

# Notice of Public Meeting

## San Diego River Conservancy

A public meeting of the Governing Board of  
The San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC)  
will be held Thursday,  
November 13, 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	Department of Finance
1416 Ninth Street, Room #1311	State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814	Sacramento, CA 95814

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 September 11, 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*)**

Proposition 1 Water Bond Review  
Chairman and Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer

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

**6. Consideration of grant awards for San Diego River interpretive projects: Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan Implementation; City of Santee, San Diego River Trail Mural Program (*ACTION*)**

The Board will consider authorizing the Executive Officer to enter into a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy to access SDRC's Prop 84 set aside funds for an initial phase implementation of Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan. SDRC will also consider seeking SCC funds for the City of Santee's proposed San Diego River Trail Mural Project. The SDRC proposes to administer the grant funds in partnership with and through subgrants to the San Diego History Center (Serra Museum) and the City of Santee (mural project)

Presentation:

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer  
Bill Lawrence, San Diego History Center  
Bill Maertz, City of Santee

Recommendation to approve Resolution 14-02

**7. 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:

Invasive Species Removal 2014/15 Season Review  
San Diego River Trail status  
Willow Road Mitigation Bank update

**8. Next Meeting**

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, January 8, 2015, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**9. 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 November 13, 2014**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of November 13, 2014**

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**  
The Board will consider adoption of the **September 11, 2014** public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **September 11, 2014** Board Meeting are attached for review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

**SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)**  
Minutes of September 11, 2014 Public Meeting  
(Draft Minutes for Approval on November 13, 2014)

SDRC Board Chair, Ben Clay called the September 11, 2014, meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:02 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Members Present

Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Eraina Ortega	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Clay Phillips	Department of Parks and Recreation, Designee
Brent Eidson	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Lorie Zapf	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 6
Todd Gloria	Council President, City of San Diego, District 3
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Ann Haddad	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board (via phone)
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

Staff Members Present

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Todd Gloria made a motion to approve the minutes for the San Diego River Conservancy's July 10, 2014, public meeting, which was seconded by Ann Haddad and approved 8-0 (2 abstentions: Eidson and Jacob)

### 3. Public Comment

**Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation** invited everyone to attend the Foundation's 13th anniversary, in Santee at Carlton Oaks Golf Course. It was scheduled for Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There is great work going on at the Foundation. They expect 300 to attend.

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

**Gary Strawn** said The San Diego River Park Foundation teamed with the The Mission Continues (an organization of veterans) and helped rebuild the fence along the San Diego River Trail in Santee. Sections of the fence were badly burned from a fire in April 2014.

### 5. Deputy Attorney's General Report

No report.

### 6. Helix Water District – First Right of Refusal (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

El Capitan Golf Club LLC v. Helix Water District et al. (Case #37-2008-00098042-CU-BC-CTL)  
Subject of 480-acres in the El Monte valley region of Lakeside, California ("the property")

**Kevin McKernan**, SDRC received letter from Helix Water District (HWD). HWD and El Capitan Golf Club LLC (El Capitan) reached a settlement agreement for the property. HWD offered First Right of Refusal to the Conservancy and the County of San Diego. The terms were El Cap to drop lawsuit against HWD for alleged damages for breach of contract and EL Cap to pay \$9M to HWD for the property. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Hayley Peterson recused herself from this discussion. After analyzing and discussing with another DAG in Los Angeles, the Executive Officer doesn't believe the Conservancy has the funds nor wants to take on the unknown and lengthy risk of indemnifying HWD. He recommends not pursuing the first right of refusal in this situation, at this time. He opened up the floor for discussion.

**Todd Gloria** thanked Kevin McKernan for the information. He asked, in this case how does this effect SDRC.

**Kevin McKernan** further explained the settlement agreement lays out the terms. The option price is \$9M. That breaks down to an initial \$1M payment to be made and within 3 years they must pay the remaining amount of \$8M. If El Capitan doesn't pay the \$9M, the land reverts back to HWD and HWD keeps the \$1M initial payment and the lawsuit is extinguished.

**Todd Gloria** inquired if the land will remain in public hands?

**Kevin McKernan** if El Capitan pays the amounts within time period specified, they will become the new owners.

**Dianne Jacob** commented that additional costs for damages are unknown and could be far greater than the \$9M. There is also an indemnification issue. She would like to purchase this property and add it into open space for trails and restore habitat. El Monte Valley in Lakeside is beautiful. Having this property as open space would connect with a county park and the Flume Trail. It is not just an asset for this area; this property would be an asset for the entire region. She asked if there was any way in the settlement agreement that this property could be an open space acquisition.

**Carlos Lugo, General Manager of the Helix Water District** said unfortunately no. This settlement is 5 years of legal maneuvering and 3 judges later. It was a long time coming and materialized on the eleventh hour before

trial. HWD's board considered and evaluated all the options and issues and consensus was reached to enter into the settlement agreement. He acknowledged the Conservancy's concerns. The option to purchase land is for 3 1/2 years, but in the meantime HWD will maintain and take care of the property. Should El Capitan not be able to come up with the funds, the property would revert back to HWD and they would consider what to do then. It is only after HWD clears the 60 days under which HWD must offer the first right of refusal and as surplus property to other governmental agencies, then the dismissal will take effect. In short, what El Capitan does with the property is totally up to them. HWD does not want a relationship with El Capitan.

**Elizabeth Hull with the Law Offices of Best, Best and Krieger** represents HWD interests and noted if and when the property gets transferred El Capitan, it is up to them what becomes of the land. There may be some opportunity for land transfers.

**Dianne Jacob** said in 60 days the lawsuit goes away and then we wait for 3 1/2 years to see what happens. Let us say it is 3 1/2 years from now, would HWD consider selling it for open space for habitat values and trails, a tremendous amenity.

**Carlos Lugo** responded that is a strong consideration and he would propose it to the HWD board.

**Dianne Jacob** addressed Mr. Chairman, she is not sure what else we should do to make it happen, but she sure hopes we get there. Is there any way around the indemnification term?

**Elizabeth Hull** responded for HWD, no. In the next 60 days if another agency wanted to use the first right of refusal (Public Resources Code §32633) or surplus property law (Gov. Code §54220 *et seq.*) HWD explained the only way to match the offer HWD has received from El Capitan is to indemnify HWD against El Capitan and provide \$1M for option to buy land. In 60 days the San Diego River Conservancy's and the County of San Diego's opportunity to buy under the first right of refusal and/or surplus property law goes away. After that El Capitan has 3 years to come up with remaining funds to buy land. If El Capitan does not close the deal, the property reverts back to HWD and HWD would offer it to SDRC again.

**Dianne Jacobs** asked if we could talk to El Capitan. After the 60 days that it might be worth having discussion with El Capitan to see if they are interested. She is sure the lawsuit was expensive for both HWD and El Capitan. Maybe El Capitan do not want to go through a permit process and would rather cut their losses at this point. She said maybe we can make a deal. It is worth a try.

**Carlos Lugo** responded absolutely. He said there are other opportunities he and Kevin McKernan have talked about. HWD owns other property along the San Diego River and will continue to partner with the Conservancy and support its mission. This settlement was the best solution for HWD rate payers. He added HWD met with the County of San Diego staff to share the status and all the details with them. There is an outstanding Major Use Permit/excavation permit attached to that property and those issues need to be resolved by the new owner of the land.

**Kevin McKernan** added the reclamation requirements are from activities that have occurred on the property but have not been satisfied.

**Carlos Lugo** explained conditions of the reclamation requirement, like mitigation, have not been satisfied and those requirements go with the land. The land is being sold "as is."

**Dianne Jacob** asked when the permits expire.

**Carlos Lugo** responded the County has been working with HWD and has been patient. If the sale does not go through with El Capitan, any other new property owner will have to redress permit conditions issued by the County of San Diego. He believes the permit end date has passed. Also, any new activity other than a golf course needs to be approved by the County.

**Dianne Jacob** asked if the golf course permit expired.

**Carlos Lugo** answered yes. The remnant of the golf course was roughly graded for 18-holes and then stopped. HWD owes the County of San Diego a reclamation plan, if this transaction for settlement does not happen. Any use other than a golf course will require a new permit.

**Andrew Poat** asked what the highest land use value is permissible under current zoning.

**Carlos Lugo** said it has overlay of extraction on the property. He is not sure since much of it is in a flood plain.

**Kevin McKernan** said maybe 1 house per 20 acres.

**Ruth Hayward** asked what is El Capitan allowed to do to the property after the 60 days? If they wanted to extract sand they would have to go through a permitting process.

**Carlos Lugo** replied HWD owns the land and maintains it by replacing fencing, picking up trash and other issues with transients. In this case until El Capitan takes title to the property, HWD would grant El Capitan a right of entry permit to enter land to explore any kind of permitting associated with their proposal. They would have to provide additional information, such as insurance, and it would be conditional. HWD does not want El Capitan to continue any kinds of excavation or additional disturbance to the land, during that 3 year period.

**Ben Clay** asked what if they want to get on the property to build a bigger golf course or mine sand. If El Capitan does not obtain permits and does not make payments, the land will revert back to HWD.

**Carlos Lugo** responded it is a good deal for HWD.

**Kevin McKernan** commented if El Capitan pursues permits, they can do it under their own accord based on an option. But because they are not owners of the property, El Capitan cannot grant easements for trails over that property.

**Carlos Lugo** agreed and said they could not grant easements over the property during the 3 year period. HWD is working with Lakeside's River Park Conservancy and Endangered Habitat Conservancy to provide access around Hanson Pond in El Monte Valley. There are some trail and drainage issues.

**Kevin McKernan** asked if HWD during this period of time would be able to grant any easements or change the nature of use on the land?

**Elizabeth Hull** replied HWD would not take any actions to impact title of the property or hinder the conveyance to El Capitan in any way during the period of time.

**Dianne Jacob** asked when is the \$8M due?

**Elizabeth Hull** responded no later than December 2017.

**Todd Gloria** thanked Supervisor Jacob for her questions as she knows them well. What is the amount of damages El Capitan is seeking?

**Elizabeth Hull** responded they are seeking damages for breach of contract and they estimated loss from breach of contract in excess of \$100M.

**Carlos Lugo** said he has been responding to many inquiries from users and residents in the valley. There are a lot of rumors going around about the settlement.

**Dianne Jacob** made a motion to allow SDRC's Executive Officer to talk to El Capitan and see if there is a deal to be made.

**Motion seconded by Ann Haadad. Approved unanimously.**

## 7. 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:

### Legislative Update

The water bond will be Proposition 1 on the November ballot. If approved, Proposition 1 will provide \$7.12B in new bonds, and re-allocation of \$425M of unspent previous bonds. The bond is officially referred to as *the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014*, Assembly Bill 1471 (Rendon, Atkins, Gatto, Perea, Salas, & Gomez).

In brief, San Diego representatives all supported the water bond which passed unanimously in state senate (37-0); Nearly unanimous in assembly (77-2); and was signed by the Governor on August 13, 2014.

If approved, Proposition 1, Chapter 6 Sec 79731(e) will provide \$17M to the San Diego River Conservancy, and this will be the first time SDRC has had its own allocation of bond funds.

In Chapter 2, section 79701(e), this legislation provides "...funding to implement three objectives of the California Water Action Plan – reliable water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat..." Further, section 79701(i) is for "Protecting lakes, rivers and streams, cleaning up polluted groundwater supplies and preserving water sources...crucial to providing reliable supply of water and protecting natural resources"

In Chapter 4, general provisions for the water bond include,

- Sec 79703 – "An amount that equals not more than 5 percent of the funds allocated for a grant program pursuant to this division may be used to pay the administrative costs of that program"
- Sec 79704 – "...up to 10 percent... may be expended for planning and monitoring necessary for the successful design, selection, and implementation of projects..."
- Sec 79706(a) – "...each state agency...shall develop and adopt project solicitation and evaluation guidelines...[including] monitoring and reporting requirements..."
- Sec 79707(b) – "...priority will be given to projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding..."

In this legislation, Chapter 6 provides for Protecting River, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters and Watersheds in the amount of \$1.495 Billion.

- Sec 79730 - \$327.5M, "...multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration..."
- Sec 79730(a) - (k)
 

– Baldwin Hills Conservancy	\$10M
– Tahoe Conservancy	\$15M
– Coachella Valley Mtns Conservancy	\$10M
– Ocean Protection Council	\$30M
– <u>San Diego River Conservancy</u>	<u>\$17M*</u>
– San Gabriel Rivers and Mtns Cons	\$30M**
– San Joaquin River	\$10M
– Santa Monica Mtns Conservancy	\$30M**
– Sierra Nevada Conservancy	\$25M
– State Coastal Conservancy	\$100.5M
– Delta Conservancy	\$50M

\* Two percent to "statewide bond costs" off the top = \$16.6 for SDRC

\*\*Urban streams provision 79735 allocates an additional \$100M in pursuant these agencies enabling statute

Other provisions under Proposition 1 provide an opportunity for SDRC or its partners to compete for multi-benefit projects – Sec.79735(b) \$20M to Natural Resources Secretary for projects that involve two or more of:

- Groundwater recharge
- Reduce energy consumption
- Use soils, plants and natural processes to reduce/treat runoff
- Create or restore native habitat
- Increase regional and local resiliency to climate change

**Bryan Cash** clarified the section of the bond language referring to "urban streams." He stated those funds will be for the Los Angeles River.

