

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
August 12, 2005

ITEM: **13**

SUBJECT: **TRANSNET MITIGATION FUNDS: AVAILABILITY TO THE CONSERVANCY**

Rob Rundle (TransNet Project Manager, SANDAG) will present an overview of the process, priorities, and availability of TransNet Mitigation Funds to the San Diego River Conservancy. The Board may take an action. *(Rob Rundle)*
(20 minutes)

PURPOSE: To inform the Governing Board how the Conservancy can participate in (i.e. receive) TransNet funding.

DISCUSSION: Per the Board's request, Mr. Rob Rundle (TransNet Project Manager, SANDAG) will provide an overview of the recently approved TransNet sales tax ordinance. His presentation will emphasize the Environmental Mitigation Program element of the ordinance and its potential availability to the Conservancy.

Last year, voters countywide approved Proposition A, the 40-year extension of TransNet, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. The half-cent-on-the-dollar sales tax for transportation projects will generate an estimated \$14 billion over 40 years for transportation improvement projects, which require matching funds from state and federal sources.

An estimated \$850 million will be used to fund habitat-related environmental mitigation activities required in the implementation of the major highway, transit and regional arterial and local street and road improvements identified in the Regional Transportation Plan. Of this total, an estimated \$250 million is related to mitigation requirements for local transportation projects and an estimated \$600 million is related to mitigation requirements for the major highway and transit projects identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.

The intent is to establish a program to provide for large-scale acquisition and management of critical habitat areas and to create a reliable approach for funding required mitigation for future transportation improvements thereby reducing future costs and accelerating project delivery. This approach would be implemented by obtaining coverage for transportation projects through existing and proposed multiple species conservation plans. If this approach cannot be fully implemented, then these funds shall be used for environmental mitigation purposes on a project by project basis.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS: 1. SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program PowerPoint
Presentation Slideshow

RECOMMENDATION: Accept Mr. Rundle's report.