

# Notice of Public Meeting San Diego River Conservancy

A public meeting of the Governing Board of  
The San Diego River Conservancy  
will be held Thursday,  
July 10, 2014  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

## Meeting Location

County of San Diego Administration Center (CAC)  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302  
San Diego, California 92101

## Tele-Conference Locations

Natural Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Room #1311 Sacramento, CA 95814	Department of Finance State Capitol, Room 1145 Sacramento, CA 95814
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Contact: Kevin McKernan  
(619) 645-3183

## Meeting Agenda

The Board may take agenda items out of order to accommodate speakers and to maintain a quorum, unless noted as time specific.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes (*ACTION*)  
Consider approval of minutes for the March 13, 2014 meeting.
3. Public Comment  
Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters that are discussed that are not on

the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn by the Board's not responding to such matters or public comments.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)

5. Deputy Attorney's General Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)

6. San Diego Canyonlands (*INFORMATIONAL*)

San Diego Canyonlands (SDC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is *to promote, protect and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County's canyons and creeks by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and by collaborating with other organizations.* The Board will hear a presentation from SDC which will highlight some of its new partnership efforts with SDRC and the City of San Diego within the San Diego River canyons.

Eric Bowlby, Executive Director  
San Diego Canyonlands

7. San Diego County Water Quality Improvement Plan, San Diego River (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Stephanie Gaines, Watershed Protection Program  
County of San Diego

8. Willow Road in Lakeside - Mitigation Bank (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

The Board will receive an introduction from the Executive Officer, followed by a presentation from a landowner and agents regarding the consideration of SDRC accepting a conservation easement over 70 acres of habitat property in the El Monte Valley, Lakeside, for the purposes of establishing a mitigation bank.

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer, SDRC  
Mark Thompson, Principal, TRS Consultants

9. Executive Officer's Report (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officer's Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

Update – Ruffin Canyon Trail and Urban Walk Project  
Invasives Removal  
Legislative Update  
2015 SDRC Governing Board Meetings:  
January 8, 2015

March 12, 2015  
May 14, 2015  
July 9, 2015  
September 10, 2015  
November 12, 2015

## 10. Next Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, September 11 , 2014, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## 11. Adjournment

### Accessibility

If you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Kevin McKernan at 619-645-3183.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**  
The Board will consider adoption of the **March 13, 2014**  
public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **March 13, 2014** Board Meeting are  
attached for review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

**SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)**

Minutes of March 13, 2014 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on July 10, 2014)

SDRC Board Chair, Ben Clay called the March 13, 2014, meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:01 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Members Present

Julia Alvis	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Eraina Ortega	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Clay Phillips	Department of Parks and Recreation, Designee
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Brent Eidson	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee (arrived 2:22 pm)
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large, Appointed by the Governor
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large, Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
Lorie Zapf	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 6 (arrived 2:08 pm)
Todd Gloria	Council President, City of San Diego, District 3 (arrived 2:04 pm)
Andrew Poat	Public at Large, Appointed by the Governor
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

Ann Haddad	Public at Large, Appointed by the Governor
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Staff Members Present

Kevin McKernan	Executive Officer
Julia Richards	Administrative Services Manager
Hayley Peterson	Deputy Attorney General

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Dianne Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes for the San Diego River Conservancy's January 9, 2013, public meeting, which was seconded by Andrew Poat and approved 6-0 (1 abstention, Eraina Ortega).

### 3. Public Comment

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters that are discussed that are not on the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn by the Board's not responding to such matters or public comments.

**Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation** thanked Councilmember Lorie Zapf from the City of San Diego and her staff for participating in the Foundation's Annual Kayak cleanup event in the San Diego River estuary. These days help is needed to remove the trash, it makes a difference.

### 4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

**San Diego City Council Member Lorie Zapf** showed a presentation of The San Diego River Park Foundation's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Kayak Cleanup in the estuary. She comments how hard it is to tell from the highway how much trash is down in the riverbed. The event was scheduled outside of bird nesting season, but she saw a snowy egret and California Least Tern. 180 volunteers picked up 1,200 pounds of trash in the wetlands including jars, a bowling pin, and many bottles. This event is to prevent the trash from getting to the mouth of the river, our beaches and ocean. She thanked Shannon Quigley-Raymond and Sarah Hutmacher from the San Diego River Park Foundation for coordinating with the rangers, the city of San Diego and the volunteers. She reflected driving away that it was shocking the amount of debris down by the mouth of the San Diego River.

**Board Member Gary Strawn** has been at the annual kayak clean up for several years and this is the least amount of trash, considerable less than in past years.

**Chairman Ben Clay** noted there is less trash at the mouth of the river because of the efforts upstream. It has to start up river, due east, in the County of San Diego. He spoke briefly about the water bond and said that no terms were agreed to, no decisions had been made one way or another, and negotiations about the water bond were currently in a state of flux.

**Board Member Clay Phillips** stated as a representative of a State agency, nothing he says should be misconstrued as abdicating or supporting a bond act. Having said that in addition to the water bond there is also a park bond percolating through Senator de Leon's office in Los Angeles and is primarily focused on urban parks. He noted that 16% of all California State Parks are in urban centers, 41% of all State Parks are within a 15 minute drive from a community of at least 50,000 people. He believed the park bond also has a river component.

Kevin McKernan for reference, see Senate Bill 1086.

### 5. Deputy Attorney's General Report

No report.

6. **San Diego River Trail in the City of San Diego:** Update on SANDAG Grant for Preliminary Trail Plans for Carlton Oaks Golf Course and Qualcomm/Fenton Parkway I-15 segments. SDRC Gaps Analysis, gaps 45 & 19.

**Presentation:**

**Stephan Vance**

**San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)**

Kevin McKernan reminded the board SDRC approved grant to SANDAG for preliminary design from SDRC's Prop 84 set-aside money held by the State Coastal Conservancy.

Stephan Vance, SANDAG Senior Regional Planner wanted to put things in a broad context. The San Diego River Trail is part of a much bigger regional bike network. SANDAG is able to leverage the resources to undertake the initial work and take the projects through to completion. SANDAG is excited about the opportunity.

SANDAG's Regional Bike Plan Early Action Program (EAP) was approved in September 2013 and is a funding strategy to jump start the development of regional bike plan. SANDAG will use Active transportation funding stream within TransNet which amounts to \$4.5 - \$5 million a year through 2048. For \$200 million the EAP will fund the top 20 projects on the list and construct about 77 miles of bike ways around the region. This is a funding strategy to provide benchmarks for implementation of SANDAG's Regional Bike Plan.