**Kevin McKernan** analyzed the bond and noted 9 of the 13 program areas are applicable to the SDRC and there is a provision of restoring river parkways. SDRC strategic plan has programs for water quality and flood control, as does the bond language. This will help local water districts and municipalities focus on flood control, water quality, ground water and wetland restoration.

**Ben Clay** wanted to thank the San Diego delegation. This bond would not be possible if not for everyone's support coming together in end.

**Rob Hustel** said the San Diego River is within the steelhead trout recovery area and should be able to seek funds.

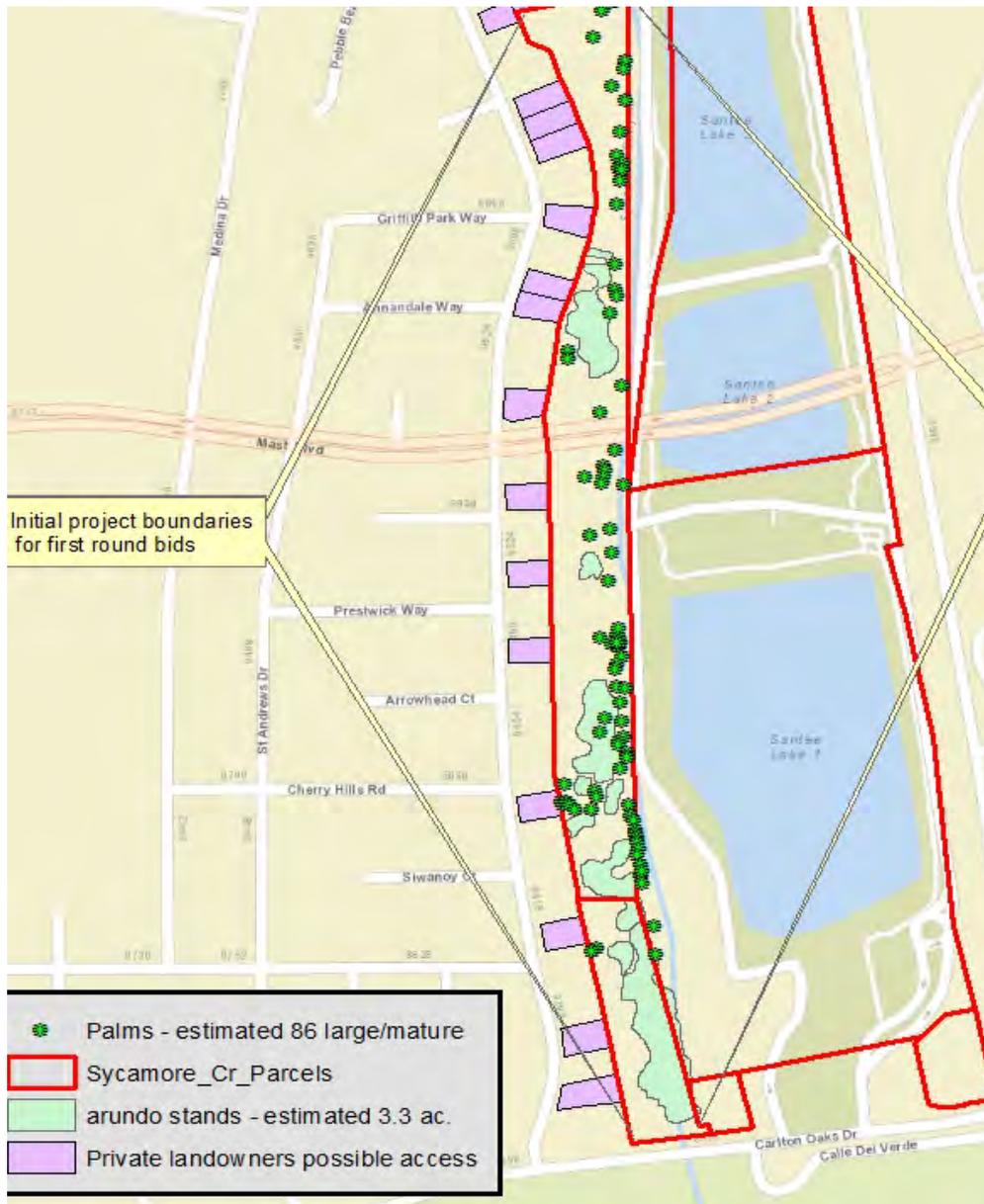
**Gary Strawn** agreed about the trout recovery area. He spoke with Trout Unlimited about making a brief presentation on water quality monitoring, infrastructure changes, and invasive fish. He has done some work with this group on the San Luis Rey River. He would like to stock the upper San Diego River with native genetic steelhead.

**Andrew Poat** said there are a lot of agencies who are considering their position on the water bond and would want to know its impacts to inform them with a non-judgmental point of view, with a clear delineation of what is in the bond which would benefit the San Diego River Conservancy.

**Ben Clay** responded SDRC will be factual and accurate as we can be in terms of what the mission is and the funding source for these funds.

**Invasive Species removal 2014/2015 – See attached PowerPoint**

**Kevin McKernan** stated SDRC has found there to be multi benefits resulting from its invasive species removal and control work including reducing flooding, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing wildfire risk, improving water quality, and enhancing community aesthetics. SDRC is excited to be in a new area this year, Sycamore Creek located in the City of Santee, adjacent to the Santee Lakes.



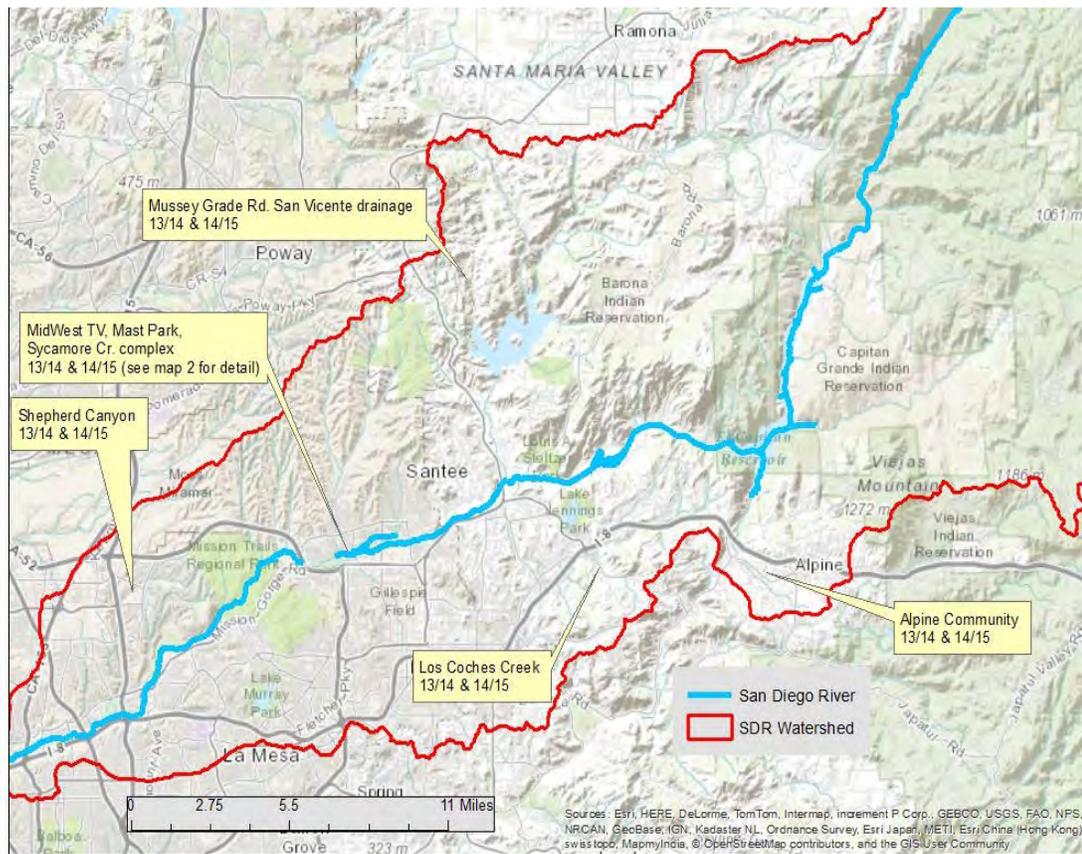
**Ben Clay** also noted that Assembly Member Brian Jones was excited about the opportunity to have Sycamore Creek area cleaned out which is a big problem for his community. He fully supports this project.

**Kevin McKernan** reminded the board that Lakeside's River Park Conservancy removed 16 acres of invasive plants in Lakeside last year, and it is on course to remove another 11 acres this year. They were able to obtain right of entry permits from over 200 private land owners, in the Los Coches Creek area. That is impressive. It is a big success story.

**Gary Strawn** commented besides enhancing habitat the project in Sycamore Creek is also about water quality. It is not just about east county San Diego but these creeks flow into the San Diego River affecting the City of San Diego as well.

**Kevin McKernan** reminded the board the first 3 years SDRC removed invasive in the City of San Diego, but it is important to work from the top down in these situations. If we just remove the invasive plants in the City of San Diego, it will just keep coming down from upstream.

**Mapped SDRC project locations for FY 14/15:**



**Partners include:**

- City of Santee
- State Coastal Conservancy
- Lakeside's River Park Conservancy – Lakeside
- San Diego River Park Foundation – Mast Park, Boulder Creek

San Diego Canyonlands – Shepherd Canyon/Tierrasanta  
Back Country Land Trust – Alpine  
Mussey Grade citizens group – Mussey Grade/San Vicente  
MidWest Television, Inc.  
Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
SDG&E  
Private Land Owners

**Funding provided by:**

San Diego River Conservancy  
State Coastal Conservancy, Proposition 84  
CA Natural Resources Agency, Proposition 40  
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

San Diego River Conservancy and  
Partners 2014/15 Invasives Species  
Removal, Habitat Enhancement and  
Flood/Fire Prevention Projects

September 11, 2014 Board Meeting





Dense stands of Arundo, palms and pepper trees choke the channel



Under Mast Blvd bridge 2010



PDMWD sewer intake flooded causing spill into SD River



Padre's "UAV" will document before and after conditions in Sycamore Creek



# Mast Park West fire rehab

- Wildfire burned through Mast Park West on April 29<sup>th</sup>, threatening neighborhoods



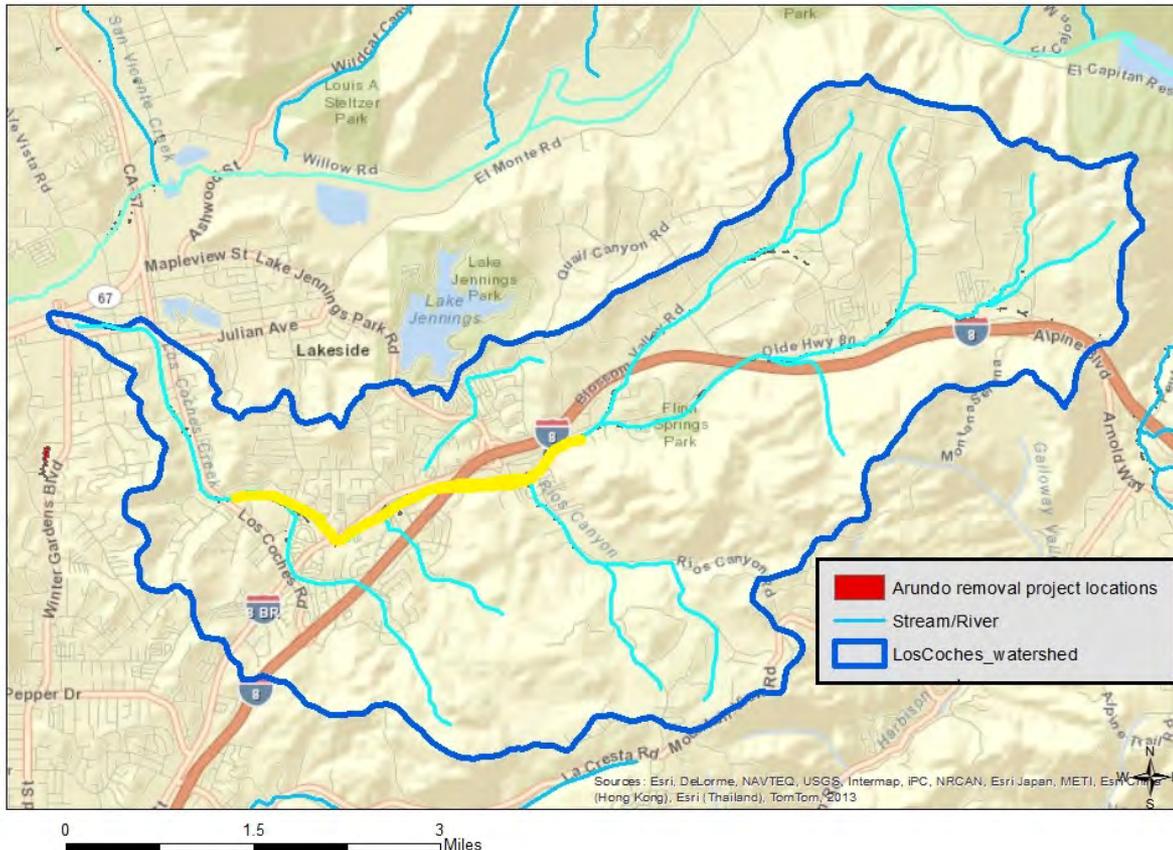
- Area burned was full of Arundo and other invasive species such as palms and eucalyptus
- SDRC acted quickly to spray re-growth before invasive vegetation could re-colonize. Will continue to re-treat



