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 12, 2015
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location

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

Tele-Conference Location

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

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

Contact:
Julia Richards (619) 645-3188

Meeting Agenda

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

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes *(ACTION)*
   Consider approval of minutes for the October 5, 2015 meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

   Presentation:
   Stephan Vance, Senior Regional Planner, San Diego Association of Governments

7. San Diego River Trail / Flume Trail Extension Project (*INFORMATIONAL)*
   Update on approximately 1.2 miles of trail, trailhead and parking on land owned by Helix Water District.

   Presentation:
   Adam Dobrowolski, Park Project Manager, County of San Diego, Dept. Parks and Recreation

8. California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) (*INFORMATIONAL)*
   Rapid method used to assess for wetland/riverine conditions based on readily observable field indicators and validated with intensive measures.

   Presentation:
   Joseph Kean, Project Coordinator/Biologist,Tierra Data, Inc.

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

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

Requestor/Applicant:	County of San Diego, Department of Public Works
Amount requested:	$245,280.00
Recommendation:	Approve SDRC Resolution 15-05

Project proposal to design and install full capture trash devices (State Water Resources Control Board approved) in unincorporated east county storm drains to reduce trash entering the river and improve water quality. Best Management Practices will be implemented to measure trash reduction. Proposed project area spans approximately 20 acres on county right-of-way and also includes trash collection, identification and disposal. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

Habitat Restoration for Upper Alvarado Creek *(ACTION)*

Requestor/Applicant: SDSU/ Soil Ecology and Restoration Group
Amount requested: $641,498.00
Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 15-06

Project proposal is to remove non-native invasive plant species, restore habitat and monitor water quality of Alvarado Creek near San Diego State University. The proposed section of Alvarado Creek is adjacent to land owned by the City of San Diego. Activities include removing palm trees and other invasive plants on 2.6 acres of disturbed riparian habitat and monitoring water quality to assess restoration progress. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

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

Requestor/Applicant: City of Santee
Amount requested: $2,216,436.22
Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 15-07

This proposal is to consider drainage enhancement, habitat restoration and stormwater quality monitoring of 31.3 acres of Mast Park in the City of Santee. This project would improve flood management and expand riparian buffer through re-alignment of park trail. Improvements would include enhanced drainage channels, stormwater swales, native plant infiltration system, a retention basin and least Bell's vireo habitat restoration. Current impervious trail would be replaced with pervious material. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

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

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

New Administrative Services Manager
Stakeholder interview with City of San Diego on Mission Valley Plan Update

11. Next Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, January 14, 2016, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Accessibility

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **1**

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **2**

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

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **October 5, 2015** Board Meeting are attached for review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **3**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **4**

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

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **5**

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL- SANDAG UPDATE - QUALCOMM TRAIL ALIGNMENT (*INFORMATIONAL)*

The San Diego River Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy through Prop 84 provided funds to SANDAG. A study has been completed to identify a preferred alignment for the QUALCOMM Stadium segment, which extends from Fenton Parkway through the stadium parking lot to the exit on the east side at Rancho Mission Road.

Presentation:
Stephan Vance, Senior Regional Planner, San Diego Association of Governments

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **7**

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL – FLUME TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT (INFORMATIONAL)

Update on approximately 1.2 miles of trail, trailhead and parking located in Lakeside in the County of San Diego on land owned by Helix Water District.

Presentation:
Adam Dobrowolski, Park Project Manager, County of San Diego, Dept. Parks and Recreation

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA RAPID ASSESSMENT METHOD (CRAM) (INFORMATIONAL)

Rapid method used to assess for wetland/riverine conditions based on readily observable field indicators and validated with intensive measures.

Presentation:
Joseph Kean, Project Coordinator/Biologist, Tierra Data, Inc.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **9**

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

Overview:
Julia Richards, Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION #1
Selected Trash Reduction in the County of San Diego *(ACTION)*

Requestor/Applicant:	County of San Diego, Department of Public Works
Amount requested:	$245,280.00
Recommended Funding:	$197,400.00

Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 15-05

Presentation:
Eric Klein, Land Use Environmental Planner II
DPW/ Watershed Protection Program, County of San Diego

Project proposal to design and install full capture trash devices (State Water Resources Control Board approved) in unincorporated east county storm drains to reduce trash entering the river and improve water quality. Proposed project area spans approximately 20 acres on county right-of-way and also includes street sweeping, trash collection, identification and disposal. This project would directly improve water quality through trash reduction as identified in the State Water Resources Control Board Trash Amendments.

RECOMMENDATION #2
Habitat Restoration of Upper Alvarado Creek *(ACTION)*

Requestor/Applicant:	SDSU Research Foundation and Soil Ecology and Restoration Group
Amount requested:	$641,498.00
Recommended Funding:	$543,500.00

Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 15-06

Presentation:
Julie Lambert, Soil Ecology and Restoration Group

Project proposal is to remove 2.6 acres non-native invasive plant species, restore habitat and monitor water quality of Alvarado Creek near San Diego State University, and monitoring water quality to assess restoration progress. The proposed section of Alvarado Creek is adjacent to land owned by the City of San Diego.

RECOMMENDATION #3
Water Quality, Habitat and Public Access Improvements at Mast Park *(ACTION)*
Requestor/Applicant: City of Santee
Amount requested: $2,216,436.22
Recommended Funding: $1,233,000.00
Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 15-07

Presentation:
Bill Maertz, Director, Community Services, City of Santee

This proposal is to consider drainage enhancement, habitat restoration and stormwater quality monitoring of 31.3 acres of Mast Park in the City of Santee. This project would improve flood management and expand riparian buffer through the re-alignment of park trail. Improvements would include enhanced drainage channels, stormwater swales, native plant infiltration through a retention basin and least Bell's vireo habitat restoration.

