Notice of Public Meeting
San Diego River Conservancy

A public meeting of the Governing Board of
The San Diego River Conservancy
will be held
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017
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 Location
Natural Resources Agency Department of Finance
1416 Ninth Street, Room #1311 State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814 Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact:
Julia Richards (619) 645-3188

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 January 12, 2017 meeting.

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

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

5. Deputy Attorney General Report (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

6. Senate Bill 214 (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)
   An overview of Senate Bill 214 which includes clean up language for the San Diego River Conservancy Act
   
   Presentation:
   Deanna Spehn, Policy Director, State Senator Toni Atkins

7. Strategic Plan Update 2018-2023 (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)
   Peter MacCracken will continue facilitation of a discussion with the Governing Board Members to guide development of the San Diego River Conservancy’s 5-year strategic plan
   
   Presentation:
   Peter MacCracken, Strategic Communications

8. Round 2, Proposition 1 Grant program staff recommendation for funding (ACTION)

   Invasive plant removal at the Mission Valley Preserve (City of San Diego)
   Applicant: The San Diego River Park Foundation
   Requested amount: $271,762.96
   Recommended amount: $271,762.96
   Score: 91/113
   Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 17-05

   This project proposes to remove invasive non-native vegetation and restore native riparian habitat at the Mission Valley Preserve located along the lower San Diego River. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

9. Executive Officer’s Report (INFORMATIONAL / ACTION)
   The following topics may be included in the Executive Officer’s Report. The Board may take action regarding any of them:
   
   - SDRC Legislative Report 2012 – 2014
   - Aerial video of SDRC projects (accompanied Legislative Report)
   - Alvarado Creek photos of January rain event
   - Temescal Creek area wildlife photos
10. Next Meeting
   The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, May 11, 2017, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Accessibility
If you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Julia Richards at 619-645-3188 or Wendell Taper at 619-645-3183.
ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS
Meeting of March 17, 2016

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)
The Board will consider adoption of the January 12, 2017 public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the Board Meeting are attached for review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes
SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Minutes of January 12, 2017 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on March 17, 2017)

CONSERVANCY Board Chair, Ben Clay called the January 12, 2017 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Item 1. Roll Call

Members Present

Julie Alvis Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (Via Phone)
Ben Clay, Chair Public at Large
Brent Eidson Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Ann Haddad Public at Large
Ruth Hayward Public at Large
Dianne Jacob Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District (arrive 2:05pm)
Kari Krogseng Department of Finance (Via Phone)
Andrew Poat Public at Large (Via Phone)
Deanna Spehn Speaker of the Assembly, Appointment (arrive 2:10pm)
Gary Strawn San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

John Donnelly Wildlife Conservation Board
Robin Greene Department of Parks and Recreation
Scott Sherman Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7

Staff Members Present

Julia Richards Executive Officer
Wendell Taper Administrative Services Manager
Dustin Harrison Environmental Scientist
Hayley Peterson Deputy Attorney General

Item 2. Approval of Minutes

Ben Clay asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Ruth Hayward moved for approval of the minutes for the January 12, 2017, meeting and Brent Eidson seconded.
Roll Call: Ayes: Brent Eidson, Julie Alvis, Kari Krogseng, Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad, Andrew Poat. (7-0-0)
Item 3. Public Comment (INFORMATIONAL)

Rob Hutsel from the San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) stated the Temescal Creek overlook acquisition was completed and he thanked the Board. A dedication will be held February 25, 2017 and the SDRC Board is invited. Also, SDRPF and the San Diego River Coalition have adopted a position about redeveloping the stadium. It calls for 65 acres at a minimum of park including river restoration.

Lisa Wood introduced herself as Chair of Lakeside Revitalization. She is a big supporter of park dedication in Mission Valley. She supports Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy and the San Diego River Conservancy. She supported this Board’s grant to the City of San Diego to acquire Helix’s surplus parcels in El Monte Valley. She is concerned about conserving the open space wildlife corridor through El Monte Valley and has a letter from her next door neighbor. He plans to dedicate his land to open space and trails hoping this Board will advocate continued open space and trails. She is not excited about the potential for sand mining, nor was her neighbor.

Trish Dignon and her family have lived in El Monte Valley for over 100 years. If sand mining were to come to the valley, it would take away its beauty. Although SDRC’s vision for the San Diego River Trail is wonderful, cooperation from her would have to go through her property. There is more information in her letter which she provided to SDRC.

Item 4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

Ben Clay stated he met with people who propose to build a soccer stadium in Mission Valley. He mentioned it is the City’s park, but there are sensitive lands there. He also set up a meeting with the San Diego Lifeguards and their need for access along the river to facilitate rescues.

Dianne Jacob stated the County of San Diego, Department of Park and Recreation in partnership with San Diego River Conservancy, Helix Water District will have a ribbon cutting event and is opening a 0.8 mile section from El Monte Rd. to Lake Jennings Campground. The event will be January 19th at 3pm. She encourages everyone to come out and hike the trail.

Dianne Jacob responded to the speakers earlier discussing sand mining. The sand mining project is a major use permit that is being processed through the County of San Diego. Perhaps the land goes back to Helix Water District and the Conservancy can work with Helix to pick up partners in acquiring those properties. That is something the community would like to see.

Ann Haddad stated her husband Ben Haddad has been contracted by Major League Soccer in reference to the project Chairman Clay brought up. There is no conflict at this time after being in contact with Ben, Haley and Julia.

Item 5. Deputy Attorney’s General Report

Haley Peterson reminded Board members Form 700s are due April 3, 2017. An email reminder will be sent out with a link to fill out online through Fair Political Practices Commission website. Go online to www.FPPC.ca.gov to submit.

Item 6. Election of Officers (ACTION)

Ann Haddad made a motion to nominate the current officers, Chairman Ben Clay and Vice Chairwoman Ruth Hayward, to continue in their current position. Dianne Jacob seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brent Eidson, Deanna Spehn, Julie Alvis, Kari Krogseng, Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay,
Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad, Andrew Poat. (9-0-0)

Item 7. Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

Ben Clay has been interested in SDRC’s relationship with the Tribes and he feels it is important to build upon those to better understand them. Ben Clay introduced Lisa Haws.

Lisa Haws Assistant Executive Director of Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy. She is a fulltime employee of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation as their cultural resource manager. Sycuan just opened their cultural museum and cultural center and she invited the Board to come visit. Sycuan donates 50% of her time to the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy as the Assistant Executive Director. Brandon Linton is a member of the Mesa Grande Band, a participant of Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy and is the Chairman of the Kumeyaay Heritage Preservation Committee.

Brandon Linton is a tribal member of Mesa Grande Tribal Band. He is involved with the archeological community in San Diego. There are multiple groups and reservations throughout the community. The Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy’s (KDLC) mission is to renew the ancestral ties to the oceans, the mountains and desert through protective land management, cooperative agreements and education programs. They are looking to partner in order to acquire lands and conserve resources.

Formed in 2005, nine of the twelve recognized bands are active today. Each Band has a representative that makes up the Board and a voting seat. The philosophy of love of the land and living in cohesion with the land is an active process. They want to work with all aspects including biology and historical content and come up with ways to manage those areas.

They want to start other projects including educational programs, mitigation programs, and entering into memorandum of agreements to partner with others and preserve these resources. Interpretive plans and educating people of traditional ways gives others understanding of how to manage natural resources.

Kumeyaay territory from when the Spanish arrived in 1769 shows an expansive area from the San Luis Rey River, out to the Salton Sea, to the Colorado River and to Baja California. All of this was considered home incorporated with ancient practices. The twelve reservations throughout the county are scattered.

Traditional teachings are directly tied to the land, providing an understanding of how practices are different today and how the landscape has changes. They want to come up with better understandings to bring back the natural resources that were once present.

KDLC land acquisitions include Mount Kuchumaa which is near the Mexico Border; The Moser property in Julian covered in apple orchards; and Sloan Canyon – another area they are helping the natural ecosystem.

KDLC is the fiscal agency of the Native Land Trust and the Kumeyaay Heritage Preservation Committee (KHPC). Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee deals with ancestral remains and funerary objects. The Kumeyaay community college is an accredited college and offers classes in Kumeyaay history, humanities and languages which are growing and are open to the public. The KHPC is the newest organization which addresses cultural resources at the beginning of projects, not right before construction begins. They want to develop better working relationships.

Ben Clay thanked Brandon and responded SDRC would like to partner with KDLC on projects.

Item 8. Summary of Proposition 1 Grant Program (ACTION)
Julia Richards mentioned two projects from Prop 1 Round 1 are before the Board today. The first project is from the County of San Diego. The Board approved 12 locations to install full capture devices in East County; however, the County installed 12 devices before the grant agreement was signed and therefore are before the Board for re-approval. They would like to install an additional 12 to be funded under Prop 1.

Stephanie Gaines introduced herself with the County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program. She provided an update and change to the project. The original project is to install 12 full capture devices in high priority uses of unincorporated East County.

Trash devices were installed in advance so they do not qualify for grant funds. However 12 other sites within disadvantaged communities are proposed. The scope of work was updated and no change to the budget. A map shows disadvantaged areas, original device locations and new proposed trash device locations. The schedule is a two year agreement starting June 2017 ending December 2018.

Brent Eidson asked when the trash devices were installed and how they performing. SDRC would like to see the benefits of this project.

Stephanie Gaines responded they were installed in November of last year. They are cleaned out on a quarterly basis, but no quantification has been recorded. The trash devices are designed to alleviate flows.

Gary Strawn asked how this will work and why there so many at Pepper Drive. He doesn’t see this as being an area of high trash accumulation.

Stephanie Gaines responded the County overlaid the disadvantaged communities with high priority land use with those areas containing the inlet size requirements. The county narrowed 30 locations down to 12, but can re-evaluate new locations.

Deanna Spehn asked if the County will continue to clean out the devices in perpetuity.

Ben Clay asked is the Conservancy getting its money’s worth for what it catches? SDRC doesn’t want to second guess where the County installs the trash devices, but would like to learn which practices are most effective.

Stephanie Gaines Yes. This will determine the effectiveness of these best management practices. She thanked the Board.

Ruth Hayward asked Stephanie if there is a way people can contact her if one is clogged up.

Stephanie Gaines responded there is a monthly visual inspection and if they begin to fill up, supplemental clean outs will be implemented.

Deanna Spehn moved to approve Resolution 17-01. Brent Eidson seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brent Eidson, Deanna Spehn, Julie Alvis, Kari Krogseeng, Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad, Andrew Poat. (9-0-0)

Julia Richards the next project is a reduction of San Diego State University Research Foundation scope of work from Prop 1 Round 1 in the amount of approximately $43,000. SDRC proposes to put that money into the San Diego River Park Foundation project which involves installing an aeration device in the river of Mission Valley to increase dissolve oxygen. Staff found this project was funded at 54% where most others were around 80%. If approved this increased allocation brings funding to $131,000 or 82% of their request project costs.
Brent Eidson moved to approve Resolution 17-02 and Ann Haddad seconded.

Roll Call: Brent Eidson, Deanna Spehn, Julie Alvis, Kari Krogsgeng, Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad, Andrew Poat. (9-0-0)

Julia Richards the next recommendation for funding is the City of Santee proposal for invasive removal and restoration at Walker Preserve. Bill Maertz, will give a presentation and answer questions.

Bill Maertz Community Director appreciates the opportunity to present. In 2014 the Walker Preserve opened with assistance for acquisition and construction from the Conservancy. It is a 106 acre preserve along the San Diego River with 1.3 miles of trail. The project today is proposing to restore native habitat, remove invasive plants and install erosion control improvements. Installation of a vegetated bioswale will capture storm runoff. The California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) will be used followed by five years of monitoring by restoration biologists. This will occur within a 2.5 acre footprint adjacent to lodge pole fencing bordering the preserve’s recreational trail.

Recycled water is on site and planting would take advantage of seasonal rains. Watering for one year would ensure establishment. Detention basins created by hand will capture water to settle in and recharge the shallow alluvial Santee aquifer.

Multi-benefits include native habitat for endangered bird species, bioswale to remove pollutants before reaching the San Diego River and native vegetation to deter visitors from accessing the river. There are designated access points so the City of Santee has control where the public enters.

This project complies with state and local plans and policies including the California Water Action Plan, achieving six of the purposes outlined in Prop 1. Climate change through carbon sequestration by native plants, restore water storage capacity, restore a river parkway and assists in the recovery of endangered species.

Gary Strawn asked who will do the work?

Bill Maertz responded the City of Santee will create a Request for Proposal.

Ann Haddad moved to approve Resolution 17-03. Deanna Spehn seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brent Eidson, Deanna Spehn, Kari Krogsgeng, Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad, Andrew Poat. (8-0-0) (Julie Alvis had to leave)

Julia Richards the next presentation is from Lakeside's River Park Conservancy (LRPC) for 13 acres of invasive removal in Sycamore Creek. Although the project is located in the City of Santee, the lead is LRPC.

Robert Doty Field Superintendent for LRPC. He gave a brief overview of their invasive removal projects. Sycamore Creek had a history of flooding due to the invasives. LRPC will remove 13 acres using the cut and spray method. There are 58 properties in the project area. The field team will conduct follow ups every three months. The project budget is $721,000 and tri-blade weed eaters will be used, which has been shown to be cleaner.

One process involves biomass removal and allowing the plants to re-sprout which are then treated with herbicide by certified applicators.

Brent Eidson SDRC funded a project in the southern portion of Sycamore Creek. Is this project a continuation?

Robert Doty responded yes, LRPC will start where the southern portion ends and work their way north.
Brent Eidson moved to approve the Resolution 17-04. Dianne Jacob seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brent Eidson, Deanna Spehn, Kari Krogseng, Dianne Jacob, Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Ann Haddad, Andrew Poat. (8-0-0) (Julie Alvis had to leave)

**Item 9. San Diego River Conservancy’s Strategic Plan Update 2018-2023**  
*(INFORMATIONAL / ACTION)*

**Julia Richards** The Conservancy will work on another strategic 5 year plan to define projects, programs and goals. Peter McCracken worked on the last one and today will get input from the Board.

**Ben Clay** met with Bryan Cash in Sacramento. He mentioned SDRC is one of the few conservancies that lay out a strategic plan, gaps analysis and project priorities. Every 5 years the plan gets updated to meet current conditions. It is a living document.

**Peter McCracken** was delighted to be here once again to capture the Board’s thoughts and input. This is an informal brain storm with the same framework as last time. As a reminder, for the 2006 – 2011 Strategic Plan there were 4 major programs. The 2012 – 2017 Strategic Plan update added a program and split a program, which is the structure to be used today. The 2018 – 2023 update is to be determined. There is no change in the mission nor overall vision.

Simply put, SDRC wants to see a river park and trail from headwaters to the ocean. It’s straight forward, but a big undertaking. He asked for the Board’s thoughts, but mentioned he had a pre-meeting with the following suggestions: Program 1. Should SDRC use the word “watershed?”, Program 2. “Provide” recreation and education, Program 3a. the El Monte Valley is a big focus, Program 3b. Partnering more with Native Americans, Program 4. Also look at groundwater, runoff, and supply recognizing additional entities such as the Water Board; and, Program 5 which is the last one added, partner with universities and sister agencies and expand the outreach.

With that, what input does the board have beginning with Program 1 which is to conserve land. This is informal.

**Julia Richards** read the statute which mentions tributaries in addition to the San Diego River. To be more inclusive she suggested adding the word “watershed.”

**Brent Eidson** the Board has taken steps which identify this.

**Andrew Poat** commented about a capital funding strategy by engaging potential partners. Is there a way to leverage SDRC’s money with other entities? There are entities with money along the river.

**Ben Clay** mentioned that was a good point. As this strategy is laid out, SDRC will address grant funding projects to fit each area. If you noticed in the agenda, almost all projects awarded funds from Prop 1 had matching funds.

**Ann Haddad** program 5 is Andrew thinking to add additional language to reach out and partner?

**Andrew Poat** mentioned he is interested in bringing someone with capital finance expertise. He asked what is the best way to conserve land?

**Dianne Jacob** says the strategic plan shows how to accomplish goals from the mission. SDRC needs to look at its mission, identify what has been approved and add statements as necessary. Later, talk about how to meet those. The last strategic plan went well. Julia brought up a good point. Program 2, provide recreation? The other change, supply and expand outreach are all good.
Deanna Spehn stated before she came to the Conservancy, she worked 14 years for elected officials directly connected to the Conservancy. Partners along the river are concerned with the Conservancy competing with them. For example, rather than provide, she suggested enabled.

Ben Clay addressed Andrew’s comment. SDRC has helped the City of Santee, for example, being able to interpret the history. With the word provide, SDRC will help where possible.

Dianne Jacob suggested it’s more of a support role, not provide programs. Let SDRC focus on its mission and other organizations do what they do best.

Deanna Spehn SDRC needs to find a more permanent source of funding because of the lost opportunities where funding was not in place. That may be where to focus attention.

Ann Haddad commented would that language go under Program 5?

Dianne Jacob suggested using the word “financial capacity” and “public outreach.”

Gary Strawn discussed Alvarado Creek and water quality, but there is no metric. SDRC and the Water Board should designate water quality metrics. With that idea, proposed projects will address the needs of water quality. Examine how Program 4, Land Conservation and other programs such as invasives, will affect the river.

Ben Clay stated as projects mature, SDRC will better understand these impacts. The Hydrologic Research Center will help SDRC assess effectiveness of these projects. Program 4 quality and stormwater are big items the state is interested in. SDRC needs to work with land owners to keep the river cleaner. Then go back and take measurements. Another is groundwater quality.

Andrew Poat asked what the direction of the strategic plan is and the specific roles and priorities the Conservancy will take on. He suggested spending more time on implementing programs the strategic plan has previously written; connecting goals with other partners’ programs.

Ben Clay the strategy needs to be developed.

Deanna Spehn SDRC is updating the strategic plan.

Dianna Jacob SDRC will dilute its vision and mission if it is expanded and recommended to reach out to partners.

Ann Haddad this is the 5 year renewal. She suggested to remove provide as well.

Peter McCracken reinforced that this is the end of a 5 year planning cycle. SDRC will pursue the next 5 years with respect to changes.

Item 10. Executive Officer’s Report (INFORMATIONAL / ACTION)

Julia Richards the San Diego History Center provided SDRC with 99% design. They signed off on the final with production by the end of March and installed by May. They will inform SDRC of opening ceremony. The work plan in the Board Book gives a summary of bond funds and projects undertaken for next year. Multi-year appropriation and pie charts discuss operations. SDRC received $406,000 through Environmental License Plate Fund and $105,000 from Prop 1. An estimated expenditure of 50% for personnel, 31% for DGS and less than 25% for office expenses, attorney fees and training equals $511,000 in total.
Capital outlay is received from different bond funds. $6.7M with majority from Prop 1. SDRC has to now administer projects with this slight change of positions.

**Ben Clay** this is a big change. SDRC will enhance elements of the river. Going forward, opportunities will need to be taken advantage of. DGS overhead is high. He asked staff to give the Board an update on past due bills and how long it takes to pay. Otherwise partners will not be able to get projects done on time.

**Julia Richards** mentioned the video clip and map is a summary of projects along the river. Let staff know any questions or comments.

**Ben Clay** the plan is to tell a story with drone flights, being able to show before and after pictures. The legislative report will be sent to Sacramento showing SDRC’s progress. He thanked the Board.

**Item 11. Executive Officer’s Evaluation (CLOSED SESSION)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm
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.
Meeting of March 17, 2016

ITEM: 4

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

PURPOSE: These items are for Board discussion only and the Board will take no formal action.
Meeting of March 17, 2017

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 214 (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)
An overview of Senate Bill 214 which includes clean up language for the San Diego River Conservancy Act

Presentation:
Deanna Spehn, Policy Director, State Senator Toni Atkins
IN BRIEF
SB 214 would increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy, adding one representative each from the Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy Board of Directors and the Santee City Council, representing the interests of the earliest settlers along the river and a local city that has actively improved its area along the river.

SB 214 would add the state Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife or his/her designee; and the Colorado Desert District of the Department of Parks and Recreation, which has oversight over the eastern portion of the San Diego River. The State Parks Superintendent for the western portion of the river including Old Town State Park is a current member of the Conservancy Board.

The addition of a Fish and Wildlife representative will ensure the close coordination with the state agency responsible for overseeing the region’s natural resources.

SB 214 grants the Conservancy the ability to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified. The bill also authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district, or California tribal nation as defined, subject to specific conditions.

SB 214 clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner organization the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of the grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other conservancies.

BACKGROUND
The San Diego River Conservancy was created in 2002 by AB 2156, authored by Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, with a sunset date of 2010. AB 142 (Kehoe) in 2003 further defined the role and authority of the Conservancy. SB 419 (Senator Kehoe) in 2007 authorized further refinements in the duties and responsibilities of the Conservancy, increasing from 9 to 11 the voting members, with a sunset date of 2020. AB 392 by Assemblymember Atkins in 2015 made the Conservancy permanent and required a biannual report to the Legislature describing its expenditure of funds and progress made in meeting its goals and objectives.

The Conservancy’s watershed spans 440 square miles, includes six major reservoirs, four cities, a large area of unincorporated county lands, the Cleveland National Forest, and Native American reservations, with 700,000 people living within its area of influence and an additional two million people in adjacent communities.

The River is 52 miles long from its headwaters near Julian to the Pacific Ocean at Ocean Beach. Its rich cultural and historic connections began with the Kumeyaay who settled in the area more than 11,000 years ago and extends through Spanish, Mexican, and early Californian settlements.

The Conservancy is prohibited from levying taxes, regulating land use, or exercising the power of eminent domain.

In close coordination with its many partner organizations, the Conservancy oversees ongoing restoration along the river including the acquisition and preservation of hundreds of acres along the river. Construction and renovation of a public trail along the River is a priority of the Conservancy, with over 15 miles already completed and well used by all ages.

THE ISSUE & THE SOLUTION
SB 214 will enable the Conservancy to better function as a permanent state conservancy, including working on the impacts of climate change, working with areas within the river’s watershed impacted by environmental justice issues, and adding clarifying language found in other permanent state conservancies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Deanna Spehn, Policy Director
Senator Toni G. Atkins, 39th State Senate District
701 B Street, Suite 1840, San Diego, CA 92101
(O) 619-645-3133; (C) 619-368-4477
Support
City of Santee
Helix Water District
Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy
Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy
Padre Dam
Professor Mladenov, San Diego State University
    Department of Civil Construction &
    Environmental Engineering
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego
    County
San Diego Canyonlands
San Diego City Councilmember Scott Sherman
San Diego History Center
Santee Historical Society
Soil Ecology and Restoration Group, San Diego State
    University Biology Department
Soil Ecology and Restoration Group, a nonprofit under
    the San Diego State University Research
    Foundation
The Trust for Public Lands
Tom Zink, Project Manager for Soil Ecology and
    Restoration Group (SERG)

As of March 6, 2017 there is no known opposition
An act to amend Sections 32632, 32633, 32634, 32639, 32643, 32645, 32649, and 32651 of the Public Resources Code, relating to the San Diego River Conservancy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 214, as introduced, Atkins. San Diego River Conservancy.

The San Diego River Conservancy Act establishes the San Diego River Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency, and prescribes the territory, membership, functions, and duties of the conservancy with regard to, among other things, the acquisition, protection, and management of public lands within the San Diego River area, as defined. The act provides that the conservancy has all rights and powers, expressed or implied, necessary to carry out the purposes of the act. The act authorizes the conservancy to award grants to any local public agency, state agency, and nonprofit organization consistent with the purposes of the act, and subjects a grant from the conservancy to specified conditions.

This bill would specify that the powers of the conservancy include improving, developing, and preserving lands for the purpose of protecting the natural, cultural, and historical resources, engaging in projects that address climate change, engaging in environmental justice projects and programs, and entering into a joint powers agreement, as specified. The bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district, or California tribal nation, as defined, and would subject these entities to the specified conditions. The bill would also provide
that the conversancy is authorized to seek repayment of grant moneys if the terms and conditions of the grant agreement are not met.

Under the act, the governing board of the conservancy consists of 11 voting members and 2 nonvoting members, as specified, and the conservancy is required to establish and maintain an office within the San Diego River area.

This bill would increase the number of voting members to 15 members, as specified. The bill would instead require that the conservancy establish an office within the San Diego River watershed.

**Digest Key**

Vote: majority   Appropriation: no   Fiscal Committee: yes   Local Program: no

**Bill Text**

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.**

Section 32632 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

32632.

For the purposes of this division, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) “California tribal nation” means a federally recognized Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, that is indigenous to the County of San Diego.

(b) “Conservancy” means the San Diego River Conservancy established by this division.

(c) “Disadvantaged community” means a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income.
(d) “Fund” means the San Diego River Conservancy Fund established pursuant to Section 32657.

(e)

(f) “Historic flumes” means both of the following:

1. The Padre Dam flume built by Native Americans along the San Diego River to convey water from the Mission Dam to the Mission San Diego de Alcala in the early 1800s.

2. The flume built by the San Diego Flume Company in the late 1880s to convey water from a diverting dam on the upper San Diego River to the eastern edge of the City of San Diego.

(g) “Local public agency” means a city, county, district, or joint powers agency.

(h) “Nonprofit organization” means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and that has among its principal charitable purposes the preservation of land for scientific, historic, educational, recreational, scenic, or open-space opportunities, the protection of the natural environment, or preservation or enhancement of wildlife.

(i) “San Diego River area” or “area” means those lands or other areas that are donated to, or otherwise acquired by, or operated by, the conservancy, which are located within one-half mile on either side of the thread of the river and its tributaries including the historic flumes emanating from the river, from its headwaters near Julian to the Pacific Ocean at Dog Beach in San Diego, and other properties within the watershed of the San Diego River that meet the intent of this division as approved on a case-by-case basis by a two-thirds majority vote of the governing board.

SEC. 2.

Section 32633 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:
There is in the Natural Resources Agency, the San Diego River Conservancy, which is created for the following purposes:

(a) To acquire and manage public lands within the San Diego River area, and to provide recreational opportunities, open space, wildlife habitat and species restoration and protection, wetland protection and restoration, protection of historical and cultural resources, and protection, maintenance, and improvements of the quality of the waters in the San Diego River and its watershed, its tributaries, and historic flumes emanating from the river for all beneficial uses, lands for educational uses within the area, and natural floodwater conveyance.

(b) To provide for the public’s enjoyment, and to enhance the recreational and educational experience and cultural and historic interpretation on public lands in the territory in a manner consistent with the protection of land and natural resources, as well as economic resources, in the area.

SEC. 3.

Section 32634 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

32634.

(a) The governing board of the conservancy shall consist of 11 voting members and two nonvoting members.

(b) The voting members of the board shall consist of the following:

(1) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, or his or her designee.

(2) The Director of Finance, or his or her designee.

(3) The Director of Parks and Recreation, or his or her designee.

(4) The Director of Fish and Wildlife, or his or her designee.

(5) A representative of the Colorado Desert District of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

(6) Five members of the public at large, three of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.
(5)

(7) The Mayor of San Diego, or his or her designee.

(6)

(8) One member of the City Council of San Diego, elected by a majority of the membership of the council.

(7)

(9) One member of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego, whose district includes the preponderance of the San Diego River watershed.

(10) One member of the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy board of directors, elected by a majority of the membership of that board.

(11) One member of the City Council of Santee, elected by a majority of the membership of the council.

c) The two nonvoting members shall consist of the following:

(1) The Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, or his or her designee.

(2) A representative selected by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board.

(d) Two of the three initial appointments by the Governor pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) shall be for three-year terms and the third appointment shall be for a two-year term. All subsequent appointments shall be for four-year terms.

(e) No person shall not continue as a member of the governing board if that person ceases to hold the office that qualifies that person for membership. Upon the occurrence of those events, the person’s membership on the governing board shall automatically terminate.

SEC. 4.

Section 32639 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

32639.

The conservancy shall establish and maintain an office within the area of San Diego River watershed. The conservancy may rent or own real and personal property and equipment pursuant to applicable statutes and regulations. The conservancy shall not levy a tax or regulate land use.

SEC. 5.
Section 32643 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

**32643.**

The conservancy may do both any of the following to provide necessary services:

(a) Select and hire private consultants or contractors.

(b) Enter into memorandums of understanding with state and local public agencies.

(c) Enter into a joint powers agreement pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, as described in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

**SEC. 6.**

Section 32645 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

**32645.**

The conservancy may take any of the following actions for the purposes of this division:

(a) Select and acquire real property or interests in real property in the name of the state pursuant to the Property Acquisition Law (Part 11 (commencing with Section 15850) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The conservancy may coordinate the acquisition with another public agency or partner organization if the site is under immediate development pressure.

(b) Acquire interests in land by various means, including, but not limited to, land exchanges, easements, development rights, life estates, leases, and leaseback agreements.

(c) Accept and hold real property or an interest in real property that is acquired through acquisition, gift, exchange, donation, or dedication.

(d) Local public agencies shall retain exclusive authority over all zoning or land use regulations within their jurisdiction.

**SEC. 7.**

Section 32649 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

**32649.**
(a) The conservancy may award grants to any local public agency, state agency, joint powers agency, special district, California tribal nation, and nonprofit organization consistent with the purposes of this division.

(b) A grant from the conservancy to a nonprofit organization an entity described in subdivision (a) for the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property is subject to all of the following conditions:

1. The purchase price of any interest in land acquired may not exceed fair market value, as established by an appraisal that is approved by the conservancy.

2. The conservancy shall approve the terms under which the interest in land is acquired.

3. An interest in land acquired through the use of a grant may not be used as security for any debt to be incurred by the nonprofit organization.

4. A transfer of land acquired through the use of a grant is subject to the approval of the conservancy and the execution of an agreement between the conservancy and the transferee sufficient to protect the interest of the people of the state.

5. The state shall have the right of entry and power of termination over any interest in real property acquired with state funds, and may exercise those rights if any material term or condition of the grant is violated.

6. If the nonprofit organization entity receiving the grant ceases to exist for any reason, the title to all interests in real property acquired with state funds shall immediately vest in the state, except that, prior to that termination, any other public agency or nonprofit organization may receive, upon approval by the conservancy, title to all or a portion of that interest, by recording a written acceptance of title and the conservancy’s written approval with the county recorder’s office of the county with jurisdiction over the property.

7. If the terms and conditions of the grant are not met, the conservancy may seek repayment of moneys granted pursuant to that grant.

(c) Any deed or other instrument of conveyance evidencing the final acquisition of real property by a nonprofit organization an entity pursuant to this section shall be recorded with the county recorder’s office in the county with jurisdiction over the property, and shall detail the state’s right of entry and power of termination of any interest in the property.

SEC. 8.

Section 32651 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:
The conservancy may take any of the following actions for the purposes of this division:

(a) Initiate, negotiate, and participate in agreements for the management of land under its ownership or control with a local public agency, state agency, federal agency, nonprofit organization, California tribal nation, individual, corporate entity, and partnership, and enter into any other agreement authorized by state or federal law.

(b) Improve and develop lands for the purpose of protecting the natural environment, natural, cultural, and historical resources, or otherwise meeting the purposes of this division. Those purposes include protecting environmental resources by preserving and enhancing the state’s most valuable natural resources in the San Diego River area, including natural lands such as wetlands, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and other wildlands, recreation lands such as parks, trails, greenbelts, and other open-space lands, and landscapes with locally unique features and areas identified by the state as deserving special protection.

(c) Merge or split parcels, adjust boundary lines, or take similar actions as part of the acquisition of land, or as needed in order to facilitate the management of land under its ownership or control.

(d) Fix and collect fees for any service rendered by the conservancy. The amount of the fee may not exceed the reasonable cost of providing the service rendered by the conservancy.

(e) Engage in projects that address climate change and the impacts of climate change on resources within the San Diego River watershed.

(f) Engage in environmental justice projects and programs for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, located in or near a disadvantaged community, relating to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and maintenance of natural, cultural, and historic resources as the project or program relates to the San Diego River.
SDRC staff recommended changes to SB 214:

**Under section 3 - 32634**

(10) One member of the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy board of directors, elected by a majority of the membership of that board or his or her designee.

**Under section 6 - 32645**

(a) Select and acquire real property or interests in real property in the name of the state pursuant to the Property Acquisition Law (Part 11 (commencing with Section 15850) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). The conservancy may coordinate the acquisition with another public agency(ies) or partner organization(s) if the site is under immediate development pressure.

**Under section 8 – 32651**

(f) Engage in environmental justice projects and programs for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, located in or near a disadvantaged community, relating to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and maintenance of natural, cultural, and historic resources as the project or program relates to the San Diego River watershed.
February 27, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support of Senate Bill 214

Dear Senator Atkins,

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports Senate Bill (SB) 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017.

As a partner of the San Diego River Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land endorses this bill to increase the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board from 11 to 15, enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change and environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district, or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

In 2012, the Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and other partners protected 107 acres along the San Diego River in the City of Santee. It is now the Walker Preserve, a multi-use trail and open space area embraced by the community and visitors to the San Diego region. We have confidence that the proposed modifications to the Conservancy’s authority would improve the ability to carry out its mission and further enable other multi-benefit projects.

The Trust for Public Land is a national non-profit organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, TPL has worked with landowners, community groups, and agencies to complete more than 4,300 land conservation projects in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, protecting more than 3.4 million acres with a fair market value of $7.9 billion.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 214.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dave Sutton
Interim California State Director

cc: Julia Richards, Executive Officer, San Diego River Conservancy
    Rico Mastrodonato, Senior Government Relations Manager, The Trust for Public Land
    Virginia Lorne, Field Representative, The Trust for Public Land
March 2, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for SB 214

Dear Senator Atkins,

Please accept this letter of support for SB 214, which seeks to increase the number of voting members on the San Diego River Conservancy Board from 11 to 15. This bill, if passed, will enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

I respectfully request to register my support for SB 214, as introduced on February 1, 2017. Please feel free to contact my office at 619-236-6677 or email me at ScottSherman@SanDiego.Gov if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Sherman
San Diego City Councilmember- District 7
March 2, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4072  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins,

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for Senate Bill 214, which was introduced at the State Legislature on Feb. 1, 2017.

The proposed legislation will allow the City of Santee to have a greater voice on the San Diego River Conservancy Board by granting a voting seat on the board to a member of the Santee City Council.

Santee has been a consistent and enthusiastic partner of the Conservancy, especially of the effort to establish a “coast to crest” public access trail and park system along the San Diego River.

We also support the language within SB 214 that would expand the number of voting members of the Conservancy board the 11 to 15. In addition to a member of the Santee City Council, additional voting seats would be assigned to the Director of Fish and Wildlife, a representative of the Colorado Desert District of the Department of Parks and Recreation, and a member of the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy board of directors.

Expanding the voting members will increase the board’s diversity and expertise and enhance the Conservancy’s ability to carry out its mission. Adding more diversity to the board helps reflect the needs of all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Ken Fox, Chairman  
Santee Parks and Recreation Committee  
City of Santee  
10601 Magnolia Avenue  
Santee, CA 92071
March 1, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins:

Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy is writing to voice our support of SB 214 which will increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

The Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy is a tribally-chartered unincorporated association located in the aboriginal territory of the Kumeyaay Diegueño Nation and granted 501 (c) (3) status by the Federal government and tax exempt status by the State of California.

The Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy is in strong support of SB 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Lisa C. Haws
Assistant Executive Director
February 28, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins,

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County is writing to voice our support of SB 214, that will increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

Since 1941, the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County mission has been to protect, conserve, and restore our County’s natural resources. Our programs include: fire prevention, watershed and habitat protection, community and school gardening, and we support and partner with agencies that share the same passion and mission to help protect our County’s resources and its citizens.

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County is in strong support of SB 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Sheryl L. Landrum, Executive Director
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
February 28, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4072  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins,

Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy is writing to voice our support of SB 214 that will increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

The San Diego River Conservancy, under its current executive officer and board, has brought the promise of the San Diego River Park into fruition. These tools, provided in SB 214 are necessary to help the Conservancy utilize and capitalize on partnerships with tribes, other public agencies as well as protect land under immediate threat of development.

Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy is in strong support of SB 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017. We enthusiastically ask that the legislature approve this legislation.

Sincerely,

Robin Rierdan  
Executive Director
February 28, 2017

Senator Tom Atkins  
California Tony Atkins  
State Capitol, Room 4072  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins,

The Santee Historical Society is writing to voice our support of SB 214, that will increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

The Santee Historical Society is a community based non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our local history through artifacts, written, oral and visual documents and the restoration / preservation of our historic buildings and gardens. We work closely with the San Diego River Conservancy in preserving our cultural resources and promoting water conservation gardening techniques.

The Santee Historical Society is in strong support of SG 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Carol Crafts  
President

Gary Strawn  
Treasurer
March 2, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4072  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Delivered via e-mail to: deanna.spehn@sen.ca.gov

Subject: Support for SB 214

Dear Senator Atkins,

On behalf of Padre Dam Municipal Water District, I would like to express our support of Senate Bill 214. This Bill will increase the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board from 11 to 15 and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the San Diego River Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special districts or California tribal nations, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

Padre Dam provides water, sewer, recycled water and recreation services to approximately 100,000 residents. The District provides services to the East San Diego County communities of Santee, Alpine, Harbison Canyon, Crest, Flinn Springs and other unincorporated parts of El Cajon and Lakeside.

Padre Dam has worked closely with the San Diego River Conservancy, specifically on projects related to Sycamore Creek which borders Padre Dam’s property. The District experienced a flood in our operations yard in 2010 that damaged vehicles, equipment, buildings and a sewer pumping station. A major cause of the flooding was an overgrown creek bed that was choked with invasive plants and had not been maintained for decades. The Conservancy took on a project in 2014 to remove several acres of invasive plants, resulting in a significant increase in carrying capacity of the creek. This work has helped to reduce the risk of flooding during several storms since 2014. However, there is still work to be done to restore the Creek to its original carrying capacity, including the removal of years of sediment deposits and restoration of the creek bed to a healthy habitat.
Padre Dam is committed to partnering with the Conservancy and supports the adoption of SB 214, which will allow us to continue to work together for the betterment of our local environment. The Conservancy’s work provides a strong benefit to the entire community.

Padre Dam is in strong support of SB 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017. Thank you for your consideration of this important Bill.

Sincerely,

Allen Carlisle  
CEO/General Manager
March 1, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins,

San Diego Canyonlands is writing to voice our strong support of SB 214.

The Mission of San Diego Canyonlands is to promote, protect and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County canyons and creeks. We do this by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and by collaborating with other organizations.

San Diego Canyonlands, our staff, and volunteers have been productively collaborating with the San Diego River Conservancy since its inception.

Senate Bill 214 will increase the number of voting San Diego River Conservancy Board members from 11 to 15 and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

The San Diego Canyonlands strongly supports SB 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Eric Bowlby
Executive Director
San Diego Canyonlands
eric@sdcanyonlands.org
619-284-9399
February 27, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins,

On behalf of the San Diego History Center, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 214, that provides needed changes in the scope and mission of the San Diego River Conservancy. The San Diego History Center has partnered with the Conservancy to help fulfill provisions of its enabling statute that address interpretation of the history of the San Diego River watershed.

Among the changes authorized by SB 214, is an increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified. SB 214 would also authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

Founded in 1928 as the San Diego Historical Society, the San Diego History Center is the repository of our region’s history. We operate two museums; the History Center and Research Archive in historic Balboa Park and the Junipero Serra Museum in historic Presidio Park for the benefit of the citizens and visitors to San Diego.

The San Diego History Center strongly supports SB 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Bill Lawrence
Executive Director

San Diego History Center
1580 El Prado, Suite 5
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 234-2023
sandieghistory.org
February 26, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins,

My name is Natalie Mladenov, and I am an assistant professor of Environmental Engineering at San Diego State University (SDSU). I am writing to voice my support of SB 214, that will increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

As an educator at San Diego State University who teaches and researches various environmental aspects of our region’s watersheds, I find the restoration work supported by the Conservancy to be very meaningful to my students and I. The projects supported by the Conservancy are critical to restoring our rivers and watersheds, enhancing community engagement, and providing flood control and improved water quality, to name a few. Enabling the Conservancy to further address climate change and environmental justice topics and clarifying the Conservancy’s role in its existing projects will be of wide benefit to so many entities, including SDSU.

I, Natalie Mladenov, am in strong support of SB 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Natalie Mladenov
Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering and William E. Leonhard, Jr. Chair
Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering
San Diego State University
01 March 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins,

As the Project Manager for the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group (SERG) I am writing to voice my support of SB 214, that will increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

The Soil Ecology and Restoration Group is a research group within the Biology Department under the non-profit San Diego State University Research Foundation. SERG is committed to restoring and preserving California’s sensitive vegetation communities for the benefit of the environment and the preservation of the ecosystem services it offers.
The Soil Ecology and Restoration Group is in strong support of SB 214, as introduced on February 1, 2017, and I hope you will support the passage of such an important bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Zink
Program Manager, Principle Investigator
Soil Ecology and Restoration Group
Biology Department
College of Sciences
San Diego State University
March 2, 2017

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Atkins:

Helix Water District is writing to voice our support of SB 214 that will increase from 11 to 15 the number of voting members of the San Diego River Conservancy Board and enable the Conservancy to engage in projects addressing climate change, environmental justice projects and programs, and enter into joint power agreements as specified.

SB 214 would authorize the Conservancy to award grants to a joint powers agency, special district or California tribal nation, subject to specific conditions. SB 214 also clarifies that the Conservancy may coordinate with another public agency or partner with another organization for the acquisition of a site under immediate development pressure, and may seek repayment of grant funds should terms and conditions of a grant agreement not be met, consistent with authorizing language in place for other state conservancies.

Helix Water District is an industry leader, providing high quality water to the cities of La Mesa, El Cajon and Lemon Grove, the community of Spring Valley and areas within the city of Santee, Lakeside and San Diego County. We serve 270,375 people through over 56,000 metered accounts.

The Helix Water District is in strong support of SB 214 as introduced on February 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Carlos V. Lugo
General Manager
Meeting of March 17, 2017

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE 2018-2023 (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

Peter MacCracken will continue facilitation of a discussion with the Governing Board Members to guide development of the San Diego River Conservancy’s 5-year strategic plan

Presentation:
Peter MacCracken, Strategic Communications
STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (2018-2023)

This second update to the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011 is a high-level overview for the period 2018-2023. The first update for the period 2012-2017, continued the original four program areas, but split one into two sub-programs and added a fifth program. This update categorizes the two sub-programs as separate programs, resulting in a total of six programs.

This document builds on several documents that incorporate the principles and recommendations of the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan (2002) including, but not limited to:

- San Diego River Conservancy Act (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 32630-32661)
- SDRC Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011 (March 2006)
- SDRC Gaps Analysis 2010
- Strategic and Infrastructure Plan Analysis (September 2011)
- Addendum to the SDRC Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan (Nov. 2011)
- SDRC 2012 Annual Work Plan (March 2012)
- SDRC Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017)
- SDRC 2014 Annual Work Plan (January 2014)
- SDRC 2016-17 Annual Work Plan (January 2017)
- California State Senate Bill 214 (Atkins 2017)

PROGRAM 1: CONSERVE LAND WITHIN THE SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED

Identify Key Watershed Properties for Acquisition

- Explore land acquisition opportunities with other public agencies and/or other partners
- Conserve additional acres
  - Support opportunities as they are created and/or presented to SDRC and/or its partners
  - Identify partners for conservation easements, as appropriate
  - Outline general protection strategies and potential funding sources (MSCP, development mitigation, land-use regulation, SANDAG, SDCWA, cities, county and state)
**Program 2: Support and Encourage Recreation and Education**

**Complete the Trail**
- Collaborate with partners to make trail real, safe, visible and educational
  - Also focus on habitat restoration and interpretive opportunities
- Continue development of a more robust connection and a physical path between Old Town State Historic Park, Junipero Serra Museum and the San Diego River Trail
- Update San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis
- Accommodate multiple user types (pedestrian, bicyclist and equestrian)

**Program 3: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources**

**Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land**
- Continue invasive plant removal and restoration of land within the watershed
- Establish additional partnerships agreements to use SDRC permits for this work
- Continue annual reporting to regulatory agencies
- Help facilitate restoration of sensitive habitat
- Coordinate with existing and adopted plans
- Help facilitate preservation of species

**Continue ongoing maintenance and funding for investments (e.g., Proposition 40, Supplemental Environmental Projects, local governments, other sources)**
- Continue support of Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)

**Program 4: Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historical Resources**

Expand partnerships to preserve and provide access to cultural and historical resources, and build on education efforts

- Work with San Diego History Center for implementation of its Interpretive Master Plan for Junipero Serra Museum
- Work with Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
• Pursue National Heritage Areas or other designations to protect cultural and/or historical resources

• Link to museums and educational institutions

**PROGRAM 5: ENHANCE WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL FLOOD CONVEYANCE**

Continue collaboration with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) on projects or programs consistent with the strategic plans of both agencies, federal, state and local water quality plans and goals, particularly:

• Municipal Storm Water Permit (including MS4 regarding groundwater and stormwater runoff)

• Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

• San Diego River Watershed Management Plan

• Support Community Cleanup and Trash Collection project initiatives

• SDRWQCB San Diego River Watershed Monitoring Project

• Encourage use of consistent metrics in San Diego River Watershed to assess project effectiveness

**PROGRAM 6: EXPAND THE ORGANIZATION’S CAPACITY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Develop and implement a partnering strategy to continue Proposition 1 grant program

• Strengthen current partnerships and develop additional partnerships, including other agencies, K-12, universities and other stakeholders

• Pursuant to the San Diego River Master Plan, coordinate with the City of San Diego on any redevelopment projects within the San Diego River watershed

• Coordinate with relevant master plans and master plan updates

• Collaborate with partners regarding regulatory and resource agency issues, and develop a comprehensive, collaborative approach to obtain additional permits when necessary

**Expand focus and capacity**

• Increase number of voting Board members to 15
- Identify and pursue projects that address climate change and its impacts on the San Diego River watershed
- Identify and pursue projects that address environmental justice

**Expand public outreach**

- Establish office within the San Diego River watershed
- Better utilize website to enhance awareness of restoration strategies, grants and achievements
ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY’S PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM, PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (ACTION)

Presentation: Julia Richards, Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION
Invasive plant removal at the Mission Valley Preserve (Mission Valley Preserve, City of San Diego) (ACTION)
Applicant: The San Diego River Park Foundation
Requested amount: $ 271,762.96
Recommended amount: $ 271,762.96
Score: 91/113
Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 17-05

This project proposes to remove invasive non-native vegetation and restore native riparian habitat at the Mission Valley Preserve located along the lower San Diego River. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

Presentation: Sarah Hutmacher, Associate Director, the San Diego River Park Foundation
Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 17-05
March 17, 2017

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to $271,762.96 to the San Diego River Park Foundation for riparian habitat restoration at Mission Valley Preserve (MVP).

LOCATION: Mission Valley Preserve is located in the Mission Valley portion of the San Diego River Watershed north of Interstate 8.

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS: Staff recommends that the San Diego River Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to the San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, § 32630 et seq.):

“The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $271,762.96 to implement projects focused on improving water quality, water supply, ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration specifically as follows:

- The San Diego River Park Foundation: Two hundred seventy-one thousand seven hundred sixty two dollars and ninety six cents to remove invasive non-native plant species and restore riparian habitat at Mission Valley Preserve.

Prior to the disbursement of funds each grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule, and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Diego River Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 grant program.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Division 22.9 of the Public Resources Code, Chapter 3, and Section 32649. (San Diego River Conservancy Act)

PROJECT SUMMARY: In April 2016, the Conservancy solicited project proposals aimed at increasing water supply and improving water quality. This solicitation was posted on the Conservancy and Natural Resources Agency’s Bond Accountability website and emailed to multiple organizations in California. The recommended grant would fund the proposal, as described below:
Mission Valley Preserve is a 51-acre open space preserve in the City of San Diego bisected by the San Diego River. The preserve contains valuable riparian and freshwater marsh habitats that support a number of terrestrial and aquatic species. Among these species, the project area includes habitat for the least Bell’s vireo and potential habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, both of which are federally listed endangered species. Not only does the preserve provide habitat for these and many other species, these habitats serve the San Diego River and watershed by filtering pollutants and buffering against impacts of urban land use.

The San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) will:

- Complete 2 annual on-the-ground surveys for the entire 51-acre preserve. Volunteers will be trained to identify and document threats to the native habitat, including non-native plants, trash, and other health issues.
- Survey data will be made available to the San Diego River Conservancy and other stakeholders and/or policymakers.
- Coordinate invasive non-native plant removal and maintenance volunteer work parties on average of at least twice monthly. Precautions will be taken to avoid inadvertent impacts to native species. A trained biologist will oversee volunteer work plan in order to avoid work in sensitive areas during nesting season for birds like the least Bell’s vireo, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and the Ridgway’s rail.
- Complete 5 annual community clean-up events, including large community volunteer events and small volunteer work parties.

Work parties and other volunteer opportunities will engage community members to raise awareness about the issue of invasive plants and their impacts. Interpretive materials will be developed to reduce future introduction from neighborhood sources.

Along with volunteer removal SDRPF will:

Contract with Urban Corps of San Diego to assist with removing invasive stands and trees.

A minimum of 2 herbicide applications per year will be completed by a licensed applicator for the grant period following biomass removal. All Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) guidelines will be followed for herbicide application. Signage or access control will be required for a period of time following application.

Information collected will also be shared on SDRPF website, e-newsletter and social media.

This proposed project aims to pursue invasive plant species removal along the San Diego River to restore the health and function of the riverine ecosystem.

Major program goals are:

1) Removal of invasive non-native plants within the targeted area (approximately 24 acres) of the 51-acre Mission Valley Preserve project area. Removing invasive Brazilian pepper trees, *Arundo*, palms and pampas grass will make the site more appealing for pedestrians, as well as conserve water from non-native plant consumption.

2) Data collection

3) Trash removal
4) Implementation of an update and expansion to the San Diego River Exotic Weed Eradication Master Plan.

SITE DESCRIPTION: Mission Valley Preserve covers approximately 51 acres and is home to native willows, sycamore trees and mulefat shrubs.

PROJECT HISTORY/NEED: In 2002, a plan for removing invasive non-native plants from the San Diego River was published. The San Diego River Invasive Exotic Weed Eradication Master Plan included invasive non-native plant mapping of the San Diego River within the City of San Diego and a strategy to accomplish eradication. Although the 2002 plan is outdated, some of the groundwork, strategies and identified projects included in the plan are still relevant today. Several invasive non-native plant removal projects have been completed in the San Diego River watershed although new invasive non-native plant threats have been identified such as eupatory (*Ageratina adenophora*) and yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*).

There is a need for invasive non-native plant control not just along the River, but in canyons and tributaries to remove seed and plant source. Several invasive non-native plant removal projects are in process or planned.

Currently, the preserve’s ability to filter pollutants and buffer against urban impacts is degraded by the invasive non-native plants and human disturbance. In recent years significant progress has been made on reducing direct human disturbance within Mission Valley Preserve. Through a strategic, long-term and dedicated effort by the SDRPF, the City of San Diego Park Rangers, the San Diego Police Department and others, the level of degradation as a result of fires, habitat disturbance and trash dumps from illegal lodging has decreased.

While the City of San Diego, the Friends of Mission Valley Preserve volunteer group and others have been able to complete small-scale treatment projects within the preserve boundary, these groups are limited by size and resources and are not able to engage in a long-term invasive removal strategy. Additionally, invasive plant species spread easily via waterways like the San Diego River. In order to maximize the investment of invasive removal, it is essential to coordinate efforts with watershed-wide efforts by SDRC and other agencies and non-profits.

PROJECT FINANCING: The total project cost is $388,057.81. Project applicant is requesting $271,762.96 (70%) funding from the Conservancy. The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this project is an appropriation from Proposition 1 grant funds, for Ecosystem, Watershed Protection and Restoration.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION: This project would be undertaken consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation (Public Resources Code, §§ 32630-32661).

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S): Consistent with Program 3A, Preserve and Restore Natural Resources (Removal of non-native plants), and 3) the project is also consistent with San Diego River Conservancy Adopted Strategic Plan 2006-2011, Program 2, Project 2.1 Strategy 6.
CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:
The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on May 2015, in the following respects:

REQUIRED CRITERIA

1) The project is within the jurisdiction of the San Diego River Conservancy (San Diego watershed). Yes. The project is in the Mission Valley portion of the San Diego River watershed.

2) The extent to which the project has support from the jurisdiction over the location of the project. Yes. A Right of Entry (ROE) from the landowner, the City of San Diego Division of Open Space, is in process and will be finalized prior to the grant agreement.

3) The extent to which the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Proposition 1, Chapter 6, section 79732 subsection a (1-13).

Purpose 2 – The Mission Valley Preserve is located just 3 miles inland from the river’s mouth at the Pacific Ocean. Tidal influences are observed at the Preserve, which includes transitional estuarine habitat at its western boundary. EPA reports as well as local climate change studies have identified that these near-shore ecosystems and the services they provide are vulnerable to climate change effects including increasing air and water temperatures, sea level rise, changes in runoff from the land, and altered currents. By increasing habitat quality in this transitional ecosystem, the ability of sensitive near-shore ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change will improve.

Purpose 3 – The Mission Valley Preserve is part of a regional river parkway that contains one-half mile of the San Diego River Trail, in addition to connected footpaths that allow the community to explore the resources. This project is located in the Mission Valley Community Planning Area, which is home to over 20,000 residents and is the most urban community along the River. The City of San Diego has dedicated this Preserve as a public park; however, habitat degradation has impacts on access and perceptions of safety, thereby limiting the recreation potential at the same time as the ecosystem function. The California River Parkways Act identifies habitat restoration as a critical requirement for an urban river parkway. The proposal seeks funding to restore 24 acres of land within the 51 acre preserve, as well as monitor health and access in the entire preserve.

Purpose 4 – Restoration efforts will increase habitat quality and health of native habitats upon which birds and wildlife rely. Updating the Exotic Weed Eradication Master Plan provides a framework for securing additional future investments for long-term invasive control of the lower San Diego River.

Purpose 9 – The urban Mission Valley Preserve plays an important role in stormwater management in San Diego. The San Diego River receives stormwater from a large urban area, and the open space of the preserve allows water to dissipate. Invasive plant biomass backs up stormwater during storm events and increases chances of flooding. Restoration allows the
floodplain to better serve its ecological function of recharging groundwater and filtering contaminants.

Purpose 10 – A coordinated upstream habitat restoration effort will reduce invasive non-native seed load introduced into the estuary at the western boundary of the project site.

Purpose 11 – Batteries, paint, tires, human waste and other materials found in and near encampments negatively impact water quality. Trash removal during the course of restoration, as well as reduction in invasive plant stands that attract illegal lodging will reduce the impacts of hazardous materials in the riverbed. In addition, overgrowth of invasive plants in the river impacts water quality by reducing dissolved oxygen.

Purpose 12 – The Mission Valley Preserve is an important wildlife corridor, with documented occurrences of the least Bell’s vireo and potential habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, and many other bird and wildlife species.

4) The extent to which the application includes a complete, reasonable and well thought out proposed scope of work, budget and schedule.

The major program goals are:

1) Removal of invasive non-native plants within the targeted area (approximately 24 acres) of the 51-acre Mission Valley Preserve project area. Removing invasive Brazilian pepper trees, *Arundo*, palms and pampas grass will make the site more appealing for pedestrians, as well as conserve water from non-native plant consumption.

2) Data collection

3) Trash removal

4) Implementation of an update and expansion to the San Diego River Exotic Weed Eradication Master Plan.

In order to achieve the first goal, clear objectives and measurable results have been identified to ensure and track success. Based on previous experience with similar projects, SDRPF is confident their schedule and budget reflect the resources necessary to complete the project.

1) Remove 6 acres of invasive plant canopy coverage from the 24-acre restoration area within the 51-acre preserve.

2) Complete 24 invasive removal volunteer work parties annually in Mission Valley Preserve by engaging 450 volunteers;

3) Complete 5 volunteer clean-ups annually in Mission Valley Preserve;

4) Complete twice annual surveys of the Mission Valley Preserve project site starting in year 1;

5) Develop protocols for the currently un-surveyed sections of the San Diego River and tributaries. Complete surveys for these sections by year 2;

6) Convene at least annual stakeholder coordination meetings;

7) Produce updated Exotic Weed Eradication Master Plan for the San Diego River and tributaries in Mission Valley;

8) Photo documentation before and after project implementation and survey data.

9) California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) will be utilized to assess habitat quality both before project implementation and at the end of the project and will be included in the final report.

10) Share invasive data with stakeholders and the public via data portal;
11) Raise awareness about invasive plants and habitat and watershed health issues by reaching 20,000 people through communications, education at volunteer events, and stakeholder meeting outreach.

Remove and control invasive non-native plant species *Arundo donax*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Washingtonia robusta*, *Cortaderia selloana*, *Tamarix ramosissima*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Ricinus communis*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, and *Schinus terebinthifolius*, as well as all other SDRC target invasive non-native plant species known to be present or encountered at MVP including: *Foeniculum vulgare* and *Asparagus asparagoide* with re-growth limited to no more than 10% at project conclusion.

5) The extent to which the project promotes and implements state and/or regional plans and policies.

A. California Water Action Plan (Update 2009)
   i. The restoration of important species and habitat, and developing a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system (including environment) that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades.

B. San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP)
   i. Implement objectives for this year for management of several species and habitat occurrences identified in the Management Strategic Plan (MSP), namely the Acmispon prostrates and the *Cordylanthus maritimus*.

C. San Diego River Watershed Management Plan
   i. Section 4.8.4 Long-term Action Recommendation NSC10 which calls for land management programs that promote the restoration of natural ecological and hydrological processes because healthy ecosystems exert resistance to future invasions of some non-native species.

6) The extent to which the project employs new or innovative technology or practices.

The Bradley method for control of invasive plants has proven effective for long term management goals. This method uses three principles: removing non-native plants in least disturbed areas, minimizing the amount of disturbance and allowing native plants to re-colonize where invasive non-native plants once thrived. Time is a factor which allows native plants to grow to the border of invasive stands. Over-clearing can be detrimental so invasive plants removed in phases will allow natives to regenerate.

Also, by following the San Diego River Conservancy’s invasive non-native plant removal permits, the San Diego River Park Foundation will ensure regulatory procedures are followed. Agencies implement restrictions on types of equipment and limitations on impacts within sensitive areas. Together these practices provide substantial guidance for the Mission Valley Preserve restoration project.
7) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project.

SDRPF has identified the following measurable factors of success:

1) Remove 6 acres of invasive plant canopy coverage from the 24-acre restoration area within the 51-acre preserve;
2) Produce updated Exotic Weed Eradication Master Plan for the San Diego River and tributaries in Mission Valley;
3) Complete twice annual surveys of the Mission Valley Preserve project site starting in year 1;
4) Share invasive data with stakeholders and the public via data portal;
5) Complete 24 invasive removal volunteer work parties annually in Mission Valley Preserve.
6) Engage 450 volunteers in service projects through clean-ups, invasive removal and surveys;
7) Remove and control invasive non-native plant species *Arundo donax*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Washingtonia robusta*, *Cortaderia selloana*, *Tamarix ramosissima*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Ricinus communis*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, and *Schinus terebinthifolius*, as well as all other SDRC target invasive non-native plant species known to be present or encountered at MVP including: fennel *Foeniculum vulgare* and *Asparagus asparagoide* with re-growth limited to no more than 10% at project conclusion.
8) Document with before and after photos and survey data;
9) California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) will be utilized to assess habitat quality both before project implementation and at the end of the project. This report will be provided with the final report.

8) The extent to which the project provides multiple benefits.

This project provides solutions to address the high priority concern of invasive plants within the San Diego River watershed. In doing so, the habitat for native species (including some key species of concern) and water quality will improve. Additionally, this project will benefit the San Diego community by engaging hundreds of volunteers in restoration and citizen science activities and improving the San Diego River Trail.

9) Whether the project reflects best available science.

This project reflects the scientific consensus that addressing invasive non-native plants from their source is the most effective means for control. The Master Plan update will provide this information for stakeholder use so as to better control sources from tributaries to the San Diego River in Mission Valley. It also will implement best available practices for invasive removal and treatment and the incorporation of CRAM to gauge project success.

10) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project.

The SDRPF has successfully conducted restoration and mapping projects both in the lower San Diego River and in the headwaters of the watershed. The data from mapping
projects have been used by watershed stakeholders and landowners along the San Diego River.

Over the last 10 years, efforts to remove trash and dumping along the River in Mission Valley created working relationships and partnerships with private landowners and agencies to make this a successful project.

11) The project is not in a disadvantaged community.

12) Matching funds from applicant.

The applicant is providing funds in the amount of $116,294.85, or 30% of the total project costs.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA: The proposed project is consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to the suite of permits obtained by the Conservancy for its Invasive Non-Native Plant removal program. (e.g. California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1600 permit, USACE Regional General Permit #41, USFWS Informal consultation).
Resolution No: 17-05

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY’S PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM TO THE SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION FOR INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT REMOVAL AND NATIVE RIPARIAN VEGETATION RESTORATION AS WELL AS CALIFORNIA RAPID ASSESSMENT METHOD SURVEYS FOR WATER QUALITY MONITORING IN THE SAN DIEGO RIVER

WHEREAS, the mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to further the goals of its enabling legislation by conserving and restoring the lands and waters of the San Diego River watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has provided funds under The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) for $7.545 billion in general obligation bonds to fund ecosystems and watershed protection and restoration, water supply infrastructure projects, including surface and groundwater storage, and drinking water protection; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 6, Section 79730 of Proposition 1 provides for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 6, Section 79731(e) of Proposition 1 provides for Seventeen Million Dollars ($17,000,000) to the San Diego River Conservancy, for multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy staff has reviewed San Diego River Park Foundation’s Proposition 1 application for removal of invasive non-native plant species and riparian habitat restoration at the Mission Valley Preserve (the Project) and recommended the following proposal for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego River Conservancy’s Governing Board, based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Diego River Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed Project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines for the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 grant program.

2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of San Diego River Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, Section 32649)

3. The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $271,762.96 (Two-Hundred Seventy One Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Two Dollars and Ninety Six Cents) in grant funds to the San Diego River Park Foundation to remove invasive non-native vegetation and restore native riparian habitat in Mission Valley, a section of the lower San Diego River.

4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, subcontracts and other documents needed which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.
5. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a scope of work, budget and schedule; and the names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.

Approved and adopted the 17th day of March, 2017. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 17-05 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy’s Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:
Yea:      ______
Nay:      ______
Absent:   ______

_____________________
Julia L. Richards
Executive Officer

San Diego River Conservancy’s Governing Board Members Roll Call Vote

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ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT (INFORMATIONAL / ACTION)

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

- Alvarado Creek photos of January 2017 rain event
- Temescal Creek area wildlife photos
- Flume Trail extension – ribbon cutting (photo below) and video: http://www.countynewscenter.com/helix-flume-trail-opens-to-the-public/
Dear Governor Brown and Members of the Legislature,

The San Diego River Conservancy is pleased to submit our first Legislative report to the Governor and Legislature. This report outlines the activities of the San Diego River Conservancy over the past year as now required by AB 392 which was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2015.

This report will cover our activities from the mouth of the San Diego River to the headwaters of the river in the mountains near Julian, California.

We would like to salute and thank all of our partners in this endeavor to protect, acquire and manage public lands within the San Diego River watershed. The Conservancy provides recreation opportunities, open space, wildlife habitat and species restoration and protection, wetlands protection and restoration, along with historical and cultural resources development and protection. We are also charged with the maintenance of the quality of the waters in the San Diego River and its watershed for beneficial uses.

Without the hard work of all the river volunteers, our member agencies, elected officials and the public we would not have been able to accomplish our first steps towards meeting our objectives to enhance quality recreational opportunities along the San Diego River.

I would also like to thank all of the elected officials, and residents of San Diego who had the vision, foresight and fortitude to establish the San Diego River Conservancy to help protect this valuable resource for the San Diego region.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the San Diego River Conservancy we submit this report for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair SDRC

Ben G. Clay, Chair SDRC
Dear Members of the California State Legislature,

On behalf of the San Diego River Conservancy, thank you for your continued interest and support of work by the Conservancy to protect and enhance the unique history, natural resources and cultural heritage within the river’s watershed. Attached is an update on the San Diego River watershed including a summary, a map highlighting selected projects for the period of 2014 to 2016, and a video. The video is located at https://youtu.be/tk27UeGArfk.

The San Diego River Conservancy was established in 2002 and became a permanent state agency through the passage of Assembly Bill 392 by then Assembly Member and current Senator Toni Atkins in October 2015.

On November 4, 2014 voters approved the Proposition 1 – the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. The Conservancy was allocated $17 million for multi benefit ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration projects.

As of January 12, 2017 the Conservancy’s Governing Board has approved 12 projects for funding totaling $5,167,055.70 with 2 additional recommendations pending. Under the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Grant Program additional rounds of funding will be available in FY 18/19 and FY 21/22. The Conservancy added one new staff member, an environmental scientist, to implement its Proposition 1 Grant Program.

The Conservancy has served as a catalyst for improvements along the San Diego River by working with local jurisdictions, government agencies, academic institutions, nonprofits, and citizen coalitions that share an appreciation and vision for the river. The Conservancy prides itself on being a steward of the environment which fosters relationships with organizations that have the commitment and capacity to restore and improve the river by protecting its resources. The Conservancy leverages local, state, federal, and other funding sources through innovative partnerships to yield projects with multiple benefits.

The Conservancy and its partners have been aggressively implementing its invasive plant removal and control program within the watershed and have also made progress completing gaps along the San Diego River Trail, including segments located in the cities of San Diego and Santee and the Lakeside community in the unincorporated area of San Diego County. The segments include developing trails over approximately 10 miles of various terrain difficulties throughout the watershed. The trails represent an important function of the Conservancy in allowing public access to experience San Diego River’s beautiful and diverse habitats and, by extension appreciation of its resource conservation efforts.

California remains a state rich in its history of responsible conservation principles extending from John Muir to the formation of the California Conservation Corps and other state conservancies like ours that protect local watersheds. With the continued
assistance of the Legislature, the San Diego River Conservancy will carry that legacy forward for future generations.

There are so many to thank for the improvements to public access, environmental restoration and protection of cultural and historic sites that have been made along the 52-mile San Diego River. I would personally like to thank members of the Conservancy Board, state and federal agencies, the Kumeyaay Nation, the County of San Diego, the community of Lakeside, the cities of San Diego and Santee, the Conservancy’s many community-based partners, our staff and the hundreds of volunteers who work with non-profit organizations and local partners for their dedication and tireless efforts to make the river and its watershed a cultural, historical and natural resource for all to enjoy now and into the future. We appreciate the confidence the Legislature has placed in the San Diego River Conservancy Board and its staff.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Julia L. Richards
Executive Officer
Executive Summary

The San Diego River is one of Southern California’s most remarkable treasures, from the headwaters in the mountains to the Pacific Ocean. San Diego could not have developed without the river. The San Diego River drew first the Kumeyaay Indians more than 11,000 years ago, then came the Spanish missionaries, European settlers, and others followed. However, recent urbanization has threatened the river’s health. The San Diego River Conservancy seeks to protect and preserve the health of these natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources by preserving and promoting a river corridor that connects habitat conservation areas, parks, and public open spaces.

The Conservancy is creating the San Diego River Trail, which links communities to the river through a series of connected parks from the headwaters in Julian to the mouth of the river in Ocean Beach. The San Diego River Trail provides public access where people can experience nature in rural and urban communities along the river.

The mission of the Conservancy is to balance modern land preservation practices with recreational opportunities to allow the public to enjoy natural resources. The Conservancy Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017) lists five main goals: (1) Land conservation, (2) Recreation and education (3) Natural and cultural resources preservation and restoration, (4) Water quality and natural flood conveyance, and (5) Outreach based on watershed alliances and collaboration.

Population growth and development along the river has altered natural conditions changing the riverine landscape. These changes caused an infestation of invasive vegetation which increased the risk of flood and fire. To ameliorate these impacts, SDRC uses watershed wide permits to remove invasive non-native plants and restore the land with native vegetation. Currently, five projects have addressed more than 60 acres with a focus on removing *Arundo* and other non-native plants. The invasive plants consume large quantities of water and removing them provides benefits to water quality and supply.

The San Diego River watershed is home to many plants and animals. The watershed is comprised of vast habitats including coastal marshes, fresh water streams, upland meadows, oak woodlands and forests. To this day the riverbanks still hold historic and cultural resources, including sacred sites of Native American tribes. The Conservancy’s work helps to protect these cherished California assets.

SDRC continues to enhance its jurisdictional lands by expanding its reach with partners and sharing information for productive collaboration. It is the intent of SDRC to protect and restore the many resources in the San Diego River watershed for current and future generations.
Table 1. Summary of Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017’s associated projects for 2014-2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program 1: Conserve Land Along the San Diego River</th>
<th><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Acquisition Projects:</td>
<td>Refer to projects (12) and (14) of the Legislative Report Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113 acres conserved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program 2: Emphasize Recreation and Education</th>
<th><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 San Diego River Trail segments constructed:</td>
<td>Refer to projects (2), (6), (9), (11) and (13) of the Legislative Report Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totaling 10 miles, plus kiosks and interpretive signs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program 3A: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources</th>
<th><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Invasive Removal and Habitat Restoration Projects:</td>
<td>Refer to projects (3), (4), (5), (7) and (10) of the Legislative Report Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 acres invasives controlled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program 3B: Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historical Resources</th>
<th><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan - Interior and Exterior exhibits</td>
<td>Refer to project (1) of the Legislative Report Map</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program 4: Enhance Water Quality and Flood Conveyance</th>
<th><img src="image5.jpg" alt="Image" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mast Park Master Plan Public park revitalization, drainage enhancements and water quality improvements</td>
<td>Refer to project (8) of the Legislative Report Map</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Below summaries are samples of Conservancy projects in progress or completed during 2014-2016.

1. **Junipero Serra Museum**
   - An historical monument overlooking the San Diego River estuary, with scenic panoramic views to the east, located on the precipice of Presidio Park.

   **Project name:** Junipero Serra Museum – Implementation of Interpretive Master Plan  
   **Project Description:** Interior and exterior exhibits describing historical development and activities centered on the San Diego River  
   **Grantee:** San Diego History Center  
   **Performance period:** May 2015 - March 2017  
   **Funding source:** Proposition 84 (State Coastal Conservancy)  
   **Grant amount:** $250,000  
   **Leverage/matching funds:** Yes  
   **Project status:** In progress  
   **Acres/miles:** N/A  
   **Disadvantaged community:** Yes

2. **Qualcomm Stadium**
   - Formerly home to National Football League’s San Diego Chargers, this pedestrian trail segment connects Mission Valley south of the stadium from Fenton Parkway to Rancho Mission Road as part of the San Diego River Trail.

   **Project name:** Qualcomm Trail segment  
   **Project Description:** To complete planning of the Qualcomm Stadium segment of the San Diego River Trail.  
   **Grantee:** San Diego Association of Governments  
   **Performance period:** May 2012 – Fall 2017  
   **Funding:** Proposition 84 (State Coastal Conservancy)  
   **Grant Amount:** $168,000  
   **Leveraged/matching funds:** N/A  
   **Project status:** In progress; CEQA completed  
   **Acres/miles:** Approximately 0.5 mile  
   **Disadvantaged community:** No
3. Shepherd Canyon

- Volunteers form Friends of the Canyon work together in the community of Tierrasanta to restore Shepherd Canyon.

**Project name:** Invasive removal and control in Shepherd Canyon

**Project Description:** Invasive removal and control in Shepherd Canyon, in partnership with San Diego Canyonlands and the Friends of the Canyon, to restore a tributary to the San Diego River.

**Grantee:** San Diego Canyonlands

**Performance period:** May 2014 - August 2017

**Funding:** San Diego River Conservancy

**Grant amount:** $17,680

**Leveraged/matching funds:** Yes

**Project status:** In progress

**Acres/miles:** Approximately 12 acres (0.8 stream mile)

**Disadvantaged community:** No

4. Alvarado Creek

- San Diego State University owns riparian habitat along Alvarado Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River. This project is a partnership between the Conservancy, the University and the San Diego State University Research Foundation to remove invasive non-native vegetation according to the Conservancy’s permits.

**Project name:** Invasive Plant Removal and control at Alvarado Creek

**Project Description:** Removal and control of invasive non-native plants in and along Alvarado Creek. Biomass was removed to allow for native vegetation regrowth.

**Grantee:** San Diego State University Research Foundation

**Performance period:** February 2016 – February 2018

**Funding:** Proposition 1 - San Diego River Conservancy

**Grant amount:** $500,396

**Leveraged/matching funds:** Yes

**Project status:** In progress

**Acres/miles:** 1 acre (1,200 LF of creek)

**Disadvantaged community:** Yes
5. MidWest TV

- At the eastern boundary of Mission Trails Regional Park is the Midwest Television restoration site where invasive non-native plants are controlled to improve native habitat, conserve water resources and enhance natural flow conveyance.

**Project name:** Invasive removal and control at Midwest Television

**Project Description:** At the eastern boundary of Mission Trails Regional Park was private property infested with invasive non-native plants. SDRC removed biomass allowing native habitat to return, conserve water resources and enhance natural flow conveyance.

**Vendor:** Nature’s Image

**Performance period:** August 2013 – November 2015

**Funding:** Proposition 40 (Natural Resources Agency)

**Contract amount:** $47,501

**Project status:** Completed

**Acres/miles:** Approximately 4 acres (0.4 stream miles)

**Disadvantaged community:** No

6. Carlton Oaks Golf Course Trail segment

- Enter East County and enjoy a scenic trail through the southern edge of 18-hole Carlton Oaks Golf Course. The Conservancy in partnership with San Diego Association of Governments has completed the planning alignment for this section of the San Diego River Trail. Construction is planned for Winter 2018.

**Project name:** Carlton Oaks Trail segment

**Project Description:** San Diego Association of Governments (“SANDAG”) will complete planning of the Carlton Oaks segment of the San Diego River Trail.

**Performance period:** May 2012 – Fall 2018

**Funding:** Propositions 84 (State Coastal Conservancy)

**Grant amount:** $332,000

**Grantee:** SANDAG

**Leveraged/matching funds:** Yes

**Project status:** In progress; alignment determined

**Acres/miles:** 0.8 mile

**Disadvantaged community:** No
7. Sycamore Creek

- Prior to *Arundo* removal at Sycamore Creek, water and migratory birds were not visible and this area was a fire and flood hazard. After removal wildlife returned to the creek. A great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) was spotted in the tree canopy.

**Project name:** Invasive removal and control in Sycamore Creek

**Project Description:** One year into the project after biomass removed native vegetation rebounded and flourished, waters flow and numerous birds have returned.

**Vendor:** ACS Habitat Management

**Performance period:** August 2014- August 2017

**Funding:** Propositions 84  (State Coastal Conservancy)

**Contract amount:** $244,000

**Leveraged/matching funds:** In progress

**Project status:** In progress

**Acres/miles:** 14 acres

**Disadvantaged community:** No

8. Mast Park

- The City of Santee's Mast Park trail runs along the north of the San Diego River. Drainage enhancements will compliment the 9-hole disc golf course, basketball court and playground. Also, upgrades to the park include bioswales, natural filtration area, retention basin and space for play.

**Project name:** Mast Park (2012 Update) includes

**Project Description:** Project will improve inadequate drainage, remove contaminants in stormwater runoff, move trail away from river and install permeable trail surface for public access and restore riparian habitat by increasing buffer zone around the San Diego River.

**Grantee:** City of Santee

**Performance period:** January 2017- March 2019

**Funding:** Proposition 1  (San Diego River Conservancy)

**Grant amount:** $1,233,000

**Leveraged/matching funds:** Yes

**Project status:** Grant awaiting signatures

**Acres/miles:** Approximately 30 acres (0.39 stream mile or 2,080 LF)

**Disadvantaged community:** No
9. Walker Preserve
   - This is a multi-user trail which serves hikers, cyclists and equestrians. They can stop to read nature interpretive signage, walk down to the pond, and enjoy the viewing the wildlife. There are even amenities for bicycle riders to repair a flat tire. The map shows a yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) perched on laurel sumac.

   **Project name:** Walker Preserve Trail segment
   **Project Description:** Decomposed granite and lodge pole fencing runs along the 0.8 mile segment of the San Diego River Trail.
   **Grantee:** City of Santee
   **Performance period:** October 2014 – April 2015
   **Funding:** Propositions 84 (State Coastal Conservancy)
   **Grant cost:** $1,200,000
   **Leveraged/matching funds:** Yes
   **Project status:** Completed
   **Acres/miles:** Approximately 107 acres/ 0.8 miles
   **Disadvantaged community:** No

10. Los Coches Creek
    - Interspersed between Flynn Springs, Winter Gardens and Lakeside residents, Los Coches Creek invasives are under control. Arundo in this area has often caught fire and caused the loss of life and property.

    **Project name:** Invasive removal and control at Los Coches Creek
    **Project Description:** Los Coches Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River, was heavily infested with *Arundo*. This project removed ad revegetated approximately 35 acres.
    **Grantee:** Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy
    **Performance period:** September 2014- April 2016
    **Funding:** Propositions 84 (State Coastal Conservancy)
    **Grant amount:** $660,000
    **Leveraged/matching funds:** No
    **Project status:** Completed
    **Acres/miles:** 35 acres
    **Disadvantaged community:** Yes
11. El Monte Valley

- Helix Water District surplused 3 parcels of land in the community of Lakeside in the unincorporated area of San Diego County. The City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department will purchase fee title to this property for annual groundwater and surface water monitoring and to conserve this habitat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name:</th>
<th>El Monte Valley – Land Acquisition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Description:</td>
<td>Land conservation of 3 parcels in El Monte Valley, in the San Diego River watershed below El Capitan reservoir in Lakeside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grantee:</td>
<td>City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance period:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding:</td>
<td>Proposition 1 – San Diego River Conservancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant amount:</td>
<td>$540,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leveraged/matching funds:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project status:</td>
<td>In progress (San Diego City Council review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres/miles:</td>
<td>Approximately 38 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disadvantaged community:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. Flume Trail Extension segment

- This project designed and constructed under a mile segment of the San Diego River Trail with several switchbacks. At the top of the hike up this segment of the San Diego River Trail are amazing views of Lake Jennings, El Cajon Mountain, and other open space.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name:</th>
<th>Flume Trail Extension segment, trailhead and parking area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Description:</td>
<td>This project designed and constructed 0.8 miles of trail, trailhead, parking area, mitigation and interpretive signage discussing history of water transport in San Diego.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grantee:</td>
<td>County of San Diego and San Diego Urban Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance period:</td>
<td>October 2014 - May 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding:</td>
<td>Proposition 40 (Natural Resources Agency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant amount:</td>
<td>$325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leveraged/matching funds:</td>
<td>Yes ($110,000 from Hervey Family of Funds at the San Diego Foundation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project status:</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres/miles:</td>
<td>0.8 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disadvantaged community:</td>
<td>No, but a disadvantaged community is located within 300 feet of project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. Historic Flume Trail segment
   - Running along mountain ridges this challenging trail segment was constructed on the bench cut along the mountain that once carried water in a redwood flume from Lake Cuyamaca down to the City of San Diego. Now the trail vistas overlook San Diego County’s El Monte Park, El Monte Valley and El Cajon Mountain.

   Project name: Historic Flume Trail segment
   Project Description: Design and construct 2.5 miles of trail from the County of San Diego’s El Monte Park to the flume bench cut along the south edge of El Monte Valley in Lakeside.
   Grantee: The County of San Diego
   Performance period: May 2013 – June 2015
   Funding: Proposition 84 (State Coastal Conservancy)
   Grant amount: $485,000
   Leveraged/matching funds: No
   Project status: Completed
   Acres/miles: 2.5 miles
   Disadvantaged community: No, but a disadvantaged community is located within 1,600 feet (0.3 mile) of project

14. Temescal Creek
   - A 75-acre wildlife corridor in the headwaters of the San Diego River has been conserved. The map shows cougar (Puma concolor californica), cubs as well as mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) and fawn were captured traversing an animal trail.

   Project name: Temescal Creek – Land Acquisition
   Project Description: Land Conservation of meadow and oak woodland in the upper watershed of the San Diego River in Julian.
   Grantee: San Diego River Park Foundation
   Performance period: May 2016 – May 2036
   Funding: Proposition 1
   Grant cost: $355,000
   Leveraged/matching funds: Yes
   Project status: In progress
   Acres/miles: Approximately 75 acres
   Disadvantaged community: No
Thank you to the Conservancy’s many partners!

With support from Opening the Outdoors Program and the Hervey Family Fund

San Diego Canyonlands

Back Country Land Trust

The San Diego Foundation™
Growing a Greater San Diego

Endangered Habitats Conservancy
Wildlife Photo’s from Temescal Creek area
provided by the San Diego River Park Foundation
State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of March 17, 2017

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 10, 2017, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of March 17, 2017

ITEM: 11
SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT