

***EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT***

June 9, 2006

**a. Status of Ongoing Projects**

**White Family property donation**

The donation package, (including a License Agreement with and a Resource Management Plan for the San Diego River Park Foundation), has been developed. I anticipate being able to submit the majority of the required documents to initiate the Department of General Services review, prior to our June 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. We are waiting for critical information from the Title Insurance Company. A second follow-up package containing the remaining required documents will be submitted within two weeks. The Conservancy is targeting the Public Works Board meeting of August 11 for final approval.

**San Diego River Watershed Hydrology Assessment**

See Agenda Item 10 – Accomplishments of the San Diego River Conservancy.

The Conservancy had submitted several proposals for funding to prepare the scope of the Assessment and to conduct the Assessment. Most of these proposals are still pending. We have also initiated three meetings. The next meeting will be with Bureau of Reclamation staff on June 12 to discuss the next steps needed to initiate the watershed-wide hydrology Assessment. Because the watershed extends well beyond the Conservancy's one mile jurisdiction, the Conservancy has asked the Bureau to take the lead on facilitating the scope and implementation of the Assessment. The Bureau has tentatively agreed to play this role. The Conservancy will continue to be strongly involved and contribute a significant amount of funding as well as expertise to the Assessment.

**b. Proposition 40**

See Agenda Item 10 - Accomplishments of the San Diego River Conservancy.

Because there are often significant and expensive environmental issues associated with creating trails near water, the Conservancy is facilitating a conversation with the wildlife agencies to develop a programmatic approach for the San Diego River Trail. The first meeting with the wildlife agencies was held in May. Participants included the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Fish and Game, the Conservancy, the Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, the San Diego River Park Foundation and the City of San Diego. The City of Santee and the County of San Diego are also participating in the discussions but could not attend. The engineering firm of Jones and Stokes is providing pro bono assistance to the effort to help identify CEQA concerns with the trail.

**c. Hired new (second) environmental services consultant**

I am pleased to announce that the Conservancy has hired a new (second) Environmental Services consultant, Gail Odom. I hired Gail under contract on May 15, 2006 to help with project management, fund development and advancing the Strategic Plan.

Gail has an extensive background in conservation and environmental and land use planning. A San Diego native, she remembers the diary that existed in Mission Valley during her childhood. Her early work experience included stints at SANDAG and the County of San Diego Planning Department. She received her master's degree in urban planning at Cal Poly Pomona and then relocated to northern California.

While employed by the Sonoma County Planning Department, Ms. Odom worked as a team member on the preparation of the Sonoma County Coastal Plan and another large-scale resource conservation plan. She also gained experience with CEQA and environmental subjects as an environmental consultant while working for several Bay area firms.

Ms. Odom was a project analyst for six years at the State Coastal Conservancy, working with project applicants to identify and fund public access and acquisition projects. She is familiar with State funding sources and looks forward to assisting the San Diego River Conservancy and its partners craft and implement projects that benefit the river and the citizens of San Diego County.

**d. Donations to San Diego River Park Foundation and Lakeside's River Park Conservancy**

The Conservancy donated \$1,250 each to the San Diego River Park Foundation and Lakeside's River Park Conservancy to help sponsor the third annual San Diego River Day on May 20, 2006. As a result of these contributions the Conservancy's name and logo were printed on event posters and signs, the event websites, organizational newsletters and event program guides. With over 20 events, the River Fest reached out to the public and communities along all parts of the River from the mountains to the ocean. The Lakeside's River Park Conservancy events alone attracted more than 300 people for a variety of events from trail and litter clean-up to the official Ground Breaking ceremony for the "100-acre San Diego River Restoration and Water Quality Project".

**e. Other Executive Officer Activities**

The Executive Officer set up and staffed an exhibit for the San Diego River Conservancy at the Mission Valley Library as part of the River Day activities held on May 20, 2006.