

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,

May 15, 2008
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Meeting Location

San Diego City Hall 202 "C" Street
Conference Room B, 12th Floor
San Diego, California 92101

Tele-Conference Location: 1416 Ninth Street
Resources Agency Conference Room 1305 Sacramento, CA 95814
(866) 673-2851 / Pass code 3486949

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. Executive Officer's Report

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

Project Updates

- Bike Path
- Mission Valley Preserve
- SDSU & SDRC Inter Agency Agreement
- Ex-Officio Memberships
- Logo Design Contract

Legislative News

- SB 1428
- 08-09 Budget

6. Deputy Attorney Generals Report
7. San Diego River Trail (Mission Valley Greenway)
 - Presentation: City of San Diego
 - Resolution 08-01
8. Tributary Canyon Project
 - Presentation & Report: Jim King
 - Resolution 08-02
9. 2008 Work Plan
 - Adoption
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 May 15, 2008

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 15, 2008

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
The Board will consider adoption of the **March 20, 2008** public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **March 20, 2008** Board Meeting are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of March 20, 2008 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval May 15, 2008)

Chairperson Donna Frye called the March 20, 2008 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present:

Jerry Sanders	Mayor, City of San Diego
Donna Frye, Chair	Council Member, City of San Diego
Toni Atkins	Council Member, Public at Large
Karen Scarborough	Resources Agency
Anne Sheehan	Department of Finance—(via phone)
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Anne Miller Haddad	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
Ronilee Clark	Department of Parks and Recreation Alternate Designee
Ben Clay	Public at Large

Staff Members Present:

Michael Nelson,	Executive Officer
Hayley Peterson,	Deputy Attorney General
Ann Van Leer,	Consultant, San Diego River Conservancy
Jim King,	Project Development Analyst
Flenell Owens,	Administrative Services Manager

Absent:

Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, Second District
David King	San Diego Regional Water Quality Board

Chairperson Frye introduced two new Board members: Ben Clay, Public at Large, appointed by the Governor and Ruth Hayward, Public at Large, appointed by the Senate. Mr. Clay and Ms. Hayward took the oath of office and were sworn in as new Board Members by Deputy Attorney General Hayley Peterson.

Chairperson Frye welcomed Ruth Hayward and Ben Clay to the Board. She also thanked Jim Peugh for his dedication and service as a Board member of the San Diego River Conservancy.

Chairperson Frye asked the SDRC's partners and others in attendance to introduce themselves:

Rob Hutsel, (San Diego River Park Foundation)
Chuck Muse, (President of Helix Water District Board)
Diana Spehn, (Policy Director, Senator Kehoe's Office)
Mark Weston, (General Manager, Helix Water District)

Amy Benjamin, (Council member Toni Atkins office)
Tale Halse, (Dianne Jacob's staff)
Lisa Gonzalez, (Donna Frye's staff)
Brent Eidson (Mayor Sanders' staff)
Robin Rierdan, (Lakeside River Park Conservancy)
Matt Rahn, (Director Field Station Program, San Diego State University)
Jim Peugh, (San Diego Audubon Society)
Kathy Keehan (San Diego County Bicycle Coalition)

Ronie Clark gave a brief description on the Old Town location and welcomed everyone to Old Town State Historic Park.

2. Approval of Minutes

Andrew Poat moved approval of the minutes for the January 17, 2008 public meeting. The motion was seconded by Anne Miller Haddad with a request that on Page 6 a typographical error "\$3,000,000,000" should be corrected to reflect, "\$3,000,000 of prop 84 funds". The minutes were adopted unanimously by a voice vote. Board members Sanders, Hayward, Atkins, and Clay abstained.

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 Hutzel, Executive Director of the San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF), wanted to remind everyone that May 10-18th is San Diego River Days 2008. He invited the Board to attend and stated that there will be about thirty activities for the headwaters to the mouth of the river.

Secondly, he mentioned that last weekend SDRPF had their first "River Blitz." which included d fourteen teams along the river conducting biological and visual assessments.

Robin Rierdan, Executive Director, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy (LRPC) stated that the excavation project at the Park is now moving forward; 400,000 cubic yards of dirt is moving off their site. 300 trucks per day go to the City of Santee for the completion of Highway 52. This project that will save the Conservancy \$3,000,000 in site costs to export the material, as a \$3,000,000 savings for CalTrans to import materials to the site.

She also mentioned that during River Days last year LRPC held their first Run along the San Diego River Trail and attracted 275 participants and that they were excited to announce that their second would be held this year.

She gave an update regarding the El Monte Valley restoration project and said that LRPC in partnership with the Endangered Habitats Conservancy had applied for a \$4,000,000 grant from the Department of Water Resources Flood Corridor Protection Program.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

(No report)

5. Executive Officer's Report

Project Updates

Mike Nelson gave an update on the following projects:

SDSU & SDRC Inter Agency Agreement:

Mike Nelson stated that the 2007 work plan included an item to develop a partnership with San Diego State University. He said that the agreement had been negotiated and that a signing ceremony and a project demonstration had been scheduled for April 18, 2008. He introduced Matt Rahn, Director of the Field Station Programs for San Diego State University (SDSU) to talk about the project.

Matt Rahn explained that SDSU owns property on a tributary of the San Diego River at Mission Trails Regional Park and has been conducting research water quality, monitoring, and restoration for years. One of the big benefits of our partnership with SDRC will be the establishment of "RiverNet." This is a new collaboration among the Conservancy, the River Park Foundation, a group called HPWREN, and Mission Trails Park. The idea is to establish a wireless communication umbrella along the River's entire length and install sensors that monitor water quality in real time every 15 minutes. RiverNet is being proposed as the largest wireless watershed in the nation and would be a model for how to accomplish watershed monitoring and modeling in the future. At the April 18th signing ceremony, we will be demonstrating this technology at Old Mission Dam and linking a bio webcam and wireless signal to demonstrate the technology and its benefits.

Ben Clay what type of monitoring are you going to be doing? Will it be for sewage spills, soap releases, etc?

Matt Rahn answered that it was all of the above. He added that the sensors would detect PH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, temperature, and flow. A network of sensors across an entire watershed allows you to observe changes that occur in the watershed over time.

Ronie Clark asked who would have access to this information.

Matt Rahn said that the information will be available to researchers, shared with local government and provided to educators in classrooms.

Andrew Poat asked how this project will be funded.

Mike Nelson stated that SDRC may have an opportunity to financially contribute to this project and that he has asked the Resources Agency to review the projects eligibility for Prop 40 or Prop 84 funding.

Mike Nelson stated that there might be an opportunity for another signing ceremony with the Helix Water District, Forest Service and SDRC for the River Gorge Trail.

He also reminded the Board that the Conservancy has two projects totaling \$2,500,000 are

underway. Both investments are with the City of San Diego, one is the extension of the OB Bike Path and the second is for the removal of invasives and revegetation at the Mission Valley Preserve.

Legislative News:

Mike Nelson stated that Senate Bill 1428 has been introduced by Senator Kehoe to repeal the January 2010 sunset or termination provision found in the San Diego River Conservancy Act. He also stated that Senator Kehoe's office had requested a formal letter of endorsement of the legislation. He informed the Board that he had prepared and sent a letter that was signed by the Chair, indicating that the Board of Governor's would formally consider the legislation. He also announced that a hearing on Senate Bill 1428 had been scheduled.

Ruth Hayward asked what will be the new sunset date, if the legislation was enacted?

Mike Nelson responded that the legislation did not specify a new sunset date, and it repealed the provision indefinitely.

Karen Scarborough stated that this legislation offered an opportunity to add language to the Act that would allow the Mayor's to appoint a designee to represent him on the Board. She recommended the Board amend the letter of endorsement to inquire as to how best to add language that addresses the Mayor's designee.

Karen Scarborough recommended that the Board also take a look at adding a "designee" to other positions on the Board instead of repeatedly revisiting the issue. She also encouraged additional letters of support from the City of San Diego and SDRC partners and stated that the Executive Officer attend the Committee hearing.

Mark Weston, General Manager, Helix Water District, requested a position on the Board as an ex officio member.

Karen Scarborough stated that we should set up criteria if adding ex officio members non-legislatively. She also asked how other conservancies have established adding ex officio members. She requested that the Executive Officer research who else might we consider adding looking at 100% of the river.

Chairperson Frye stated that maybe we should base ex officio membership in part on land ownership.

Ruth Hayward asked what about Native Americans and reservations along the river?

Chairperson Frye stated that she thinks that ex officio membership could possibly be granted to public agencies with jurisdiction over the river as well as, land ownership.

Karen Scarborough moved to support a letter of endorsement of SB 1428 with language in support of a repeal of the San Diego River Conservancy's "sunset provision" and to add language authorizing "designees" for the Mayor and others. Also, to conduct research on ex-officio membership to support adding Helix Water District.

Ben Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote of 10-0-0.

Budget:

Mike Nelson referred to the attachment which contained a copy of the 08-09 budget that was pending before the California Legislature, and stated that it contained a small increase that would cover the Conservancy's office rental payments.

6. Deputy Attorney General's Report

Hayley Peterson reminded the Board that Statements of Economic Interest are due to the Fair Political Practices Commission on April 1, 2008.

7. Election of Officers

Ruth Hayward nominated Donna Frye to serve as Chair. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Toni Atkins. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote of 10-0-0.

Mayor Jerry Sanders nominated Andrew Poat for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Board Member Ann Haddad. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote of 10-0-0.

Karen Scarborough asked when does the election of officers normally occur.

Mike Nelson stated that San Diego River Conservancy Act requires that elections occur two years.

8. 2008 Work Planning Session

The Executive Officer gave a presentation of an annotated 2007 Work Plan that acknowledged the Conservancy's progress, as well as its setbacks in 2007. He also presented a 2008 Draft Work Plan that includes the Annual Work Plan for the San Diego River Coalition. The following are highlights and summaries of comments made by Board members and others.

Land Conservation

Karen Scarborough stated that the Laird bill, AB 2497, was drafted to streamline acquisitions. The Resources Agency and the Department of Finance are coordinating comments.

John Donnelly stated that the Wildlife Conservation Board's staff is available to work through the issues to help streamline the acquisition process.

Recreation and Education

Ben Clay recommended that as the Conservancy pursued the development of the River Trail that it considers England's approach to trail easements for biking/walking use.

Anne Sheehan stated that the State of California through the State Lands Commission has successfully negotiated and accepted public access easements.

Andrew Poat asked if there was an Executive Officer Working Group of Executive Officers and whether a new organization might be necessary to assist with the development of easement program and projects?

Rob Hutsel stated that the River Park Foundation could be of assistance and had accepted easements and referenced the White donation.

Mike Nelson suggested that the Work Plan's and Strategic Plans emphasis on "making the river safe" would continue to require the attention in future Work Plans.

Chairperson Frye stated advised the Executive Officer add fire as well as police activity to the definition of safety. For example, invasive removal should be included as a safety issue; that the Conservancy should get credit for the invasive removal as well as the safety impact that is associated with the removal.

Robin Rierdan stated that the Lakeside River Park Conservancy has park patrol that consists of 35 volunteers that have been successful in removing encampments. The volunteers walk the trails and seek law enforcement intervention. She recommended implementing a similar patrol in the San Diego River.

Mark Weston stated that this awareness has led to encampments moving out to Helix and helix is now addressing the issue. This is something it hasn't done in the past.

Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration

Caltrans Building

Mike Nelson said that he had been advised that the Caltrans building's fate seems destined to remain public property and it the subject of negotiations between Caltrans and California State Parks.

John Donnelly asked if this transfer had to be reviewed and approved by the Public Works Board process or accomplished through the budget process.

Anne Sheehan stated that she will follow up on that as well.

Invasive Removal

Ruth Hayward stated that the Conservancy should look into adding other endangered birds to its habitat restoration efforts.

Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance

Hydrology Study

Mike Nelson that the City of San Diego, the Regional Water Quality Board, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Conservancy have agreed to revise the Scope of Work for SDRC's Hydrology Study to compliment and integrate its tasks with a Hydrology Study the City of San Diego is procuring and is close to contracting.

Jim Peugh stated that he hopes that the Conservancy can take advantage of this because information is needed to evaluate developments along the River.

Miscellaneous Projects

“Building a Network of state, local and federal government”

Mike Nelson stated that substantial progress had been made towards building relationships with state, local, and county officials in 2007, but he was optimistic that the City and County could play a greater role in addressing the goals and objectives of the Conservancy.

Chairperson Frye stated that she will talk with Dianne Jacobs about the county’s projects so they will be included.

“Coordination with other Conservancies”

Mike Nelson stated that he interviewed and visited four Executive Officers and reviewed the results with the Board in 2007.

Andrew Poat suggested that the Executive Officer establish relationships with the other Executive Officers and create an e-mail group for communication.

Karen Scarborough stated that Mike Chrisman occasionally has group meetings that the Executive Officer may want to look into.

Chairperson Frye recommended that the Board forward lists of key agency and legislative contacts in Sacramento to the Executive Officer.

“Work with the Resources Agency to secure Proposition 84 funding”

Andrew Poat asked when is the anticipated date of exhaustion of Proposition 84 funds.

Anne Sheehan replied that no date has been set.

Andrew Poat stated that the Conservancy should be aware of existing and future bond measures that could be a source of allocations and funding categories for SDRC projects..

“Letter to Property Owners”

Mike Nelson stated that he has not sent out letters to every landowner in SDRC’s jurisdiction because he was uncertain about the Conservancy’s capacity to follow through if there was a high volume of positive responses. However, the Conservancy is engaged in outreach with property owners as part of the implementation of the Invasive Removal and Restoration Project.

Karen Scarborough recommended that the Executive Officer utilize its partners within the San Diego River Coalition to develop a program that works with landowners that may have an interest in working with the San Diego River Conservancy.

Karen Scarborough also requested that the Executive Officer pursue the development of a new logo design for the San Diego River Conservancy.

Additional Recommendations

Rob Hutsel asked that consideration be given to adding 3 items to the Conservancy’s Annual

Work Plan:

1. Examine that the Conservancy consider assuming the role of "Lead Agency" for CEQA, particularly for land acquisitions.
 2. Investigate the acquisition or protection of property under bridges owned by Caltrans.
 3. Explore liability and maintenance requirements for trail easements.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 11:51.

Accessibility

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State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 15, 2008

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 May 15, 2008

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 REPORT
Meeting of May 15, 2008

ITEM: 5

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:

Project Updates

- Bike Path
- Mission Valley Preserve
- SDSU & SDRC Inter Agency Agreement
- Ex-Officio Memberships
- Logo Design Contract

Legislative News

- SB 1428
- 08-09 Budget



Pablo Bryant (above), a technical manager for the Field Stations Program at San Diego State, worked on a probe that will be used to test the water near Mission Trails Dam. SDSU's John Kim (below) set up laptop computers that will transmit real-time information to scientists on river conditions. *Earnie Grafton / Union-Tribune photos*

SAN DIEGO RIVER AT 'TURNING POINT'


SDSU, agency, coalition join to protect, restore it

By Mike Lee
STAFF WRITER

For years, researchers at San Diego State University have monitored environmental changes around the world. Now, they are turning more of their attention to their own backyard.

This morning, the university will announce a partnership with a state agency and several community groups to protect and restore the San Diego River. Their main goal is to set up a system of monitors that collect and transmit water-quality information about the waterway, which flows near the campus on its

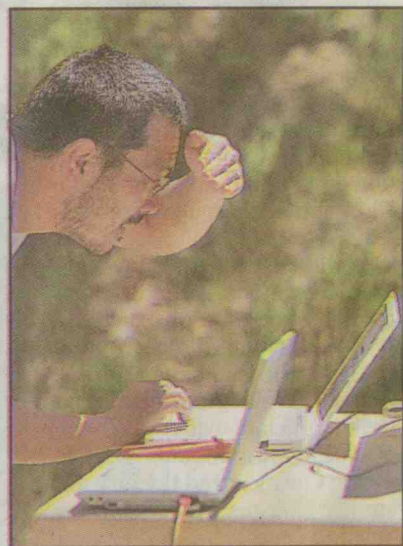
 **U-T Multimedia:** For video about the San Diego River's history and efforts to restore the waterway, go to uniontrib.com/more/sdriver.

 **Online:** For an overview of the San Diego River, visit sandiegoriver.org or sdrca.gov.

52-mile trip from near Julian to Ocean Beach.

The project is expected to help scientists, students and conservationists gain knowledge of what is sometimes called California's "first

SEE **S.D. River, B10**



FRIDAY
April 18, 2008



THE SAN DIEGO
UNION-TRIBUNE

► S.D. RIVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

It's played key role in region's development

river." It also will boost the profile of a long-running campaign to improve some of the waterway's natural function in areas altered by heavy development.

"It's definitely a turning point in how we envision our role with regard to research, education and outreach. We hope to establish a brand-new model for how we manage and monitor the watershed," said Matt Rahn, director of the Field Stations Program at San Diego State.

The centerpiece of the new agreement is the "wireless watershed," which would consist of 10 to 20 monitors to be placed in the river over the next year. The devices would send real-time data to interested groups.

Such information is meant to help SDSU students and researchers scientifically assess the river's ecosystem. It also would provide benefits to various officials beyond the university by, for instance, helping to detect sewage spills that enter the waterway.

The university's main partners are the San Diego River Conservancy, a small state agency formed to enhance the waterway, and the San Diego River Park Foundation, a coalition of 70 groups that support restoration efforts such as monthly monitoring programs in the watershed.

No long-term funding source has been identified for the new venture. The people involved with it said their initial goals



Scientists will place this probe and others into the San Diego River at various points to help monitor water conditions and provide a range of data for their studies. *Earnie Grafton / U-T*

include finding money to buy and maintain the monitoring equipment. The partnership's leaders said working together should improve their chances of winning grants.

"It's great that we have been able to sit down and work out an agreement . . . but the results will be key," said Michael Nelson, executive director of the conservancy.

Historically, the San Diego River played an important role in the region's development. It provided water for Old Town and the San Diego mission long before Mission Valley was largely paved and the city started importing most of its water.

While large sections of the river are pristine, the lower reaches are marred by trash, graffiti and camps established by homeless people. Eight

years ago, a major sewage spill that fouled the river in Mission Valley helped unite conservationists around the vision of building a pathway and a series of parks along the waterway.

Today's agreement brings SDSU into that effort. The university operates four field-research reserves in and around San Diego County. Those stations are home to more than 100 experiments about everything from wildfires to climate change.

One reserve is along the San Diego River in Mission Trails Regional Park, though little research has been conducted there in recent years.

Rahn envisions that spot becoming home to one of the monitoring devices, which will check factors such as water depth, temperature, alkalinity

and acidity, and oxygen levels.

The information will help bring the river into the classroom, he said.

"These students are ultimately going to be working in the region and answering our important questions on the environment," Rahn said. "This gives them an opportunity to actually get training in their own backyard and apply their education to local issues."

Nelson, the conservancy leader, also sees the students' participation as a plus. "Students can really make a significant contribution," he said. "I am anxious to get (them) involved in the removal of non-native species and habitat restoration."

Mike Lee: (619) 542-4570;
mike.lee@uniontrib.com

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY AND SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



Photo by Ruth Hayward

Senator Christine Kehoe joins leaders of San Diego State University, San Diego River Conservancy and San Diego River Park Foundation to sign a partnership agreement.



Photo by Ruth Hayward

Matt Rahn, Director of Field Station Programs, SDSU presents RiverNet project.



Photo by Ruth Hayward

Councilmember Donna Frye, Mayor Jerry Sanders, President Stephen Weber, Mike Nelson and Rob Hutsel participate in Signing Ceremony,

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of May 15, 2008

ITEM: 6

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 May 15, 2008

ITEM: **7**

SUBJECT: **Mission Valley Greenway / San Diego River Multi-Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Path**

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

PURPOSE: The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 08-01 authorizing the City of San Diego and the San Diego River Conservancy, to obtain Proposition 84 funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to develop the **San Diego River Multi-Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Path**, a component of the Mission Valley Greenway

STRATEGIC PLAN
CONSISTENCY

This item will help to implement Program 2, Project 1, *Complete the San Diego River Park Trail*

BACKGROUND:

The Conservancy's enabling statute includes a statement directing the Conservancy: **"to provide recreation opportunities, open space,...and lands for educational uses within the area."** **"To provide for the public's enjoyment and to enhance the recreational and educational experience on public lands in the territory in a manner consistent with the protection of land and natural resources, as well as economic resources, in the area."**

The Conservancy's Strategic Plan includes in Program 2: Project 1.9, Complete at least 3.5 miles of trail through the City of San Diego reaches and recommended a

strategy that the Conservancy: a) Work with the City of San Diego, San Diego River Park Foundation and other partners to define roles and responsibilities to complete the trail within the City of San Diego reaches, and b) designate priority sections to accomplish greatest net gain in continuous trail.

At the Conservancy Meeting of July 6, 2007, the San Diego River Coalition and specifically the San Diego River Park Foundation and the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition made a presentation entitled Mission Valley Greenway Initiative which proposed to complete the San Diego River Trail from Fashion Valley to Qualcomm Stadium. The San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board endorsed and encouraged SDRC to develop a partnership with the Coalition and the City of San Diego to construct the project.

The City of San Diego has a number of projects within the Mission Valley Greenway. The partners have agreed that the top priority within the Greenway should be the **San Diego River Multi-Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Path**, identified in the City of San Diego's Capital Improvement Plan, as 58-191.0

THIS ACTION: The action is for the Governing Board to approve resolution 08-01 authorizing the Executive Officer in partnership with the City of San Diego to apply to the California Coastal Conservancy to obtain an amount not to exceed **\$1.4million** of Proposition 84 funds identified in the 07-08 Budget for the projects of the San Diego River Conservancy to construct the **San Diego River Multi-Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Path**.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

Resolution 08-01

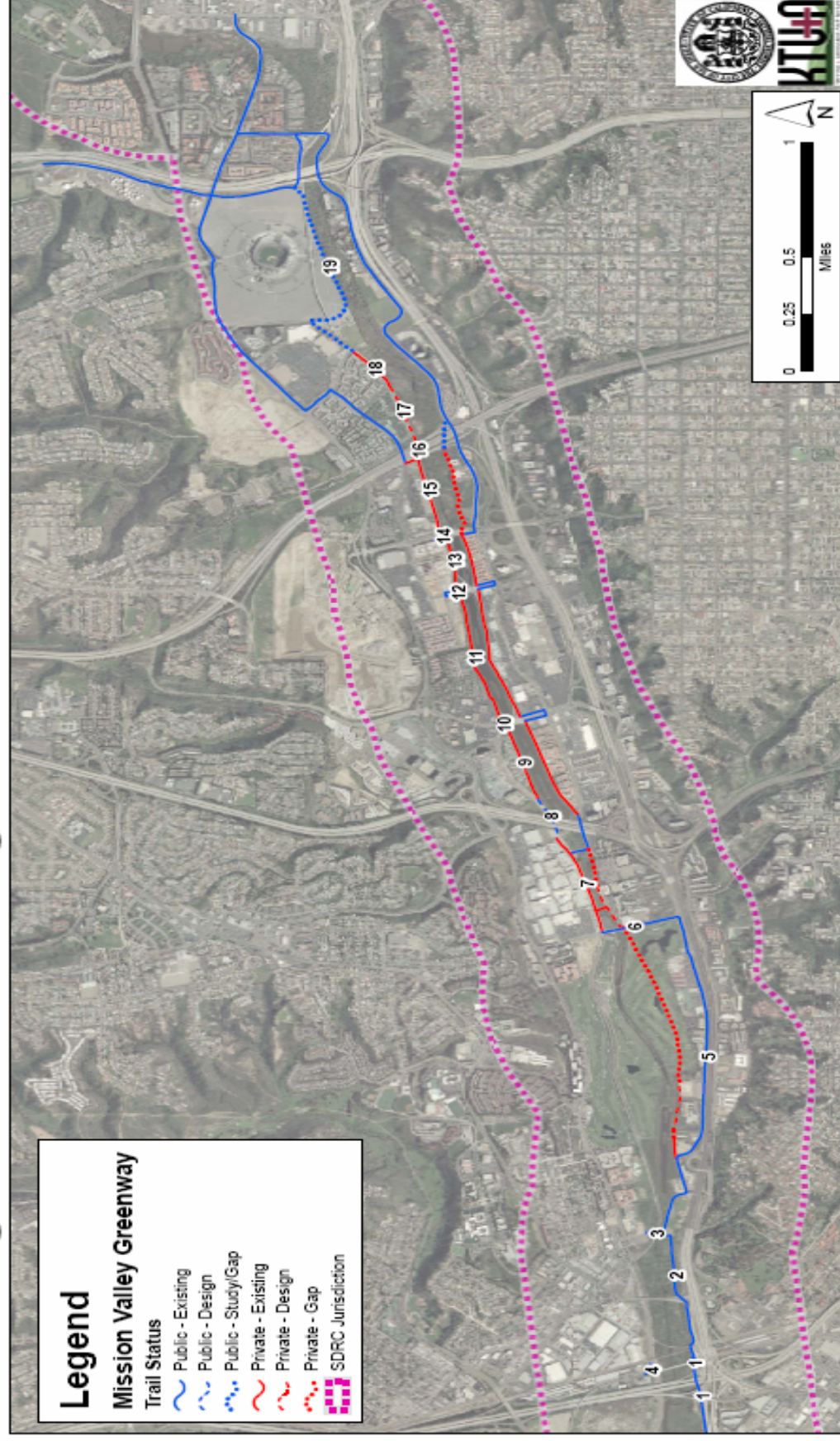
RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolutions 08-01



San Diego River Conservancy

Mission Valley Greenway

San Diego River Trail Segment Status



Resolution No: 08-01

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Coastal Conservancy and the State Resources Agency have been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy finds the application for grant funds for Proposition 84 consistent with enabling statute which directs the Conservancy: "to provide recreation opportunities, open space,...and lands for educational uses within the area"; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy's Strategic Plan endorses the completion of the San Diego River Park Trail from the headwaters to the ocean, which includes in Program 2: Project 1.9, the completion of at least 3.5 miles of trail through the City of San Diego reaches, and recommends a strategy that the Conservancy: a) Work with the City of San Diego, San Diego River Park Foundation and other partners to define roles and responsibilities to complete the trail within the City of San Diego reaches, and b) designate priority sections to accomplish greatest net gain in continuous trail; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy has endorsed the construction of The Mission Valley Greenway and acknowledges that the **San Diego River Multi-Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Path** is a component of the Greenway.

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

1. Authorizes the Executive Officer in partnership with the City of San Diego to obtain an amount not to exceed **\$1.4 million** from the California Coastal Conservancy Proposition 84 funds identified in the 07-08 Budget for the projects of the San Diego River Conservancy for the **San Diego River Multi-Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Path**;

2. Certifies that there will be sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project(s) consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so, and
3. If applicable, certifies that the Project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained, and
4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, and payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned Project(s).
5. Approved and adopted the 15th day of May. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 08-01 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: _____

Nos: _____

Absent: _____

Michael J. Nelson, Executive Officer
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 15, 2008

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR DEVELOPING A DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK AND DESIGN PLANS FOR A SAN DIEGO RIVER TRIBUTARY CANYONS PROJECT IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO.**

PURPOSE: The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 08-02 authorizing the Conservancy to request \$150,000 from the Coastal Conservancy to develop a San Diego River Tributary Canyons Project with funding derived from Proposition 84 funds appropriated to the Coastal Conservancy for projects authorized by the San Diego River Conservancy.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSISTENCY: This item will help to implement Program 2, Recreation & Education and Program 3, Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration.

BACKGROUND: Project Summary: San Diego River Conservancy Resolution 07-04 (September 28, 2007) authorized the development of a framework for a tributary canyons project within the City of San Diego. Staff studied the project area, researched public policy, interacted with community interests and public agencies and prepared comprehensive project recommendations (Project Report, Appendix _). Central to the project framework is the planning and design of a trail network connecting canyons and upland communities to the river. Staff proposes requesting \$150,000 from the Coastal Conservancy to obtain the detailed scopes of work, design plans, regulatory guidelines and funding plan needed to implement the project (Resolution 08-02).

The project would bring the Conservancy's programmatic interests to bear in tributary canyon areas north and south of the river while at the same time address tributary community connections to a central reach of the river in Mission Valley. The roughly six square mile project area includes the Ruffin/Sandroek Canyon Complex to the north of the river, Normal Heights and University Heights ravines and rim canyons to the south and a reach of the river immediately

downstream of Qualcomm Stadium, adjacent to the Fenton Parkway MTS Trolley Station. A footbridge would create a project nexus linking canyon and valley footpaths with the river park, traversing the river within a serene forest canopy. The proposal includes designation and development of a small park connecting the footbridge with the transit station platform and an interpretive program that extends to the canyons and to several of Mission Valley's seven MTS stations.

Project Discussion: Organization of the proposed tributary canyons project involved review of public policy, interaction with formal community planning committees, canyon "friends" groups, business interests and resource specialists within the City of San Diego reach of the San Diego River watershed. The review was accompanied by a field examination of the tributary drainages including canyons, ravines, and Mission Valley rim areas from Presidio Park in the west to Mission Trails Regional Park in the east. The study area is intensely urbanized, natural systems are extensively altered and degraded, and remnant habitat areas are generally isolated and of declining quality. The larger tributary drainages meet the river in culverts or concrete-lined channels and canyons serve as conduits for local and regional roadways (Hwy 163, I-805, I-15 and I-8 freeways, Mission Center Rd., Texas St., Fairmount Ave., Montezuma Rd., among others). Small, undisturbed canyons and ravines do exist throughout the system, notably in Tierrasanta, Navajo, Talmadge, Kensington, Normal Heights, Serra Mesa, University Heights and Mission Hills.

Several issue areas and a geographic focus emerged. There is an acute interest in walking trails that would link upland communities to the river via neighborhood canyons and a corollary concern for informing the public of the natural and cultural resources of the area. Few good opportunities exist for developing trails because of constraints including private ownership, infrastructure interference, steep slopes, fragile soils, and protected critical habitats. The 2-square mile Ruffin/Sandrock Canyon Complex in the community of Serra Mesa is the exception. Here a rudimentary trail system links the two main canyon tributaries with the Escala community on the north edge of Mission Valley. A proposal to design upgrades for these trails is well-supported in the Serra Mesa Community Plan, by neighborhood groups, and by staff of the City of San Diego Recreation and Parks Department, Open Space Division, which owns and manages some 125-acres of canyon lands here. An additional project element would develop the plans needed to extend the trail through the Escala and Fenton Marketplace residential and commercial districts to the river as a designated "urban walkway".

Public policy and community sentiments for walking trails connecting south rim communities to the river park are equally strong. Only rough tracks connect upland neighborhoods with

Mission Valley now, often crossing private property in hazardous circumstances. Canyons that haven't been lost to roadways typically have steep slopes, friable soils, rare habitats, a mix of public and private ownership, and obstructing land uses both on the canyon rim and on the valley floor. City Recreation and Park Department surveys confirm that obstacles to trail development are daunting from Presidio Park to Kensington.

Staff's reconnaissance indicates the best prospects for trail development is in one of several Normal Heights Canyons, a south rim area that coincidentally lies in a north-south axis with the Serra Mesa canyons. Friends of Normal Heights Canyons has organized stewardship projects and spearheaded a campaign to develop canyon trail access to the river as envisioned in the Normal Heights Community Plan. To advance this effort a detailed examination of ownership, habitat, slope and other characteristics of the rim canyons is proposed, encompassing an area from I-15 to Texas St. Alternatives would be identified with information sufficient to enable selecting a viable alignment. Surveys would be conducted to determine easements or other property interests required. Trail designs, cost estimates, and an Initial Study of environmental impact would be prepared and other engineering and regulatory requirements identified sufficiently to organize a final design phase, including the regulatory compliance and funding plans needed for project implementation.

Trails from tributary canyons would converge at the river adjacent to the Fenton Parkway Trolley Station, just downstream of Qualcomm Stadium on the river's north bank. A footbridge is proposed here constituting the key project element that would link the canyon communities as well as unify an increasingly vital neighborhood straddling the river. A footbridge would bring an estimated 8000 office workers from the Centerside II towers and other Camino del Rio addresses to within walking distance of the Fenton Parkway trolley station across the river while providing trolley travelers access to the new River Garden opposite the station on the river's south bank.

Redevelopment of the stadium area, with some 240 acres in public ownership, presents special opportunities. The river park master plan offers several scenarios for the stadium site, each with enhanced open space and a markedly improved relationship of developed area to the river. The Mission Valley Community Plan provides for a 20-40 acre active park in the area. The proposed footbridge located at the downstream end of the stadium redevelopment area would complement the new urban form that evolves with any redevelopment scheme. It promotes an integrated walkable community encompassing both banks of the river while providing a functional link to tributary canyon trails.

The project framework includes development of a compelling interpretation program having an integrated approach to cultural and natural history content and attention to tributary canyon and watershed themes. Detailed recommendations would be provided for delivery of interpretive material at the footbridge park, within the riverside Mission Valley trolley stations, and at key locations to be identified within the canyon and urban trail alignments. Program elements would include recommended designs for kiosks and directional signs needed for a consistent delivery of information throughout the project area and may include use of murals, sculpture, other public art, and landscape architectural elements.

A final framework element would provide site-specific guidance for setting priorities and clarifying the logistical approach needed for executing an invasive plant control program within areas of the Ruffin/Sandrook Canyon Complex where equipment access is very limited. Revegetation specifications would be developed including species selection, planting locations and protocols, and maintenance and monitoring guidelines. Information would be developed with the City of San Diego Recreation and Parks Department, Open Space Division and the Conservancy's San Diego River Invasive Plant Control Program, organizations laying plans for the removal of invasive plants and long-term vegetation management in these tributary canyon areas.

**SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:**

Resolution 08-02
Project report

Resolution No: 08-02

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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

**Authorizing a Funding Request for Developing a Detailed Scope of Work and
Design Plans for a San Diego River Tributary Canyons Project**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Coastal Conservancy and the State Resources Agency have been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy finds the application for grant funds for Proposition 84 consistent with enabling statute which directs the Conservancy: "to provide recreation opportunities, open space,...and lands for educational uses within the area" ; and

WHEREAS, the project framework is Consistent with Program 2, Recreation & Education and Program 3, Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and also responds to the San Diego River Park Parkway Concept Plan and the City of San Diego's San Diego River Park Master Plan

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has reviewed a report establishing a project framework for a San Diego River Tributary Canyons Project pursuant to Resolution 07-04, September 28, 2007.

WHEREAS, that project framework provides an outline for planning and design needed for a system of public trails and urban walkways connecting upland communities to the San Diego River Parkway, a footbridge providing access across the San Diego River, an interpretive program linking upland communities and their tributary canyons to the San Diego River Park and for removing invasive species and reestablishing native habitat in Ruffin and Sandrock Canyons, in the City of San Diego.

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

1. Approves the San Diego River Tributary Canyons Project Framework and authorizes the Executive Officer and staff to request \$150,000 from the Coastal Conservancy from Proposition 84 funds appropriated to the Coastal Conservancy for projects authorized by the San Diego River Conservancy.
2. The project is to be developed as a capital construction project. Funds authorized are to be used to obtain detailed scopes of work, conceptual design plans, regulatory guidelines, and detailed cost estimates needed to advance the project.
3. If applicable, certifies that the Project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained, and
4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, and payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned Project(s).
5. Approved and adopted the 15th day of May. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 08-01 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Approved and adopted

Following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: _____

Nos: _____

Absent: _____

Michael J. Nelson, Executive Officer
San Diego River Conservancy

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of May 15, 2008

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: 2008 Work Plan

**San Diego River Conservancy
Draft 2008 Work Plan
(3.20.08)**

LAND CONSERVATION

Pursue a preservation strategy through acquisition or other means of key river properties in 4 reaches.

- **Preservation of key properties in 4 reaches of the San Diego River**
Target properties that connect public properties particularly those that establish a riparian corridor from the El Capitan Dam to and including the City of San Diego. Encourage the acquisition programs of state, federal and local governments to include the San Diego River in their land conservation priorities. Seek to engage the services of national non-profits capable of advance funding the purchases of key properties.

Strategic Plan, Program 1

Project 1.2 / El Capitan Reservoir to 67 Freeway Reach

Project 1.3 / Lakeside Reach

Project 1.4 / Santee Reach

Project 1.5 / City of San Diego Reach

RECREATION AND EDUCATION

Place emphasis on the acquisition and development of key sections of the San Diego River Park Trail, as well as public safety.

- **Feasibility study to connect key area in the Mission Valley Reach**
One of the key connections to the river trail is between the Mission Valley YMCA and Sefton Field. A feasibility study is needed to turn this concept into a project. This 2008 work item will include seeking funding to make this connection.
- **Pursue the development of the Mission Valley Greenway (Fashion Valley to Qualcomm Stadium).**
Capitalize on investments the City of San Diego has made in this section of the Trail and those that are planned to capture grant funding. Consider using 07-08 Proposition 84 funding to match available appropriations that are available to commence the design of missing links.

Strategic Plan, Program 2, Project 1.9

- **Continued preservation of the flume in the El Monte Valley Reach**

Secure safe and legal public access on the historic six-mile flume trail from El Capitan Reservoir to Lake Jennings.

Continue preservation of the flume properties in the El Monte Valley between Lake Jennings and the El Capitan Reservoir. Work with the private property owners and public agencies to address acquisition and management issues. Continue to seek grant funds to develop an interpretative program as well as funding for implementation and management.

Strategic Plan, Program 2, Project 1.4

- **Connecting key areas in the Lakeside Reach**

Work with public and private partners to connect the river trail from Santee Border to the Lakeside River Park Conservancy-owned trail.

Strategic Plan, Program 2, Project 1.6

- **Establish San Diego River Trail from Mast Park to Carlton Oaks Golf Course (Santee Reach)**

Work with the County of San Diego and the City of Santee. Explore the use of Proposition 40 funds as well as other appropriate fund sources to design and build this connection.

Strategic Plan, Program 2, Project 1.7

- **Making the river safe in all reaches**

Place emphasis on the development of public safety projects, such as a volunteer patrol, and strengthen the Conservancy's relationship with the San Diego Police Department and County Sheriff to "Make the River Park Safe."

Strategic Plan, Program 2, Project 3

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION

Support the cultural preservation and interpretation of the river as well as enhancement of its natural resources

- **Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants, Restore and Manage the Land**

Initiate and implement the San Diego River Watershed Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal and Restoration Program, which targets more than 325 acres. Establish a focus on public properties with the greatest concentrations of invasives. The program has mapped and identified the most prominent infestations and is developing plans to restore habitat for the Least Bells Vireo.

In addition to the Prop 40 funds that have been set aside, SDRC and its consultants should examine and seek funding from other private and public sources.

Strategic Plan, Program 3, Project 1.5

WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL FLOOD CONVEYANCE

- **Finalize and sign draft Memorandum of Understanding with Bureau of Reclamation (U.S. Dept. of Interior) to develop Scope of Work for Hydrology Assessment of San Diego River Watershed.**

SDRC should work with the City of San Diego, the Regional Water Quality Board, the Bureau of Reclamation and SDRC to revise the Scope of Work for the SDRC's Hydrology Study so that it would complement and integrate its tasks with a Hydrology Study the City is procuring, which is almost under contract.

Strategic Plan, Program 4, Project 1

- **Enhance water quality in the San Diego River Stream Flow issues**

Establish a project in cooperation with the State Water Resources Board, the Regional Water Quality Board and the Department of Fish and Game. It would acknowledge the State Board's authority to regulate diversions of waterways, the Regional Board's statutory predisposition to consider stream flow as it relates to impacts on water quality, and Fish & Game's authority to set stream flow levels to protect and preserve viable habitats. The development of this project should clearly define responsibilities for implementation and monitoring.

Strategic Plan, Program 4, Project 1

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

- Recognizing the regional stature of the Board of Governors, SDRC should seek to have its priorities integrated with those of state, municipal, county and federal governments in the watershed. This exercise should result in SDRC's goals and objectives inclusion in the appropriate Capital Improvement Programs for these governments.
- As SDRC implements its Watershed Invasive Non Native species program, it should recognize fire risk and public safety issues associated with invasives and approach agencies engaged in fighting and preventing wildfires as potential funding partners.
- Commence building a network and relationships with key state legislators and staff, as well as public officials in state, local and federal government.

- Explore the development a more direct role for key partners, including ex officio memberships, corporate counsels, governmental working groups jurisdiction.
- Conduct an annual meeting to prepare the Annual Work Plan as an addendum to the Five Year Strategic Plan, which includes the Conservancy's partners.
- Seek opportunities to increase SDRC's operating budget and its capital outlay. Work with Resources Agency to secure Proposition 84 funding, as well as, any bond legislation that is being developed. Establish relationship with administrators of other private and public agencies where grant opportunities may exist.
- Draft and distribute a letter of introduction to all landowners in SDRC's jurisdiction. Develop a program with San Diego River Coalition partners to respond to landowners that express interest in the goals and objectives of SDRC.
- Investigate the utilization of conservation easements, particularly those that have been established in the United Kingdom; and, explore the liability and maintenance requirements for trail easements.
- Examine whether the Conservancy could assume the role of "Lead Agency" for CEQA, particularly for land acquisitions.
- Investigate the acquisition or protection of property under bridges owned by Caltrans.