SDRC Board Meeting 11/12/15

Item 9 : Proposition 1 - Program Overview

Applicant/Organization Name	Funds requested	Matching Funds	Summary
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	$2,100,000.00	$0.00	Acquisition and restoration. This proposal is to acquire 115 acres of land in El Monte Valley. Subsequent funding will be for habitat restoration through invasive non-native plant removal.
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	$2,100,000.00	$0.00	Acquisition and restoration. This proposal is to acquire 37.08 acres of land in El Monte Valley. Invasive non-native plants will be removed to restore
City of Santee	$2,216,436.22	$5,387,579.00	Mast Park improvements to increase flood capacity, restore riparian habitat, native plant infiltration replace trail.
SDSU Research Fdn-Soil Ecology Restoration Group	$641,498.00	$298,780.00	Alvarado Creek flood management. Invasive plant removal, partnership with SDSU professors, graduate students and water quality data collection.
City of San Diego	$280,000.00	$15,000.00	Palm tree removal using helicopter from approximately 2.54 acres. Proposed locations are Tierrasanta or Ruffin community basins.
County of San Diego	$245,280.00	$61,320.00	Storm drain trash collectors at 12 different sites in east county. Additional trash pickup, street sweeping and public outreach would gain support and improve water quality.
San Diego Canyonlands	$42,394.00	$29,060.00	Riparian restoration of 20-25 acres; removing non-natives, reducing sediment runoff, and filtering stormwater. Habitat will be protected by decommissioning unauthorized trail segments.
San Diego Canyonlands	$32,450.00	$20,960.00	Riparian restoration through the removal of invasive plants, trash pickup and public outreach. Monitoring will be conducted using meter transects, and progress reported quarterly.
Back Country Land Trust	$24,000.00	$24,000.00	Habitat restoration by 1,500 native plantings, invaisve plant control, water quality monitoring and archaeological surveys.
City of San Diego	$680,000.00	$56,000.00	El Monte Valley land acquisition. The 3 parcels totaling 37.08 acres will be preserved in a public trust, for the purpose of protecting water resources, other natural resources, improving habitat and to provide public amenities.
San Diego River Park Foundation	$161,500.00	$28,500.00	SD River aeration project would increase dissolved oxygen (DO) to 4-5mg/L throughout the water column. Information will be shared and available to the public through printed and electronic formats.
San Diego River Park Foundation	$380,500.00	$65,000.00	Property acquisition preserves 75 acres of wetland, grassland and woodland riparian forest. Temescal Creek is a tributary to El Capitan Reservoir and by acquiring this property it would increase water quality by preventing development and removing grazing.
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	**$8,904,058.22**	**$5,986,199.00**	

Resolution No: 15-05

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY'S PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, Section 32649)

3. The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $197,400.00 (One Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Dollars) in grant funds to the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works to install full capture trash devices, collect, identify and dispose of trash (Project) which will improve water quality.

4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts and other documents needed which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

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

Approved and adopted the 12th day of November 2015. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 15-05 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: _____
Nays: _____
Absent: _____

_____
Julia L. Richards
Executive Officer

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

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

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 15-05
November 12, 2015

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to $197,400.00 to the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works (DPW), Watershed Protection Program focused on trash reduction for locations within the San Diego River Watershed.

LOCATION: The proposed project area spans 20 acres through unincorporated areas of San Diego County, including industrial, commercial and residential communities of Lakeside, Alpine, Bostonia, and Flynn Springs.

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

"The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $197,400.00 to implement a project focused on improving water quality, water supply, ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration specifically as follows:

- County of San Diego: One hundred ninety-seven thousand and four hundred dollars to design and install full capture trash devices, collect, identify and dispose of trash and monitor water quality.

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

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Division 22.9 of the Public Resources Code, Chapter 3, and Section 32649. (San Diego River Conservancy Act)

PROJECT SUMMARY: In August 2015, the Conservancy solicited project proposals for its Proposition 1 grant program. This solicitation was posted on the Conservancy and Natural Resource Agency's Bond Accountability website and emailed to multiple organizations. The recommended grant would fund the proposal, as described below:

The proposed project will evaluate the effectiveness of trash reduction best management practices (BMPs) in priority land use (PLU) areas. The County will install State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)-approved, full capture trash devices ("devices") in storm drain inlets that collect drainage from selected PLU areas. There are 12 locations where nine (9) devices may be installed in storm drain inlets to reduce trash buildup and improve water quality. The inlets to be monitored will enable the measurement of trash that is transported to storm drains.

The County of San Diego will partner with the Urban Corps of San Diego County (UCSDC). The UCSDC will primarily conduct trash cleanups and preliminary visually assess and assist in the maintenance of temporary trash receptacles. Improved watershed health will result in enhanced wildlife habitat for several endangered species including least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*).

SITE DESCRIPTION: Located the unincorporated areas of San Diego County, there are three industrial sites: extraction, light industrial and industrial park; two commercial: religious facility and arterial commercial; and two residential, high density areas target for the implementation of the full capture devices.

PROJECT HISTORY/NEED: Available literature studies and DPW's on-the-ground knowledge of the unincorporated areas indicate these land use areas likely generate more trash and have a large geographical extent in this watershed. Preliminary baseline trash generation rates and trash BMP effectiveness can be estimated from surveys of the three land uses that are included in this project.

Project results will be used by the County to guide future trash reduction efforts as required by SWRCB Trash Amendments. The Trash Amendments mandate all Copermittees reduce discharge of trash from municipal storm drain systems by targeted amounts defined during baseline studies. This regulation effectively requires municipalities to reduce trash levels to "zero" over the 10 years of implementation, anticipated to be 2018 to 2028, with annual progress of approximately 10% of the baseline trash level.

Therefore, the proposed project has two purposes directly relevant to Trash Amendments compliance: 1) The assessment of the effectiveness of various BMP strategies in reducing trash entering storm drains from PLU areas and, 2) The data collected will help supplement a larger data set to be collected during a trash quantification study that is scheduled to begin in 2016.

PROJECT FINANCING: The total project amount is anticipated to cost $306,600.00 with installation, operation, and maintenance over three years. Project applicant is requesting $245,280.00 or 80% from the Conservancy. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is an appropriation from Proposition 1 grant funds, for Ecosystem, Watershed Protection and Restoration.

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

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S): Consistent with Program 3A, preserve and restore natural resources from the

Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed authorization will improve habitat along the San Diego River.

Consistent with Program 4, enhance water quality and natural flood conveyance from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed authorization will implement a project that improves water quality by removing trash and other debris from the watershed.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:
The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on May 2015, in the following respects:

REQUIRED CRITERIA

1) The project is within the jurisdiction of the San Diego River Conservancy (San Diego watershed). Yes.

2) The extent to which the project has support from the jurisdiction over the location of the project. Yes.

3) The extent to which the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Proposition 1, Chapter 6, section 79732 subsection a (1-13).

   Purpose 1 – These include the economic benefits of identifying cost-effective trash reduction loads to the San Diego River from PLUs.
   Purpose 4 – According to the Staff Report of the SWRCB Trash Amendments, trash is a harmful pollutant because it is both aesthetically problematic and can serve as a vehicle for the multiple types of contaminants. For example, food wrappers and containers may introduce bacteria, nutrients, and increase oxygen demand in affected water bodies.
   Purpose 9 – Reducing trash in the San Diego River watershed will help protect and/or restore critical beneficial uses in the watershed's receiving waters including contact and non-contact recreation municipal, agricultural, and industrial water supply, and habitat-related beneficial uses.
   Purpose 10 – In general, significant trash reductions in the San Diego River watershed will produce benefits for citizens, municipalities, and the environment, and will enhance residents' quality of life. Improved water management and increased flood control protection will improve recreational opportunities for watershed residents. The water quality and habitat enhancements that result from reduced trash will improve the multiple beneficial uses identified above, for the wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters in the San Diego River watershed.
   Purpose 11 – Other trash may be associated with the introduction of plastics, metals, herbicides, pesticides, or other toxics. Aquatic biota may be negatively impacted by physical encounters with or ingestion of trash, or the impacts of contaminants that are transported by trash.
   Purpose 12 – The San Diego River watershed provides habitat to several endangered species that will benefit from increased watershed health including least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*).

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

   The proposed project will evaluate the effectiveness of trash reduction BMPs in priority land use areas. The County will install 12 devices in storm drain inlets that collect drainage from selected high density residential, commercial, and industrial priority land uses areas. These devices will be installed in the unincorporated areas of the San Diego River watershed in Lakeside, Alpine, Bostonia, and surrounding areas. The storm drain inlets equipped with devices will prevent trash from being transported to the storm drains either in the presence or absence of mitigation measures. Trash which is prevented from going down storm drains will be collected, identified and disposed.

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

   A. California Water Action Plan (Update 2009)
      i. Action 2 – Invest in Integrated Water Management and Increase Regional Self-reliance;
      ii. Action 4 – Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems;
      iii. Action 9 – Increase Operational and Regulatory Efficiency
   B. State Water Resources Control Board
      i. California Ocean Plan (Trash Amendments) – project will enhance Trash Amendments compliance efforts
      ii. Inland Surface Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan (Trash Amendments) – the project will enhance Trash Amendments compliance efforts
   C. San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
      i. San Diego Regional Stormwater Permit – the proposed project will enhance efforts to eliminate the discharge of pollutants (trash) from the municipal separate stormwater system
      ii. San Diego Region Basin Plan – the project will enhance the maintenance or restoration of recreational, water supply, and habitat-related beneficial uses and improve flood control protection.

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

   The trash devices that will be used in this project are certified by the SWRCB as devices and meet the definition of device as defined in the Trash Amendments, i.e. *"(a device) that traps all particles that are 5 mm or greater, and has a design treatment capacity that is either: a) of not less than the peak flow rate, Q, resulting from a one-year, one-hour, storm in the sub-drainage area, or b) appropriately sized to, and designed to carry at least the same flows as, the corresponding storm drain."*

   In addition, the project will incorporate monitoring approaches to: 1) identify point sources of trash in the project areas for BMP targeting and, 2) determine actual trash capture rates and correlate to visual monitoring measures.

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

   The County of San Diego, DPW is taking a leadership role in designing a responsive and cost-effective compliance program to address the requirements of the recently adopted Trash Amendments. The results and conclusions of this project will provide useful information to other entities in the San Diego River watershed and the greater San Diego Region as they design and implement their own trash compliance programs.

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

   The proposed project is supported by San Diego County, DPW divisions and programs that are concerned with trash accumulation on the roadways including Watershed Protection, Roads Maintenance, and Flood Control. These DPW programs and the citizens of San Diego County will benefit from cost-effective trash cleanup approaches that result in fewer trash-induced flood control issues, and protect water quality, water supply, recreation, and habitat-related beneficial uses.

   The project provides multiple benefits in the watershed including trash reduction, enhancement of recreational, water supply, and habitat beneficial uses, and increased flood protection. The project will also increase public awareness of the trash problem and offer solutions to address trash in the San Diego River watershed. In addition, data sharing will extend the benefits of this project beyond the unincorporated portions of the San Diego River watershed.

   The proposed project will also provide overall benefit to the San Diego River watershed by promoting community involvement through the implemented public education efforts and the participation of the Urban Corps of San Diego County.

9) Whether the project reflects best available science.

   The County and its consultant have thoroughly researched trash generation studies, reduction strategies, and Trash Total Maximum Daily Load program approaches in California and the rest of the US. This includes studies of trash generation in the Ballona Creek and Los Angeles River watersheds of Los Angeles County (2004, 2006) and the San Francisco Bay Baseline Trash Generation Rates Study (2012). These are summarized in a recently completed Literature Review completed by the County's consultant. The approaches proposed in this project represent widely accepted methodologies for trash capture and quantification, and trash reduction BMP implementation. The lessons learned from the literature review will be incorporated into a design to promote a scientifically-sound yet cutting edge approach to quantify trash generation rates and the effectiveness of various BMP approaches.

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

    The County of San Diego DPW, Watershed Protection Program has successfully implemented numerous grant projects in the region. The County has a strong record that demonstrates its commitment to meeting project goals and objectives in a timely manner.

11) The project is in a disadvantaged community.

Four of the 12 proposed project sub-basins are located within disadvantaged communities (Lakeside/El Cajon).

12) Matching funds from applicant.

The applicant is providing funds in the amount of $61,320.00, or 20% of the total project costs.

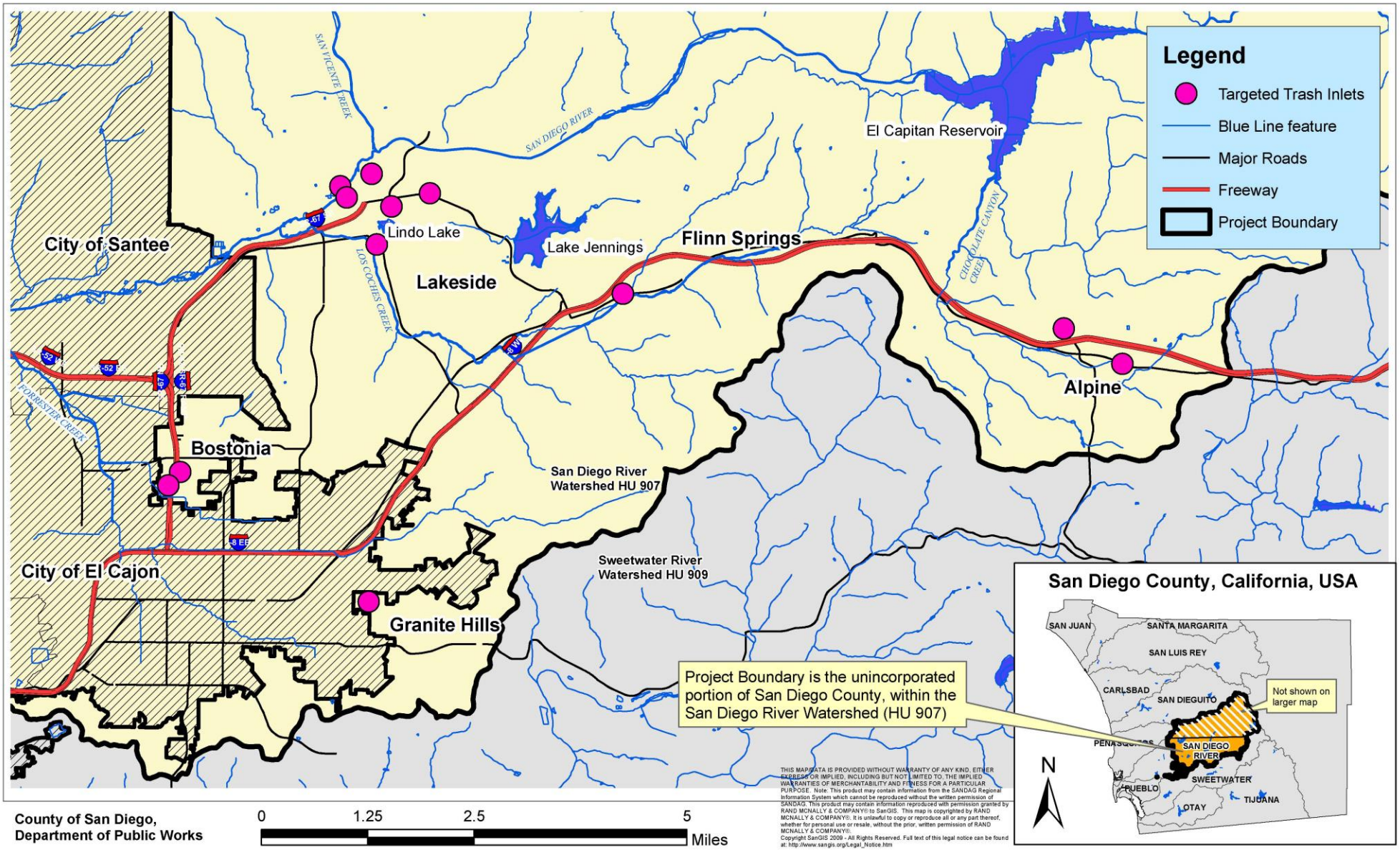
MEASUREABLE RESULTS

Project results will be made available on the County's Project Clean Water website. These results will be useful to other jurisdictions in the San Diego River watershed and entities in other watersheds. The County will foster collaboration and data sharing with other interested entities in an effort to inform and enhance cost-effective Trash Amendments compliance strategies throughout San Diego County. Sharing the results and conclusions of this project will enhance that effort.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed project considered for funding under this authorization is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14. California Code of Regulations Sections 15301(b), 15303(d) and 15306.

Figure 2: County of San Diego Trash BMP Effectiveness Study Area



Resolution No: 15-06

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY'S PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM TO THE SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, Section 32649)

3. The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $543,500.00 (Five Hundred Forty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars) in grant funds to the San Diego State University Research Foundation to remove invasive non-native plants from Alvarado Creek to restore the habitat and monitor water quality before, during and after restoration.

4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts and other documents needed which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

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

Approved and adopted the 12th day of November 2015. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 15-06 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: _____
Nays: _____
Absent: _____

_____
Julia L. Richards
Executive Officer

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

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

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 15-06
November 12, 2015

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to $543,500.00 for riparian habitat restoration, flood enhancement, debris removal and water quality monitoring of Alvarado Creek near San Diego State University.

LOCATION: In Alvarado Creek, on property owned by San Diego State University (along Alvarado Road from the upstream boundary near Alvarado Court to the underpass at Campus Drive); the section of the stream targeted in this project is located in a 100-year floodplain.

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

"The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $543,500.00 to implement projects focused on improving water quality, water supply, ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration specifically as follows:

- San Diego State University Research Foundation: Five hundred forty-three thousand five hundred dollars to remove invasive non-native plant species, restore riparian habitat and monitor water quality in Alvarado creek.

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

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Division 22.9 of the Public Resources Code, Chapter 3, and Section 32649. (San Diego River Conservancy Act)

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

San Diego State University Research Foundation and the Soil Ecology Restoration Group (SERG) proposes to restore and enhance a section of Alvarado Creek: removing invasive non-native plants, increasing flood capacity, and monitoring restoration efforts. This is an approach with coordination and collaboration of various professors, SERG and the services of the California Conservation Corps and other professionals.

Activities include removing invasive non-native vegetation from 2.6 acres of disturbed riparian willow-dominated habitat and treating with aquatic-approved herbicide. This section of the stream contains dense native and non-native vegetation including, but not limited to fan palms (*Washingtonia* spp.), Canary Island palm (*Phoenix canariensis),* giant reed *(Arundo donax)* pepper trees (*Schinus* spp.) and castor bean (*Ricinus communis)*. Over 100 palm trees have been identified at the project site.

This project seeks to restore a portion of Alvarado Creek to a natural state to minimize flooding potential, while simultaneously monitoring key water quality and hydrologic parameters. Water quality will be monitored to assess restoration efforts and stream gages will be installed to measure stream flow and water levels. In-situ meters will measure conductivity, pH, and dissolved oxygen, and a portable field fluorometer will be implemented to measure chlorophyll a, tryptophan, and chromophoric organic matter fluorescence.

In addition, this project will encourage long-term assessment of water quality response to baseflow and storm events after restoration, as well as provide new information to assess the effect of restoration on the general health of the creek.

SITE DESCRIPTION: Alvarado Creek is an urban, channelized stream within the San Diego River watershed and has substantial non-native vegetation that contributes to frequent flooding. Major flooding events within the last five years have resulted in damage to property and City infrastructure. This project site consists of an earthen channel approximately 1,700 ft in length.

PROJECT HISTORY/NEED: There is a 2015 report by Rick Engineering, (The Hydrological and Hydraulic Assessment 'IHHA') for the Upper Alvarado Channel which provides details on current conditions of the site. The Report indicates that the channel does not have a capacity for 100-year storm events. Under the current vegetation conditions, this project site has a capacity flow rate of 3,000 to 3,400 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is equivalent to a 35 to 50-year storm event.

Vegetation and sediment removal along the channel bottom, along with maintenance to minimize flooding is recommended. The report's modeling results suggest that maintenance work conducted solely in reaches belonging to the City would increase the capacity of Reach 2 from <2-year storm event to 10 to 35-year storm event, while the combined maintenance of this project's site and City-owned reaches would bring this capacity to >50-year storm event. The City has started (September 2015) to clean the segment of the channel from Alvarado Hospital to the State property line (just above Reach 1). Further, the proposed maintenance activities are expected to substantially improve the flow regime in the creek.

PROJECT FINANCING: The total project amount is $940,278.00. Project applicant is requesting $641,498.00 (68%) funding from the Conservancy. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is an appropriation from Proposition 1 grant funds, for Ecosystem, Watershed

Protection and Restoration.

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

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S): Consistent with Program 3A, Preserve and Restore Natural Resources (Removal of non-native plants), Program 4, Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance, and Program 5, Expand the Organization's Capacity and Reach: Develop and Implement a Partnering Strategy, from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES: The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on May 2015, in the following respects:

REQUIRED CRITERIA

1) The project is within the jurisdiction of the San Diego River Conservancy (San Diego watershed). Yes. The project area is along Alvarado Creek, which flows in the San Diego River, and is part of the San Diego watershed.

2) The extent to which the project has support from the jurisdiction over the location of the project. Yes. This project has support by the Vice President of Real Estate Planning and Development at San Diego State University.

3) The extent to which the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Proposition 1, Chapter 6, section 79732 subsection a (1-13).

   Purpose 2 – Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impact of climate change on communities and ecosystems.
   Purpose 4 – This project will help in the restoration of native riparian habitat and its associated litter is anticipated to help re-establish the natural mineralization cycle of the native riparian ecosystem and improve water quality. There is a moderate or high potential for the federally-endangered Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), as well as for raptors and other nesting bird species, to be present in or near the project area. Least Bell's vireo territories were detected in the San Diego River, approximately one mile from the project area
   Purpose 9 – Alvarado Creek is located near a university in an urban setting and is part of the San Diego River watershed.
   Purpose 10 – Alvarado Creek feeds into the San Diego River which empties into the Pacific Ocean. Ultimately, this project's restoration efforts will inform decision makers on future ecological and watershed management in the San Diego River watershed and improve coastal watershed processes.
   Purpose 11 – Removal of anthropogenic debris in Alvarado Creek will directly reduce trash pollution in the San Diego River. Removal of non-native species and planting of native species will help restore the natural ecosystem function of the creek. Preliminary data for the project Reach indicate elevated fecal indicator bacteria numbers during baseflow. Restoration is expected to directly address this problem by enhancing natural ecosystem filtration functions,

such as increased interception of runoff and pollutants and provide water quality benefits to riverine systems.

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

   This project will restore native habitat to alleviate flooding issues and implement monitoring to understand the impacts of creek restoration on eco-hydrologic dynamics, water quality, and biological parameters.

   The project will start in January 2016 and continue until December 2018. Baseline assessment of water quality indicators and biological indices will be taken along Upper Reach 1 prior to restoration activities during dry weather and wet weather. The restoration effort will focus on the removal of non-native vegetation with an option of planting pole cuttings of on-site willows along the stream. These data will be compared with measurements post-restoration over three phases to assess the response trajectory of water quality to all parts of the restoration activity, including disturbance and establishment of native vegetation.

   Phase 1 will remove vegetation and water quality will be monitored downstream. Other non-native plant species will be treated with 100% aquatic-approved (Roundup Custom^{TM}) herbicide applied using back-pack sprayers. Following the initial extensive non-native removal effort, maintenance will be conducted on an as-needed basis. The services of the California Conservation Corps will be used when feasible to aid in the non-native species removal (hand removal only) and trash and debris cleanup from the creek.

   In year 2, the water quality assessment will evaluate post-restoration conditions, whereas downstream sites will continue to evaluate pre-restoration conditions. This “phasing” of the restoration will allow for comparisons between restored and un-restored reaches.

   For the hydrological aspect of the project, pre-restoration hydrologic measurements and water quality and biological indicators will provide a reference for observed alterations. Similarly, data collected by SDSU student courses at SDSU will supplement baseline analysis. Once the project is implemented, hydrologic measurements and water quality and biological indicators will be monitored during the restoration activities and after to quantify changes. This project will also use data from nearby systems for comparison to account for annual climate variability, such as data points collected by Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) for regional monitoring of the San Diego Watershed. Collaboration with SCCWRP will also provide access to new and relevant bio-assessment data collected in the San Diego watershed that could be used for comparison to data collected post-treatment.

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

   A. <u>California Water Action Plan (Update 2009)</u>
      i. Action 4 – Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems;
      ii. Action 7 – Provide Safe Drinking Water and Secure Waste Water to All Communities;
      iii. Action 8 – Increase Flood Protection

B. State/ San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
    i. San Diego Region Basin Plan – sets pollutant benchmark values which will be measured as part of the water quality assessment. The project will enhance the maintenance or restoration of recreational, water supply, and habitat-related beneficial uses and improve flood control protection.
    ii. The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program provides bio-assessment guidance and field sampling protocols

C. San Diego River Watershed Management Plan (2005), Early Recommendations include establishing monitoring stations, addressing storm water runoff, identify and map hydromodification, as well as addressing the need for data gaps in flow monitoring.

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

Fundamentally, evaluating the response of stream water quality to restoration measures in arid, urban streams is a novel practice. The work in Alvarado Creek has great potential to serve as a model for other urban restoration efforts. The collaboration with the SDSU scientific community on a vision to use Alvarado Creek as a living-learning laboratory is also novel.

Technically, bio-assessment using benthic macro-invertebrates continues to be an up-and-coming way to evaluate stream ecosystem health, in addition to chemical methods. Use of the California Stream Condition Index proposed here is a novel method that is increasingly being utilized in California bio-assessments. SDSU will also analyze organic compounds in the water column, both in the laboratory to rapidly track the dominant organic matter inputs (leaf litter vs. algae or other microbes). These will provide research opportunities and advance knowledge on how stream restoration effects change in urban streams.

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

Species richness and percent cover survey of vascular plants; fixed photo-points of vegetation and debris removal before and after will be taken facing upstream and downstream to show qualitative changes.

A. High resolution temporal study of select water quality and biological parameters during wet weather; baseline (pre-restoration/ post-restoration) hydrologic, water quality (nutrients - phosphorus, nitrate, nitrite, and total nitrogen) dissolved organic carbon concentrations; total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, intensity and distribution of fluorescent organic compounds; dissolved oxygen, FIB (levels of bacteria) and biological (benthic invertebrates) field studies with high temporal resolution;
B. Surface-water groundwater interactions and movement of water and solutes through the hyporheic zone;
C. Repeatedly surveyed channel cross sections to evaluate changing channel morphology;
D. Number of trees removed, weight of debris removed and channel bedload movement estimates.

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

   This project benefits the SDSU campus by reducing flood potential. It will restore natural habitat and vegetation. This project will also provide implications for future restoration efforts in San Diego. Finally, this project has the potential to benefit the local community by providing a safer and more aesthetically pleasing way for pedestrians to transit from Alvarado Court to the intersection of Alvarado Road and College Avenue.

   There is a moderate to high potential for Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), as well as raptors and other nesting bird species, to be present in or near the project area. Least Bell's vireo territories were detected in the San Diego River, approximately one mile from the project area.

9) Whether the project reflects best available science.

   Three phases will contribute to a systematic approach that allows investigators to collect baseline information and analyze the impacts of stream restoration on specific hydrologic and environmental characteristics. Within SDSU, the Water Quality Research Lab in the Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering has in-situ meters to measure conductivity, pH, and dissolved oxygen, and a portable field fluorometer to measure chlorophyll a, tryptophan, and chromophoric organic matter fluorescence. The Civil Engineering Hydrology Lab will provide streamgaging and surveying equipment, to collect water samples. The involvement of Assistant Professor, Dr. Mladenov (Environmental Engineering) and Assistant Professor, Dr. Kinoshita (Water Resources Engineering) greatly enhances the value of this project as they will provide scientifically-sound information on stream response to habitat restoration. They will also facilitate partnerships with other water-related groups, such as the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.

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

    San Diego State University Foundation, the Soil Ecology Restoration Group and partnering professors have demonstrated numerous relevant projects ranging from water quality monitoring, riparian restoration from a half million to one and a half million dollar programs.

11) The project is in a disadvantaged community.

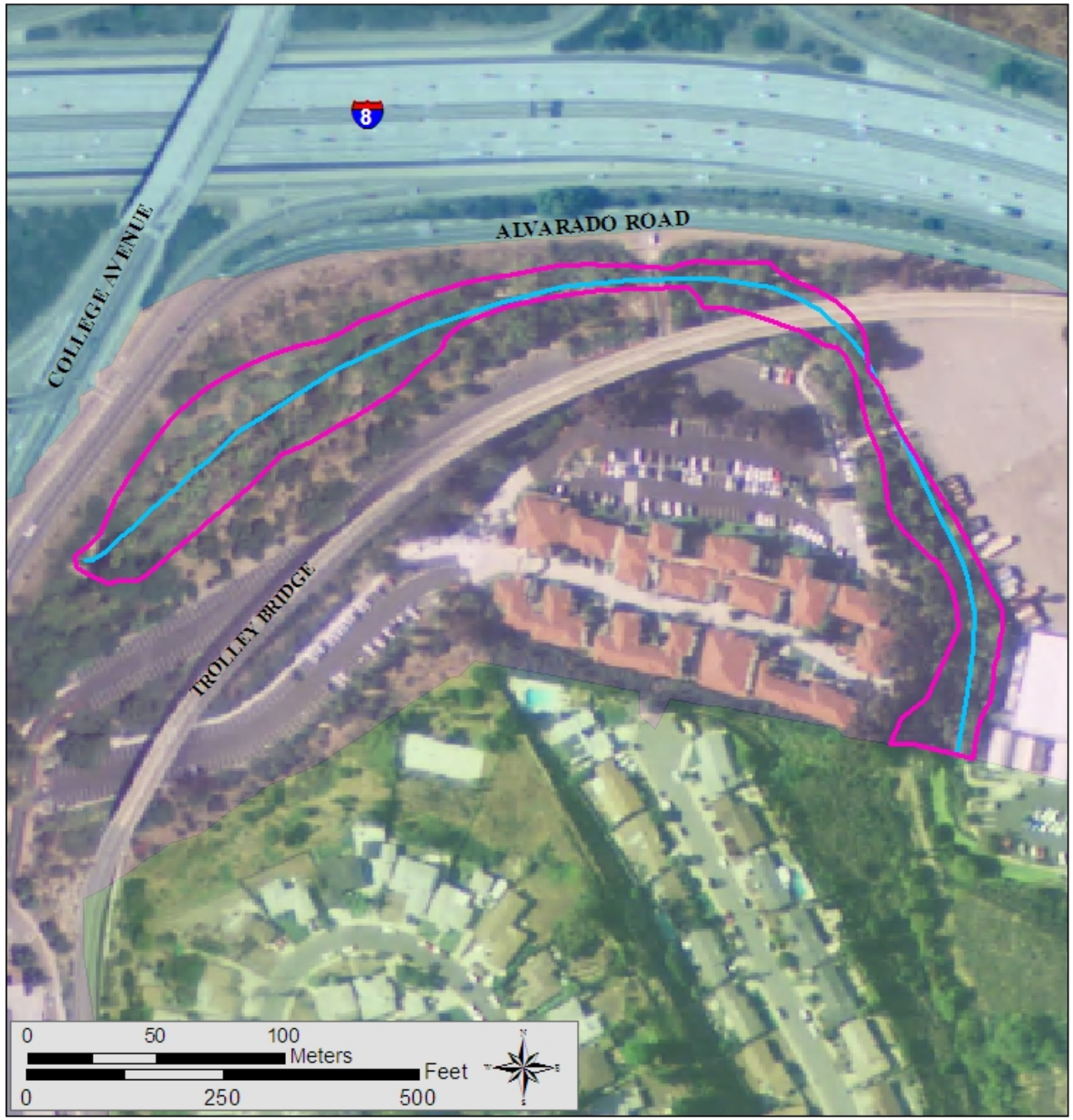
    The Project is in a disadvantaged community with an annual median household income (AMHI) at approximately 77% of the State AMHI.

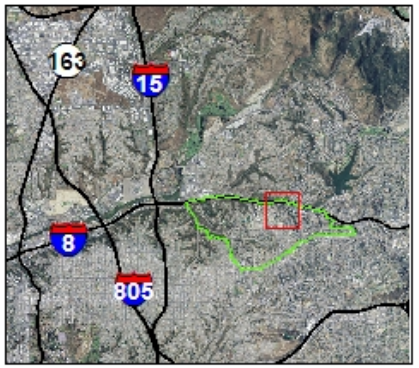
12) Matching funds from applicant.

    The applicant is providing funds in the amount of $297,580.64, or 32% of the total project costs.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA: The proposed project is consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to the suite of permits obtained by the Conservancy for its Invasive Non-Native Plant removal program. (e.g. California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1600 permit, ACOE

Regional General Permit #41, USFWS Informal consultation).





FREEWAYS
COLLEGE AREA
AREA OF INTEREST

LAND MANAGERS
SDSU
CALTRANS
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

PROJECT AREA (2.6 ac)

ALVARADO CREEK
UPPER REACH 1 (1,671 ft)

Data Source:SANDAG, SERG

Resolution No: 15-07

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, Section 32649)

3. The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $1,233,000.00 (One Million Two Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars) in grant funds to the City of Santee for water quality, habitat and public access improvements at Mast Park.

4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts and other documents needed which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

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

Approved and adopted the 12th day of November 2015. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 15-07 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:
Yeas: _____
Nays: _____
Absent: _____

_____
Julia L. Richards
Executive Officer

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

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

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 15-07
November 12, 2015

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to $1,233,000.00 to the City of Santee for drainage enhancement, habitat restoration and stormwater quality monitoring at Mast Park.

LOCATION: The proposed project is in the San Diego River watershed area in the City of Santee, County of San Diego.

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

"The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $1,233,000.00 to implement projects focused on improving the water quality, water supply, ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration specifically as follows:

- The City of Santee: One million two hundred thirty-three thousand dollars to improve inadequate drainage (create treatment system for polluted runoff via bioswales/retention basin) restore riparian habitat (5.1 acres), remove contaminants in stormwater runoff and enhance public access.

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

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Division 22.9 of the Public Resources Code, Chapter 3, and Section 32649. (San Diego River Conservancy Act)

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

The City of Santee proposes to improve flood conveyance by installing stormwater treatment systems and restore native riparian habitat by removing impermeable pavement. This project covers natural enhancements for 31.3 acres of Mast Park. From these activities, water quality and the overall riparian ecosystem of the San Diego River will be improved.

Current impervious user trail would be removed, placed away from the river to expand riparian buffer with pervious decomposed granite walkway (stretching 2,080 ft along the San Diego River) setback 75-100 ft. Trail realignment will create more room for a riparian buffer. Improvements would also include least Bell's vireo habitat restoration.

Construction of dry stream bed, bio-swales and a retention basin will reduce contaminants carried by adjacent stormwater because of increased infiltration and reduced flow rates. Native plantings will be better adapted for drought conditions and cover a total of 19.2 acres. Of that, 5.1 acres southern riparian woodland habitat will be added, 0.95 acre of low-water-use UC Verde Buffalograss with a reclaimed water irrigation system, and 13.1 acres low-growing, drought-tolerant California native plants will make this Park adapted for drought conditions. Non-native weeds will be grubbed from 22.6 acres.

SITE DESCRIPTION: Mast Park is situated east of Carlton Hills Boulevard and south of Carlton Oaks Drive, bounded by residential development to the north and east. Stormwater discharge builds up from existing drainage, and as a consequence results in sediment erosion.

PROJECT HISTORY/NEED: This project will modernize and revitalize a riverfront park that was designed in the mid 1980s without the current regulatory and scientific focus on climate change, drought, urban runoff remediation and habitat restoration. Infrastructure improvements will reap multiple benefits for the environment, water quality, wildlife and public access.

From a water-quality perspective, the project is needed to correct an inadequate drainage system that causes severe erosion and treat polluted runoff coming from an urban area that flows across Mast Park and into the San Diego River. In addition to curbing erosion, the project will install a network of bioswales, dry creek beds, native plant infiltration area and a dry retention basin that will naturally treat contaminated runoff and replenish the aquifer.

The project will retrofit the park to comply with the most recent Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, which requires major redevelopment projects to retain stormwater runoff on-site. The Region 9 Water Quality Control Board has listed Santee's stretch of the San Diego River as "impaired" due to low dissolved oxygen, bacteria, phosphorous and total dissolved solids.

The project also calls for replacing an asphalt trail that is a potential pollution threat to water quality with decomposed granite. A 5.1-acre riparian forest will be planted along the river to provide a habitat buffer. This will benefit a variety of wildlife, including least Bell's vireo; a federally listed migratory songbird that has been identified near the park. The riparian buffer will also reduce greenhouse gases by sequestering carbon dioxide (CO_2).

PROJECT FINANCING: The total project amount is anticipated to cost $7,200,000.00. Project applicant is requesting $2,216,436.22 (31%) funding from the Conservancy. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is an appropriation from Proposition 1 grant funds, for Ecosystem, Watershed Protection and Restoration.

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

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S): Consistent with Program 3A, preserve and restore natural resources, of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed authorization will implement improved habitat by removing non-native plants, expanding wetland buffer and re-vegetating with native plants.

Consistent with Program 4, enhance water quality and natural flood conveyance, of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017, the proposed authorization will implement improved protection and maintenance of the San Diego River.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES: The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on May 2015, in the following respects:

REQUIRED CRITERIA

1) The project is within the jurisdiction of the San Diego River Conservancy (San Diego watershed). Yes.

2) The extent to which the project has support from the jurisdiction over the location of the project. Yes. The Santee City Council on September 23, 2015, approved a resolution in support of the project (Resolution 08-2015)

3) The extent to which the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Proposition 1, Chapter 6, section 79732 subsection a (1-13).

   Purpose 2 – Planting a one- to two-acre riparian buffer adjacent to the river will "restore a river parkway" pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 and urban river greenways" by improving public access, restoring wildlife habitat and decreasing polluted stormwater draining into the San Diego River.
   Purpose 3 – Planting a 571,000-square foot native plant infiltration area will "implement a watershed adaptation project in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems."
   Purpose 9 – Constructing a system of bioswales, dry creek beds and stormwater retention basins.
   Purpose 11 – The project will "reduce pollution or contamination of rivers" and "protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality or flood management." These benefits will result from constructing one or more stormwater retention basins along with a network of bioswales and dry creek beds.
   Purpose 12 – The project will "assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened or migratory species by improving watershed health." This will occur through the planting of a 5.1-acre riparian corridor, which will restore habitat used by least Bell's vireo.

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

This project is the next step in a continuum that began with the city's 2012 Mast Park Master Plan Update (Plan). The Plan was aimed at expanding riparian habitat and incorporated stormwater treatment systems such as bioswales, rocky creek beds and a runoff retention basin. A variety of input was gained from public outreach, community workshops and presentations to community groups such as the Santee Kiwanis Club, the Santee Collaborative and the Santee City Council in December 2011.

Using the master plan update as a baseline resource, the City of Santee was able to design and propose a scope of work that matches the Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines. The scope of work and budget were further refined by a city principal civil engineer. The project budget and schedule is based on the city's adopted FY 2016-20 Capital Improvement Program, which includes a preliminary timeline and identifies local funding sources.

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

A. California Water Action Plan (2009)
   i. Action 1 – Make conservation a California Way of Life;
   ii. Action 4 – Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems;
   iii. Action 5 – Manage and Prepare for Dry Periods;
   iv. Action 8 – Increase Flood Protection

B. San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
   i. San Diego Region Basin Plan – The project will enhance the maintenance or restoration of recreational, water supply, and habitat-related beneficial uses and improve flood control protection. Also addressing point sources and nonpoint sources of pollution shall be controlled to protect designated beneficial uses of water (Policy 3).

C. City of San Diego
   i. San Diego River Park Master Plan – expand riparian habitat and improve water quality through the increased duration of water contact with soil and vegetation (SDR Master Plan, Page 34) and adopt programs to reduce/remove non-point source loads including litter and solid waste (SDR Master Plan, Page 39)

D. San Diego River Park Foundation
   i. 2002 San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan advocates for dry detention basins (Page 75), vegetative swales (Page 74), infiltration zones (Page 73), stormwater treatment (Page 77), and habitat restoration (Page 79).

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

This project is a Low Impact Development (LID) designed to work with nature to manage stormwater. This technology is also known as "green infrastructure," and the City of Santee's project proposes construction of a 9,900-square-foot dry retention basin, 23,000 square feet of bioswales and enhanced drainage channels and native plant infiltration area. A bioswale is a low-gradient, open channel planted with vegetation that collects surface runoff. The bioswale decreases the speed of flows, acts as a stormwater detention facility, and allows suspended

solids to settle out. Vegetation filters particulates and their associated pollutants as runoff passes slowly and evenly through the channel. The pollutants are absorbed into the soil where they can be immobilized or decomposed by plants and microbes. The bioswale is considered a creative means of controlling runoff, and has the potential to improve water quality, mitigate wetland loss, provide flood containment, and improve the aesthetics of the project site. The basic principal of LID is to preserve and recreate natural landscape features and reduce impervious surfaces for functional and appealing site drainage stormwater treatment.

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

   In each of the two years following completion of the project, Santee will generate a quarterly report on the status of the project and submit it to the San Diego River Conservancy. The report will include photos taken annually showing the condition of the site, along with a narrative explaining how the project has met, failed or exceeded the project's goals and objectives.

   As part of the report, the city's park and landscape supervisor, who is a certified arborist, will provide an assessment of native plant establishment in restored riparian forest as well as vegetation in the native plant infiltration area. The City of Santee has a full-time stormwater program manager to assist with the design of a Best Management Practices to evaluate water quality aspects of the project. This would involve the collection and monitoring of stormwater runoff samples to determine how effective the treatment systems perform in terms of removing pollutants.

   Santee will consult with San Diego State University, the San Diego River Park Foundation and other agencies and groups to determine how existing water-quality monitoring data can be used. A hydraulic analysis will provide restoration effort information and these data will be available online.

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

   The project would correct the park's inadequate drainage system and redirect contaminated runoff to be treated in bioswales, vegetated rocky streambeds and retention basins before reaching the river. Urban runoff from residential areas will be retained and treated through native plant infiltration which will slow the velocity of runoff, allowing percolation into the soil replenishing the aquifer. To further enhance the treatment of stormwater, the city will plant low-growing, drought-tolerant California native plants in the northeast quadrant of the park.

   The project would also remove a paved trail that is a potential pollutant, replacing it with pervious decomposed granite. Asphalt contains carcinogenic petroleum hydrocarbons, including Benzopyrene, that have been proven to leach into stormwater runoff. In addition, the project would expand riparian habitat along the river further recharging the aquifer and sequestering greenhouse gases. Dry vegetated creek beds installed as part of the new drainage system will have the dual benefit of improving water quality, while providing habitat.

9) Whether the project reflects best available science.

Numerous studies by the EPA, stormwater professionals and journal articles such as Urban Water Journal report on findings of how retention basins and bioswales remove pollutants (e.g. metals nutrient, bacteria) from stormwater runoff improving water quality thereby making this project a modern remediation.

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

    The City of Santee has an exemplary track record of completing projects similar to the one proposed by this grant application. These include several state and federal grants amounting from a half million to multi-million dollar projects. They effectively built recreational trails, restored riparian habitat and re-vegetated native plant species.

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

12) Matching funds from applicant.

    The applicant is providing funds in the amount of $4,983,564, or 69% of project costs.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA: The proposed project has already completed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15301(i), 15304 and 15306.

The final document, titled “Mast Park Master Plan Report”, is 79 pages, plus an appendix containing an environmental constraints assessment performed by HELIX Environmental Planning and a Cultural Resources Study by ASM Affiliates.

In November 2011, the city’s planning director completed a 35-page Environmental Checklist Form, which concluded that a Negative Declaration was appropriate for the Mast Park Master Plan project.

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DRAFT MASTER PLAN

MAST PARK

SANTEE, CALIFORNIA

SCALE: 1"=50'-0"

SDG Project Number: 11-408
Date: October 6, 2011

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **10**

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

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

New Administrative Services Manager

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **11**

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held Thursday, January 14, 2016, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 12, 2015

ITEM: **12**

SUBJECT: **ADJOURNMENT**