

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
February 11, 2005

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: **San Diego River Wetland Creation Project**
Attached is a follow-up report from Rich Grunow (Metropolitan Wastewater Department, City of San Diego) which (1) provides an update on the San Diego River Wetland Creation Project; and (2) addresses the SDRC's concerns regarding a potential San Diego River Park trail on the south side of the River. No formal Board Action is recommended; this item is provided for information. Discussion of this item may be requested by a member of the Board or public. (*Rich Grunow*)

PURPOSE: Update the Board on the status of the San Diego River Wetland Creation Project. Address the Board's concerns about the lack of a trail on the south side of the River.

DISCUSSION: At the December 3, 2004 Board Meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy, Rich Grunow (City of San Diego, Metropolitan Wastewater Department) presented an overview of the San Diego River Wetland Creation Project. The project will serve as mitigation for past and future impacts within the San Diego River Watershed resulting from the canyon sewer cleaning and long-term canyon sewer maintenance program.

The Board (1) expressed concerns about the lack of a planned trail on the south side of the River; (2) asked City and Conservancy staff to bring the project/trail issue back to a future meeting (of their respective Committee or Board) for further discussion; (3) moved to "*accept staff's report and endorse the trail concept and its continuity to the extent feasible in order to protect habitat*".

Update

City of San Diego, San Diego River Conservancy, and San Diego River Park Foundation staff met on December 16, 2004 to discuss the trail issue and potential next steps.

Rich Grunow has provided the attached February 4, 2005 letter, Project Scope of Work, and Project Vicinity Map to update the Board on recent project decisions. The highlights are summarized below:

- The mitigation project will be redesigned to accommodate a future Class I trail along the southern boundary of the mitigation site and north of Camino Del Rio North. (Class 1 trail: paved, multi-use trail which is separate from the road.)
- The mitigation project will be delayed until after the endangered *Least Bell's Vireo* nesting season. Construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in September 2005.
- An “overlook” or “pop-out” area overlooking the mitigation site will be designed into the future trail and recorded on the project plans.
- The mitigation project will be done as a stand alone project and will not include the road realignment (Camino Del Rio North) or construction of the proposed Class I trail.
- City departments will work together to incorporate the San Diego River Park Foundation’s temporary “*River Garden*” into the project.
- Split rail fencing and appropriate interpretive and regulatory signage will be installed at the site.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

1. Letter from Rich Grunow (Metropolitan Wastewater Department) to Deborah Jayne
2. Scope of Work
3. Project Vicinity Map

RECOMMENDATION: No action. (Information item)