

**San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC)**  
**MINUTES of JUNE 10, 2005 PUBLIC MEETING**  
*(Draft Minutes for Approval August 12, 2005)*

***Chairman Murphy called the June 10, 2005 meeting of San Diego River Conservancy to order at 9:11 AM.***

**1. Roll Call**

*Members Present:*

Dick Murphy, Chairman (*Mayor of San Diego*)  
Donna Frye, Vice-Chair (*City Council of San Diego*)  
Toni Atkins (*Public at Large, Appointed by Assembly*)  
Jim Bartell (*Public at Large, Appointed by Governor*)  
Dr. Susan Hector (*Public at Large, Appointed by Governor*)  
Jim Peugh (*Public at Large, Appointed by Senate*)

*Non-Voting Members Present:*

Jennifer Kraus (*San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Designee*)

*Others Present:*

Mike McCann (*San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Alternate Designee*)  
Deborah Jayne, Executive Officer  
Jamee Jordan Patterson, Deputy Attorney General  
Susan Huntington, staff

*Absent:*

David Harper (*Director of Finance Designee*)  
Norman Roberts (*Public at Large, Appointed by Governor*)  
Karen Scarborough (*Secretary of Resources Agency Designee*)  
Sam Schuchat (*Secretary of Resources Agency Alternate Designee*)  
Al Wright (*Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board*)

**2. Approval of Minutes**

***Vice-Chair Frye moved approval of the minutes of the April 8, 2005 public meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Atkins and adopted by a voice vote of 6-0.***

**3. Public Comment**

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.

***Jim Lewanski, Vice President of Helix Water District, thanked the Conservancy Governing Board for the opportunity to provide a tour of their part of the San Diego River. As a token of their appreciation, Mr. Lewanski provided commemorative t-shirts***

*and 8\*10 photos of Cedar Creek Falls. Chairman Murphy thanked Mr. Lewanski and Mr. Mark Weston (General Manager for Helix Water District) for the spectacular trip. He suggested that in the future, as Conservancy Board Members change, future tours should be scheduled so that incoming Board Members can get an appreciation of the history and splendor of the San Diego River. Mr. Mark Weston enthusiastically agreed to host future tours.*

#### **4. Chairman's and Governing Board Members' Comments**

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

*There were no comments.*

#### **5. Executive Officer's Report (Deborah Jayne) (5 minutes)**

This item is for Board discussion only and the Board will take no formal action. The following topics *may* be included on the Executive Officer's Report:

- a) Executive Officer Activities
- b) Fashion Valley Road Failure and Repair
- c) FY 05/06 Budget -- Status Report
- d) FY 06/07 Budget -- Early Planning
- e) SDRC Website Upgrade / New Domain
- f) Helix Water District Tour of Cedar Creek Falls
- g) Earth Day (Sunday May 1, 2005)
- h) San Diego River Day, RiverFest 2005 (Saturday, May 21, 2005)

*The Executive Officer reported that Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed a new member to the Conservancy Governing Board. Mr. Norman Roberts will be joining the Governing Board as of his appointment date, June 8, 2005. The Executive Officer provided a brief summary of his background. Additionally, Ms. Jayne expressed regret that Board Member Minan will no longer be serving on the Board and that his absence will be an enormous loss. Having already prepared for today's meeting, Board Member Minan asked that Ms. Jayne pass along his eagerness to recognize Chairman Murphy and his contributions to this Board (referring to agenda item 12). Vice-Chair Frye directed the Executive Officer to docket an item on the next agenda to recognize Board Member Minan for his service to the Conservancy.*

*All other items of the Executive Officer's report were deferred to the end of the meeting in the interest of time.*

#### **6. Deputy Attorney General's Report (Jamee Patterson)**

*Hayley Peterson anticipates returning to the Deputy Attorney General's Office in October, probably on a part-time basis. In the meantime, Jamee Patterson is available for all issues which arise.*

*Consent Items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11*

#### **7. Proposition 40 Cultural and Historical Funds**

Attached is a report on the grant cycle for Proposition 40 Cultural and Historical Preservation funds. These grant funds are potentially available for restoration and

preservation of historical sites along the San Diego River. The Board may take an action. *(Deborah Jayne)*

**8. Interagency Agreement with State Coastal Conservancy**

Attached is a status report on the development of an Interagency Agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy. The Board may take an action. *(Deborah Jayne)*

**9. 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)*

**10. Potential Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds for Pedestrian Bridge at Mission Valley Library**

The Conservancy Governing Board will consider and possibly adopt a resolution *(tentative Resolution 05-11)* authorizing the Executive Officer to prepare a letter in support of the City’s application for \$2 million in federal Transportation Enhancement funds. The funds will be used to design and construct a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the San Diego River adjacent to the Mission Valley Library. The funding will be administered through SANDAG as part of the Smart Growth Incentive Program Funding. *(Deborah Jayne)*

**11. Famosa Slough Culvert Extension Construction Project**

The Conservancy Governing Board will consider and possibly adopt a resolution *(tentative Resolution 05-12)* authorizing the Executive Officer to prepare a letter in support of the City of San Diego’s Famosa Slough Culvert Extension Project. The project will increase tidal exchange within the Slough and will be funded by the State Coastal Conservancy through the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. *(Deborah Jayne)*

*Vice-Chair Frye made a motion to accept Consent Items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. The motion was seconded by Board Member Bartell and all passed unanimously by a voice vote of 6-0. (Items 7 and 8: the Board accepted the reports; Items 9, 10 and 11: the Board adopted Resolutions 05-10, 05-11 and 05-12, respectively.)*

*Discussion Items*

**12. Resolution of Appreciation for Chairman Murphy**

Upon approval of the Governing Board, Member Minan will present Chairman Murphy with a Resolution of Appreciation *(tentative Resolution 05-13)* for his service, leadership and dedication to the San Diego River Conservancy. *(Member Minan) (10 minutes)*

*Vice-Chair Frye presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Chairman Murphy for both his leadership on the Conservancy Governing Board and his leadership and vision with respect to the San Diego River in general. Chairman Murphy was thanked by each of his colleagues on the Governing Board (Board Members Peugh, Bartell, Hector,*

*Atkins and the Executive Officer) for his leadership, dedication and stewardship of not only the San Diego River, but of all open space in San Diego.*

*Chairman Murphy mentioned that he will continue to be interested in staying involved in the task of preserving and restoring the San Diego River. The grand task is to continue to preserve the River, which is of great importance, but it takes a lot of time. The San Diego River Conservancy is the constant guardian of the River for all time, as citizen's groups ebb and flow. Chairman Murphy said that he was happy to have had the chance to serve on this Governing Board, and to be the Conservancy's first Board Chair.*

*Vice-Chair Frye made a motion to adopt the Resolution 05-13. The motion was seconded by Board Member Atkins and passed unanimously by a voice vote of 6-0.*

### **13. Election of Pro Tem Vice-Chair**

Commencing with the August 12, 2005 Board meeting and continuing through the remainder of the current two-year term (ending November 12, 2005), the Vice-Chair will assume all Chairperson responsibilities for the Governing Board. The Board may wish to elect a Pro Tem Vice-Chair to serve during this period. *(All) (10 minutes)*

*Board Members discussed electing a ProTem Vice-Chair to assist the acting Chairperson (Frye) with Board duties and responsibilities for the remainder of the current board terms. Acting Chairperson Frye and Board Member Atkins will form a subcommittee to come back at the next meeting with a recommendation on who should fulfill that role.*

*Vice-Chair Frye moved that this item be continued until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Atkins and passed unanimously by a voice vote of 6-0.*

### **14. San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan, City of San Diego**

Consideration and possible action on the San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan, Final Draft. Jeff Harkness (City of San Diego, Park and Recreation Department, Project Manager) and Mark Johnson (Civitas, Inc) will provide an update on the City of San Diego's River Park Master Planning effort. The Board may take an action. *(Jeff Harkness, Mark Johnson) (30 minutes)*

*A verbatim account of the Board Members comments on this item is attached at the end of this document.*

*After much discussion, Vice-Chair Frye made a motion to:*

- 1) adopt all the comments/revisions that Board members made today (see below);*
- 2) direct the Executive Officer to attend the City Council meeting on June 21 to express Conservancy's concerns and the revisions adopted today; and*
- 3) Ask the Executive Officer to further evaluate the June 2005 draft for consistency with all Conservancy comments (current and prior) and report back to Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting (August 2005).*

*The specific recommendations the San Diego River Conservancy has adopted:*

- 1) *Page 47, Paragraph 2, after the first sentence, insert the following sentence: “Any development in the floodplain should be strongly discouraged.”*
- 2) *Add: The area between Fashion Valley Road and Highway 163 should be a high restoration priority, especially area north of the Union Tribune building.*
- 3) *Page 46, Paragraph 2 under the “Re-contour the channel to encourage meander and braiding” heading, first sentence should be amended to read “Although it is impractical to consider returning THE ENTIRE VALLEY FLOOR (in any substantial form) to the River, it is possible to increase river length and decrease flow velocities”.*
- 4) *Change language from “water quality buffer in all reaches: preferred 100 feet” to minimum 100 foot buffer on both sides of the river (make it an absolute as opposed to “preferred”). Change wording on page 98 as well as throughout document.*
- 5) *Add language in reference to the Habitat and Open Space Corridor width: the minimum corridor width is defined as the floodway plus whatever additional width is needed to achieve the applicable habitat objectives. We are looking for a minimum of 500 feet to achieve the habitat objectives and hoping to achieve more wherever possible.*
- 6) *Add an “intention statement”: The intention of Master Plan (from the San Diego River Conservancy’s perspective) is to protect, preserve and restore the River; not to accommodate specific development projects. This document is an overall vision statement for the River Park. It is not a negotiating document for certain development projects.*

*This motion was seconded by Board Member Peugh and passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0. (Board Member Atkins left at 11:20am and was not present for this vote.)*

#### **15. TransNet Mitigation Funds: Process and Availability**

Craig Scott (TransNet Project Manager, SANDAG) will present an overview of the process, priorities, and availability of TransNet Mitigation Funds. The Board may take an action. *(Craig Scott) (20 minutes)*

*Having run out of time, Chairman Murphy trailed this item to a future meeting.*

#### **16. Grantville Redevelopment Project**

The Executive Officer will provide an update on the Planning Commission’s, Redevelopment Agency’s, and City Council’s recent actions on the Grantville Redevelopment Project. The Executive Officer is seeking direction from the Governing Board regarding potential acquisition of properties in the Grantville Redevelopment area. The Board may take an action. *(Deborah Jayne) (20 minutes)*

*Having run out of time, Chairman Murphy trailed this item to a future meeting.*

**17. SDSU 2005 Campus Master Plan Revision / Paseo Redevelopment Project**

Consideration and possible action on the Conservancy's comprehensive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for SDSU's 2005 Campus Master Plan Revision / Proposed Adobe Falls Development. The Executive Officer will present a brief status report on her analysis and preliminary findings. The Board may take an action. *(Deborah Jayne) (10 minutes)*

*Having run out of time, Chairman Murphy trailed this item to a future meeting.*

**18. Recommendation for Use of \$240,000 Settlement Award: River-wide Hydrological Assessment and Other Alternatives**

Consideration and possible adoption of a resolution *(tentative Resolution 05-14)* authorizing the Executive Officer to enter into a contractual agreement for the conduct of a river-wide hydrological assessment. Alternative uses for the funds will also be presented. *(Deborah Jayne) (15 minutes)*

*Having run out of time, Chairman Murphy trailed this item to a future meeting.*

**19. Administrative Matters**

This item is for minor administrative matters only and the Board will take no formal action.

**20. Executive Session**

Following or any time during the meeting, the Governing Board may recess or adjourn to closed session to consider pending or potential litigation; property negotiations; or personnel-related matters. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(a), (c) (7), or (e).

**21. Upcoming Events**

San Diego River Park Foundation's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Friday, September 16, 2005. 5:30PM - 7:30PM.

**22. Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment****Friday, August 12, 2005**

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Location: San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Office

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100

San Diego, California

(858) 467-2733

*Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45am.*