Arundo resprouting days/weeks after fire

# Los Coches Creek Restoration Partnership Between SDRC, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, CALFIRE, Coastal Conservancy and the Community

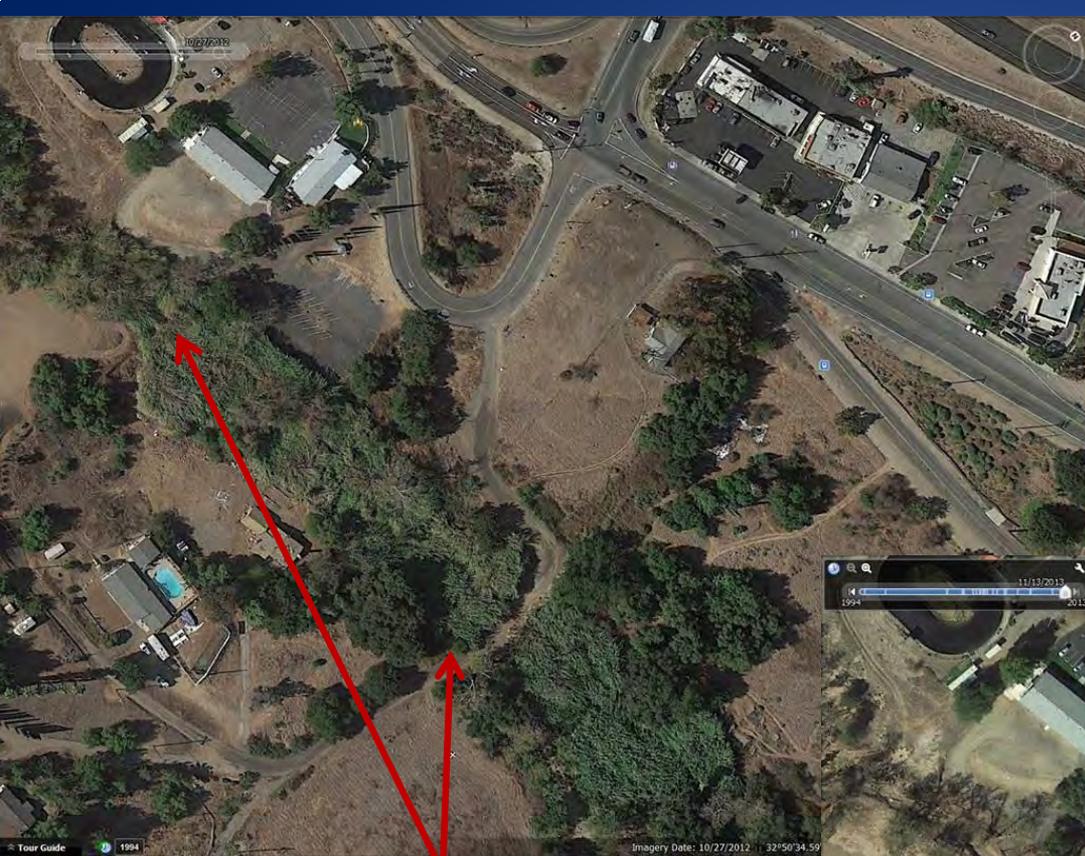
San Diego River Conservancy  
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy Arundo Control Project - Los Coches Cr Watershed  
San Diego County, CA



Funded by  
SCC/SDRC set aside Prop 84

Over 200 individual  
landowners  
granting permission!!!

Additional matching  
funding pending



Lakeside Arundo October 2012  
(before)



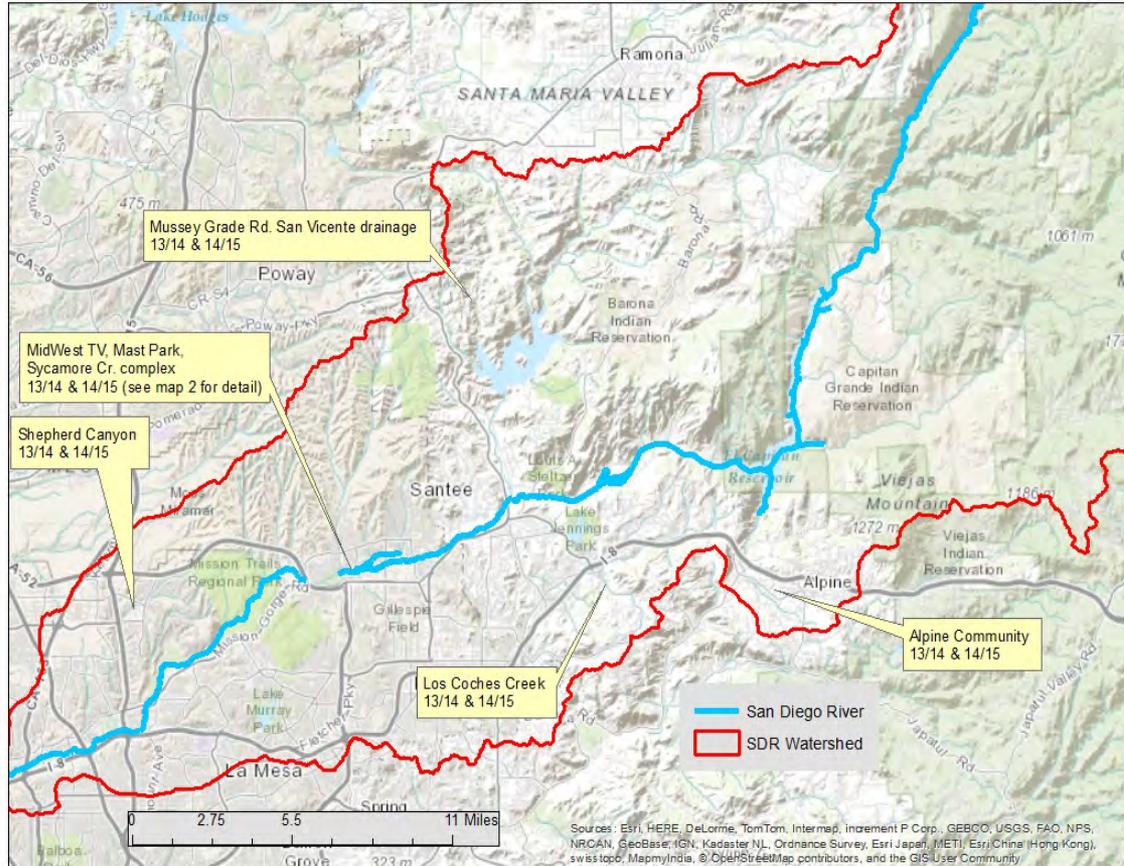
Lakeside Arundo removal  
November 2013 (after)



Homeless encampment-caused fire in Los Coches Cr. on Mothers Day 2013  
Resulted in damage/loss of structures and one death.  
The area has since been cleared and controlled by LRPC

# Other Projects throughout the Watershed Continue Under Partnerships with SDRC

San Diego River Conservancy Partnership Watershed-Wide Invasive Species Control and Riparian Enhancement Program Map 1  
Permit Annual Report (13/14) and Pre-Project Notification (14/15)



## Other Partners:

San Diego River Park Foundation – Mast Park, Boulder Creek

San Diego Canyonlands – Shepherd Canyon/Tierrasanta

Back Country Land Trust – Alpine

Mussey Grade citizens group – Mussey Grade/San Vicente

MidWest Television – direct implementation by SDRC

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of November 13, 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 November 13, 2014**

ITEM: 4

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

Proposition 1 Water Bond Review  
Chairman and Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer

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 November 13, 2014**

ITEM: 5

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

**Meeting of November 13, 2014**

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF GRANT AWARDS FOR SAN DIEGO RIVER INTERPRETIVE PROJECTS: JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION; CITY OF SANTEE, SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL MURAL PROGRAM (*ACTION*)**

The Board will consider authorizing the Executive Officer to enter into a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to access SDRC's Prop 84 set aside funds for an initial phase implementation of Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan. SDRC will also consider seeking funds for the City of Santee's proposed San Diego River Trail Mural Project. The SDRC proposes to administer the grant funds in partnership with and through subgrants to the San Diego History Center (Serra Museum) and the City of Santee (mural project).

Presentation:

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer  
Bill Lawrence, San Diego History Center  
Bill Maertz, City of Santee

Recommendation to approve Resolution 14-02

**Resolution No: 14-02**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**APPROVAL OF USE OF FUNDS FROM**  
**The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood**  
**Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006**  
**(Proposition 84)**

---

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above for projects approved by the San Diego River Conservancy; and,

WHEREAS, the California State Coastal Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy finds the expenditure of funds consistent with its enabling statute, which directs the Conservancy "to provide for the public's enjoyment, and to enhance the recreational and educational experience and historic interpretation on public lands;" and,

WHEREAS, this project is Consistent the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017), Program 2: Recreation & Education Program, and Program 3B: Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historical Resources, specifically to "Expand partnerships to preserve and provide access to cultural and historical resources, and build on education efforts;" and

WHEREAS, this project is consistent with the California State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan – Goal 9 Expand environmental education efforts to improve public understanding, use and stewardship of coastal resources; and,

WHEREAS, this project is also consistent with the California Water Action Plan – Action #1 Make Conservation a California Way of Life; and,

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy will submit a grant application to the California State Coastal Conservancy to fund San Diego History Centers' interpretive exhibit installation at the Junipero Serra Museum; and to fund the City of Santee's mural art project to interpret the natural features of the San Diego River and prevent vandalism and damage to natural resources in the vicinity of road underpasses along the San Diego River Trail in Santee, California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego River Conservancy Governing Board:

1. Approves the authorizing a grant application for interpretive exhibits at Junipero Serra Museum and to create murals along the San Diego River Trail in Santee.
  
2. Authorizes the Executive Officer to request from the State Coastal Conservancy's Proposition 84 set aside funds appropriated for projects approved by the San Diego River Conservancy to provide a \$270,000 grant to the San Diego River Conservancy. The grant amount of \$270,000 will include a \$250,000 sub-grant to the San Diego History Center for interpretive exhibits, \$10,000 sub-grant to Santee for the mural art project and \$10,000 to the San Diego River Conservancy for oversight and management of the grant.
  
3. Authorizes funds to provide for design and installation of interpretive exhibits, cost of public murals, project management and grant administration.
  
4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, contracts, sub-grants and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned Projects.

Approved and adopted the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 14-02 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nos: \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent \_\_\_\_\_

---

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer  
San Diego River Conservancy

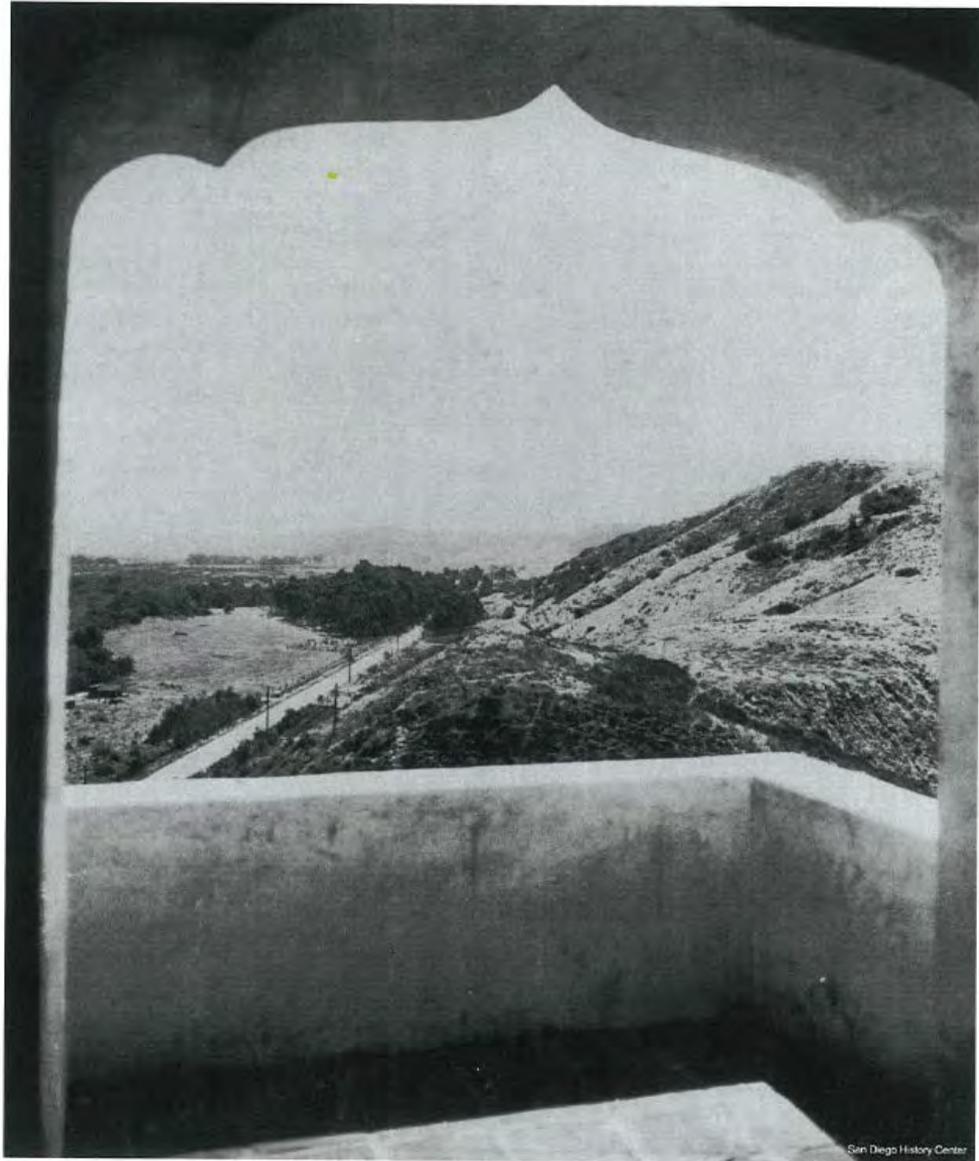
While exterior interpretation should be minimized – too many bolted and affixed signs and panels can dilute the fluidity and impact of the architecture, and invite vandalism – they should be part of any exterior renovations. Some recommended elements are simply versions of exhibits that have come and gone from the Serra’s exterior over the past decades. Well into the 1970s, the exterior portico not only held the ancient Spanish wine press seen today, but also many of the millstones, wooden artifacts and other objects now found in the Main Gallery. As seen at left, these were arranged along many of the portico’s columns. And while today’s San Diego is perhaps more severe than those simpler times when artifacts could be left ‘lying around’, we do advocate that some objects might be preferred in an outdoor setting. The “Jupiter” Cannon, a Mission-Era artifact now flanking the entry to the Main Gallery; it would be better served as an exterior display, whether lining the portico or even as an accompaniment to the flagpoles previously described. As a key placemaking artifact, it will arouse greater curiosity on the grounds, and a small interpretive panel can underscore its role in the Presidio story. We also advocate that the wooden press now on view in the Main Gallery join its more aged sibling as displays in the “covered” arched portico walls.

For many years in the 1960s and 1970s, a mounted viewing scope stood on the Serra’s Main Terrace, offering phenomenal images of Mission Bay, Point Loma, and the harbor. It was placed there for a fine reason, as, even today, many couples and families hike up to the terrace at dusk for its great views of the City, as their children roll playfully down the hill below them. Combined with the viewing areas planned for the Tower (detailed previously), the scope can underscore the perception of the museum as San Diego’s “viewing deck”, and be an additional attraction during off-hours (whether operated by coin slot or not).

The Serra’s North Terrace – tucked around the rear of the museum, and little visited today – will hold a row of rail-mounted interpretive panels (and potentially viewsopes) that face out onto the channel of the San Diego River adjacent to Presidio Park. These exhibits, rather than addressing the historical importance of the river, will examine the river as it exists today, weaving in the ongoing narrative of conservation, restoration and land and water health that SDRC advocates with its acquisitions and programs. Here, viewers will learn how nonstop freeway traffic, urban infrastructure and intensive commercial development have restricted the river’s natural course and floodplain, and why that reduction has caused such frequent flooding, erosion, and damage over the years. Narratives will also examine the many changes being enacted due to the efforts of the SDRC and other like-minded organizations, what the future holds for the San Diego River and other vital county waterways, and what interested visitors can do to help these projects come to fruition.



**The North Terrace is ideally positioned to look out onto the San Diego River and the modern forces that have shaped its current appearance.**



Mission Valley, viewed from the Serra's portico terrace in 1929.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110-2492  
P: (619) 260-4756  
F: (619) 260-2272  
www.sandiego.edu

September 24, 2014

San Diego River Conservancy  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
c/o Mr. Kevin McKernan, Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Members of the San Diego River Conservancy & California State Coastal Conservancy:

As a Professor of History at the University of San Diego, I am writing to support the application of the San Diego History Center for funding to implement the Phase 1 Project of the *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan*.

In 2010 the San Diego History Center and the San Diego River Conservancy began a dialogue on how the Junipero Serra Museum might serve as a key interpretation center to study the ecological and human history of the San Diego River over time. The proposed exhibits would in turn refresh and modernize the Museum and its interpretive approaches, while drawing more public attention to the historic and cultural importance of the San Diego River and the Presidio site. It would complement the stewardship and conservation efforts ongoing today.

The *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan* was produced in 2013 and resulted in a collaboration among the San Diego History Center, the San Diego River Conservancy, and the State Coastal Conservancy.

This Phase 1 project creates two new primary exhibits at the Serra Museum that will educate the public on the role the river has played in the establishment of the region and the founding of Presidio Park, site of the historic Royal Presidio of San Diego. Phase 1 fulfills the missions of the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) and the San Diego History Center (SDHC) and is:

- Consistent with and a direct implementation of the *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan*.
- Consistent with SDRC's strategic plan element *PROGRAM 3B: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES*.
- Consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan – Goal 9 *Expand environmental education efforts to improve public understanding, use and stewardship of coastal resources*.
- Consistent with the California Water Action Plan – Action #1 *Make Conservation a California Way of Life*

This Phase 1 Project is the next logical step to implementing the Interpretive Master Plan. I strongly support the allocation of funds to implement this project.

Sincerely,

Iris H. W. Engstrand  
Professor of History

Cc: Charlotte Cagan Executive Director, San Diego History Center

October 4, 2014

San Diego River Conservancy  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
C/o Mr. Kevin McKernan  
Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Members of the San Diego River Conservancy and the California State Coastal Conservancy,

As a member of the Advisory Committee for the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan, I would like to urge your support for the application of the San Diego History Center's request for funding to help implement Phase 1 of this master plan project.

As their application notes, the History Center and the Museum wish to emphasize to Museum visitors the importance of the ecological and human history of the San Diego River to our region. I know from forty years of endeavoring to increase public understanding of this history that our namesake river, inconspicuous as it normally is, is an easy natural feature to overlook. To assist with public awareness of the natural functions of the San Diego River, I prepared an article on the history of flooding and flood control measures on the river that appeared in the summer 2011 edition of *The Journal of San Diego History*. This program of the History Center will help even more to advance these goals.

Funding from the Conservancy to assist in the preparation of the exhibits described in the application will do much to promote greater public engagement in understanding, appreciating, and protecting the San Diego River, which is often affectionately called "the birthplace of California".

This is both a worthwhile project, and indeed a needed one, and your support for this Phase 1 Project of the History Center would be of significant, and much appreciated, benefit to the San Diego community.

Sincerely,



Philip R. Pryde, PhD  
Member, Advisory Committee for the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan  
Member, Board of Directors of the San Diego River Park Foundation



**TONI ATKINS**  
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

October 7, 2014

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Phase 1 of the *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan*

Dear Chairman Bosco and Members of the Coastal Conservancy,

I write in strong support for the application submitted by the San Diego History Center for funding to implement Phase 1 of the *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan*.

In 2010 the San Diego History Center and the San Diego River Conservancy began a dialogue on how the Junipero Serra Museum might serve as a key interpretation point to study over time the ecological and human history of the San Diego River. The proposed exhibits would in turn refresh and modernize the Serra Museum and its interpretive approaches, while drawing significant public attention to the historic and cultural importance of the San Diego River and the Presidio, and to the stewardship and conservation efforts that are ongoing today.

As a result of those conversations, the *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan* was released in 2013 and resulted in an exciting collaboration between the San Diego History Center, the San Diego River Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy.

The Phase 1 project would create two new primary exhibits at the Serra Museum that will educate the public on the role the river has played in the establishment of the region and the founding of Presidio Park, site of the Royal Presidio of San Diego. Phase 1 fulfills the adopted missions of the San Diego River Conservancy and the San Diego History Center in that it implements the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan and is consistent with the Conservancy's strategic plan goal of protecting and preserving cultural and historical resources.

The project is also consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy's Strategic Plan to expand environmental education efforts to improve public understanding, use and stewardship of coastal resources (Goal 9). The proposed project is also consistent with the California Water Action Plan to "Make Conservation a California Way of Life." (Action #1)

This Phase 1 Project is the next logical step to implementing the Interpretive Master Plan. I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to support the allocation of funds to implement this exciting project.

Warmly,



TONI G. ATKINS  
Speaker of the Assembly  
78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

cc: Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy  
Charlotte Cagan, Executive Director, San Diego History Center

SUSAN A. DAVIS  
53RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1526 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2040

SAN DIEGO OFFICE:  
2700 ADAMS AVENUE, SUITE 102  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92116  
(619) 280-5353

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0553

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
MILITARY PERSONNEL, RANKING MEMBER  
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES  
EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

October 7, 2014

Charlotte Cagan  
Executive Director  
San Diego History Center  
Junípero Serra Museum  
2727 Presidio Drive  
San Diego, CA 92103

Dear Ms. Cagan,

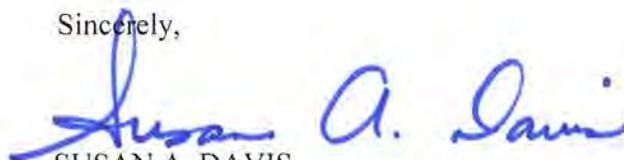
I am pleased to lend my support to the San Diego History Center's application for funding from the San Diego River Conservancy & California State Coastal Conservancy to implement the Phase I Project of the Junípero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan.

In 2010 the San Diego History Center and the San Diego River Conservancy began a dialogue on how the Junípero Serra Museum might serve as a key interpretation point to study the ecological and human history of the San Diego River over time. The proposed exhibits would in turn refresh and modernize the Serra Museum and its interpretive approaches, while drawing more public attention to the historic and cultural importance of the San Diego River and the Presidio site and to the stewardship and conservation efforts ongoing today. As a result the Junípero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan was produced in 2013 and is the product of collaboration between the San Diego History Center, the San Diego River Conservancy and the California State Coastal Conservancy.

The funds from the San Diego River Conservancy & California State Coastal Conservancy will be used to implement the Phase I project of the Junípero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan. This project creates two new primary exhibits at the Serra Museum that will educate the public on the role the river has played in the establishment of the region and the founding of Presidio Park, site of the Royal Presidio of San Diego

As the representative of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Congressional district of California, which includes the Junípero Serra Museum, I appreciate the work of the San Diego History Center to continue its efforts to provide engaging cultural and historical content to the region's residents and visitors. Thank you for the opportunity to lend my support to your grant application. I hope your application will be given the fullest consideration.

Sincerely,



SUSAN A. DAVIS  
Member of Congress



## DAVE ROBERTS

SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*Serving the  
communities  
of ...*

*4S Ranch  
Cardiff-by-the-Sea  
Carmel  
Mountain  
Carmel Valley  
Del Dios  
Del Mar  
Del Mar Heights  
Del Mar Mesa  
Encinitas  
Escondido  
Leucadia  
Mira Mesa  
Olivenhain  
Rancho  
Bernardo  
Rancho  
Peñasquitos  
Sabre Springs  
San Pasqual  
Scripps Ranch  
Solana Beach  
Terrasanta  
Torrey Hills  
Torrey Pines  
University City*

October 6, 2014

San Diego River Conservancy  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
C/o Mr. Kevin McKernan  
Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Members of the San Diego River Conservancy & California State Coastal  
Conservancy,

I am writing to support the application of the San Diego History Center for funding  
to implement the Phase 1 Project of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master  
Plan.

In 2010 the San Diego History Center and the San Diego River Conservancy began  
a dialogue on how the Junipero Serra Museum might serve as a key interpretation  
point to study the ecological and human history of the San Diego River over time.  
The proposed exhibits would in turn refresh and modernize the Serra and its  
interpretive approaches, while drawing more public attention to the historic and  
cultural importance of the San Diego River and the Presidio site, and to the  
stewardship and conservation efforts ongoing today.

As a result the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan was produced in  
2013 and is the result of collaboration between the San Diego History Center, the  
San Diego River Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy.

