

Notice of Public Meeting

San Diego River Conservancy

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

March 2, 2007

9:30 am – 11:30 am

San Diego Location

San Diego City Hall 202 "C" Street
Conference Room, 12th Floor
San Diego, California 92101

Tele-Conference Location (916) 657-4105

SACRAMENTO:

1416 Ninth Street, Resources Agency Conference Room 1305
Sacramento, CA 95814

The public is welcome to attend at either location.

Contact: Michael Nelson
(619) 794-2038

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. Executive Officer's Report

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

- (a) Executive Officer Activities
- (b) Office Location
- (c) Recruitment of Staff
- (d) 2007 Work Plan Update
- (e) San Joaquin and Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Operations

6. Deputy Attorney Generals Report

7. Review Proposed 2007 – 2008 Budget

8. Authorizing a River Parkways Grant for the Removal of Invasive Non Native Plants in the San Diego River

The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 07 – 2 supporting an application by the San Diego River Conservancy or San Diego State University to the Resources Agency for a River Parkways Grant to fund the removal of invasive non-native plants from the San Diego River.

9. Authorizing a River Parkways Grant for the Hanson Pond Property Acquisition

The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 07- 3 supporting an application by the San Diego River Conservancy or the Endangered Habitats Conservancy to the Resources Agency for a River Parkways Grant to provide funding for the acquisition of the Hanson Pond property.

10. 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 619-794-2038

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
The Board will consider adoption of the January 19, 2007
public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the January 19 Board Meeting are
attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

**SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)
Minutes of January 19, 2007 Public Meeting**

(Draft Minutes for Approval March 2, 2007)

Chairperson Donna Frye called the January 19, 2007 of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 9:30 A.M.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Members Present

Donna Frye, Chair (City Council of San Diego)
Toni Atkins (Public at Large, Appointed by General Assembly)
Karen Scarborough (Secretary of Resources Designee)
Ann Sheehan (Director of Finance Designee)
Jim Peugh (Public at Large, Appointed by Senate)
Andrew Poat (Public at Large, Appointed by the Governor)
Anne Haddad (Public at Large, Appointed by the Governor)

Others Present

Michael Nelson, Executive Officer
Hayley Peterson, Deputy Attorney General
Ann van Leer, Consultant, San Diego River Conservancy

Absent

John Donnelly (Wildlife Conservation Board Designee)
Norman Roberts (Public at Large, Appointed by the Governor)
Jerry Sanders (Mayor, City of San Diego)
Michael McCann (San Diego Regional Water Quality Board Designee)

Chairperson Frye

2. Approval of Minutes

Andrew Poat made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ann Haddad. The minutes were adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

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 Hutzel, San Diego River Park Foundation advised that the San Diego River Park Foundation would be painting a 60' x 16' mural near the Linda Vista trolley station on 1/28/07; conducting a meeting of the San Diego Coalition that would include presentations from representatives of restoration projects along the Guadalupe and Los Angeles Rivers; as well as, reminding those in attendance that San Diego River Days was May 19-20.

Michael Beck, Chairman of the, Board of Directors for the Lakeside Conservancy stated that an open house and tour of their Restoration Project had been scheduled for 1/20/2007 from 9:00am till 12:00.

4. Chairperson's and Governing Board Members' Report

Chairperson Donna Frye informed everyone that she visited with members of the Board of Directors for the California Coastal Conservancy at Mission Trails Regional Park.

5. Executive Officer's Report

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

- (a) Executive Officer Activities
- (b) Office Location
- (c) Recruitment of Staff

Activities:

California Coastal Conservancy: The Executive Officer expressed how pleased he was that the California Coastal Conservancy while in San Diego for its Board Meeting, took a field trip along the San Diego River; visiting three sites: the Famosa Slough, Mission Trails Regional Park and the restoration in Lakeside. Also, he was asked to make a presentation of the Conservancy's Five Year Strategic Plan.

Riverfront Property Owners: Mike Nelson stated that Ann and he had met with several key property owners on the River and encouraged them to consider exploring land conservation and restoration opportunities with the Conservancy.

Regional Funding Forum: Advised that the Endangered Habitats League had arranged a meeting with a number of representatives of non-profit and government to discuss priorities for land acquisition in the San Diego Region and had included the Conservancy in these discussions.

White Donation – Public Works Board: Board Members Sheehan and Scarborough helped get the donation scheduled on the 1/12/07 Agenda. Unfortunately, the Board took no action on the gift, but explained its serious reservations about the continuing liability the donation might pose indefinitely to the State of California

Partnership with San Diego State University: the Executive Officer and Ann van Leer had preliminary conversations with President Steve Weber and Matt Rahn, Director of the Field Stations Program. It was suggested that a working group be formed with SDSU, which should include Chairperson Frye and Senator Kehoe's staff.

Office:

New Office: Mike Nelson stated that the San Diego River Conservancy had moved to the State Office Building at 1350 Front Street, Suite 3024, but that the Office was still in boxes. The Office would require the procurement of a server, furniture and installation of telephone and data lines.

Staff Recruitment:

Interviews: *The Board was advised that interviews of 6 finalists for the staff position would be held January 26, 2007 and that Susan Huntington, who previously held the position, would sit on the interview pane with Mike Nelson and Ann van Leer.*

2007 Meeting Schedule:

Mike Nelson distributed three meeting schedules for 2007 for the Board's consideration. Chairperson Frye urged Board members to e-mail their preference to the Executive Officer so he could make a decision.

6. Deputy Attorney Generals Report (No report)

7. Authorizing California Cultural and Historic Endowment Grant Application

The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 07-1 authorizing the Conservancy to apply to the California Cultural and Historic Endowment (CCHE) for grant funds to protect and restore the San Diego Flume.

The Board approved the adoption of Resolution 07-1 authorizing the Conservancy to apply to the California Cultural and Historic Endowment (CCHE) for grant funds to protect and restore the San Diego River Flume. Board members Sheehan and Scarborough recused themselves, noting that they sit on the CCHE Board. Jim Peugh made a motion to approve the resolution; Toni Atkins seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

8. Adoption of 2007 Work Plan

The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 07-02, which reconfirms the objectives of the 2006 – 2011 *Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan*, as well as the *Executive Officers 2007 Work Plan* which will incorporate and cross reference the San Diego River Coalition's 2007 Plan. The Executive Officer's 2007 Plan comprises projects selected from the *Five Year Plan* in each of its four programs:

*Land Conservation
Recreation and Education
Natural and Cultural Preservation
Water Quality and Flood Conveyance*

Mike Nelson initiated the deliberation of this item testifying that the Work Plan that was before them was the same that was presented to them on 12/8/06, except for revisions recommended and discussed by the Board at that meeting; particularly, the incorporation of San Diego River Coalition's 2007 Work Plan.

He also expressed his desire to directly engage Board members in the elements of the Work Plan and listed possible assignments for some of the work plan tasks. He proposed a number of possible assignments.

John Donnelly—Approaches and Strategies for Land Conservation; comparisons of other conservancies to acquisitions.

Andrew Poat ;Integration of partners

Donna Frye: Partnership with SDSU

Toni Atkins: Annual Work Plan development and Retreat

Karen Scarborough and Anne Sheehan: Funding Opportunities / Propositions

Public Testimony

Mark Weston, General Manager, Helix Water District endorsed the 2007 Work Plan and introduced Charles Muse, the incoming President of the Helix Water District Board of Directors.

Rob Hutsel, Executive Director of the San Diego River Park Foundation, strongly endorsed the 2007 Work Plan and the incorporation of the San Diego River Coalitions Work Plan.

He also stated that the Conservancy should be aware that there are in fact two projects for the Presidio and that the San Diego River Park Foundation has also applied to the CCHE for funding.

