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,

May 6, 2010
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Meeting Location

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

Tele-Conference Location: 1416 Ninth Street
Resources Agency Conference Room 1305 Sacramento, CA 95814
(877) 287-0283 / Pass code 606349

Contact: Michael Nelson
(619) 645-3183

Meeting Agenda

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Public Comment
   Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

5. Deputy Attorney's General Report

6. Tributary Canyons: Feasibility Study- Preliminary Planning

Presentation and Report:
Michael Nelson, Executive Officer
Jim King, SCC &SDRC Consultant
Dick Rol, Foothill Associates

Recommendation: Adoption Resolution 10-01

7. San Diego River Conservancy 2010 Work Plan

Presentation and Report:
Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Recommendation: Adoption Resolution 10-02

8 San Diego River Conservancy: Office Relocation

Presentation
Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Recommendation: Adoption Resolution 10-03

9. San Diego River Trail: Status of Gaps Analysis

Presentation
Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

10. Executive Officer's Report

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

Carlton Oaks Golf Course (partial sale)
Proposition 40 & 84 Project Status
SANDAG/ Environmental Mitigation Program Land Management Grant
National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

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 Michael Nelson at 619-645-3183

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **1**

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
The Board will consider adoption of the **January 7, 2010** and **March 4, 2010** public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **January 7, 2010** and **March 4, 2010** Board Meetings are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of January 7, 2010 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on March 4, 2010)

Chairperson Donna Frye called the January 7, 2010 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 1:32 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present

Donna Frye, Chair	Council Member, City of San Diego
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, Second District
Bryan Cash	Natural Resources, Alternate, (via phone)
Karen Finn	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Ben Clay	Public at Large (arrived at 2:10 p.m.)
Ronie Clark	Department of Parks and Recreation, Alternate
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board (via phone)
David King	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

Jerry Sanders	Mayor, City of San Diego
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
Anne Haddad	Public at Large
Toni Atkins	Public at Large

Staff Members Present

Michael Nelson,	Executive Officer
Hayley Peterson,	Deputy Attorney General
Julia Richards,	Administrative Services Manager
Ann Van Leer,	Consultant, San Diego River Conservancy
Jim King	Consultant, State Coastal Conservancy

2. Approval of Minutes

Donna Frye welcomed Karen Finn from the Department of Finance and entertained a motion for approval of the minutes.

Bryan Cash made a motion to approve the minutes; Ruth Hayward seconded and they were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged.

Rob Hutsel informed the Board of a $1,000,000 grant and fundraising goals to continue land acquisitions around the El Capitan Reservoir. He also advised that a fundraising event for the San Diego River Discovery Center event had been scheduled for February 26 at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

No Report.

5. Deputy Attorney General's Report

No Report

6. Executive Officer's Report

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

- Proposition 40 Project Status
  - Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail
  - River Gorge Trail and Trailhead- San Diego River Trail
  - Invasives Control and Restoration
    (Supplemental Environmental Project – San Diego County Water Authority)

- Walker Acquisition (Santee)

- SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program
  -Land Management Grant Application

- 2010 Work Plan

Mike Nelson told the Board that there were no action items on the agenda; that all funding available to the Conservancy had been encumbered and that remaining funds were frozen. As a consequence, he said he could only provide the members with a briefing on the progress of approved projects. He suggested that the Board may wish to consider whether it will meet every two months while funds for new projects remain frozen.

Donna Frye stated that the next scheduled meeting was March 4, 2010; that we should keep it open, and maybe consider a short meeting with a site visit to active projects.

Mike Nelson reminded the Board that Lakeside's River Park Conservancy has provided SDRC with a standing invitation, so the next meeting could be held in Lakeside.

Proposition 40 Project Status

Mike Nelson said to the Board that SDRC had lead responsibility for four Proposition 40 projects:

Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail in Lakeside that would provide a River Trail connection from Lakeside to Santee. The Conservancy had executed the necessary agreements with LRPC to manage the project as well as a financing agreement with the County of San Diego.

River Gorge Trail and Trailhead- San Diego River Trail are two projects which involve a partnership with the U.S. Forest service to repair, build and make improvements along the trail to Cedar Creek. Interestingly this project is a combination of federal stimulus funds and state Proposition 40 funds. He announced that construction on this project had begun.

Invasives Control and Restoration He reported that all agreements with San Diego State University Research Foundation (SDSURF) and its contractors as well as right- of -way agreement with the City of San Diego and private property owners had been secured. Biomass reduction had begun. He then showed a series of before and after slides that demonstrated progress for the project.

Supplemental Environmental Project – San Diego County Water Authority He explain that the SDRWQCB had authorized a $293,000 Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) as a result of a violation by the San Diego County Water Authority. The SEP would allow SDRC to perform invasives control and restoration of private property at the Carlton Oaks Golf Course.

Walker Acquisition (Santee) He recalled the Boards authorization to acquire the Walker Properties in partnership with The Trust for Public Lands. He said that because of the freeze on bond funds SDRC had been unable to place the property under an option contract and that SDC/TPL continue to search for alternative fund sources for the project. He added that the State Coastal Conservancy approved an exceptional acquisition at a recent meeting, which might go forward if authorized by the Department of Finance. It conceivably could provide an opportunity or potential approach that could improve the prospects of bond funding for Walker; or, at least secure its designation as an “approved project”.

Karen Finn provided clarification and stated that the Coastal Conservancy and WCB were authorized to proceed, but, it was contingent and acknowledged that there is no commitment to a timeframe to provide bond funding from the State. She continued and said that one of the reasons for its approval was it demonstrated significant cost sharing and public benefit.

Mike Nelson, suggested that he would argue that the acquisition of properties provide a public corridor that connects Lakeside to the City of Santee and its populations may be considered to be “significant” ; and, SDRC had received $1 million of its potential a $2.3 million acquisition from US Fish and Wildlife Service that represents substantial cost sharing.

Hanson Pond, He reported that the SDRC had approved a $1.5 million Proposition 40 Grant for the acquisition of Hanson Pond at the base of El Monte Valley. He added that the funding had been a complicated struggle for the Endangered Habitats Conservancy, but they were optimistic the funding necessary to close this $5 million acquisition could be secured.

Bryan Cash said that the Proposition 40 funding and agreement was completed just before the freeze on general obligation bond funding.

SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program, Land Management Grant Application
Mike Nelson said SDRC had resubmitted its application to SANDAG on behalf of City of San Diego, County of San Diego, City of Santee and Lakeside's River Park Foundation for a land management grant to restore habitat. He said he was guardedly optimistic, since last year's application was ranked 4th out of 30 applications.

2010 Work Plan stated that Rob Hutsel and the San Diego River Coalition had completed their Work Planning for 2010 and proposed to produce a draft Work Plan for SDRC that acknowledges the work of the Coalition.

7. Intergovernmental Working Group: San Diego River Trail

- Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

Mark Carpenter stated that the map of the San Diego River Trail he had projected on the screen reflected the interviews and meetings that had been conducted with stakeholders, agencies and local governments to determine the location and status of existing and proposed trail facilities. Identification of gaps and priorities by user types (bicycle, equestrian, hiking, etc) then developing working maps by river reach would be the next steps to be taken.

Mike Nelson asked whether it was KTU+A' s intention to stakeholders and local governments with the results of the mapping and ground truthing for comments.

Mark Carpenter stated that as soon as the reach maps by user types were finished he would circulate them for comment.

8. Strategic Plan Addendum – Current Conditions Review

Trust for Public Land
Kelley Hart
Amy Condon

Mike Nelson introduced Kelley Hart of the Trust for Public Land and recalled the Board's approval of TPL to develop an addendum to the Strategic Plan which gave some geographic specificity to the goals. He noted that despites the Boards authorization, the funding that was to be used for the addendum was frozen, and that as a consequence, he had broken the project into phases. He said the first phase was a Current Conditions Review that Kelley will present and then discuss next steps and any refinements or comments the Board would like to make. He concluded by saying that the findings of the Current Conditions Review had been discussed with SDRC's principal stakeholders.

Kelley Hart, Associate Director for the Conservation Vision Program, said that she would present a power point on the Phase I, but at the end of the presentation would seek the Board's advice regarding goals and objectives for Phase II of their work. She also introduced Virginia Lorne who is based in San Diego and Amy Condon who participated by telephone from Savannah, Georgia.

Her presentation first expressed TPL's desire to develop an addendum to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, which achieved consensus around goals and criteria, could focus SDC's activities around best opportunities, and could leverage potential funding opportunities. She said that TPL had reviewed relevant existing plans and documents to identify recurring themes, overlapping priorities and information gaps, identified goals and criteria for the addendum, prepared a baseline map, conducted partner interviews, and developed a memorandum of its findings.

Her presentation summarized those findings and concluded that there was broad consensus for the development of the San Diego River Park as a seamless system of hiking, biking, equestrian, and nature trails with mix of urban parks and wilderness; a consensus that could be enhanced by better integration of partnerships and refining a cohesive vision. She identified areas that they felt could improve SDRC's Strategic Plan.

(There was a comprehensive and lengthy discussion with participation by Board Members and the public regarding the emphasis and direction of the Conservancy's work on the Addendum for the Strategic Plan, particularly, Phase 2.What follows are some but not all of those comments. The 7 goals at the conclusion of these comments and motion represent the conclusions of this discussion regarding goals)

Donna Frye encouraged that water quality be included emphasized, reminding everyone that it was an objective that could be found in the Conservancy's enabling statute.

Mike Nelson observed that history and culture should be included.

Ben Clay commented that "establishing new and expanded parks" were decisions and determinations to be made by the elected officicials that comprise SDRC's membership.

Diane Jacob agreed with Ben Clay and stated that she that "creating trail, restoring habitats, improving natural functions" were self explanatory, but "improving recreational access to the river, could mean a lot of things. It could mean parks; it could mean improving access to the river, fishing, hunting, playing in the river etc. She said better definition was necessary and important, that SDRC must be clear when talking about developing parks.

Mike Nelson said one of the things he had hoped to achieve was a synthesis of the plans that had been prepared or adopted by the local governments; that SDRC would only be considering and ranking those priorities that exist in documents already approved; as opposed to developing a whole new scope of park development opportunities.

Dianne Jacob agreed and suggested that SDRC should not go beyond what has been identified it in existing plans. She stated that she felt that was enough to do to do.

Donna Frye agreed with Dianne Jacob and suggested that was particularly the case during hard financial times.

Rob Hutsel said this had been a great conversation and applauded TPL and Mike for initiating it. He stated that the Coalition had advocated that the focus of acquisition be narrowed and that creating maps might raise real concerns of private property owners, unlike the river trail which was is a very specific goal for which we can show the gaps. He added that if SDRC proceeded with these goals it should consider changing the goal to "to restore and protect native habitats".

Mark Weston stated that there are 3 distinct sections of the river: the urbanized section, the suburban section or the transition from urban to rural, and the fully rural section above the reservoir, which is really natural habitat. He felt the SDRC needed "habitat protection or habitat and watershed protection," as one of the goals. Specifically addressing Helix properties, he said that above El Cap, Helix owned some really unique resources that they wanted to protect, but the area east of 67 to the reservoir he liked what he was hearing today and agrees that there are some really great opportunities for some really great achievements under these goals.

David King observed that the SDRC may choose not to pursue visual access, because when talking about visual access you might sacrifice benefits of open space to the communities along the river, as well as, the importance of physically being able to walk or bike along or near the river.

Deanna Spehn also said she felt the Board had a good discussion and reminded everyone that that Senator Kehoe had made some subtle legislative changes that would allow the Conservancy to acquire property beyond ½ mile and that this legislation also included an emphasis on historical and cultural resources.

Dianne Jacob made a motion to continue, but to incorporate the input that had been offered regarding the goals and bring the matter back to the Board for further discussion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

<u>Strategic Plan Addendum Goals</u>

1) *Improve trail access along the river (don't identify new or expanded parks to be improved, don't do a new park equity analysis)*
2) *Create trail connections*
3) *Improve visual access along the river*
4) *Preserve native habitats*
5) *Restore native habitats*
6) *Improve natural river functions*
   - *a. Restore wetlands*
   - *b. Preserve riparian corridors*
   - *c. Protect water quality*

d. Protect historic configuration of natural habitats along the river

7) Protect historic and cultural lands

9. San Diego River Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Riparian Tributary Canyons – Feasibility Study – Preliminary Planning

Jim King, SCC &SDRC Consultant
Dick Rol, Foothill Associates

Jim King, reminded the Board that SDRC and the SCC had approved $150,000 for the project, those funds had been frozen, but subsequently reinstated by the SCC, and that he was working for SCC abut reporting to both SDRC and SCC.

Ben Clay said that he didn't completely understand and asked for clarification.

Jim King, responded that though he reported to a supervisor at the Coastal Conservancy, but collaborated closely with SDRC and SDRC's Executive Officer.

Jim King introduced Dick Rol, a landscape architect and biologist leading the San Diego Office of Foothills and Associates and managing this feasibility project canyon trail in a in the eastern end of Mission Valley, a project that will examine the feasibility of an intergraded project that includes trail alignments within the Normal Heights rim canyons, the Ruffin Canyon complex on the north, and provide recommendations concerning actions that would be necessary to create an integrated project including urban walks and a river crossing.

Dick Rol presented a power point presentation that described and gave the status of the feasibility study that comprises four phases: preliminary planning, inventory & analysis, concept plans; and master plan preparation.

<u>Phase I Preliminary Planning (examined 4 for Normal Heights alignments)</u>

(SDG&E Canyon selected as preferred Normal Heights canyon)

- I-15 Canyon :User Experience: poor/ Environmental: poor /Ownership: good
- I-805 Canyon: User Experience: poor/ Environmental: good/ Ownership: good
- Texas Canyon:User Experience: poor/ Environmental: very good/ Ownership: best
- SDG&E Canyon:User Experience: Best/ Environmental: Best Ownership: Fair

<u>Phase II Inventory & Analysis (will look at the following)</u>

- Biological Resources,Water Resources,Cultural/Historical Resources,Existing Trails
- Ownership / Easements,Utilities,Geology/Soils,Hazardous Materials,Views,Slopes
- Restoration Opportunities

<u>Phase III Concept Design (includes)</u>

- 3 Alternative alignments, Challenges identified, Trailhead amenities, Restoration areas

Next Steps

- Choose preferred alignments, Mission Valley segment concepts, Implementation strategies

10. Adjournment at 3:35 p.m.

Accessibility

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Michael Nelson at 619-645-3183.

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of March 6, 2010 Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on May 6, 2010)

Ruth Hayward made a motion that Ben Clay be Chairperson, which was seconded by Ann Miller Hadaad and approved unanimously.

Acting Chairperson Ben Clay called the March 6, 2010 meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 1:38 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present

Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, Second District
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Ben Clay	Public at Large
Anne Miller Haddad	Public at Large
Cynthia Bryant	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee

Absent

Donna Frye, Chair	Council Member, City of San Diego
Jerry Sanders	Mayor, City of San Diego
Bryan Cash	for Karen Scarborough Resources Agency
Ronie Clark	Department of Parks and Recreation, Alternate Designee
Karen Scarborough	Natural Resources Agency, Designee
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
Toni Atkins	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
David King	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Staff Members Present

Michael Nelson,	Executive Officer
Hayley Peterson,	Deputy Attorney General
Julia Richards,	Administrative Services Manager
Ann Van Leer,	Consultant, San Diego River Conservancy

Hayley Peterson noted that there was no quorum, so no formal actions could be taken at the meeting.

Ben Clay extended SDRC's appreciation to Lakeside's River Park Conservancy (LRPC) for being the host of our meeting and site visit.

Robin Rierdan LRPC's Executive Director, provided an overview of the restoration and development of Lakeside's River Park and emphasized the State of California's investment in the Park was essential. She said that 106 acres was acquired from Calmat for $10.5 million, all of which was provided by various funding agencies of the State of California.

She stated that the LRPC's goal had been to restore the property for habitat, provide flood control, improve water quality and allow recreation. She advised the Board that they were sitting on the edge of an old sand mining pit, a pit that was 30 ft deep. LRPC began by moving mounds of earth and addressing a constriction on the property's eastern edge that caused flooding, which was alleviated by the construction of the pond they were viewing and offered Lakeside substantial flood control benefits. She said that the pond was made shallow on the south side and was filing in with reeds and becoming emerging wetlands of importance to wildlife and bird species.

Ben Clay asked whether water and minerals that flood and fill the pond diminish or extinguish its flood control benefits.

Robin Rierdan answered that it depended greatly on the depth of the pond. If the pond was only 3-4 feet deep and it fills with sediment, it is a benefit, but it can't dramatically slow the water down as a really deep pond can. She said LRPC had widened the river to create more flood plain, habitat and water recharge opportunities.

Mike Nelson asked whether in addition to the habitat and flood control benefits had the Park had become an asset to the community and a source of volunteers.

Robin Rierdan answered affirmatively and boasted that the volunteers from the community had invested 22,000 hours of labor at the park. She noted that the overlook where the Board was meeting was designed by a local architect, James Hubbell and local botanical artists created the graphics for the facility.

She concluded by distributing a handout that demonstrated that the State of California had invested $18 million in the Lakeside's River Park.

Ben Clay asked if the local water district was helping LRPC.

Robin Rierdan remarked that the Lakeside Water District had been exceptional partners. She added that they rented LRPC office space for $1 a year. She said the District used to have active wells on the property, but closed them and now were taking water from areas upstream. She mentioned that climate change has meant that San Diego was getting less water. She added that the water flowing into our aquifer holds 70,000 acres feet of water which is the same size available at San Vicente Reservoir

Ruth Hayward asked if the recharge project would help Lakeside or just El Monte Valley.

Mark Weston, General Manager of the Helix Water District said, yes, that the water could be used along the length of the entire river.

Robin Rierdan stated that it was called the Santa El Monte Aquifer and that El Monte Valley is part of that aquifer system.

Scott Anders, former chair of the LRPC Board, invited everyone to participate in the LRPC's 5 K Run. He added that because of the California's fiscal crisis, last year was a tough one for LRPC. Staff size and hours were severely reduced, but fortunately, supporters of the River Park raised $40,000 in 12 weeks to sustain the Conservancy's operation.

2. Approval of Minutes

Since no quorum was present the minutes were not approved.

3. Public Comment

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged.

Mark Weston, General Manager, Helix Water District, stated that his board has taken some bold actions to move forward with an EIR on El Monte Valley groundwater recharge, restoration and mining project. He indicated that it was a $200 million project which involved a partnership with Padre Dam Municipal Water District. He promised to keep the SDRC's governing Board apprised of any progress.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

No Report.

5. Deputy Attorney General's Report

Hayley Peterson reminded the Board members that April 1st was the deadline for Form 700s and that Mike Nelson is the filing officer for the Conservancy, so please submit forms to him.

Mike Nelson indicated that he would provide a link to the Fair Political Practices Commission's (FPPC) website that includes forms and instructions.

6. Executive Officer's Report

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

Mike Nelson encouraged the Board to attend the May meeting, since the agenda would include at least two action items that would require a quorum: the 2010 Work Plan and an item authorizing design of tributary canyon trails in Mission Valley. He noted that since all the Proposition 40 funds set aside by the Natural Resources Agency had been encumbered, the remaining funds that may be made available to SDRC, but unencumbered, are Proposition 84 funds allocated to the State Coastal Conservancy totaling approximately $5.9 million. Projects

SDRC has approved but SCC has not, included the San Diego River Trail Project beneath SR 163 and the acquisition of the Walker properties in Santee.

Cynthia Bryant said that she really was not an authority regarding the Conservancy's money, but did know that the Treasurer is going to market next week and selling about $2 billion in tax exempt and later in the month about $2 billion taxable bonds. She also said that a bond sale was planned for the fall. She was hopeful these sales would secure approximately $7 billion to start investing again in projects.

Ben Clay inquired about other projects and partners SDRC might have up river.

Mike Nelson responded that a major SDRC project that is under construction up river was in Cleveland National Forest, which involved trail rehabilitation and improvements, known as the River Gorge Trail. Proposition 40 funds have been encumbered to complete the project.

Ruth Hayward asked about the Walker Property in Santee.

Mike Nelson responded that the Walker Property is one of the projects that could utilize Proposition 84 funding and mentioned that SDRC had been awarded $1 million by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ben Clay adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm and the site visits commenced.

7. Site Visits: San Diego River Trail Projects and Acquisition

Following adjournment of the meeting those in attendance participated in site visits to 4 projects along the San Diego River Trail.

1) Lakeside's River Park Trail / Robin Rierdan, Executive Director

2) Riverford Road Trail / Robin Rierdan, Executive Director

3) Lakeside Baseball Park / Dianne Jacob, Supervisor, County of San Diego

4) Walker Properties / Michael Nelson, Robin Rierdan

Accessibility

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State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **3**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PURPOSE: Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority which is not on the agenda. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Presentation times may be reduced depending on the number of speakers.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **4**

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S AND GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **5**

SUBJECT: **DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

This item is for Board discussion only and the Board will take no formal action.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **TRIBUTARY CANYONS: FEASIBILITY STUDY – PRELIMINARY PLANNING**

Presentation and Report:

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Jim King, SCC &SDRC Consultant

Dick Rol, Foothill Associates

Recommendation: Adoption Resolution 10-01

SAN DIEGO RIVER TRIBUTARY CANYONS PROJECT

Feasibility Report Review/ Implementation Schedule

FEASIBILITY REPORT SCOPE, ORGANIZATION, & RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing conditions / public policy / project goals and objectives
Normal Heights – survey and ranking of canyons – Texas St. to I-15
Normal Heights / Serra Mesa trail alignments - issues, concept design and development
Mission Valley Urban Trail elements
Mission Valley River Crossing elements

SDRC STAFF REPORT, RESOLUTION AND FEASIBILITY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Resolution 10-01
Feasibility Report review and approval highlighting preferred trail alignments
Authorization for Coastal Conservancy funding request

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Phase One: Canyon trail real estate, design and permitting work, outreach for establishing elements in community infrastructure plans, and outreach for river crossing design.

Phase Two: Mission Valley Urban Trail and San Diego River Crossing detailed planning.

Project Organization

Part 1A: Canyon Trails / Normal Heights and Serra Mesa canyons
Contract 1 – Real Estate
($50,000 Initiated following State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) approval)

Part 1B: Canyon Trails / Normal Heights and Serra Mesa canyons
Contract 2 – Design and Permitting
($170,000 Initiated upon securing landowner agreements)

Part 2: Mission Valley Urban Trail
Design /permitting/facilitation (pending future board review/authorization)

Part 3: San Diego River Crossing
Community planning / funding facilitation
($20,000 initiated upon SCC approval)
Design/permitting (pending future board review/authorization)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: 10-01

SUBJECT: **ENDORSING PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR SERRA MESA / NORMAL HEIGHTS CANYON TRAILS AND AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR DESIGN SERVICES, PRELIMINARY REAL ESTATE WORK, ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, PERMITTING AND ASSOCIATED STUDIES AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR A SAN DIEGO RIVER TRIBUTARY CANYONS PROJECT.**

PURPOSE: The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 10-01 authorizing the use of funds identified in the Budget Act of 2008 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) for this purpose.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSISTENCY: This item will help to implement Program 2, Recreation & Education and Program 3, Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration.

BACKGROUND:

Project Summary: San Diego River Conservancy Resolution 08-02 (May 15, 2008) authorized the funding request from the Coastal Conservancy to develop a detailed scope of work and design plans for a San Diego River Tributary Canyons Project in eastern Mission Valley and adjacent areas in the City of San Diego. The scope of work and designs were completed and are presented to the board in the form of a feasibility report for review and approval.

The report contains an inventory and analyses of existing conditions and an assessment of options for linking upland neighborhoods with Mission Valley via canyon trails, including recommended alignments that best meet project criteria. It provides trail conceptual designs, describes a program for habitat enhancement along trail margins and surrounding watershed areas, recommends a system for signage, information kiosks and other amenities, and lays out concepts for creating an "urban trail" through developed areas to link canyon trails to the San Diego River Park. It also contains a review

of alternative scenarios for a footbridge and an associated plaza where the urban trail would converge with the San Diego River Trail near the MTS Fenton Parkway trolley station and presents recommendations for an accompanying interpretive program.

Resolution 10-01 would make a request of $240,000 from the Coastal Conservancy to advance the project in two ways: seek authorization to commence the technical planning necessary for the preferred alignments for canyon trails, as well as further deliberation, community participation and conceptual planning for a river crossing that may include a footbridge, plaza and interpretive elements. Work would center on developing canyon trails and would include renewing public outreach in affected neighborhoods, performing preliminary real estate work, including initiating negotiations where property rights must be acquired, and preparing environmental assessments. This authorization also allows the Conservancies to pursue other design, permitting and regulatory compliance services needed to finalize plans for the project. These work plans would be detailed sufficiently for final review and adoption. Furthermore it is anticipated that these plans may be incorporated in the Mission Valley Community Plan and the Mission Valley Public Facilities Financing Plan.

Work on the river crossing and plaza would consist of informing the community of the design scenarios developed in the feasibility study and encouraging their endorsement of a cross valley trail project. The project would be discussed in relevant civic forums, particularly the Mission Valley Community Plan Update process now underway.

The project would be developed by Coastal Conservancy staff through architecture, engineering and environmental service agreements in close collaboration with the Executive Officer of the San Diego River Conservancy. It is anticipated that project implementation, operation and maintenance would be achieved through cooperative agreements involving the two State conservancies, the City of San Diego, and nongovernmental organizations.

Project Discussion: The feasibility report prepared in response to San Diego River Conservancy Resolution 08-02 (May 15, 2008) formalized the project initially outlined in a San Diego River Tributary Canyons Project Framework Report prepared by staff in 2007 in response to SDRC Resolution 07-04 (September 28, 2007). The report presents conceptual designs and alternative trail alignments and contains the information needed for the board to select an alignment in each canyon, providing the focus required to initiate new more detailed work. Assessments of existing conditions and a diverse set of project criteria support the recommended trail routes and provide the information needed for renewed public outreach in the affected communities, necessary real estate work, environmental review and other regulatory compliance work,

preparation of designs and other material needed for fundraising and organizing for project implementation.

Additional outreach is proposed to promote design of a footbridge and plaza at the river, concepts initially proposed in the framework report and investigated further in the feasibility report. A bridge for non-motorized pedestrian and bicycle access across the river would link the northern and southern canyon trails and their urban connector paths with the San Diego River Trail. A plaza recommended for the bridge's north bank landing would serve as a project nexus, a social space and interpretive venue. Though proposed as central features for the project, a bridge and plaza here would serve a much larger community purpose, connecting north and south bank businesses, residences, public facilities, the River Garden and the Discovery Center. Located close to the Fenton Parkway trolley station, the proposed elements present a particular opportunity for enhancing both local pedestrian/bicycle circulation and regional transportation options. For these reasons and the intrinsic values associated with the site - its riparian ambience, its central location in the urban valley and the river park – the footbridge and plaza have a separate life of their own that warrant special facilitation.

The concepts for a river crossing developed in the feasibility report are not provided for in the current Mission Valley Community Plan. The 1985 plan instead calls for an automobile bridge at the site, an idea which was developed and subsequently rejected by the City Council. As the community plan update proceeds a variety of future scenarios for the area will likely compete for public attention and endorsement. The outreach proposed would introduce the footbridge and plaza concepts as promising and integral elements that would serve the Tributary Canyons Project and contribute to the developing community form.

A goal of all proposed outreach work, particularly through the community plan update process, would be to attempt to have project elements – the canyon trails, the footbridge, plaza, and Mission Valley sidewalk improvements - adopted as elements in the city's long range Facility Financing Plan, thereby potentially bringing greater resources to bear to resolve design issues and implement the project.

An action by the governing board is needed to support a funding request to the Coastal Conservancy to advance the project. A continued collaborative effort between the two agencies and the City of San Diego is needed to fully integrate the project into existing plans and to efficiently develop the project as delineated in the feasibility report. The project responds to a unique collection of public policy objectives and continues to engender the community support needed at each stage of work required for success.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	Resolution 10-01 San Diego River Tributary Canyons Project Feasibility Study
CEQA COMPLIANCE:	The proposed project is statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA under 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 15262, feasibility and planning activities. Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Exemption for the project.

Resolution No: 10-01

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

Approval of Use of Funds from
The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006
(Proposition 84)

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

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy finds the expenditure of funds for developing the outlined capital project consistent with its enabling statute, which directs the Conservancy: "to provide recreation opportunities, open space,...and lands for educational uses within the area" ; and

WHEREAS, this project is Consistent with Program 2: Recreation & Education and Program, Program 3:Cultural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and also responds to the San Diego River Park Concept Plan and the City of San Diego's San Diego River Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy has reviewed a detailed feasibility report prepared pursuant to Resolution 08-02, May 15, 2008, for the purpose of pursuing a system of public trails and urban walkways connecting upland communities to the San Diego River Park; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy has reviewed the proposed trail alignments presented in the aforementioned feasibility report;

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

1. Approves the San Diego River Tributary Canyons Project Feasibility Report and authorizes the Executive Officer and staff to request $240,000 from the Coastal Conservancy from Proposition 84 funds appropriated to the Coastal Conservancy for projects authorized by the San Diego River Conservancy.

2. Funds authorized are to provide design services, conduct preliminary real estate work, initiate environmental review, permitting and associated studies, and to conduct community outreach needed to advance the project. The recommended trail alignments identified in the feasibility report shall be the focus of trail planning work.

3. Appoints the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, and payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned Project(s).

Approved and adopted the 6th day of May, 2010. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 10--01 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: _____
Nos: _____
Absent _____

_____
Michael J. Nelson, Executive Officer
San Diego River Conservancy

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **7**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY 2010 WORK PLAN**

Presentation and Report:
Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Recommendation: Adoption Resolution 10-02

2010 Work Plan

Many of the financial circumstances that confronted the State of California, the Nation, and the San Diego River Conservancy in 2009 remain. Expenditures and disbursements for General Obligation Bond funded projects and programs have been severely curtailed and in most instances, suspended.

When the 2009 Work Plan was adopted $12,800,000 of SDRC projects had been suspended. Fortunately, reimbursements and disbursements for approximately $7,000,000 of Proposition 40 projects were authorized; more than $2,700,000 of this amount was for projects that are currently under design or construction.

Unfortunately, approximately $5,800,000 remains suspended. The California Budget for Fiscal Year 07-08 and Fiscal Year 08-09 for the State Coastal Conservancy allocated Proposition 84 funding totaling $5,985,000 for projects authorized by the San Diego River Conservancy, only $200,000 of this amount has been approved for expenditure.

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Recognizing that the majority of funds available to SDRC are frozen, as they were last year, the objectives, framework and approaches adopted in the 2009 Work Plan are still relevant and applicable. It is proposed that we use the same framework, but add new objectives and consider revising some tactics and strategies as appropriate:

- Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re-prioritization of current operating and capital programs.
- Explore governance and organizational structures that would assist the Conservancy in accomplishment of its objectives.
- Examine and develop business practices and processes that promote efficiency and effective operations and service.
- Maintain a commitment to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by the Board of Governors and the San Diego River Coalition.
- Develop a program and or projects that commence implementation of the San Diego River Conservancy Act's requirement to pursue cultural resource planning within the watershed.
- Collaborate with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWCQCB) on the establishment of projects or programs that are consistent with the strategic plans for both agencies.

1. Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re- prioritization of current operating and capital programs

Regional and federal and private opportunities

The Executive Officer should develop strategies that make certain the Conservancy is in a strong position to be the beneficiary of local, federal and charitable funds. One tactic would be for SDRC to capitalize and build on its relationships with local and federal funding agencies to provide additional financial assistance to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by the Governing Board.

- ***Last year, SDRC secured $1,000,000 federal funding from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Walker properties in Santee. Efforts should be made to determine other fund sources that may be available through agencies of the Department of Interior for restorations, trail development and acquisitions.***

- ***Continue to pursue regional funding from SANDAG such as TRANSNET funding for Land Management Projects; but, also become aware of additional programs for habitat restoration and trail development.***

- ***Continue to seek funds from the San Diego Foundation, but broaden this effort to include entities and charities like National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Doris Duke Foundation, etc.***

- ***Special emphasis should be placed on federal programs that can support Heritage Tourism: Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, as well as, National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.***

Legislative Initiatives

SDRC should continue to build upon its government relations program with elected officials and key personnel of counties and municipalities to maintain an awareness of legislative initiatives or funding opportunities which may arise. A key component of the 2009 WP was to establish a network and relationships with key state legislators and staff, as well as public officials in state, local and federal government. The 2010 program and Governing Board should continue to build upon these relationships, but place particular emphasis on San Diego's Congressional Delegation.

- ***SDRC could receive $20 million with passage of the Water Bond. SDRC should work with the region's legislative delegation and key stakeholders, such as the San Diego County Water Authority to be a source or information for this endeavor.***

- ***SDRC should also explore legislatively establishing a Trust Fund that is non-lapsing, continuously appropriating that could protect reimbursements, donations, and other funds from rescission.***

Explore local funding opportunities within existing operating and capital budgets.

Recognizing the regional stature of the Board of Governors, SDRC should seek to have its priorities integrated with those of state, municipal, county and federal governments in the watershed. This

exercise should result in SDRC's goals and objectives inclusion in the appropriate Capital Improvement Programs for these governments

- ***An example of this integration was the establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the San Diego River Trail. This working group will develop a capital strategy for the Trail; a strategic document that describes each jurisdictions investments in the trail, their future commitments, and serves as a comprehensive, regional framework, which could be of assistance in raising funds. This approach could serve as the first project that achieves this integration and could serve as a template for future intergovernmental projects and programs***

- ***Complete the contract executed with the San Diego Regional Training Center to provide a stakeholder funding analysis that determines funds available for restoration/ environmental improvement in the San Diego River Watershed, which will identify monies allocated to restoration/improvement projects in the project area from each of 7 local governments and agencies; delineate which of the four initiatives found in the SDRC Strategic Plan initiatives each funding allocation addresses; provides an overview by agency and initiative; and, a describes any overlap in funding.***

2. Governance

The 2009 Work Plan recommended examining governance structures (JPAs) that could assist SDRC with the implementation of its Strategic Plan. Presently, there is no recommendation to pursue the creation of such an entity. However SDRC's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan is about to expire.

- ***Begin the evaluation and revision of SDRC's Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan/2006-2011 in accordance with Department of Finance guidelines.***

- ***Establish the methodology that will be employed to prepare the Strategic Plan's revision, as well as, the financial and human resources necessary to complete it; this would include a determination of whether consultants presently working with SDRC are capable to assist in its preparation.***

- ***Consider forming an ad hoc working group of Board Members and San Diego River Coalition to review goals, objectives and revisions or amendments before submitting a formal proposal for approval to the Governing Board.***

3. Business Practices and Processes

Last year the SDRC Work Plan encouraged an evaluation of to enable it to respond quickly when funding is available or provide funds to our partners more effectively.

- ***Though SDRC many of the agencies SDRC engages may not be inclined or able to modify their adopted practices and protocols, SDRC in 2010 should explore with its principal partner, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), the development of a framework or agreement that could allow for the expeditious release and encumbrance of funds allocated for SDRC's purpose, which have been appropriated in SCC's budget. This exercise is particularly important, if Proposition 84 funds are unfrozen or released, and $20 million of Water Bond funding is approved.***

- ***When SDRC accepted responsibility for (4) four Proposition 40 projects, it constituted an enormous administrative burden. One of the most difficult tasks was to set up and administer revolving funds within SDRC's operating budget and special deposit fund for these projects. SDRC should explore whether the SDRC Conservancy Fund, a provision of the San Diego River Conservancy Act, could be utilized or amended for this purpose to protect funds that may be reimbursed or donated.***

- ***SDRC utilizes a Special Deposit Fund for Supplemental Environmental Projects and other projects consistent with the Strategic Plan. The Deposit Fund requires reauthorization by the Department of Finance and is subject to rescission, which could jeopardize funds deposited into it. Moreover, DOF disallows use of the special deposit fund for grant reimbursements, which has required a complex interplay of reimbursement authority, deposits and expenditures into SDRC's support and capital budgets, all of which are vulnerable to rescission.***

  SDRC should also explore legislatively establishing a Trust Fund that is non-lapsing, continuously appropriating that could protect reimbursements, donations, and other funds from rescission.

4. Maintains a commitment to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by Governing Board.

The San Diego River Conservancy's Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan recommend projects totaling $164 million in four programmatic areas, and currently have invested $15 million. Though it is important for SDRC to be flexible and pursue new projects, it is recommend that a commitment be maintained to complete the projects it has previously endorsed and remain vigilant for new funding opportunities that may arise to fund them.

This plan acknowledges that there are ongoing projects not listed here that the Conservancy will continue to manage and that opportunities will emerge that SDRC must pursue. It also acknowledges that members of the Governing Board may be a source of projects; and, contemplates that Moreover, if SDRC should be fortunate to secure funding beyond, or in addition to that necessary to complete its previously approved projects, staff could select projects for the Board's review described in the First Tier of the San Diego River Coalition's Work Plan. What follows are approved projects identified in previous Work Plans and the Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan. Projects are assembled according to the four programs and projects found in the Strategic Plan.

LAND CONSERVATION

Pursue a preservation strategy through acquisition or other means of key river properties in 4 reaches**.**

- ***Target properties that connect public properties, particularly those that establish a riparian corridor from the El Capitan Dam to and including the City of San Diego.***

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Project	*Grantee*	*Est. Cost*	*SDRC Aprv.*	*Allocation*	*Status*	*Description*
Hanson Ponds	*EHC*		*3.2.07*	*$1,521,000*	*purchase agreement*	*143.5 acre*

Walker Properties	*SDRC*	*$10,000,000*	*11.9.07*	*$2,500,000*	*negotiation*	*140 acres*
EMV Flume	*SDRC*		*8.13.06 /1.19.07*	*TBD*	negotiation	*6 mile flume EMV*

Recreation and Education

Place emphasis on the acquisition and development of key sections of the San Diego River k Trail.

- ***Completion of the Gaps Analysis and capital strategy prepared by the Intergovernmental Working Group for the San Diego River Trail.***
- ***Continue to pursue the development of the Mission Valley Greenway segment of the San Diego River Trail (Fashion Valley to Qualcomm Stadium.***
- ***Preservation of the flume in the El Monte Valley Reach***
- ***Complete Riverford Road section of San Diego River Trail between Lakeside and Santee Reach.***
- ***Establish San Diego River Trail from Mast Park to Carlton Oaks Golf Course.***

Project	*Grantee*	*Est. Cost*	*SDRC Aprv.*	*Allocation*	*Status*	*Description*
River Gorge SD River Trail	*SDRC/USFS*	*$190,644(1)* *$634442(2)*	*8.12.05*	*$677,000*	*design*	*4.75 miles*
Riverford Road *San Diego River Trail*	*SDRC/LRPC*	*$800,000*	*11.9.07* *7.17.08*	*$800,000*	*design*	*1 mile*
Mast Park West *San Diego River Trail*	*Santee*	*$475,000*	*9.18.08* *11.21.08*	*$475,000*	*design*	*2500 feet*
MV Greenway *San Diego River Trail*	*San Diego*	*$1,400,000*	*5.15.08*	*$1,400,000*	*design*	*Fashion Valley Mall to Hazard Center (163)*
Tributary/ Canyon	*SDRC*	*$2,000,000*	*9.28.07*	*$150,000*	*design*	*trail connections; canyons north and south*

Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration

Initiate and implement the San Diego River Watershed Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal and Restoration Program

- ***Targets more than 325 acres. Continues a focus on public and private properties with the greatest infestations of invasives. The program has mapped and identified the most prominent infestations and is developing plans to restore habitat. In addition to the general obligation bond funds that have been set aside, SDRC and its consultants should continue to examine and seek funding from other private and public sources, as it did in 2009.***

Project	*Grantee*	*Est. Cost*	*SDRC Aprv.*	*Allocation*	*Status*	*Description*
Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal& Habitat Restoration	*SDRC*	*$5,000,000*	*3.20.07* *11.9.07* *11.21.08*	*$870,840*	*Underway*	*329 acres*

Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance

SDRC has successfully implemented Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPS) funded from penalties associated with violations of environmental law. In fact, the SDRWQCB has become the principal funder for our Water Quality program and projects.

- ***Rather than develop SEPS independently on a project by project basis. SDRC should attempt to collaborate with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) on the establishment of projects or programs that are consistent with the strategic plans for both agencies.***

Project	*Grantee*	*Cost Est.*	*SDRC Approval*	*Funds Allocated*	*Status*	*Description*
Watershed Data Collection & Restoration	*SDSU* *SDRC* *SDRPF*	*TBD*	*3.5.09*	*$346,000*	*design*	*4 wireless sensors*

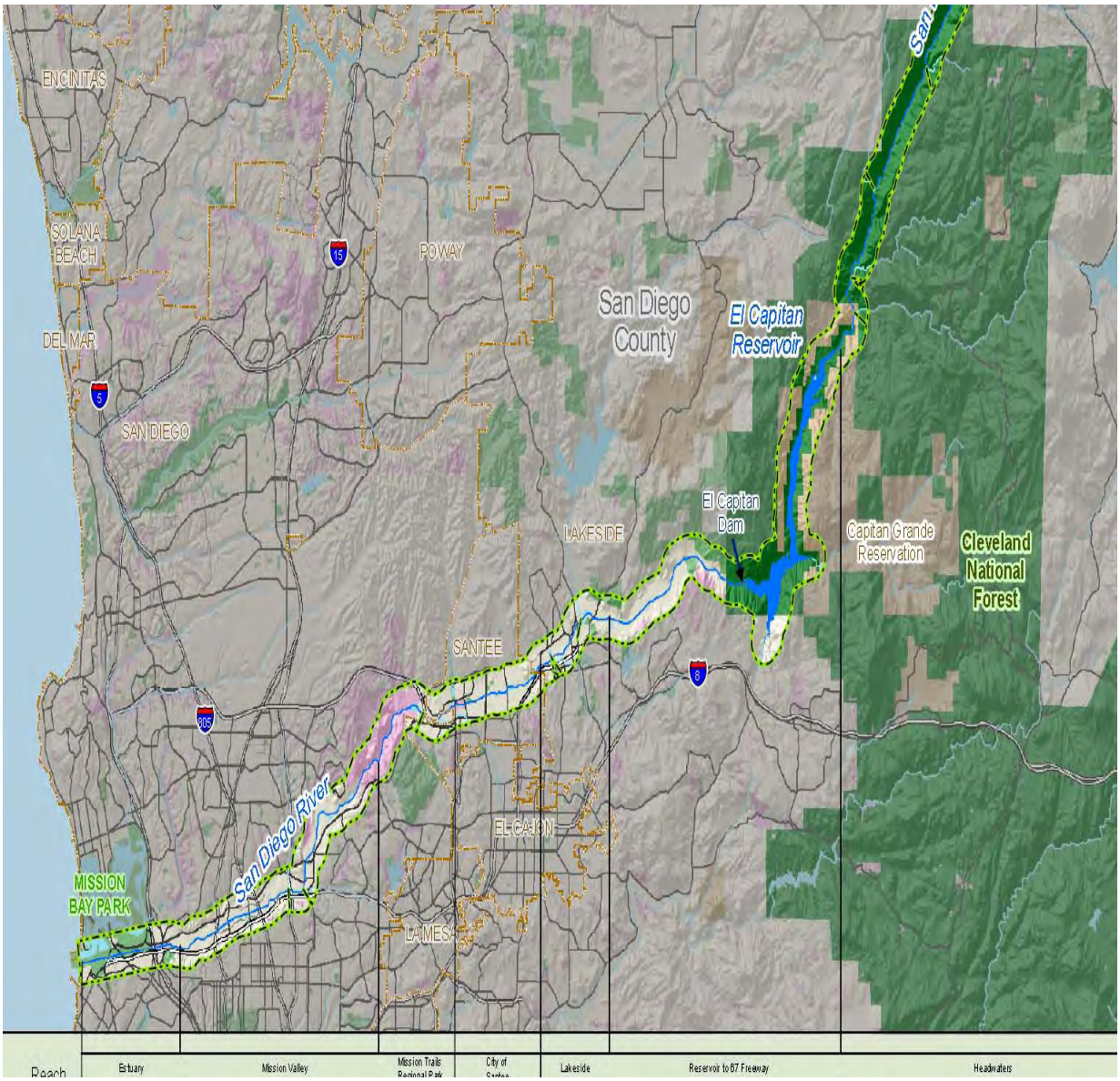
5. Develop a program and or projects that address the San Diego River Conservancy Act's requirement to ". . . reestablish cultural and historic connections along the River. . . to provide the public with the opportunity to appreciate the state's historic beginnings."

- ***This objective should initiate a cultural resource planning project that identifies and preserves cultural and archeological resources to allow for their appreciation by the public in a manner consistent with the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan and other existing plans produced by local governments and agencies. It should acknowledge the positive economic and social impacts of heritage tourism when cultural landscapes are preserved and facilitate relations with the indigenous tribes of the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Nation.***

- ***The initiative should take advantage of the California Office of Historic Preservation, at the Department of Parks and Recreation, municipal and local government agencies, The San Diego Historical Society, the Save Our Heritage Organisation, San Diego Archaeological Center and others.***

- ***Projects or programs should be developed to take advantage of state local, federal funding opportunities.***

- ***Should consider the formation of an ad hoc group comprising leaders within the region knowledgeable about the Region's cultural heritage.***



SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

PERFOMANCE REPORT /2010 WORK PLAN

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Executive Summary and Background

This report has been prepared to accomplish three tasks: 1) delineate the investments of the San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC) that address its statutory objectives and the four programs established in its Strategic Plan; 2) evaluate the Conservancy's performance during 2009; and, 3) propose recommendations for a 2010 Work Plan.

When 2009 began, the Governor had signed legislation extending SDRC's tenure for an additional 10 years and the Department of Finance had suspended all disbursements from General Obligation Bond funded programs for which the Conservancy had received allocations. This action had a $12.6 million impact on SDRC's projects and programs; $8.2 million for projects authorized by the Governing Board that were underway or completed, and $4.3 million that had not been approved.

Consequently, the Board of Governors adopted a Work Plan that reflected the impacts of this suspension and set forth the following objectives:

- ***Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re-prioritization of current operating and capital programs.***
- ***Explore governance and organizational structures that would assist the Conservancy in the accomplishment of its objectives.***
- ***Examine and develop business practices and processes that promote efficiency and effective operations and service.***
- ***Maintain a commitment to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by the Board of Governors.***

The performance report will demonstrate that in 2009 SDRC was able to achieve authorization to proceed for more than **$7.5 million** of the frozen $12.6 million. It will acknowledge that the recently enacted $11.2 billion Water Bond, if approved by the voters, will allocate **$20 million** for SDRC projects. Furthermore, the report will recognize that SDRC was awarded **$1 million** from United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as, funding for Supplemental Environmental Projects from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Toxics Control totaling approximately **$500,000.**

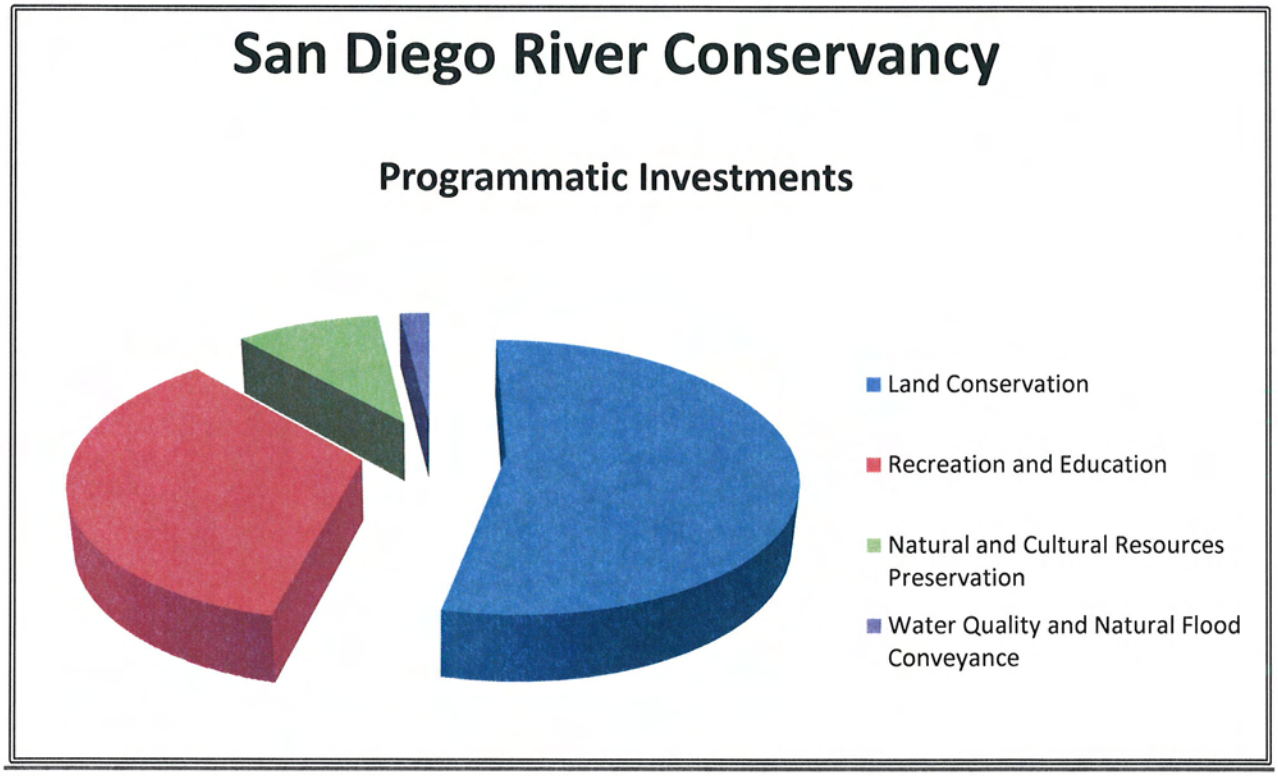
Since California's financial crisis continues, SDRC is once again confronted with General Obligation Bond funded suspensions and restrictions that prevent access to funds set aside for SDRC. Accordingly, it is suggested that the Conservancy's 2010 Work Plan continue to adhere too many of the same objectives as last year:

Continue to pursue new and existing funding opportunities, while maintaining a commitment to implement the strategic plan and the completion of projects approved by the Board of Governors and the San Diego River Coalition.

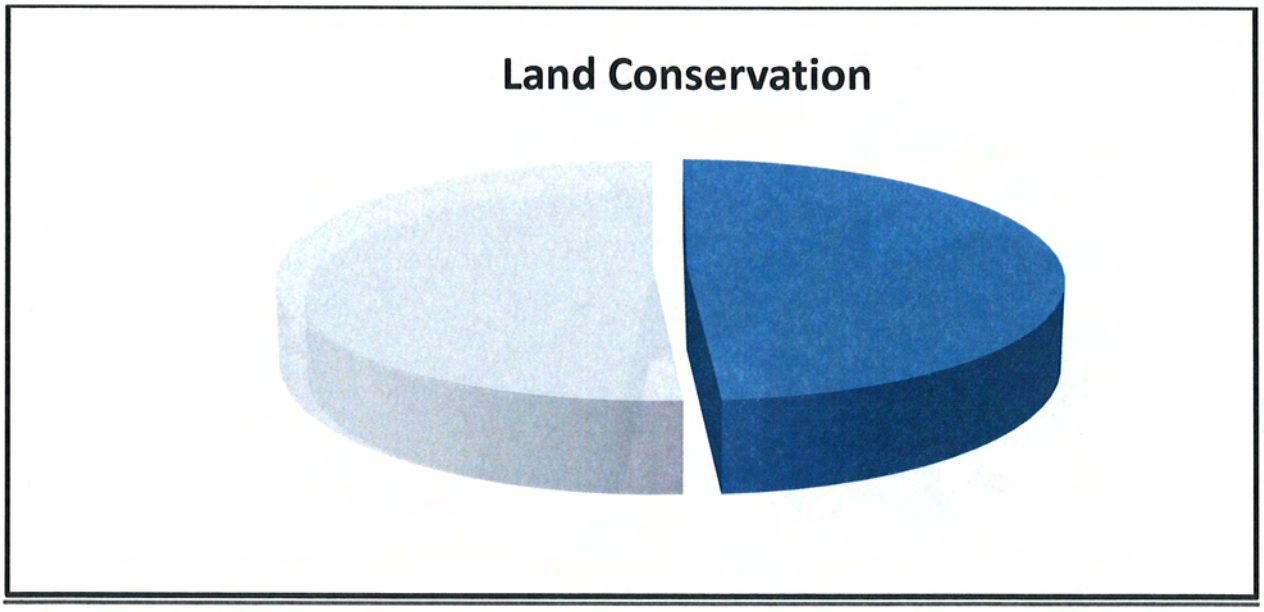
Most importantly, the 2010 Work Plan will adopt new strategies and tactics to attract and secure funding, and, will initiate a new programmatic emphasis on history and culture, as well as, water quality.

Status of Investments

What follows is an analysis of allocations and expenditure by the San Diego River Conservancy. The investments made by the Governing Board have been categorized according to the four programs adopted in the 2006-2011 Strategic Plan.

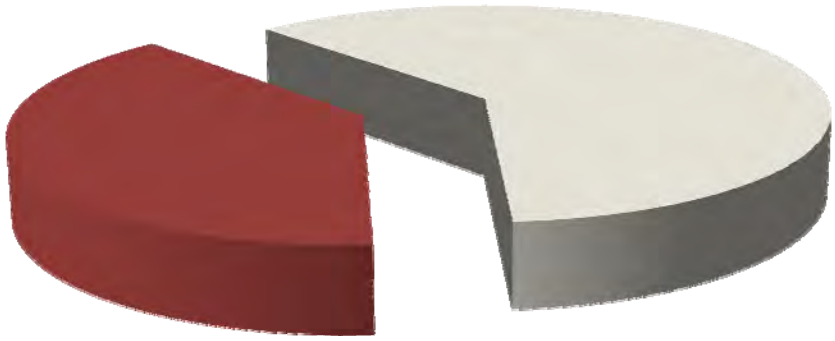


Funding Analysis	Allocation
Land Conservation	$8,988,000
Recreation and Education	$5,834,304
Natural and Cultural Resources Restoration and Preservation	$1,604,460
Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance	$330,000
Total	**$16,756,764**



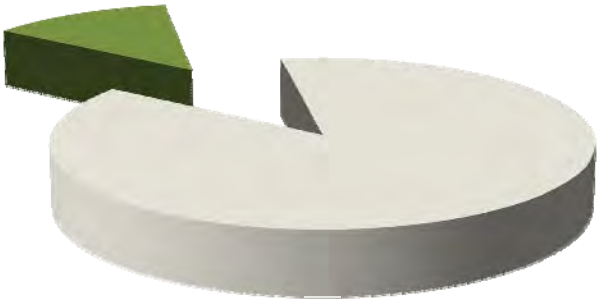
Project	Grantee	Estimate	Board Approval	Allocated	Status	Fund	Description
CALMAT	LRPC	$4,200,000	Before SDRC Act	$2,200,000 $2,000,000 $4,200,000	complete	Prop 40 & Prop 13	acquired 100 acres; nucleus of Lakeside's River Park.
Eagle Peak Preserve (1)	SDRPF	$175,000	9/10/2004	$175,000	complete	Prop 40	acquired 112 acres
Eagle Peak Preserve (3)	SDRPF	$527,000	8/11/2006	$527,000	complete	Prop 40	acquired 180 acres
Hanson Pond	EHC	$5,000,000	3/2/2007	$1,586,000	under contract	Prop 40	acquisition of 143.5
Walker	TPL	$10,000,000	11/9/2007	$2,500,000	negotiation	Prop 84 & Sec 6	acquisition of 140 acres in Santee, comprising two miles of riparian corridor
EMV Flume Properties	SDRC	723,838	10/13/2006	TBD	secured appraisals	TBD	secure land along the six mile historic flume in EMV for public trail
TOTAL				**$8,988,000**			

Recreation & Education



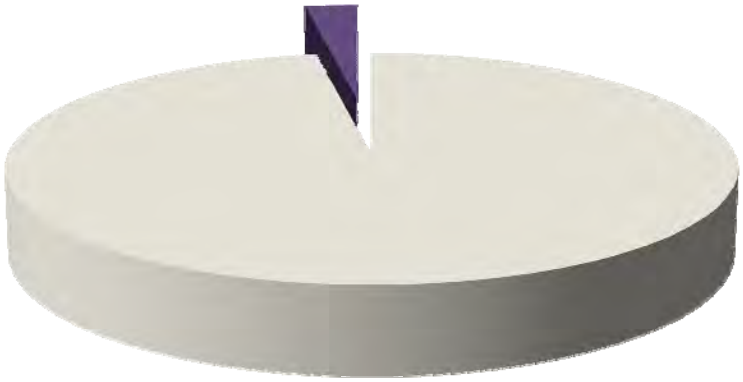
Project	Grantee	Estimate	Board Approval	Allocated	Status	Fund	Description
(SD River Trail) Ocean Beach Bike Path	City of San Diego	$2,500,00	9/10/2004	$2,000,000	complete	Prop 40	extend Ocean Beach Bike Path .75 miles from Pacific Highway to Hotel Circle
(SD River Trail) Lakeside River Park	LRPC	$450,000	8/11/2006	$203,617	complete	Prop 40	.75 miles of trail adjacent in the community of Lakeside
(SD River Trail) Riverford Road	SDRC/LRPC	$800,000	11/9/2007 7/17/2008	$787,562	design	Prop 40	design, develop and construction additional mile of Trail.
(SD River Trail) Mast Park West	City of Santee	$475,000	9/18/2008 11/21/2008	$472,963	design	Prop 40	develop an additional 2500 feet of San Diego River Trail
(SD River Trail) MV Greenway	City of San Diego	$1,500,000	5/15/2008	$1,400,000	design	Prop 40	design, construct, and connect the trail from Fashion Valley Mall to Hazard Center (Under 163)
(SD River Trail) River Gorge Trail	SDRC/USFS	Phase 1- $190,644 Phase 2- $634-442	8/12/2005 _____ 10/13/2006 11/09/2007 9/18/2008 11/21/2008	$136,762 _____ $833,250	under construction	Prop 40	construct 4.75 miles of multipurpose trail on the east and west sides of the river.
(SD River Trail) Tributary/ Canyon	SDRC	TBD ($2,000,000)	9/28/2007 5/15/2008	$150,000	Feasibility Design	Prop 84	design and construct urban trails to connect canyons north and south of the river
TOTAL				**$5,984,154**			

Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation



Project	Grantee	Estimate	Board Approval	Allocated	Status	Fund	Description
Mission Valley Preserve	City of San Diego	$500,000	9/10/2004	$500,000	complete	Prop 40	eradicate 4.22 acres of non-native vegetation and replace it with native plants within the Mission Valley Preserve.
Invasive, Non-Native Plant Removal	SDRC SDSU	$5,000,000	3/2/2007 11/9/2007 9/18/2008	$577,846	underway	Prop 40	control and replant over 329 acres of invasive plant species on the main stem of the river
F&G / Ward Road	SDRC		9/18/2008	$233,005	underway	F&G special account	control over 14.2 acres of invasive non-native plants and re-vegetate with natives on DFG and adjacent properties
Carlton Oaks Golf Course (private property)			9/18/2008	$293,609	underway	SDWA (SEP)	restore a 4.685-acre, highly degraded section of the San Diego River near the Carlton Oaks Golf Course
TOTAL				**$1,604,460**			

Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance



Project	Grantee	Estimate	Board Approval	Allocated	Status	Fund	Description
Hydrology Study	DOI/BOR	$719,000	8/12/2005	$30,000	phase 1 complete	Special Deposit (SEP)	provide analysis for implementation of the San Diego River Plans.
Data and Watershed Information System	SDRPF	$25,000	7/17/2008	$25,000	complete	Special Deposit (SEP)	develop digital tool box which will allow SDRC to track and manage projects.
River Blitz & Clean Ups	SDRPF	$35,000	1/8/2009	$35,000	complete	Special Deposit (SEP)	conduct 2 field surveys ($7500) and perform and manage 12 River Clean Ups ($24,000); and
Watershed Data Collection and Restoration Program	SDSURF	$1,500,000	3/5/2009	$240,000	underway	Special Deposit (SEP)	development of a network of sensors, dedicated to monitoring of the environment and water quality
TOTAL				**$330,000**			

2009 Performance Report

The SDRC 2009 Work Plan set forth four broad objectives to address the Strategic Plan:

- Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re-prioritization of current operating and capital programs.
- Explore governance and organizational structures that would assist the Conservancy in the accomplishment of its objectives.
- Examine and develop business practices and processes that promote efficiency and effective operations and service.
- Maintain a commitment to implement the Strategic Plan and complete projects approved by the Board of Governors.

SDRC can demonstrate progress and results for each of these objectives. The following summaries highlight selected outcomes and achievements for each objective.

1. Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re- prioritization of current operating and capital programs.

This objective acknowledged that resumption of General Obligation Bond (GOB) funded programs was not a given, so, SDRC should identify alternative funding sources. Emphasis was to be placed on federal and local funding opportunities, as well as, exploration of charitable donations from foundations and corporate entities. The objective focused on three areas:

Regional and federal and private opportunities

- ***SDRC and the Trust for Public Land submitted an application to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the acquisition of the Walker properties in Santee that was endorsed by the California Department of Fish and Game; and was awarded a $1,000,000 Sec 6 Recovery Grant.***

- ***Submitted an application to SANDAG's Environmental Mitigation Program for habitat restoration and trail funding. The application ranked 4th out of 30 applications, funding was not recommended because State GOBs had been identified as match. Bond funds and private funds have subsequently been secured and made available.***

- ***SDRC resubmitted its application to SANDAG stressing that its regional habitat enhancement proposal would represent a cost-effective and comprehensive approach to restoring and improving habitat along San Diego River, while addressing the objectives of a number of regional and local plans. This collaboration, which includes the County of San Diego, the Cities of San Diego and Santee, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy has received preliminary notification that the grant evaluation committee will be recommending $527,739 funding for the project.***

- ***Secured a $293,000 from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board for a Supplemental Environmental Project negotiated with the San Diego County Water Authority on private property adjacent to public property at the Carlton Oaks Golf Course.***

- ***Supported a $3,000,000 grant application by the San Diego Natural History Museum to secure funding from the National Science Foundation for a partnership with SDRC that would install a permanent exhibition at the Museum using San Diego River as a theme. The success of the application should be known this summer.***

Legislative Initiatives

- ***An $11.2 billion Water Bond was approved by the California Legislature and will be placed on the November ballot. The bond, officially called the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010, reflects a compromise reached by the Governor, Legislature, water agencies and environmental groups.***

- ***If enacted, this Bond would provide $20,000,000 for SDRC projects as well as $20,000,000 for land and water conservation and restoration projects in San Diego County. If approved, this allocation would represent the single, largest appropriation SDRC has ever received.***

- ***These allocations represent a remarkable success for the San Diego's Legislative Delegation, Senator Christine Kehoe, City of San Diego, the San Diego County Water Authority and SDRC.***

It represents recognition by the Regions' elected officials that the restoration of the San Diego River is an important priority.

Explore local funding opportunities within existing operating and capital budgets.

The Work Plan encouraged the Executive Officer and Governing Board to establish a government relations program with elected officials and key personnel of counties and municipalities that would seek inclusion of SDRC's priorities within the Capital Improvement Programs of state, municipal, county and federal governments in the watershed.

- ***Recognizing that completion of the San Diego River Trail is one of SDRC's greatest priorities, the Governing Board took formal action to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group for the San Diego River Trail. This action encouraged regional collaboration among elected officials at the policy level and participation by key staff for the jurisdictions to address technical issues regarding priorities, construction and management of the Trail.***

- ***SDRC and the State Coastal Conservancy acknowledged this decision and agreed to commit Proposition 84 funding set aside for SDRC to restart a contract with KTU+A to conduct a "Gaps Analysis" for the San Diego River Trail. Resumption of this contract was structured to complement the Governing Board's decision to create an Intergovernmental Working Group for the Trail.***

- ***Conservancy staff formed the Intergovernmental Working Group comprising key officials and stakeholders to prepare a work plan and capital strategy that would describe each jurisdiction's commitment to the trail, guide the construction, management and prioritization of new segments, as well as, to serve as a marketing prospectus to secure funding. The Working Group has met on two occasions, has reviewed, and commented on detailed maps and analyses prepared by KTU+A of Existing and Proposed Facilities along the River Trail. The Working Group will discuss a preliminary identification of Gaps at its next meeting.***

- ***The Governing Board authorized the Executive Officer and SDRC to assume lead responsibility for (4) four Proposition 40 projects totaling $2,300,000 and partner with state, municipal, county and federal governments and NGO's in the watershed. One of these projects provides a good example of the intergovernmental relations this objective envisioned; a project to control invasives on 23 acres at the Carlton Oaks Golf Course on public and private property, which required developing and maintaining working relationships with San Diego State University Research Foundation, the Resources Agency, the City of San Diego, San Diego County Water Authority, the County of San Diego and the City of Santee.***

2. Governance

This objective recommended an examination of financial commitments of local and municipal governments are presently making which are consistent with and complement the San Diego River Conservancy Act and its Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan. It also suggested that staff evaluate the costs and benefits of developing alternative governance structures such as a Joint Powers Authority(s) (JPA) to assist with the management and implementation of SDRC projects, as other state Conservancies have done.

At this time, there is no recommendation to pursue creation of a new entity, since SDRC has been fortunate to have executed grant, funding agreements and partnerships with state federal and local government and non profits to offer assistance with its objectives: San Diego River Park Foundation, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, the Cities of San Diego and Santee, the County of San Diego , Helix Water District, San Diego State University, United States Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Trust for Public Land.

Though no formal proposal was produced, a number of steps have been taken which will lead to a report addressing these questions that will be presented to the Governing Board.

- ***SDRC executed a contract with the San Diego Regional Training Center to provide a stakeholder funding analysis that determines the financial investment local governments and agencies make in restoration/ environmental improvement of the San Diego River Watershed. The contract focuses on the identification of monies allocated to restoration/improvement projects by seven local governments and agencies; delineation of funding allocations consistent with the four programs found in the SDRC Strategic Plan; production of a clear report that offers an overview of financial commitments by agency and initiative; as well as, a description of any funding overlaps.***

- ***Interviews and site visits have been conducted with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the San Joaquin River Conservancy regarding their use of JPA's.***

3. Business Practices and Processes

The 2009 WP encouraged the evaluation of business practices and processes to promote efficiency. This objective envisioned that these improvements would enable SDRC to be a lead agency and be more responsive when funding was available.

- ***SDRC was responsive when funding became available during the fiscal year. It accepted lead responsibility for (4) four Proposition 40 projects, totaling $2,300,000 because project partners were unable to assume the financial and administrative requirements for the grants associated with them. This decision required the SDRC to negotiate and execute more than a dozen grant and financing agreements. Regrettably, it was not possible for SDRC to adopt or significantly improve practices that would promote more efficient project management. This result is in large measure attributable to the fact that SDRC receives little funding directly and must adhere to guidelines and practices of the myriad agencies that provide its funding and administrative services. As a consequence, though SDRC may be willing to reengineer or revise its practices, the agencies it must engage are not inclined to modify adopted practices and protocols so they are less burdensome to SDRC.***

4. Maintain commitment to implement the Strategic Plan and complete approved projects.

The 2009 Work Plan encouraged the completion of projects the Governing Board had previously approved, while being flexible to pursue opportunities for new funding. Though Proposition 84 funds for new projects remained frozen, the General Obligation Bond suspension for SDRCs approved Proposition 40 projects was lifted.

- ***SDRC was able to encumber and secure funding certification for all remaining Prop 40 funds and projects.***

- ***The Governing Board authorized the Executive Officer and SDRC to assume lead responsibility on 4 Prop 40 totaling $2,300,000 when project partners were unable to assume it.***

Proposition 40 Projects	Grant #	Amount
River Gorge Trailhead Improvement	4072005	$833,843
River Gorge Trail Improvement	4072008	$136,169
Invasives Control & Restoration	4072011	$577,846
Riverford Road Trail	4072009	$787,562
Total		$2,335,420

- ***Project Agreements with the Resources Agency, as well as, permits, grant, intergovernmental and financing agreements with project partners were negotiated and executed.***

Partner	Transaction	Project
State Coastal Conservancy	Establish revolving fund; protocols for reimbursements, disbursements, and project accounting	All Prop 40 Projects
United States Forest Service	Intergovernmental Agreement	River Gorge Trail and Trailhead
San Diego State University Research Foundation	Grant Agreement	Invasives Control & Restoration
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	Grant Agreement	Riverford Road Trail
Upper San Diego River Improvement Project, County of San Diego	Financing Agreement	Riverford Road Trail
State of California	Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA)	Invasives Control & Restoration; River Gorge Trail and Trailhead
City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department	Right of Entry	Invasives Control & Restoration
Army Corps of Engineers	RGP 41 (Regional Permit)	Invasives Control & Restoration
Department of Fish and Game	Streambed Alteration Agreement	Invasives Control & Restoration

2010 Work Plan

Many of the financial circumstances that confronted the State of California, the Nation, and the San Diego River Conservancy in 2009 remain. Expenditures and disbursements for General Obligation Bond funded projects and programs have been severely curtailed and in most instances, suspended.

When the 2009 Work Plan was adopted $12,800,000 of SDRC projects had been suspended. Fortunately, reimbursements and disbursements for approximately $7,000,000 of Proposition 40 projects were authorized; more than $2,700,000 of this amount was for projects that are currently under design or construction.

Unfortunately, approximately $5,800,000 remains suspended. The California Budget for Fiscal Year 07-08 and Fiscal Year 08-09 for the State Coastal Conservancy allocated Proposition 84 funding totaling $5,985,000 for projects authorized by the San Diego River Conservancy, only $200,000 of this amount has been approved for expenditure.

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Recognizing that the majority of funds available to SDRC are frozen, as they were last year, the objectives, framework and approaches adopted in the 2009 Work Plan are still relevant and applicable. It is proposed that we use the same framework, but add new objectives and consider revising some tactics and strategies as appropriate:

- Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re-prioritization of current operating and capital programs.
- Explore governance and organizational structures that would assist the Conservancy in accomplishment of its objectives.
- Examine and develop business practices and processes that promote efficiency and effective operations and service.
- Maintain a commitment to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by the Board of Governors and the San Diego River Coalition.
- Develop a program and or projects that commence implementation of the San Diego River Conservancy Act's requirement to pursue cultural resource planning within the watershed.
- Collaborate with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWCQCB) on the establishment of projects or programs that are consistent with the strategic plans for both agencies.

1. Pursue new and existing funding opportunities, particularly those that might occur from a re- prioritization of current operating and capital programs

Regional and federal and private opportunities

The Executive Officer should develop strategies that make certain the Conservancy is in a strong position to be the beneficiary of local, federal and charitable funds. One tactic would be for SDRC to capitalize and build on its relationships with local and federal funding agencies to provide additional financial assistance to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by the Governing Board.

- ***Last year, SDRC secured $1,000,000 federal funding from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Walker properties in Santee. Efforts should be made to determine other fund sources that may be available through agencies of the Department of Interior for restorations, trail development and acquisitions.***

- ***Continue to pursue regional funding from SANDAG such as TRANSNET funding for Land Management Projects; but, also become aware of additional programs for habitat restoration and trail development.***

- ***Continue to seek funds from the San Diego Foundation, but broaden this effort to include entities and charities like National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Doris Duke Foundation, etc.***

- ***Special emphasis should be placed on federal programs that can support Heritage Tourism: Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, as well as, National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.***

Legislative Initiatives

SDRC should continue to build upon its government relations program with elected officials and key personnel of counties and municipalities to maintain an awareness of legislative initiatives or funding opportunities which may arise. A key component of the 2009 WP was to establish a network and relationships with key state legislators and staff, as well as public officials in state, local and federal government. The 2010 program and Governing Board should continue to build upon these relationships, but place particular emphasis on San Diego's Congressional Delegation.

- ***SDRC could receive $20 million with passage of the Water Bond. SDRC should work with the region's legislative delegation and key stakeholders, such as the San Diego County Water Authority to be a source or information for this endeavor.***

- ***SDRC should also explore legislatively establishing a Trust Fund that is non-lapsing, continuously appropriating that could protect reimbursements, donations, and other funds from rescission.***

Explore local funding opportunities within existing operating and capital budgets.

Recognizing the regional stature of the Board of Governors, SDRC should seek to have its priorities integrated with those of state, municipal, county and federal governments in the watershed. This

exercise should result in SDRC's goals and objectives inclusion in the appropriate Capital Improvement Programs for these governments

- ***An example of this integration was the establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the San Diego River Trail. This working group will develop a capital strategy for the Trail; a strategic document that describes each jurisdictions investments in the trail, their future commitments, and serves as a comprehensive, regional framework, which could be of assistance in raising funds. This approach could serve as the first project that achieves this integration and could serve as a template for future intergovernmental projects and programs***

- ***Complete the contract executed with the San Diego Regional Training Center to provide a stakeholder funding analysis that determines funds available for restoration/ environmental improvement in the San Diego River Watershed, which will identify monies allocated to restoration/improvement projects in the project area from each of 7 local governments and agencies; delineate which of the four initiatives found in the SDRC Strategic Plan initiatives each funding allocation addresses; provides an overview by agency and initiative; and, a describes any overlap in funding.***

2. Governance

The 2009 Work Plan recommended examining governance structures (JPAs) that could assist SDRC with the implementation of its Strategic Plan. Presently, there is no recommendation to pursue the creation of such an entity. However SDRC's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan is about to expire.

- ***Begin the evaluation and revision of SDRC's Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan/2006-2011 in accordance with Department of Finance guidelines.***

- ***Establish the methodology that will be employed to prepare the Strategic Plan's revision, as well as, the financial and human resources necessary to complete it; this would include a determination of whether consultants presently working with SDRC are capable to assist in its preparation.***

- ***Consider forming an ad hoc working group of Board Members and San Diego River Coalition to review goals, objectives and revisions or amendments before submitting a formal proposal for approval to the Governing Board.***

3. Business Practices and Processes

Last year the SDRC Work Plan encouraged an evaluation of to enable it to respond quickly when funding is available or provide funds to our partners more effectively.

- ***Though SDRC many of the agencies SDRC engages may not be inclined or able to modify their adopted practices and protocols, SDRC in 2010 should explore with its principal partner, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), the development of a framework or agreement that could allow for the expeditious release and encumbrance of funds allocated for SDRC's purpose, which have been appropriated in SCC's budget. This exercise is particularly important, if Proposition 84 funds are unfrozen or released, and $20 million of Water Bond funding is approved.***

- ***When SDRC accepted responsibility for (4) four Proposition 40 projects, it constituted an enormous administrative burden. One of the most difficult tasks was to set up and administer revolving funds within SDRC's operating budget and special deposit fund for these projects. SDRC should explore whether the SDRC Conservancy Fund, a provision of the San Diego River Conservancy Act, could be utilized or amended for this purpose to protect funds that may be reimbursed or donated.***

- ***SDRC utilizes a Special Deposit Fund for Supplemental Environmental Projects and other projects consistent with the Strategic Plan. The Deposit Fund requires reauthorization by the Department of Finance and is subject to rescission, which could jeopardize funds deposited into it. Moreover, DOF disallows use of the special deposit fund for grant reimbursements, which has required a complex interplay of reimbursement authority, deposits and expenditures into SDRC's support and capital budgets, all of which are vulnerable to rescission.***

  SDRC should also explore legislatively establishing a Trust Fund that is non-lapsing, continuously appropriating that could protect reimbursements, donations, and other funds from rescission.

4. Maintains a commitment to implement the strategic plan and complete projects approved by Governing Board.

The San Diego River Conservancy's Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan recommend projects totaling $164 million in four programmatic areas, and currently have invested $15 million. Though it is important for SDRC to be flexible and pursue new projects, it is recommend that a commitment be maintained to complete the projects it has previously endorsed and remain vigilant for new funding opportunities that may arise to fund them.

This plan acknowledges that there are ongoing projects not listed here that the Conservancy will continue to manage and that opportunities will emerge that SDRC must pursue. It also acknowledges that members of the Governing Board may be a source of projects; and, contemplates that Moreover, if SDRC should be fortunate to secure funding beyond, or in addition to that necessary to complete its previously approved projects, staff could select projects for the Board's review described in the First Tier of the San Diego River Coalition's Work Plan. What follows are approved projects identified in previous Work Plans and the Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan. Projects are assembled according to the four programs and projects found in the Strategic Plan.

LAND CONSERVATION

Pursue a preservation strategy through acquisition or other means of key river properties in 4 reaches**.**

- ***Target properties that connect public properties, particularly those that establish a riparian corridor from the El Capitan Dam to and including the City of San Diego.***

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Project	*Grantee*	*Est. Cost*	*SDRC Aprv.*	*Allocation*	*Status*	*Description*
Hanson Ponds	*EHC*		*3.2.07*	*$1,521,000*	*purchase agreement*	*143.5 acre*

Walker Properties	*SDRC*	*$10,000,000*	*11.9.07*	*$2,500,000*	*negotiation*	*140 acres*
EMV Flume	*SDRC*		*8.13.06 /1.19.07*	*TBD*	negotiation	*6 mile flume EMV*

Recreation and Education

Place emphasis on the acquisition and development of key sections of the San Diego River k Trail.

- ***Completion of the Gaps Analysis and capital strategy prepared by the Intergovernmental Working Group for the San Diego River Trail.***
- ***Continue to pursue the development of the Mission Valley Greenway segment of the San Diego River Trail (Fashion Valley to Qualcomm Stadium.***
- ***Preservation of the flume in the El Monte Valley Reach***
- ***Complete Riverford Road section of San Diego River Trail between Lakeside and Santee Reach.***
- ***Establish San Diego River Trail from Mast Park to Carlton Oaks Golf Course.***

Project	*Grantee*	*Est. Cost*	*SDRC Aprv.*	*Allocation*	*Status*	*Description*
River Gorge SD River Trail	*SDRC/USFS*	*$190,644(1)* *$634442(2)*	*8.12.05*	*$677,000*	*design*	*4.75 miles*
Riverford Road *San Diego River Trail*	*SDRC/LRPC*	*$800,000*	*11.9.07* *7.17.08*	*$800,000*	*design*	*1 mile*
Mast Park West *San Diego River Trail*	*Santee*	*$475,000*	*9.18.08* *11.21.08*	*$475,000*	*design*	*2500 feet*
MV Greenway *San Diego River Trail*	*San Diego*	*$1,400,000*	*5.15.08*	*$1,400,000*	*design*	*Fashion Valley Mall to Hazard Center (163)*
Tributary/ Canyon	*SDRC*	*$2,000,000*	*9.28.07*	*$150,000*	*design*	*trail connections; canyons north and south*

Natural and Cultural Resources Preservation and Restoration

Initiate and implement the San Diego River Watershed Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal and Restoration Program

- ***Targets more than 325 acres. Continues a focus on public and private properties with the greatest infestations of invasives. The program has mapped and identified the most prominent infestations and is developing plans to restore habitat. In addition to the general obligation bond funds that have been set aside, SDRC and its consultants should continue to examine and seek funding from other private and public sources, as it did in 2009.***

Project	*Grantee*	*Est. Cost*	*SDRC Aprv.*	*Allocation*	*Status*	*Description*
Invasive Non-Native Plant Removal& Habitat Restoration	*SDRC*	*$5,000,000*	*3.20.07* *11.9.07* *11.21.08*	*$870,840*	*Underway*	*329 acres*

Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance

SDRC has successfully implemented Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPS) funded from penalties associated with violations of environmental law. In fact, the SDRWQCB has become the principal funder for our Water Quality program and projects.

- ***Rather than develop SEPS independently on a project by project basis. SDRC should attempt to collaborate with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) on the establishment of projects or programs that are consistent with the strategic plans for both agencies.***

Project	*Grantee*	*Cost Est.*	*SDRC Approval*	*Funds Allocated*	*Status*	*Description*
Watershed Data Collection & Restoration	*SDSU* *SDRC* *SDRPF*	*TBD*	*3.5.09*	*$346,000*	*design*	*4 wireless sensors*

5. Develop a program and or projects that address the San Diego River Conservancy Act's requirement to ". . . reestablish cultural and historic connections along the River. . . to provide the public with the opportunity to appreciate the state's historic beginnings."

- ***This objective should initiate a cultural resource planning project that identifies and preserves cultural and archeological resources to allow for their appreciation by the public in a manner consistent with the San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan and other existing plans produced by local governments and agencies. It should acknowledge the positive economic and social impacts of heritage tourism when cultural landscapes are preserved and facilitate relations with the indigenous tribes of the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Nation.***

- ***The initiative should take advantage of the California Office of Historic Preservation, at the Department of Parks and Recreation, municipal and local government agencies, The San Diego Historical Society, the Save Our Heritage Organisation, San Diego Archaeological Center and others.***

- ***Projects or programs should be developed to take advantage of state local, federal funding opportunities.***

- ***Should consider the formation of an ad hoc group comprising leaders within the region knowledgeable about the Region's cultural heritage.***

San Diego River Coalition /2010 Work Plan

The primary goals and objectives of the 2009 and 2010 Work Plans for the San Diego River Conservancy has been to pursue and secure new and existing funding opportunities to implement the strategic plan and complete the projects approved by the Board of Governors.

Presently, all of the capital projects the governing board has endorsed can be found in the Work Plans of the San Diego River Coalition. If SDRC should secure funding beyond or in addition to that which is necessary to complete its approved projects, staff would select projects for the Board's consideration that are delineated in the First Tier of the Coalition's Work Plan.

San Diego River Coalition /2010 Work Plan

Acquisition

Priority	Title	Type	Description	Estimated Cost
1	River Parkway	Acquisition	Acquire public access through easement of fee title acquisition of the river parkway area	TBD
2	Watershed	Acquisition	Protect lands for the following: 1) Wildlife Corridors to River Corridor; 2) Reservoir and Stream Buffers; 2) Trail Access; 3) Viewshed Protection: 4) Continuity of Public Lands	TBD

Trails

Priority	Title	Type	Description	Estimated Cost
current	Cedar Creek Falls	Construction	Trail to Cedar Creek Falls and River Trail from Thornbush and Saddleback	Funded
current	River Trail at SR163	Construction	Paved trail under 163 on north side of river completing gap in trail	Funded (possible undetermined need remains)
current	MVP River Trail	Construction	Paved trail from Pacific Highway to Sefton Field	Funded
current	Rim to Rim Trail	Feasibility	Explore feasibility of earthern trail from Ruffin Canyon to Normal Heights	Funded
current	Mission Valley Crossing	Feasibility	feasibility of multi-use trail crossing near stadium(bridge)	Funded

1	El Capitan Reservoir	Feasibility	Multi-Use Earthen Trail Around Reservoir	$100,000
1	Hanson Pond	Construction	Multi-Use Earthen Trail from El Monte Road to Collwood	$2,000,000
1	Mast Park West	Construction	Multi-Use Trail from Mast Park west to Santee border	$500,000
1	City Border to MTRP/W.Hills Parkway	Feasibility	Multi-Use Trail from Santee Border connecting to MTRP and W. Hills Parkway	$75,000
1	Stadium to Fenton Parkway	Construction	Paved Trail from Stadium to existing trail at Fenton Parkway	$600,000
1	West River Crossing	Construction	Paved Trail from Sefton Field to Friars Road connecting YMCA	$1,000,000
2	Channel Road Gap	Construction	Multi-Use Earthen Trail from Channel Road to existing trail at Highway 67 includes acquiring easement from private land owner	$175,000
2	City Border to MTRP/W.Hills Parkway	Construction	Multi-use Trail from Santee Border connecting to MTRP and W. Hills Parkway	$1,500,000
2	Mission Valley Crossing	Construction	Construct Bridge for crossing between Stadium/Library and Camino del Rio S.	$3,000,000
2	Forrester Creek Connection	Feasibility	Explore opportunities for trail connection between Forester Creek Bike Path and River Trail	$50,000
2	Sefton Park to AAA Trail	Construction	Conduct improvements to complete missing gap	TBD
3	El Monte Valley	Construction	Class 2 Bike Lanes from Reservoir to Hanson Pond	TBD

3	Grantville Corridor	Construction	Multi-use paved trail from MTRP to Stadium	TBD
3	Rim to Rim Trail	Construction	Multi-Use Trail from Normal Heights to Ruffin Canyon	TBD
3	805 Gap	Construction	Build culvert crossing to connect River Trail under 805	TBD
3	Mission Valley Greenway Crossing	Construction	Build bridge to cross roadway over Qualcomm Way on south side of river	TBD
3	West Mission Valley Trail	Construction	Multi-Use Paved Trail from West River Crossing to Fashion Valley Road	TBD
3	Pacific Highway Connection	Construction	Create paved multi-use connection from Pacific Highway to Friars Road.	TBD
3	El Monte Valley Trail Plan	Study	Earthen Trail System in Valley	TBD
				$9,000,000

Park Improvements

Priority	Title	Type		Estimated Cost
Current	Discovery Center	Planning		$100,000
1	Old Town Center	Planning		$500,000
1	Estuary Center	Planning		$100,000
1	Estuary Signage Program	Construction		$150,000
1	Camping Facilities Assessment	Planning		$50,000
2	Eagle Peak Preserve Facility	Planning		$100,000
2	Hanson Pond Facility	Planning		$150,000
2	Discovery Center	Construction		$5,000,000
3	Heritage Museum	Planning		$75,000
3	Estuary Center	Construction		TBD
3	Lakeside Nature and Culture Center	Construction		TBD

3	Eagle Peak Preserve Facility	Construction		TBD
3	Stadium River Park	Construction		TBD
3	Hanson Pond Facility	Construction		TBD
3	Tierrasanta Blvd. Overlook	Construction		TBD
3	Mission Dam Flume Protection (outside of MTRP)	Planning		TBD
3	Old Mission Dam Maintenance Project	Permitting		TBD
3	Lakeside Science Field Station	Construction		TBD
				$6,225,000

Water Quality

Priority	Title	Type	Description	Cost
1	Remove Trash and Debris	Construction	Document and Remove Debris and establish ongoing management program	TBD
1	Map Hydromofications	Study	Document Hydro modifications to major tributaries and connections to urban canyons	TBD
1	El Monte Valley Restoration	Study		TBD
1	Estuary Model	Study	Conduct sediment transport study to determine health and management strategy	TBD
1	Tributary Pre-Treatment	Study	Determine opportunities for runoff pre-treatment prior to entering main stem of river	TBD
1	Monitoring Program Expansion	Program	Expand Data Integration and monitoring programs	TBD
1	Determine Watershed Effective Boundaries	Study	Stormwater is being pumped into watershed, which needs to be mapped to determine its boundaries	TBD
2	Estuary Cobble Project	Construction	Recontour area near I-5 and re-create	TBD

			appropriate habitat	
2	Hanson Pond	Study	Examine opportunities to re-engineer pond	TBD
2	Develop Action Plan to Remove Hydromodications	Study	Based upon Hydromodification Study	TBD
2	SD Mission Road Bridge	Study	Study benefits of all-weather crossing	TBD
3	El Monte Valley Restoration	Construction	Implement recommendations of study	TBD
3	Hanson Pond	Construction	Implement recommendations of study	TBD
3	Kumeyaay Lake Berm Restoration and Dredging	Construction		TBD
3	Implement Hydromodification Removal Strategy	Construction	implement recommendations of Action Plan	TBD
3	Mission Valley Aquifer Study	Study	Study opportunities for improving water quality within Mission Valley aquifer	TBD

Habitat

Priority	Title	Description	Cost
1	Mission Valley Preserve	Complete Removal	150,000
1	Stadium Segment	Remove Invasives	TBD
1	City of San Diego at Carlton Hills GC	Remove Invasives	TBD
1	Mast Park West	Remove Invasives	TBD
1	El Capitan Reservoir	Remove Arrundo from Buffer Area around Reservoir	TBD
2	Sefton River Park	Remove Invasives. Complete work after Mission Valley West River Crossing	TBD
2	Cedar Falls to El Capitan Reservoir	Remove invasives	TBD
2	Caltrans at I15	Remove invasives	TBD
2	Estuary	Remove invasives	TBD
2	County of San Diego Property in Santee	Remove Invasives	TBD
3	RCP Property	Remove invasives	TBD

3	El Monte Valley - Upper	Remove Invasives Project	TBD
3	El Monte Valley - Middle	Remove Invasives	
3	Chocolate Creek	Remove Invasives	TBD
3	MidWest TV Riparian	Remove Invasives	TBD
3	Superior Riparian	Remove Invasives	TBD
3	Private Property east of 805	Work with Property Owners to Remove Invasives	TBD
3	805 to Qualcomm Way	Remove Invasives	TBD
3	Major Tributaries	Map Major Tributaries and develop action plan as needed	TBD
3	Crowne Plaza Riparian Area	Remove Invasives	TBD

Resolution No: 10-02

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING AND ENDORSING THE 2010 WORK PLAN

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy has reviewed the ***Performance Report and Draft 2010 Work Plan***; and,

WHEREAS, this Work Plan is consistent with the objectives set forth in the San Diego River Conservancy Act and the Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan; and,

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

1. Approves the 2010 Work Plan as proposed and incorporates the Work Plan of the San Diego River Coalition as an addendum; and,
2. Directs the Executive Officer and staff to use the Work Plan as guidance for its actions and activities; and,
3. Recognizes that there are ongoing and previously approved projects that may not be listed, which will continue to represent a priority for funding and completion; and,
4. Acknowledges that opportunities will emerge that will require the Work Plan to be flexible, dynamic and subject to change.

Approved and adopted the 6th day of May 2010. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 10-02 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

_____

Michael J. Nelson
Executive Officer

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

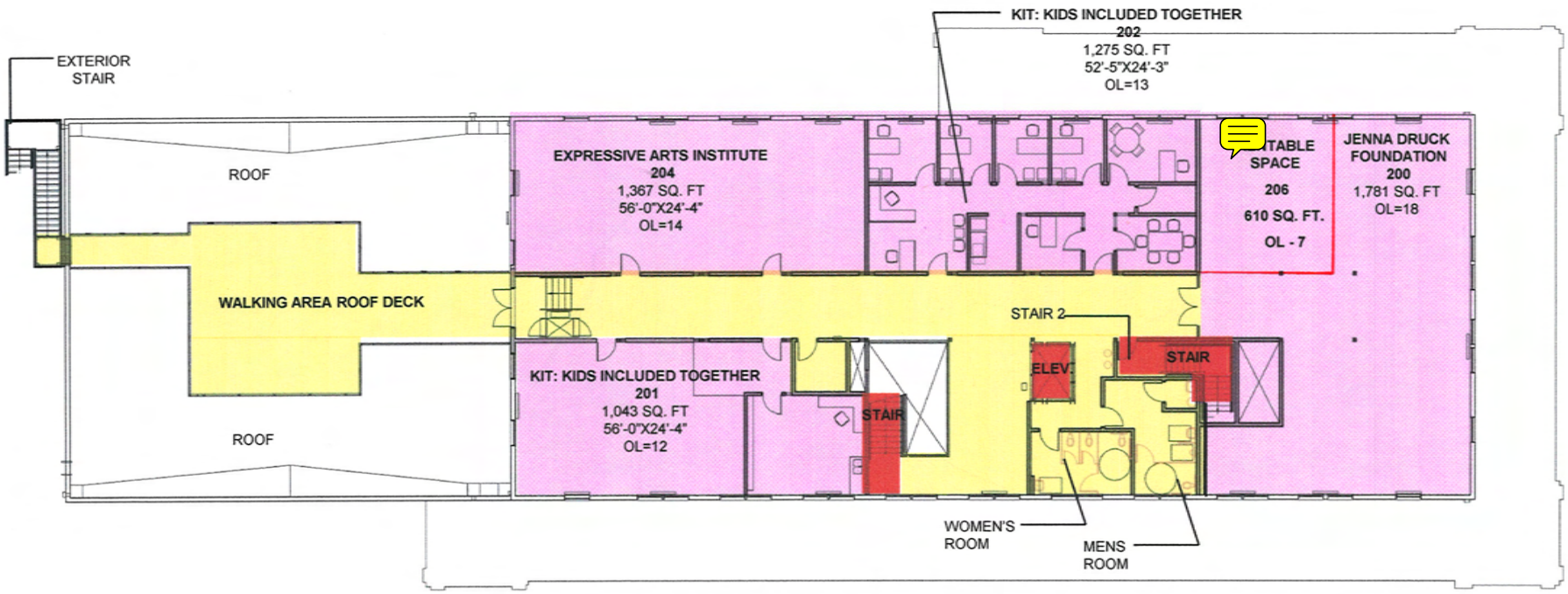
ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY: OFFICE RELOCATION**

Presentation
Michael Nelson, Executive Officer

Recommendation: Adoption Resolution 10-03

N
100' 200' 400' 800'
The Corky McMillin Companies
& The City of San Diego
Redevelopment Agency
EAST HOTEL
U.S.S. RECRUIT
HARBOR DR.
ESPLANADE
PREBLE FIELD
NTC PARK
INGRAM PLAZA
CUSHING RD.
RETAIL DISTRICT
HISTORIC DECATUR RD.
TRUXTUN RD.
ROOSEVELT RD.
WOMBLE RD.
DEWEY RD.
SIMS RD.
PERRY RD.
THE MARKETPLACE



NOTE: CEILING HEIGHTS AT LEASABLE SPACES
ARE 11'-0" UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

REF. NORTH

NORTH

NTC PROMENADE: BUILDING 201 – SECOND FLOOR

OFFICE AREA = 6,153 SQ, FT
FLOOR COMMON AREA = 3,029 SQ. FT

TOTAL FLOOR RENTABLE AREA = 9,182 SQ. FT

Lease Rates for Building 201

Suite Number	Sq Ft	Load @ 15%	Total Sq Ft	Monthly Lease Rate	Subtotal Rent	CAM @ $.13 sq ft'	Estimated Utilities $.12 sq ft'	Monthly	Annual
206	610	92	702	$1.65	$1,157.48	$91.20	$84.18	$1,332.85	$15,994.20

Pricing for Building 200 - Command Center

Board Meetings	Sq Ft	Total Sq Ft	Subtotal Rent Per Hour	Subtotal Rent Per 2 Hours	6x Per Year
Meeting Room 1	806	806	$68.00	$136.00	$816.00
Meeting Room 4	747	747	$68.00	$136.00	$816.00
Community Meetings					**8x Per Year**
Meeting Room 3	712	712	$56.00	$112.00	$896.00

Annual Total for Suite 206 and Meeting Rooms	$17,706
Annual Budget for River Conservancy	$18,500
Annual Difference	$794

Resolution No: 10-03

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

AUTHORIZING AND ENDORSING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE NTC FOUNDATION FOR OFFICE SPACE FOR THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY AT THE NTC PROMENADE AT LIBERTY STATION IN SAN DIEGO

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the operation of the San Diego River Conservancy; and,

WHEREAS, the Public Resources Code of the State of California (Division 22.9, Chapter 3) requires the San Diego River Conservancy to establish and maintain an office within the area, and;

WHEREAS, the Conservancy may rent or own real and personal property and equipment pursuant to the San Diego River Conservancy Act and applicable statutes.

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

1. Approves the relocation of the San Diego River Conservancy's Office to the NTC Promenade at Liberty Station; and,

2. Authorizes the Execute Officer to execute a lease agreement with the NTC Foundation for Office Space available on the Second Floor of Building 201 at the NTC Promenade in San Diego, California.

3. Appoints the Executive Officer as agent for San Diego River Conservancy to conduct all the negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted the 6th day of May 2010. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 10-03 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

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Michael J. Nelson
Executive Officer

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **9**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL: STATUS OF GAPS ANALYSIS**

Presentation

Mark Carpenter, KTU+A

SAN DIEGO RIVER TRIBUTARY CANYONS PROJECT

Project Feasibility Report / ftp Site Instructions and Link

Though a hard copy of the report will be provided, the following link, password and user name will allow access to a digital version. The file associated with the report is simply too large to transmit by e-mail.

ftp://ftp.foothill.com
Username: SDTrails
Password: 8eXaRaPr

The username and password are case sensitive.

There are two folders on the ftp site… one for a high resolution version of the document (and thus large file sizes), and a second for a low resolution version of the document.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **10**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

Carlton Oaks Golf Course (partial sale)

Proposition 40 & 84 Project Status

SANDAG/ Environmental Mitigation Program Land Management Grant

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

From: Greer, Keith [mailto:kgr@sandag.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 10:51 AM
To: Michael Nelson; 'pgordonreedy@consbio.org'; 'jastallcup@consbio.org'; 'Megan.Hamilton@sdcounty.ca.gov'; 'NMcGinnis@sandiego.gov'; 'jim@rocksbio.com'; 'Bill.Winans@sdcounty.ca.gov'; 'GLaube@ci.chula-vista.ca.us'; 'JMcNeeley@ci.chula-vista.ca.us'
Subject: Advance Notice of Recommendation for EMP funding - Need for Board Approval

Ad Hoc Rank	Project Name	Requested Funding	Recommended Funding
1	4_SDRC_River Habitat	$682,962	$527,739
2	20_County_Daley Preserve	$169,180	$169,180
3	2_CBI_Southcrest_Crestridge	$225,930	$225,930
4	19_County_Lusardi Creek	$107,060	$107,060
5	10_SDPUD_San Pasqual Valley	$184,623	$184,623
6	1_CBI_SouthCounty_Grassland	$699,000	$283,292
7	18_County_Lakeside Linkage	$200,824	$200,824
8	22_CityCV_Tarplant_Thornmint	$323,605	$268,428
9	13_RBC_Crest Canyon	$74,480	$74,480
10	16_SDWMA_Invasive Control	$108,000	$43,444

Dear Applicants – Above is a list of projects that have been identified for funding by the EMP Ad Hoc Committee on Land Management. The EMP Working Group will be discussing the prioritization on May 11 from 1-4.

Pursuant to the call for projects, a resolution supporting acceptance of the grant is required by your Board/Council or governance body (if applicable) prior to action by the Recommendation of the Regional Planning Commission currently set for first week of July.

Please forward your resolution or Board direction to me ASAP.

Please call me if you have any questions. – Keith

Keith A. Greer
Land Use and Transportation Planning
SANDAG
619-699-7390

Long way to go for water bond until November ballot

BY Rose Creasman

Tuesday, 09 March 2010 21:26

Some of the most heated debates in California's water wars revolve around the Bay Delta.

California might need to find a different solution to its water problems, if poll results showing voter support of the proposed $11 billion water bond are any indication.

More than 55 percent of 600 Californians polled would vote no on the measure, according to a study released by Tulchin Research on Feb. 19. Further analysis of the findings by Tulchin shows that nearly three times as many voters strongly oppose the bond as strongly support it: “32 percent of voters indicate they will definitely vote no on the bond if the election were held today compared to only 12 percent of voters who would definitely vote yes.”

“Voters recognize this bond as bad water policy and bad fiscal policy at a time when California is drowning in red ink," said Sierra Club California's Jim Metropulos in a statement regarding the poll. "We need clean water and we need a better water policy, but this bond is not going to get us there."

The Sierra Club California is one of several groups opposing the bond that paid for the poll, including Clean Water Action, Southern California Watershed Alliance, the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Planning and Conservation League and Restore the Delta.

Proponents of the measure criticize the groups' polling methods, saying that the results quoted in the press release were based on one question from a longer poll, without including information about prior

questions. Passed by state legislators in November, the long-awaited bond, which includes four policy bills and one bond, aims to please everyone—including the fishing industry, Delta farmers and water suppliers to Central Valley farms and over 25 million people in Southern California. The package's largest push is to address the major source of California's water: the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package "represents major steps towards ensuring a reliable water supply for future generations, as well as restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and other ecologically sensitive areas."If approved, San Diego is slated to receive at least $227 million for water projects next year, the bulk of which would help to finance the dam raise at the San Vicente Reservoir.

Janette Littler, partner in Callidus Consulting Group and former campaign manager for city attorney Jan Goldsmith, said that the bond's success depends on the skill of the campaign in getting its message to voters.

"Voters are smart. They're going to decide whether or not they believe this is a good investment in infrastructure," said Littler. "Statewide initiatives in California are very expensive; it's harder to communicate now that there are fewer dollars to do it. In the midst of this economic downturn, when the public's focus is turning toward increasing government debt, it is not surprising that support for the water bond would be lagging."

Still, Littler maintains that well-informed voters may be swayed in favor of the bond as long as its supporters run a good campaign.

"When we preserved the two-thirds legislative vote in 2003, we were outspent 2:1 and we still won around 54 percent of the vote," Littler said. "You can be outspent and still win, but it's very hard."

The controversial water legislation continues to polarize within California's gubernatorial race, though the bond itself is generally a nonpartisan issue. Republican candidate Meg Whitman supports the bond, calling it imperfect but necessary, despite the $2 to $3 billion she claims are unwarranted expenses. Fellow Republican opponent Steve Poizner refuses to issue any more debt until the state can balance its budget, while lone Democrat candidate Jerry Brown is undecided on the issue.

Dennis Cushman, assistant general manager of the San Diego County Water Authority, said the public agency is impartial—if slightly ambivalent—to the poll's results.

"We don't have an opinion one way or another," Cushman said in response to touting of the poll's findings by opponents of the water bond. "Our job is to present the information in a fair and even-handed manner."

Cushman added that the study didn't seem exhaustive, and that he had never heard of the research firm.

"We've given hundreds of presentations about the water situation in San Diego over the past few years, and we'll continue to do so, bond or no bond," he said.

Group fights two projects

Water, power ventures affect El Monte Valley

BY ANNE KRUEGER, UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010 AT 12:05 A.M.

LAKESIDE — The people in El Monte Valley came there to live in the country just a few miles from the city, with El Capitan mountain towering over the dairy and horse ranches along a two-lane road.

Now the residents of this Lakeside community have banded together to fight two massive projects that many feel would destroy their way of life — the Sunrise Powerlink and a sand-mining and water-reclamation project.

“I came out here for quietness, beauty and the serenity of the valley,” said Larry Stewart, who lives with his wife, Linda Hayes, at the Hazy Meadow Ranch off El Monte Road. “That’s all going to be gone.”

They’ve formed a group called Save El Monte Valley, part of a network called the East County Community Action Coalition, to gather information and raise concerns about the projects.

“Some things are worth fighting for,” said Laura Cyphert, who along with her husband, Milt, has lived in El Monte Valley for 10 years.

San Diego Gas & Electric Co. is proposing to build the 120-mile Sunrise Powerlink transmission line from Imperial County to San Diego. The utility initially proposed building the line through North County, but the state Public Utilities Commission approved an East County route in December 2008.

Construction is awaiting approval by the National Forest Service because the route would go through the Cleveland National Forest. Several lawsuits also have been filed challenging the project.

Laura Cyphert, who rebuilt after losing her El Monte Valley home in the 2003 wildfires, said her main concern is that the 180-foot towers would obstruct aerial firefighting efforts if another blaze came through.

SDG&E spokeswoman Jennifer Ramp said firefighters commonly battle blazes around transmission towers. She said the utility would shut off power if requested by firefighters during an emergency, and noted that fire retardant can be dumped on the transmission lines.

Jody Morgan, 71, who owns 100 acres in El Monte Valley, said the Sunrise Powerlink lines would run through his property. Morgan said it’s ironic that the utility could construct the massive towers while it took him two months to get county approval for a new garage because the valley is designated a scenic corridor.

“It’s almost like they’re taking the last pristine place in San Diego County and spoiling it,” Morgan said.

Residents also have concerns about a project proposed by the Helix Water District and the Padre Dam Municipal Water District to mine sand and construct a system that would pipe treated water into the valley from Padre Dam’s recycled-water facility in Santee. The water would percolate in 80 acres of recharge basins, then would be removed and piped to Helix’s water-treatment plant in Lakeside.

The proposal, now undergoing an environmental review, calls for excavating 10 million cubic yards of sand along the San Diego River through El Monte Valley, with money from the sale of the sand financing much of the project. The 10-year operation would mean up to 600 trucks a day in the valley.

Hayes said she is worried that the rumble of the trucks will disrupt the peacefulness of the community, where sound echoes off the hills surrounding the valley floor. She fears the water districts will drop plans to create a 460-acre nature sanctuary along the river after the sand-mining operation is finished.

Water is crucial to valley residents, who rely on wells, and they fear the treated water will foul their supply. If the project goes through, about 40 residents will be required to shut down their wells and get their water piped in because of their proximity to basins.

“If we don’t have our wells, we’re out of business,” said Stewart, who with Hayes boards horses and provides a site for weddings and parties on their 11.6-acre ranch.

They wouldn’t be required to shut down their wells, but they fear the water wouldn’t be safe to drink.

Helix General Manager Mark Weston recently met with about 60 El Monte Valley residents to hear their concerns and answer questions. Weston said the district plans to have the sand trucks exit near Lake Jennings Road to minimize the noise in the valley. Weston said the infusion of water from the recharge project will raise the groundwater level and provide a more stable supply to valley residents.

Weston said public hearings on the environmental review for the project are expected to be held in June and July, and the district will consider all of the issues that have been raised. Work could begin in 2013 if the project is approved, he said.

Cyphert said she hasn’t reached an opinion about the water reclamation proposal. She said she felt Lakeside residents were blindsided by the Sunrise Powerlink, but she wants to ensure that their concerns are heard about the water districts’ proposal.

“We’re in strong and early because we want to have a voice,” she said.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of May 6, 2010

ITEM: **11**

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT