

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,

November 8, 2018
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location

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

Tele-Conference Locations

Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Room #1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

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 September 13, 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/ ACTION*)
6. **Health and Safety Report** (*INFORMATIONAL*)
7. **San Diego State University** (*INFORMATIONAL*) An update and overview of the study's progress on "Increasing Preparedness in the San Diego River Watershed for Potential Contamination Events." Jose Calderon and Federick Pinongcos will discuss their graduate research projects as they relate to the study.

Presentation:

Dr. Natalie Mladenov, SDSU Dept. of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

8. **Cuyamaca Rancho State Park's Reforestation Project** (*INFORMATIONAL*) In 2003, the Cedar Fire in San Diego County burned 24,000 acres of the 25,000-acre Cuyamaca State Park with such intensity that the forested areas were almost completely destroyed. Due to the total devastation of the forested areas in the park, Cal-Fire and State Parks management teams established a public private partnership to restore the forest ecosystem. A video for this project can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNbdjk-Dqsl>

Presentation:

Lisa Gonzales-Kramer, Environmental Scientist/Project Manager
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation Project
CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Colorado Desert District

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:

- Conservancy's Legislative Report for 2017-2018
- Helix Water District meeting
- All State Conservancy meeting
- Proposition 1 (Water Bond 2014) and 68 (Parks Bond)

10. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held January 10, 2019 from 2:00 to 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 Wendell Taper at 619-645-3183 or Dustin Harrison 619-525-4094

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 8, 2018

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 8, 2018

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**
The Board will consider adoption of the **September 20, 2018** public meeting minutes.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Minutes of September 20, 2018 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on November 8, 2018)

CONSERVANCY Board Chair, Ben Clay called the September 20, 2018 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Item 1. Roll Call

Members Present

Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board (Via Phone)
Karen Finn	Department of Finance
Adrian Granda	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee (arrived 2:33pm)
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Brian Jones	City of Santee
Joshua Nelson	Natural Resources Agency (Via Phone)
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
Gail Sevens	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Scott Sherman	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 7
Deanna Spehn	Speaker of the Assembly (Via Phone)
Dave Toler	Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy (arrived 2:35pm)

Absent

Lisa Mangat	Department of Parks and Recreation
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

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.

Andrew Poat moved for approval of the minutes for the July 12, 2018 meeting and Ruth Hayward seconded. Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Joshua Nelson, Karen Finn, Gail Sevens, Deanna Spehn, Andrew Poat, Brian Jones; Abstain: Scott Sherman (8-0-1)

Item 3. Public Comment *(INFORMATIONAL)*

Robin Rierdan Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, 12108 Industry Road, Lakeside California. The El Monte Sand Mining Project will have a meeting on September 25 in Lakeside. This commenting period pertains to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and they are expecting many people to support the Valley and oppose sand mining.

Ruth Hayward asked if the Conservancy can weigh in on the project.

Ben Clay responded the Executive Officer will provide more information on that.

Billy Ortiz lives in El Cajon, but was a long-time resident of Lakeside. He opposes the sand mining project in El Monte Valley, which is near and dear to his heart. He was present as a community representative and expressed concern for agriculture use, endangered species. People deserve to feel safe. He reached out to neighboring native American reservations and discussed the importance of getting involved to preserve the valley.

Ben Clay mentioned the Conservancy staff will conduct an analysis and will submit a response.

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

Ben Clay advised Board members to complete ethics training and submit certificate of completion to the Conservancy staff. For the city representatives, municipal codes may differ from state codes so complete both.

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

Hayley Peterson swore in Dave Toler from the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

Dave Toler, I David L. Toler Jr., do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies foreign and domestic that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter. As a member of the San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Mission Indians of California, a federally recognized Indian Tribe, I do not waive my sovereign immunity of that of my tribe. Thank you.

Ben Clay respected that and understood.

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

Ben Clay discussed possible future presentations by the Sheriff's Department about an update on health and safety of the unincorporated areas and homeless encampments in or near the river. There are many people living there and when they are relocated, they eventually move back.

Scott Sherman mentioned about 6 months ago there were about 150 encampments. Just recently and with the help of enforcement measures there are currently about 50. The main problem is once removed, they return to the same areas. In addition, they are discovering new areas not previously occupied. Coordination between the different jurisdictions is needed.

Ben Clay asked if there is anything the Conservancy can do to help.

Robin Rierdan of Lakeside's River Park Conservancy mentioned they have been doing homeless removal for 10 years. She suspects homeless culture is similar throughout the river watershed and wants to better understand how homeless operate. Relocating people causes fragile people to become more fragile. Tents and bathrooms would be a good idea because many are place-bound. When we better understand them, we can take incremental steps to give them the assistance they need and move them out of the river.

Deana Spehn asked if there was a ranger assigned to the river.

Scott Sherman responded he will look into it.

Ruth Hayward added people need to find a place where they feel safe. Changing their attitude is a challenge. Channeling them into something positive is key.

Brian Jones was impressed by some of the encampments; their landscaping and electronics. The sheriff's department knows the homeless population and interacts with them on a regular basis. With an upcoming wet winter there could be a lot of pollution in the river.

Ben Clay used the Los Angeles and Sacramento Rivers as similar examples. There are many questions still to be answered. When it rains is important to keep people out of the river area.

Adrian Granda mentioned the City of San Diego would be happy to help.

Item 7. Land Acquisition and Conservation Project (ACTION)

Julia Richards stated this is a land acquisition and conservation project. The County of San Diego submitted a grant to the Conservancy asking for \$30,000 towards the \$60,000 purchase price of a parcel in Lakeside. Margaret Diss with the County Trails Program will be presenting and the existing land owners of this property, the Potts Family Trust, are here today.

Ben Clay thanked the Potts family for working with the Conservancy and attending.

Margaret Diss County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is requesting grant funding for an acquisition. A portion of the Historic Flume right of way. The flume was an over ground water conveyance system. El Capitan Reservoir is just east and Lake Jennings is south of there, south of El Monte Rd. The land has been privately owned by Potts Family Trust for past 12 years. Ten percent (10%) is disturbed habitat due to unauthorized trail use. Width is between 3 and 10 ft. Several habitats exist such as coastal sage scrub, southern live oak riparian forest and black oak woodland.

Sustainability work is required to bring it up to standards. This application is consistent with County plans for non-motorize pedestrian and equestrian use. This section was also identified in San Diego Rive Conservancy's Gaps Analysis and is consistent with state priorities and plans.

Soft surface trails promote pedestrian usage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A portion of the 36-mile flume alignment historically brought water from Cuyamaca Mountains to La Mesa from 1889 to 1937. In 2013, the Conservancy provided \$450,000 to DPR to design and construction the Historic Flume Trail. In 2015, \$325,000 was provided by Conservancy to design and construction the San Diego River Trail section called Helix Flume Trail Extension.

This parcel will provide for trail and interpretive signage discussing past culture and history. Construction will provide educational and recreational opportunities. However, construction of the trail would be a separate project. This request is for the acquisition only. The County has prepared a title report accepted by the seller. Closure is expected by the end of the year, assuming grant is approved. Biologist, cultural and trail experts will review the area and plan a sustainable trail alignment. Any CEQA work will be completed and construction will ensue.

Ben Clay mentioned he wants to make sure the County involves the Native Americans in the planning process.

Deanna Spehn thanked the Potts for selling this land for public use.

Scott Sherman moved for approval of Resolution 18-02 and **Brian Jones** seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Joshua Nelson, Karen Finn, Gail Sevrens, Deanna Spehn, Adrian Granda, Scott Sherman, Andrew Poat, Dave Toler, Brian Jones (11-0-0)

Ben Clay mentioned **Dianne Jacob** was a key player in getting this acquisition.

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

Julia Richards Staff has provided resolution and staff reports for recommending funding for two projects. A list of all the projects that were submitted to the Conservancy is also included in the Board packet. The request is for funding to remove invasive species below Adobe Falls in the Home Owners Association (HOA). She welcomed San Diego State University Research Foundation, and introduced project manager, **Julie Lambert**.

Julie Lambert described the restoration project of the Del Cerro Section of Alvarado Creek Smoke Tree HOA Phase. **Alicia Kinoshita** is their Hydrogeologist expert, **Natalie Mladenov** is the water quality expert, and **Julie** is project manager with Soil Ecology and Restoration Group (SERG).

The proposed project is a continuation of upper reach 1 of Alvarado Creek. There are four land managers that cover this area, Caltrans, San Diego State University (SDSU), City of San Diego and Smoke Tree HOA mentioned earlier. The fire occurred in the majority of the area, palms trees are already returning.

She is requesting funding to restore the HOA phase. The continued maintenance in upper reach 1 has yielded interesting results. Recovery of native vegetation has increased and herbicide treatment continues. After restoration, the streambed is composed of bigger pebbles and rocks. Pre-restoration and post-restoration show a change in substrate size distribution.

Alicia Kinoshita responded this tells velocity in the channel and stream power. One of the goals of this project is to alleviate constraints in channel because of vegetation. A shift in size distribution shows more stream goes through.

Julie Lambert noted at low flow, levels of fecal bacteria are below threshold, but during a rain event, the levels of e. coli and enterococci will peak with peak water flow. As water recedes, high levels of bacteria remain 24 hours after. Near campus, e. coli is lower than benchmark. The Grantville level is above benchmark. This project is situated between these two areas.

Ben Clay asked what would cause the spike in e. coli. He wants everyone to know what's causing this.

Tom Zink a lot of runoff comes from La Mesa, streets and homeless encampments and contribute to water quality degradation.

Scott Sherman asked if the bacteria can be distinguished between human and other animals.

Alicia Kinoshita responded yes, in another project SDSU is using different trackers to determine caffeine, sugar and others indicators in the water.

Julia Lambert showed how flooding was alleviated at SDSU upper reach 1 from January 2016. Parking lot, streets and buildings were flooded. One year later, after removal there was a reduction in flooding despite being a bigger rain event. This image shows the significant change before and after.

Ben Clay investing in these projects saves the university money by increasing ability to convey water.

Julia Lambert stated for the proposed project area, 38 acres burned. This gives an interesting opportunity to study the impacts post wildfire and impacts on stream health. Weight of trash, invasive biomass and percent cover will be reported. Two years after vegetation they have seen increase in natives, especially perennials. This project will measure changes in sediment using a terrestrial laser scanner. This way, movement of sediment can be measured.

Andrew Poat asked if hydro-geomorphology is the study of shifting channels.

Julie Lambert responded the channel can change. Information on nutrient loads, dissolved organic carbon, pH and others will be reported. This project supports California Water Action plan and San Diego River Conservancy's Strategic Plan Update and the San Diego River Watershed Management Plan. This is a multi-benefit project, and will provide land managers with scientifically sound information.

Ben Clay asked what are the impacts downstream?

Scott Sherman mentioned it has benefited downstream areas of the river. Removing invasive on two stretches of the river will improve flood capacity. The storm channel near the stadium was cleaned out and reduction in floods resulted. Otherwise, life and property is at risk.

Julie Lambert good quality baseline data will be important. Quarterly progress reports and scientific publications will be provided. They are requesting \$946,000 with \$500,000 in matching. Total project is just under \$1.5 million.

Scott Sherman asked if the \$500,000 was from SDSU.

Julie Lambert responded, yes however, the HOA has not contributed funds.

Gail Sevrens asked what is the university's plan for the land.

Tom Zink responded they have received approval to remove invasives. Any plans there will be on hold. Even if they do have plans, it's not in the project area. There will be no interference.

Scott Sherman thanked them for their work thus far. The key to success is removing non-native species.

Scott Sherman moved for approval of Resolution 18-04 and **Andrew Poat** seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Joshua Nelson, Karen Finn, Gail Sevrens, Deanna Spehn, Adrian Granda, Scott Sherman, Andrew Poat, Dave Toler, Brian Jones (11-0-0)

Julia Richards the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (PUD) applied for funding to remove invasives at Chaparral Canyon under Murray Reservoir. Nicole McGinnis and Andrew Funk will share the project overview with the Board.

Nicole McGinnis is with the City's Watershed and Resources Protection Team in the Long-Range Planning and Water Resources Division of Public Utilities. We are thankful for the past acquisition in El Monte Valley. Andrew Funk will discuss this project.

Andrew Funk proposed invasive species control and riparian restoration in Chaparral Canyon. The City requests \$382,000 which represents 76% of project costs. Work included invasive non-native species plant control as well as active and passive re-vegetation. The project would have multiple benefits including water quality improvements, reduction in wildfire vulnerabilities and removal of unauthorized trail use.

A project map shows Alvarado Creek south of Murray Reservoir. The SDSU project is downstream of this project site. Directly downstream is a Disadvantaged Community. PUD owns and manages 3,000 linear feet of the canyon. Palm trees, pepper trees and pampas grass are target invasives to be removed.

Dense vegetation provides shelter for unauthorized activity and homeless introduction. Trash buildup and degradation of water quality and public health are at risk for tributaries to the San Diego River. PUD partners with the River Park Foundation who actively and successfully cleanup encampments.

108 trees were identified and recommended for removal. Active and passive re-vegetation will be implemented to promote future sustainability and natural habitat will revegetate. The ecosystem services will bio-filtrate and reduce point source pollution. The fire in Del Cerro is an example of how this project will reduce wildfire risk.

The project scope follows San Diego River Conservancy's streambed alteration agreement. Implementation would be in two phases. This can be accomplished from September to December of next year. The City will work outside bird nesting season. First phase is the western downstream portion which they believe will result in reduction of unauthorized usage. PUD provided two aerial drone video surveys show the project site and will provide before and after once project is completed.

There are no authorized trails in this canyon. The path in the video is a sewer access road owned and maintained by PUD. No work on that road would be associated with this project.

Ruth Hayward asked about the big rain even two years ago. How will the passage drain and keep traffic moving?

Andrew Funk responded they will look into it. The City will likely contract out if needed.

John Donnelly asked how the vegetation material will be used once trees are cut.

Julia Richards responded the Conservancy works with land owners to determine how to use chipped biomass.

Andrew Funk responded biomass will be repurposed for use at recreation areas or lands owned by the City of San Diego.

Adrian Granda thanked staff for being proactive and working collaboratively with the Conservancy.

Adrian Granda moved for approval of Resolution 18-03 and **Scott Sherman** seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ben Clay, Ruth Hayward, Joshua Nelson, Karen Finn, Gail Sevrens, Deanna Spehn, Adrian Granda, Scott Sherman, Andrew Poat, Dave Toler, Brian Jones (11-0-0)

Item 9. Executive Officer's Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Julia Richards stated Proposition 68 roll out will be push back and Conservancy will post guidelines by March of 2019. Updates will be sent out to seek public comment.

Ben Clay keep in mind the Conservancy only has 3 staff.

Julia Richards noted The City has posted the Mission Valley Community Plan Update and the Conservancy will draft comments. The County posted El Monte Sand Mining Project. Comments are due October 29. If the Board has any guidance, please provide input.

Ruth Hayward reviewed the report and would like to see the Conservancy's comments especially pertaining to habitat.

Ben Clay mentioned the Conservancy has the ability to call a special meeting. The project has a huge impact on El Monte Valley that it merits comments. Julia will put something together for a special meeting to review the Conservancy's comments.

Deanna Spehn asked if the City of San Diego will weigh in on this project.

Adrian Granda responded he was not sure if the City will respond since the City's rights are very strong and special.

Ruth Hayward stated in the EIR they will not use any water from the aquifer to wash sand. They have to buy it from the local water district. The water is protected under the City of San Diego's Pueblo Water Rights.

Adrian Granda asked if the Board has any legal ability with regards to commenting.

Hayley Peterson responded it can take a position of support or opposition to the project then provide additional information.

Ben Clay added the ponds in the river were past sand mines.

Deanna Spehn requested a special meeting with enough time for staff to prepare comments for Board review.

Julia Richards responded she will work with everyone to draft a letter. She was not aware of extending the comment period.

The Conservancy is working with stakeholders regarding the San Diego River Trail. A couple others need to provide input. Information will be provided in January. California Natural Resources announced a grant program for \$7 million to River Parkways. She encouraged partners to apply.

The Natural Working Lands Plan and impacts of future project for carbon sequestration plays a role. Thanks to Gail, she was able to get Resources Agency to hold a meeting in San Diego. In August, training with Department of Finance was a good learning session.

Ben Clay regarding Julia's evaluation, there is no need other than Ben sending a letter requesting Julia gets a raise. He wants to make sure she is recognized for her good work. He thanked everyone for attending.

Adjournment

Ben Clay adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 8, 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 November 8, 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 November 8, 2018

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT
(*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 8, 2018

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: San Diego State University (*INFORMATIONAL*)

An update and overview of the study's progress on "Increasing Preparedness in the San Diego River Watershed for Potential Contamination Events." Jose Calderon and Federick Pinongcos will discuss their graduate research projects as they relate to the study.

Presentation:

Dr. Natalie Mladenov, SDSU Dept. of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 8, 2018

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **Cuyamaca Rancho State Park's Reforestation Project
(INFORMATIONAL)**

In 2003, the Cedar Fire in San Diego County burned 24,000 acres of the 25,000-acre Cuyamaca State Park with such intensity that the forested areas were almost completely destroyed. Due to the total devastation of the forested areas in the park, Cal-Fire and State Parks management teams established a public private partnership to restore the forest ecosystem. A video for this project can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNbdjk-Dqsl>

Presentation:

Lisa Gonzales-Kramer, Environmental Scientist/Project Manager
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation Project
CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Colorado Desert District

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 8, 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:

- Conservancy's Legislative Report for 2017-2018
- Helix Water District meeting
- All State Conservancy meeting
- Proposition 1 (Water Bond 2014) and 68 (Parks Bond)

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

Meeting of November 8, 2018

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held Thursday,
January 10, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.