

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
June 10, 2005

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **CONSERVANCY LINE ITEMS IN POTENTIAL STATE BOND ACTS: SB 153 AND AB 1269**

The Conservancy Governing Board will consider and possibly adopt a resolution (*tentative Resolution 05-10*) supporting the inclusion of a specific “line item” allocation for the San Diego River Conservancy in any and all future Bond Acts. If ultimately approved (by the legislature and voters), two bills currently making their way through committee could provide a substantial source of future capital outlay funding for the San Diego River Conservancy. An overview and status of each is attached. (*Deborah Jayne*)

PURPOSE: Consideration and possible adoption of tentative Resolution 05-10. The Board may discuss additional actions that individual Board members, or the Conservancy as a whole, may wish to take. The Board may also consider directing the Executive Officer to draft a letter to Senator Chesboro and Assemblymember Pavley, the San Diego delegation, and/or other legislators, requesting their support and transmitting Resolution 05-10 for their consideration.

DISCUSSION: Please note: Both of these bills are currently being considered and the status and content of the bills are likely to change throughout deliberation.

SB 153 (Chesboro)

“California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2006” - a proposed \$3 billion bond measure for the development and enhancement of state and local parks and recreational facilities.

This bill authorizes the issuance of three billion dollars in State General Obligation bonds for the purpose of financing a program for the acquisition, development, and preservation of park, recreational, water, coastal, agricultural land, air, cultural, and historical resources.

The current proposed allocation of funding in the bond act is as follows:

- 1/3 to State Parks;
- 1/3 to urban park programs;
- 1/3 to all remaining land, air and water conservation programs. *The last 1/3 includes all state conservancies, the Wildlife Conservation Board, farmland conservation, air resources protection, water quality protection, clean beaches and watershed protection, ocean resources protection, nonurban parks, river parkways, and historical and cultural resource preservation programs.*

Initially, SB 153 contained specific dollar amounts for funding allocations, with the sum of \$445 million allocated for the state conservancies (but no specific line-item allocation for the San Diego River Conservancy). The bill was recently amended to remove all funding outlay specifications. What now remains in the bill is intent language to enact a three billion park bond act, with findings, definitions, and fiscal provisions, but *no amounts, structure or funding allocations*. Allocations will now be made for the most part through a competitive grant process.

If approved by both houses, this bond measure would appear on the 2006 statewide primary election.

Your Executive Officer met briefly on April 12, 2005 with Senator Chesboro and more extensively with Bob Fredenburg, Senator Chesboro's senior consultant for this bill. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss strategies for securing a line item specifically for the San Diego River Conservancy. At that time, Mr. Fredenburg indicated it was likely the San Diego River Conservancy would get its own line-item allocation. Unfortunately the recent amendments significantly reduce that likelihood. Senator's Kehoe's office has maintained from the beginning that fund allocations would likely be made through competitive grants rather than through specific line-items.

Current Status: 06/02/05- Read for third time on the Senate Floor. Votes: 22 (ayes) – 12 (noes). The measure passed to the Assembly. Hearing date has not been set.

AB 1269 (Pavley)

“Clean Air, Clean Water, Coastal Protection, and Parks Act of 2007” – would provide for the sale of bonds, in an unspecified amount, for air and water quality, coastal protection, and parks programs.

Unlike SB 153 which initially proposed \$445 million total for all state conservancies but provided no specific line-items for individual conservancies, AB 1269 contains numerous individual line-items for specific conservancies and other entities. In the bill's current form, dollar amounts have not yet been proposed for these line items and they appear only as blank lines to be filled in later (____ dollars (\$_____)).

It is important to note on page 4 under *Coastal Protection Programs* that AB 1269 currently includes a line-item for State Coastal Conservancy which specifies "that no less than ____ dollars (\$____) shall be for projects in collaboration with the San Diego River Conservancy". Note that this line-item, although intended for work on the San Diego River, is allocated to State Coastal Conservancy rather than directly to the San Diego River Conservancy.

It is also important to note that on page 5 under *Parks and Wildlife Protection* that many other conservancies are currently slated for specific line-item allocations (dollar amount not yet specified). Conspicuously missing from this list is the San Diego River Conservancy.

If approved by both houses, this bond measure would appear on a future statewide election.

Current Status: Currently in Assembly Appropriations Committee. Last action date 5/25/05- hearing postponed. A new hearing date has not yet been set.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

1. Tentative Resolution 05-10
2. Current Text of SB 153 (Chesboro)
3. Current Text of AB 1269 (Pavley), including fact sheet outlining funding categories

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt tentative Resolution 05-10. Discuss other potential actions.