

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,
January 9, 2014
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location

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

Tele-Conference Location

Wildlife Conservation Board
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, CA 95811

Contact: Kevin McKernan
(619) 645-3183

Meeting Agenda

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

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes (*ACTION*)

Consider approval of minutes for the November 7, 2013 meeting.

3. Public Comment

Any person may address the Governing Board at this time regarding any matter within the Board's authority. Presentations will be limited to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for representatives of organizations. Submission of information in writing is encouraged. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters that are discussed that are not on

the agenda; no adverse conclusions should be drawn by the Board's not responding to such matters or public comments.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)
5. Deputy Attorney's General Report (*INFORMATIONAL*)
6. San Diego River Park Master Plan - City of San Diego (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

Presentation:

Bill Fulton, Director
Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Department
City of San Diego

7. San Diego River Coalition Work Plan for 2014 (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

Presentation:

Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Coalition

8. Executive Officer's Report (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

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

San Diego River Conservancy's 2014 Work Plan

9. Next Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, 2014, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Accessibility

If you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Kevin McKernan at 619-645-3183.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**
The Board will consider adoption of the **November 7, 2013** public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **November 7, 2013** Board Meeting are attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of November 7, 2013 Public Meeting
(Draft Minutes for Approval on January 9, 2014)

SDRC Board Chair, Ben Clay called the November 7, 2013, meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Ben Clay and Kevin McKernan welcomed back Brent Eidson who represents the Mayor of the City of San Diego.

1. Roll Call

Members Present

Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District (arrived 2:11 p.m.)
Brent Eidson	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Lorie Zapf	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 6
Ann Haddad	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large (arrived 2:16 p.m.)
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

Karen Finn	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Clay Phillips	Department of Parks and Recreation, Designee
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board
Todd Gloria	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 3

Staff Members Present

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Ann Haddad made a motion to approve the minutes for the San Diego River Conservancy's September 12, 2013 public meeting, which was seconded by Lorie Zapf and approved 5-0 and 1 abstained.

3. Public Comment

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

Leanne Rohrbach, A representative from Senator Joel Anderson personally invited everyone to a fall open house at Toyota of El Cajon, November 21st, 6-8 pm and hours prior there is an opportunity to discuss legislation with the Senator.

The San Diego River Park Foundation's "Save the Source" program closed on 152 acres near Chocolate summit in Alpine, California, which is a wildlife linkage corridor between El Capitan Dam and Harbison Canyon. The Foundation was provided a grant in the amount of \$850,000 through a Department of Water Resources (Proposition 50) and the community raised funds of over \$30,000 in a couple weeks to make it possible to complete the purchase.

Rob Hutsel wanted to publicly thank Councilmember Lorie Zapf for her support and help to complete a missing gap under State Route 163. This section of the San Diego River Trail will connect Fashion Valley and the golf course which is a large amenity on the River Park. Once construction is completed there will be a path to ride or walk along the River Trail from Fashion Valley Road to Qualcomm Way and under 805.

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

Ben Clay informed the Governing Board Members the Mayor's office will be designating Brent Eidson as the representative to serve on the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

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

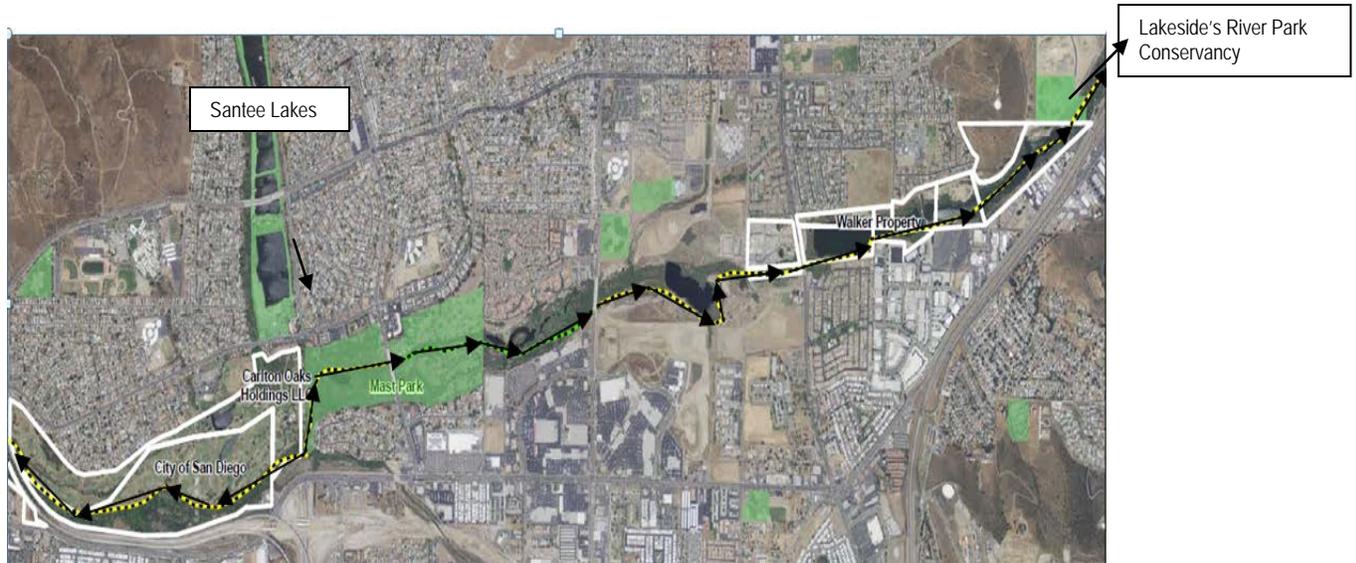
No report.

6. City of Santee's River Trail/Park – update (*INFORMATIONAL*)

Santee's Community Services Department Director Bill Maertz presented the City of Santee's recent accomplishments, current plans and future goals related to the San Diego River Trail and Park through the City of Santee.

Kevin McKernan introduced Santee's Director of Community Services, Bill Maertz. Bill has spearheaded great progress in the past few years implementing the San Diego River Trail and Park in Santee.

Connectivity of the San Diego River Trail from Carlton Oaks Golf Course on the west through Santee's segments including Mast Park, Santee's Town Center and the Walker Property on the east, and eventually connecting to Lakeside's River Park Conservancy's segment of the San Diego River Trail.



Santee's River Park

Bill shared with the SDRC Governing Board Members a new Master Plan for Mast Park which includes \$6 million in construction and upgrades to be funded in 2017. He summarized the following segments of the San Diego River Trail throughout Santee.

Starting at the eastern most section of Santee is the Walker Preserve and Trail construction for the 1.3 miles to be completed in 2014. Santee plans to use existing haul road and narrow path to 14 feet wide and create a meandering trail. They will plant new trees and other vegetation along the trail and Santee has lined up a corporate sponsor to plant 2,000 trees on Martin Luther King's day in partnership with the San Diego River Park Foundation. In addition, Santee received a \$247,000 grant from CalTrans under the Recreational Trails Program for the Walker Preserve segment of the trail.

Across from RCP Block and Brick plant segment is 0.2 mile on Magnolia. This plant closes in 2017. Part of the site near RCP Block and Brick's mining operation is under habitat restoration and is 80% complete. The RCP property is currently on the market and developers are interested; any developer will be under the same condition to provide easements for San Diego River Trail or construct a portion of the trail.

San Diego County's property trail segment is 0.386 mile. The County plans to auction off 38 acres for sale in the 4th Quarter of 2013. The County will accept offers under sealed bid. Developers will be under the same condition to provide easements for San Diego River Trail or construct a portion of the trail. This trail will connect to Santee Town Center Community Park where last year 14,000 people attended the annual July 4th celebration.

Santee will be installing lights to provide for a winter walking path of one-half mile on the Marine Memorial Trail segment 0.53 mile.

Ryan Parcel segment is 0.874 mile and located on south side of the river. Santee intends to provide a future trail segment between Cuyamaca Street and Magnolia Avenue. Developers will be under the same condition to provide easements for San Diego River Trail or construct a portion of the trail.

Paved bicycle trail segment 0.01 mile, south side of river (east of Cuyamaca Street) behind retail shopping center. Funding provided San Diego Association of Governments' (SANDAG) Active Transportation grant.

Carlton Oaks trail segment approximately 1.5 miles. SDRC provided a \$332,000 grant to SANDAG to prepare design and engineering plans, whereas the cost for trail construction at Carlton Oaks Golf Course is priced at \$9 million. The construction of that trail segment depends on when SANDAG completes the plans.

The Carlton Oaks trail segment is very close to Santee Lakes. Santee has a capital improvement plan to provide linkage to the San Diego River Trail with crosswalks and signage to Santee Lakes and north on to Fanita Ranch.

The policy makers and Santee's City Council gave clear instruction to focus organizational efforts to complete Santee's River Park. It is part of Santee's Master Plan to have a river park and trail through Santee.

The River Park Community, Volunteers and Recreation

- San Diego River Run
- SanTree Fest
- Boy Scout projects
- Hartford Financial Group
- Kyocera
- School Field trips (Santee elementary schools)
- Concert Series
- Blue Grass in September
- Blues & BBQ in July
- San Diego Urban Corps (primrose removal)
- Installed mile markers on the San Diego River Trail
- Park watch (partnership SDRPF) interacting with public, reports on river and informing public of rules, funding from a SANDAG grant

Dianne Jacob asked to clarify equestrian use on the trail in Santee? Santee is doing a terrific job of completing the San Diego River Trail.

Bill Maertz responded some of the trail is 14 feet wide decomposed granite, whereas other parts of the trail are more urban like Town Center Park where the trail is a 5 feet wide concrete sidewalk. Santee is saying in no area are equestrians not welcome on the trail. Rather in some areas near the river parallel horse trails are available and certainly available for future development of equestrian trails. It is just a question of trail funding.

Dianne Jacob added it might be helpful to provide a map of where the equestrian trails will be in Santee as they are developed. The goal is to get to Mission Trails Regional Park.

Ben Clay asked about golf balls on the golf course?

Bill Maertz responded there have been over 4-decades of trail use on Carlton Oaks Golf Course by the neighbors and they are aware of the golf balls.

Ben Clay asked about the section of river trail that is for sale by the County of San Diego, did the City of Santee require the buyer be under an obligation to provide easements or build that section of the San Diego River Trail? He asked for clarification.

Bill Maertz responded any development permit for that property would be under negotiation with the City of Santee. Santee's goal is to include conditions for a trail easement or construction of the trail through the property. Santee has met with several interested developers and expressed their wish for the trail and the developer would build it as an amenity to the property. It is very similar to any redevelopment that takes place in Mission Valley, under redevelopment the developer/owner is required to construct and dedicate a trail.

Ruth Hayward asked about the Fanita Ranch development, its location, and proximity to the San Diego River and impact on the river. How will the residents access their homes? Do you know how many houses are planned.

Bill Maertz responded the Fanita Ranch development is not adjacent to the river, but located northeast of Santee Lakes. Access to Fanita Ranch will not impact the river, residents will drive in off of Mast Boulevard or Cuyamaca. Fanita Ranch residents will be able to access the San Diego River through Santee Lakes trails. Even though the past deals have fallen through, all the plans he has seen for Fanita Ranch include a multi-purpose trail through the development. The last organization that purchased the property at auction is back to the drawing board. He did not know how many houses are planned.

Ben Clay thanked Bill for showing the Board Santee's accomplishments. He commented it is very exciting to see the development of trails and parks along the San Diego River Trail. He noted that it has long been the goal of equestrians to reach Mission Trails Regional Park from parts further east.

7. Consideration of grant awards for permitting and construction of a segment of the San Diego River Trail through the proposed San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park (*ACTION*)

Kevin McKernan introduced Rob Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation (Foundation). He discussed the new project which the Conservancy and the Foundation have come together to complete a portion of the San Diego River Trail and provide funds for the City of San Diego's permitting process. It certainly meets both organizations' goals to realize the Discovery Center, an exciting project and to complete as many trail gaps as feasible of the San Diego River Trail throughout the river.

The donation of the land is from the Grant Family allows for site control and the willingness of the Foundation staff and consultants to work with the City of San Diego through the permitting process are compelling reasons to fund the project. This was a prime opportunity for the Conservancy and the Foundation to partner together on this project.

Rob Hutsel, Executive Director, San Diego River Park Foundation said in 2009 the wonderful Grant family who owned the property for over 70 years wanted to give back to their community. The Foundation worked with the Grant family to develop a shared vision for this land for the Mission Valley community. The Foundation is almost ready to submit site development permits to the City of San Diego.

This project ties in to the San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017), Program 2: Emphasize Recreation and Education to Complete the River Trail and Develop Recreation and Educational Programs and completes Gap 16: Discovery Center Class I Path, from the SDRC Gaps Analysis. The Discovery Center trail segment is located half way between Mission Trails Regional Park and the ocean.

Benefits for Mission Valley

- Trail Advances
- 1st public staging area
- 1st public restrooms
- 1st trailside amenity
- Provide public park in park deficient community

SDRPF Grant application request for \$500,000

- Permitting \$100,000
- Trail Construction \$350,000
- Administration \$50,000

Most importantly this provides for a park, a place to hang out, gather, a meeting place and an amphitheater. The design includes a river play area to engage kids in an unstructured way. This area is designed so food trucks can drive up on the lawn when there are special events.

Tentative Schedule

January 2014 submit Site Development Permit application to the City of San Diego

8-14 months permit processing

6-12 months site preparation and trail construction

Below is a schematic drawing provided by the San Diego River Park Foundation of the Discovery Center site and San Diego River Trail segment. The pier on the left will cantilever out to allow users to experience being on the San Diego River. At this location there will be a multipurpose room, class rooms, research rooms and a fish hatchery. The indoor/outdoor exhibit area will be 18,000 square feet.



The following individuals provided written support letters and include Congresswoman Susan Davis, Assembly Member Toni Atkins, Supervisor Ron Roberts, and Councilmember Scott Sherman.

Kevin McKernan clarified some logistics for the Board Members. The SDRC is seeking a \$525,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) out of SDRC's Proposition 84 funds "set-aside." SDRC will administer and oversee the \$500,000 grant to the San Diego River Park Foundation. Through discussions with the SCC this project will be rolled out in phases. The resolution is for the entire project. There will be periodic updates during this project. SDRC will work with the SCC to complete the first phase, a planning grant that will result in an approved CEQA document. Then SDRC will go back to SCC for a construction grant to release the construction funds.

Andrew Poat asked what the \$100,000 cost for permitting will be? It is important to know what goes into the process.

Rob Hutsel explained the \$100,000 is for the permit fee to the City of San Diego and the cost of the architects to work with the City San Diego. The minimum cost for a Site Development Permit is \$221,933 and there are likely additional fees that total approximately \$126,000, based on what the city determines is needed such as studies. The Foundation is not asking to fund that. The Foundation is covering the minimum cost \$221,933 plus project management costs; the architects and consultants costs are \$124,000.

Bryan Cash asked if the permits covered both the trail and all of the Discovery Center. The actual construction phase would only be for the San Diego River Trail segment through this property and the east boardwalk. What does the funding picture look like for the Discovery Center construction?

Rob Hutsel responded yes the permits cover both. Bryan is correct the construction funds are only for the trail segment. The Foundation is doing fundraising for the Discovery Center and they are in discussions with several people to provide significant gifts. His intention is to pursue any opportunity, but really to do private fundraising to cover the construction costs of the Discovery Center. Only construction for the trail is included in his grant request. The San Diego River Conservancy Boards support today provides sufficient funding to move ahead and complete the permitting. The Foundation will have sufficient funding in place to complete the grading and utility work. This is the major work needed to build this section of the San Diego River Trail.

Brent Eidson questioned since the grant asked for all costs of permitting, if the Foundation is not successful in raising all the private donations, is there a shelf life on those permits or do they expire?

Rob Hutsel and Robin Shifflet responded the permits are good for 3 years.

Ben Clay said one of the challenges of the San Diego River Conservancy Board is to make sure there is ADA access on the cantilever pier to provide access to observe the San Diego River.

Lorie Zapf noted that Mission Valley has very little park space, one of the worst in the city. The project site is 17-acres and since the Foundation will be providing facilities, amenities and park space, would this count towards the City of San Diego's park space?

Robin Shifflet, City of San Diego, responded, the project is not residential, and not population based, but if the Foundation would like the park area green space, the Foundation could have a public access easement placed on the park and then it could be counted toward the inventory for Mission Valley.

Lorie Zapf said if this is counted towards inventory for the City of San Diego and open to the public is there any breaks they could have on permitting costs, since it will be benefiting the city? If the City of San Diego was building a park would they be subject to the same permitting and costs.

Robin Shifflet, City of San Diego, responded she had never heard of that. The costs of permitting are based on Municipal Code. Yes, this would apply if the City of San Diego wanted to build a park. She has built many parks and the Foundation will go through the same process she did. The City would actually be charging itself, rather moving money from one pot to another. Every Capital Improvement Project must go through this same process.

Lorie Zapf again asked if there was any way to breakdown the cost of the permit?

Andrew Poat sees where Lorie is going with that. He mentioned this last year when SDRC was talking about funding strategies and how to build things like this into the community plans to make them eligible for a variety of sources to support other activities in the area. Mission Valley is going to be a very interesting place for development in the next decade. He believes SDRC should be prepared to leverage that situation.

Rob Hutsel responded to Lorie's questions, he will be happy to fully explore that with the City of San Diego.

Lorie Zapf stated again if this benefits the City of San Diego by providing park space and the amenities, let's talk later.

Kevin McKernan said the permit cost of developing parks and trails in the City of San Diego comes into the decision making equation because costs are higher in the city than in any other jurisdiction. The SDRC has very little funds left and has the whole river to look. Permitting cost in the City of San Diego are very high when compared to other areas in San Diego County, Lakeside or Santee. This project would not rank high on SDRC list of priorities if it did not have (1) site control, and (2) a competent partner with the San Diego River Park Foundation and (3) the Foundation's good relationship with City of San Diego. There are other projects that the SDRC has forgone in the City of San Diego because there is no one to take on the arduous permitting process and the costs. This is a good opportunity to invest in San Diego River Park's Master Plan. The City should address this permitting hurdle. There are leveraging opportunities being missed as other agencies are weighing the City of San Diego's permit process when making decisions.

Gary Strawn added the hatchery will be a partnership between the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited called "Trout in the classroom." Seeing the fish go from eggs to fish and relocating the fish on the San Diego River, possibly Boulder Creek in the upper watershed.

Brent Eidson said he has a lot of faith in Lorie Zapf and possibly some of the permitting cost can be eased. Does the motion on the table let the Foundation use the money for other purposes?

Rob Hutsel said the Foundation already has \$181,000 in place.

Kevin McKernan said there are other capital cost associated with the trail on this site and other places.

Ben Clay called for roll call vote.

Bryan Cash moved for approval of Resolution 13-06, Lorie Zapf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 8-0.

Rob Hutsel thanked the SDRC Board Members and looks forward to seeing everyone at the ground breaking. Anticipated completion date September 2015.

8. Executive Officer's Report (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

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

Kevin McKernan said this fall the SDRC continues with its invasive removal program on Midwest Television property between Mission Trail Regional Park and Carlton Oaks Golf Course. Over 7 acres of non-native invasive plants were removed and the San Diego River is visible now. He thanked the San Diego Police Department for helping conduct sweeps of the area to keep the site secured for staff and contractors. In east county, SDRC's partner, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy is doing a great job removing non-native invasive plants along Los Coches Creek a tributary to the San Diego River. They have removed over 6 acres in the Los Coches Creek watershed.

Kevin McKernan said Water bond talks will start again in January. He thanked Endangered Habitat League and the San Diego River Coalition and other partners who have provided letters in support of the water bond to provide funding for the SDRC. We invite all the other municipalities to support the water bond as well for SDRC. He wants to make sure we have a unified and organized San Diego voice to make sure we get our fair share of water bond funding.

Andrew Poat asked if he had approached the San Diego League of Cities maybe SDRC could do a presentation and ask for a joint letter in support of water bond funding. The Chamber should be able to assemble support with San Diego's delegation. He offered to help with that outreach.

Kevin McKernan said he had already met with senate and assembly members on the river or adjacent to the river to discuss the water bond and update them on SDRC's Strategic Plan (2012-2017).

Ben Clay asked Kevin to speak to the Qualcomm Stadium's Advisory Board to discuss the property, plans and ideas for the Qualcomm site.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: **3**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: **4**

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

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: **5**

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: **6**

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK MASTER PLAN - CITY OF
SAN DIEGO (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)**

Presentation:

Bill Fulton, Director

Planning, Neighborhoods and Economic Development
Department

City of San Diego

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO RIVER COALITION WORK PLAN 2014
(*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

Presentation:
Rob Hutsel
San Diego River Coalition

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
(*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)**

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

San Diego River Conservancy's 2014 Work Plan



Budget: Operations \$352,000 (per fiscal year)
Capital Outlay \$843,157 (multi-year appropriation)

Administration

Staff, Executive Officer (EO); Administrative Services Manager (ASM)
Full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (2.0)

- Prepare, execute and conduct associated follow up for six Governing Board meetings (EO, ASM)
- Process SDRC billing and invoicing (ASM)
- Track various state processes for potential SDRC funding, i.e. water bond, cap and trade, upcoming bonds and regular budgetary calendar (EO)
- Review, respond and participate in various planning efforts in the San Diego River watershed (EO)
- Budget, contracts, purchase documents, vendor payments, payroll, accounting and various reports to other state agencies (ASM primary, EO)
- Coordination with San Diego River Coalition

FTE required: 0.45

Program Plan/Capital Outlay Project Management

Strategic Plan Program 1; Conserve Land Along the San Diego River

- Track and respond accordingly (no acquisition projects in progress currently)
Issues/constraints: SDRC available funding, willing sellers, SDRC does not have a direct appropriation for capital funding causing potential delays in executing acquisitions with landowners who may want to sell in the near term
Staff: (EO) FTE: 0.05

Strategic Plan Program 2; Emphasize Recreation and Education – Complete the River Trail

- Coordinate project finalization and close out of the Prop 40 grant for the **River Gorge Trail segment** with the US Forest Service and Natural Resources Agency
Issues/constraints: None
Staff: (EO, ASM) FTE: 0.15

Strategic Plan Program 2; Emphasize Recreation and Education – Complete the River Trail (continued)

- Coordinate project finalization and close out of the Prop 40 grant for **River Road segment of the trail** in Lakeside. Trail is complete with the exception of an unwilling landowner granting access for the trail.
Issues/constraints: SDRC does not have a direct appropriation for capital funding causing delays in payment of project invoices to its grantees; SDRC executed a “loan” from the County of San Diego in order to expedite the payment process; a four-way process of invoices, payments and loan re-payments will continue through the end of the project; trail continues to have a ‘gap’ due to a landowner unwilling to grant access
Staff: (EO, ASM) FTE: 0.25

- Administer Prop 84 SDR “set-aside” grant(s) with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and San Diego River Park Foundation for the first phase of permitting on a **segment of the San Diego River Trail through the Discovery Center at Grant Park**
Issues/constraints: Since SDRC does not have direct appropriation of Prop 84 bond funds, it will have to “apply for a grant” from the SCC and in turn, execute a separate grant agreement with SDRPF; delays in payment for invoices of work completed is expected; City of San Diego permitting costs, process and timing uncertainties.
Staff: (EO, ASM) FTE: 0.20

- **Carlton Oaks and Qualcomm Stadium** segments of the River Trail, planning and design is being undertaken by San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) through a Prop 84 SDRC “set-aside” grant directly from the Coastal Conservancy to SANDAG. The SDRC Governing Board approved the use of its “set-aside” funds in 2012. SDRC staff will be participating in the planning, outreach and grant oversight but are not responsible for direct grant administration.
Issues/constraints: SANDAG/grant administration delays in implementing the project; design and land use challenges at both locations
Staff: (EO) FTE: 0.10

- The **Historic Flume Trail** segment of the San Diego River Trail is being implemented by the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation through a Prop 84 SDRC “set-aside” grant directly from the State Coastal Conservancy to the County. The SDRC Governing Board approved the use of its “set-aside” funds in 2012. SDRC staff will be participating in the planning, outreach and grant oversight but SCC is responsible for direct grant administration.
Flume trail western extension to El Monte road and river trail connection planning and design may be conducted under a new Prop 40 grant from NRA to SDRC out of its “set-aside” funds.

Issues/constraints: None expected

Staff: (EO) FTE: 0.25

Strategic Plan Program 2; Emphasize Recreation and Education – Complete the River Trail (continued)

- **Tributary Canyons/Ruffin Canyon Trail and Urban Walk Project**

SDRC and SCC conducted an extensive amount of planning over several years with the support of SDRC's Prop 84 "set-aside" funds with the intent of identifying and constructing "rim-to-rim" trail connections to the main river trail from the mesa communities north and south of the river. After the most feasible route was identified (in concept), a trail alignment and initial study was conducted in late 2012/early 2013. After a 30-day CEQA comment period and several meetings with various City of San Diego departments, agencies and the community, further implementation of the project was postponed until multiple issues and concerns could be addressed. SDRC staff will continue to stay involved on an as-needed basis as requested by the City if interest in this project becomes a priority.

Issues/constraints: It has been expressed that this is not a priority project of City's Department of Parks Open Space Division; there have been issues raised both in support and in opposition to the new trail by multiple factions of the neighboring communities; SDRC does not have the appropriate level of funding nor staff capacity to continue exploring the issues associated with the project given its current project load and higher priorities; the Coastal Conservancy staff lead formerly responsible for planning the project retired and there does not appear to be continued interest by SCC to continue that role using other staff.

Staff: (EO) FTE: 0.05

Strategic Plan Program 3A: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources

- The **Invasive Species Control Program** will be ongoing throughout 2014. SDRC will continue to administer its Prop 84 "set-aside" funds through a grant from the Coastal Conservancy, a sub-grant to the Lakeside's River Park Conservancy and direct implementation through SDRC contracts in other areas throughout the watershed. SDRC staff is responsible for dual grant administration on this project as well as technical support to LRPC.

Issues/constraints: None expected

Staff: (EO, ASM) FTE: 0.30

- **SDRC's Direct Implementation of Invasive Species - Control and Restoration** will continue on the MidWest TV property, Carlton Oaks (City of San Diego) and San Diego County properties along the San Diego River. New opportunities may exist at Mast Park West (City of Santee) as well as in Sycamore Creek, tributary to the river upstream of Carlton Oaks and in Alpine through Back Country Land Trust. SDRC staff is responsible for all aspects of these projects including contract administration, budget tracking, grant reporting (NRA/SCC/SANDAG), permit compliance and landowner outreach.

Issues/constraints: None expected

Staff: (EO, ASM) FTE: 0.30

Strategic Plan Program 3B: Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historical Resources

- **Implementation of the Junipero Serra Interpretive Master Plan** in partnership with the San Diego History Center (SDHC), City of San Diego and other partners will be considered in 2014. The plan was completed and adopted in 2013 through a Prop 84 grant of SDRC “set-aside” funds to the SDHC and administered directly by the State Coastal Conservancy. SDRC staff will work with SDHC, the City of San Diego and other partners to identify potential projects that will advance elements of the interpretive master plan and provide historical and cultural interpretation of the San Diego River.

Issues/constraints: None expected

Staff: (EO, Board liaison) FTE: 0.10

Strategic Plan Program 4: Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance

- The **San Diego River Research Center** concept will continue development primarily through remaining task orders with the SDSU Research Foundation. Tasks include water quality monitoring station maintenance and operation, Cap and Trade greenhouse gas emission study and other research related to the needs and justification for capital funding to SDRC for the benefit of the San Diego River. SDRC staff will continue to administer these task orders and find opportunities for partnership and Center advancement.

Issues/constraints: limited SDRC staff and SDSURF capacity and funding; timelines

Staff: (EO, ASM) FTE: 0.15

Operations and Small Grants Program

Env. Lic. Plate Fund (ELPF)	Projected Incoming Grant Funds	Total	Projected Expenses	Balance
Programmed income				
\$327,000	\$25,000	\$352,000	\$352,000	\$0

Capital Outlay Sources

Coastal Conservancy Prop 84/SDRC "set aside"	Committed under current grants		Total Committed	Balance
Remaining as of 3/1/13	Invasive species removal	San Diego River Park Foundation - permitting and trail		
\$2,648,157	\$1,500,000	\$525,000	\$2,025,000	\$623,157

Prop 40 River Parkways/SDRC "set aside"	Committed under current grants		Estimated to disencumber from current grants	Balance (uncommitted+disencumb
Uncommitted remainder of original set aside	Riverford Road Trail	River Gorge Trail		
\$150,000	\$787,000	\$969,000	\$70,000	\$220,000

SANDAG EMP

Initial award	Remaining	Projected expenses for remainder of grant period	Remaining
\$527,736	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$0

Total capital outlay sources uncommitted \$843,157

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: **9**

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2014, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of January 9, 2014

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: **ADJOURNMENT**