

Revised Agenda
Notice of Public Meeting
San Diego River Conservancy

A public meeting of the Governing Board of
The San Diego River Conservancy
will be held Thursday,

September 20, 2018
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location
California State Building
1350 Front Street, 6th Floor
San Diego, California 92101

Tele-Conference Locations

Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Ste 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Finance
State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact:
Wendell Taper (619) 645-3183

Meeting Agenda

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

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes (**ACTION**)
Consider approval of minutes for the July 12, 2018 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/ACTION**)
- 5. Deputy Attorney General Report (**INFORMATIONAL**)
- 6. Health and Safety Report (**INFORMATIONAL**)
- 7. Land Acquisition and Conservation Project (**ACTION**)

This land is located in El Money Valley (Lakeside) and includes 2.3 trail miles and 13.64 acres along the San Diego River Trail. This Gap was identified in the Conservancy's 2010 Gaps Analysis as number #60B – Western Flume. The Conservancy and San Diego County Parks and Recreation worked together on a plan to acquire the land for conservation and provide for trail easement(s). The land is currently owned by the Potts Family Trust and they signed a willing seller letter. Fair Market Value of land was appraised at \$60,000.00. The County submitted a grant to the Conservancy requesting funding for \$30,000 towards the land acquisition. If acquired, this land will eventually provide a connection between 2 existing trail segments along the San Diego River Trail.

Presentation:

Margaret Diss, County Trails Program Coordinator
County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation

Recommendation: Approve Conservancy Resolution 18-02

- 8. Round 3, Proposition 1 Grant program - staff recommendations for funding (**ACTION**)

The Conservancy received 6 applications for Round 3, requesting approximately \$4 million. Conservancy staff evaluated submissions and is recommending partial funding for two applications.

Chaparral Canyon Invasive Removal and Habitat Restoration in the City of San Diego (**ACTION**)

Applicant: City of San Diego Public Utilities Department
Requested amount: \$496,049.00
Recommended amount: ~~\$382,000.00~~ **\$382,513.00**
Score: 100/113
Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 18-03

This project will provide and non-native invasive plant removal and control including erosion control measures along a tributary to the San Diego River. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

Presentation:

Niki McGinnis, Natural Resources Manager
City of San Diego Public Utilities, Watershed & Resource Protection

Alvarado Creek Canyon Invasive Removal and Habitat Restoration in the City of San Diego
(ACTION)

Applicant: San Diego State University Research Foundation
Requested amount: \$1,345,585.00
Recommended amount: ~~\$950,000.00~~ \$946,127.00
Score: 105.5/113
Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 18-04

This project will provide non-native invasive plant removal and control along a tributary to the San Diego River. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

Presentation:

Julie Lambert, Senior Project Manager, GIS Technician
Soil Ecology and Restoration Group
San Diego State University Research Foundation

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:

- Proposition 68 (Park Bond)
- Mission Valley Community Plan Update released -comments due 11/13/18
<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cpu/missionvalley>
- El Monte Sand Mining Project's Draft subsequent EIR released. The Project Includes a Major Use Permit Modification (PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2) and a Reclamation Plan (PDS2015-RP-15-001) - comments due 10/29/18
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa/El_Monte_Public_Review.html
- Stakeholders priority projects & the San Diego River Trail
- River Parkways grant program \$7M available through CA Natural Resources Agency
- Natural Working Lands Plan
- Department of Finance training

10. Closed session to discuss evaluation of performance for the Executive Officer

Session will be closed to the public pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1). Pursuant to Government Code section 11126, a state body may hold a closed session during a regular or special meeting to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee.

11. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting will be held November 8, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

12. 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 Wendell Taper at 619-645-3183 or Dustin Harrison 619-525-4094

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*ACTION*)
The Board will consider adoption of the **July 12, 2018**
public meeting minutes.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Minutes of July 12, 2018 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on September 20, 2018)

CONSERVANCY Board Chair, Ben Clay called the July 12, 2018 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Item 1. Roll Call

Members Present

Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
John Elliott	Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy
Adrian Granda	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Brian Jones	City of Santee
Joshua Nelson	Natural Resources Agency (Via Phone)
Gail Sevrens	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Deanna Spehn	Speaker of the Assembly (Via Phone)
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez	Department of Finance

Absent

John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board (Via Phone)
Robin Greene	Department of Parks and Recreation
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
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

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez commented Joshua Nelson previously worked with Department of Finance. He is currently with Natural Resources Agency.

Ben Clay asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez moved for approval of the minutes for the March 8, 2018 meeting and Ruth Hayward seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Joshua Nelson, Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, Gail Sevrens, Deanna Spehn, John Elliott, Brian Jones; Abstain: Adrian Granda (7-0-1)

Item 3. Public Comment (*INFORMATIONAL*)

None.

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

Ben Clay clarified Deanna Spehn is calling in from Maryland. He welcomed Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez who is visiting from Sacramento.

Adrian Granda introduced himself as Mayor Falconer's designee, replacing Brent Eidson. He recognized Brent for his leadership of many years on this Board.

Ben Clay mentioned at the end of last week, his son was at Dog Beach and a notice went out regarding pollution. The source was from the San Diego River so he contacted Julia. He wanted to know what was going on, however the first issue he had was the size of the signs. They were too small to read from 20 yards away. Secondly, he wanted to know more information about the location of the pollution. Since the County of San Diego conducts water quality testing, he would like to set up a protocol between SDRC and the County of notification to get the word out. He wants to make sure people stay out of the water when a notice goes up.

Additionally, the timing of the Board Meetings is difficult for some Board Members to attend. The meeting time may move back to 2pm, contact Julia regarding the time change.

Brian Jones expressed concern because he was recently in the water at Dog Beach with his dog.

Gary Strawn Chad or David Gibson from the Waterboard might have the information you are looking for. He guessed it was from eutrophication – stagnant water, algae build up then dies resulting in bacterial counts. The issue is with the signs because it takes 3 days for testing to go through. They need real-time testing to put signs up when it happens.

Ben Clay discussed SB 1367 which was heard in Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and was amended to give legislator and governor notice of findings from the steering committee processes. The concerns are the imbedded costs which could be covered from existing staff, however once plans move to implementation, adjustments will be made. These committees will get the planning process moving forward.

The bill has been referred to Appropriations and will be heard in August. From their concurrence and amendments then back to Senate. There were no concerns.

Item 5. Deputy Attorney General Report (*INFORMATIONAL/ ACTION*)

Hayley Peterson thanked Chair Clay. She mentioned the Executive Officer's request about ethics training is due at the end of August. Staff will follow up at the beginning of August with a reminder, no later than August 30.

Item 6. Health and Safety Report (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

None.

Item 7. City of San Diego update on Trash Removal and Clean Up Efforts in the San Diego River Watershed (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Julia Richards introduced Mario Sierra, City of San Diego Director of Environmental Services. He will share City of San Diego's Clean San Diego Initiative, conducting waste abatement and working with private property owners and other governmental agencies who also own property along the river keeping one of the region's most important natural asset free and clear of waste.

Mario Sierra thanked the Board and introduced himself as City of San Diego Environmental Services Department Director. The City's trash update in the San Diego River Watershed is one element in the Clean San Diego Initiative. Clean up efforts started in May 2017 when the City initiated a pilot project that identified 9 hotspots throughout San Diego that were notorious for illegal dumping, waste abatements and amount of trash collected. Because of the hotspots, the city was visiting these sites a minimum of 1-3 times per week. An additional \$800,000 to target these communities. They also partnered with probation crews and city staff performing abatements.

As of May 2017, 1,300 tons of debris have been removed. The other elements that make up the Clean SD Initiative include. Waste abatements occur every week Monday through Friday unless it's a holiday. The focus is downtown because of the concentration of dumping. The City of San Diego was directed by the County Health Officer to take immediate action regarding the Hep A outbreak and sanitize public right of ways. A bleach solution cleans sidewalk and immediate results were seen. Odor was also removed.

Three 2-person crews run an on-call waste removal service called "Get It Done" which is an app that allows one to snap a picture and submit it, then the crew responds to clean ups. The Mayor also requested focus on the San Diego River specifically. Street sweeping in the East Village area and permanent no parking street sweeping signs were installed. Enforcement is an important component that leads to changed behavior.

17.5 miles of the river is within the City limits. 7 areas are identified by the San Diego River Park Foundation. They provide daily surveys so they know where the City needs to clean. Area #6 has 24 sites identified by the Foundation. Along the San Diego river has diverse ownership. The Foundation performs abatements on inactive encampments. The City of San Diego performs abatements on active encampments. 1/3 of the parcels owned by the City of San Diego and 1/3 government agencies and 1/3 are private properties. Effective operations along with monitoring ensure ongoing efforts.

As an incentive to initiate partnership with private property owners, the City offered one-time waste abatement service for private properties. The Foundation identified 10 of at least 30 encampments that needed abatement to keep the channel clear and free. There are only two property owners remaining to be cleared. The mayor emphasized the importance of this effort because there will be enforcement. Notices of Violations and citations will be issued.

Ben Clay asked if that was code enforcement. How many notices are issued.

Mario Sierra responded yes. There are Departments with the ability to enforce code compliance. A reasonable time to clean the area. The Officer can issue fines and keeps a history of violators. Multiple occurrences result in fines. They require agencies submit ongoing maintenance plans. The Mayor has met at least 3 times requiring updates.

Some data include 130 tons not including the Foundations efforts. \$25,000 has been contributed to supplement their work. The pilot project of hot spot continues today. Chollas Creek added another 44 tons. Tuesday and Wednesday is San Diego River, while Thursday is City of San Diego as needed. The Mayor allocated additional 16 positions for

Environmental Services Department. They are preparing to expand number of waste abatements. 2 additional on call crews will respond to get it done request since residents are calling in. ide walk sanitizing will continue as well. Community curbside cleanups where illegal dumping activity occurs allow individuals to drop off trash and hazardous waste. It's a customized service performed once every other week and it's very popular.

Ruth Hayward asked if there are any pathogen testing during cleanups. After the material is removed is it tested?

Mario Sierra mentioned the Clean San Diego effort does not however, if the material cannot be identified they will not remove it; a hazmat crew comes in to identify it then it is removed. Fecal matter has been removed before. If they are unsure the crew comes in.

Gary Strawn the City or Water Department land east of Mission Trails Park along Mission Gorge Road the property is neglected.

Mario Sierra all the San Diego property has been cleaned at least once.

Rob Hutsel introduced himself as president CEO of San Diego River Park Foundation. They are on the City's Public Utilities Department property east of the 52 with active encampments.

Gary Strawn the weight and quantity of trash is related to accessibility. Street and road access results in ability to transport material which accumulates. The 52 on-ramp has a big encampment with heavy equipment. His suggestion is to block off road access, at least to reduce some material from building up.

Mario Sierra prevention is key. They are working with property owners whether it's a fence or barrier. San Diego Police Department is in the river every day informing others they don't belong there. They offer different alternatives of where to stay.

Gail Sevrens asked for clarification of the location of the fence where homeless enter. On the San Diego Ecological Preserve, there was a successful press conference with cleanup efforts along with the Foundation and volunteers.

Brian Jones asked is statistics are kept each year and can Mario point to a year when activities got worse. Does the San Diego River Conservancy have data?

Mario Sierra up until implementation of Clean San Diego effort it has been random. May of 2017 it kicked off with different elements added. San Diego River started November 2017.

Rob Hutsel mentioned they have more than a decade of data and are willing to share with anyone. When they first started it was bad, they made progress; however, approximately 3 years ago the percentage of homeless increased and so did the volume of trash. Recently in October, 118 encampments were identified along the river in the City of San Diego. There are about 60 now. The challenge is reaching those individuals. The Foundation has led the point in time count each January with a detailed analysis. The last couple years show an increase of drop offs near the river.

Brian Jones asked if there is a correlation of AB 109, Prop 47 and Prop 57. That is something he is looking at those justice reforms and homeless activity. He would like to see scientific data supporting this.

Ben Clay mentioned Sheriff Gore should be invited to the next meeting to discuss these details. He thanked Mario, Rob and Brian for their input. Along a similar note, in London when the trash can fill up, it alerts the folks.

Mario Sierra said there are 80 of the "Big Belly" trash cans that notify when they are full.

Adrian Granda mentioned he notices the trash and applauds the efforts to keep the watersheds and city clean.

Item 8. The Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program (*INFORMATIONAL/ ACTION*)

Julia Richards mentioned the budget spreadsheet and project summary of past Prop 1 was attached in the Board Book and she introduced Dustin Harrison.

Dustin Harrison updated the board Prop 1 Round 1 was fiscal year 15-16 and Round 2 was 16-17. The Board approved 12 projects for a total of \$5.7 million. He touched on 3 projects from round 1 and 2 and overview round 3 which is awaiting full applications.

At the March meeting, John Donnelly mentioned a cost effectiveness evaluation for the non-structural best management practices. The County is working on an evaluation from the data they are collecting. San Diego Canyonlands and Ecolife conducted aquaponics restoration project. Over 3 weeks, 14 plants consumed 56 gallons of water. On average each plant consumes 4 gallons in 3 weeks. It is interesting to understand how much native plants are consuming. The acquisition in El Monte Valley was recently completed. The picture on the left is parcels intersecting 100-year floodplain and the right is a view from the valley.

Invasive pests in the San Diego River include gold spotted oak borer which leaves the "D" shaped 4mm exit hole. The invasive shot hole borer includes two species native to south east Asia. First identified in San Diego County in 2012 recently discovered April 2018 by the Forest Service. Training at El Monte County Park and through the collaboration of multiple organizations a trapping and monitoring program will be implemented beginning August 25 to better identify the distribution of these invasive pests.

Ben Clay asked if this pest was the most egregious besides the citrus greening disease.

Dustin Harrison 8 concept proposals were received for Round 3. The County is proposing to remove invasive grasses at Sycamore Canyon/ Goodan Ranch. Native plants are choked out by invasive grasses. More details are in the Board Book.

Brian Jones Goodan Ranch is a JPA between the City of Santee, Poway and the County of San Diego. He mountain bikes there and the new ranger Louis planted 30 new oak trees. He thanked the Conservancy for any work that is going on.

Dustin Harrison Back County Land Trust in Alpine has tons of Arundo. It has been treated, just needs biomass removal. Lakeside's River Park Conservancy riparian area full of invasives. LRPC lower sycamore creek and dead Arundo. San Diego State University Research Foundation, an extension to phase 1-3, Phase 4 along Alvarado Creek. Another by SDSURF Adobe Fall Smoke Tree Home Owners Association. A recent fire burned 38 acres and palm trees torched. Arundo popped up days after the fire. Last but not least, City of San Diego PUD Chaparral Canyon has tons of invasives just below Murray Reservoir.

Gail Sevens offered the Department of Fish and Wildlife is willing to help with technical review.

Item 9. Proposition 68: California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Julia Richards thanked Dustin for the overview. Moving on to Proposition 68 which was approved by voters on June 5th 2018. \$4 billion was approved for general bond obligations. The Conservancy was allocated \$12 million. An

overview of the allocation state wide bond costs results in \$11.1 million available for projects. Severely disadvantaged communities are a requirement of funding. \$2.4 million goes to areas in City of San Diego and/or City of El Cajon. If anyone else might qualify, please let the Conservancy know. 10% is for planning and monitoring, 10% technical assistance and 5% community access.

For the focus on community access, up to 5% is available for transportation, physical activity programming, resource interpretation and multilingual translation, natural science, education and workforce development and career paths communication related to water parks, climate, coastal protection and other outdoor pursuits. There are many categories and the Conservancy has begun meeting with jurisdictions regarding possible projects.

The Conservancy will develop guidelines seeking public input. They will be posted between November and December 2018, in compliance with general obligation bond law. If anyone wants copies she will send them out.

Lastly, green house gas reduction and carbon sequestration. More reporting comes along with funding to track climate change goals. All the information is entered into Sacramento databases so the conservancy is accounted for along with other state agencies.

Item 10. San Diego River Conservancy's proposed meetings schedule for 2019 *(ACTION)*

Ben Clay asked if there is a motion of approval.

Adrian Granda moved for approval of the meeting schedule and John Elliott seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Joshua Nelson, Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, Gail Sevrens, Deanna Spehn, Adrian Granda, John Elliott, Brian Jones (8-0-0)

Item 11. Executive Officer's Report *(INFORMATIONAL)*

Julia Richards thanked Chairman and updated the Board on current projects. The Conservancy has scheduled meetings with all jurisdictions in the San Diego River Watershed and non-profits to update the San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis. Looking at community connections and the gaps that remain, non-just the mainstem for access to the San Diego River Trail. The Conservancy is relying on others to inform what their community needs are. A list of 5 priorities from each will be compiled, then a meeting with CDFW to come up with a plan before the money is received. The first allocation will be \$2 million in July 2019. She is willing to meeting with Board members to discuss in detail.

Stadium Wetland Mitigation Project (San Diego River) is seeing native vegetation regrowth in the absence of invasives.

The SDSU contamination study is 100% funded. The State Water Board contributed \$180,000. She thanked the **State and Regional Water Board** for their support.

Natural working lands concept paper is a planning document from Sacramento. The Conservancy is set up for different categories from fire abatement to invasive removal so the request to be implementing agencies for different categories and the plan finalized **September** or October 2018.

Gail Sevrens asked who is developing the document.

Julia Richards Natural Resources Agency, California Air Resources Board, California Environmental Protection Agency, and California Department of Food and Agriculture. As an implementing agency the Conservancy can partner with others and have support from another state plan.

Funding was received from Mission Resources Conservation District through a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to remove invasives from Admiral Baker to Dog Beach. Property owners are expressing interest especially because of the Clean San Diego Program.

Wendell and Julia are working on end of fiscal year closing the book documents and everything is looking good.

Also, she was asked to apply for an associate director position for Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County. She is an east county representative.

Ben Clay that was run by Hayley.

Hayley Peterson they are not incompatible positions, but they will be examined on a case by case basis.

Deanna Spehn thanked everyone for the overviews.

Brian Jones Terry and Bill from the City of Santee wanted to inform the Board the Mast Park bids will open August 16 and under construction anticipated completion next year.

Adjournment

Ben Clay adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 4

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

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT
(INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY (*INFORMATIONAL*)

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of July 12, 2018

ITEM: **7**

SUBJECT: Land Acquisition and Conservation Project (***ACTION***)

This land is located in El Money Valley (Lakeside) and includes 2.3 trail miles and 13.64 acres along the San Diego River Trail. This Gap was identified in the Conservancy's 2010 Gaps Analysis as number #60B –Western Flume. The Conservancy and San Diego County Parks and Recreation worked together on a plan to acquire the land for conservation and provide for trail easement(s). The land is currently owned by the Potts Family Trust and they signed a willing seller letter. Fair Market Value of land was appraised at \$60,000.00. The County submitted a grant to the Conservancy requesting funding for \$30,000 towards the land acquisition. If acquired, this land will eventually provide a connection between 2 existing trail segments along the San Diego River Trail.

Presentation:

Margaret Diss, County Trails Program Coordinator
County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation

Recommendation: Approve Conservancy Resolution 18-02

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 18-02
September 20, 2018

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the disbursement of up to \$30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Dollars) in Special Deposit funds to the County of San Diego to acquire and preserve in public ownership 13.64 acres (APN 396-140-33-00) for the purposes of a non-motorized trail connection with the following conditions: Verification of a clean title; Dedication of trail easement in perpetuity; Dedication of trail for equestrian access in perpetuity; No future development (except trails/trail facilities) on the land; and acknowledgment of previous land owner in a fair and appropriate way along this trail.

LOCATION: The subject parcel to be acquired with grant funds is located along 2.3 miles of the historic San Diego Flume alignment between El Capitan Reservoir and Lake Jennings south of El Monte Road.

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

The San Diego River Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$30,000.00 to the County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to acquire land for a multiuse trail along south western El Monte Valley.

Prior to the execution of grant agreement, 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 San Diego River Conservancy Work Plan Summary 2017-2018.
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: Funds for this grant will be used for property acquisition (purchase of land) only. The total project schedule and budget includes: an appraisal, appraisal review, a purchase and sale agreement, negotiation and finalization, engineering/deed preparation, and title/escrow for the acquisition.

While this grant opportunity is solely for the acquisition of the subject parcel, the subsequent construction of a segment of the San Diego River Trail along El Monte Valley aligns with the

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce GHG emissions and contribute to the implementation of the County's Climate Action Plan and other State Plans. Active transportation has direct impacts on reducing GHG emissions by promoting shifts from vehicle to pedestrian trips and by linking trails to parks, open space and other recreational facilities result in regional connections.

Task or Milestone	Expected Completion Date
Staff Report Presentation at the SDRC Board Meeting (date of award)	9/20/2018
Negotiation and preparation of purchase of sale agreement	+30 days from award
Deed preparation	+60 days from award
Verification of clean title	+90 days from award
Close of escrow	+109 days from award

PROJECT HISTORY: DPR intends to use APN 396-140-33-00 as a multi-use non-motorized trail, which would connect from the existing Historic Flume Trail Corridor segment to the east, and existing El Monte flume trail to the west.

In 2010, DPR acquired a parcel that contains a 2.5-mile portion of the flume alignment near El Monte County Park.

In 2013, the Conservancy provided \$450,000.00 in grant funds to the DPR to design/construct the San Diego River Trail segment called the "Historic Flume Trail." This project was funded through the Conservancy's Prop 84 allocation.

In 2015, the Conservancy provided \$324,627.00 grant funds to DPR in order to design/construct the San Diego River Trail segment called the "Flume Trail Extension." This was funded by the Conservancy's Prop 40 allocation, a grant from the San Diego Foundation, a donated easement from Helix Water District and matching funds from DPR.

The recently completed Flume Trail Project was constructed from 2013 to 2015 in accordance with SDRC's Trails Gaps Analysis Report. This acquisition and subsequent trail connection would close trail gap "60B - Western Flume," identified in the San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis in (2010).

PROJECT NEED: If no funds were available from the Conservancy for this project, the opportunity to fill an existing gap in the San Diego River Trail could be lost as the current property owners may not be willing to sell in the future. Additionally, not having funds provided by the Conservancy would further delay implementation of the Gaps Analysis and the County's Trails Master Plan.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

PROJECT FINANCING: The applicant is requesting \$30,000.00 from the Conservancy. The total project amount is \$118,500.00 The applicant is providing matching funds in the amount of \$88,500.00, or 75% of the total project costs.

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 1: Conserve Land within the San Diego River Watershed, Program 2: Support and Encourage Recreation and Education and Program 6: Expand the Organizations Capacity and Public Outreach.

MULTIBENEFITS: This land acquisition will set aside land envisioned for the San Diego River Trail which allows for a corridor along the historic Flume. The Flume trail will expand recreational use of an historic resource while providing educational opportunities for residents of San Diego County. Furthermore, the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the San Diego River will be preserved in perpetuity.

WILLING SELLER: The Conservancy has obtained a willing seller letter from the landowner for fair market value of \$60,000.

PROMOTES AND IMPLEMENTS STATE AND/OR REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- A. California River Parkways Act of 2004
- B. 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy
- C. Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 update

CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER REGIONAL PLANS: This acquisition is consistent with the County of San Diego's General Plan, the DPR Parks Master Plan, the Community Trails Master Plan, the San Diego River Park Master Plan, and the County's Climate Action Plan.

POST ACQUISITION LAND MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS: Following acquisition of the subject parcel DPR will be responsible for all aspects of funding and implementing the construction, management, and monitoring of the historic Flume trail connection. Currently, DPR staff at El Monte County Park manage the Historic Flume Trail to the east of the project parcel and the Helix Flume Trail to the west of the project parcel. The parcel to be acquired for this project will be managed in conjunction with the other Flume Trail parcels by DPR staff.

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY: The subject parcel is not located within a disadvantaged community; however, it is located less than 1.5 miles from one.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA: The lead agency under CEQA will be the County of San Diego. A Notice of Exemption will be filed, as no significant changes to the environment will be made. The proposed DPR project is categorically exempt from CEQA under class 16 Section 15316, "Transfer of Ownership of Land in Order to Create Parks." This class includes "acquisition, sale, or other transfer of land in order to establish a park where the land is in a natural condition or contains historical or archaeological resources".

Resolution No: 18-02

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$30,000 FROM THE
CONSERVANCY'S SPECIAL DEPOSIT FUND TO THE COUNTY OF
SAN DIEGO, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR LAND
ACQUISITION (APN 396-140-3300)**

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,

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California created the San Diego River Conservancy for the purposes and acquiring and managing public lands,

WHEREAS, this project is consistent the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, Program 1: Conserve Land within the San Diego River Watershed,

WHEREAS, APN 396-140-3300 was identified in the Gaps Analysis as Gap 60: Western Flume. This potential acquisition would connect the San Diego River Trail from Gap 059 to Gap CNTY-D at El Monte County Park,

WHEREAS the County of San Diego provided an appraisal for \$60,000 for Fair Market Value dated October 4, 2017 for approximately 13.64 acres and 2.3 trail miles (APN 396-140-3300),

WHEREAS the San Diego River Conservancy and the County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation discussed partnering on the project. As a result the County submitted grant application to the Conservancy and requested \$30,000 in funding toward the purchase price,

WHEREAS the San Diego River Conservancy has obtained willing seller letter and right of entry from the land owners, the Potts Family Trust, and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy and staff have reviewed the Grant application and recommend the following 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 Conservancy's mission and strategic plan.
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 \$30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Dollars) in grant funds from the San Diego River Conservancy's Special Deposit Fund to the County of San Diego to acquire and preserve in public ownership 13.64 acres (APN 396-140-33-00) for the purposes of a non-motorized trail connection with the following conditions: Verification of a clean title; Dedication of trail easement in perpetuity; Dedication of trail for equestrian access in perpetuity; No future development (except trails/trail facilities) on the land; and acknowledgment of previous land owner in a fair and appropriate way along this trail.

4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts 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 20th day of September 2018. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 18-02 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

 Julia L. Richards
 Executive Officer

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

Name	Ayes	Noes	Abstained
CNRA: Josh Nelson			
DOF: Jacqueline Wong- Hernandez			
CADFW: Gail Sevens			
Adrian Granda, SD Mayor designee			
County Supervisor Dianne Jacob			
Scott Sherman City of San Diego Councilmember			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
Deanna Spehn			
Andrew Poat			
John Elliott			
Brian Jones			
DPR Director, Lisa Mangat (vacant)			
DPR, Colorado Desert District (vacant)			
Governors appointment (vacant)			

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: ROUND 3, PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM – STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING **(ACTION)**

The Conservancy received 6 applications for Round 3, requesting approximately \$4 million. Conservancy staff evaluated submissions and is recommending partial funding for two applications.

Chaparral Canyon Invasive Removal and Habitat Restoration in the City of San Diego **(ACTION)**

Applicant: City of San Diego Public Utilities Department
Requested amount: \$496,049.00
Recommended amount: \$382,513.00
Score: 100/113
Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 18-03

This project will provide and non-native invasive plant removal and control including erosion control measures along a tributary to the San Diego River. The purposes of this project are consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

Presentation:

Niki McGinnis, Natural Resources Manager
City of San Diego Public Utilities, Watershed & Resource Protection

Alvarado Creek Canyon Invasive Removal and Habitat Restoration in the City of San Diego **(ACTION)**

Applicant: San Diego State University Research Foundation
Requested amount: \$1,345,585.00
Recommended amount: \$946,127.00
Score: 105.5/113
Recommendation: Approve SDRC Resolution 18-04

This project will provide non-native invasive plant removal and control along a tributary to the San Diego River. The purposes of this project are

consistent with Proposition 1 Grant funding. [California Water Bond, Proposition 1 (2014)]

Presentation:

Julie Lambert, Senior Project Manager, GIS Technician
Soil Ecology and Restoration Group
San Diego State University Research Foundation

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 18-03
September 20, 2018

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to \$382,513.00 for riparian habitat restoration, debris removal and water quality assessments in Chaparral Canyon.

LOCATION: Chaparral Canyon is directly downstream of Murray Reservoir in the Navajo Community and drains to Alvarado Creek, a tributary to the San Diego River. The project area is owned by the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department.

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 \$382,513.00 to implement projects focused on improving water quality, water supply, ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration specifically as follows:

- City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department: Three hundred eighty-two thousand five hundred thirteen dollars to remove invasive non-native plants, restore native riparian habitat and monitor recruitment/ establishment in Chaparral Canyon.

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)

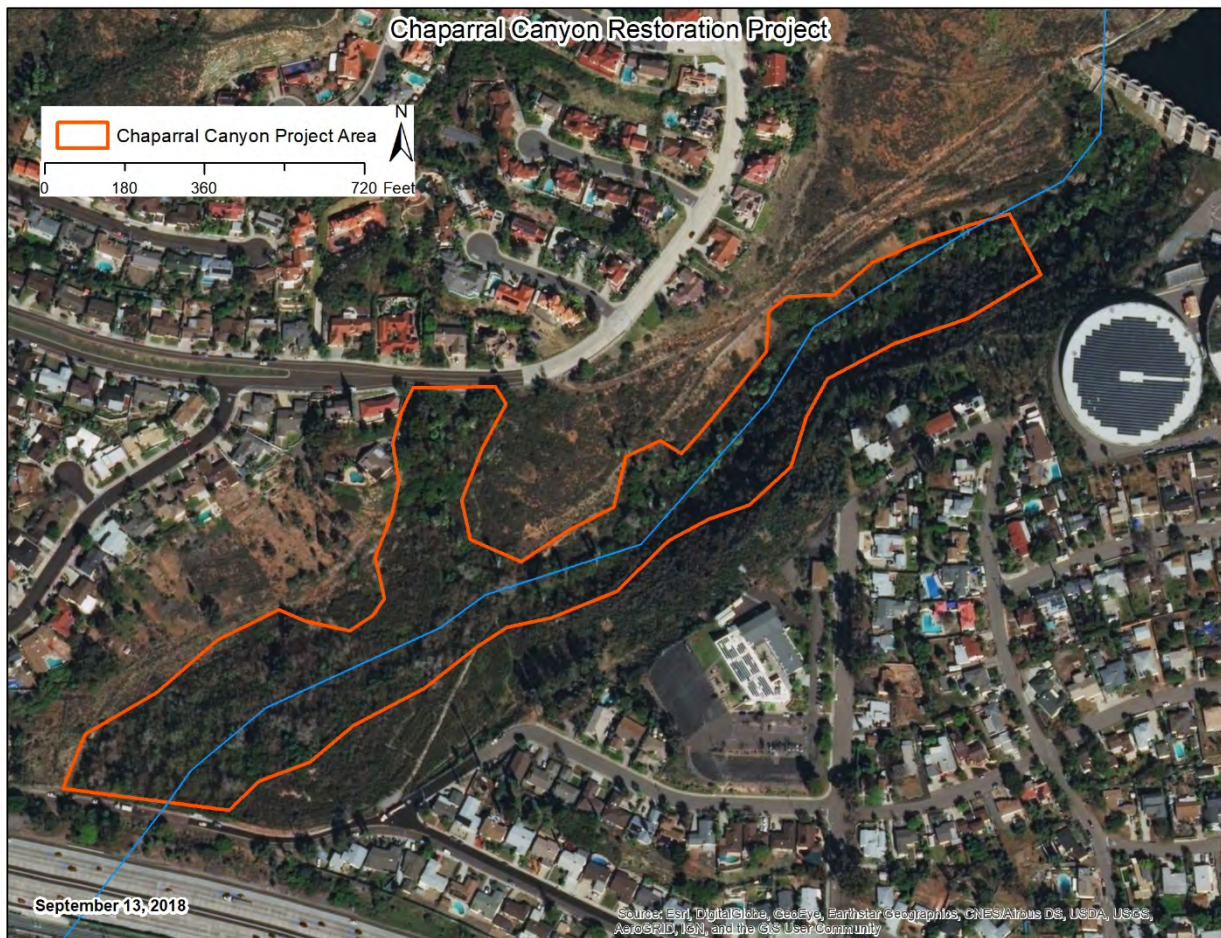
PROJECT SUMMARY: In April 2018, the Conservancy solicited project proposals aimed at increasing water supply and improving water quality. This solicitation was posted on the Conservancy and Natural Resource Agency’s Bond Accountability website and emailed to multiple organizations in California. The recommended grant would fund the proposal, as described below:

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

The Chaparral Canyon Habit Restoration and Vegetation Management Project proposes to enhance riparian function by discouraging unauthorized access and activities. The 10-acre enhancement and restoration project along Chaparral Creek, consists of two components to improve habitat and water quality: weed management and restoration/ enhancement plan.

The canyon conveys seasonal stormwater, including urban runoff, with perennial streamflow averaging 0.01 MGD.

SITE DESCRIPTION: Invasive non-native vegetation provides shelter and encourages encampments leading to unauthorized land use, trash and human debris buildup. Invasive species dominating the canopy include Brazilian pepper tree, Peruvian pepper tree, Mexican fan palm, Canary Island date palm, evergreen ash, ngaio tree and red gum. Non-native perennial species and grasses identified include Eupatory, castor bean, Pampas grass, common fig, smilo grass, salt cedar, and coastal wattle.



PROJECT HISTORY/NEED: This area is occupied by unauthorized users accumulating trash, degrading stormwater, causing erosion, and increasing fire hazard. Despite numerous attempts to purge the area, vegetation density has hampered effective management. The goal

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

of the vegetation management plan is to provide invasive vegetation control and habitat restoration to deter use of the project area. Additionally, native revegetation will increase habitat value and reduce re-infestation of invasives.

PROJECT FINANCING: The total project amount is \$449,192.00. Project applicant is requesting \$382,513.00 (85.2%) 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 3, Preserve and Restore Natural Resources (Removal of non-native plants), Program 5, Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance, from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2018-2023.

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 December 2017, in the following respects:

REQUIRED CRITERIA

- 1) The project is within the jurisdiction of the San Diego River Conservancy (San Diego watershed). The project lies within the San Diego River watershed and is located in Chaparral Canyon, a tributary to Alvarado Creek and the San Diego River.
- 2) The extent to which the project has support from the jurisdiction over the location of the project.

This project has support from Public Utilities Department, City Council District 7, and the City Council.

- 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 3: The project will restore a river parkway by enhancing riparian habitat along 2,729 linear feet. This work will restore the riparian corridor by removing invasive vegetation and re-vegetating with native species within a 10-acre site.

Purpose 8: The removal of invasive species within the project area will reduce fire fuel load since unauthorized access and illicit activities within the project area have been recognized as a potential ignition source.

Purpose 11: The removal of invasive vegetation will deter future unauthorized access to the area, reducing point source pollution, and by establishing native and endemic plants, natural system functions will contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Purpose 12: Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health within the City of San Diego's Multi-Habitat Planning Area for the Multiple Species Conservation Plan.

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

In 2016, the City of San Diego prepared a Vegetation Management Plan for the project area. The total project cost is \$449,192, and the City is requesting \$382,513. The proposed budget and schedule has 2 phases; Phase 1 will take roughly 2 months and cost \$168,171 for invasive removal and native revegetation and Phase 2 will take just over a month and cost \$214,342.

- 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. Action 4 – Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems;
 - ii. Action 8 – Increase Flood Protection
- B. San Diego River Water Quality Improvement Plan
 - i. Enhance water quality
- C. City of San Diego's MHPA
 - i. City's planned habitat preserve of the MSCP

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

Unmanned aerial vehicles will be utilized for monitoring and reporting. These devices provide a low-cost accurate method for obtaining high-resolution photography of the existing conditions, as well as post-restoration. The removal of invasive vegetation and replacement with native habitat will reduce fuel loads, improve the habitat's ability to bio-remediate, and diminish erosion related to unauthorized trail use.

- 7) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project.

The Chaparral Canyon Habitat Restoration and Vegetation Management Project utilizes unmanned aerial vehicle, high resolution camera, and GPS software to ensure mapping and analyses are accurate. Monitoring will be conducted to assess effectiveness of herbicide, document invasive re-sprouts, develop plant palette, and document germination from seeded and naturally recruited native vegetation in project areas.

Further, the project will employ a certified biologist to monitor restoration. The City, the contractor, and the monitoring biologist will review project areas to determine success of installation. Following successful completion of 120-day establishment period, a biologist will monitor the sites quarterly for one year. Additionally, ongoing unauthorized activity will be documented. All monitoring will be documented with a report.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Any project deficiencies will be noted in the report with recommendations. An annual work plan and report shall be generated for SDRC.

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

Anticipated project benefits include: Water quality improvements through bio-remediation for non-point source runoff and native landscape to increases infiltration. Invasive species alter natural systems resulting in loss of habitat quality. Reduced fuel loads for wildfire reduction not only to expose unauthorized usage from vegetative cover.

9) Whether the project reflects best available science.

The project proposes to employ best management practices for effective habitat restoration by analyzing stormwater runoff, establishing erosion control, an appropriate selection of native riparian species for the plant palette. Special consideration will be taken to reduce harmful impacts to native vegetation.

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

The City of San Diego Public Utilities Department, and specifically the Long-Range Planning and Water Resources Division (LRPWR), has extensive experience implementing habitat restoration and vegetation management projects throughout San Diego. For example, the San Diego River Healthy Headwaters Restoration (Proposition 84). The LRPWR has received over \$500,000 from SANDAG's TransNet Program to implement three habitat restoration projects on City lands, focusing on similar issues discussed in this application. SANDAG also funded the San Pasqual Valley Integrated Weed Management Plan for MSCP Cornerstone Lands in San Pasqual Valley.

11) The project is in a disadvantaged community.

The Project is not within a disadvantaged community (DAC); however, the section of Chaparral Canyon described in this project drains directly to a DAC <0.05mi.

12) Matching funds from applicant.

The City of San Diego will provide \$66,679 in matching funds for the proposed project, which represents more than 14% match. Costs will predominantly be comprised of staff labor, conceptual plan for digital imagery, stormwater runoff sampling and analyses and plant palette.

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: 18-03

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$382,513.00 FROM THE
CONSERVANCY'S PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS TO THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, PUBLIC
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT FOR NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION IN CHAPARRAL
CANYON**

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 City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for funds to remove invasive vegetation and establish native habitat in Chaparral Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department requests \$382,513.00; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy and staff have reviewed the Proposition 1 application and recommend 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 \$382,513.00 (Three Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen Dollars) in grant funds to the City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department to remove invasive non-native plants, restore native riparian habitat and monitor recruitment/establishment in Chaparral Canyon.
4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts 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 20th day of September 2018. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 18-03 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

Julia L. Richards
Executive Officer

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

Name	Ayes	Noes	Abstained
CNRA: Josh Nelson			
DOF: Jacqueline Wong- Hernandez			
CADFW: Gail Sevens			
Adrian Granda, SD Mayor designee			
County Supervisor Dianne Jacob			
Scott Sherman City of San Diego Councilmember			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
Deanna Spehn			
Andrew Poat			
John Elliott			
Brian Jones			
DPR Director, Lisa Mangat (vacant)			
DPR, Colorado Desert District (vacant)			
Governors appointment (vacant)			

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
SDRC Resolution 18-04
September 20, 2018

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to provide up to \$946,127.00 for native riparian habitat restoration, flood enhancement, anthropogenic debris removal and sediment and water quality monitoring in the lower reach of Alvarado Creek near San Diego State University.

LOCATION: The lower reach of Alvarado Creek approximately 1.5 miles east of the San Diego River confluence on property owned by Smoke Tree Home Owners Association.

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 \$946,127.00 to implement projects focused on improving water quality, water supply, ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration specifically as follows:

- San Diego State University Research Foundation: Nine hundred forty-six thousand one hundred twenty-seven dollars to remove invasive non-native plant species, restore riparian habitat and monitor water quality in Alvarado creek.

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 2018, the Conservancy solicited project proposals aimed at increasing water supply and improving water quality. This solicitation was posted on the Conservancy’s and Natural Resource Agency’s Bond Accountability website and emailed to multiple organizations in California. The recommended grant would fund the proposal, as described below:

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

This project seeks to restore the lower reach of Alvarado Creek to increase flood capacity and promote recovery of native riparian habitat. The establishment of non-native vegetation within the channel reduces flow velocities, which encourages sediment deposition. Removal of non-native vegetation has a positive impact on the recovery of native species. More importantly, the recent June 3rd Del Cerro Fire, which burned a substantial portion of the project area, provides a unique opportunity to measure the impacts of postfire restoration.

SITE DESCRIPTION: The lower reach of Alvarado Creek has substantial non-native vegetation in the riparian zone. Although it was site of a recent fire, invasive vegetation has rebounded quicker than the native coastal sage scrub vegetation on the southern slope. Only two weeks after the fire, giant reed had re-sprouted and grown several feet.



PROJECT HISTORY/NEED: The riparian area of the Lower Reach of Alvarado Creek is congested with non-natives growing directly in the streambed. *Arundo*, along with palms have adverse impacts on native ecology. This project will provide information on post-fire restoration.

Removal of invasive non-native vegetation will improve streamflow and support native species. Water quality after wildfires and storms in urban areas is expected to be negatively impacted through increased sediment and altered water quality. Specifically, water quality assessments will be collected before, during, and after restoration in lower Alvarado Creek to determine post-fire processes.

The Del Cerro Fire provides an opportunity to understand the impacts of restoration efforts in a burned, urban riverine environment. 38 acres burned recently at the Del Cerro Fire threatening

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

homes and prompting evacuations. There is limited literature on the impacts of brush fires in an urban area and the direct impact fire has on urban creeks. Researchers emphasize sediment contributions and other post-fire processes to better manage riverine systems.

A unique opportunity to understand the cycle of non-native vegetation in a burned urban creek, may be different from rural areas. The rapid growth of *Arundo* may stabilize banks quicker potentially decreasing sediment to the creek. Human interactions increase disturbance to riparian areas and post-fire processes contribute to altered water quality. Although, there are likely negative impacts to bank stability, soil erosion, and water quality, *Arundo* may provide immediate benefits that native restoration does not. It is important to maintain long term data collection.

The removal of non-native vegetation, its associated litter and human debris is anticipated to re-establish native riparian systems. Therefore, it will directly improve water quality by increased interception and infiltration, to decrease bacterial and other pollutants.

PROJECT FINANCING: The entire project has 4 phases amounting to approximately \$7,247,374.30. For the Smoke Tree HOA phase, project cost is \$1,506,396 and applicant is requesting \$946,127 or 62.8% 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 3, Preserve and Restore Natural Resources (Removal of non-native plants), Program 5, Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance, and Program 6, Expand the Organization's Capacity and Reach: Develop and Implement a Partnering Strategy, from the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update 2018-2023.

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 December 2017, 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 area is along Alvarado Creek, which flows to the San Diego River near Grantville, and is within the San Diego watershed.
- 2) The extent to which the project has support from the jurisdiction over the location of the project. Yes. This project has support by the Vice President of Real Estate Planning and Development at San Diego State University.
- 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).

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Purpose 2 – Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems especially pertaining to reducing the risk of flooding.

Purpose 4 – Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors. The invasive non-native removal is anticipated to help re-establish the native riparian ecosystem and improve water quality.

Purpose 9 – Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health. Alvarado Creek is an urban stream bordered Impervious pavement. The restoration will reduce the risk of flooding and fires and associated property damage.

Purpose 11 – Restoration is expected to directly address this problem by enhancing natural ecosystem functions, such as increased interception of runoff and pollutants and increased infiltration, known to decrease bacterial and nutrient pollutant loads.

Purpose 12 – Although least Bell's vireos and southwestern willow flycatchers are not known to occur in the project area, there is a moderate to high potential for the federally-endangered least Bell's vireo, as well as for raptors and other nesting bird species to be present in or near the project site.

Additionally, two sensitive plants, the southwestern spiny rush and Palmer's sagewort have been found in the Lower Reach of Alvarado channel. Although not in the project area, the restoration of may provide opportunities for these plants to colonize upstream.

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

This project includes 3 tasks for work and milestones anticipated to commence January 2019. The restoration effort will focus on removal of invasive non-native vegetation and installing willow pole cuttings. Approximately 3.1 acres will be restored back to native habitat to alleviate flooding. Data will be compared post-restoration to assess the response of native vegetation and water quality.

Nonnative invasive removal will be completed by December 2019. Other non-native plant species will be treated with herbicide approved for use in aquatic ecosystems. Maintenance will be conducted on an as-needed basis. Water quality, biological indicators and hydrologic measurements will be monitored to quantify changes the second-year post-restoration evaluation. Data collected by SDSU students will supplement baseline analysis as pre-restoration is a reference. The final report would be completed by December 2021.

- 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. Action 4 – Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems;
- ii. Action 8 – Increase Flood Protection

- B. State/ San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

- i. San Diego Region Basin Plan – sets pollutant benchmark values which will be measured as part of the water quality assessment.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

- ii. The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program provides bio-assessment guidance for using the California Stream Condition Index and field sampling protocols.
- C. San Diego River Watershed Management Plan (2005), Early Recommendations include establishing hydrologic monitoring stations, prioritizing habitat restoration opportunities, promoting multi-benefit conservation programs, remove invasive non-native vegetation, as well as addressing the need for data gaps in flow monitoring.

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

Prior to restoration, baseline water quality measurements will be taken during dry and wet season. Monthly in-situ grab samples will be collected for chemical and biological water quality analyses. Continuous flow measurements will make it possible to determine the loading (mass/time) of constituents transported downstream to the San Diego River.

Chemical analyses include nitrate, phosphate, dissolved organic carbon, total dissolved nitrogen, turbidity, conductivity, and pH. Biological analyses include fecal indicator concentrations, fluorescence indices, bioassessment data (benthic macroinvertebrate and algae assemblage), and California Stream Condition Index (CSCI) scores. Hydro-geomorphic response to restoration over time will be evaluated by conducting baseline and continuous streamflow measurements before and after brush fire and restoration efforts.

A stream gaging and water quality station will be installed upstream of the project site to provide continuous real-time estimates of streamflow and water quality. The California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) will evaluate the performance of riparian restoration. This project will also measure infiltration rates and soil moisture before and after with repeated surveys of channel cross sections for sediment contribution to the creek.

7) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project.

The restoration effort will focus on removing invasive non-native vegetation along approximately 1,220 linear feet of creek bed. Annual vegetation will be monitored by establishing transects perpendicular to the creek at 50-m intervals and cover will be determined following the line intercept method. The measurable results include: Biomass and number of non-native trees removed, native and non-native canopy, presence/absence survey of least Bell's vireos, and impacts of restoration on a burned site.

A comparison of water quality, bioassessment, hydrology, and geomorphology in burned and unburned urban riverine environments will be determined from changes in CRAM and CSCI scores. Alterations of channel morphology, annual and seasonal streamflow, and bacteria concentrations will be reported. Specifically, hydrologic and geomorphic data and observations include: precipitation, continuous streamflow, field-based estimates of infiltration, grain size distribution, and stream channel and hillslope elevations.

Results of the project will be documented through quarterly progress reports to SDRC, a final report, and peer-reviewed journal articles will be submitted.

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

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Least Bell's vireos and southwestern willow flycatchers are not known to occur in the project location, however, there is a moderate to high potential for them along with raptors and other nesting bird species to be present in or near the project area. Least Bell's vireo habitat was detected in the San Diego River, approximately one mile from the project area. A USGS report shows that along the San Diego River, the vast majority of Least Bell's vireos nest in mixed willow and willow/sycamore habitats dominated by native species. Additionally, the report states that one vireo and one Southwestern willow flycatcher were observed during the breeding season two years after giant reed had been removed from the area.

Two sensitive plants, the southwestern spiny rush and Palmer's sagewort have been found in the lower reach of Alvarado Creek, although outside the project area. The restoration of this section may provide opportunities for these plants to re-colonize.

9) Whether the project reflects best available science.

This project proposes to restore 3.1 acres native riparian habitat using the latest practices in habitat restoration. Removing non-native vegetation is commonly practiced to enhance streamflow. Monitoring stations will help understand the impacts of creek restoration post wildlife.

Continuous data will provide streamflow estimates, sediment distribution, soil moisture, infiltration rates, and a cross sectional survey. A ground-based terrestrial laser scanning (TLS) will provide estimates of erosion and deposition before and after each winter season.

Wet chemistry and bacteriological constituents will be analyzed for pollutants that exceed Basin Plan benchmarks. SERG proposes to conduct California State Water Resources Control Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) protocols using California Stream Condition Index (CSCI). Lastly, to evaluate wetland conditions, the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) will be used.

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

San Diego State University Foundation, the Soil Ecology Restoration Group and partnering professors have demonstrated numerous relevant projects from water quality monitoring and riparian restoration ranging in cost from a half million to one and a half million dollars.

11) The project is in a disadvantaged community.

The project is not in a disadvantaged community; however, it is downstream of a disadvantaged community less than 0.08 mile.

12) Matching funds from applicant.

For this phase of the project, the applicant is providing funds in the amount of \$560,269 or 37.2%. Since this project has 3 additional phases, applicant will seek future Proposition 1 funds from the Conservancy as well as other relevant state agency grant programs.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA: The proposed project is consistent with the California Environmental

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

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: 18-04
RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO GRANT \$946,127.00 FROM THE
CONSERVANCY'S PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS TO SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR NATIVE HABITAT RESOTRATION, IMPROVED FLOOD
CONVEYANCE AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING IN LOWER ALVARADO CREEK

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, San Diego State University Research Foundation applied to the San Diego River Conservancy for funds to remove invasive vegetation, improve flood conveyance and monitor water quality post-fire restoration in lower Alvarado Creek; and

WHEREAS, San Diego State University Research Foundation requests \$946,127.00; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego River Conservancy and staff have reviewed the Proposition 1 application and recommend 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 \$946,127.00 (Nine Hundred Forty-Six Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars) in Proposition 1 grant funds to San Diego State University Research Foundation for restoration purposes, and to improve flood conveyance.
4. Appoints the Executive Officer, or her designee, as an agent to execute all agreements, grants, sub-contracts 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 20th day of September 2018. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 18-04 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

 Julia L. Richards
 Executive Officer

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

Name	Ayes	Noes	Abstained
CNRA: Josh Nelson			
DOF: Jacqueline Wong- Hernandez			
CADFW: Gail Sevens			
Adrian Granda, SD Mayor designee			
County Supervisor Dianne Jacob			
Scott Sherman City of San Diego Councilmember			
Ben Clay, Chair			
Ruth Hayward, Vice Chair			
Deanna Spehn			
Andrew Poat			
John Elliott			
Brian Jones			
DPR Director, Lisa Mangat (vacant)			
DPR, Colorado Desert District (vacant)			
Governors appointment (vacant)			

Meeting of September 20, 2018

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:

- Proposition 68 (Park Bond)
- Mission Valley Community Plan Update released -comments due 11/13/18
<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cpu/missionvalley>
- El Monte Sand Mining Project's Draft subsequent EIR released.
The Project Includes a Major Use Permit Modification (PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2) and a Reclamation Plan (PDS2015-RP-15-001)
- comments due 10/29/18
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa/El_Monte_Public_Review.html
- Stakeholders priority projects & the San Diego River Trail
- River Parkways grant program \$7M available through CA Natural Resources Agency
- Natural Working Lands Plan
- Department of Finance training

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS EVALUATION OF
PERFORMANCE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Session will be closed to the public pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1). Pursuant to Government Code section 11126, a state body may hold a closed session during a regular or special meeting to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held Thursday,
November 8, 2018 from **2:00** to **4:00** p.m.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of September 20, 2018

ITEM: 12

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT