

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 5, 2011
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Meeting Location

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

Tele-Conference Location: 1416 Ninth Street
Resources Agency Conference Room 1310 Sacramento, CA 95814
(877) 287-0283 / Pass code 606349

Contact: Michael Nelson
(619) 645-3183

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
- 3. Public Comment**
Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged.
- 4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report**

5. Deputy Attorney's General Report

6. Serra Museum: San Diego History Center /San Diego River Conservancy Partnership

Presentation and Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

David Kahn, Executive Director, San Diego History Center

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 11-03

7. San Diego River Trail: Status of Gaps Analysis

Presentation and Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Brian Albright, Director, Parks and Recreation, County of San Diego

Bill Maertz, Community Services Director, City of Santee

Robin Shifflet, Planning and Community Investment, City of San Diego

8. El Monte Valley: Hanson Pond Acquisition and Reclamation

Presentation and Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Michael Beck, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats Conservancy

9. Carlton Oaks: Proposed Sale Boundaries and Adjustments

Presentation and Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

James Barwick, Director, Real Estate Assets Department, City of San Diego

Mary Carlson, Real Estate Assets Department, City of San Diego

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:

Walker Properties: Santee City Council / State Coastal Conservancy

Mast Park West Trail: Proposition 40 Close Out and Dedication

River Gorge Trail: Construction Status, Community Impacts, Modifications

11. Adjournment

Accessibility

If you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Michael Nelson at 619-645-3183

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
The Board will consider adoption of the **March 3, 2011**
public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **March 3, 2011**
Board Meetings are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of March 3, 2011 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on May 5, 2011)

Governing Board Vice Chair Ruth Hayward called the March 3, 2011 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 1:36 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present

Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Karen Finn	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Ronie Clark	Department of Parks and Recreation, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, Second District
Brent Eidson	Mayor, City of San Diego (Designee)
Lorie Zapf	Council Member, City of San Diego (arrived 1:48 pm, left 3:10 pm)
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Board

Absent

Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ann Miller Haddad	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board

Staff Members Present

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

Michael Nelson welcomed Brent Eidson as for the Mayor Jerry Sanders designee.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ruth Hayward moved approval of the minutes of the January 6, 2011 public meeting. The motion was seconded by **Karen Finn** and the minutes were unanimously adopted. (5 Yes, 2 abstentions)

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.

Robin Reirdan, Executive Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, invited everyone to attend the 5K River Run for the San Diego River on May 7th and that the location will be the Walker-Hanlon Properties.

Michael Beck testified that he was concerned that an additional 3 acres of land might be sold as part of the City's proposed sale at Carlton Oaks. He offered his perspective that the 65 acres the City proposes to sell should remain in public ownership, that it contained the historic stream bed of the San Diego River and should be preserved. He said that it was his understanding that the City of San Diego was considering the sale of an additional 3 acres as a boundary adjustment. He said he believes three acres is not small, nor insignificant; particularly when one is trying to recapture a functional ecosystem and in this case a river system that has been compromised for decades. A couple of acres is a big deal.

Michael Nelson stated that this issue would be an item of discussion in his Executive Officer's Report, but noted that he had learned that there was consideration of expanding the sale area to include an estimated three acres, subject to verification by survey. However, he had recently learned that a final determination had not been made and that the Real Estate Assets Department was willing to discuss outstanding issues before a final decision would be rendered. In fact, a meeting had been scheduled a meeting for next Friday with Public Utilities, Parks, and SDRC.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

No Report.

5. Deputy Attorney's General Report

Hayley Peterson reminded Board Members that Form 700s are due on April 1, 2011.

6. Walker Properties, Santee / Project Team Introductions and Report

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Virginia Lorne, Trust for Public Land

Bill Maertz, Community Services Director, City of Santee

Robin Rierdan, Executive Director, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy

Ann Van Leer, SDRC Consultant

Michael Nelson recalled the Governing Board's approvals for the acquisition of the Walker Properties in Santee. He stated that these properties comprised 1.5 miles of riparian corridor connecting Lakeside to the City of Santee's Town Center. He said the Trust for Public Land (TPL) had been engaged to assist with the acquisition and had completed the negotiation of an option agreement for the property, which was presently awaiting signature from family members. He continued that the Board's approvals also encouraged him to work with Lakeside's River Park Conservancy (LRPC) and the City of Santee to address land management, stewardship and reclamation. He testified that he had pulled together a team to review land management and funding strategies that included Santee, LRPC, TPL and State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). He testified that he had asked Ann Van Leer to develop a conceptual plan for the property and encouraged LRPC to submit a Flood Corridor Grant Application, recognizing their earlier successes with this program. He stated that Santee had agreed to manage the property as part of its continuing commitment to develop a river park from its eastern to its western boundaries. He

said one of his purposes today was to introduce the members of the team, but first to allow Ann to quickly brief them on the conceptual management plan and then allow Bill Maertz, Community Services Director, City of Santee to speak and then Robin Rierdan of LRPC.

Ann Van Leer stated that the purchase would address all the strategic and statutory objectives of SDRC. She said the property has been actively mined since the 1950's which created some challenges for the reclamation of the property and particularly its ponds. She suggested that the goal was to initiate a transition from an industrial use of the site to public uses and conservation purposes. She testified that the habitat is very different from what one would expect along the San Diego River, that reclamation required by mining permits has provided a nice mixture of native habitat. So, one question is whether to further enhance the property beyond what the reclamation plan requires. She also said that an examination of the ponds will need to be performed to determine whether to keep them as they are, fill them to create wetlands, habitat and flood control. She explained that these questions would be part of the planning processes that would occur once the property was in public ownership.

Bill Maertz, Community Services Director, City of Santee, stated that there were 1100 acres of riparian habitat in Santee and its General Plan (1981) recommended a river park through Santee, border to border and the City had been working to accomplish for the past ten years. He added that Santee had recently finished construction of a \$25 million park along the river's northern border with fencing to allow recreation use and protect sensitive habitat. He said that the City was also about to complete its trail through Mast Park West which connects with the Carlton Oaks Golf Course. He went on to say that he provided an executive summary of the conceptual framework to the City Council. Though there were some concerns with the expense to the general fund, the feedback was very positive. He added that he was confident volunteers and grants could help offset increased costs. He concluded by stating that the City of Santee is dedicated to a planning process that involves stakeholders, so the City has not predetermined or selected a specific plan or concept of how the land should be used other than a recreational trail along the northern side of the river.

Dianne Jacob applauded the City of Santee for its park facilities and its commitment to the San Diego River Trail. She said that the City had been very aggressive in doing exactly what the Conservancy is trying to accomplish along the rest of the river.

Andrew Poat commented this was a good example of how the city, SDRC and the State are participating well together.

Robin Rierdan testified that LRPC had applied for a grant for the Walker Properties to the Department of Water Resources, Flood Protection Corridor Program. She said the grant is for non-structural flood protection, habitat and recreation and would include funding to improve and restore the upland habitat for endangered species. She said that previously LRPC had applied for and received \$4.2 million for the LRPC's 100-acre Lakeside project and \$3.2 for the Hanson El Monte Pond project, which involves a partnership between LRPC and the Endangered Habitats Conservancy.

Michael Nelson reminded the Board that SDRC was working with LRPC and the County using Proposition 40 funds for the Riverford Road segment of the San Diego River Trail that would connect Lakeside's River Park to Lakeside Baseball Park, which was adjacent to the eastern border of the Walker property.

Dianne Jacob asked if SDRC would secure a trail easement through the property the family wants to retain.

Ann Van Leer responded that she had spoken with the family about that section of property, but it is really constrained and there is no place to put a trail on the property they are currently mining. RCP plans to mine the property until 2017 and hopefully at that time, the property would be for sale and the trail could be brought across the road.

Dianne Jacob asked if there was an update on the Riverford Road project.

Robin Rierdan stated that she has not had any luck changing Lakeside Land Company from its present position, but suggested that the Specific Plan for that area requires them to build a trail when they seek permits. She said LRPC is currently working to bring the trail under the bridge which is the most critical and difficult connection to make.

Ruth Hayward asked if Gnatcatchers or least Bell's vireo had been observed on the Walker Property.

Michael Nelson stated that yes those species did exist on the property and that fact was one of the reason's SDRC had been successfully in receiving a \$1 million acquisition grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It was identified as critical habitat for Southwest Flycatchers, Gnatcatchers as well as least Bell's vireo.

7. San Diego River Conservancy 2011 Work Plan

Presentation and Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Recommendation: Adoption Resolution 11-02

Michael Nelson said he would like to begin a presentation of the 2011 Work Plan with a summary of 2010 accomplishments before describing objectives and recommendations for 2011. He stated that most SDRC's projects were leveraged by multiple fund sources from an array of organizations: federal stimulus funds supplemented the River Gorge Trail within Cleveland National Forest; the Invasives Control and Restoration project with SDSU captured Supplemental Environmental Project funds from the Regional Water Quality Control Board totaling \$300,000; because the Riverford Road Trail traverses a redevelopment area, San Diego County was able to offer SDRC a loan that provided the advance funding until we sought reimbursement from the Natural Resources Agency.

He said that as a consequence, all of these projects required negotiation and execution of numerous binding legal agreements with several agencies such as the State Coastal Conservancy, California Natural Resources Agency, County of San Diego, Lakeside River Park Conservancy, USDA- Forest Service, San Diego State University Research Foundation, Upper San Diego River Improvement Project - County of San Diego, City of San Diego – Public Utilities Department, Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Fish and Game, etc.

He said 2010 was characterized by the development and negotiation of agreement to launch projects, while 2011 focused on making these agreements work and completing the projects, he then summarized selected 2010 accomplishments:

- Commencement and expenditures and management of four Prop 40 projects.
- Implementation of project partnership and financing agreements, permits and grants
- San Diego River Trail - the San Diego River Trail is one of SDRC's greatest priorities; the Governing Board took formal action to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) for the San Diego River Trail. This action has established regional collaboration among elected officials at the policy level and participation by key staff for the jurisdictions to address technical issues regarding priorities, construction and management of the Trail. This year the State Coastal Conservancy, SDRC, and the IWG worked with KTU+A to complete a Gaps Analysis for the San Diego River Trail. The analysis provided a preliminary identification of priority projects presently under review by the IWG.
- Walker Property Acquisition - Established a partnership to acquire, manage and restore more than one mile of riparian real estate in Santee, known as the Walker Property. This exciting project boasts a collaboration that includes the City of Santee, Trust for Public Land, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, the San Diego River Coalition and the San Diego River Conservancy.
- Carlton Oaks Golf Course - Negotiated and approved a donation of a Conservation and Trail Easement and Right of First Refusal Agreement for the approximately 100 acres at the Carlton Oaks Golf Course in Santee; a property that is an important to the implementation of San Diego River Park Master Plan and the City's Multiple Species Conservation Plan, which lies within the floodplain and floodway of the San Diego River.
- San Diego Natural History Center – SDRC formed a partnership with the San Diego Natural History
- Center (formerly San Diego Historically Society) that contemplates and SDRC requested \$150,000 from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to develop a historical ecology study, interpretive plan and exhibit design that employs San Diego River as the unifying theme for the Serra Museum.
- SANDAG EMP Grant - Awarded a \$527,700 grant from SANDAG's Environmental Mitigation Program for habitat restoration and trail funding. SDRC's application described a cost-effective and comprehensive approach to restoring and improving habitat along San Diego River, while addressing the objectives of a number of regional and local plans. This collaboration includes the County of San Diego, the Cities of San Diego and Santee, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy.
- San Diego River Invasives Control and Restoration – Completing a project to control invasives on 23 acres at the Carlton Oaks Golf Course on public and private property, which comprises a collaboration with San Diego State University Research Foundation, the Resources Agency, the City of San Diego, San Diego County Water Authority, the County of San Diego and the City of Santee and CalTrans.

- Watershed Data Collection and Restoration Program (RiverNet) - SDSU, SDRP and SDRC are working to incorporate RiverNet with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's initiative to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of water quality and water supply monitoring at the watershed scale.

He then commenced a review of proposed 2011 objectives:

- Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a reprioritization of current operating and capital programs.
- 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 and the San Diego River Coalition.
- Continue to pursue a program and or projects that commence implementation of the San Diego River Conservancy Act's requirement to pursue cultural resource planning within the watershed.
- Collaborate with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) on the establishment of projects or programs that are consistent with the strategic plans for both agencies.
- Commence project planning for restoration, trail, habitat, and water quality and flood control projects that connect Mission Trails, Santee, and Lakeside Reaches Recognizing the funding constraints that confront SDRC the 2011 Work Plan.

Mike Nelson continued by emphasizing that he would use existing funds to build upon earlier project investments made at projects. At Carlton Oaks Golf Course the Board wanted to develop the SDR Trail so that should be a 2011 priority; a similar emphasis would be made at the Walker property initiating preliminary planning and design to reclaim the property and develop the SDR Trail. (Surveys, alignment studies, wetlands delineations, CEQA compliance) A principal focus being the corridor from El Monte Valley to Mission Trails Regional Park and projects within Lakeside and Santee. He said another focus would be the Tributary Canyon project that connects communities in Mission Valley and Normal Heights, projects that bring people to the river where mass transit exists, where the river trail exists. He concluded by expressing that funding which remain available to SDRC could maintain its momentum through 2011 and 2012; and then if the Water Bond is successful there was the prospect of \$20,000,000 for projects.

Brent Eidson asked how responsibility for maintenance was performed on properties where invasives had been controlled and replanting had occurred.

Michael Nelson explained that maintenance will be conducted by private and public properties owners, as well as volunteers. He said as examples: the City's Public Utilities Department agreed to maintain the properties after SDRC finished the eradication and planting, so the responsibility lies with the City of San Diego to maintain the capital investment that was made. He stated that at the Department of

Fish and Game's (DFG) property, they would be responsible for maintenance; and in this case there was an endowment.

Gary Strawn commented that work of volunteers is very important that he has been waist deep in both those spots a number of times. He said the DFG property often acts as a net which catches a lot of floating trash.

Brent Eidson asked what do we do with the data from watershed data collection and what is the value.

Michael Nelson answered that hopefully it will be shared with students at SDSU, regulators, visitors to the Natural History Museum and others. He added that the National Science Foundation had posed a similar question and that SDSU would provide an implementation plan before a new proposal is submitted. He said that SDRC and SDSU are working to integrate the data into a monitoring initiative being considered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB).

Brent Eidson stated that he hoped there could be some ability to achieve some efficiencies, since local agencies are required to collect this data, such as the City through the Storm Water Permits and the County.

Michael Nelson replied that all the local agencies are part of the Working Group SDRWQCB has formed to integrate and coordinate monitoring and application of data comprehensively.

Andrew Poat said he is impressed with the breadth of goals that are in this document recognizing the resources that are available to SDRC. He said that he served on the Mental Health Commission which adopts goals and established milestones that can be used to track progress throughout the year. He wondered a similar methodology could be used by SDRC.

Michael Nelson said that he felt SDRC projects could be tracked and linked to the strategic plan. He said for instance if the "land conservation" program was examined, milestones could easily be identified which are linked to the programs and objectives established by the strategic plan. Specifically a milestone would be achieved when SDRC would be the receipt of the easements that are in escrow. The next milestone would be the award of contracts that initiate preliminary steps to build the trail and comply with CEQA. Similar milestones could be established for the Walker Property following the execution of an option agreement, such as surveys, hazmat reports, appraisal updates, etc. He said he was confident he could convert the Work Plan objectives and projects into milestones that could be measured.

Andrew Poat responded that he thought that would be very helpful. He said he would like to organize SDRC meetings around those milestones. If things are happening great, if not I would like to come and learn how to help.

Mike Nelson reminded the Board that SDRC Strategic Plan had four programmatic objectives: Land Conservation; Recreation and Education; Water Quality and Cultural and Natural Resources Preservation. All resolutions that are approved by the Board are related to these programs and the projects that were established for each of them.

Andrew Poat said that the Mental Health Commission agendized every action to the goals set for the year.

Mike Nelson responded it he could identify each project so its relationship to the Strategic Plan and the Work Plans goals.

Dianne Jacob commented that she appreciated Andrews's remarks that she also sits on boards and commissions where actions were always related to a strategic plans goals and objectives. She also made a motion to approve the 2011 Work Plan.

Andrew Poat seconded the motion.

Ruth Hayward asked **Mike Nelson** to conduct a Roll Call Vote, which was approved unanimously:

Votes: 8 Yes (Bryan Cash, Karen Finn, Ronie Clark, Dianne Jacob, Brent Eidson, Lorie Zapf, Ruth Hayward, Andrew Poat)

Lorie Zapf asked for clarification regarding the Recreation and Education project category of the Work Plan. She asked that if a project status indicates that it is "under design" did that mean that the money for the project was available.

Michael Nelson responded that is correct.

Lorie Zapf asked specifically about the 1.75 mile trail gap between Hazard Center to Fashion Valley.

Michael Nelson responded that at one time funding for the project was frozen, but that he was under the impression that the City of San Diego had secured the funding to complete the project.

Andrew Poat recalled that during discussions regarding the \$20 million that had been allocated for SDRC in the Water Bond, the Board had discussed preparing information that could advise the public what projects would be undertaken, if it was approved. He asked SDRC Executive Officer if there was something SDRC should do this year in order to have a compelling answer to that question when the Water Bond goes to the ballot next year.

Michael Nelson said the project that he felt represented a great return on investment was the San Diego River Trail. He felt that it was compelling because it demonstrated a regional commitment that provided benefits to communities and citizens throughout the watershed and San Diego County

Dianne Jacob reminded the Board it was talking about a future bond measure, which may happen, but also, may not. She stated that she wanted to be certain that SDRC was in a position to receive funding that presently existed and specifically from SANDAG.

Michael Nelson said that the San Diego River Trail has been included in SANDAG's Regional Transportation Plan, as a regional bike corridor. He said Kathy Keehan of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, Mark Carpenter of KTU+A and he had used the Gaps Analysis to work with staff from SANDAG. He also mentioned that Deanna Spehn from Senator Kehoe's office had been very helpful.

Bryan Cash said that while he appreciated the discussion he felt the Board might be getting a little ahead of itself with a discussion regarding the Water Bond, that the first hurdle California needs to overcome, is solving the budget problem. Although he appreciated the benefits of being prepared, the focus of the Brown administration is the budget problem; because if that problem is not taken care of a lot of things we hold near and dear and that are funded right now could be in jeopardy.

8. Executive Officer's Report

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

FY2011-2012 Budget Hearings

Proposition 40 & 84 Project Status

SANDAG/ Environmental Mitigation Program Land Management Grant

San Diego River Trail: Status of Gaps Analysis

Carlton Oaks Golf Course

May Meeting – Field Trip to River Gorge Trail – Cleveland National Forest?

FY2011-2012 Budget Hearings the EO reported that he had attended budget hearings in Sacramento and that no comments were expressed by committee members, nor were any concerns raised by legislative analysts.

San Diego River Trail: Status of Gaps Analysis the EO said that he had met with each jurisdiction about a presentation regarding their priorities along the San Diego River Trail. He informed members of the Intergovernmental Work Group that each jurisdiction should be prepared to report to the Governing Board at its May meeting.

May Meeting – Field Trip to River Gorge Trail – Cleveland National Forest The EO asked if the Governing Board would like the May meeting to include a visit to the River Gorge Trail, which was nearing completion.

Dianne Jacob suggested that we set the field trip be scheduled as a separate event.

Carlton Oaks Golf Course The EO advised that final boundaries for the sale of properties had not been formally established by survey. He also reported that the Real Estate Assets Department had scheduled a meeting next Friday with the appropriate SD agencies and SDRC to review possible sale maps and consider concerns that may arise.

Ruth Hayward responded that it seemed that the Governing Board should be made aware of the details of the sale map and the location of the boundaries it will delineate. She inquired whether there was a Board member who would support a motion that provides the Executive Officer with guidance for the upcoming meeting. She said the motion should require the EO to attend the meeting with the Real Estate Assets Department regarding final boundaries and acreages for the sale and that he be accompanied if possible by Brent Eidson, the Mayor's designee, if he is available and that a report be made to the Board at its next meeting.

Andrew Poat said he was willing to make a motion but stated that he was unclear what the issues surrounding the sale boundaries might be.

Mike Nelson recalled that the City notified SDRC that it would sell approximately 65.4 acres at Carlton Oaks Golf Course and retain approximately a riparian area of approximately 35 acres. He continued that he had been advised that the final boundaries of the sale were being established and that they may include the berm or levee that runs between the golf course and the river, which is considered by many to be the preferred alignment for the San Diego River Trail. He further advised that he had inquired about the impacts of expanding the acreage of the sale, particularly, as any effect it might have on SDRC's Invasives Control and Restoration Project.

Ruth Hayward expressed concern that inclusion of the berm represented an encroachment into the riparian area. She also asked about the origin of the berm.

Ann Van Leer said she believes the berm was built by the previous owner of the golf course and that there was a violation, which resulted in the property known as Mast Park West being conveyed as mitigation.

Dianne Jacob reminded that the Board took an action on this some time ago and felt the Board should give Mike the direction and authority to implement SDRC's decision. She said she would make such a motion, because, SDRC wants the trail, SDRC wants the conservation easement and the connections at both ends.

Michael Nelson added his participation would not want to jeopardize the conservation outcomes associated with the donation of the conservation easement and the ability to build a trail.

Andrew Poat moved that the Board authorize the Executive Officer and such members of the Conservancy as selected to attend and participate in City's negotiation relative to the disposition of the Carlton Oaks property, to implement the decision of the Board and to identify issues that may result from the negotiations relative to SDRC implementation of its Strategic Plan goals.

Dianne Jacob restated the motion to: Authorize the EO to enter participate in the meetings and be accompanied by Brent Eidson.

Andrew Poat seconded Supervisor Jacob's motion.

Michael Nelson conducted a Roll call vote:

Vote: 7 Yes (Bryan Cash, Karen Finn, Ronie Clark, Dianne Jacob, Brent Eidson, Ruth Hayward, Andrew Poat)

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

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 5, 2011

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S AND GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBERS' REPORTS**

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: **5**

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **SERRA MUSEUM: SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER/
SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY PARTNERSHIP**

Presentation and Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

David Kahn, Executive Director, San Diego History Center

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 11-03

ITEM 6

EXHIBITS

**Staff Report for Serra Museum
SDRC Resolution 11-03**

**Serra Museum
SDRC Resolution 11-03**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: Authorization To Seek Funds from The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) for a grant to the San Diego History Center for an Interpretive Plan and Exhibit Design, which features the San Diego River as a key unifying theme for the Serra Museum at Presidio Park, which incorporates it's ecological history

PURPOSE: The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 11-03 authorizing the Conservancy to request \$150,000 from the Coastal Conservancy to develop a an Interpretive Plan and Exhibit Design that features San Diego River as a key unifying theme of the Serra Museum.

**STATUTORY &
STRATEGIC PLAN
CONSISTENCY:**

This item addresses the objectives will help to implement Program 2, Recreation & Education and Program 3, Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration.

BACKGROUND: **Project Summary:**

Staff recommends that the Conservancy authorize the disbursement of up to \$150,000 to the San Diego History Center for the *Serra Museum/San Diego River - Interpretive Plan and Exhibit Design Study*. SDHC, in collaboration with the San Diego River Conservancy and the San Diego River Coalition will synthesize diverse historical data about the cultural, archaeological, and biological and land use decisions affecting the San Diego River. This study will analyze and examine its natural conditions and history of hydro modifications. Its products

will include an exhibit design and interpretive program for one of San Diego's most venerable museums at one of the most ecologically historic locations on the San Diego River. The Serra is a local icon that is the ideal location for a compelling, hands-on, interactive visitor experience.

Though historical ecology studies provide important information for restoration design, planning, and management of natural resources in a coastal watershed and its riparian corridor and offer direct benefits to decision-makers, this effort would translate this information for students and the public through an interdisciplinary methodology that entertains and educates. It will inform people that human culture and the environment are in a continuous dialogue and that this relationship between people and a landscape should be viewed holistically.

The Interpretive Plan and Exhibit design will also reflect the results of a collaboration between the San Diego History Center (SDHC) , San Diego State University (SDSU), the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), and the Balboa Park Online Collaborative (BPOC) which proposes to carry out a planning project that will explore how visualizations of historical data created by historical ecologists and those created by history museums and related organizations can be innovatively combined to enhance public understanding of the past – and in particular, the process of change over time

The San Diego History Center and its education staff represents the ideal entity to frame the ecological history of the San Diego River, its natural resources and its people within a larger cultural and biological context. The lessons of the history of San Diego and its namesake river could be presented in a fresh way within the walls of the Museum, but will also be available for interpretative/ educational programs and activities connected to physical locations on the river that can be visited by the public. In sum, with the completion of this study and creation of a new Interpretive Plan will foster and promote the development of compelling new visitor experiences; the Serra Museum has the potential to become an even more vibrant cultural attraction in San Diego – one that can help fulfill the educational missions

of both SDRC and SDHC while providing enjoyable experiences for a wide range of visitors.

Project Discussion:

The biological diversity of our region and the San Diego River watershed is reflected in its cultural diversity. The region has had continuous human occupation since the end of the Pleistocene, a record extending 10,000 years into the past. This pattern of settlement consists of many native tribes, a uniquely large number and diversity of archaeological resources, and wide distribution of native settlements. San Diego's native population had large, sedentary villages and made and used pottery for cooking, storage and other purposes. This pattern is unusual in a non-agricultural society. The reason this strategy worked is because the natural environment of the San Diego region was so abundant that residents could make a good living without needing much mobility. Because of the mild climate and associated biological diversity in the region, residents were able to enjoy a comfortable life here as early as 10,000 years ago and still do today. San Diego County and the border region are unique in the United States with 10,000 years of intensive, diverse occupation by many different cultures and the resultant cultural diversity directly stemming from the region's biodiversity.

Additionally, the native tribes of the region had very early contact with non-native groups and were able to have historic influence on the development of San Diego and California (examples: first Presidio, first Mission, and early established trade and travel routes throughout the continent). This early contact is unusual in the United States and known in only a few places including Santa Fe, New Mexico and St. Augustine, Florida.

Additional Opportunities

Museum Components: Ideally this effort to engage the public could include not only the History Center, but also the Museum of Man and the Natural History Museum so the continuity of local biology and local culture can be integrated and showcased in multiple venues; however, additional venues/components could be added at later dates. The interpretive elements chosen should be geographically dispersed to tell stories in all reaches of

the river. It would also be interesting to include a segment reaching into the future encouraging visitors to identify what the river's future "history" might be.

Off-Site Components: In association with the planning for the San Diego River Trail, kiosks or map panels could be located on the trails to reflect the stories told in the Serra Museum. In addition to general trail information, panels could provide information on the river's natural and cultural history and direct trail users to adjacent historical sites, the Serra Museum and the web portal.

Web-based Components: The existing San Diego River data portal could house a map layer further interpreting this biological and cultural context; it could provide the same material (in a digital format) as at the museum or complementary materials. Trails maps could be downloaded (or linked from) the SDRC website so trail users could have access to what they need to visit areas of the river.

Stakeholders: The San Diego River Coalition and other stakeholders should be actively engaged in review of design and implementation. A smaller group of key stakeholders such as historians, archaeologists, tribal leaders, scholars and trail planners should work more closely with museum staff from inception to implementation to provide guidance and integration with other river activities.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

Resolution 11-03

Resolution No: 11-03

**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 grant to the San Diego History Center for the development of an Interpretive Plan and Exhibit Design for the Serra Museum at Presidio Park, which features the San Diego River and incorporates its historical ecology.

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 its enabling statute which directs the Conservancy to provide for the public's enjoyment, and to enhance the recreational and educational experience and historic interpretation on public lands in the territory.”; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the project 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 addresses Annual Work Plans that encourages a program and or projects that implement the San Diego River Conservancy Act's requirement to pursue cultural resource planning within the watershed.

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

1. Authorizing preparation of a grant proposal to the San Diego History Center for the development of an Interpretive Plan and Exhibit Design for the Serra Museum at Presidio Park that features the San Diego River and incorporates its historical ecology.
2. 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.
3. 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).
4. Approved and adopted the 5th day of May 2011. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 11-03 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Michael J. Nelson
Executive Officer

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL: STATUS OF GAPS
ANALYSIS**

Presentation and Report:

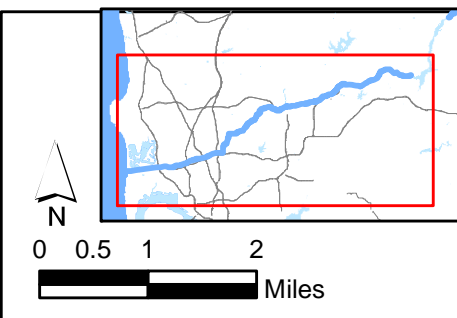
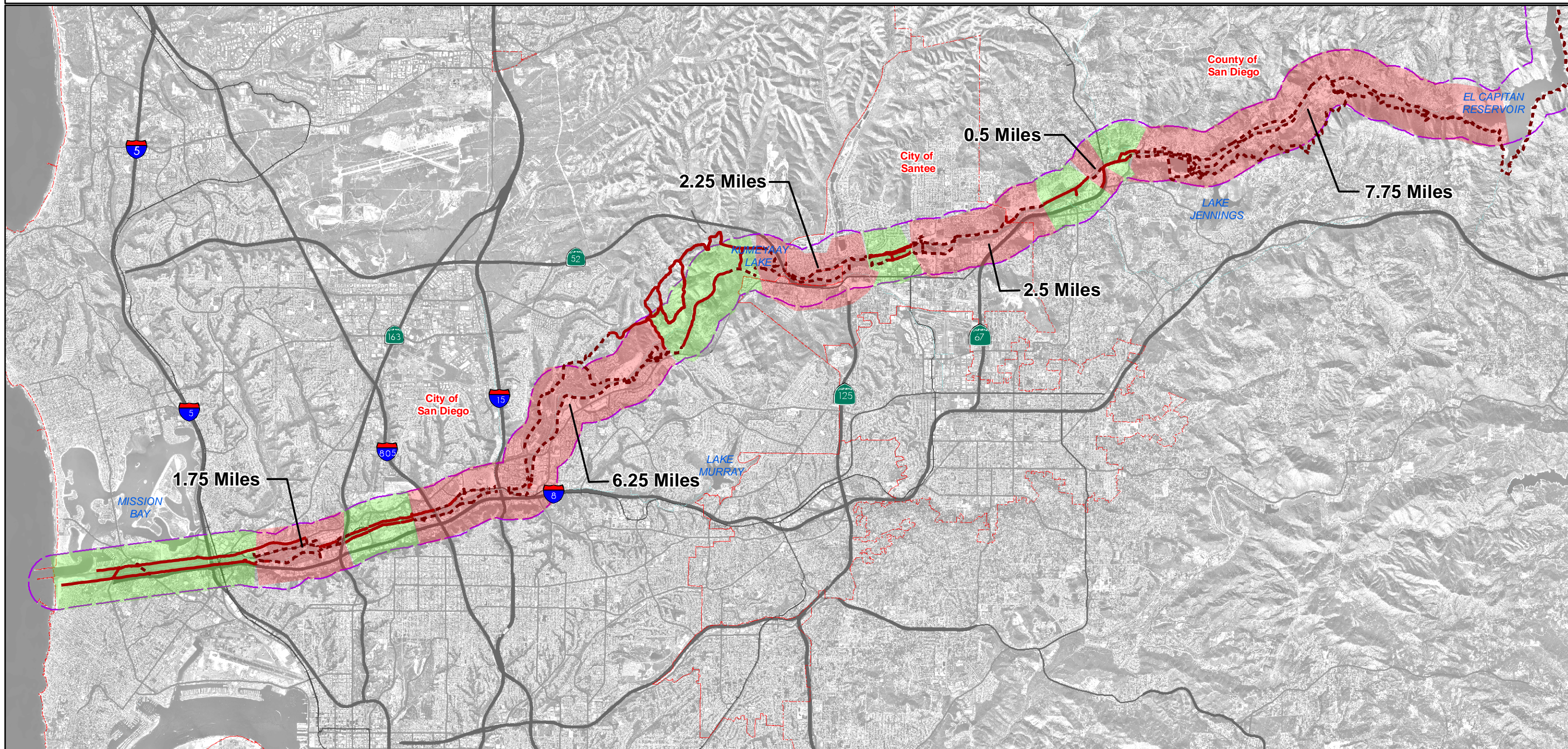
Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

**Brian Albright, Director, Parks and Recreation, County of San
Diego**

Bill Maertz, Community Services Director, City of Santee

**Robin Shifflet, Planning and Community Investment, City of San
Diego**

SDRT GAPS Analysis: Ocean to the El Capitan Reservoir



SDRT - Existing Trail

SDRT - GAP

Existing Trail Segments

Planned/Proposed Trail Segements

SDRC Jurisdiction

City Boundaries

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **EL MONTE VALLEY: HANSON POND ACQUISITION
AND RECLAMATION**

Presentation and Report:
Michael Nelson, Executive Officer
**Michael Beck, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats
Conservancy**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **CARLTON OAKS: PROPOSED SALE BOUNDARIES
AND ADJUSTMENTS**

Presentation and Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

**James Barwick, Director, Real Estate Assets Department, City of
San Diego**

Mary Carlson, Real Estate Assets Department, City of San Diego

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

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:

Walker Properties: Santee City Council / State Coastal Conservancy

Mast Park West Trail: Proposition 40 Close Out and Dedication

River Gorge Trail: Construction Status, Community Impacts, Modifications

ITEM 10
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S
REPORT

EVENTS



San Diego River Run

Join us for the **4th Annual San Diego River Run 5K Trail Run/Walk** on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 8:00am. The event starts and finishes at the Lakeside Baseball Park, 10030 Marathon Parkway, Lakeside CA 92040

New 5k Course

We are moving the course route to a NEW location that features a SNEAK PREVIEW of new trails and lakes that will soon be connected to the existing Lakeside's River Park Trail. This site is not yet open to the public. Be the first to visit this amazing site only on Saturday, May 7th, 2011 for the San Diego River Run!

Registration

[Click here](#) to register online.

[Click here](#) to download an entry form via the San Diego River Run website

Registration is also available on event morning from 6:00am to 7:45am.

Entry Fees:

Postmarked by 4/3

Adult Registration - \$20

Kids 12 & Under - \$10

Postmarked 4/4 - 4/30

Adult Registration - \$25

Kids 12 & Under - \$15

After 4/30 and on Race Day

Adult Registration - \$30

Kids 12 & Under \$15

Event Schedule

6:00am - 7:45am - Check-in and Bib/T-Shirt Pick-up

6:00am - 7:45am - New Registration

8:00am - 5K Start

6:00 - 10:30 Race & River Expo

9:30am - Awards Ceremony

Event Check-in

All participants must pick-up their bib number at **Registration** prior to the start of the race on event morning. Pick-up is from 6:00am - 7:45am. We will provide you with four safety pins. Pin the bib-number to the front of your shirt. Do not remove the bottom tear-tag portion as we use this for finish-line timing.

Results and Awards

Our awards ceremony will be at 9:30am. Age group medals will be given three deep in the following categories: 10 & Under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79 and 80+.

Results will be posted online by 9pm on event day.

Course Map/Update: This year we are featuring a NEW 5k Course that will connect to our existing River Trail in the near future!! We are so excited to share this with our community and River Park supporters! This site needs our fundraising help! Help us restore this site to its natural beauty! Support us by participating in the race or by donating today!
For a layout of the course and where to park, please go to www.SDRiverRun.org

Dogs and Strollers

This is a dog and kid-friendly event. Be sure to have your dog on a 6' leash and don't forget to carry extra water and pet waste bags. We ask that all participants with dogs or strollers start in the rear of the starting pack.

Raffle

Be sure to stay for the awards ceremony -- as we will be announcing our raffle winners. The first 100 registrant have automatically been entered in a raffle to win a \$50 gift certificate to Laces Running Company!

*The City of Santee
is pleased to invite you
to attend the dedication of*
Mast Park West Trail
Wednesday, May 11, 2011
4:30 p.m.



Ceremony will be held at the trail head near the
corner of Carlton Oaks Blvd. and Carlton Hills Blvd.
Parking available on Carlton Hills Blvd. and Mast Park.
Wear walking shoes for a short hike on the new trail.

For more information call (619) 258-4100 ext. 222



SAN DIEGO

River Days 2011

May 7th - 15th

walk

hike

run

bike

learn

climb

explore!



For more info, call (619) 297-7380 or visit:

www.sdriverdays.org

Bring this program to the RiverFest information booth and receive a free reusable shopping bag*!

*first 200 participants

Arrive early for the
Healthy River 5-Mile Walk
Starts at 8am!

2nd Annual RiverFest

May 15th, 10am-3pm
Qualcomm Stadium
SW Practice Field



ITEM 10
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S
REPORT

MEDIA

Cedar Creek Falls — a Summer Place

The hike is strenuous and steep in places but it offers a waterfall and pool, shade trees and views that will interest geology hobbyists.



Cedar Creek Falls is one of the signature hikes of San Diego County's backcountry. It is widely known and popular any day of the year. The trail is at the far east end of the San Diego Country Estates in Ramona, at the end of Ramona Oaks Road.

The drive down Ramona Oaks gives one a dynamic view of the southern flank of Mt. Gower. The trail starts at the south end of Thornbush Road, by the water tower in the Cleveland National Forest. At the trailhead there is parking, with a small sign marking the boundary of the National Forest and the Estates. Be sure to park in the National Forest and not in the Estates homes area.

Cedar Creek is a robust hike with some steep terrain on the way down to the bottom of the San Diego River canyon. There is now a nice trailhead and erosion control on the arroyos crossing it. Take plenty of water and be ready for a hike of up to 2 ½ hours, round trip. The trailhead is at 1,964 feet and it drops down to about 900 feet in elevation at the San Diego River. Then it climbs back up another 500 feet to Cedar Creek, which is at 1,400 feet. While the way down is steep, it's not too bad of a workout. However, the way back up can be strenuous for some people. Keep in mind that if the Sheriff has to use the ASTREA helicopter to get you out, it can cost you a lot.

Google maps can give you a satellite or topographic map of the area before you go. Google Earth is another good resource. Both applications are free utilities on the Internet.

The trail leads over the crest of the canyon wall for about ½ mile and then begins a steeper and steeper descent. As you cross the upper plateau you will see a lot of quartz and pegmatite “float”

exposed on the surface. It is called float because it floats to the surface from erosion of the surrounding clay.

The trail comes up on a small ridge about halfway down that gives a good overlook from midway down the canyon wall. Passing by the granite boulders you can see they are laced with Xenolithic hematite spots. These black spots are mantle rock, which is high in iron. It mixed in the granite reaction zone as it was forming and was frozen in place when the granite cooled before it had melted and reacted with the granitic mix. As you reach the canyon bottom, the view up the canyon walls is very dramatic on all sides. As you get closer to the river, there is more green vegetation and some flowers.

You have to cross the river. Do be careful on days that have flash flood watch. These steep canyon rivers can swell very quickly with rain. There is a trail through the oaks and up the access road for Mount Helix Water District. Continue across the road heading along the trail up the side branch creek to the east. You hike up this creek about another ½ mile into the canyon beside Eagle Peak. Again, the views are very dramatic, with steep canyon walls all around. There is greenery and there are flowers all around as you approach the canyon bottom at the river. You have to hike over the creek and around and through boulders that get bigger as you get closer to the falls. It is a good, fun workout climbing around the boulder to get to the Cedar Falls water pool.

Cedar Falls is usually flowing, with the flow being heavier in winter and rainy seasons. After the Cedar Fire in 2003 the pool at the bottom was filled with sediment that ran off the upper plateau with the winter rains. You could actually walk out to the Falls face and touch it. Now it's a fairly deep pool. A few folks enjoy swimming in the pool. Some fools dive from the cliffs overhead. Diving from the cliffs here is VERY dangerous. Almost every year, at least one person is pulled out of here for breaking their necks diving in or from heat exhaustion.

The pool at the falls bottom is fairly clear most of the time and gives interesting reflections and which help light up around the pool. The surrounding hills and trees make this a cool respite on hot summer days, even if it's a good workout to get back up to your car.

Fires are prohibited down there for good reason. The fires can quickly spread up the hills sides and certainly outrun you up the hills on windy days.

If you go:

Directions: 8 miles west from downtown Ramona on San Vicente Road, past the San Vicente Clubhouse, turn left on Ramona Oaks Road. Travel about 4 miles and when you get to Thornbush Road turn right and go up the hill to the water tower. Parking is at the top of the hill.

Difficulty level: moderate with some steep and slippery spots on inclines. The trail can be hot in summer, so plan morning hikes then.

Parking: There is public parking at the road end near the water tower. Park at your own risk. Be sure to hide anything of value and lock up tight.

Facilities: Toilets are at the trailhead and will be finished and usable after April. Dogs allowed on leash. No fires or camping.

GPS: Latitude: 33.021775 Longitude: -116.733171

Elevations: San Diego River — 900 feet; parking lot — 1964 feet; delta — 1100 feet; Cedar Creek Falls — 1400 feet

Tail length: 4.5 miles round rip

-up is published!

Flag as inappropriate

Harvesting a new water source – right at home

Opinion - Dialog

By Mark Weston
Sunday, March 6, 2011

With record-breaking rainfall, it's hard to talk about future [water shortages](#). In fact, they are a reality unless we develop new water. New [water supplies](#) will not come by dragging icebergs to [San Diego](#) or building pipelines to Canada. The answer is much simpler and closer to home. Our next new water supply will come from purifying wastewater with today's advanced technologies to produce [drinking water](#). This technology is sound, proven and reliable.

[San Diego County](#) water agencies have never lost sight of securing the next reliable water supply to meet the needs of our residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural communities. Today, we import 90 percent of our water. Looking ahead into the 21st century, our water supplies are threatened by drought, environmental rulings, water shortages, climate change, growth and natural disasters.

Water conservation helps greatly. Water agencies have seen a 20 percent to 30 percent drop in demand over the last three years. Conservation will always be important and we will continue to encourage water-efficient landscaping. However, it is time to look further into the future to develop new water supplies.

The same technology that is used to desalinate ocean water is used to create new water from wastewater at a lower cost with enhanced environmental benefits. Highly treated wastewater is commonly used for irrigation throughout the county. Further, treating this water by using microfiltration, 100 percent reverse osmosis and advanced disinfection produces water that meets or exceeds all drinking water standards. Filtering this water through the natural sands in a groundwater basin is the final step.

Using this technology, Orange County Water District produces 70 million gallons of drinking water a day that is injected into the groundwater basin and delivered to thousands of homes and businesses every day. Water agencies globally use these technologies to meet drinking water demand.

Helix Water District and Padre Dam Municipal Water District, located in the East County, are partnering to develop the \$200 million [El Monte](#) Valley Project. The plan calls for producing highly [purified water](#) from wastewater using 100 percent reverse osmosis at Padre Dam's Water Reclamation Facility in Santee. This purified water will be piped 11 miles to the El Monte Valley, east of Lakeside, where it will be percolated into the groundwater basin. The water will be retained in the aquifer for a minimum of six months where it will blend with naturally occurring groundwater. This groundwater will be removed and mixed with Helix's raw water supplies and then treated again at the R.M. Levy [Water Treatment Plant](#) for delivery to customers, creating 5,000 acre-feet of new water to meet 15 percent of Helix's needs.

The 580-acre project, on land owned by Helix, will include surface sand mining to re-contour the valley, removal of non-native plants, restoration of the [San Diego River](#) channel, creation of hiking/equestrian trails and planting of enhanced wildlife habitat. Securing this new water supply will add about 5 percent to the cost of water. The project costs would be offset in part by sand sales, state and federal grants, and wholesale subsidies.

An [environmental impact study](#) will be done this year with all approvals anticipated in 2013. The public will be an active partner in this project. Impacts to the valley will be analyzed and mitigated through the environmental review. Based on the science and technology of the 21st century, this locally controlled, drought-proof source of highly purified water can be our next new water supply, supplementing our limited imported water supplies.

Weston is general manager of the Helix Water District, which provides drinking water to 265,000 people in the communities of La Mesa, El Cajon, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of Lakeside.

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Friday, March 18, 2011 at 6:02 p.m.

Fishing access improving on San Diego River

By [Ed Zieralski](#)



Ed Zieralski

San Diego Fly Fishers Gary Strawn and Bob Stafford, volunteers with the San Diego River Park Foundation, hike the trail from Mast Park along the San Diego River.

SANTEE — An avid [fly fisherman](#), one of Gary Strawn's favorite things to do is to leave his home in Santee and hike into some [ponds](#) formed by the [San Diego River](#) and fish for bass, crappie and bluegill.

Most of the ponds are only fishable by [float tube](#) or kayak. Strawn's stepson, Michael Caleca, caught a 9-pound, 8-ounce bass on a plastic worm while fishing from his float tube in the Santee pond upstream from the Carlton Oaks [Golf Course](#), Strawn's favorite area.

"I prefer to be on the Upper Owens, but this will do for now," Strawn said during a trek Friday from Mast Park in Santee. Strawn and fellow [San Diego](#) Fly Fisher Bob Stafford, who also is an avid birder, showed off an area where Strawn recently had some fishing luck. He said he caught two bass and a "fat" bluegill. Then he got some company, another fisherman.

"The guy made a few casts, but then said he was afraid of getting a ticket," Strawn said. "I had to explain to him that it's not against the law to fish here."

It's a misconception many have about the San Diego River, but any angler may fish it. Fishermen 16 and over need a fishing license. The only other issue is trespassing, and Strawn said the [San Diego River Park Foundation](#) is doing a very good job creating access to all users now that much of the 52-mile river bed and greenbelt is becoming trails and parks, from Julian to the mouth of the river at Ocean Beach. In recent years, sections of the giant river valley have been developed into parkland in some key areas in Lakeside, Santee and Mission Valley. Access has improved.

“Some areas still have access issues, but for the most part, there are 20 to 30 ponds like this that are open to fishing,” Strawn said. “What we need to do is get a map that shows where they are and how to access them.”

Strawn is an active volunteer with the San Diego River Park Foundation. He's also recreation and wildlife appointee on the California Regional Water Quality Board. He has been working for a number of years to improve fishing access to the San Diego River. He'd like to get groups like the San Diego Council of Bass Clubs and other fishing interests to join the San Diego River Coalition. He said that way fishing interests will be heard by others who want to improve the San Diego River on all levels, even for recreation. He said the Bass Council needs to be engaged because [El Capitan Reservoir](#) is part of the river park.

Most of them are only fishable by float tube or kayak. Strawn's stepson, Michael Caleca, caught a 9-pound, 8-ounce bass on a plastic worm while fishing from his float tube in the Santee pond upstream from the Carlton Oaks Golf Course.

Strawn said Robin Rierdan at Lakeside River Park would like to see a children's program there, complete with a fishing pier for kids only. Rob Hutzler, executive director of the San Diego River Park Foundation, also said the goal of his group has been to provide more access to all users. He has proposed putting up signs saying that fishing is allowed for all licensed anglers, with no license required by those 15 and under.

One of the by-catches of the park development along the river has been a massive clean-up of the river bed, Strawn said. The increase of use by hikers, equestrians and others has led to the area being kept up better and trash-free. The Foundation's volunteers have picked up over 1.3 million pounds of trash.

“I used to pick up a bag of trash for almost every fish I caught,” Strawn said. “There were times that if I caught more fish than bags of trash, it was a good day fishing. But the last time here, I caught three fish and couldn't fill one [trash bag](#).”



Councilmember Todd Gloria appointed to San Diego River Conservancy

SDGLN Staff
March 19th, 2011



Councilmember Todd Gloria

SAN DIEGO – City Councilmember Todd Gloria has been appointed to the San Diego River Conservancy by California State Assembly Speaker John A. Perez.

The San Diego River Conservancy is an independent, non-regulatory agency within the Resources Agency of the State of California established to preserve, restore and enhance the San Diego River and the surrounding area.

Gloria is now part of the conservancy's governing board, joining Mayor Jerry Sanders and fellow Councilmember Lorie Zapf, among others.

“The San Diego River is important to the environment, economy and history of our region, and I look forward to ensuring its ongoing viability as a member of the San Diego River Conservancy,” Gloria said. “I am deeply appreciative of Assembly Speaker Perez for appointing me to this new opportunity to serve the community.”

Gloria’s appointment will run through Jan. 1, 2015.

Gloria also serves on the Metropolitan Transit System Board, Convention & Visitors Bureau Board, San Diego Consortium Policy Board and on the Public Safety, Transportation and Quality of Life Ad Hoc Committees of the San Diego Association of Governments.

More information about the conservancy is available [HERE](#).

County sets redevelopment loan terms

BY CHRISTOPHER CADELAGO

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011 AT 4:19 P.M.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday moved to protect loans to two of the county's redevelopment project areas.

The special meeting, which lasted just 65 seconds, was called in response to Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to eliminate more than 400 redevelopment agencies to increase state revenues and shift more local tax money to schools, police, fire and other services. California's \$26.6 billion deficit over the next 15 months is equal to about one third of its \$84.6 billion general fund.

The county's move came as myriad agencies across the state take aggressive actions to protect their funds. Last week, the San Diego City Council voted to take over 133 agency-owned properties worth more than \$250 million. The actions could help keep assets in local hands rather than subject to the whims of a proposed oversight board.

Brown's proposal states that in order for a successor agency to pay tax increment for the loans they must have mandatory loan terms, County Counsel Tom Montgomery said.

"We wanted to get to the board before the legislation was adopted to make sure we had those mandatory loan terms in place," Montgomery said. "Now, if that legislation passes and redevelopment agencies are dissolved, we are able to receive payments."

The San Diego County Redevelopment Agency consists of two project areas: Gillespie Field, 746 acres in El Cajon, and the Upper San Diego River Improvement Project, 532 acres along the river in the unincorporated community of Lakeside.

The county's agency owes \$3.8 million to its airport enterprise fund for a loan that helped establish the Gillespie Field Redevelopment Project in 1987. The project, which was established to upgrade the deteriorating airport, is also obligated to repay \$14.3 million in bonds issued in 2005.

In addition, it must repay \$1.1 million to the general fund for the Upper San Diego River Improvement Project, which was started in 1989 to facilitate development, restore, restore habitat and provide flood control.

Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard said in a memo that money to repay the loans will be included in upcoming operational plans. For next fiscal year, the repayment will be \$150,000 for Gillespie Field and \$93,000 for Upper San Diego River, Ekard said.

The vote was unanimous with Supervisor Bill Horn absent.

christopher.cadelago@uniontrib.com • (619) 293-1334 • Twitter @ccadelago

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Sunrise Powerlink copter violated nesting area

Utilities commission says SDG&E has failed to follow construction guidelines 11 times since November

By [Jeff McDonald](#)

Originally published April 11, 2011 at 6:56 p.m., updated April 11, 2011 at 8:12 p.m. A helicopter pilot working on the [Sunrise Powerlink](#) now under construction in East County violated a “no-fly” zone last month designed to protect nesting areas for golden eagles.

The pilot entered the restricted area three times on the same day, even though he knew the zone was protected, according to a report by the contractor.

The violation was among a growing number of incidents regarding the transmission-line construction. According to the [California Public Utilities Commission](#), the [San Diego Gas & Electric](#) project has reported 11 cases of failing to follow construction guidelines since Nov. 1.

In a prepared statement, SDG&E said the no-fly zone incursions were a mistake by a pilot working for a subcontractor. The utility said measures now have been taken to prevent further violations.

“SDG&E has committed to protecting the environment and the native habitat throughout the construction period,” it said. “As soon as the company was made aware of the incident, we immediately alerted all of the agencies involved.”

It is not clear whether the violations resulted in nest damage or injury to the endangered birds, the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) said. SDG&E said no birds or nests were harmed.

The federal wildlife agency, which enforces the U.S. [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#), is reviewing the matter.

“The service is aware of this incident and is being kept apprised of any new information,” spokeswoman Jane Hendron said Monday. “The service has been looking into it.”

The no-fly zone violations were reported last week by 10News, media partner of The San Diego Union-Tribune, and previously by East County Magazine. The incursions counted as one of 11 cases where the SDG&E project did not meet state and federal rules, according to the California Public Utilities Commission.

The most recent filing includes an unauthorized nest removal (the bird species was not identified); improper storage of helicopters in Alpine; improper placement of equipment; and the incorrect marking of a nest, among others.

State regulators have the authority to shut down construction if the violations are deemed egregious enough, but that has not happened here.

“This has happened on past CPUC projects, and could happen on the Sunrise project if SDG&E shows blatant and repeated noncompliance with permit conditions or mitigation measures,” agency spokeswoman Terrie Prosper said.

[County Supervisor](#) Dianne Jacob, a longtime critic of SDG&E and the Sunrise Powerlink, called on federal regulators to hold the utility and its contractors fully accountable for the no-fly zone violation.

“I believe the only reason why SDG&E reported the incident to the CPUC was because they got caught by residents who videotaped the helicopter hovering near the nest,” she said.

The Sunrise Powerlink is a major [transmission line](#) approved in 2010 after years of debate. When completed, the line will ship up to 1,000 megawatts of power from [Imperial County](#) to [San Diego County](#).

Regulators included a host of restrictions as a way of minimizing environmental damage resulting from the construction, including a ban on flying within a 4,000-foot buffer zone to protect golden eagles during the December-to-June breeding season.

On March 9, a pilot flew within 1,600 feet of a known eagle’s nest three times to transport a survey crew researching tower work by El Cajon Mountain, according to the state utilities commission.

“Although survey activities are considered a pre-construction activity, the operation of a helicopter in the area is not,” a commission memo says. “As no documentation of wildlife agencies’ approval was submitted ... this (rule) was not being met.”

Company officials said a series of corrective actions have been taken to make sure their contractors comply with all restrictions.

Among other things, pilots receive extra training and must now participate in a “tailgate meeting” before every flight to review hazards and restrictions.

The helicopters also are equipped with new GPS trackers so monitors on the ground can immediately alert any pilot that veers into a restricted zone, the utility said.

A report by the contractor working for SDG&E, PAR Electrical Contractors Inc., stated the pilot said he flew directly to the site and back out along the same route to have the least impact on the buffer zone.

The pilot no longer works on the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line project, according to SDG&E.

jeff.mcdonald@uniontrib.com (619) 542-4585

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Santee using grant funds to buy land along San Diego River

By [Karen Pearlman](#)

Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 2:35 p.m.

SANTEE — The Santee City Council on Wednesday adopted a resolution to use grant funds from the [California Coastal Conservancy](#) to purchase 125 acres along the [San Diego River](#), east of [Santee Town Center](#).

The Hanlon-Walker property, stretching from Magnolia Avenue near the RCP Block & Brick plant to the city's eastern boundary, would cost \$2.2 million.

The [San Diego River](#) Conservancy has secured a \$1 million grant through the U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the group is helping Santee get the remaining funding through Coastal Conservancy [grants](#).

The San Diego River Conservancy believes Santee should be the long-term owner of the property because of the city's track record of accommodating public access to the river, while protecting natural resources.

For almost 30 years, Santee has had a proposed master plan as part of the river plan that includes building a [pedestrian-friendly trail](#) alongside the river, said Bill Maertz, Santee community services director.

“A really key-point part of the city's [General Plan](#) is for smart growth and a [walkable community](#),” Maertz said. “The goal for the city of Santee is to bike or walk to Mission [Trails](#) all the way to Ocean Beach.”

The Hanlon-Walker area is part of the [city of San Diego](#)'s “San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan,” which goes from the [El Capitan Reservoir](#) to the [Pacific Ocean](#).

Future possible costs to the city would be for maintenance at \$18,750 annually.

Karen.Pearlman@uniontrib.com; (619) 293-1829; Twitter @karenpearlman

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 5, 2011

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: **ADJOURNMENT**