This Phase 1 project creates two new primary exhibits at the Serra Museum that  
will educate the public on the role the river has played in the establishment of the  
region and the founding of Presidio Park, site of the Royal Presidio of San Diego.  
Phase 1 fulfills the missions of the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) and the  
San Diego History Center (SDHC) and is:

- Consistent with and a direct implementation of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan.
- Consistent with SDRC's strategic plan element PROGRAM 3B: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES.

County Administration Center • 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335 • San Diego, CA 92101-2470  
(619) 531-5533 • Toll Free (800) 852-7334  
Email: [dave.roberts@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dave.roberts@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
[www.SupervisorDaveRoberts.com](http://www.SupervisorDaveRoberts.com)

 Printed on recycled paper



## DAVE ROBERTS

SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*Serving the  
communities  
of ...*

*4S Ranch*

*Cardiff-by-the-Sea*

*Carmel  
Mountain*

*Carmel Valley*

*Del Dios*

*Del Mar*

*Del Mar Heights*

*Del Mar Mesa*

*Encinitas*

*Escondido*

*Leucadia*

*Mira Mesa*

*Olivenhain*

*Rancho  
Bernardo*

*Rancho  
Peñasquitos*

*Sabre Springs*

*San Pasqual*

*Scripps Ranch*

*Solana Beach*

*Tierrasanta*

*Torrey Hills*

*Torrey Pines*

*University City*

- Consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan – Goal 9 Expand environmental education efforts to improve public understanding, use and stewardship of coastal resources.
- Consistent with the California Water Action Plan – Action #1 Make Conservation a California Way of Life

This Phase 1 Project is the next logical step to implementing the Interpretive Master Plan. I strongly support the allocation of funds to implement this project.

Sincerely,

DAVE ROBERTS  
Supervisor, Third District  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

DR/dp

California State Coastal Conservancy  
San Diego River Conservancy  
C/o Kevin McKernan, Executive Director  
1350 Front St. Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Oct. 9, 2014

**Re: *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan (2013)***

Esteemed Members,

Prior to retiring last July, I was a state archaeologist based at the California State Park in Old Town. As part of my job, I participated in all the phases of preparation for the Serra Museum's 2013 *Interpretive Master Plan*. We parks staff knew that the Serra Museum's success in conveying the message of the historic use of water would be a success for the state park mission as well. The multi-disciplinary team that wrote the plan was much more wide-reaching than we as a state parks district could gather, and we were honored at the time to participate in the process.

At this juncture, the grant request for Phase I funding is before you. It is of a remarkable structure in that it includes the Coastal Conservancy, the San Diego River Conservancy, the San Diego History Center, California State Parks, several California Indian tribal representatives, local archaeologists and historians, and others in an attempt to show residents their future in a drought-stricken region. A clear understanding of the past use of San Diego and Tijuana's water is the platform on which intelligent future planning should be based. Cognizance of times past (in which Colorado River water was not available) is good preparation for similar times in the not-so-distant future.

Regarding the Phase I exhibitry plans, it is true that a picture is worth a thousand words. To the typical San Diego/Tijuana resident, access to photo exhibits showing the San Diego River in flood and drought would free them to envision a similar future. It would guide them in preparing for upcoming, region-wide election issues involving desalinization plants, international border water rights, and the necessity of water conservation. It is also true that historical material objects, like adobe tiles from the San Diego Mission dam and flume (a mission that never had economic success due to the lack of water) would provide lessons about how poorly San Diegans through all time have understood water use. The Phase I grant proposal describes how much-needed photos and artifacts have a useful place in preparing an educated populace.

As an archaeologist who has worked both here and in Baja California for almost 45 years, I must say that this opportunity to redesign exhibits for the Serra Museum as part of a chain of river-based museums is not to be missed. I would like to thank the members who had the foresight to fund the master plan itself, and hope that you will give the Phase I request the same positive consideration.

Sincerely,



Therese Adams Muranaka, Ph.D., RPA

Associate State Archaeologist, California State Parks, Retired  
3205 31<sup>st</sup> St.  
San Diego, CA 92104

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4090  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4039  
FAX (916) 651-4939

DISTRICT OFFICE  
701 B STREET, SUITE 1840  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
TEL (619) 645-3133  
FAX (619) 645-3144

WEBSITE  
HTTP://SD39.SENATE.CA.GOV

# California Legislature



**MARTY BLOCK**  
SENATOR, THIRTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
CHAIR, BUDGET & FISCAL  
REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE  
#1 ON EDUCATION  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
& RETIREMENT  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

October 8, 2014

Mr. Kevin McKernan  
Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Members of the San Diego River Conservancy & California State Coastal Conservancy,

I am writing to support the application of the San Diego History Center for funding to implement the Phase I Project of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan. As the State Senator who represents this project area, I know the value that the San Diego History Center contributes to our region and its vital role in preserving our history. Not only will this plan showcase conservation efforts, but also expand the curriculum available for students at the history center.

It is my understanding that, in 2010, the San Diego History Center and the San Diego River Conservancy began a dialogue on how the Serra Museum might serve as a key interpretation point to study the human history of the San Diego River over time. The proposed exhibits would refresh and modernize the museum and its interpretive approaches, while drawing more public attention to the historic and cultural importance of the area and the stewardship and conservation efforts ongoing today. As a result the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan was produced in 2013 and is the result of collaboration between the San Diego History Center, the San Diego River Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy.

This Phase I project creates two new primary exhibits at the Serra Museum that will educate the public on the role the river has played in the establishment of the region and the founding of Presidio Park, site of the Royal Presidio of San Diego. Phase I fulfills the missions of the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) and the San Diego History Center (SDHC) and is:

- Consistent with and a goal direct of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan.
- Consistent with SDRC's strategic plan element *program 3b: protect and preserve cultural and historical resources*.
- Consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan – Goal 9 *Expand environmental education efforts to improve public understanding, use and stewardship of coastal resources*.
- Consistent with the California Water Action Plan – Action #1 *Make Conservation a California Way of Life*

The San Diego History Center is an innovative museum and educational center that benefits students, conservation efforts, and the community of San Diego. I strongly endorse their application to the San Diego River Conservancy Grant Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marty Block".

**MARTY BLOCK**  
State Senator, 39<sup>th</sup> District

Cc: Charlotte Cagan Executive Director, San Diego History Center



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

San Diego Coast District  
4477 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92110  
619-688-3260

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director

October 10, 2014

California State Coastal Conservancy  
C/o Mr. Kevin McKernan  
Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Phase 1 Project of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan

California State Parks (CSP) supports the application of the San Diego History Center for funding to implement the Phase 1 Project of the *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan*. CSP owns and manages adjacent Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and recognizes the significance of the San Diego River to the cultural history of the region and the development of Old Town and the Presidio. Interpretation of the San Diego River is underrepresented in regard to the cultural history of Old Town, San Diego, and California as a whole. The proposed exhibits would refresh and modernize the Serra Museum and its interpretive approaches, while drawing more public attention to the historic and cultural importance of the San Diego River and the Presidio site and to the ongoing stewardship and conservation efforts. This project will produce exhibits that tell the story of San Diego through the history of the San Diego River. CSP strongly supports the allocation of funds to implement this project.

If you have any questions concerning how State Parks can further support this project, please contact Nicole Turner, San Diego Coast District Archaeologist at (619) 933-9013.

Nicole Turner  
San Diego Coast District Archaeologist  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
4477 Pacific HWY  
San Diego, CA 92110  
619-933-9013  
[Nicole.Turner@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Nicole.Turner@parks.ca.gov)

Cc: Charlotte Cagen Executive Director, San Diego History Center  
Bill Lawrence, Vice-President Board of Trustees, San Diego History Center



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

October 9, 2014

San Diego River Conservancy  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
C/o Mr. Kevin McKernan  
Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Members of the San Diego River Conservancy & California State Coastal Conservancy,

As the Assistant Director of the Park and Recreation Department, I am writing to support the application of the San Diego History Center for funding to implement the Phase 1 Project of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan.

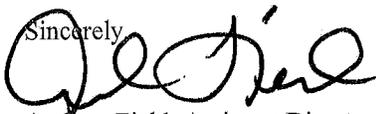
In 2010 the San Diego History Center and the San Diego River Conservancy began a dialogue on how the Junipero Serra Museum might serve as a key interpretation point to study the ecological and human history of the San Diego River over time. The proposed exhibits would in turn refresh and modernize the Serra and its interpretive approaches, while drawing more public attention to the historic and cultural importance of the San Diego River and the Presidio site, and to the stewardship and conservation efforts ongoing today.

As a result the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan was produced in 2013 and is the result of collaboration between the San Diego History Center, the San Diego River Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy.

This Phase 1 project creates two new primary exhibits at the Serra Museum that will educate the public on the role the river has played in the establishment of the region and the founding of Presidio Park, site of the Royal Presidio of San Diego. Phase 1 fulfills the missions of the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) and the San Diego History Center (SDHC) and is:

- Consistent with and a direct implementation of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan.
- Consistent with SDRC's strategic plan element *PROGRAM 3B: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES*.
- Consistent with the State Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan – Goal 9 *Expand environmental education efforts to improve public understanding, use and stewardship of coastal resources*.
- Consistent with the California Water Action Plan – Action #1 *Make Conservation a California Way of Life*

This Phase 1 Project is the next logical step to implementing the Interpretive Master Plan. I strongly support the allocation of funds to implement this project.

Sincerely,  


Andrew Field, Assistant Director  
Park and Recreation Department

**Administrative Services Division • Park and Recreation**

202 C Street, MS 37C • San Diego, CA 92101

Tel (619) 525-8213 Fax (619) 525-8220

[www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)

*"We enrich lives through quality parks and programs"*



San Diego River Conservancy  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
C/o Mr. Kevin McKernan  
Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Members of the San Diego River Conservancy & California State Coastal Conservancy,

As a member on the planning committee, I am writing to support the application of the San Diego History Center for funding to implement the Phase 1 Project of the *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan*.

I began a dialogue in 2010 with other members of the planning committee to figure out ways the Junipero Serra Museum could be used as a focal point to examine the relationship with the San Diego River and it's historical impact on San Diego's ecology. It is important we modernize the Serra Museum and create a dialogue for San Diegans and others to understand the historical significance of the Presidio Site and San Diego River.

As a member of the Barona Band of Mission Indians and graduate of USD, I understand the importance of such a project and feel projects such as these are long overdue. San Diegans are better versed and educated on histories on the periphery and know very little about their own back yard. There is very little taught in schools and written in books about San Diego's first people and even less about our ecology. A revitalized Serra Museum will spark the imagination of the public and create a dialogue that will lead to a rediscovery of our past.

The collaboration between the San Diego Historical Center, the San Diego River Conservancy, and the State Coastal Conservancy resulted in the *Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan*. It is important that follow the recommendations of this master plan and implement Phase 1 Project. I wholeheartedly support the allocation of funds to begin this project.

Sincerely,  
Ethan Banegas

Cc: Charlotte Cagan Executive Director, San Diego History Center

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0552

October 6, 2014

Mr. Kevin McKernan  
Executive Director  
San Diego River Conservancy  
1350 Front Street Suite 3024  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. McKernan,

I am writing in support of the San Diego History Center in their application for funding through the San Diego River Conservancy for the Phase 1 Project of the Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan. The proposal will establish two new primary exhibits at the Serra Museum that will educate the public on the role the river has played in the establishment of the region and the founding of Presidio Park.

Located near my district, the San Diego History Center (SDHC) is a San Diego-based civic institution that fosters an informed citizenry of 200,000 visitors with a greater understanding of our shared heritage through educational programs, exhibitions, and collections. In recent years, they have completed an interpretive master plan for the Junipero Serra Museum through a grant by the California State Coastal Conservancy. SDHC's grant application is an efficient approach to illustrating the relationship between the cultural history of the San Diego River and its role in the founding of the city and county of San Diego. Because the content will provide a historical context for issues that continue to be debated today, this application will have broad implications across our communities. For over 80 years, the San Diego History Center has played a key role in San Diego and this proposal will only extend their mission of preserving our history and fostering civic pride.

I hope that you give serious consideration to this application. Thank you for your attention to this matter. For any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Avril E. Prakash, at (858) 455-5550.

Sincerely,



SCOTT PETERS  
Member of Congress  
US House of Representatives  
California, 52<sup>nd</sup> District

**Meeting of November 13, 2014**

ITEM: 7

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:

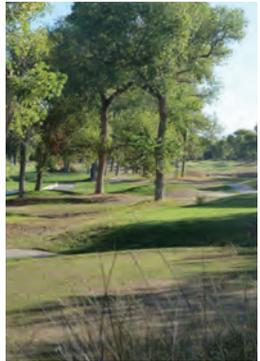
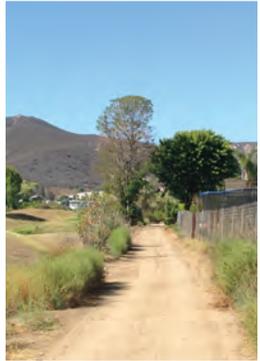
- Invasive Species Removal 2014/15 Season Review
- San Diego River Trail status
- Willow Road Mitigation Bank update

News Articles:

1. **SD River Conservancy Improving Sycamore Creek**, September 17, 2014, Santee Review/City of Santee blog
2. **Mission Valley Golf Course to be Replaced with Condos**, September 18, 2018, Steven Luck, NBC 7 San Diego
3. **Former CalTrans Office Transfer to State Parks - Demolition & Immediate Public Use Facilities**, October 1, 2014, California Department of Parks and Recreation website.

**Notice of Preparation for Immediate Public Use of the Former Caltrans District Office Complex** (Old Town San Diego), Luke Serna, Environmental Coordinator, DPR-San Diego.

4. **Crushed seashells + limestone + Kumeyaay "laborers" = the Mission Dam: Get a close up view of rugged Mission Gorge and a national historic landmark**, October 1, 2014, The Canyoneers, San Diego Reader.
5. **New trail coming to Santee in 2015**, October 7, 2014, Karen Pearlman, San Diego Union Tribune.
6. **New Plan for U-T Property**, October 10, 2014, Jeremy Ogul, Mission Valley News.
7. **Water purification system for Padre Dam (Water) district**, October 13, 2014, Kelly Hessedal, San Diego CBS 8.
8. **Grantville plan could be SD's future**, October 13, 2014, David Garrick, San Diego Union Tribune.
9. **Must-see Mast Park: Enough open space in Santee to forget about busy city life**, October 22, 2014, The Canyoneers, San Diego Reader.



## San Diego River Trail Carlton Oaks Golf Course Segment Public Workshop

### YOU ARE INVITED . . .

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) invites you to a community workshop on a proposed new section of the San Diego River Trail. Attend the meeting to hear plans for the project and provide input on the trail design and features you would like to see.

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 6, 2014 from 6-8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Mission Trails Regional Park Visitors Center  
1 Father Junipero Serra Trail

### About the Carlton Oaks Golf Course Segment

The Carlton Oaks Golf Course segment is a proposed addition to the San Diego River Trail, a regional bikeway that eventually will extend from the Pacific Ocean through Santee. This new section of the trail will extend from the West Hills Parkway and pass through the golf course to connect with exiting trails in Mast Park West.

SANDAG is working with the San Diego River Conservancy and the cities of San Diego and Santee to complete the San Diego River Trail. Your feedback on the proposed project will help ensure it serves the needs of San Diego and Santee residents, and San Diego River Trail users from around the region.

#### For more information

Contact Project Manager Stephan Vance at (619) 699-1924  
or [stephan.vance@sandag.org](mailto:stephan.vance@sandag.org)

#### Si desea obtener información en español

por favor comuníquese con Paula Zamudio at (619) 595-5610  
o [paula.zamudio@sandag.org](mailto:paula.zamudio@sandag.org)

Supported in part by the California Coastal Conservancy.

# Santee Review

<http://cityofsantee.blogspot.com/2014/09/sd-river-conservancy-improving-sycamore.html>

Posted by Santee at [9/17/2014 03:26:00 PM](#)

## SD River Conservancy Improving Sycamore Creek

A waterway clogged with the wrong type of non-native vegetation is a recipe for flooding, elevated risk for wildfire and diminished habitat value for wildlife.

That's why the San Diego River Conservancy is spending \$208,000 over the next few months to remove invasive plants from Sycamore Creek in the city of Santee.

The project, which started this week, requires heavy labor to remove the unwanted vegetation from several hundred feet of the creek bordering the Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve.

"One of the main reasons we're doing it is for flood alleviation," said Conservancy Executive Officer Kevin McKernan.

Flooding triggered by record rainfall in the winter of 2010-11 overwhelmed a sewage station next to the creek, resulting in a spill of contaminated water into the San Diego River, he noted.

This April, a wildfire that began in the riverbed at Mast Park West was fueled in part by dense stands of non-native plants, including a bamboo-like plant called arundo donax, also known as giant reed.

This week, a small army of workers has been using chain saws and hand tools to remove the unwanted vegetation, including arundo, castor bean plants, pepper trees, and more than 90 mature non-native palm trees. Oceanside-based ACS Habitat is doing the work.





“We’ve notified homeowners whose back yards border Sycamore Creek of our activities, and so far we’ve had positive responses from many,” McKernan reported.

A second phase of the project to clear a portion of the creek north of Mast Boulevard is planned for the future.

The project calls for follow-up abatement actions over the next two to three years involving cutting and spraying the previously cut sites to ensure the invasive plants don’t return.



# Mission Valley Golf Course to be Replaced With Condos

By [Steven Luke](#) Thursday, Sep 18, 2014 • Updated at 6:43 PM PDT

The Riverwalk Golf Club in Mission Valley will be replaced with condominiums as early as 2018, according to early plans submitted to the city.

The golf course falls on private land and the developer, Related California, plans to turn the 200-acre parcel into an urban village with most of the construction focusing on residential use.

The Mission Valley Planning Group has yet to take an official stance on the project, but voted unanimously to move the process along, showing cautious optimism in the project's early stages.

The project excites some city leaders because it would include space along the San Diego River for a trail. This falls in line with the larger vision of a continuous river front trail stretching from the mountains to the coast.

While city insiders say the Riverwalk Golf Club has never been part of the long term vision for Mission Valley, local residents who heard about the project are concerned about traffic impacts.

“It’s definitely upsetting just because of the traffic flow already. It just creates a lot more traffic and being a golfer myself, and like that course, it’s kind of hard for me to support,” said Nick Herbrig.

Mission Valley is also prone to flooding during heavy rains. “I wouldn’t live there because of the flooding” said Cathy Roys. “I’ve seen it all my life. It will always flood and it’s crazy. It’s very disruptive. I just think less is more.”

The project could take as many as 20 years to complete and could include a portion of the golf course.

The San Diego City Planning Department estimates it would take at least two years for the environmental impact reports and public forums to be completed before construction begins.



## **Former CalTrans Office Transfer to State Parks - Demolition & Immediate Public Use Facilities**

**UPDATE October 1, 2014:**

### **Notice of Public Meeting to receive input**

Tuesday, October 21, 2014  
6:30pm to 8:00pm  
Caltrans District 11 Office Complex  
Garcia Auditorium  
4050 Taylor St.  
San Diego, CA 92110

The public meeting shall show conceptual designs for the site's future use and provide opportunity for written and oral comments. The meeting shall also provide a brief history of the site and planning that has occurred thus far.

### **PLANNING AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) has completed preliminary planning and design for the proposed project and would like your input in regards to the alternatives that have been prepared. Your input shall assist in determining how the project is implemented. CDPR is interested in your opinions regarding the proposed alternatives as well as support of any of the alternatives that shall be presented. The project shall meet the definition of a Historic Unit (PRC 5019.59), while providing Immediate Public Use (IPU). IPU shall provide for interpretation, circulation, landscaping and parking to allow for immediate visitor use.

As required by CEQA, a range of alternatives have been prepared that "feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project..."

CDPR is currently considering a Preferred Alternative that will result in the demolition of a potentially eligible National/California Register resource. As a result of this decision, CDPR is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which proposes an alternative(s) to reduce impact to this potentially eligible historic resource.

CDPR is striving to meet the goal of providing public access as well as restoring the historical landscape of the site to be compatible with the National Register District. Removal of the Complex would meet the OTSDSHP General Plan's goals to remove non-compatible modern era

structures and re-create the nineteenth century landscape. Removal of the Complex would also provide an unimpeded view and improved entrance into OTSDHP from Taylor Street

Primary scope elements of the project include:

1. Abatement and removal of hazardous materials from the Complex and disposal of materials in an appropriate manner. Asbestos and lead paint are the primary hazardous materials.
2. Demolition of the office complex totaling 115,735 square feet and associated site improvements. The connected buildings making up the complex were built in three phases from 1951 to 1964. This effort may include footings, foundations and basement as well as site features such as the courtyard and parking areas.
3. Completion of archeological investigations to identify and mitigate any impacts to potential subsurface cultural and historical resources. This will allow for resource preservation and interpretation of historically significant cultural resources.
4. Construction of IPU facilities to allow for public use of the site.

The project will incorporate sustainable technology and materials such as permeable parking surfaces to allow water percolation and drought tolerant plants. Plantings will be reflective of the historic vegetation that once occupied this early settlement and riverfront location during the historic period.

The project APE is adjacent to the Old Town San Diego National Register of Historic Places District within OTSDSHP. The site has the potential for subsurface archaeological resources and is a culturally sensitive property.

## **FUTURE PUBLIC REVIEW**

Future opportunity for public review shall occur with the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report, anticipated for release in December 2014

## **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

Questions or comments may be e-mailed or addressed to the environmental coordinator found in the right-hand margin

**State Parks and Department of Transportation (CalTrans) are working towards proposed transfer of property. This below information is subject to change, and public meetings will be held for further input. When property is transferred, there will be a period of time for allocation of funds, planning, and reviews for the below project. There is no estimated timeframe.**

["State park looks to grow" - News Article](#)

## **SUMMARY**

This project will abate, demolish and remove the former Caltrans office buildings located at the southwest corner of Juan and Taylor Streets, adjacent to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Also, part of this project is to construct an immediate

public use (IPU) area which will require preliminary archeological investigations, resource protection and site work to establish a parking area, pedestrian circulation, basic landscape and minor interpretive elements.

## **BACKGROUND**

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (SHP) is located in San Diego California, bounded by Wallace, Juan, Congress and Twiggs Streets. The project site which is the former Caltrans office buildings is located at the southwest corner of Juan and Taylor Streets, immediately adjacent to Old Town San Diego SHP.

The Caltrans office buildings are two-story structures with a penthouse level, a basement area, and a small walled-in parking area and courtyard. The buildings were constructed from 1961 through 1963, and sit on an approximately 2.4 acre site. Being built in the 1950's and early 1960's, the buildings are known to contain hazardous materials ranging from asbestos to lead paint. These contaminated materials will need to be abated, removed and transported to designated and approved dumpsites.

Old Town San Diego SHP is located at the site of the first Spanish Colonial settlement in Alta California, and interprets the initial civilian settlement that evolved from those pioneering institutions into today's modern City of San Diego. The Park focuses its interpretive era on the period of 1820 to 1872 when the small community was the center of regional activity and development. This is accomplished through preserved original structures and sites, and historically significant reconstructed sites, buildings, and landscapes, along with early twentieth century buildings designed in historic character and a variety of interpretive programs.

## **PROPOSED WORK**

This project will abate, demolish and remove the former Caltrans office buildings located at the southwest corner of Juan and Taylor Streets in Old Town San Diego SHP. The project also will construct immediate public use (IPU) facilities on the site to allow visitor access to and use of the site. In particular, the project will:

- Abate and remove hazardous materials from the former Caltrans office buildings and dispose of materials in appropriate manner. This is a significant effort due to the era in which the buildings were constructed. Asbestos and lead paint are the primary hazardous materials issues.
- Demolish the buildings totaling approximately 116,000 square feet and associated site improvements. This effort includes footing, foundations and basement as well as site features such as courtyard and parking area.
- Construct immediate public use (IPU) facilities to allow public use and access to the site. Visitor serving elements in this project will be a much needed parking area, basic landscaping and interpretive components, along with an enhanced pedestrian circulation system.

Due to the cultural sensitivity of the site, the project includes necessary archeological investigations to identify and minimize and mitigate any impacts to existing subsurface cultural resources. This will allow for enhanced resource preservation and interpretation of historically significant cultural resources.

The project will incorporate sustainable technology and materials such as permeable parking surface materials to allow run-off percolation and drought tolerant plant material, reflective of the historic vegetation that once occupied this early settlement and riverfront location.

This project will further restore the historical cultural landscape of Old Town San Diego SHP by removing the former Caltrans buildings. This will fulfill one of the park's General Plan goals to remove non-compatible modern era structures and re-create the 19th Century landscape.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

The design and construction of the IPU facilities will comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the California Building Code, as well as the Access to Parks Guidelines.



Photo 1. Northeast corner of the former Caltrans office buildings to be abated and demolished (intersection of Taylor and Juan Streets).



Photo 6. Southeast corner of the former Caltrans office buildings. Looking north up Juan Street.

**CONCEPTUAL RENDERING ONLY**  
Public Meetings will be held for further input.

State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

### **PROJECT TITLE: Immediate Public Use (IPU) of the Former Caltrans District Office Complex**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) is the Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project. A brief description of the Project, the park unit's location and a brief description of possible environmental effects are included.

Interested organizations or individuals may also respond to this notice with comments regarding the information contained within it.

Responses must be sent to the address below not later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of this notice. We would appreciate the name of a contact person in your agency.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Project would establish Immediate Public Use (IPU) of the former California Department of Transportation District 11 District Office Complex (Complex)

IPU as defined by the CDPR allows for improvements required to provide temporary public use of operational support facilities in recently acquired property and which do not constitute a permanent commitment of resources.

A Capital Outlay Budget Change Proposal (COBCP) determined that the IPU shall provide four primary elements:

1. **Parking Area** - stabilized surface to accommodate 20 to 40 spaces including accessible spaces
2. **Enhanced Pedestrian Circulation System** - stabilized accessible pathways, bollards and fencing, signage
3. **Basic Landscaping** - trees, shrubs and ground covering, and detention and/or retention bio-swale
4. **Interpretive Elements** – public gathering area with stage, displays and features, lighting, power, benches

As of November 6, 2013 the Complex is under ownership by CDPR.

By providing IPU, CDPR is striving to meet the goal of providing public access as well as restoring the historical cultural landscape of the site. Removal of the Complex would meet the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park General Plan's goals to remove non-compatible modern era structures and re-create the nineteenth century landscape.

Primary scope elements of the project include:

1. Abatement and removal of hazardous materials from the Complex and disposal of materials in an appropriate manner. Asbestos and lead paint are the primary hazardous materials.
2. Potential demolition of some or all of the buildings totaling 115,735 square feet and associated site improvements. The connected buildings were built in three phases from 1951 to 1964. This effort may include footings, foundations and basement as well as site features such as the courtyard and parking area.
3. Performance of necessary archeological investigations on the empty site to identify and mitigate any impacts to potential subsurface cultural resources. This will allow for resource preservation and interpretation of historically significant cultural resources.
4. Construction of IPU facilities to allow for public use of the site.

The project will incorporate sustainable technology and materials such as permeable parking surface materials to allow run-off percolation and drought tolerant plant material, reflective of the historic vegetation that once occupied this early settlement and riverfront location.

The project APE is within the boundaries of the Old Town San Diego National Register of Historic Places District, and subsequently has the potential for subsurface archaeological resources and is a culturally sensitive property.

The current Complex configuration evolved through three (3) different construction time frames of 1953, 1958 and 1964.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Project site is located at 2829 Juan Street within the community of Old Town in the City of San Diego and within Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (OTSDSHP). The Complex is bound to the northwest by Taylor Street, northeast by Juan St., southwest by Calhoun St. and southeast by Wallace St. The site encompasses an area of approximately 2.47 acres and contains a total of 115,735 square feet of office space.

**POSSIBLE EFFECTS AND MITIGATIONS:** Significant impact to a National Register eligible resource would occur should the demolition of the Complex take place. Mitigation for the loss of this resource would preliminarily include: recordation of the building; and preservation of the designs for its construction. The abatement and remediation of the Complex has the potential for adverse impacts to human health. These impacts shall be mitigated through appropriate techniques to encapsulate or remove hazardous materials. Potential significant impact may result based on the evaluation of subsurface materials below ground. These impacts would be mitigated through implementation of an appropriate archaeological treatment plan including monitoring of all subsurface work. Additional impacts that have the potential to occur as a result of the project shall be mitigated to a level of less-than significant. These impacts could be to aesthetics, biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, utilities and service systems. Potential cumulative impacts shall also be addressed.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:** A website shall be established to provide updates regarding progress with the Project. Public scoping shall take place with local planning groups and notification shall be provided of these meetings. C DPR shall hold a public meeting during the public review period of the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT:**

Luke Serna, Environmental Coordinator  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
2797 Truxtun Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92106

## **Crushed seashells + limestone + Kumeyaay “laborers” = the Mission Dam**

**Get a close up view of rugged Mission Gorge and a  
national historic landmark.**



Mission Trails Visitor Center with Kwaay Paay summit in the background.

By [The Canyoneers](#), [Oct. 1, 2014](#)



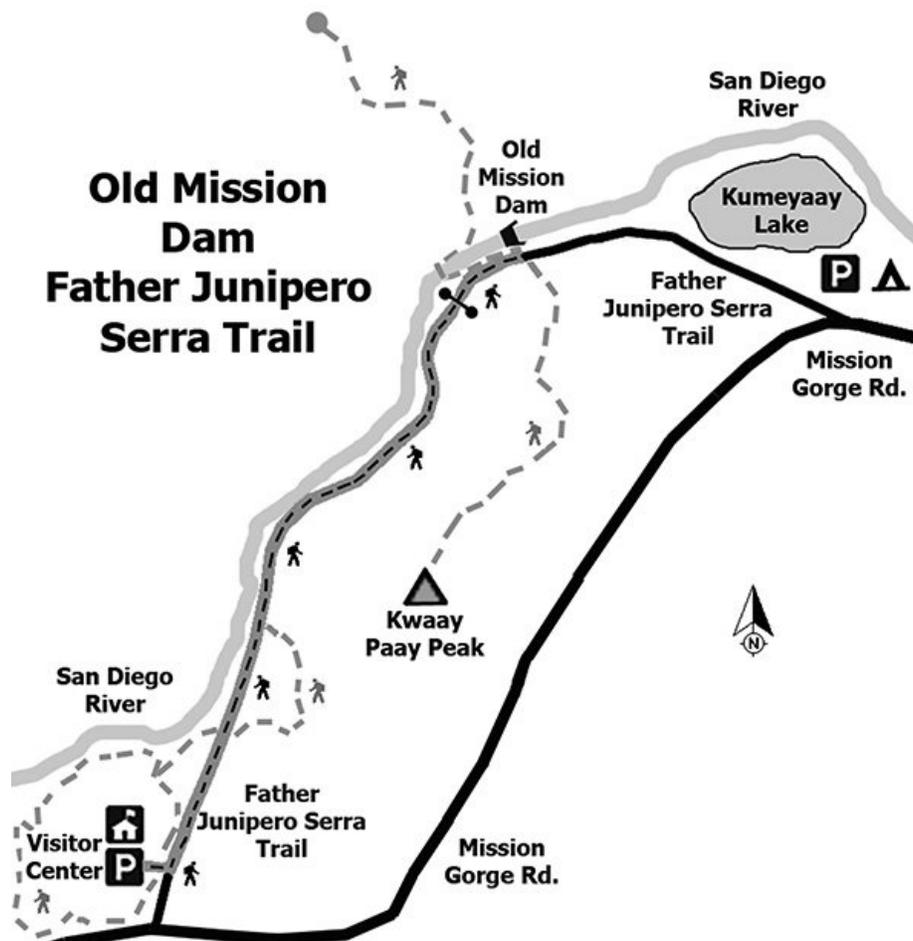
One Father Junípero Serra Trail, San Carlos Brick and rock work are visible at the dam site.

This hike goes through scenic Mission Gorge and leads to the Old Mission Dam that impounded the San Diego River to provide water for the Spanish Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The dam is a nationally registered historic landmark and is composed of large boulders and adobe bricks and tiles that have been cemented together with crushed seashells and limestone. It was an impressive engineering feat in its day, given its size and the tools they had to construct it. Construction took six years, between 1809 and 1815, and was done by Kumeyaay laborers with hand tools, working under the direction of the padres. An aqueduct was completed at the same time to carry the water six miles from the dam to the mission.

Begin the hike from the Visitor Center and head toward Father Junipero Serra Trail (FJST). Just before reaching FJST is a sign for the Visitor Center Loop Trail. This is the first possibility for extending the length of the hike by 1.4 miles to follow this loop trail down near the San Diego River and through the shade of the dense riparian growth along the river. If not interested in extending the trip here, just continue to the FJST and go left.

The right side of the FJST is a 15 mph, one-way vehicular road that parallels the San Diego River as it makes its way through Mission Gorge. One could drive their vehicle the 1.6 miles to the Old Mission Dam parking lot from the visitors' center. However, if you do, you will miss many of the sights and sounds of this remarkable rugged canyon.

The left side of the FJST is reserved for pedestrians and bicyclists. Use it as your path to the dam. Dogs on leashes are allowed on the FJST.



About a half a mile after leaving the visitors' center on the FJST, there is another opportunity to take a brief side excursion by following the trail marked "Grinding Rocks Trail" on the left. The trail leads to a place where the Kumeyaay people used grinding rocks (*morteros*) to prepare acorns for food. These pitted boulders remain as evidence of their life and long presence in this area. On the right side of the FJST, at nearly the same point where the Grinding Trail departs, is the beginning of the Climber's Trail. It is another loop trail, one mile in length, that goes several hundred feet above the FJST to the base of some huge boulders that provide one of the best rock-climbing locations in

San Diego County. Even if not interested in rock climbing, the views from this loop trail and out to the city are worth the extra effort.

Even if not taking one or more of the optional detours going up the FJST, take time to examine the diverse vegetation beside the trail. This includes typical chaparral and sage-scrub plants such as mission manzanita, black sage, California lilac, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, buckwheat, chaparral yucca, lemonade berry, and many others. A full-color guide to the “Flowering Plants of Mission Trails Regional Park” is available at the visitors’ center to help identify the many plants.

At mile 1.6 from the turnout to the visitors’ center is the parking area for the Old Mission Dam and the short trail leading to the dam. After exploring this engineering marvel, consider continuing the hike up the Oak Canyon Trail. This area was devastated by the 2003 Cedar Fire, but the willows, mule fat, oaks, cottonwoods, and sycamore trees that line the canyon have made an almost complete recovery. However, because of the drought this year, there won’t be flowing water in this canyon.

- 
- **Distance from downtown San Diego:** 12 miles. Allow 20 minutes (San Carlos). From CA-163N, merge onto I-8E, then take the Mission Gorge Road exit and go 4.3 miles northeast on Mission Gorge Road. Turn left onto Father Junipero Serra Trail at a large wooden sign for Mission Trails Regional Park. Continue a short distance, following the signs to the visitors’ center parking lot. There is no charge for parking or for day-use of Mission Trails Regional Park.
  - **Hiking length:** 5 miles out and back with numerous opportunities to expand or contract the hike.
  - **Difficulty:** Easy, 50 feet elevation gain/loss, most of which would be accessible to everyone. Facilities are available at the visitors’ center, an architecturally striking building with interesting and unusual exhibits. Carry at least a liter of drinking water.



## New trail coming to Santee in 2015

By [Karen Pearlman](#) 11:06 p.m. Oct. 7, 2014

**SANTEE** — Walkers, cyclists and equestrians will have a new 1.3-mile-long trail to traverse along the San Diego River by the end of next spring.

Construction will begin Oct. 15 on the future home of the Walker Preserve Trail, an area in Santee off-limits to the public for decades while being used for industrial sand mining.

Staff and board members from the San Diego River Conservancy will join Santee Mayor Randy Voepel, members of the Santee City Council, San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob and others at 9 a.m. Oct. 23, to mark the opening of construction of the trail, a project in the city's plans since 1984.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the future trailhead, just east of Magnolia Avenue and immediately east of the RCP Block & Brick plant at 9831 N. Magnolia Ave.

The area that will be upgraded has been off-limits to the public for decades while it was being used for industrial sand mining. The project is planned to be finished in spring 2015.

When completed, the 1.3-mile-long trail will provide permanent public access to 107 acres of open space along the San Diego River, stretching from Magnolia to the city's eastern boundary near the Lakeside Baseball Park at Marathon Parkway.

The Walker Preserve trail is a crucial segment of a 52-mile-long river park and trail system that the River Conservancy and other groups have been working on for years that will go from the Cuyamaca Mountains to Ocean Beach.

The trail will consist of a 14-foot-wide decomposed granite surface bordered by lodge pole fencing. Amenities will include nature interpretive signs, information kiosks, a shade shelter, picnic tables, benches, a drinking fountain, a mister and a bicycle repair station.

The project represents a \$4.5 million investment of public funds. Santee is expected to spend nearly \$2 million of local park funds for construction of the trail. To help offset that cost, the city obtained a \$247,803 grant from the state Department of Parks and Recreation under its Recreation Trails Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Walker property includes land on both sides of the river, and was purchased for its appraised market value of \$2.14 million in fall 2012. The purchase was funded by grants from the State Wildlife Conservation Board and the state Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## New plan for U-T property

Posted: Friday, October 10, 2014 8:05 am

Jeremy Ogul | Editor



avrp  
studios  
Multi-Use Projects

UNION TRIBUNE - RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS  
CONCEPTUAL SCHEME  
ICM 1314

728 1st Street, Suite 100 San Diego, California 92101 P 619.724.8750 F 619.724.8499 www.dorjapost.com

VIEW LOOKING SOUTH-WEST FROM SAN DIEGO RIVER

PROGRESS DRAWINGS  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

Courtesy Perry Dealy

Rendering of the project looking southwest from the San Diego River.

U-T San Diego Publisher “Papa” Doug Manchester is moving forward with plans to build a luxury multi-family housing development on the U-T property in Mission Valley, but earlier plans to include an office tower have been scrapped.

The current plan is to build a mid-rise residential building with 200 units on the northern portion of what is now a parking lot facing the San Diego River, said Perry Dealy, Manchester Financial

Group's consulting development manager, at the Oct. 1 meeting of the Mission Valley Planning Group.

Manchester's plans to redevelop the 12.9-acre site were first announced in 2012. The original proposal, described in a U-T San Diego article, included a 22-story tower with 198 residential units, a 10-story office building with 234,415 square feet of space, a parking garage and a lighthouse structure, for a total cost of \$200 million.

Manchester decided to scrap plans for an office tower because more than a year of pre-leasing yielded little interest in commercial office space, Dealy said.

With the office tower and associated parking structure off the table, architect Doug Austin of AVR Studio expanded the footprint and reduced the height of the residential building while maintaining the same residential density. The residential building in the current plan steps down from seven stories on the south end to two stories on the north end. Residential parking is included on the first two levels of the building.

In addition to better fitting with the scale of the surrounding area, the removal of the project's office tower component reduced the traffic impact by 75 to 80 percent, because office projects generate much more traffic than residential buildings, especially at peak hours, Dealy said.

The project now includes 1,008 parking spaces, which is 24 more than the city requires, Austin said.

The current plan still includes a 0.8-acre public park along the river. The park, which has already been approved by the board of the San Diego River Conservancy and the city's Park and Recreation Board, includes walking trails, bike racks, artwork, amenities for dogs and space for concessions. Dealy said he believes it will be the first park to be permitted along the river since the city amended the zoning laws in Mission Valley to reflect the San Diego River Park Master Plan.

The city's Development Services Department must now review the project application. It will eventually return to the Mission Valley Planning Group for review of the design and a recommendation to the Planning Commission.

The U-T project is just one of many that have been proposed lately in that part Mission Valley. Just west of the U-T project, Atlas Hotels, Inc. has entered a joint venture with Lowe Enterprises and AECOM Capital to redevelop the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center. East of the U-T on Camino de la Reina across state Route 163, the Dinerstein Cos. has proposed a multi-family residential project on the site of a car and boat dealership.

# Water purification system for Padre Dam district

Posted: Oct 13, 2014 1:59 PM PST Updated: Oct 13, 2014 1:59 PM PST

By Kelly Hessedal, Reporter



SAN DIEGO (CBS 8) - A groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday at the site of a state of the art water purification project at [Padre Dam](#).

At a time when we're looking for new water sources and when the drought has really magnified the need for them, this is a prime example.

The test model costs \$3 million, which is all grant money. What it will do is take recycled water through a very high-tech purification process to remove anything harmful. The water will actually be more pure and clean than a lot of what we see coming out of our faucets today.

Right now, our water comes from the Colorado River and the Delta. This treatment plant would provide a local water source for East County.

In its sample mode, it has the ability to produce 100,000 gallons of purified water a day. In its full capacity it could produce 3 million gallons.

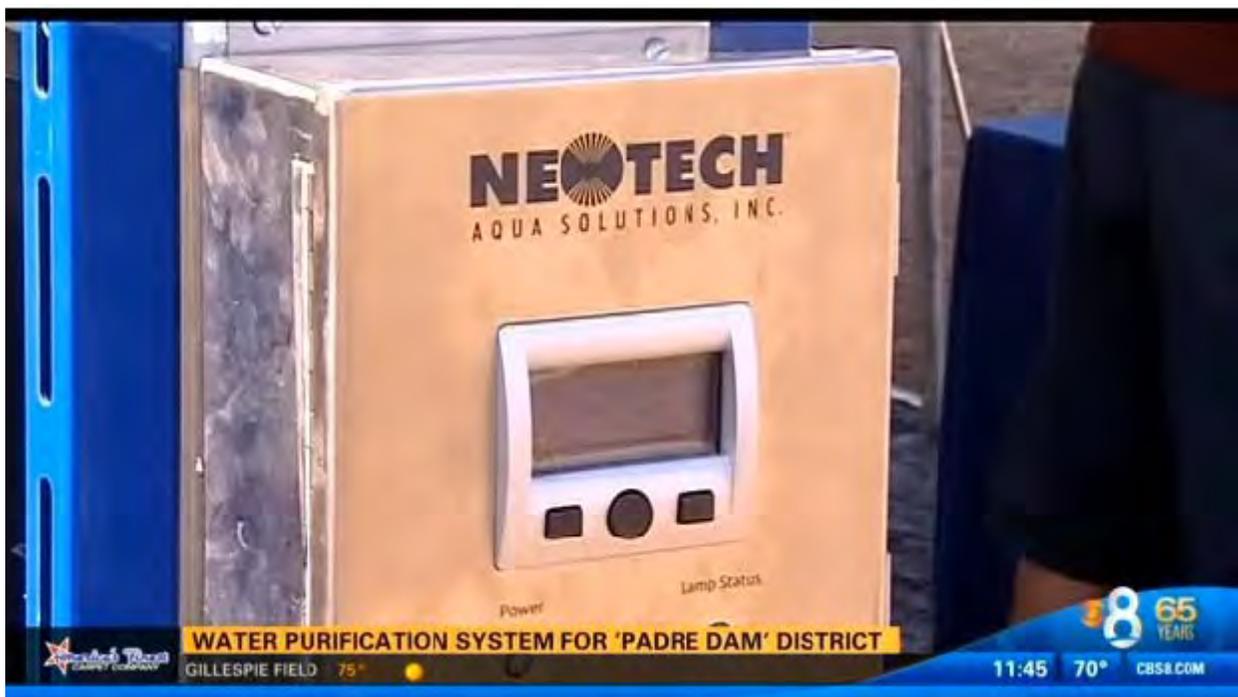
"Orange County has already figured this out," Allen Carlisle of Padre Dam said.

Carlisle says they produce 70 million gallons a day of highly treated, recycled water.

"We want to emulate that here," he said.

The testing mode will continue for a year. If all goes well and things move forward, the water will be injected into the Santee Groundwater Basin, where it would be filtered, withdrawn and treated again before being used as drinking water.

Officials are hopeful that if things go as planned, that could start happening by 2019.



# Grantville plan could be SD's future

Dense housing proposal for aging area is model city wants for development

By [David Garrick](#) 6 a.m. Oct. 13, 2014



site: Grantville Trolley Station — *Union-Tribune*

GRANTVILLE — Grantville, an aging industrial area sandwiched between Mission Valley and San Diego State, would become more like Little Italy and other neighborhoods that have multi-story condominiums and apartments under a new city plan unveiled last week.

Community leaders say the plan is overdue because Grantville, which has only a few hundred residents, is an ideal place to absorb some of the additional housing San Diego will need as the city's population continues to grow in coming decades.

"It's a prime location for density directly next to the trolley and two busy freeways," said Ray Wilson, vice chairman of the Navajo Community Planning Group, which covers Grantville, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro and San Carlos. "This has been a long time coming."

The community's enthusiasm for dense housing projects is in stark contrast to many other San Diego neighborhoods.

Carmel Valley residents have vocally opposed the planned One Paseo "smart growth" project this fall. And residents near Morena Boulevard successfully fought this summer against allowing high-rises on a new trolley line planned for the area.

The Grantville plan would add as many as 8,275 housing units and 22,000 people to the neighborhood, which has had a relatively under-used station on the San Diego Trolley's green line since 2005. SDSU students and staff would be the most likely tenants for much of the housing, which could rise as high as five stories, city officials said.

The plan also dovetails with a climate action plan Mayor Kevin Faulconer unveiled last week to help reduce greenhouse gases. That plan calls for more high-density housing near mass transit and along existing transportation corridors, such as Interstates 8 and 15 that border Grantville.

The plans also call for making the San Diego River, which flows through Grantville inconspicuously, a centerpiece of the community that would someday feature adjacent parks and possibly open air restaurants overlooking it.

"Another asset in Grantville is the river, but you don't even know it's there right now," said city Principal Planner Brian Schoenfisch, who is coordinating the proposed changes to the Grantville Community Plan.

The changes won't come immediately — the plan envisions them happening over the next 30 years — and major hurdles include the area's susceptibility to flooding and the need for developers to spend many millions on large housing projects with ground floor restaurants and shops.

Previous plans to transform Grantville relied on state redevelopment money, which was eliminated three years ago. Now most of the money must come from the private sector, with grants for so-called "smart growth" projects also probably playing a role.

The end of redevelopment was a blow to plans for Grantville, but Schoenfisch said a 21-member task force of community leaders ardently finished the plan this year so development can happen when the private sector is ready.

City Councilman Scott Sherman, whose district includes Grantville, praised the effort and said city officials have been pushing for community plan updates all over San Diego for similar reasons.

He said the business community wants updated plans so they know what infrastructure and amenities are envisioned for an area before they invest there.

Schoenfisch said developers attended many of the task force meetings, creating optimism regarding private sector interest in Grantville.

Dan Smith, a longtime property owner in the neighborhood, said the plan has created some buzz.

“Grantville has been left off the map for decades so it’s exciting to be on the map and to be talked about,” Smith said. “We have a \$5 billion opportunity to build a little community next to the river and the trolley station.”

Anthony Wagner, president of the Allied Gardens Community Council, said residents in his neighborhood have some concerns about additional traffic from a redeveloped Grantville. But he said they also view the area as the most sensible place to add density because all the nearby communities are already built out.

“We need to adequately prepare for 2050,” he said. “So of course it makes sense to build high density around the trolley station.”

Wagner also said it makes more sense to embrace such projects than dismiss them.

“Morena and Carmel Valley are just saying ‘no,’ but you can shape these new beginnings in your community’s image,” he said.

Schoenfisch said an analysis of how the proposal would affect traffic, noise and other things, which is called an environmental impact report, should be complete this fall. He said the City Council could vote on the plan some time early next year.

## Must-see Mast Park

Enough open space in Santee to forget about busy city life.

By [The Canyoneers](#), [Oct. 22, 2014](#)



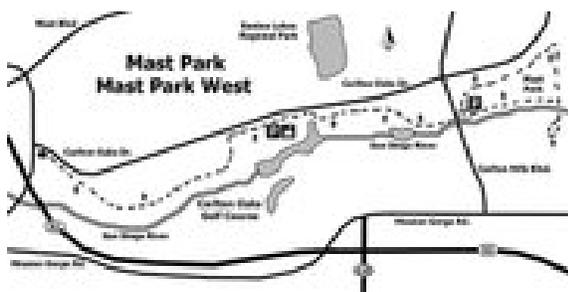
Murals located along the trail going under the roadway

Any time of year, a visit to Mast Park and Mast Park West is an easy stroll under trees and by the waterways. The trails follow the San Diego River through the community of Santee and alongside the golf course. The San Diego River Park has benches, a native plant garden, spots to look out on the river, signs telling about the river ecosystem, and enough open space to forget about busy city life.



The pond attracts many water birds.

There are many bird species to observe. It is home to the endangered least Bell's vireo and the California gnatcatcher as well as the southwest willow flycatcher, the great blue heron, the great egret, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, mallard and mandarin ducks, American coots, the acorn and Nuttall's woodpeckers, the belted kingfisher, and black phoebe. Anna's hummingbird can be observed year-round. During the spring and summer, numerous species stop off here. Examples include the Bullock's oriole, lazuli bunting, black-chinned hummingbird, and the cliff swallow. Watch out for other animals, too, like the western pond turtle, the two-striped garter snake, western fence lizard, and butterflies including the tiger swallowtail, mourning cloak, and monarch.



Loop trails for both Mast Park and Mast Park West begin at the welcome sign off the parking lot. Facing the sign, there is a road off to your right that descends to another lot where the walk to Mast Park West begins by going under the Carlton Hills Blvd. bridge. The Mast Park West trail also begins on the other side of Carlton Hills Blvd., at a kiosk and small picnic area near a small shopping center. From both entrances, the trail follows the river west and then runs alongside a golf course. Along here the trail becomes the San Diego River Trail and winds around near SR 52. This is a longer walk than Mast Park.

Beginning at the same welcome sign, the Mast Park trails are off to the left. A portion of the trail is concrete and blacktop surfaces, but another portion of the trail leads down to the river where there is a bridge to walk over. This same portion of the trail can be entered from the nearby Walmart parking lot. Around here, plenty of dog-walkers are out and equestrians like to ride along the river.

Although invasive and nonnative plants grow here, there are ongoing efforts to restore native habitat areas. Cattails and bulrushes filter the river. Among sycamores, willows, and cottonwoods, mulefat and yerba mansa grow. Toyon and blue elderberry grow by the trail as well as Jimson weed or datura, coyote melon, wild grape, and wild cucumber.

- 
- **Distance from downtown San Diego:** 18.9 miles. Allow 24 minutes driving time (Santee). From SR-163N, merge onto SR-52E, exiting on Mission Gorge Rd. and turning left (east). Drive 0.7 mile and turn left (north) on Carlton Hills Blvd. Parking is on the right, just beyond the San Diego River at 9125 Carlton Hills Blvd.
  - **Hiking length:** Mast Park West (toward the end of the golf course), 6 miles round trip; Mast Park (east), approximately 3 miles round trip.
  - **Difficulty:** Easy, hardly any elevation change, but with uneven surfaces. Facilities include picnic area, BBQ area, playground, and restrooms. River trail is shared with bicycles, horses, and dogs on leash; there is a fenced off-leash area in the park. Wheelchair accessible.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of November 13, 2014**

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2015, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

**Meeting of November 13, 2014**

ITEM:                   **9**

SUBJECT:               **ADJOURNMENT**