

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

February 10, 2006

a) **Introduction of New Executive Assistant**

I am pleased to introduce to you the Conservancy's new Executive Assistant, Lissa Adams. Although Lissa will only work part-time, she will be taking over Susan Huntington's responsibilities and I am hoping to bring another part-time person on board shortly to assist her. Lissa brings a wealth of administrative and IT expertise to the Conservancy and has worked in a management capacity for several nonprofit organizations during the past ten years. Lissa's education includes a B.S. in Accounting and an M.S. in Information and Decision Systems. She has a strong personal dedication to the mission of the Conservancy and has already made a significant contribution (she has been working as a temporary consultant since late December). Please join me in welcoming Lissa to the Conservancy.

b) **White Family Property Donation**

Consistent with your December 2, 2005 direction and preference, the Conservancy is in the process of assuming title to the White Family property. Based on all of the information available to date, I believe we are proceeding down the course of action which is both legal and most expedient.

Significant progress has been made on the White property donation since the December Conservancy meeting. Most importantly, regarding the question of whether the Conservancy can legally take title to the property in light of the testamentary trust language, Mr. Jonathan Gurish (the Conservancy's attorney from the State Coastal Conservancy) and Mr. White (Trustee) have conferred and concluded that the Conservancy may receive this donation from the trust. The next step is to obtain adequate underwriting for insuring title to and transfer of the property. Mr. White and our attorney hope to fully resolve the issue in the next few weeks.

Regarding the other transaction and process related issues, the Conservancy has been in fairly constant communication with Mr. White and the State Department of General Services (DGS) since December. DGS has requested a number of items, which the Conservancy is preparing for transmittal. The DGS has been very gracious with its time and attention to this transaction. Next steps: As the preliminary title issues have been addressed, the Conservancy is scheduling a Phase 1 Hazardous Waste Assessment for the end of February and will continue to prepare items for DGS review. Once all the preparatory work has been submitted, DGS has indicated the Conservancy can expect a 4-6 week review period before approval by the Public Works Board.

c) **Grant Update**

Consolidated Grant (CG):

A Consolidated Grant (CG) proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board was submitted by the Conservancy on February 9, 2006. The proposal, for \$5 million, is fully consistent with the “*Interim Draft Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan*” and addresses three related objectives: 1. Develop and complete a hydrological assessment of the San Diego River Watershed; 2. Complete the mapping of invasive non-native plants in the San Diego River from the El Monte Dam to the river mouth; and 3. begin a phased removal of invasive non-native plants along the river. This first CG submittal, considered a conceptual proposal, will now undergo state review. Of the conceptual proposals submitted, a smaller number of proposals will be asked back to complete a full proposal later this spring.

Proposition 40 River Parkways Grant

The Conservancy continues to work with its partners to define priorities for the remaining San Diego River funds in the Proposition 40 River Parkways grant program administered by the Resources Agency. The Conservancy is conceptualizing an application, consistent with the *Interim Draft Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan*, which will include projects that most expeditiously add elements to the River Park that the public can see and use -- such as trail segments and other amenities.

All three of the project proposals you previously approved for Proposition 40 funding, have now been submitted (Ocean Beach Bike Path Construction by City of San Diego; Mission Valley Preserve Restoration by City of San Diego; and Eagle Peak Reserve Acquisition by San Diego River Park Foundation). Resources Agency staff is still awaiting receipt of requested backup materials for the bike path; has received but not reviewed requested backup material for the Mission Valley Preserve; and has received the Eagle Peak application but has not reviewed it (and thus has not requested additional backup material).

d) **Form 700 Annual Statement 2005 – Fair Political Practices Commission**

As officials whose position is designated in the agency’s conflict-of interest code, Board members are required to file an annual statement of economic interests. Included in your packets is a statement of Economic Interests, Form 700 and a copy of your disclosure category which specifies the types of interests you must report. An interactive version of the Form 700 is available on the FPPC website (www.fppc.ca.gov). To comply with your filing requirement, please complete and return the enclosed Form 700 to Lissa Adams no later than March 15, 2006.

e) **Ethics training Certificate**

California law requires state officials to complete an ethics training course every two years. To help state officials meet this requirement, the Attorney General's Office and the Fair Political Practices Commission have developed online ethics training courses. To comply with your training requirement, please take either the online or video course, print out and sign the certificate of completion, and return the certificate to Lissa Adams no later than March 15, 2006.