SANDAG's Bike Plan presents an interconnected network of bicycle corridors that will enable residents to bike safely on more direct and convenient routes within and between major regional destinations and activity centers. By guiding the region toward the creation of a substantial regional bicycle network, this plan can affect all of these issue areas thereby improving existing and future quality of life in the San Diego region.

SANDAG is underway with the Qualcomm segment to identify alignments, conduct public outreach, and carry preliminary engineering and environmental documents for the project (summer 2014). The trail will connect the light rail station at Fenton Market Place to the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot area and connect to the bike path that comes down Murphy Canyon. SANDAG visited the Qualcomm Advisory Board to discuss plans for the bicycle path for when there are events at the stadium. The timeline projects preliminary engineering and environmental phase done by summer 2015 and construction completed by April 2016.

The Carlton Oaks segment is a more challenging project right next to the river and the golf course. The planning phase to be completed in November 2014, and preliminary engineering and the environmental phase will take 1-2 years. Construction phase expected to be 2016-2018 and projected completed in June 2018, assuming SANDAG has money for construction or identifies other funding. The next step is for him to reach out to Council Members and key staff at the City of San Diego and the City of Santee for these projects.

SANDAG is the implementing agency for trail construction of the regional bicycle network and will need to work with key stakeholders and the City of San Diego and other jurisdictions.

At the start of this process he asked the SANDAG engineers to estimate the San Diego River Trail cost to complete which is approximately \$44 million. There is a lot of good work being done to keep these projects moving forward.

Some of the costs will be picked up under redevelopment, for the parcels in the City of San Diego.

**Dianne Jacob** thanked Stephan Vance for the update. She asked if the Carlton Oaks segment will be for hikers, equestrians and bicycles.

**Stephan Vance** responded there are many interest involved in making the connection from Mast Park in Santee to West Hills Parkway. It is a very challenging area because it is so constrained. SANDAG's development of the San Diego River Trail is for transportation purposes, and they will need community input for all possible uses.

**Dianne Jacob** said she could very easily make an argument that horses are transportation. Do SANDAG's funds in any way prohibit or inhibit funding for the trails if an equestrian aspect is included.

**Stephan Vance** responded there is no absolute prohibition. SANDAG has priced out these projects as Path I Bikeway with hard surface. If it turns out as a condition of the environmental document they need to provide additional amenities, it would be an eligible use for project. In the past SANDAG has made trails with soft surfaces. The more SANDAG provides, the higher the cost will be and these are issue SANDAG will have to balance with guidance from elected officials, stakeholders and the public.

**Dianne Jacob** said as an elected official, said this is very, very important. She said this SDRC Board taken the position that anything east of Mission Trails Regional Park Equestrian Center will allow for the multi-use trail and to the west it is a different story. We need to make sure it happens in the future. Recently, she was at the opening of the Riverford Road segment of the San Diego River Trail in Lakeside. This is located behind Lakeside's ballpark complex and connects to Santee's Walker Property. Construction on the Walker property is set for Fall 2014. There are a lot of people in east of Lakeside that like to ride horses.

**Todd Gloria** thanked Stephan on a whole host of projects transportation related. He asked what is the status of the gap for financing the Carlton Oaks segment.

**Stephan Vance** responded for Carlton Oaks construction the funding estimate is \$7.4 million and that falls below the funding line currently. That means after SANDAG spends the initial \$200 million, they will be asking for more TransNet money which will in turn will fund construction of the Carlton Oaks segment. He will also look at Active Transportation Program grants through the State.

**Todd Gloria** wanted to confirm the Qualcomm piece is fully funded and we don't need to look for other funding.

**Stephan Vance** responded yes, the SDRC State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) grant provided \$153,000 for design and planning from SDRC's set aside of Prop. 84 funds and the construction will be covered under the EAP for SANDAG's Regional Bicycle Plan.

**Gary Strawn** asked about the alignment for Carlton Oaks are you looking along the berm or an alternative site. There are places where the berm has erosion and the existing trail is a soft surface.

**Stephan Vance** said there are issues with the alignment on the berm. The environmental document will have alternatives, possibly along the north side of the golf course.

**Ben Clay** thanked Stephan for coming to the Qualcomm Advisory Group, providing a briefing and sharing the objectives of a trail. The management appreciated the briefing. On, the horse issue he noted that in other parts of the world there are a roads and soft surface trail next to it for both animals and people to use. He said there are much easier ways to provide for a soft surface trail. He favors joint use of right-of-ways for trails or trails next to each other for flexibility of all users. He said this would be appreciated.

**Stephan Vance** He wants to get multi-users out there and said the more we can provide for the better.

**Karen Insol** is a Mounted Monitor (horse patrols) for Lakeside River Park Conservancy (LRPC) and the patrols cover LRPC trails, Hanson- El Monte pond, trash, homelessness, and monitor for illegal activities and report to the police station. The horses go where people cannot go. She looks forward to having a multiuse trail connecting Lakeside to Mission Trails. She thanked the board for listening.

**Janis Shackelford** endorsed Supervisor Jacob's request for a soft surface trail from Mission Trails going east. She has spoke about this before to the Board. She noted if only a hard surface is looked at that will eliminate east county users on horses from accessing and enjoying the San Diego River Trail. When SANDAG does its outreach is should not only look to Santee but to other east county residents. The proposal for the Walker property segment of the San Diego River Trail is perfect and should be continued on the Carlton Oaks property. She thanked the Board for their consideration.

**Rob Hutsel**, Chair of San Diego River Coalition, also supports a multiuse trail. He said the trail should be studied and we should not make a decision about hard or soft surfaces at this point, rather look at the alternatives. There is also a large group that supports a hard surface trail.

- 7. San Diego River San Diego River Trail: Historical Flume Connection to El Monte Road in Lakeside, California - (ACTION)** The Board authorized the Executive Officer to enter into a grant agreement with California Natural Resources Agency to access Proposition 40 funds for the permitting and construction of a trail segment to connect the western terminus of the historic Flume trail through Helix Water District's (HWD) property and include trail extensions and connections to the San Diego River Trail. SDRC Gaps Analysis, gaps 59 & 60.

**Presentation:**

**Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer  
San Diego River Conservancy**

**Kevin McKernan** reviewed the Historic Flume Trail which is being built with a grant from SDRC's Prop. 84 set-aside funds held by the State Coastal Conservancy. The Historic Flume Trail is currently an approximate 2 mile section uphill from the El Monte County Park in Lakeside. The San Diego County of Parks and Recreation have contracted with California Conservation Corps and they took the existing bench cut and transformed it into a trail from El Monte Park heading west. He has been in talks with San Diego County to extend the Historic Flume Trail an additional 2 miles west, across private property until it connects Helix Water District property. Additional trail extensions will provide access to Lake Jennings Campground and through the Helix property down to the old pump house.

The action item before the Board today permits SDRC to enter into a grant agreement with the Natural Resources Agency and use the remaining Prop. 40 funds to complete gaps 59 & 60 of the San Diego River Trail. There is a lot of work to be done with property appraisals, acquisition, preliminary design and environmental review. SDRC has a great partnership with Helix Water District who supports this project and has been amenable to study an alignment from the western terminus of the Historic Flume Trail down the hill to Helix's old pump house and eventually across El Monte Road to Hanson El Monte Pond down along the San Diego River. This is addressed in the 2010 Gaps Analysis. This project is ready to move forward.

**Ben Clay** wanted to address Supervisor Jacob's concern. The trail in this area will be a soft surface trail for hiking and equestrians not part of a transportation and commuter network. His point is as the San Diego River Trail heads further east there are different modes of transportation by users.

**Janis Shackelford** encouraged the Board to authorize spending to complete the Historic Flume trail to Helix's property. She said equestrians have used this trail for many, many years and she has helped clear the overgrowth on the trail as well as other maintenance. She mentioned one section of trail in between the Historic Flume and Helix's property is privately owned. There is no legal access to the western part of the Historic Flume Trail but horse riders find ways to get down to valley floor. She accesses the Historic Flume Trail from the Blossom Valley and now there is a switchback from the trail to reach the El Monte Park and the valley floor. The idea to provide more connections to the western end of the trail will have people in Lakeside cheering. She would strongly encourage you to support this action.

**Supervisor Jacob** thanked Kevin for bringing this item to the Board today. This is a very exciting opportunity and she identified the potential connections going all the way east to El Capitan Dam and down to the El Monte Valley. The County has been in contact with the private land owner and has offered fair market value for the land. She plans to meet with the land owner again. She wanted to point out there is a letter from the San Diego County of Park and Recreation's Director, Brian Albright, supporting the partnership between SDRC and the County for a trail on land owned by the Helix Water Department. She moves for approval of SDRC Resolution 14-01.

**Andrew Poat** seconded approval for SDRC Resolution 14-01.

**Ben Clay** asked if there were any questions.

**Brent Eidson** asked for clarification, did the County already have an appraisal done for the private parcel? He doesn't want to fund something that was already done.

**Kevin McKernan** responded it was his understanding that County staff approached the private property owner a few years back and based on their conversation the land owner wanted more than the fair market value for the property and that conversation did not go any further. If SDRC purchases the property we would need to secure a new appraisal to State standards and must be approved by the Department of General Services. This would not be a duplication of efforts. He noted if the property acquisition does not happen during this phase of the project, SDRC is still looking to connect to the Lake Jennings Campground, through Helix's property and down to El Monte Road which would then connect to the San Diego River Trail. Further, he and the County have exchanged approved appraiser list in preparation of obtaining these services.

**ROLL CALL VOTE, unanimously approved Resolution 14-01, 10-0.**

## **8. Executive Officer's Report (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)**

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officer's Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

**Form 700 (due to SDRC by March 21, 2014)** They are due to FPPC April 1, 2014.

**State Ethics (biennial)** Board members required to complete State ethics certification every 2 years, please contact SDRC if help is needed.

**Invasives Removal** – SDRC is hoping to include removal of invasive plants in Sycamore Creek (next to Santee Lakes) for fall 2014, in Santee. SDRC has entry permits and landowner permission for this project site. The excessive overgrowth of palms and arundo has caused flooding in the past.

**Endangered Habitats Conservancy (EHC): Hanson Pond restoration – El Monte Valley funding has been provided by SDRC for a Reclamation Plan amendment and partial implementation of restoration.**

EHC and Lakesides River Park Conservancy have partner together for undertaking a larger restoration project in the fall.

### **Legislative Update**

**Water Bond – covered by the Chairman**

**Park Bond – covered by Clay Phillips**

Senate Bill 848 by Senator Wolk does mention SDRC by name.

Assembly Bill 1331 by Assembly member Anthony Rendon does not mention SDRC, nor any conservancies by name, nor agencies to administer funds.

**Kevin McKernan** thanked Supervisor Jacob for going to the ribbon cutting for the Riverford Road section of the San Diego River Trail.

**Kevin McKernan** applauded Shannon at the San Diego River Park Foundation for helping get volunteers to clean up the Midwest TV project site where SDRC is doing invasive plant removal and control. They have already removed over 1,000 pounds of trash at this site.

**Ben Clay** concluded that one piece of property is a key gap in the trail. He acknowledged Kevin's efforts to demonstrate to the owners as a public entity we can act responsibly and remove invasive plants and trash and gain some trust from private property owners.

**Andrew Poat** suggested familiarizing the new San Diego Mayor with the goals of the San Diego River Conservancy so he will be able to fashion anything moving forward. He asked about the difference approaches between the senate and assembly water bonds and ear marks.

**Kevin McKernan** responded the bills differentiate on how the funds are administered. Basically for the watershed protection components the funds need to go to a State Agency such as Wildlife Conservation Board, Natural Resources Agencies or to Conservancies to administer a program. The senate bill mentions the San Diego River Conservancy by name, whereas in the assembly bill instead discusses regional allocations throughout the state.

**Ben Clay** suggested using the term legislative discretion instead of ear marks.

**Andrew Poat** asked if we could help the San Diego delegation to come together around preferable regional solution. Asked if we should do outreach with 2 groups that influence a lot of peoples view on this, the Chamber of Commerce and the taxpayers.

**Ben Clay** said they are just coming to terms of how this money is distributed and it is not clear yet. These are good questions, it is just too early.

**Brent Eidson** will be able to help the San Diego's new Mayor understand the goals of the San Diego River Park Conservancy, but he was just sworn in 2 days ago.

**Gary Strawn** said he and Kevin McKernan headed to upper watershed and they had a chance to talk about invasive plant removal on the river watershed. There is a potential source of funding through Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) indirectly to support the invasive plant removal program. One example is a sewer spill in La Mesa last year, the Regional Water Board just had a hearing on it and the amount was \$800,000 fine and they put back \$300,000 into an SEP and funded invasive plant removal in Alvarado

Creek. He doesn't know how that the decision was made but suggested Kevin and maybe Rob Hutsel meet with water board members/staff. This would show future invasive plant removal sites in the San Diego River watershed that need funding, so when future SEPs are available the Regional Water Board has a list of possible project sites from the San Diego River Conservancy and the San Diego Rive Park Foundation to choose from. Certainly it would be good to start that dialog. In the new storm water permit there is a lot of room for mitigation and alternative site improvement. There will be a lot of permittees and private interests looking at sites to use for alternative site improvements. He believed the SDRC should have a say in where those site are located. He will work with the Water Board from his side. SEPs are a continual source of \$100,000/year.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: **3**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PURPOSE: Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters that are discussed that are not on the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn by the Board's not responding to such matters or public comments.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S AND GOVERNING BOARD  
MEMBERS' REPORTS (*INFORMATIONAL*)**

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

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: **DEPUTY ATTORNEY'S GENERAL REPORT  
(INFORMATIONAL)**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO CANYONLANDS (*INFORMATIONAL*)

San Diego Canyonlands (SDC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is *to promote, protect and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County's canyons and creeks by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and by collaborating with other organizations.* The Board will hear a presentation from SDC which will highlight some of its new partnership efforts with SDRC and the City of San Diego within the San Diego River canyons.

**Presentation:**

Eric Bowlby, Executive Director  
San Diego Canyonlands

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN, SAN DIEGO RIVER (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Presentation:

Stephanie Gaines, Watershed Protection Program  
County of San Diego

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **WILLOW ROAD IN LAKESIDE – MITIGATION BANK  
(*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)**

The Board will receive an introduction from the Executive Officer, followed by a presentation from a landowner and agents regarding the consideration of SDRC accepting a conservation easement over 70 acres of habitat property in the El Monte Valley, Lakeside, for the purposes of establishing a mitigation bank.

**Presentation:**

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer, SDRC  
Mark Thompson, Principal, TRS Consultants

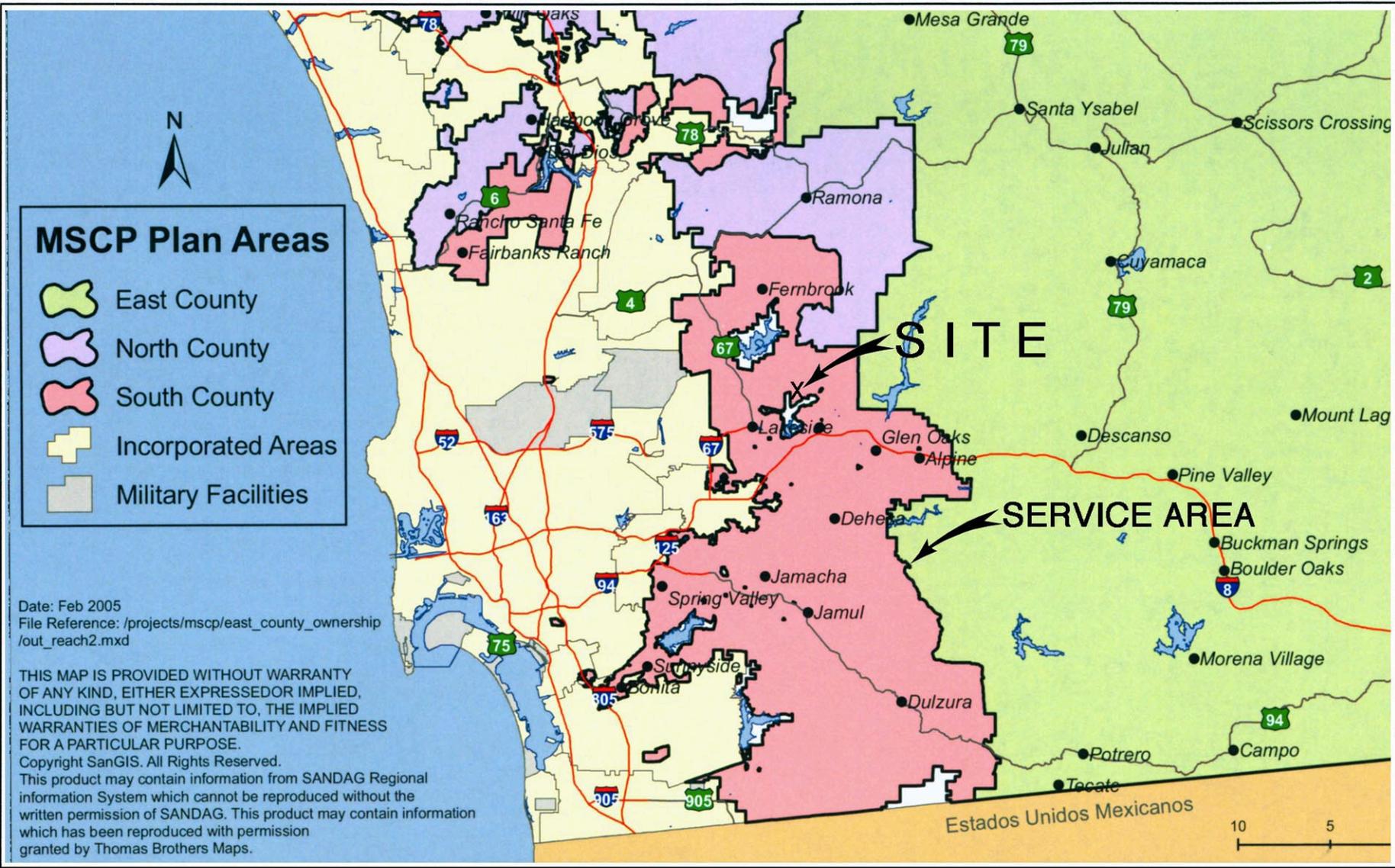
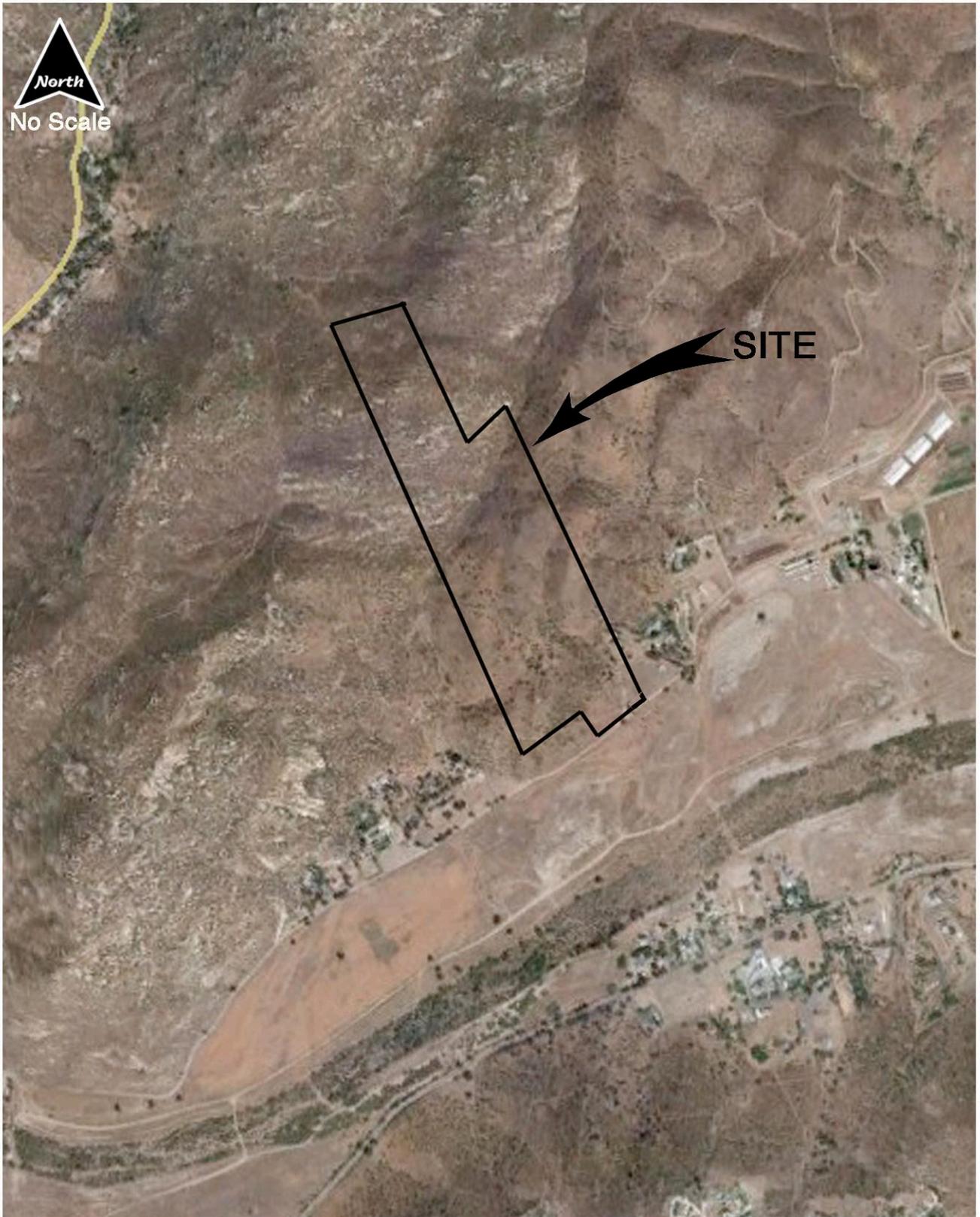


