

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,

July 9, 2009
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Meeting Location

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

Tele-Conference Location: 1416 Ninth Street
Resources Agency Conference Room 1305 Sacramento, CA 95814
(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. **Deputy Attorney General Report**

6. The Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway Partnership

Presentation :

Patricia Locke Dawson, Chief Strategist, Policy Advisory Group
Mayor Jon Harrison, City of Redlands

7. Land Conservation Initiatives:

Maintaining the Momentum: TransNet Funding

Michael Beck, Endangered Habitats League

County of San Diego, Quarterly Acquisition Meeting

Trish Boaz, Chief, Resource Management Division
Department of Parks and Recreation

USFWS Section 6 Recovery Grant (Walker Properties, Santee)

Mary Beth Woulfe, United State Fish and Wildlife Service

Grant Family Donation (Mission Valley)

Rob Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation

8. San Diego River Watershed Data Portal

Rob Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation
Joe Purohit, President, EcoLayers

9. Status of General Obligation Bonds

Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer
Bryan Cash, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Natural Resources Agency

10. Executive Officer's Report

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

Introduction of Julia Richards

11. 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 July 9, 2009

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 9, 2009

ITEM: 2

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

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

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

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

(Draft Minutes for Approval July 9, 2009)

Chairperson Donna Frye called the March 5, 2009 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 1:36 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present:

Donna Frye, Chair	Council Member, City of San Diego
Anne Haddad	Public at Large
Ben Clay	Public at Large
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, Second District
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
David King	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
Jerry Sanders	Mayor, City of San Diego
Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate
Miriam Ingenito	Department of Finance, Alternate

Absent:

Ronie Clark	Department of Parks and Recreation, Alternate
Toni Atkins	Public at Large

Staff Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Tale Halse	Staff, Supervisor Jacob
Meridith Marquis	Kyocera America
Matt Rahn	San Diego State University
Rob Hutsel	San Diego River Park Foundation
Pat Grant	Vantile Company, LLC
Kathy Keehan	San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
Robin Reirdan	Lakeside's River Park Conservancy
Virgina Lorne	Trust for Public Land
Robert Flewelling	Trust for Public Land
Mark Weston	Helix Water District
Chuck Muse	Helix Water District

2. Approval of Minutes

Ann Miller Haddad asked that the minutes reflect that she listened to the January 8, 2009 public meeting from a remote location, but did not vote or participate in the discussion.

Ben Clay made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2009 public meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane Jacob and was adopted unanimously.

3. Public Comment

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

No comments.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Comments

No comments.

5. Deputy Attorney's General Report

No Report.

Donna Frye reminded the Board that Form 700-Statement of Economic Interests were due April 1, 2009 and asked Mike Nelson to send a reminder to Board members following the meeting.

6. San Diego River Trail -Riverford Road Trail Project

Mike Nelson stated the Board had previously reviewed and approved Resolutions for this project; one for a Proposition 50 grant application, and a second as a Proposition 40 set aside. Resolution 09-02 would shift the responsibility for administration of the grant from Lakeside's River Park Conservancy (LRPC) to the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC); it further acknowledges that the County of San Diego and LRPC would partner with SDRC to complete the project. The County's redevelopment agency, the Upper San Diego River Improvement Project will pursue an interim financing agreement with SDRC, and LRPC would serve as project manager.

(A power point presentation of the project and its boundaries was presented by the Executive Officer)

Andrew Poat asked if funding was 100% secure.

Mike Nelson answered no and stated that all Proposition 40 projects had been suspended, so no actions would be taken until the suspension was lifted.

Andrew Poat sought clarification that once the freeze on cash disbursements had been lifted, funding for this project was assured.

Mike Nelson said yes, that while there was an executed project agreement, actual encumbrance could not occur until the suspension was lifted. He continued that his understanding with staff for the County is that an interim financing agreement would not be executed until the suspension was lifted and reimbursement could be assured.

Dianne Jacob emphasized that this segment of the San Diego River Trail was very important, that the County recognized that there was an opportunity to make it happen sooner than later and wholeheartedly supported, despite the risk.

Dianne Jacob moved approval of the Resolution. It was seconded by Ben Clay.

John Donnelly asked how this action would comply with Budget Letter that was still in place prohibiting an allocation or commitment of funding for new projects.

Mike Nelson suggested that the formal commitment would be made by the Resources Agency when the freeze was lifted, that the proposed action was a re-endorsement of the project and an amendment of previous Resolution the Board had approved.

Bryan Cash agreed that the formal commitment was the role of the Resources Agency, but wondered whether this action may be premature, since the guidance was not to make any new commitment of bond funds.

Mike Nelson, stated that this was not a new commitment but rather an endorsement which amends and action previously made by the Board.

Andrew Poat agreed with that interpretation, but questioned whether the risk flowed to the County's redevelopment authority or to SDRC.

Mike Nelson responded that while SDRC would have responsibility for completion of the project using LRPC as its subcontractor. The County of San Diego would be providing the capital to build the Trail. Once complete, SDRC would seek reimbursement from the Resources Agency to repay the County.

Ruth Hayward reminded the Board that Resolution 08-003 was for \$828,000 and inquired why the project costs had been reduced.

Mike Nelson recalled that the original resolution was for a greater amount because project costs had not been finalized, John Donnelly had made a motion to authorize a preliminary budget of "up to" \$828,000. Subsequently, Robin Reirdan working with the Resource Agency developed a budget for a lesser amount.

Dianne Jacob said that LRPC had taken her on a tour of the alignment and noted that much of the Trail exists. She asked Robin Reirdan if most of the project costs involved environmental mitigation and remediation.

Robin Reirdan state that there would be significant environmental work to be accomplished. She added that she hoped to take the trail down the Haul Road, though the existing permit requires that it be removed at the end of the mining operation. She stated that she hoped that requirement could be changed, but advised that the wildlife agencies were not completely on board at this time.

Dianne Jacob, suggested that the existing haul road was an area already disturbed, so it would seem reasonable to take advantage of a trail which exists, get permission from the wildlife agencies, construct the necessary improvement and save money.

Bryan Cash asked how the contracting and funding for the project would flow.

Mike Nelson explained that the County would provide a cash advance to the San Diego River Conservancy to complete the project; Lakeside's River Park Conservancy would serve as the project manager or general contractor; and, SDRC would seek reimbursement from the Natural Resources Agency and repay the County of San Diego.

Bryan Cash asked if there would be an agreement between the County and SDRC.

Mike Nelson responded that yes an agreement with the County and SDRC would be executed.

Dianne Jacob made a motion to approve Resolution 09-02 which was seconded and approved unanimously.

7. Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP): San Diego State University Research Foundation : San Diego River Watershed Data Collection and Restoration Program

Mike Nelson mentioned SDRC's agreement with the San Diego State University Research Foundation (SDSURF) and stated that one of the partnership's projects was a Watershed Data Collection and Restoration project. Since bond funds had been suspended, SDRC would launch the project utilizing funds approved by Dept. of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's (SDRWQCB) for Supplemental Environmental Projects. Essentially, the San Diego County Water Authority would provide \$40,000 and Kyocera America provides \$200,000. He stated that the Resolutions 09-03 and 09-04 would authorize grants totaling \$240,000 to SDSURF

Andrew Poat moved the approval of the Resolutions 09-03 and 09-04. **Anne Haddad** seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

(**Donna Frye** recommended that the Board address Item 9 before Item 8)

9. San Diego River Trail and Potential Funding Opportunities at SANDAG

Michael Nelson said that at two prior meetings the Board felt SDRC should aggressively pursue funding and completion of the San Diego River Trail. He stated that one opportunity to do just that was to seek funding from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) which was developing a proposed network for a regional bicycle plan as a component of both the Regional Comprehensive Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan. He observed that SANDAG had been particularly supportive of a bicycle corridor along the Bay, the Bay Shore Bikeway, a project that had been the recipient of considerable local and regional funding. He remarked that following a meeting he had with SANDAG's executive director regarding the agency's process for indentifying priorities for the bicycle network, he had also he met with the SDRC Chair, **Kathy Keehan**, **Toni Atkins** and **Andrew Poat** to discuss the meeting and a course of action for SDRC. During this discussion those present decided that the Board should consider forming a Working Group that would continue to raise the Trail's profile and secure funding. **Mike** said the Resolution 09-05 would establish such a group, and that he envisioned that it would work closely with the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition and the San Diego River Coalition.

Andrew Poat indicated that he felt this was the proper strategy, that it was necessary for SDRC to take advantage of the funding streams of regional entities; and that he was willing to help.

Donna Frye suggested that his statement sounded like he was agreeing to volunteer.

Ben Clay made a motion to approve the Resolution 09-05 and nominate **Andrew Poat**. **Dianne Jacob** seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

8. San Diego River Conservancy – 2009 Work Plan

Mike Nelson stated that at SDRC's last meeting the Board asked him to develop 2009 Work Plan that acknowledged **Tom Sheehy's** statement that general obligation bond (GOB) funding might be suspended for a year or more. So, SDRC's, 2009 plans should be flexible and contemplate both the presence and/or the absence of GOB funding. He explained that the freeze affects most of the projects the Board has approved since its inception, that the suspension has had a \$12.6 million impact: \$8.2 for projects authorized by the Board and \$4.3 for funds not allocated. He recommended a 2009 Work Plan that would:

- Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re-prioritization of current operating and capital programs.
- Explore governance and organizational structures that would assist the Conservancy in the

- accomplishment of its objectives.
- Examine and develop business practices and processes that promote efficiency and effective operations and service.
- Maintain a commitment to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by the Board of Governors.

He further recommended that SDRC stay focused on the commitment the Board has already made and examine:

- New and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re-prioritization of current operating and capital programs by exploring regional
- Alternative governance structure
- Business Practices and Processes
- Maintain a commitment to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by Governing Board.

Mike Nelson commented that an example of an “alternative governance structures” that other conservancies had utilized was the establishment of a Joint Powers Authorities (JPA), which might help a small state agency like SDRC overcome challenges associated with river restoration and park development. He noted that a local JPA, the San Dieguito River Park Conservancy had secured \$160 million over 20 years towards that river’s restoration and members had only been asked to contribute \$8 million. So, the return on investment for a JPA can be good under the right circumstances.

Ben Clay inquired whether SDRC has the authority in law to be member of a JPA.

Mike Nelson responded that SDRC did have the legal authority to be a member, that other state chartered Conservancies had memberships in multiple JPAs’. He added that while SDRC had the authority to be a member, the financial participation of its members can be challenging.

Diane Jacob asked if the Executive Officer could pull together the financial participation of government and NGOs are already spending along the San Diego River and for what purpose. She stated that she felt it made good sense to see how existing dollars were spent.

Donna Frye suggested that the analysis include the Helix Water District, Lakeside and Santee.

Mike Nelson emphasized that the Draft Work Plans recommended maintaining SDRC’s commitment to implement the Strategic Plan and projects that Governing Board had already approved. He then distributed a status report and gave a power point presentation.

Ben Clay made a Motion to approve the proposed 2009 Work Plan, which was seconded by Andrew Poat and approved unanimously

Ben Clay observed that SDRC might consider the development of a policy regarding the recognition of contributions made by individuals and organizations and suggested that Mike Nelson and Hayley Peterson take a look at it.

Mike Nelson remarked that this suggestion was timely since the topic would arise during the discussion of the Hanlon land acquisition in Santee that the Board will deliberate in Closed Session.

John Donnelly indicated that he would forward the policy the San Joaquin River Conservancy recently adopted on this subject to the Mike Nelson.

Anne Haddad, questioned whether SDRC could identify alternative or new projects if the suspension of general obligation bond funds was lifted.

Mike Nelson responded that there was no shortage of projects; in fact, there was a list of projects identified in SDRC's Strategic Plan, as well as the Work Plan of the San Diego River Coalition. He also said that there was a reference in the proposed Work Plan that encouraged pursuing projects and fund sources as they emerged during the year.

Andrew Poat stated that it was his understanding that the General Obligation Bonds were authorized, but unsold, and would not be sold until the election (initiatives on the ballot) occurs and the budget deal implemented. He asked the Department of Finance whether there was enough information or experience with revenues to show that debt service on the bonds could take place.

Miriam Ingenito stated that the State of California (Department of Finance and the State Treasurer) was presently trying to put together a bond package, but the problem is that there is no market, no buyers; the bond market has essential collapsed. If the State of California is fortunate enough to put together a bond package before the May Revision comes out, hopefully, it will be a large enough to fund the projects approved by the Board and subsequently stopped.

Bryan Cash, said that he had spoken with the Treasurer's Office this week and learned that they are trying to sell between \$1.5 and \$5 billion; and, there are \$7 billion in outstanding prior obligations or loans that need to be paid. So, \$7 billion dollars in bonds must be sold before new projects may be pursued.

Bryan Cash also stated there was a recent private bond placement by the Bay Area Transportation Authority, which may create another financing mechanism that could get stalled projects moving. It was the first private bond placement in the state. It creates an opportunity for bond funded conservation projects to participate in a similarly structure private bond placement. He added that he was working with folks in the Agency and different departments to determine whether there might be private investors interested in a private placement within the resources area. He indicated that he would share that information with the Executive Officer, so SDRC could investigate whether there might be local investors interested in a private general obligation bond placement.

5. Executive Officer's Report

Michael Nelson reminded the Board that SDRC's Strategic Plan had recommended acreage goals for invasive control and restoration in reaches of the River. He stated that at that Ann Van Leer and he had approached the Department of Fish and Game about a 17 acre parcel which was located on the River near Ward Road that was infested with Arundo. SDRC and F&G entered into an Inter Agency Agreement that would control invasives and restore habitat on the property. He said that Ann Van Leer and her husband Jim had prepared a brief video and slide show that demonstrated the challenges this partnership had overcome.

(Ann Van Leer. Slide Show- Ward Road Project)

10. Closed Session / Walker Properties - Santee

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Accessibility

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State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 9, 2009

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 July 9, 2009

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 July 9, 2009

ITEM: **5**

SUBJECT: **DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**
This item is for Board discussion only and the Board will
take no formal action. (*Hayley Peterson*)

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of July 9, 2009

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: THE SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL PARKWAY
PARTNERSHIP

Presentation:

**Patricia Locke Dawson, Chief Strategist, Policy Advisory
Group**

Mayor Jon Harrison, City of Redlands

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 9, 2009

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES:**

Maintaining the Momentum: TransNet Funding
Michael Beck, Endangered Habitats League

County of San Diego, Quarterly Acquisition Meeting
Trish Boaz, Chief, Resource Management Division
Department of Parks and Recreation

USFWS Sect. 6 Recovery Grant (Walker Properties, Santee)
Mary Beth Woulfe, United State Fish and Wildlife Service

Grant Family Donation (Mission Valley)
Rob Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park
Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
California - Nevada Regional Office
<http://www.fws.gov/cno>**

Please deliver to the appropriate Outdoor/Environmental Editor The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to get you the information you need in a cost-effective and timely manner. Please contact us if you do not wish to receive this information or if you prefer it in a different format. Thank you.

Phone: 916-978-6156
Fax: 916-414-6486

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
EA-09-16
APRIL 20, 2009**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Erica Szlosek (916) 978-6159**

California to Receive \$19.1 Million in Grants to Support Land Acquisition and Conservation Planning for Endangered Species

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Southwest Regional Director Ren Lohofener today announced more than \$19.1 million in grants California to support conservation planning and acquisition of vital habitat for threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants. The grants, awarded through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, will benefit numerous species including the desert tortoise, California red-legged frog and western snowy plover.

"California will be receiving nine of these grants," said Lohofener. "They will provide state agencies with resources to assist landowners and communities in protecting habitat for our state's threatened and endangered species."

Authorized by Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the competitive grants enable States to work with private landowners, conservation groups and other agencies to initiate conservation planning efforts and acquire and protect habitat to support the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

This year, the cooperative endangered species fund provides approximately \$7.6 million through the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants Program -- \$1.78 million of this will go to three California projects: City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan; Butte Regional Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan and Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan. [Details about the plans are provided at the end of the news release]. Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) are agreements between a landowner and the Service, allowing a landowner to undertake otherwise lawful activities on their property that may result in the death, injury or harassment of a listed species, when that landowner agrees to

conservation measures designed to minimize and mitigate the impact of those actions. HCPs may also be developed by a county or state to cover certain activities of all landowners within their jurisdiction and may address multiple species.

Nationwide, \$36 million will be provided through the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program, and three California grants will be funded totaling \$14.4 million: Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan; Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan.

[Details

about the acquisition plans are provided at the end of the news release]. Under the HCP Land Acquisition Grants Program, the Service provides grants to states or territories for land acquisition associated with approved HCPs. The grants are targeted to help landowners who volunteer to conserve imperiled species on their lands.

In addition, \$14.1 million will be provided nationwide through the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program. California will receive \$2.98

million to fund three acquisitions: Mojave River Riparian Area, Amargosa Vole – Tecopa Land Acquisition, and San Diego, Hanlon Walker.

[Details

about the grants are provided at the end of the news release]. The Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program provides funds to states and territories to acquire habitat for endangered and threatened species with approved recovery plans. Habitat acquisition to secure long term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species.

The three programs were established to help avoid potential conflicts between the conservation of threatened and endangered species and land development and use.

California Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants:

City of San Diego Vernal Pool Species Habitat Conservation Plan (San Diego County, CA) \$615,000. This project would support the development of and HCP for Vernal Pools in the San Diego Region. This HCP would be developed in response to legal challenges to the MSCP. The Vernal Pool HCP would encompass a significant portion of the range and existing habitat of 8 federally listed and rare species. The types of vernal pools evaluated for this HCP are geographically restricted and exhibit high rates of endemism; therefore, protecting a large portion of their extant habitat will contribute directly to their long-term preservation.

Butte Regional Habitat/Natural Community Conservation Plan (Butte County, CA) \$536,588. This project would support the development of an

HCP/NCCP for Butte County to provide for the protection and conservation of the region's biodiversity while allowing for appropriate development and growth to occur. Butte County has recently been experiencing rapid

growth that could degrade and fragment Butte County's sensitive habitats and species. The Butte Regional HCP/NCCP will permanently protect habitat, establish preserves, and establish management guidelines for the conservation and recovery of at least 41 sensitive species.

Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (Yolo County, CA) \$634,988. This project would fund the continued work on the Yolo County HCP/NCCP. The HCP/NCCP will address the need for broad-based planning to provide for the protection and conservation of the region's biodiversity while allowing for appropriate development and growth to occur. Fifteen federally listed and fifty-four other sensitive species will benefit from implementation of the HCP/NCCP.

The

Plan will also provide conservation benefits to crop and vernal pool pollinators.

California Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants:

City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan (HMP) (San Diego County, CA)

\$6,000,000. This project will purchase 100-200 acres of important biological core area for California gnatcatchers. The purchases would also benefit another 30 species, including least Bell's vireo, California least tern, and western snowy plover. The acquisitions will produce a preserve network that benefits covered species within the Carlsbad HMP through maintaining core breeding habitat and critical regional linkages.

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Riverside County, CA) \$6,000,000. This will purchase lands that will greatly enhance the existing Coachella Valley MSHCP by securing key regional wildlife linkages, sand transport areas, and preserving core habitat areas. The land acquisition will benefit 20 species, including seven federally listed species such as Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, desert tortoise and peninsular bighorn sheep. The proposed acquisition will complement and greatly enhance the ecological value of the many other acquisitions that have previously occurred in these areas in the last few years.

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan: Upper Marsh Creek Watershed* (Contra Costa County, CA) \$2,407,200. This project would acquire up to 900 acres that provide essential habitat and connectivity for multiple species. The habitat acquisition area supports the largest concentration of ponds, seasonal wetlands, and ephemeral streams in the HCP area and is crucial habitat for wetland-dependent species such as California Red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. In addition, acquisition focus area also supports the vast majority of the chaparral habitat that remains in the area, essential habitat for Alameda whipsnake and several covered plant species.

California Recovery Land Acquisition Grants:

Mojave River Riparian Area (San Bernardino County, CA) \$1,920,369.

This

project would acquire up to 700 acres of desert riparian habitat and 1200 acres of adjacent desert upland habitats that occur along the Mojave River. The fee-title and easement acquisitions would benefit more than 15 sensitive species including the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo, and the federally threatened desert tortoise. The habitat acquisition area falls within a unique 15.2-mile region of the Mojave River where perennial water flows support a lush riparian plant community. The acquisitions would maintain important habitat connectivity and support native species dispersal in the only major riparian habitat corridor in the western Mojave Desert region.

Amargosa Vole - Tecopa Land Acquisition (Inyo County, CA) \$64,163.

This

project would acquire fee-title or easements on private properties that support approximately 22 acres of some of the last remaining unprotected habitat for the federally endangered Amargosa vole and the Amargosa niterwort. The private properties within the habitat acquisition area are generally situated within the Bureau of Land Management's

(BLM)

Amargosa River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and within designated critical habitat for the Amargosa vole. Acquiring the properties or easements would support habitat connectivity in the area by linking core habitats for Amargosa vole into a series of interconnected parcels. The acquisitions would also allow management actions necessary for the recovery and long-term protection of core habitat and populations of the endangered Amargosa vole, while also supporting the recovery of Amargosa niterwort in the region.

San Diego River, Hanlon-Walker (San Diego County, CA) \$1,000,000.

The

proposal is to acquire approximately 122 acres of habitat in the San Diego River over two phases. The acquisition of the property will benefit recovery of the State and federally endangered least Bell's vireo, the State and federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, and the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher by preserving important habitat for these species and protecting the site from future development. Implementation of this conservation strategy will help the recovery of threatened and endangered species by building a corridor of contiguous conserved native habitat along the 52-mile long San Diego River. The San Diego River provides the primary east-west habitat linkage in the City of Santee. Additionally, the reach of the San Diego River within the City of Santee, including the site of the Hanlon-Walker acquisition, provides a key linkage between the core habitat areas of Mission Trails Regional Park to the west and Lakeside to the north and east.

Land donation paves way for riverfront park

Family seeks to give public a chance to be kids again

By **David Hasemyer**, Union-Tribune Staff Writer

May 18, 2009

MISSION VALLEY — Pat Grant loved scooping tadpoles from the shallow water along the banks of the San Diego River when she was a little girl. It was a carefree time for a kid growing up in the 1950s — wide-open spaces and the feel of mud squishing between her toes.

“It was such a sense of being free,” said Grant, 59, a part-time San Diego resident and veterinarian for the Monterey County Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. “We explored. We played. We just did kid things.”

Now Grant and her five cousins want to make sure others have the chance to chase dragonflies, throw mud clods and wade at the river's edge.

The Grant family deeded 17 acres of riverfront property valued at \$10 million to the San Diego River Park Foundation yesterday to be developed into Mission Valley's first publicly accessible neighborhood park along the river.

The family is behind a 230-acre development of homes, offices and retail space west of Interstate 805 and north of Friars Road in Mission Valley. Part of the project, known as Quarry Falls, includes 17 acres set aside for open space and public use.

Foundation Executive Director Rob Hutsel said the organization envisions a place where visitors can find solitude to watch butterflies or listen to the gentle murmur of the river. It also will be a place where people can learn about the river and its role in the county's ecology, Hutsel said.

“The idea is that when people are there, they will feel a connection to the river,” Hutsel said. “Whether it's just sitting along the river's edge or getting dirty chasing bugs or doing hands-on science, this will be a place for people to get to know the river.”

Grant Park, on land smack in the middle of Mission Valley, is planned as a centerpiece of the still-evolving 52-mile-long San Diego River Trail system. The trail would stretch from the river's headwaters in the East County mountains to its mouth at Mission Bay.

The park also will be home to the San Diego River Discovery Center, an interactive learning and education facility that will host community gatherings and promote environmental responsibility, Hutsel said.

The estimated \$3.5 million needed for the park and center will be raised through grants and private donations. The entire project is expected to be completed by 2012.

“This is a place where the pristine part of nature can be preserved,” said Alan Grant, one of Pat Grant's cousins and a grandson of family patriarch Franklin Grant.

The Grant family settled in San Diego in 1912, venturing from South Dakota so Franklin Grant could establish a law practice specializing in corporate law. The family's first stake in Mission Valley property came in the 1920s, when one of Grant's clients paid his bill with a deed for land near the river. The family's land holdings in the valley increased over the years and were used for mining aggregate.

The City Council approved the Quarry Falls development in October 2008. The project is on the Vulcan Materials Co. rock quarry owned by the family. The development has drawn concerns about its density and effect on traffic.

Alan Grant, 57, a musician who occasionally plays French horn for the San Diego Symphony, said he doesn't know when the family obtained the property that will become Grant Park but recalls the idyllic days of fishing and riding horses with his cousins along the river.

"It was wonderful to experience the river in its more pristine environment," he said.



State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 9, 2009

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED PORTAL**

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

Joe Purohit, President, EcoLayers

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of July 9, 2009

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: STATUS OF GENERAL OBLIGATION FUNDS

Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

**Bryan Cash, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Natural
Resources Agency**

Gov. Schwarzenegger Announces Restarting of More than 5,000 California Infrastructure Projects



Following the sale of \$6.85 billion in bonds, including \$5.2 billion in Recovery Act-backed bonds, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced today more than 5,000 projects will be restarted in California, reviving economic activity and creating jobs. Restarted projects include everything from transportation to school construction to environmental and park projects and many more. These projects had been on hold since December 2008. California is the first state in the nation to sell Build America Bonds, taking advantage of this new opportunity provided by the federal Recovery Act.

"California is restarting thousands of critical infrastructure projects that have been frozen because of tight credit markets and the state's cash crisis," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "And that, in turn, means that we can retain jobs, create jobs, and give California's economy an additional boost at a time when it needs it the most."

"I want to especially commend State Treasurer Lockyer and his staff for executing a successful sale of bonds. Their hard work will now be translated into more jobs and a stronger economy."

Specifically, Gov. Schwarzenegger said that California will now have the necessary funding to restart all general obligation bond funded projects that had been frozen. The funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$1.7 billion for the state's taxable general obligation bonds to fund stem cell research and stem cell related projects, various housing programs, and additional needs for High Speed Rail.
- \$5.2 billion from newly authorized Build America Bonds will provide funding to restart the balance of all state projects that had either been stopped and for those that have been proceeding with non-state funding. This includes projects for California State University, the University of California, California Community Colleges, Caltrans and the Department of Water Resources. In addition, this bond sale will fund grants that had been frozen, including school construction projects, environmental and park projects, grant programs to support clean air (engine retrofits and clean port projects), wastewater treatments projects, improvements to drinking water infrastructure, children's hospitals, public safety grants and local library grant projects. Finally, all outstanding bills not previously funded will be paid.

A complete list of the more than 5,000 projects will be available shortly at www.dof.ca.gov.

Created by the federal stimulus legislation enacted in February, Build America Bonds are a new financing tool for state and local governments, designed to assist state and local

governments in financing capital projects at lower borrowing costs and to stimulate the economy and create jobs. The program allows issuers to either sell taxable bonds and receive a direct payment from the U.S. government equivalent to 35 percent of the interest costs on the bonds, or sell taxable bonds that offer purchasers a tax credit. The state plans to issue the bonds and receive the direct reimbursement for repayment of the interest costs.

**San Diego River Conservancy
Proposition 40 Project Allocations**

Available \$10,000,000

Action Needed	Updated	Grant #	Grantee	Project
	\$500,000	40720-01	San Diego, City of	Mission Valley Preserve
	\$2,000,000	40720-02	San Diego, City of	Ocean Beach Bike Path
	\$175,000	40720-03	SDRPF	Eagle Peak Preserve Ph1
	\$203,617	40720-04	Lakeside's RPC	Lakeside River Park Inaugural Trail
	\$833,843	40720-05	SDRC	San Diego River Gorge Trailhead Improvement
	\$527,000	40720-06	SDRPF	Eagle Peak Preserve Acq Ph 3
	\$1,586,000	40720-07	EHC	Hanson Property Acq
	\$136,169	40720-08	SDRC (changed from Ramona Trails)	San Diego River Gorge Trail Improvement
	\$787,562	40720-09	SDRC	Riverford Road Trail
	\$472,963	40720-10	Santee	Mast Park West Trail
	\$577,846	40720-11	SDRC	San Diego River Invasives Control & Restoration
	\$2,200,000	OCA34144a	SCC	Calmat Acquisition
	\$10,000,000			

PROJECT NAME	GRANTEE	ESTIMATED COST	BOARD APPROVAL	ALLOCATED	REIMBURSED	PROJECT STATUS	COALITION WORK PLAN	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
PROPOSITION 40 (TOTAL ALLOCATION: \$10,000,000)								
CALMAT (Acq.)	Lakeside RPC	\$2,200,000	Before SDRC Act	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	completed	Prior Year WP	Acquired 100 acres Calmat Property. Nucleus of Lakeside's River Park.
Eagle Peak Preserve (Acq. Phase 1)	SDRPF	N/A	10-Sep-04	\$175,000	\$175,000	completed	Prior Year WP	Acquired 112 acres of land within the SD River Watershed
Mission Valley Preserve	City of SD	\$500,000	10-Sep-04	\$500,000	\$0	completed phase 1	2009 WP	Eradicate 4.22 acres of non-native vegetation and replace it with native plants within the Mission Valley Preserve.
Ocean Beach Bike Path	City of SD	\$2,550,000	10-Sep-04	\$2,000,000	\$0	initiated	Prior Year WP	Extend Ocean Beach Bike Path .75 miles from Pacific Highway to Hotel Circle
River Gorge Trail	Phase 1- \$190,644	\$136,169	12-Aug-05	\$136,169	\$0	design	2009 WP	Construct 4.75 miles of multi purpose trail on the east and west sides of the SD River.
San Diego River Trail	SDRC/USFS	Phase 2-\$634,442	07/	\$833,843	\$0	design	2009 WP	Construct trail improvements at the west San Diego River Gorge Trailhead.
Eagle Peak Preserve (Acq. Phase 3)	SDRPF	\$674,000	11-Aug-06	\$527,000	\$674,000	completed	Prior Year WP	Acquired 180 acres of land within the Headwaters Reach
Lakeside River Park Trail San Diego River Trail	Lakeside RPC	\$450,000	11-Aug-06	\$203,617	\$203,000	completed	Prior Year WP	.75 miles of trail adjacent to the San Diego River in the City of Lakeside
Hanson Ponds (Acq.)	EHC	\$5,000,000	2-Mar-07	\$1,586,000	\$0	negotiations successful	2009 WP	Proposed acquisition of 143.5 acre Hanson Property for habitat restoration and public access to the river
Watershed Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal	SDRC	\$5,000,000	2 Mar 07 / 9 Nov 07 / 18 Sep-08	\$577,846	\$0	design	2009 WP	Control and replant over 329 acres of invasive plant species beginning on the main stem of the river
Mast Park West San Diego River Trail	City of Santee	\$475,000	21 Nov 08	\$472,963	\$0	design	2009 WP	City of Santee will develop an additional 2500 feet of San Diego River Trail
Riverford Road San Diego River Trail	Lakeside RPC	\$800,000	9 Nov-07 / 17 Jul-08	\$787,562	\$0	design	2009 WP	SDRC and Lakeside River Park Conservancy are working to develop an additional mile of San Diego River Trail.
PROPOSITION 84 (TOTAL ALLOCATION:\$5,935,000)								
Tributary./ Canyon	SDRC	TBD	28 Sep-07/15 May-08	\$150,000	\$0	design	2009 WP	Design urban trails to connect canyons north and south of the San Diego River.
Walker (ACQ) Santee	SDRC	\$10,000,000	9-Nov-07	N/A	\$0	negotiation		Negotiating 140 acres of land in Santee, comprising 2 miles of riparian corridor.
MV Greenway San Diego River Trail	City of SD	\$1,400,000	15-May-08	\$1,400,000	\$0	design	2009 WP	City of San Diego will design, construct, and connect the San Diego River Trail from Fashion Valley Mall to Hazard Center (Under 163)
SPECIAL DEPOSIT FUND (TOTAL ALLOCATION:\$663,191)								
Hydrology Study	DOI/BOR	\$719,000	12-Aug-05	\$30,000	\$0	phase 1 complete	Prior Year WP	Provide analysis for implementation of the San Diego River Plans.
Data and Watershed Information System	SDRPF	\$25,000	17-Jul-08	\$25,000	\$0	design	2009 WP	Develop digital tool box which will allow SDRC to track and manage projects.
Sponsorship	SDNHM	\$10,000	17-Jul-08	\$10,000	\$0	complete	N/A	H2O Water = Life Exhibits Sponsorship and Promotions
Strategic Plan Addendum	TPL	\$100,000	21-Nov-08	\$25,000	\$0		N/A	
Watershed Data Collection and Restoration Program	SDSURF	\$240,000	5-Mar-09	\$240,000	\$0	waiting for signature		Funding \$200,000 from Kyocera America, Inc. and \$40,000 from SD County Water Authority
River Blitz & Clean Ups	SDRPF	\$35,000	8-Jan-09	\$35,000	\$0		2009 WP	
EMV Flume Properties	SDRC	\$723,838	07	N/A	\$0	in progress	2009 WP	Secure land along the six mile historic flume in EMV for public trail.
PROPOSITION 13 (TOTAL ALLOCATION: \$2,000,000)								
CALMAT (Acq.)	Lakeside RPC	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000		Prior Year WP	
SUBTOTAL								
				\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000			

FUND SUMMARY

FUND SOURCE	APPROPRIATION	SDRC APPROVED	BALANCE	COMMENTS
Proposition 40	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$0	
Proposition 84	\$5,935,000	\$1,550,000	\$4,385,000	
Special Deposit Fund	\$663,191	\$378,204	\$284,987	
Proposition 13	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	
Total	\$18,598,191	\$13,928,204	\$4,669,987	

Partners
 San Diego River Park Foundation
 San Diego Natural History Museum
 San Diego State University

Abbreviations
 SDRPF
 SDNHM

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of July 9, 2009

ITEM: **10**

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:

Introduction of Julia Richards



COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – SIXTH COUNCIL DISTRICT

Press Release

For Immediate Release
June 26, 2009

Contact: Mark Sauer
619-916-7684 (cell), 619-236-6462 (office)

FRYE & FAULCONER OPEN MISSION VALLEY- OCEAN BEACH BIKE/PEDESTRIAN PATH

Site also dedicated as Mission Valley Parkland

San Diego, CA- A critical link between the beach and Mission Valley opened today as Councilmembers Donna Frye and Kevin Faulconer unveiled the Mission Valley-Ocean Beach Bicycle/Pedestrian Path. They also announced that the City Council has approved a dedication of the 19-acre Sefton Field site as parkland for the Mission Valley community.

“This bicycle and pedestrian path connects Mission Valley to Ocean Beach, giving residents a beautiful pathway along the San Diego River to exercise and enjoy the outdoors,” said Frye.

Faulconer added, “Dedicating this parkland is a wonderful thing for groups like Presidio Little League. This action will guarantee that there will always be a recreational area for community members to utilize for everything from playing baseball to an area to picnic with friends and family.”

Completion of this one-mile section of the bike path between Pacific Highway and Hotel Circle also helps accomplish a crucial goal of the City’s San Diego River Park Master Plan, a planning effort to create an interlinked network of recreational trails and parks along the river shore from the Pacific Ocean to Santee. The San Diego River Conservancy, a state agency whose board of directors is chaired by Councilmember Frye, provided \$2 million in state Resource Agency funds toward the project’s \$3 million cost.

Donna Frye represents San Diego’s Sixth Council District, which includes the communities of Mission Valley, Bay Ho, Bay Park, Villa Marina, Birdland, De Anza, Clairemont, Kearny Mesa, Linda Vista, Mission Bay Park, Mission Village, Morena and Serra Mesa. She chairs the council’s Resources and Culture committee and is also chair of the San Diego River Conservancy. Kevin Faulconer, who represents the Second Council District and is Council President Pro Tem, is chair of the Council’s Audit Committee. His district includes the communities of Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, Bankers Hill, Downtown and Mission Hills.

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OBITUARY MAY 3, 2009

Norman Roberts; Baja was lifelong love of plant, animal expert

By Blanca Gonzalez

STAFF WRITER
2:00 a.m. May 3, 2009

Anyone traveling to Baja California with Norman Roberts had a front-row seat for a botanical adventure as he described and named every bush and plant he encountered.

His love of Baja California started more than 70 years ago when, as a teen, he drove his Model A Ford more than 200 miles beyond the Mexican border over what was then just a two-rut road.

He started his professional life as a veterinarian and later became a successful businessman, but Dr. Roberts was also an explorer, a philanthropist, an author and an expert on Baja California who was as comfortable in a tuxedo as he was in blue jeans and cowboy boots.

His résumé includes serving as deputy director of the International Whaling Commission, member of the U.S. Panama Commission for the Environment, trustee of the Center for Marine Conservation and trustee for the Environmental Defense Fund, but one of his biggest honors may have been having a plant named for him, the club cholla *Grusonia Robertsii*.

Dr. Roberts died of heart failure April 23 at Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla. He was 88.

As a boy in the 1930s, Norman Roberts brought rattlesnakes and bugs to the San Diego Natural History Museum and the San Diego Zoo. In later years, his contributions were more substantial, and the Natural History Museum's Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias is named in his honor.

Museum president and CEO Michael Hager said Dr. Roberts championed the importance of research in Baja California and supported the efforts through funding, time and personal effort.

In 1997, Dr. Roberts organized a scientific expedition to southern Baja California. Participants included museum staff and members of the San Diego chapter of The Explorers Club.

"He was a brilliant gentleman who loved nature," longtime friend Lewis Dowdy said. "His knowledge of animals and plants was unbelievable. Driving to Baja with him was like taking a college course. He could name every bush, every bird, every animal in both English and Latin."

In the 1970s, Dr. Roberts wrote the book "Baja California Plant Field Guide," which proved popular with Baja California enthusiasts. A second edition was printed in 1987, and Dr. Roberts was working on a third edition at the time of his death.

"Baja was his lifelong love," said his daughter, Laurie, who was working on updating the book with her father. "He loved the landscape, the plants, the people."

Friends said Dr. Roberts was delighted when Jon Rebman, curator of botany at the Museum of Natural History, named a rare cactus species from the Vizcaino desert of Baja California after him in 2006.

Norman C. Roberts was born in San Diego on Sept. 25, 1920, to William and Cora Cleator Roberts. He attended Hoover High School and graduated from the University of California Davis College of Veterinary Science in 1941. He earned his doctorate of veterinary medicine from Colorado State University in 1944.

He served in the Army during World War II and rose to the rank of captain. After returning to San Diego, he took the post of chief veterinarian at Tijuana's Caliente Racetrack. He later held similar positions at several California racetracks.

He married the former Evelyn Cavenee in 1948. The couple had four children. They divorced in the late 1970s. He and his second wife, the former Angelina "Gelin" Lopez Mateos, were married about 11 years before divorcing. He married the former Sandra Hanna four years ago.

Dr. Roberts left veterinary medicine to take over an investment firm from his father-in-law, Clark Cavenee. N.C. Roberts & Co. was San Diego's only member of the New York Stock Exchange for many years in the late 1950s and early '60s. He was later named chairman of the board of Mailboxes Etc.

He served as president of the San Diego Taxpayers Association in the 1970s and was a co-chairman of the county committee supporting Ronald Reagan for president in 1976 and 1980.

He served as acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1981.

Longtime friend Payne Johnson described Dr. Roberts as an inquisitive man of many interests.

"He was just as happy at a \$15 hotel in Guatemala as he was staying at the Waldorf (in New York)." Johnson said. "He studied erosion in Panama and he was president of the La Jolla Wine & Food Society. He was very comfortable in any role."

His community service included trustee at the Museum of Man, chairman of the Wild Animal Park Development Committee, president of the San Diego Rotary Club, chairman of the Latin American Committee for the San Diego Museum of Art, trustee for both the San Elijo Lagoon Foundation and Santa Margarita River Foundation, vice chairman of the Salvation Army and chairman of Ducks Unlimited.

In addition to his daughter, Laurie, Dr. Roberts is survived by his wife of four years, Sandra; three sons, Blaine of Carlsbad, Clint of Point Loma and Victor of Escondido; six grandchildren; and a sister, Rhoda Ream of Nebraska. He was predeceased by a sister, Mildred Yale.

A private celebration of life is planned. Donations in Dr. Roberts' honor may be made to the Norman Roberts Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias, San Diego Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 121390, San Diego, 92112.