

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,

March 4, 2010
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Meeting Location

Lakeside's River Park
(Observation Deck and Overlook)
12108 Industry Road
Lakeside, CA 92040
Phone: 619-443-4770

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

*(Welcome and Introduction, Jim Dodson, Chair, Lakesides River Park Conservancy
and Robin Rierdan, Executive Director)*

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 General 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:

- 2010 Work Plan
- Proposition 40 & 84 Project Status

7. San Diego River Trail Projects and Acquisition

(The activities associated with this item will be located and conducted outside on the San Diego River Trail and the Walker properties in Santee and will include presentations at 4 projects sites along the River)

- Lakeside's River Park Trail / Robin Rierdan, Exective Director
- Riverford Road Trail / Robin Rierdan, Executive Director
- Lakeside Baseball Park / Dianne Jacob, Supervisor, County of San Diego
- Walker Properties / Michael Nelson, Robin Rierdan

8. Adjournment

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

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 4, 2010

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 4, 2010

ITEM: **2**

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

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **January 7, 2010**
Board Meeting 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 7, 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 (arrive 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 despite the Board's 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 officials 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 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 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.

Strategic Plan Addendum Goals

- 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.

Phase I Preliminary Planning (examined 4 for Normal Heights alignments) *(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

Phase II Inventory & Analysis (will look at the following)

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

Phase III Concept Design (includes)

- 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

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State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 4, 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 March 4, 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 March 4, 2010

ITEM: **5**

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

This item is for Board discussion only and the Board will take no formal action. *(Hayley Peterson)*

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 4, 2010

ITEM: **6**

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:

- **2010 Work Plan**
- **Proposition 40 & 84 Project Status**

Riverbank walk going the extra mile

BY ANNE KRUEGER, UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER
SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2010 AT 12:02 A.M.



JOHN GIBBINS / UNION-TRIBUNE

Maggie Topper, 11, was among the volunteers who collected rocks Wednesday to be used to line the perimeter of the [San Diego](#) River trail extension through Lakeside.

LAKESIDE — After a delay caused by the state's budget crisis, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy is moving ahead with plans for a mile-long trail along the San Diego River in Lakeside.

The project to build the trail was put on hold after state officials froze grants to the conservancy during California's fiscal crisis. Now that the \$787,000 grant has been awarded, conservancy officials hope to begin work later this year.

Robin Rierdan, executive director of the conservancy, said support from the community helped the group weather the financial hard times. Contributors donated about \$40,000 to keep it going last year when the state delayed paying bills.

"We're the little nonprofit that just keeps chugging away," Rierdan said. "We are just stalwarts. We just don't quit."

The project will extend a current one-mile trail by another mile, taking it under the Riverford Road bridge to the Lakeside ballfields. It would connect with another trail planned for Santee, with the goal of providing a continuous trail between Lakeside and Mission Trails Regional Park.

The park has already begun to recruit volunteers to collect rocks that will line the trail extension. One morning this week, Rani Gibbs of Alpine and her two home-schooled children collected rocks along with Cindi Werner of Blossom Valley, who also brought her three home-schooled children.

Gibbs said she's looking forward to the day when she and her children can enjoy the new trail.

"It helps us feel like we're a part of what they're doing on the river," she said.

Lakeside's River Park Conservancy was founded in 2001 and has received more than \$16 million in grants to restore wildlife habitat along a 2½-mile segment of the San Diego River in Lakeside. In 2003, the conservancy bought 80 acres of a former sand-mining site between Riverford Road and Winter Gardens Boulevard for \$8.6 million, then bought an additional 20 acres for \$2.2 million in 2004.

Money for the trail is coming through the San Diego River Conservancy from Proposition 40, a \$2.6 billion bond measure for parks and recreation approved by voters in 2002.

Mike Nelson, executive director of the San Diego River Conservancy, said the Lakeside project is part of a plan to build trails along the San Diego River from the Pacific Ocean to the headwaters near Julian. Other projects planned for 2010 include \$874,000 for a 5-mile trail to Cedar Creek Falls near Ramona and \$475,000 for the expansion of Mast Park in Santee.

Nelson said money for the Lakeside trail project will be fronted by the county, with the money reimbursed by the state when phases of the work are completed. "It's complicated, but it can work," he said.

Rierdan said obtaining state permits for the trail extension may be time-consuming because the work will be done along the sensitive habitat of the riverbed, home to plants and endangered species such as the least Bell's vireo.

"Making sure you are protective of these spaces is very critical," she said.





Work begins on trail to river, Cedar Creek Falls

Dixie Pettit

Published 01/18/2010 - 12:00 p.m.

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series about a new nonmotorized, multi-use San Diego River Gorge Trail leading to the popular Cedar Creek Falls. Next week's article will focus on the trek that leads to the falls, referred to as one of San Diego County's gems.

"So what are all the tents doing over on Thornbush?" has been a question from residents in that part of San Diego Country Estates.

About a dozen tents are pitched at the San Diego River Gorge Trailhead.

According to Debbie Hobbs, recreation and lands officer for the Cleveland National Forest's Palomar Ranger Station, camping is not permitted anywhere in or around the area in question.

So, Hobbs said, "I am glad you ask. The tents will be a common site over the next year or so. Work crews for the trail down to Cedar Creek Falls will be using the tents as temporary living facilities while a new multi-use trail is being constructed."

The multi-use trail plan was spearheaded by former wilderness ranger Robert Macon after the Cedar fire in 2003. The massive wildfire wiped out vegetation in the area, and subsequent rains brought an obvious need for trail improvement.

"The need for sustainable trails are imperative in any high traffic area," said Matt Roberts of the American Conservation Experience (ACE). Roberts, from ACE headquarters in Flagstaff, Ariz., met with personnel from all over the nation during last week's training exercise at the trailhead. Staff came from as far east as New Hampshire and as far south as Texas, observing first-hand a local example of a trail in trouble.

"We are covering the layout and design procedures for sustainable trails," said Roberts.

The key, according to Roberts, is the sustainability. "Parts of this trail are pretty steep and dangerous. There is a very severe erosion problem because the original trail is unsustainable."

Over the next year the Cleveland National Forest has partnered with the ACE and AmeriCorps to reconstruct the San Diego River Gorge Trail. Construction of the new trail was scheduled to begin Jan. 13.

"There will be a group of 12 people, including crew leaders and corps members," explained Roberts. "The crew will be working eight days on, six days off, until it gets too hot to work. We will continue the project with new crews for as long as it takes to get it all done."

"AmeriCorps is similar to the Peace Corps, but projects are based solely in the United States," explained West Texas crew member Ian Kirby.

"We can't even be sure how the current trail was made," said Hobbs. "It could have been a trail made on purpose, but it appears as if people just knew where the river bottom and waterfall was located and simply walked in that direction."

The project has required permission, collaboration and input from multiple entities. The planning process has included the San Diego River Conservancy, the Helix Irrigation District, Ramona Municipal Water District, Cleveland National Forest/Palomar Ranger Station, American Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps and the rangers.

"The bottom part (where the river is) is the Helix Irrigation District, but we have an easement to go through the trails to get to the falls on the other side," said Hobbs. "Getting all the different entities to come to an understanding has been a considerable undertaking."

The plans go beyond the trail itself. According to Hobbs, the multi-use nonmotorized trail for equestrian, hiking and cycling use will include a trailhead that will need to be equipped with a potable water source as well as a vault toilet and larger parking area. "It will take a little over a year to finish, but we hope to cut the tape in late Spring 2011 and say hallelujah!"

The contract is still being planned for trailhead.

Roberts explained how rocks, roots and other material naturally diverts rainwater down the side of a mountain. Valuable experience was gained on how to save and preserve this natural resource that is part of the American trail systems, he said.

"In a properly developed trail, the water is naturally dispersed because of the material already on the mountain," he said. "As people make a path (trail) there aren't any materials to divert the flow of water naturally. The water will run down the path of least resistance (down the dirt path), which will in turn cause erosion problems and trail collapses."

In a sustainable trail, the grade is cut to a percentage of no more than half the degree of the slope. With this type of trail, Roberts said, the water will continue to flow across the trail and in a natural pattern on down the mountain. "With ridge line trails, even a 1 percent grade is a poor design."



American Conservation Experience Director Matt Roberts from Arizona leads an annual training exercise for staff members at the San Diego River Gorge Trail adjacent to San Diego Country Estates.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dixie Pettit

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news@ramonasentinel.com

Though numerous restoration projects are offered in many of the most beautiful national parks and wilderness areas in the West, the ACE experience is not for the typical eco-tourist.

"Crews dedicate 40 hours of very hard work each week in exchange for housing and food on projects," said Roberts.

Projects last 12 weeks or longer with the reward being the opportunity to help restore some of America's natural treasures.

Over the next year, construction crews will be seen in and around the trail areas. Heavy equipment and machinery will be used on the multi-faceted project. Though the trail will remain open, park rangers stress the importance of remaining away from the crews and equipment.

The crew on this project will be staying onsite, said Roberts. The tents around the project are the crew's "home away from home." Roberts requests all respect and privacy be awarded to the crew's camping area.

For more information on the project or the San Diego River Gorge Trail, contact rangers at the Palomar Ranger Station at 1634 Black Canyon Road in Ramona at 760-788-0250, extension 3327.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 4, 2010

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL PROJECTS AND ACQUISITION** (The activities associated with this item will be located and conducted outside on the San Diego River Trail and the Walker properties in Santee and will include presentations at 4 projects sites along the River)

- **Lakeside's River Park Trail / Robin Rierdan, Executive Director**
- **Riverford Road Trail / Robin Rierdan, Executive Director**
- **Lakeside Baseball Park / Dianne Jacob, Supervisor, County of San Diego**
- **Walker Properties / Michael Nelson, Robin Rierdan**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 4, 2010

ITEM: **8**

SUBJECT: **ADJOURNMENT**