Exhibit  
G

Service Area







North  
No Scale

SITE



Aerial Photograph of Bank and  
Surrounding Properties

Exhibit  
C

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: **9**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT  
(INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)**

The following topics may be included in the Executive Officer's Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:

Thank you for completing Form 700 and State Ethics certifications

Update – Ruffin Canyon Trail and Urban Walk Project

Invasives Removal

Legislative Update

**News Articles:**

Paved San Diego River Trail extended Under Route 163, Tom Leech, Outdoor Adventure Group, Mission Valley News, April 11, 2014.

New Bike Path Open Along San Diego River, Steve Bosh, KUSI news, April 21, 2014.

Choppers Battle Santee Brush Fire - Helicopters Dropped Water from Santee Lakes on the Fire burning near Carlton Oaks Golf Course, R. Stickney and Steven Luke, NBC 7 San Diego, April 30, 2014.

Mission Valley still has room to grow, Thor Kambam Biebern, The Daily Transcript, May 13, 2014.

The San Diego River, from Source to Mouth, Doug Taylor, Mission Valley News, May 14, 2014.

Walking Guide: San Diego River Trail's East End, Tom Leech, Outdoor Adventure Group, June 13, 2014.

Settlement over San Diego's Castlerock Development Provides Additional Protections for Wildlife and Habitat, John Buse, Center for Biological Diversity, June 23, 2014.

## **San Diego River Conservancy Governing Board Meetings for 2015**

Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 2:00 pm

**PLEASE JOIN US**  
**Celebrate the 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**of the Junípero Serra Museum**

**Third Annual Open House**

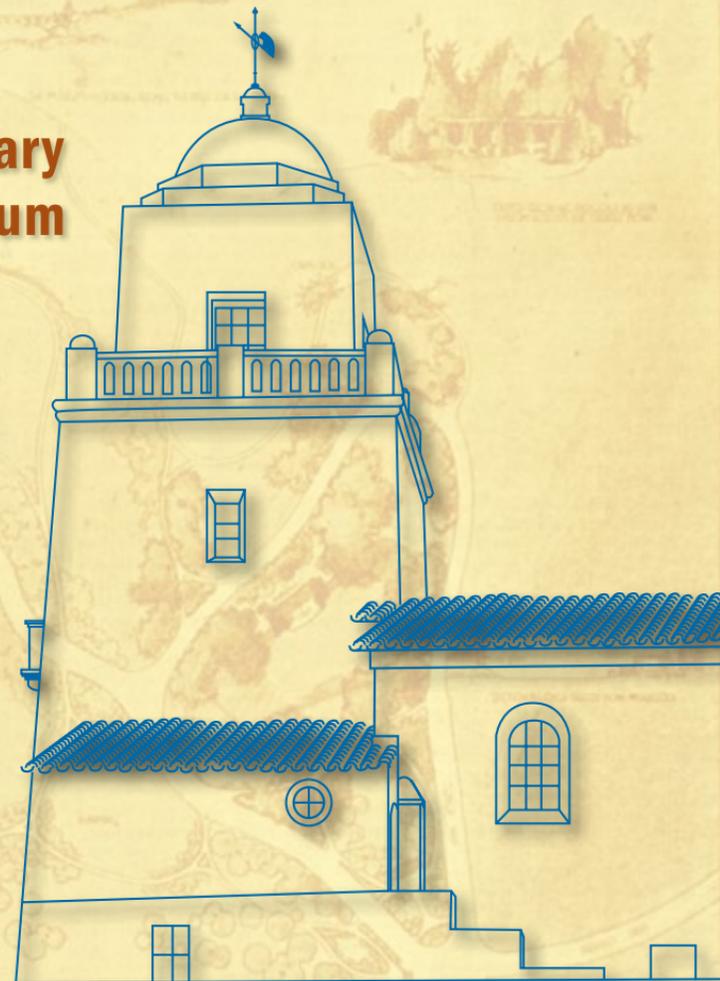
*Life at the*  
*Presidio*

*A Festive Celebration*

**Sunday, July 13, 2014**

**4-6pm**

SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER



SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER  
1649 EL PRADO, STE. 3  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT No. 960  
SAN DIEGO, CA

## Third Annual Serra Open House

### *Life at the Presidio*

### *A Festive Celebration*

**SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014, 4 – 6pm**

*Junípero Serra Museum, 2727 Presidio Drive*

### **Free and open to the public**

Family-friendly games and crafts • Historical reenactments

Musket-fired salute • Refreshments • Live music

### **Special Presentation: Rudy Shappee, Curator USS Midway**

*Daily Life in San Diego's Military Outposts*

### **RSVP:**

[sandiegohistory.org/serraopenhouse](http://sandiegohistory.org/serraopenhouse)

[rsvp@sandiegohistory.org](mailto:rsvp@sandiegohistory.org), (619) 232-6203



# San Diego River Park Foundation Midwest TV Clean up on March 19<sup>th</sup>

20 volunteers and estimated about 1,200 pounds of trash and debris removed. Work consisted of:

Removing large planks of waterlogged wood from the river that were blocking the water and collecting large amounts of trash

Removing Styrofoam, bottles, balls and other lightweight items that washed down during the rains

Digging out and removing parts of 3 golf carts (plastic casing, metal frames, etc.)

Digging out and removing tires, tents, tarps and other items in the river and on its banks





Before



After

# Paved San Diego River Trail extended under Route 163

(Mission Valley News, San Diego, CA) – Posted: Friday, April 11, 2014 8:15 am. Tom Leech, Outdoor Adventure Group

Civic leaders will cut the ribbon on April 21 to formally celebrate the opening of a long-awaited extension of the San Diego River Trail west of Route 163.

The paved walking paths beside the San Diego River in Mission Valley are often frequented by walkers, cyclists, bird-watchers, and dog strollers. Whether taking a lunch hour or an after-work break, a weekend jaunt or a fitness ramble, lots of people use these accessible pathways that extend west from Qualcomm Way on both sides of the river.

Up until now, people walking along the path north of the river along Hazard Center Drive would either have to end their strolls just east of Route 163 or scramble through the brush and insecure-feeling territory under the bridge.

The new pathway now allows people to continue their strolls under the highway and farther west. The wide, paved pathway, with wooden hand rails in some places, makes this a pleasant extension.

Now, west of 163, you can continue strolling west past Fashion Valley Mall (perhaps even go shopping or mall walking) or return back under the highway.

Another option is to turn left at the first short road on your left (there is no sign there, but it's Avenida Del Rio). When you reach Camino de la Reina, walk left and then back under 163 and up the walkway onto the paved river pathway. Now you'll have more pleasant strolling along the river's south side and up to Mission Center Road (at Mimi's Cafe). Cross over at the light, and keep heading east along the pathway, crossing over on sidewalks over either of the two bridges back to the north side pathways (on main roads, cross at stop light intersections).

With lots of commercial pursuits and condos right near the walkways, many find easy access to these pathways.

The San Diego Trolley makes stops at the north side of the river at Hazard Center, and at the south side of the river right at the pathway off Camino de la Reina and Mission Valley Center.

For those who live farther away, several parking options provide ready access to the walking paths:

From Mission Center Road at the stop light just south of Friars Road, turn west to park along Hazard Center Drive or east into the marked parking lot.

From the eastern sections, there's some street parking on side streets off Camino del Este or Qualcomm Way.

On the west side of 163, you can often find parking south of Fashion Valley right under the trolley or in the marked trolley lot.

If you want to join some other strollers, Walkabout International has started frequent walks along the river, starting from the west side of 163 at the wooden footbridge just east from the trolley station. These depart at 9 a.m. on Tuesday and Saturday mornings (subject to change), with John, the trip leader. For more information, check <http://www.walkabout-int.org>.





# New bike path open along San Diego River

*Posted: Apr 21, 2014 7:25 PM PST Updated: Apr 21, 2014 7:25 PM PST*

By Steve Bosh



The bike path connection is part of the city's master bike plan to get more people out of cars and riding bikes - either to work, or for pleasure or exercise - and to see that the river is a natural amenity. With this ribbon-cutting, you can now ride along the San Diego River from Ocean Beach to the 805 without having to deal with what may be the most congested traffic area in the city. And it fulfills the mayor's promise to focus on upgrading infrastructure in the city's neighborhoods, and at the same time, connecting those neighborhoods.

"As we continue to connect this pathway, we continue to insure that San Diegans have a connection to one of the most precious natural resources: the San Diego River," stated Mayor Kevin Faulconer.

"I do know people who actually ride to work along this trail from OB to Mission Valley," said council member Lorie Zapf. It's not a long path, only a quarter mile, but it closes one of the key gaps in the vision to connect the ocean with the mountains on a bike, or as a hiker.

"This will really lead into the entire concept of the river park system going through there where you can start at the bay, come along the estuary, along the trail, and end up all the way out in Mission Trails, and Santee and parts further east," said council member Scott Sherman.

There are still gaps: one at the Q (which will be filled next), one near Grantville and connecting Mission Trails with Santee. But this one under the 163 Highway is one of the keys.

"The San Diego River trail is a multipurpose trail and path that will traverse 17-and-a-half miles of the San Diego River, and this is a key part of it," said Rob Hutsel of the San Diego River Park Foundation. "There are more sections going along. We need your support."

The \$1.8 million to complete this quarter mile section with pavement, lighting and safety features came from transnet funds through SANDAG. "This is a perfect example of the types of projects that we will be doing more of in the coming years," proclaimed Faulconer.

A recent study says about a quarter million San Diegans would bicycle, at least occasionally, if they could do so safely. The most common problem is the lack of continuous and connected bikeways to the city's various destinations. It may be a while before you can bike from OB to the mountains. It took 12 years to get this quarter mile bike lane completed, but if this becomes a priority, the main gaps could be filled in 3 to 5 years.



# Choppers Battle Santee Brush Fire

## Helicopters dropped water from Santee Lakes on the fire burning near Carlton Oaks Golf Course

By [R. Stickney](#) and [Steven Luke](#) | Wednesday, Apr 30, 2014

Viedo Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Fire-Burning-in-Santee-Riverbed-San-Diego--257242181.html#ixzz36nw4vagB>

A brush fire burning along the San Diego river in Santee Tuesday produced thick, black smoke and flames that came close to two apartment complexes, officials said.

Heartland firefighters responded to Carlton Oaks Drive and Carlton Hills Drive around 3:30 p.m. and found a fire sparked in dense trees and brush.

The fire burned near a row of homes along Willowgrove Avenue as well as the Carlton Oaks Golf Course with smoke drifting onto the course.

Officials said the fire came close to two nearby apartment complexes.

Firefighters were having a difficult time accessing the fire on foot. Helicopters were spotted picking up water from Santee Lakes and the golf course water hazards to help fight the flames.

San Diego County Sheriff's Copter 12 responded to help with air drops. Deputies in patrol cars could be seen driving along the course route.

No evacuations were issued, but nearby residents said they were ready to go if the order was given.

“We’ve been here since ’06, so we were with the ’07 wildfires here, and we still have our bag ready to go,” Cortena Blackburn said.

The fire burned an estimated four acres. No injuries were reported.

Residents said there is a homeless camp in the riverbed that has had problems in the past. However, officials have not released the cause of the fire.

The San Diego River flows into Sycamore Canyon just north of State Route 52.

Santee Fire Department Chief Richard Mattick said fire season may arrive months earlier than normal this year.

"Fire season is really already upon us here," Mattick said. "We've seen that, having a hot week this week, high winds and everything, that's gonna continue to dry out anything out there that still has any moisture in it."

"I've seen no moisture in the horizon for us, so at this point it's going to be a very, very severe fire season we're looking at," he said."

San Diego County was under a high wind warning until Thursday at 5 p.m.



Video from Santee showing a brush fire burning near Carlton Oaks Golf Course.



# Mission Valley still has room to grow

By THOR KAMBAN BIBERMAN, The Daily Transcript

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

While those driving or walking in Mission Valley might think they are in a community that is virtually built out, they would be wrong.

An overview of Mission Valley and what is expected to happen next were the topics of an Urban Land Institute (ULI) San Diego/Tijuana breakfast Tuesday at the University Club.

Perry Dealy, **Dealy Development** president who moderated the program, said that despite the perception that nearly all the work has been completed in Mission Valley, billions of dollars in projects are still being planned that will continue to transform an area that had more dairy cattle than cars in the 1960s.

Dealy, who has represented *U-T San Diego* owner Douglas Manchester for many years, is overseeing the development of the *U-T San Diego* property.

While the newspaper and a press building will remain (the actual printing press operations are moving to Orange County), there is enough room on the property for a 250,000-square-foot Class A office tower, high-rise residential tower with 194 units, cafe and modest amount of retail, and promenade around the project. Dealy said the environmental documents for the project are being processed.

Paul Brown, a broker with **Voit Commercial** who has long specialized in office properties in Mission Valley, said while the vacancy in the submarket was running at about 12.1 percent, the Class A vacancy is significantly lower than that. **The CoStar Group** for example pegged the Class A vacancy at about 8.8 percentage as of the end of the second quarter.

Although Dealy touted that the *U-T* project will be a transit-oriented and walkable, Michael Stepner, NewSchool of Architecture faculty member and former city architect, was doubtful.

"How do you walk from the *U-T* to the trolley?" Stepner asked.

Dealy countered that the promenade will help alleviate some concerns, but Stepner said there was a fundamental flaw in community's design decades ago.

"Every time you have to go east or west you have to take Friars Road. I hate to say it, but we're going to need more roads," Stepner said adding that he considers it life-threatening to cross Rancho Mission Road.

The biggest ongoing project in Mission Valley is the Civita development in the north. Marco Sessa, **Sudberry Properties** senior vice president, said the development has 306 completed apartments and 662 are under construction.

At buildout, Civita will have 4,780 residential units of various types, 900,000 square feet of commercial retail and office, public parks, a cultural center and heritage museum.

Outside Civita's boundaries, at Qualcomm Way and Camino del Rio North, is a three-acre Sudberry property known as Discovery Place that is large enough for a 125-room hotel and about 6,000 square feet of retail.

Also at the intersection, the San Diego River Park Foundation is planning an educational and interpretative center at Discovery Center at Grant Park.

As Brown noted, many other projects are in the earliest planning stages. A 57-acre portion on River Walk Golf Course, on what is known as the Levi-Cushman property, there is room for mixed-use development.

Nearby, **Lankford & Associates**, which has been involved with everything from Lane Field to Smart Corner, has proposed a 90,000-square-foot medical office building at Hotel Circle North and Taylor Street.

Other development possibilities involve the 18-acre Morris Cerullo land southwest across Interstate 8 from the Town & Country Hotel & Convention Center. Changes are possible at the Town & Country, which is expected to be sold to **Lowe Enterprises**.

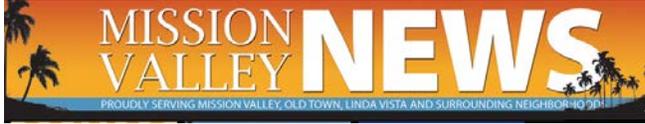
On the Dinerstein property 291 units are planned at buildout northeast of the state Route 163 and I-8 interchange.

Plans at Hazard Center call for 473 housing units along with retail space and a new park.

Much about Mission Valley's future development isn't known. Qualcomm Stadium parking lots may eventually be used for a new Chargers stadium, or there may be other uses possible for what Brown called the greatest development opportunity in the valley.

"Qualcomm is in the market for another million square feet," Brown said. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if they went there?"

Brown added that it would be possible to use at least part of the property for San Diego State University student housing.



# The San Diego River, from source to mouth

Posted: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 12:00 pm | *Updated: 1:36 pm, Wed May 14, 2014.*

Mission Valley News

Many people don't know that the San Diego River spans 52 miles from its source high in the mountains of the Cleveland National Forest to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean. In fact, many people don't even know the San Diego River exists.

Doug Taylor, a river ambassador with the San Diego River Park Foundation, set out to change that in an unusual way: Hike the whole thing.

Over four days in early May, Taylor and a crew of friends and supporters hiked from the source of the river, a few miles from Julian; down to the El Capitan Reservoir, which supplies some drinking water to the region; further down through Mission Trails Regional Park and finally into Mission Valley and out to Ocean Beach.

We asked Taylor about his journey a few days after he returned.

(The interview has been edited for clarity).

**Q: Where did you get the idea to do this hike?**

A: After one of our river surveys in Mission Valley last year, I was really feeling kind of sad that no one is paying attention to the river. A lot of people don't even know that we have a river, and if they know we have a river they just think it's an inconvenience when it floods. People don't know that the river itself has got a lot of trash and debris in it and that it's polluted. It's on the watchlist for the EPA as one of the most polluted rivers in the U.S., but people can't see that if they don't have a connection to the river. I said, "I'm gonna go on a hike, start at the very top, and show people how clean and clear and nice it is along the way."

**Q: But it was not clean and clear in many of the parts you hiked through. You posted photos on your blog of trash and debris along much of the route. Were you surprised to see that?**

A: Not really surprised — just disheartened. I expected [to see litter] once we got into areas that were populated, but it was disheartening to see above the reservoir fishing lines, beer cans, plastic bottles, balloons... You would think that people would be a little more conscientious and be stewards of the environment.

**Q: What were the positive things you found?**

A: In the upper river gorge the animal life was incredibly healthy — the turtles and the snakes and the lizards and the hawks and everything that we saw. We even saw a bald eagle, which was really nice, right at El Capitan Reservoir.

**Q: You also witnessed an encounter between a fox and a turkey, according to your blog.**

A: It was really kind of funny. A fox started chasing a turkey, and like that old story about biting off more than you can chew, the turkey said, “I had enough of this,” and turned around and started chasing the fox. The fox, with its tail between its legs, started running away. The fox must have thought “I guess I better pick on a smaller bird next time.”

**Q: Having worked on the river for so many years, you already know and have seen quite a bit of the river. What was the most surprising or unexpected part of this journey for you?**

A: The absolute pristine, stunning beauty of the upper river gorge really blew my wife and I away. You felt like you were you were out in Colorado or a wilderness area. It was incredibly beautiful.

**Q: Despite the problems it still has, river advocates have made significant progress recently. How would your journey have been different if you had done it 10 or 15 years ago?**

A: The lower sections of the river would have been much more polluted. Ten or 15 years ago, going upstream from the area just east of the Mission Valley Preserve, you would have found multiple areas of garbage and trash a couple feet deep. That’s how it was when I first started working for the foundation, almost like mini-landfills in the riverbed. Those areas primarily are for the most part gone, thanks to a team effort.

**Q: Technically you did not hike every inch of the river — you had to skip over some segments of it. Why?**

A: There’s a lot of private property in areas of the upper river gorge. There’s a section that is tribal land. Out of respect for property rights we leapfrogged over the top of the tribal land that belongs to the Capitan Grande reservation. We had a helicopter pick us up and drop us back off in areas where we had agreements in place.

**Q: What is your hope for the future of the river?**

A: My hope is that people in San Diego County will realize what a gem of a river we really do have and to treat it as an important resource, which it is, not only historically but culturally and also as a natural resource. The biodiversity is incredible. They call it America’s first river because the Spanish explorers stopped here for fresh water and built the first mission. The Native Americans had been coming to the river for food and shelter for centuries before that. There are

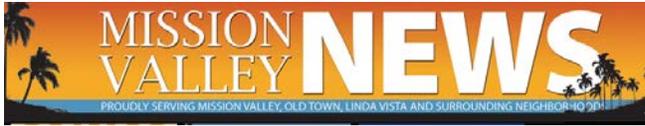
really a lot of reasons why we should regard the river as a gem and a natural resource, and I hope the people of San Diego and Southern California learn to treat it that way.

**Q: What should people do if they want to help the river?**

A: You can make a donation or become a member of the San Diego River Park Foundation. You can come out and volunteer. You can spread the word and let people know we've got a beautiful river and it needs help. The future of the river is going to be brighter, but it's going to take everyone's help to get it there.

*Read more about Taylor's journey at his blog, [riverawarenesshike.wordpress.com](http://riverawarenesshike.wordpress.com). Learn more about the San Diego River Park Foundation at [sandiegoriver.org](http://sandiegoriver.org).*





# Walking Guide: San Diego River Trail's east end

Posted: Friday, June 13, 2014 8:15 am

Tom Leech, Outdoor Adventure Group

(Mission Valley News, San Diego, CA) – The San Diego River's paved pathways are a popular place for a pleasant after-work stroll or weekend walk, especially after the city recently opened an extension of the path under state Route 163 toward Fashion Valley mall.

One segment of the river's trails that seems to get the least attention, however, is the furthest east section, ending at Qualcomm Way. It happens to be as pretty and pleasant as the more popular western sections. Here's how to get there to enjoy it.

A good starting spot is on the south side of the river, where Camino de la Reina meets Camino del Este (Staples is at the corner of this intersection). If driving, you can often find on-street parking south and east of this corner. On the street's east side, walk north a short distance and see the well-marked entry to the trail on the south side of the river. Walk east along the path with large condo complexes to your right and nature to the left. You can get some good views of the river (better than the western pathways), have a picnic or rest at several good tables, hear birds chirping in the foliage along the river (with the sweet sounds interrupted when the San Diego Trolley passes overhead). You'll see few signs of homeless activity in this section.

Only a few blocks along, the trail ends at busy Qualcomm Way. Walk left and over the river to the north side entry, turn left and you're heading west along the river, with environment similar to the south side. Just a few steps along are some steps heading up to the Rio Vista Trolley Stop, right next to a large office and commercial complex. Here is a charming fountain and several businesses — cafes, a grocery store, and at the far end, Milano Coffee, a popular spot to plop down and contemplate what a good life you're living today.

Revitalized, head back down to the river and amble west a short distance to Camino del Este. (This is a good entry point to the north side pathways.) Cross left over the river to your starting place, making this about a mile long, easy hike. Or for a bit more strenuous workout, keep heading west (cross at the corner traffic lights), and make your way past Mission Center Road to the new path under 163 over to Fashion Valley. At the first traffic light, head left (on the sidewalk, not the street) about 200 feet to Camino de la Reina. Walk left under 163 and back up onto river's south side pathway. Keep strolling east (again cross at the street lights) and you'll find yourself back at your starting place, right beside Staples.



For Immediate Release, June 23, 2014

Contact: John Buse, Center for Biological Diversity, (323) 533-4416  
Van Collinsworth, Preserve Wild Santee, (619) 258-7929  
Rick Halsey, California Chaparral Institute, (760) 822-0029

### **Settlement Over San Diego's Castlerock Development Provides Additional Protections for Wildlife, Habitat**

SAN DIEGO, Calif.— Three conservation groups today settled their lawsuit challenging the Castlerock project, a 430-home residential development to be located on 203 acres near Mission Trails Regional Park on the northern edge of the city of San Diego. San Diego approved the development in October 2013.

The Center for Biological Diversity, Preserve Wild Santee and California Chaparral Institute reached an agreement with developer Pardee Homes resolving the groups' environmental concerns. With the settlement Pardee agreed to improve the Castlerock project to ensure protections for Quail Canyon Creek and make additional land available for permanent preservation, with the potential for further expansion of Mission Trails Regional Park and the San Diego River Park.

"With Pardee's agreement to avoid the most sensitive parts of the Castlerock site and to expand regional open space, this settlement will benefit the public, wildlife and habitat," said John Buse, a senior attorney with the Center.

The three environmental groups filed a lawsuit in November 2013 challenging the project under the California Environmental Quality Act and city of San Diego environmental policies.

*The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 775,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.*

*Alaska · Arizona · California · Florida · Minnesota · Nevada · New Mexico · New York · Oregon · Vermont · Washington, DC*  
P.O. Box 710 · Tucson, AZ 85702-0710 tel: (520) 623.5252 fax: (520) 623.9797 [www.BiologicalDiversity.org](http://www.BiologicalDiversity.org)

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: **10**

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2014, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of July 10, 2014**

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT