated the differing types of existing facilities; indicating where there were multiuse paths or unpaved sections. He said that there were currently about 51 miles of trail, which is inclusive of 12 miles of shared roads. He said the goal for was to produce a first draft of a strategic action plan by February.

Mike Nelson emphasized that this draft would be presented first to the Board. He reminded the Board that they would serve as the Policy Group and receive recommendations from the Intergovernmental Working Group.

Mark Carpenter said that he was optimistic that by the Conservancy's January meeting, he will have concluded his interviews and provide a more detailed status of existing conditions and plans for the San Diego River Trail.

9. San Diego River Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Riparian Restoration Program (Carlton Oaks Project)

City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department

Niki McGinnis

Jeff Pasek

San Diego River Conservancy, Consultants

Ann Van Leer

Jason Giessow

U.S Geological Survey

Barbara Kus

San Diego State University Research Foundation

Tom Zink

John Crockett

Mike Nelson reminded that Board that it had approved establishment of a San Diego River Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Habitat Restoration Program, a program that had been established on a watershed basis, for which a Mitigated Negative Declaration had been filed and permits received. He added that the Board would receive presentations from some of its partners for the Carlton Oaks Project. He introduced Niki McGinnis and Jeff Pasek from the City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department.

Jeff Pasek and Niki McGinnis produced a map that delineated the City's property and the project boundary. He showed that the Public Utilities Department owned property at the golf course, but that some of the land was privately held. He stated that the City has owned this land from last century and suspected the ownership related to an old plan for construction of a dam at Mission Gorge which would have created a reservoir. The golf course has had a 50-year lease that came to an end in December of last year. The golf course continues to operate under conditions of that lease and the Public Utilities Department are engaged in discussions regarding what the property's best and future use should be. He remarked that the City values

this land principally as open space along the San Diego River and natural habitat which protects water quality along the San Diego River. The City's focus would not necessarily be the ground water at the site but the ground water downstream at Mission Gorge and Mission Valley. He mentioned that flood control was also important, since this is one of the few places in Lakeside/Santee where there is a large area of open space that can act to mitigate flooding; additionally, he referenced the Public Utilities Department support for the goals of the City's MSCP and the objectives of the City's Draft San Diego River Park Master Plan.

Ben Clay stated that as he looked at the site, he recalled that the Helix Water District has a ground water re-charge program in the area, and wondered whether there was a ground water basin at Carlton Oaks that could be used.

Jeff Pasek answered that was not the case because there is a very shallow hard rock-bedrock seal just downstream of the location, so the ground water leaves this space as a surface flow and underground flow down into the Mission Gorge and Mission Valley.

Mike Nelson then introduced Barbara Kus from the USGS and stated that one of the principal benefits of the project was its habitat restoration component that is critical to the survival of the Least Bell's Vireo and other species. He said that Barbara was one of the region's foremost experts and agreed to conduct a survey for the SDRC.

Barbara Kus stated that she was a research ecologist with US Geological Survey and would provide an update the USGS/SDRC research. She said in 2008 USGS began a project on the San Diego River with 3 objectives: 1) Document the status of distribution of LBV's on the river and look at nesting success. 2) Document the response to habitat restoration which is taking the form of exotic vegetation removal; and, 3) Assess the need for an option for controlling cowbird parasitism, one of the factors thought to be responsible for the decline of Bell's Vireos range in the first place. We have been conducting surveys for Vireos from El Capitan to the ocean, annually. In 2008, we documented 63 Vireo territories. In 2009, we documented 82 which represent a 32% increase. Though this increase was not unique to the San Diego River, it was good evidence of the habitat capacity found on the river today, which is sufficient to support a larger Vireo population. Her prediction was that restoration will begin to convert unsuitable habitat to suitable habitat and populations will continue to increase.

She concluded by saying that the ultimate goal is to identify a strategy tailored towards this river that will be cost effective and biologically effective.

Ben Clay asked what was done with the cowbirds.

Barbara Kus answered that they were removed from the nesting habitat.

Ben Clay wondered if that was one reason for the direct increase in the numbers of LBV.

Barbara Kus said the answer was, yes, that USGS ran a controlled experiment where we had cowbird trapping conducted in one part of the study plots, yet not in another. She said this experiment allowed a direct comparison on the same river in the same year. The results were that the number of young produced in the managed plot was twice as high.

Ruth Hayward asked whether there was an increase in problems associated with ravens and crows.

Barbara Kus responded that they are predators, but there was no evidence of an increase in the riparian habitat and are more prevalent in urban areas.

Mike Nelson introduced presenters from the San Diego State University Research Foundation.

John Crockett stated that SDSURF and SDRC are about to embark on a substantial restoration effort on the river. He added that SDSU had a long tradition of both research and service to the community and said that he felt that history had encouraged this partnership which will manage this important restoration project. He added that he and many colleagues have become increasingly interested in looking at rivers like the San Diego River, urban rivers that are significantly impacted, but for which there is a vision of returning it to a more natural state and function.

Mike Nelson introduced the Conservancy's consultants, Ann Van Leer and Jason Giessow, as the final presenters. He stated that their presentation would conclude with the site visit and demonstration. He also stated that Ann and Jason were the architects of the Conservancy's Invasives Control and Restoration Program.

Ann Van Leer and Jason Giessow presented and discussed detailed project maps for the Carlton Oaks project. They testified that the project exemplifies what the San Diego River Conservancy can do and something that the individual agencies would have a hard time doing, particularly pulling together multiple property owners and multiple funding agencies. Jason stated that the board would visit a demonstration site and observe Arundo biomass reduction in action, specifically, a big rubber tired tractor with a fixed tooth mower.

Robin Reirdan asked whether the Arundo had been sprayed.

Jason Giessow said, no and explained what was going to happen. He said there first would be a biomass reduction. It would re-sprout in spring which is when the initial treatments will occur with EPA approved glycosate formulations that don't harm fish or other organisms. He said that there would also be multiple treatments. He added that the roots were underground, so it would keep re-sprouting so multiple treatments would be necessary to control it; then in about a year, re-vegetation could be initiated.

Ben Clay asked a procedural question whether to adjourn the meeting and walk down to the project site.

Mike Nelson recommended that the Board should consider adjournment.

Ben Clay made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by David King and approved unanimously.

10. Carlton Oaks Golf Course Site Visit and Demonstration

(The activities associated with this item will be located and conducted outside on the golf course and will include a demonstration of invasive removal techniques at the project site.)

Jason Giessow, SDRC Consultant
Greg Amori, Agri Chemical and Supply, Inc.

Following the formal adjournment members of the Board visited the project site at the golf course and witnessed a demonstration of invasive removal techniques.

11. Adjournment at 2:44 p.m.

Accessibility

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State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: **3**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PURPOSE: Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority which is not on the agenda. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Presentation times may be reduced depending on the number of speakers.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S AND GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

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 January 7, 2010

ITEM: **5**

SUBJECT: **DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

This item is for Board discussion only and the Board will take no formal action. *(Hayley Peterson)*

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

- Proposition 40 Project Status
 - Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail
 - River Gorge Trail and Trailhead- San Diego River Trail
 - Invasives Control and Restoration
(Supplemental Environmental Project – San Diego County Water Authority)
- Walker Acquisition (Santee)
- SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program
 - Land Management Grant Application
- 2010 Work Plan

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: **7**

SUBJECT: **INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP: SAN
DIEGO RIVER TRAIL**

- Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

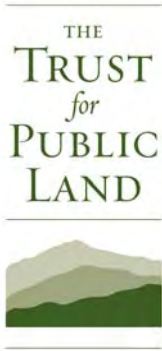
State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **STRATEGIC PLAN ADDENDUM – CURRENT
CONDITIONS REVIEW**

- Trust for Public Land
Kelley Hart
Amy Condon



San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint Memorandum of Opportunities

**Document Review and Analysis
January 7, 2010**

INTRODUCTION

Through the heart of California's San Diego County winds the 52-mile river that shares the same name. Its headwaters sit northwest of the town of Julian in the Cuyamaca Mountains and flows southwesterly to the El Capital Reservoir and Dam. From here, the San Diego River makes its way through Lakeside and Santee, until it reaches the City of San Diego and its destination at the estuary of Mission Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Several tributaries flow into the main stem of the river, and form seven river reaches that distinguish the corridor's geography and development: Headwaters, Reservoir to 67 Freeway, Lakeside, Santee, Mission Trails, Mission Valley, and Estuary. The Mission Trails Reach is home to Mission Trails Regional Park, which, at 5,800 acres, is one of the largest urban parks in the country.¹

San Diego County covers more than 4.3 square miles in the southernmost portion of the state. Of its 3.17 million residents, more than 40 percent live within the City of San Diego. According to U.S. Census data, the population of the city is expected to grow another 42 percent by 2030.²

Natural and man-made events have altered the course of the river over time and affected the water quality. Because of the river's importance to the health of the San Diego Region's drinking water, wildlife, and tourist economy, the State of California established the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC). The SDRC serves as a non-regulatory agency responsible for acquiring, managing, and conserving lands within a ½-mile border on either side of the river's main stem to provide recreational and educational

¹ San Diego River, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Diego_River. According to TPL's Center for City Park Excellence, Mission Trails Regional Park is the 16th largest urban park in the nation and the largest in San Diego, <http://www.tpl.org/cityparkfacts>.

² "Fast Facts: San Diego Region," SANDAG, San Diego's Regional Planning Agency, <http://www.sandag.org>.

opportunities, preserve wildlife habitat, protect water quality, manage the impacts of floods, and preserve historical/cultural sites. One of the key projects of the SDRC is to work with stakeholders and partners to develop a river-long park of hiking/biking trails, nature preserves, active parks, and water recharge areas.

In 2006, the SDRC released a *Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan* (Five Year Plan) that outlined its four program areas:

- Land Conservation
- Recreation and Education
- Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration
- Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance

Within these four program areas, the Five Year Plan outlines an ambitious set of goals and objectives to achieve the overall mission of the SDRC, and projects a funding need of \$41.5 million annually for five years to implement these strategies.³

With state and municipal budgets being what they are, however, it is necessary to prioritize among these strategies to most effectively direct human and financial resources within the next five years. This memorandum seeks to help outline opportunities to prioritize the SDRC's activities and offers an amendment to its current Five Year Plan that establishes these priorities and next steps.

The methodology for determining these priorities involves:

- 1) Creating a comprehensive baseline map, showing the following features to visually illustrate opportunity areas across the landscape: (See *San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint Map*, separate handout.)
 - a. San Diego River Watershed Boundaries
 - b. Jurisdictions
 - i. County
 - ii. Municipalities
 - iii. Tribal Lands
 - c. San Diego River Conservancy Boundaries
 - i. Defined River Reaches
 - d. Public Lands
 - i. Local, State, Water District, and Federal Parks and Preserves
 - e. Major Water Bodies
 - i. Lakes, Reservoirs, Tributaries
 - ii. Location of the El Capitan Dam
 - f. Existing and Planned Trails (to be added after gap analysis is completed)
 - g. Major Roads
- 2) Reviewing nine relevant plans and documents⁴ to identify cross-organizational synergies and overlapping priorities. The document review was organized

³ "Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan: 2006-2011," San Diego River Conservancy, adopted March 24, 2006.

⁴ The plans and documents reviewed include San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan, San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan, San Diego River Coalition 2009 Work Plan, San Diego River Conservancy Five Year

according to the SDRC's program areas and within the reaches of the river to focus opportunities within the SDRC's legislative mandate as well as to prioritize specific geographies.

The findings from these two tasks will provide the basis for a recommended addendum to the Five Year Plan for consideration by the SDRC's Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled January 7, 2010 meeting.

FINDINGS

Shared Goals

The overarching theme among the majority of the plans reviewed was that the San Diego River is a key community asset, both physically and emotionally. All of the plans reviewed evolved from, referenced, or complemented the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan⁵ and its broad goals:

- Celebrating Historic and Natural Resources
- Supporting Natural Stream Functions
- Preserving and Restoring Riparian Habitats
- Providing Recreational Access

While the Conceptual Plan lays out the vision of a seamless river-long system of parks, open spaces, trails, and wilderness areas, the San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan focuses on the City of San Diego's portion of fulfilling that dream. The Draft Master Plan identifies specific projects within the Estuary, Mission Valley, and Mission Trail reaches within the river corridor, such as wetland creation, trail development, and regional park expansion. The San Diego River Coalition's Annual Work Plans⁶ prioritize feasibility studies and construction projects that further the development of the River Park.

The cities of Santee and Lakeside have developed plans for riverfront parks that provide community connectivity to the waterfront for recreation, habitat restoration, and improved hydrologic function.

The county's Trails Master Plan and Multiple Species Conservation Program Sub-area plans do not specifically point to the preservation of the San Diego River or the creation of the River Park. However, the Sub-area plans do target conservation sites along the river because of their importance to habitat protection, and the Trails Plan does include links to the San Diego River.

Strategic and Infrastructure Plan, the City of Santee General Plan, Conceptual Plan for Lakeside's River Park, County of San Diego Trails Master Plan, and the County of San Diego Resource Management Sub-area Plans. The agencies and organizations responsible for the plans' developments are listed in *Appendix C. Partial List of Agencies and Organizations*.

⁵ The San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan was developed for the San Diego River Park Foundation.

⁶ The San Diego River Coalition represents the non-governmental groups with a shared interest in the San Diego River, and serves as the Citizens Advisory Committee for River Park planning efforts.

The SDRC's Five Year Plan acts as an implementation plan, to some extent, for the documents reviewed. The plans' priorities converge on the development of a river-long system of trails, parks, and natural areas. This system will provide connectivity from where people live to the river shoreline while also creating wildlife habitat corridors, expressing unique community identities, and restoring natural functions of the river to minimize flooding and to improve water quality.

Through its program areas, the SDRC shares with the Conceptual Plan the broad concepts of natural resources preservation and restoration, and recreation and education. However, the Conceptual Plan focuses much more heavily on historic and cultural resources preservation than the SDRC's Five Year Plan. *Appendix A. Summary of Plans Reviewed* and *Appendix B. Intersecting Regional Plan Goals and Objectives* provide more details.

Landscapes of Opportunity

TPL's overall recommendation is that the SDRC focus on acquiring land. Without assembling the land through acquisition, rights-of-way dedications, and developer agreements, the vision of a River Park will remain just that – a vision. TPL suggests that the SDRC concentrate in areas where there are already nodes of activity and where the public sector can help with funding acquisitions, as well as where the public sector has capacity to maintain the amenities and to program the space once it becomes part of the park system. These same areas most often are under the most residential and commercial development threat.

With a half-mile area jurisdiction on both sides of the 52-mile long river as its focus in its four programmatic areas, the SDRC would prove most effective by prioritizing its immediate work on land conservation in those reaches that offer partnerships for connectivity, funding, acquisition, facility development, and long-term land management. This strategy will also provide context to the recently formed San Diego River Trail Intergovernmental Working Group, which creates collaborative energy at the staff level among governmental agencies and organizations at work within the river corridor.

The success of the San Diego River Park depends upon cooperation between both the public and private sectors. A fragmented trail and park system that bypasses or disconnects from nodes of activity can become a security and maintenance hazard – not the longed-for amenity that improves quality of life and beautifies a city.

Success invites success. Riverfront landowners will be looking to the public sector to provide funding for acquisition or meaningful incentives to develop walks, outdoor bistros, and other features that connect into and complement the overall River Park system. By creating an active and appreciated river park in the areas of highest population concentrations, momentum toward the full system can be achieved and will encourage private investment.

The following discussion organizes priorities into three tiers; however, these recommended priorities do not suggest that the SDRC should ignore opportunities that arise among willing landowners and funding availability in recommended second- and third-tier priority areas or according to its other legislative mandates. To meet its goal of natural resources restoration, for example, the SDRC has identified key areas within the watershed to eradicate invasive exotic and pest plants, and this work should continue as funding is made available to accomplish this task.

Recommended Tier I Priority Focus – Lakeside Reach to Estuary

The cities of San Diego, Santee, and Lakeside have developed master plans for river parks and trails, and San Diego County's Community Trails Plan incorporates existing and planned linkages from its communities to the river. The cities completed their plans between 2004 and 2005, and they are in various stages of approval and implementation. It is not clear to what extent the cities have been successful in acquiring lands and developing facilities to support the River Park.

The City of San Diego identifies a number of communities in its Draft Master Plan where additional acreage needs to be acquired within the corridor's first 20 miles for trails and parks to meet existing and future level of service standards.⁷ The Navajo Community will require 40 acres along the river to meet its projected 2020 deficiency of 66 acres.⁸ The SDRC's own Five Year Plan identifies a target of 300 unspecified acres for conservation for the River Park. The cities of Santee and Lakeside target 100 and 300 acres, respectively.

These broad conservation targets need to be further clarified through a land acquisition strategy that highlights and ranks parcel attributes – size, vegetation, hydrology, habitat, and connectivity, among them – to determine which lands are most suitable for the River Park development.

A trails gaps analysis, underway now for the SDRC and not available for review at the time of this study, will likely reveal key segments to acquire to fulfill the vision of a continuous river trail as well as links into neighborhoods and communities. Following the conservation of the riparian corridor, the development of recreational and educational facilities should remain a high priority for the SDRC.

⁷ Level of Service (LOS) is a standard measure of effectiveness of how well a city is meeting the recreational needs of its residents. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, 2.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents is the minimum LOS standard, although each community adopts its own LOS goal through its master planning process. The City of San Diego's is _____ acres/1,000 residents.

⁸ San Diego River Park, City of San Diego Draft Master Plan.

Recommended Second Tier Priority Focus – Reservoir to 67 Reach

The Reservoir to 67 Reach proves a critical nexus in connecting the urban/suburban areas with the natural wilderness of the Headwaters Reach. The El Monte Valley presents opportunities for trail development, historic resources preservation, and natural systems restoration, especially with the El Monte Valley Nature Park Restoration Project. The Endangered Habitats Conservancy serves as a collaborator in natural resources restoration. Because the Helix Water District owns and maintains key lakes/reservoirs within the San Diego River Well Basin, and provides recreational access to its property, it can serve as a key recreation, conservation, and management partner.

Recommended Third Tier Priority Focus – Headwaters

The headwaters are important to the health of the river system. The presence of the Cleveland National Forest and tribal lands provides a high level of resource protection. The important focus in this third tier should be to fill gaps in a continuous River Park system and to buffer protected areas from encroaching development. Because the San Diego River Park Foundation will focus its land acquisition efforts in this reach, the SDRC can provide support to the Foundation without having to take the lead in this area.

NEXT STEPS

With such a large focus area, it is tempting to remain opportunistic and pursue simply what lands become available; however, a more effective and targeted strategy will position the SDRC to approach landowners proactively, target and leverage public and private funding sources, develop partnerships, create a suite of landowner incentives, and build momentum toward the fulfillment of the River Park vision.

Step 1: Land Acquisition Strategy

TPL recommends that the SDRC take the next step of developing a geographic information system (GIS) model analysis – or *Greenprint* – to map conservation priorities at the parcel level based upon its already identified goals and criteria.⁹ This model analysis could look across jurisdictions at park connectivity, habitat fragmentation, park equity, and water quality to identify lands that meet multiple plan goals. These models can be further refined to rank properties with historic significance and wildlife habitat features. The *Greenprint* would allow participating stakeholders to rank or weigh goals and criteria differently among the three priority focus tiers mentioned in the previous section.

⁹ “Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan,” San Diego River Conservancy (2006): 7.

Step 2: Strategy Exchanges

The Plan and Document Review revealed a number of issues that cannot be addressed through mapping or land acquisition but are integral to the success of an integrated San Diego River Park. The Five Year Plan and the San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan, especially, touched on similar issues, among them:

- Cohesive management and governance of the River Park;
- Safety and security;
- Wayfinding and signage;
- Developer/landowner incentives; and,
- Invasive and pest plant control and management.

These issues could be explored further through focused discussions around the topics listed with both local and national representatives to create effective programs as well as to develop key strategies to address concerns.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF PLANS REVIEWED

EL MONTE VALLEY NATURE PARK RESTORATION PROJECT (2007)

JOINT PROJECT AMONG HELIX WATER DISTRICT, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, AND
ENDANGERED HABITATS CONSERVANCY

A 460-acre property within the El Monte Valley was envisioned for development as the El Capitan Golf Course. Now, it has been re-imagined through a collaborative effort among the County of San Diego, the Helix Water District, and the Endangered Habitats Conservancy as the El Monte Valley Nature Park. To achieve a resource-based park within the reach of the San Diego River will require the “restoration of native habitats and the enhancement of riverine functions on the site,” including lowering ground elevations to expand the aquifer and to create more natural floodplain areas. The planning goals of this project are consistent with the water management and habitat enhancement initiatives outlined in the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan.

SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK CONCEPTUAL PLAN (2002)

PREPARED BY CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, 606 STUDIO
SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION

The San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan (“Conceptual Plan”) was prepared for the San Diego River Park Foundation (“the Foundation”), an organization formed to support and empower groups working to restore the river. The Conceptual Plan envisions the San Diego River Park as a spine within a regional system of trails, parks, and other open space. Its main goal is to support projects that make the river-long park a reality. The Conceptual Plan establishes a framework for this river-long park, from the El Capitan Reservoir to Mission Bay. It provides design patterns for human interaction with the natural environment and water/riparian areas. The planning goals are Historical Recognition, Water Management, Habitat Enhancement, and Recreation.

SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN (2005)

PREPARED BY CIVITAS, INC.
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Following a broad-based communitywide planning effort that evolved from the Conceptual Plan, the San Diego River Park Master Plan (“Master Plan”) establishes seven key principles for the development of the San Diego River Park: restore hydrologic function of the river, reclaim the river valley as a public space, unify fragmented landscapes, create a coherent park while maintaining community characters, reveal river history, reorient development to river, and balance human, ecological, economic, and hydrological demands of river corridor. These goals are consistent with the goals of the Conceptual Plan.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2006-2011 (2006)

PREPARED BY SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY
SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

The San Diego River Conservancy (“SDRC”) was established by the California Legislature as a non-regulatory agency to “preserve, restore, and enhance the San Diego River Area.” By statute, the SDRC is required to establish goals and objectives to accomplish over a five-year horizon, including funding needs for infrastructure investments to conserve and manage lands, provide recreational and educational opportunities, restore lands for wildlife habitat, protect and restore wetlands, and provide natural floodwater conveyance. The Five Year Plan’s program areas and goals consider the Conceptual Plan, most specifically in protecting natural resources, restoring natural river systems, and providing recreational access to and on the river. The Five Year Plan, however, focuses more specifically on implementation and land conservation.

SAN DIEGO RIVER COALITION 2009 WORK PLAN (2008)

PREPARED BY THE SAN DIEGO RIVER COALITION
SAN DIEGO RIVER COALITION

The San Diego River Coalition (the “Coalition”) represents the non-governmental groups and organizations with a shared interest in the welfare of the San Diego River. It serves as the Citizens Advisory Committee (“CAC”) for the San Diego River Park planning efforts, which evolved from the Foundation’s Conceptual Plan. The Coalition adopts a Work Plan every year to prioritize and help with implementation of projects that forward the development of the River Park. The Work Plan organizes projects in high, medium, and low priorities within five areas: river trail, acquisitions, park improvements, water quality and hydrology, and habitat restoration. These efforts are much more specific than the Conceptual Plan, and consistent with its overarching goals; however, it does not identify sites or parcels for acquisition but remains broad in terms of land conservation priorities.

CITY OF SANTEE GENERAL PLAN 2020 (2003)

PREPARED BY THE CITY OF SANTEE
CITY OF SANTEE

The City of Santee updated its General Plan in 2003. In its Recreation and Trails elements, the city prioritizes among its future needs both the continued assemblage of the Santee River Park, envisioned as a 300-acre park with more than six miles of trails linking neighborhoods in this bedroom community to the river. The Town Center and western parts of the city remain as key areas to acquire and develop as part of the Santee River Park, an important component of the overall San Diego River Park. This plan is consistent with the Conceptual Plan because it promotes a specific riverfront park that provides community connectivity to the waterfront for recreation, habitat restoration, and improved hydrologic function.

CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR LAKESIDE’S RIVER PARK (2004)

PREPARED BY CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, 606 STUDIO
Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy

The City of Lakeside has proposed an almost three-mile riverfront park that preserves critical habitat as well as provides recreational access to the river shoreline as part of the overall San Diego River Park, which is consistent with The Conceptual Plan. In an area known primarily for sand mining, Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy has acquired 100 acres for the development of 375-acre park. This Lakeside River Park Conceptual Plan provides the framework for this park, which seeks to reintroduce native habitat, restore and protect water quality, improve physical connectivity in the city with the river, enhance visual character and community identity.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN (2005)

PREPARED BY SAN DIEGO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

San Diego County approved a Community Trails Master Plan (“Trails Master Plan”) and established its County Trails Program in 2005. The Trails outlines a comprehensive system of interconnected regional, community, and neighborhood walking, hiking, biking, and equestrian trails and pathways across the county’s diverse landscapes. Both planned and existing trails and pathways are identified in the plan for both alternative transportation and recreational use. This plan complements the recreation goal of the Conceptual Plan.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS (2009)

PREPARED BY COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The purpose of the Multiple Species Conservation Program is to maintain and improve the biological diversity in the San Diego Region by identifying viable populations of threatened and endangered species and working with partners, such as the Parks and Recreation Department, to manage and restore habitats. The program’s goal is to permanently protect almost 100,000 acres within unincorporated San Diego County. Within the San Diego River corridor, El Capitan, Louis Stelzer Regional Park, El Monte, Lakeside Linkage, and Lakeside Crest have been identified as monitoring priorities. The county also identifies subareas, of which the San Diego, South County, and Lakeside-Jamul are relevant to this study. This is consistent with the Habitat Enhancement Goals of the Conceptual Plan.

**Appendix B. San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint
Intersecting Regional Plan Goals and Objectives**

Plans Reviewed	River Reaches						
	Estuary	Mission Valley	Mission Trails/ Regional Park	City of Santee	Lakeside	Reservoir to 67 Freeway	Headwaters
	City of San Diego				County of San Diego		
Program Area 1: LAND CONSERVATION							
San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan							
San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan							
San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan							
San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (Sub Areas)							
San Diego River Coalition Annual Work Plan*							
City of Santee General Plan							

Lakeside River Park Conservancy Master Plan**							
Helix Water District/Endangered Habitats Conservancy - El Monte Valley Nature Park							
San Diego County Community Trails Plan							
Program Area 2: RECREATION AND EDUCATION							
San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan							
San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan							
San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan							
San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (Sub Areas)							
San Diego River Coalition Annual Work Plan*							
City of Santee General Plan							

Lakeside River Park Conservancy Master Plan**							
Helix Water District/Endangered Habitats Conservancy - El Monte Valley Nature Park							
San Diego County Community Trails Plan							
Program Area 3. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION							
San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan							
San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan							
San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan							
San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (Sub Areas)							
San Diego River Coalition Annual Work Plan*							
City of Santee General Plan							

Lakeside River Park Conservancy Master Plan**							
Helix Water District/Endangered Habitats Conservancy - El Monte Valley Nature Park							
San Diego County Community Trails Plan							
Program Area 4. WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL FLOOD CONVEYANCE							
San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan							
San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan							
San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan							
San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (Sub Areas)							
San Diego River Coalition Annual Work Plan*							
City of Santee General Plan							
Lakeside River Park Conservancy Master Plan							

Helix Water District/Endangered Habitats Conservancy - El Monte Valley Nature Park							
San Diego County Community Trails Plan**							

APPENDIX C
PARTIAL LIST OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

These agencies and organizations were the primary sponsors of the plans reviewed for this study, and they represent a partial list of potential San Diego River Park stakeholder groups. TPL recommends this group be broadened to include other potential stakeholders during a Greenprint process.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO - <http://www.sandiego.gov/>

CITY OF SANTEE - <http://www.ci.santee.ca.us>

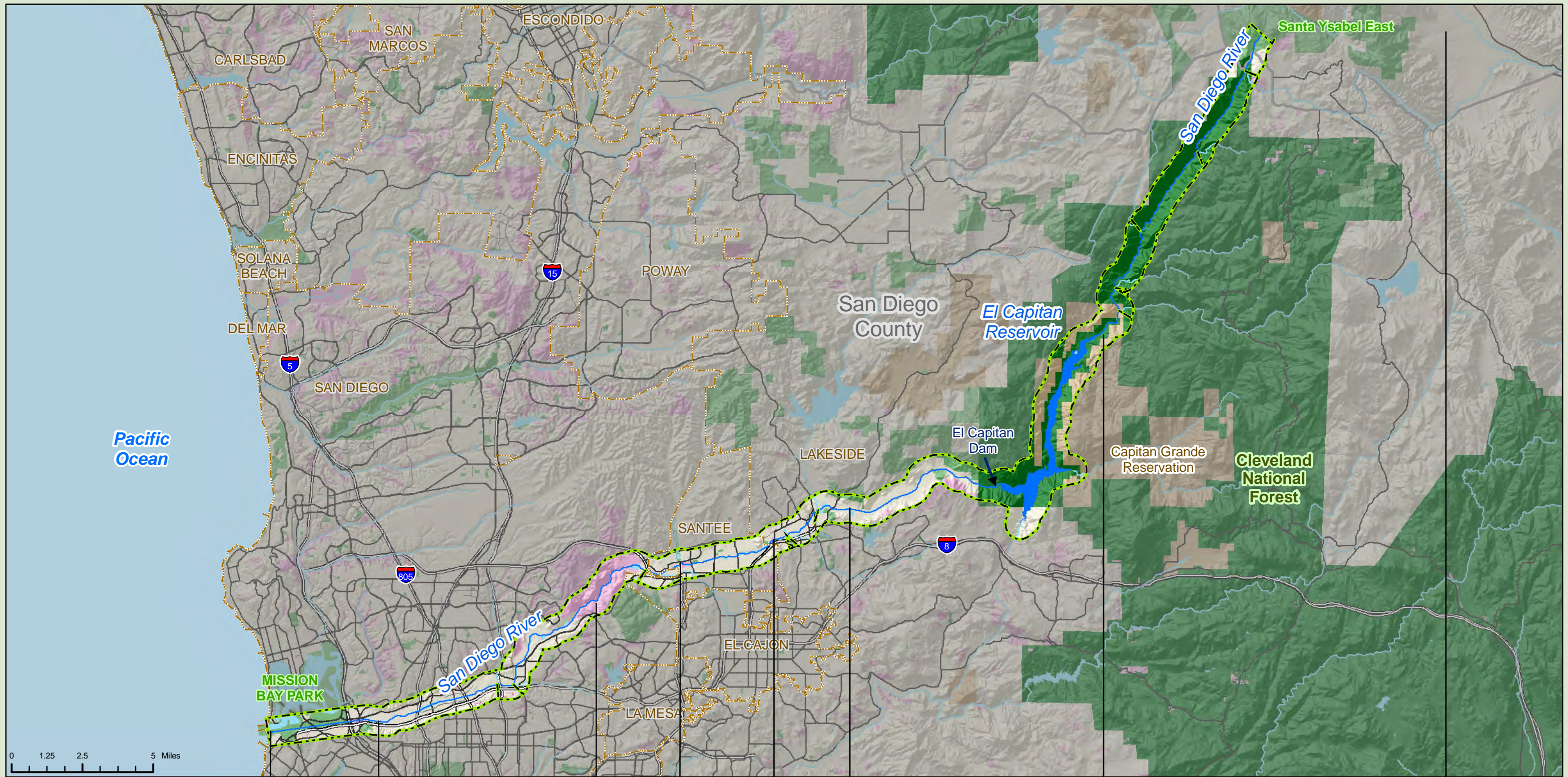
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO - <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us>

HELIX WATER DISTRICT - <http://www.hwd.com>

LAKESIDE RIVER PARK CONSERVANCY - <http://www.lakesideriverpark.org/>

SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION - <http://www.sandiegoriver.org>

SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK COALITION - <http://www.sandiegoriver.org/coalition>



Reach Delineation

Estuary	Mission Valley	Mission Trails Regional Park	City of Santee	Lakeside	Reservoir to 67 Freeway	Headwaters
City of San Diego			City of Santee	County of San Diego		

Legend

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| San Diego River Study Area | Interstate |
| Municipal Boundary | US and State Highways |
| City and County Park | Secondary State and County Highway |
| City and County Easements and Open Space | Local or Rural Road |
| Indian Reservation | Water Feature |
| National Forest | Outside Study Area |

San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint

Special thanks to the following data providers: SanGIS

Map created by the Trust for Public Land
on December 21, 2009

Created in ArcMap 9.3®
Map Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane
California VI FIPS 0406 Feet

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discussion and visualization only.



THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint
Phase I – Current Conditions Analysis
January 7, 2010



San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint

The Trust for Public Land was hired to:

1. Review relevant existing plans and documents to identify recurring themes, overlapping priorities and information gaps.
2. Identify goals and criteria for a conservation plan.
3. Provide geographic specificity to broad goals (e.g., 1,500 acres = specific parcels)

San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint

Develop addendum to the Conservancy's
Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan

- Consensus around goals and criteria for land conservation
- Focus activities around best opportunities
- Poise activities to leverage and secure funding (e.g., MSCP and CAPP)

San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint

Tasks

1. Reviewed Plans ✓
2. Prepared Baseline Map ✓
3. Conducted Partner Interviews ✓
4. Developed Memorandum ✓
5. Prepare Final Report

San Diego River Conservancy Addendum

Plans Reviewed

El Monte Valley Nature Park Restoration Project

San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan

San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan

San Diego River Conservancy Five Year Strategic and
Infrastructure Plan

San Diego River Coalition 2009 Work Plan

City of Santee General Plan

Conceptual Plan for Lakeside's River Park

County of San Diego Community Trails Master Plan

County of San Diego Resource Management Plans (MSCP)



San Diego River Conservancy Addendum

Findings

Broad consensus for the development of the San Diego River Park as a seamless system of hiking, biking, equestrian, and nature trails with mix of urban parks and wilderness

- Missing cohesive vision
- Lack of integrated partnerships



San Diego River Conservancy Addendum

Findings

Need to focus on acquiring/protecting lands and developing facilities within key areas:

- Existing nodes of activity to connect to
- Where public sector has capacity to maintain amenities and program spaces
- Under development threat

San Diego River Conservancy Addendum

Tier 1 Priority Focus

Lakeside Reach to Estuary

- Municipal plans provide visibility and synergy
- Broad conservation targets need to be clarified and prioritized
- Trails gap analysis reveals priority opportunities

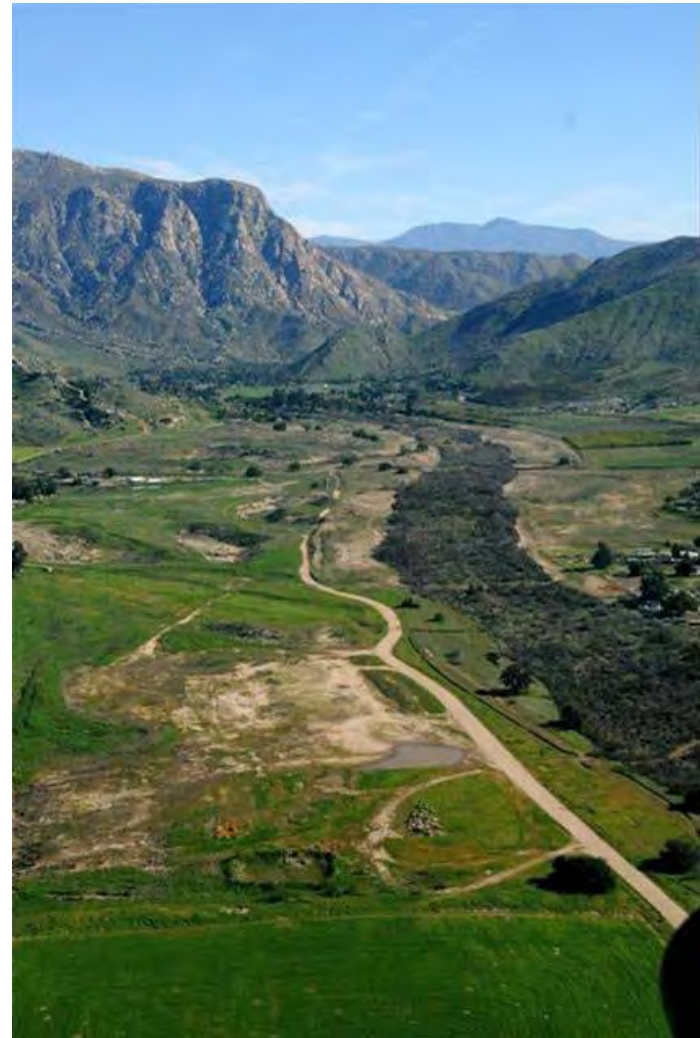


San Diego River Conservancy Addendum

Tier 2 Priority Focus

Reservoir to 67 Reach

- Endangered Habitats League and Helix Water District project
- County could use assistance with acquiring lands and developing facilities for the connection between Lakeside and Helix projects



San Diego River Conservancy Addendum

Tier 3 Priority Focus

Headwaters Reach

- San Diego River Foundation is focusing its acquisition priorities within this reach.
- Conservancy's role can be as support for leveraging funding, providing advocacy.



San Diego River Conservancy Addendum

Next Steps

- Land Acquisition Strategy – *Greenprint*
 - Stakeholder Outreach
 - Strategy Exchange
- Trail and Facility Development

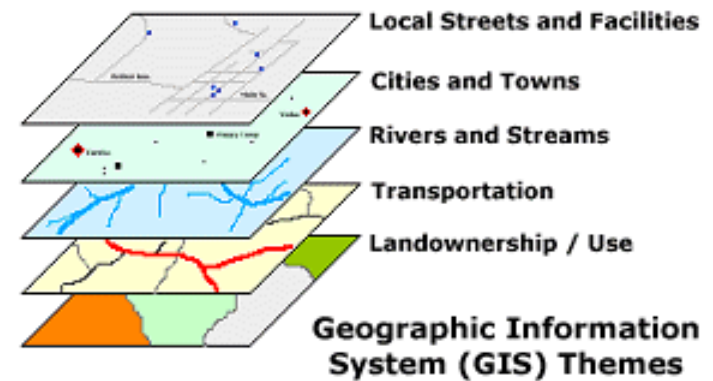


TPL's Greenprint Model

- Blends science with local values
- Community engagement strategies that build consensus quickly and effectively
- Transparent and easy to understand.
- Emphasizes multiple benefits of conservation and supports broader coalition-building
- Provides a decision support tool, not just a mapping exercise

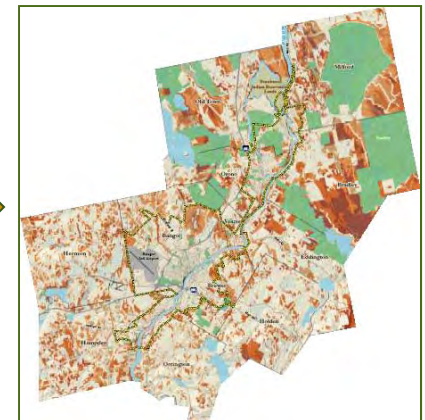
Greenprint Model Process

1. Identify local goals and assemble data.
2. Translate data into a “priorities map” for each conservation goal.



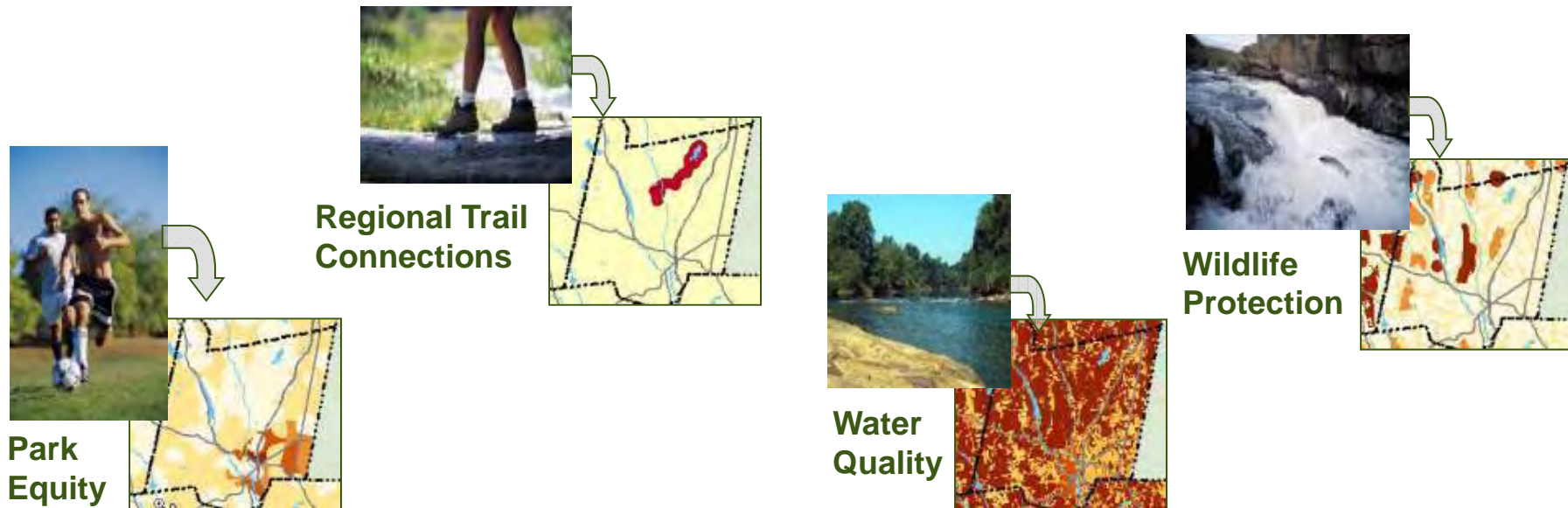
Board Goal Weighting – Interactive Polling and Geoprocessing

1. Rank Greenprint goals in priority order
2. Use keypads to enter your personal ranking
3. System will compile all entries and display a summary graph
4. Entries feed into ArcGIS to create a sample map that reflects group weightings
5. Discussion and refinement of weights will follow



Greenprint Model Process

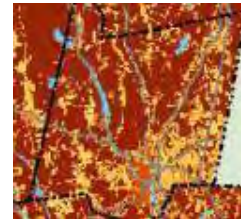
Priority maps are expressed in terms of conservation values ranging from low to high across the region (tan to red)



Greenprint Model

3. Assign relative weightings that reflect community or regional priorities.
4. Create alternative scenarios by adding additional criteria or modifying relative importance of existing criteria.
5. Combine the building blocks into a composite conservation priority map.

Water Quality



Trail Connections



Park Equity



Wildlife Protection



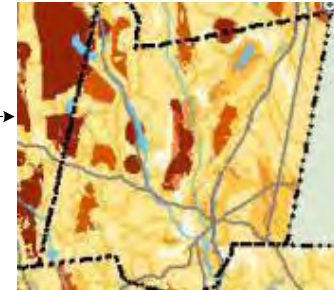
30%

10%

10%

50%

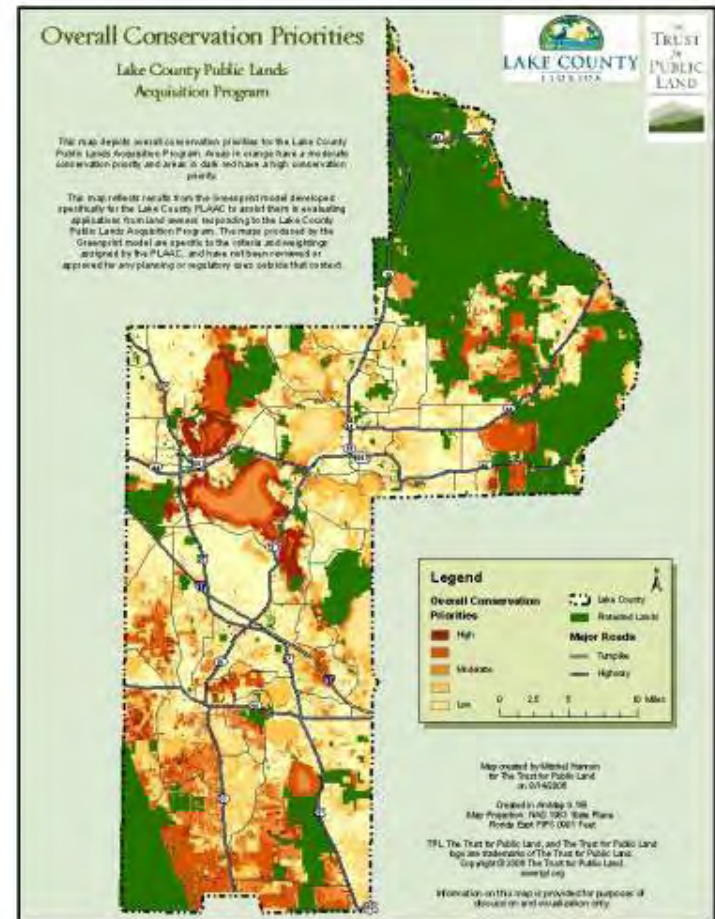
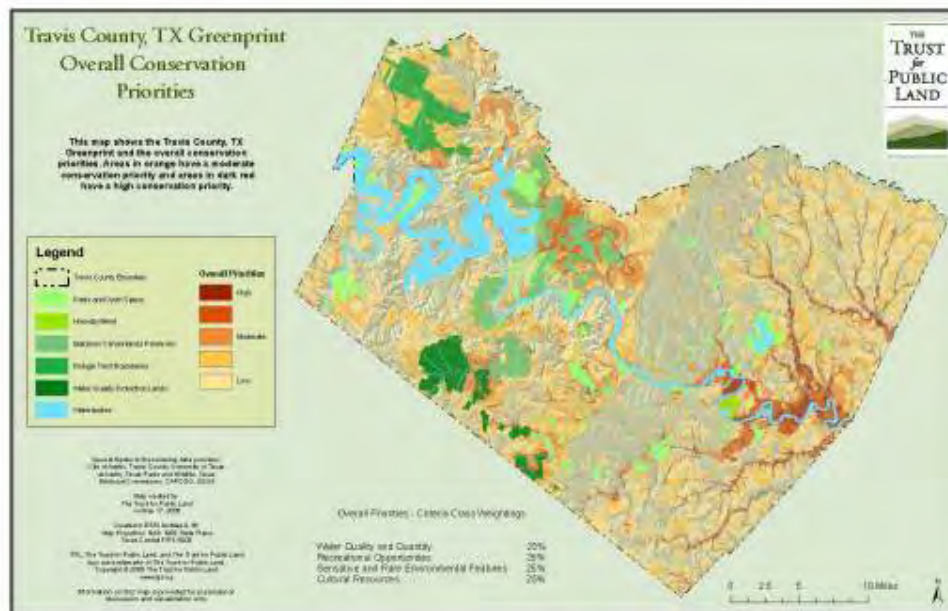
Composite





Greenprinting Results

- Color-coded overview maps



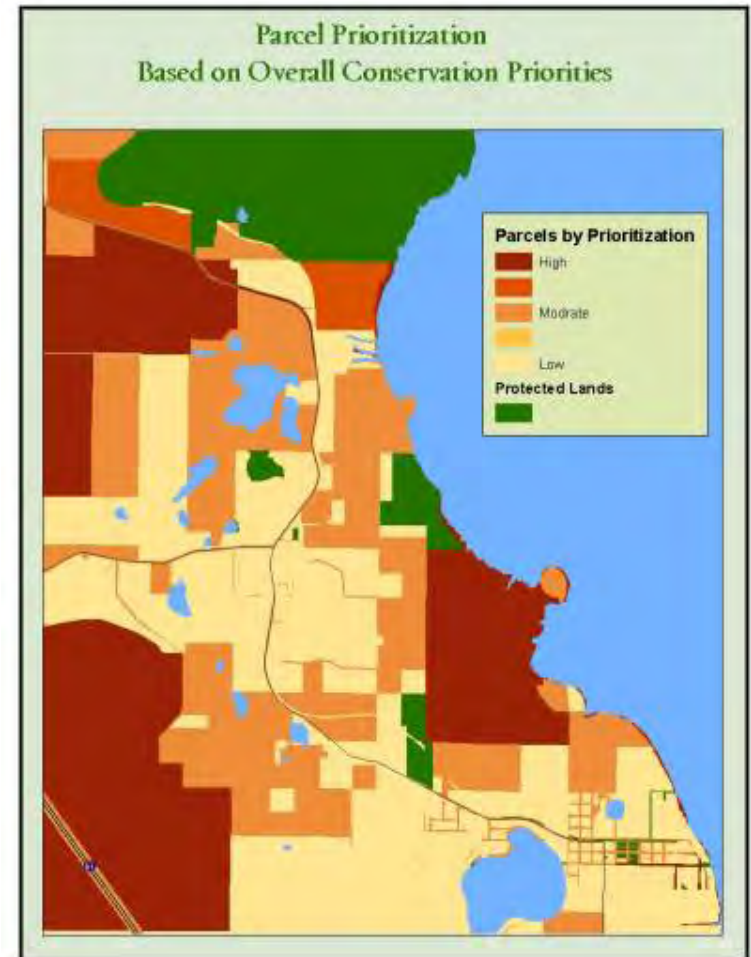
Greenprinting Results

- Color-coded overview maps
- Strategic analysis reports
- Parcel prioritization maps

Litchfield Hills Greenprint Resource Profile Report					
December 6, 2005					
Overall Study Area Sample Report					
		Priority Acres*	Percent of Total Area	Protected Priority Acres**	Percent of Total Area
Overall Conservation Priorities					
	CP: All Overall Conservation Priorities	212,075	37.1%	49,381	8.6%
AR - Adaptive Reuse					
	AR1: Sand and Gravel Mining Locations	1,742	0.3%	238	0.0%
	AR: All Adaptive Reuse	1,742	0.3%	238	0.0%
FP - Farmland Protection					
	FP1: Prime Farm Soils	140,423	24.6%	17,883	3.1%
	FP2: Farm Landcover	85,549	15.0%	10,268	1.8%
	FP: All Farmland Protection	168,175	29.4%	20,711	3.6%
RO - Recreation Opportunities					
	RO1: Park Equity	10,413	1.8%	93	0.0%
	RO2: Flood Control Areas	2,305	0.4%	1,309	0.2%
	RO: All Recreation Opportunities	12,717	2.2%	1,403	0.2%
SP - Special Places					
	SP1: Special Places	115,633	20.2%	23,110	4.0%
	SP: All Special Places	115,633	20.2%	23,110	4.0%
SQ - Scenic Quality					
	SQ1: Prominent Ridgelines	68,738	12.0%	14,064	2.5%
	SQ2: Viewshed from the Housatonic River	10,919	1.9%	4,378	0.8%
	SQ3: Scenic Road Buffers	10,952	1.9%	2,576	0.5%
	SQ4: Large Undeveloped Parcels Adjacent to Appalachian Tr	11,994	2.1%	383	0.1%
	SQ: All Scenic Quality	92,059	16.1%	18,443	3.2%
TG - Trails and Greenways					
	TG1: Trails	28,610	5.0%	16,898	3.0%
	TG2: Proposed Greenways	33,704	5.9%	7,725	1.4%
	TG: All Trails and Greenways	58,391	10.2%	22,718	4.0%
WH - Wildlife Habitat					
<small>*Priority Acres reflects a score of "2" or greater on a scale of 0-5. **Protected Acres is based on CT Protected Lands obtained from Litchfield County Open Space Forum and the HVA.</small>					
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Greenprinting Results

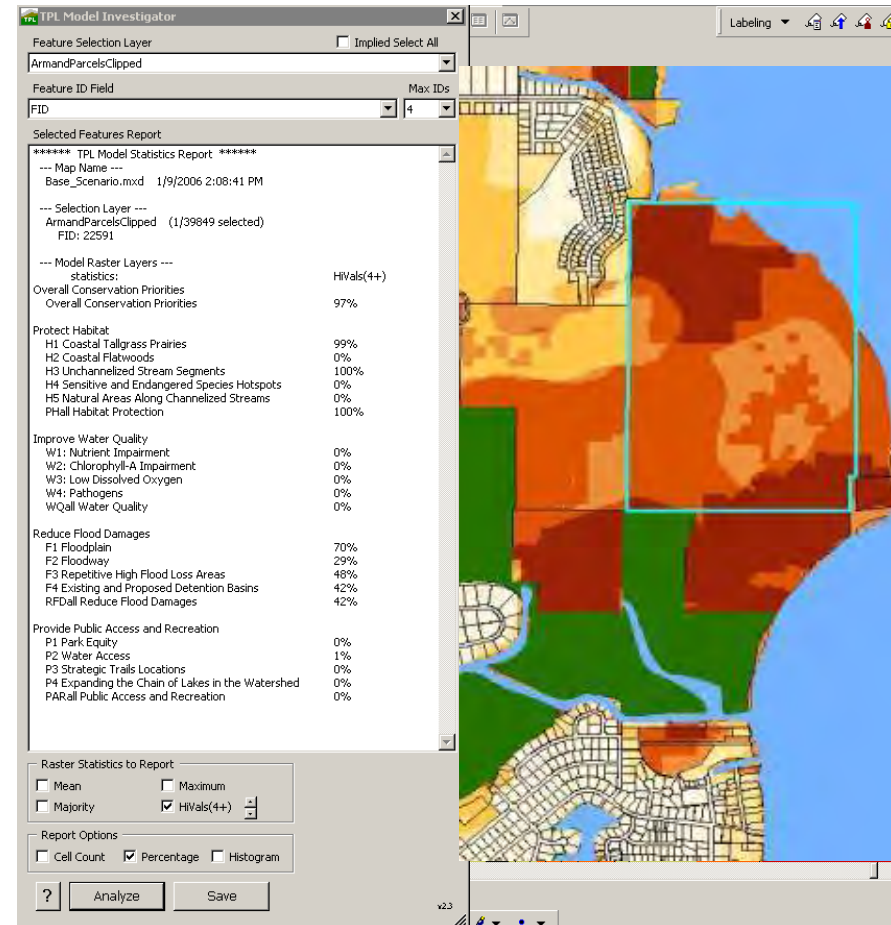
- Color-coded overview maps
- Parcel prioritization analysis



Greenprinting Results

Property Profile Reports

- High priority parcel analysis tool.
- Shows how well a parcel scored in meeting community's conservation goals.





San Diego River Conservancy Greenprint

Suggested Goals

- **Improve Recreational Access to River**
 - New and expanded parks
 - Park Equity Analysis
- **Create Trail Connections**
- **Restore Native Habitats**
 - Consistent with MSCP and CAPP
- **Improve Natural River Functions**
 - Restore wetlands
 - Preserve riparian corridors

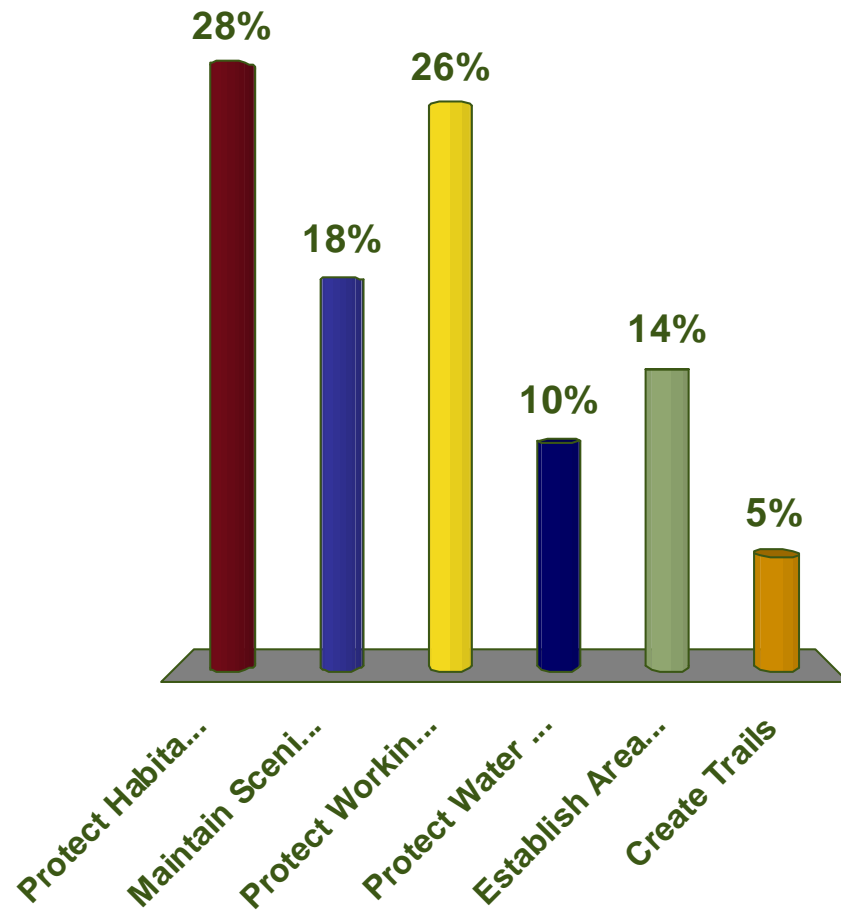
San Diego River Conservancy Addendum

Proposed Methodology

- Same goals apply across SDRC jurisdiction
- Criteria and Goals weighted (ranked) differently per Tiers 1-3
 - Estuary to Lakeside – Recreation
 - Reservoir to 67 Reach – Habitat Restoration
 - Headwaters – Water Quality and Habitat Restoration

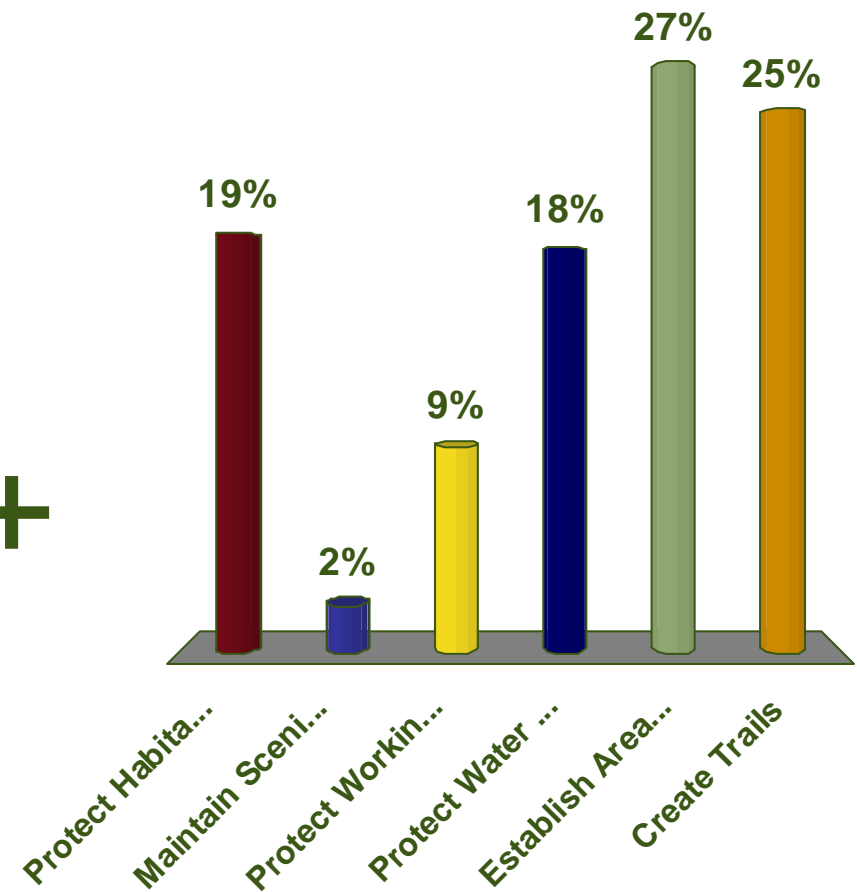
Example: Penobscot - Stakeholder Priorities

Rural Priorities



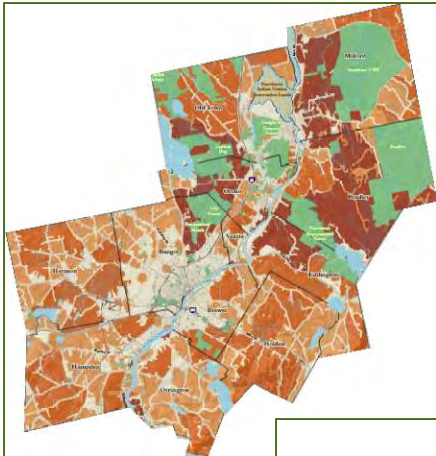
Urban Corridor Priorities

+



Greenprint Regional Composite Priorities

Protect Habitat and
Unfragmented Natural Areas



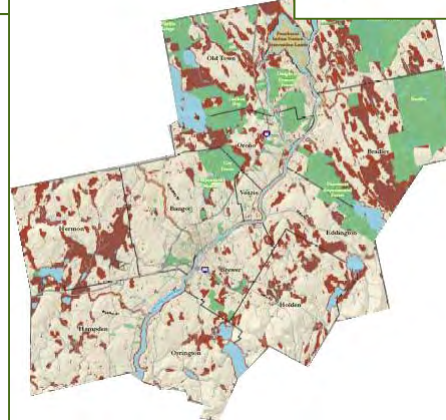
Protect Working
Landscapes



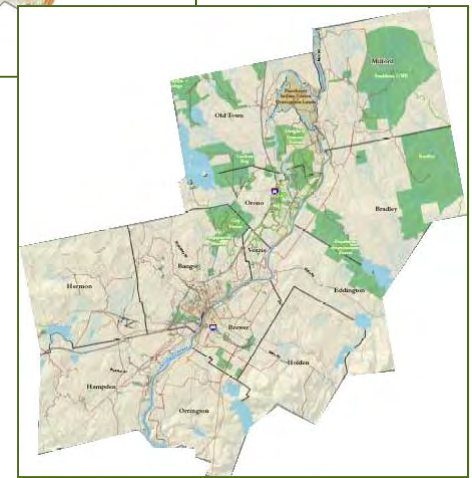
Establish Areas for Public
Access and Recreation



Maintain Scenic Values and
Protect Scenic Vistas



Protect Water Quality



Create Trails



Greenprint Regional Composite Priorities





Potential Strategy Exchange

- National and Local Experts Convene to Develop Specific Strategies to Address Issues
 - Cohesive Management and Governance of Regional River Park
 - Safety and Security
 - Wayfinding and Signage
 - Developer/Landowner Incentives
 - Community Outreach
 - Invasive and Pest Plant Control and Management on Large Scale

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **TRIBUTARY CANYONS – FEASIBILITY STUDY –
PRELIMINARY PLANNING**

- Jim King, SCC &SDRC Consultant
- Dick Rol, Foothill Associates

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 7, 2010

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT