

February 4, 2005

Ms. Deborah Jayne
Executive Officer
San Diego River Conservancy
PO Box 80126
San Diego, CA 92138-0126

Subject: San Diego River Wetland Creation Project

Dear Ms. Jayne:

The City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department (MWWD) would like to express its appreciation to the San Diego River Conservancy and its board members for their support of the San Diego River Wetland Creation Project (Project). We believe the project is consistent with the Conservancy's mission of restoring the San Diego River, enhancing native riparian habitat, and providing additional flood control to the river corridor.

As presented at the December 03, 2004 Conservancy hearing, the Project would restore a portion of the historic San Diego River floodplain and would create 3.4-acres of native riparian habitat. The project is proposed to serve as compensatory mitigation for past and future wetland impacts associated with MWWD's Canyon Sewer Access Programs.

There have been some project developments since the December meeting of which the board should be apprised. Due to permit delays, inclement weather, and the approaching nesting season of the least Bell's vireo, project implementation will be postponed until after the nesting season and when drier conditions prevail. Construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in September 2005. In the meantime, site preparation will continue as permit conditions allow.

The Project has also been redesigned to accommodate a future Class I trail situated along the southern boundary of the mitigation site and north of Camino Del Rio North. An overlook would accompany the future trail system on the eastern side of the mitigation site. The proposed trail and overlook will be recorded on the Project plans and would be constructed in conjunction with the development of a larger, contiguous trail system, as envisioned by the San Diego River Master Plan. Construction of the trail would not impact the mitigation site's configuration nor preclude the planned realignment of Camino Del Rio North.

Lastly, a split rail or peeler log fence will be installed along the perimeter of the mitigation site in lieu of a chain link fence. Signs will be conspicuously posted along the fence to deter unauthorized entry and to alert the public of the site's environmental sensitivity.

I will attend the February 11, 2005 Conservancy meeting and will be available to answer any questions you or the board members may have. If you would like to discuss the project in more detail, or require additional information prior to the meeting, please contact me at 858-614-5722.

Respectfully,

Richard Grunow
Senior Planner, MWWD

att: Scope of Work
Location Map
San Diego River Wetland Creation Site Plan

cc: Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Foundation
Mike Elling, MWWD
File