Board Discussion and Comments

Toni Atkins stated that as a Member of the SANDAG Board she felt that it was imperative that the Conservancy work with SANDAG and its staff as they endeavored to secure funding from Proposition 84 and other recently enacted proposition for the San Diego region, that it would be prudent for the Conservancy to partner with them on overlapping funding opportunities.

Andrew Poat endorsed the goal of the 2007 Work Plan but questioned whether the Conservancy had sufficient staff to pursue it. He also added that he felt there was a need for milestones to measure performance, so the Board could judge whether the Conservancy was "on track"

Anne Sheehan encouraged that the Conservancy pursue its objectives through its partners when possible. She reminded the Board that the Public Works Board (PWB) was particularly sensitive to any transaction that raised the specter of a continuing liability to the State of California and that our partners would undoubtedly be more flexible than the PWB.

Karen Scarborough stated that we should add items to the work plan that would include pursuing more staff, cultivating new and existing partners, focusing on reauthorization of the Conservancy, and foregoing the expenditure of time on the PWB process.

Karen Scarborough made a motion to approve the 2007 Work Plan, provided that it included the additional tasks she had recommended. The motion was seconded by Ann Sheehan and was carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Donna Frye adjourned the meeting at 11:04

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

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 2, 2007

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 REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

ITEM: 5

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:

- a. Executive Officer Activities
- b. Office Location
- c. Recruitment of Staff
- d. 2007 Work Plan Update
- e. San Joaquin and Coachella Valley
Mountains Conservancy Operations

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

ITEM: 6

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 REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
Review Proposed 2007 – 2008 Budget

3845 San Diego River Conservancy

The mission of the San Diego River Conservancy is to acquire and manage public lands within the San Diego River area, and to provide recreational opportunities, open space, wildlife habitat, species protection, wetland protection and restoration, and protection and maintenance of the quality of the San Diego River. The Conservancy also provides an enhanced recreational and educational experience on public lands for the public's benefit in a manner that protects the land, natural resources, and the economic resources of the area.

Since department programs drive the need for infrastructure investment, each department has a related capital outlay program to support this need. For the specifics on the San Diego River Conservancy's Capital Outlay Program, see "Infrastructure Overview."

3-YR EXPENDITURES AND POSITIONS (Summary of Program Requirements)

	Positions			Expenditures		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*
10 San Diego River Conservancy	1.6	2.0	3.0	\$272	\$296	\$449
TOTALS, POSITIONS AND EXPENDITURES (All Programs)	1.6	2.0	3.0	\$272	\$296	\$449
FUNDING				2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*
0140 California Environmental License Plate Fund				\$272	\$296	\$299
6051 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006				-	-	150
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS				\$272	\$296	\$449

LEGAL CITATIONS AND AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT AUTHORITY

Public Resources Code Section 32657.

DETAILED BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

	2006-07*			2007-08*		
	General Fund	Other Funds	Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Positions
Baseline Adjustment Descriptions						
• Various Baseline Adjustments	\$-	\$4	-	\$-	\$7	-
Totals, Baseline Adjustments	\$-	\$4	-	\$-	\$7	-
Policy Adjustment Descriptions						
• Prop 84: Water Quality and Community Benefits (Support)	\$-	\$-	-	\$-	\$150	1.0
Totals, Policy Adjustments	\$-	\$-	-	\$-	\$150	1.0
TOTALS, BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS	\$-	\$4	-	\$-	\$157	1.0

DETAILED EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM (Program Budget Detail)

		2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS				
10	SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY			
State Operations:				
0140	California Environmental License Plate Fund	\$272	\$296	\$299
6051	Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	-	-	150
Totals, State Operations		\$272	\$296	\$449
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES				
State Operations		272	296	449
Totals, Expenditures		\$272	\$296	\$449

* Dollars in thousands, except in Salary Range.

3845 San Diego River Conservancy - Continued

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY (Summary By Object)

1 State Operations	Positions			Expenditures		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*
PERSONAL SERVICES						
Authorized Positions (Equals Sch. 7A)	1.6	2.0	2.0	\$118	\$131	\$133
Total Adjustments	-	-	1.0	-	3	61
Net Totals, Salaries and Wages	1.6	2.0	3.0	\$118	\$134	\$194
Staff Benefits	-	-	-	46	59	73
Totals, Personal Services	1.6	2.0	3.0	\$164	\$193	\$267
OPERATING EXPENSES AND EQUIPMENT				\$108	\$103	\$182
TOTALS, POSITIONS AND EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS (State Operations)						

DETAIL OF APPROPRIATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS (Reconciliation with Appropriations)

1 STATE OPERATIONS	2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*
0140 California Environmental License Plate Fund			
APPROPRIATIONS			
001 Budget Act appropriation	\$274	\$292	\$299
Allocation for employee compensation	-	3	-
Adjustment per Section 3.60	-2	1	-
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES	\$272	\$296	\$299
6051 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			
APPROPRIATIONS			
001 Budget Act appropriation	-	-	\$150
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES	\$-	\$-	\$150
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS (State Operations)	\$272	\$296	\$449

CHANGES IN AUTHORIZED POSITIONS

	Positions			Expenditures		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*
Totals, Authorized Positions	1.6	2.0	2.0	\$118	\$131	\$133
Salary Adjustments	-	-	-	-	3	2
Proposed New Positions:				Salary Range		
Conservancy Program Development Analyst II	-	-	1.0	4,467-5,431	-	59
Totals, Proposed New Positions	-	-	1.0	\$-	\$3	\$61
Total Adjustments	-	-	1.0	\$-	\$3	\$61
TOTALS, SALARIES AND WAGES	1.6	2.0	3.0	\$118	\$134	\$194

INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW

The San Diego River Conservancy acquires public land within the San Diego River area to provide open space and the development of public recreational facilities as well as to protect and maintain the quality of the San Diego River.

MAJOR PROJECT CHANGES

- Capital Outlay and Local Assistance - The Budget provides \$2.7 million Proposition 84 funds for water quality and other capital outlay and local assistance projects to preserve, restore, and enhance the San Diego River area.

* Dollars in thousands, except in Salary Range.

3845 San Diego River Conservancy - Continued

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

State Building Program Expenditures		2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*	
20	CAPITAL OUTLAY				
	Major Projects				
20.00	CAPITAL OUTLAY ACQUISITION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS	\$-	\$500	\$2,745	
20.00.000	San Diego River Conservancy	-	500 ^{Vr}	2,745 ^{Vb}	
	Totals, Major Projects	\$-	\$500	\$2,745	
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES, ALL PROJECTS		\$-	\$500	\$2,745	
FUNDING			2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*
0995	Reimbursements		\$-	\$500	\$-
6051	Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006		-	-	2,745
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS			\$-	\$500	\$2,745

DETAIL OF APPROPRIATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS (Reconciliation with Appropriations)

3 CAPITAL OUTLAY		2005-06*	2006-07*	2007-08*
0140 California Environmental License Plate Fund				
APPROPRIATIONS				
301	Budget Act appropriation		0	-
Prior year balances available:				
	Item 3845-301-0140, Budget Act of 2005	-	0	-
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES		\$-	\$-	\$-
0995 Reimbursements				
APPROPRIATIONS				
	Reimbursements		\$500	-
6051	Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006			
APPROPRIATIONS				
301	Budget Act appropriation	-	-	\$2,745
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES		\$-	\$-	\$2,745
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS (Capital Outlay)		\$-	\$500	\$2,745

* Dollars in thousands, except in Salary Range.

State of California
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
Authorizing a River Parkways Grant for the Removal
of Invasive Non Native Plants in the San Diego River

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZING A RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS IN THE SAN DIEGO RIVER**

PURPOSE: The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 07-2 authorizing the San Diego River Conservancy or San Diego State University-Field Stations Program, in partnership with the Conservancy, to apply to the Resources Agency for River Parkways Funds to remove invasive non-native plants in the San Diego River.

STRATEGIC PLAN
CONSISTENCY

This item will help to implement Program 3, Project 1, *Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants, Restore and Manage the Land*.

BACKGROUND:

The Conservancy's enabling statute includes a statement directing the Conservancy to "provide...wildlife habitat and species restoration and protection, wetland protection and restoration.." The Conservancy's Strategic Plan includes two relevant projects in Program 3: Project 1.1, *Complete Mapping of Invasive Non-Native Plants* and 1.2, *Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore 400 acres in the El Monte Valley*.

Within the San Diego River Area below the El Capitan Dam, much of the undeveloped land is infested with non-native plants that are crowding out native plants and reducing habitat for native species. In addition, this dense non-native under growth can also create public safety hazards as visibility through the canopy is reduced.

Because seeds, including those from invasive non-native plants, are often transported via water from upstream areas to areas downstream, it is most effective to begin non-native invasive removal efforts in the upper watershed, later moving down to the lower reaches.

The El Monte Valley has been identified as especially important for conservation of the river because it is that point of transition from the river's more urban area below the valley to the wilder area above the El Capitan Reservoir.

Biologically, the El Capitan Reservoir creates a break in the watershed where infestations of invasive plants start in earnest, later spreading down river to infest areas in Lakeside, Santee and eventually the City of San Diego.

To date limited non-native invasive removal efforts have been undertaken in the river. The City of San Diego has recently received a grant from the Resources Agency from Proposition 40 to remove invasive plants from 4.22 acres in the Mission Valley Preserve. While the Mission Valley Preserve project provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the positive impacts associated with restoring the river, unless the entire river is cleaned of non-native invasive plants, small removal projects will be exceedingly difficult to maintain as seeds are moved around the river via water and wind.

At the Conservancy Meeting of January 19, 2007, the Governing Board approved the executive officer's 2007 Work Plan which included an item to pursue a partnership with San Diego State University.

THIS ACTION:

The action is for the Governing Board to approve resolution 07-2 authorizing San Diego State University, in partnership with the Conservancy, to submit a grant to the Resources Agency to begin a program to remove invasive non-native plants in the San Diego River, beginning at the base of the El Capitan Dam.

Partnership with San Diego State University:

Prior and subsequent to the January 19, 2007 Governing Board meeting, Conservancy staff met with San Diego State University officials including University President Steven Weber and Field Stations Director Matt Rahn.

The University has expressed significant interest in developing a long term partnership with the Conservancy that could include the following components: education and research; removal of invasive non-native species; outreach to the Native American community; hydrology and flood conveyance; and land tenure.

Discussions continue with the University to refine a partnership agreement that would be brought to the Governing Board for consideration at a future meeting.

In the interim, we are proposing this grant partnership to begin an important program with River Parkways funding set aside for the San Diego River. This funding must be encumbered by May 1, 2007 making this action time sensitive.

San Diego River Area:

This project is within the Conservancy's half mile San Diego River Area.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: Resolution 07-2.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolutions 07-2.

Resolution No: 07-2
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR
THE RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND COASTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2002

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the State Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application by the applicant's governing board before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the project

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy finds the application for the **Removal of Invasive Non-Native Plants in the San Diego River** to be consistent with the Conservancy's Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan, especially Program 3, Project 1, *Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land*.

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

1. Approves the filing of an application for the **Removal of Invasive Non-Native Plants in the San Diego River** by the San Diego River Conservancy or San Diego State University;
2. Certifies that the San Diego River Conservancy understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and
3. Certifies that the San Diego River Conservancy has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and
4. Certifies that the San Diego River Conservancy has reviewed and understands the Special and General Provisions contained in the Sample Project Agreement shown in the Procedural Guide; and
5. Appoints the Executive Officer as agent for the 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 2nd day of March 2007. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 07-2 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Board of Directors.

Following 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 REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
Authorizing a River Parkways Grant Application for
the Acquisition of the Hanson Pond Property

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

- ITEM: 9
- SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZING A RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE HANSON POND PROPERTY**
- PURPOSE: The Board may consider adoption of Resolution 07-3 supporting an application to the Resources Agency by the San Diego River Conservancy or the Endangered Habitats Conservancy for River Parkways Funds to acquire the Hanson Pond property.
- STRATEGIC PLAN CONSISTENCY This item will help to implement Program 3, Project 1.2, *Conserve 500 Acres in the El Monte Valley*.
- BACKGROUND: The Hanson Pond acquisition encompasses an approximately 143-acre site adjacent to the San Diego River and Helix Water District-owned land in the El Monte Valley. It represents a component of a large acquisition strategy that includes over 500 acres of Helix Water District property and other land in the valley. All of these properties will be restored to natural habitat and become an important component of the San Diego River Park and regional NCCP. The comprehensive project name is *The El Monte Valley Nature Park*.
- The lead partner for this effort is the Endangered Habitats Conservancy (EHC) which is working in partnership with the San Diego River Park Foundation, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy and the Trust For Public Land. It is anticipated that the Hanson property will eventually be transferred to Lakeside's River Park Conservancy for permanent management. EHC is working to secure and restore the adjacent ~500-acre Helix Water District land slated for a golf course development.
- The Hanson property is currently owned by Hanson Aggregates Inc. The site includes a 60-acre man-made pond, the result of past sand mining.
- Once the property has been acquired, the implementation of a habitat restoration and public use strategy on the property will commence. Restoration will include the creation of an emergent wetland over part of the exiting pond, upland coastal sage scrub restoration, and restructuring of a levee linking the site to the San Diego River. Sensitive target species that will benefit from this project include the California gnatcatcher, Coastal Cactus wren, and tri-colored blackbird. Public uses will include enhancement of an existing equestrian facility and staging area, a James Hubbell designed boardwalk extension of the San Diego River Park trail system, and an environmental education/camping facility.

Status of Acquisition Strategy:

A June 9, 2006 appraisal valued the property at \$5,550,000. A revised appraisal, commissioned by EHC, is underway. Commitments have been made to secure an Option Agreement by December 31, 2007.

To date, a \$1.5 million Proposition 50 River Parkways Grant Program funding has been secured via a grant submitted by the San Diego River Park Foundation and the Trust For Public Land. An additional \$500,000 will be redirected from a Lakeside's River Park Conservancy State Water Resources Department grant. Additionally, a \$250,000 Recreational Trails Program grant for acquisition is under consideration by the California State Parks and Recreation Department. The approximate balance needed to secure the property is \$3.3 million. The State Coastal Conservancy is also considering support for the acquisition.

THIS ACTION: The action is for the Governing Board to approve resolution 07-3 supporting an application for grant funds to the River Parkways Grant Program by the San Diego River Conservancy or The Endangered Habitats Conservancy for the Hanson Pond property.

San Diego River Area:

This project is within the Conservancy's half mile San Diego River Area.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: Resolution 07-3.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolutions 07-3.

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY

SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR
THE RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND COASTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2002 BY THE
SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY OR THE ENDANGERED HABITATS CONSERVANCY

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the State Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application by the applicant's governing board before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the project

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy finds the application for the **Acquisition of the Hanson Pond** as consistent with the Conservancy's Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan, especially Program 1, Project 1.2, *Conserve 500 Acres in the El Monte Valley*.

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

1. Approves the filing of an application for the **Acquisition of the Hanson Pond** by the San Diego River Conservancy or the Endangered Habitats Conservancy;
2. Certifies that San Diego River Conservancy understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and
3. Certifies that San Diego River Conservancy has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and
4. Certifies that San Diego River Conservancy has reviewed and understands the Special and General Provisions contained in the Sample Project Agreement shown in the Procedural Guide; and
5. 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 2nd day of March 2007. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 07-3 was duly adopted by the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board.

Following 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 REPORT
Meeting of March 2, 2007

ITEM: **10**

SUBJECT: **Adjournment**