DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO: X Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

X County Clerk
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260
San Diego, CA 92101

Name, brief description of project and file number: San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailhead Improvements, (SCH#: 2008-_____) This project proposes improvements the San Diego River Gorge Trail and Trailhead. It includes construction of as much as 2.27 miles of trail descending the western San Diego River Gorge at the end of Thornbush Road near San Diego County Estates to near the San Diego River, closure and restoration, including erosion control measures of as much as 3.36 acres of user defined trails and an additional rehabilitation of approximately 3 miles of trail ascending the eastern San Diego River Gorge to a trailhead previously called Saddleback. The project also includes the construction of trailhead improvements of less than 1 acre primarily on already disturbed land at the western San Diego River Gorge trailhead including a public restroom, a shaded picnic area, and a pad to park a vehicle for a volunteer host, trash receptacle and drinking fountain. The project also includes creation of trail to a vista point to ADA standards.

Location: The San Diego River Gorge Trail is located in central San Diego County on U.S. Forest Service land on the Cleveland National Forest between the community of Ramona, the Cuyamaca Mountains, the Capitan Grande Indian Reservation, and the community of Julian.

Entity undertaking the project: San Diego River Conservancy, 1350 Front Street, Suite 3024, San Diego CA 92101.

The San Diego River Conservancy Board of Directors, having reviewed the Initial Study of this proposed project and having reviewed the written comments received prior to the public meeting of the Board of Directors, including the recommendations of San Diego River Conservancy and U.S. Forest Service personnel and consultants, does hereby find and declare that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the Board of Directors' findings are as follows: All potential impacts analyzed in the Initial Study were determined to be below a level of significance by measures incorporated into the project design.

The Conservancy hereby finds that the Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment. A copy of the Initial Study may be obtained at the following address: San Diego River Conservancy, 1350 Front Street, Suite 3024, San Diego CA 92101 and www.sdrc.ca.gov

The location and custodian of the documents and any other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Conservancy based its decision to adopt this Negative Declaration are as follows:
San Diego River Conservancy, 1350 Front Street, Suite 3024, San Diego CA 92101 (619) 645-3183

Staff: Michael J. Nelson, Executive Officer, 619-645-3183

Date received for filing:

Determination at San Diego River Conservancy Board of Directors' meeting, November 21, 2008