

# 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,  
September 12, 2013  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

### Meeting Location

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

### Tele-Conference Locations

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

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

Contact: 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 July 11, 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. Municipal Stormwater Permit, Order R9-2013-001(*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*)

Presentation:

Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego, Watershed Protection Program

### 7. San Diego River Conservancy: 5yr Capital Outlay and Financing Plan/2012-17 (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

The Trust for Public Land, in partnership with SDRC staff and input from partner agencies and NGOs, developed the San Diego River Conservancy's Capital Outlay Concept Plan and a "Funding Toolbox" (2012-2017), under a grant from the Coastal Conservancy out of SDRC Prop 84 set aside funds. This plan outlines the capital costs associated with SDRC's adopted Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017).

Presentation and Report:

Kelley Hart, Associate Director, Conservation Vision Services

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer

Recommendation: Board motion to authorize the Executive Officer to incorporate suggested changes and prepare a final version for SDRC file and submission to appropriate agencies including California Department of Finance

### 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:

Water Bond update

Project Status

- Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail (Lakeside's River Park Conservancy)

- Historic Flume Trail, El Monte Valley (SD County, in construction)
- River Gorge Trail and Trailhead- San Diego River Trail (USFS)
- Invasives Control and Restoration
  - Midwest TV (SDRC direct implementation) and SCC grant for work in the Los Coches Creek watershed (tributary to San Diego River, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy sub-grant)

#### Procurement Report

Tierra Data, Inc. (on call biologist)

\$1,500 savings achieved by SDRC from board book savings

#### 9. Next Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, November 7, 2013, 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 September 12, 2013**

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of September 12, 2013**

ITEM: **2**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION)**  
The Board will consider adoption of the **July 11, 2013**  
public meeting minutes.

PURPOSE: The minutes of the **July 11, 2013** Board Meeting are  
attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes

**SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY (SDRC)**  
Minutes of July 11, 2013 Public Meeting

(Draft Minutes for Approval on September 12, 2013)

SDRC Board Chair, Ben Clay called the July 11, 2013, meeting of the San Diego River Conservancy to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Members Present

Karen Finn	Department of Finance, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Todd Gloria	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 3 (left 2:50 p.m.)
Lorie Zapf	Councilmember, City of San Diego, District 6
Bryan Cash	Natural Resources Agency, Alternate Designee (via phone)
Clay Phillips	Department of Parks and Recreation, Designee
Dianne Jacob	Supervisor, County of San Diego, Second District
Ben Clay, Chair	Public at Large
Ruth Hayward	Public at Large
Andrew Poat	Public at Large
Gary Strawn	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Absent

Lee Burdick	Mayor, City of San Diego, Designee
Ann Haddad	Public at Large
John Donnelly	Wildlife Conservation Board

Staff Members Present

Kevin McKernan	Executive Officer
Julia Richards	Administrative Services Manager

**2. Approval of Minutes**

*Todd Gloria made a motion to approve the draft minutes of the San Diego River Conservancy's May 2, 2013 public meeting, which was seconded by Ruth Hayward and approved unanimously 9-0.*

**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.

**Rob Hutsel** shared in June 2013 the San Diego River Park Foundation took possession of 20 acres on the face of El Cajon Mountain. Recently, he along with many others celebrated passage of the River Park Master Plan by the City of San Diego. He also reminded the SDRC Governing Board members that September 19 is the San Diego River Park Foundation anniversary party.

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

**Lorie Zapf** said she partnered with the San Diego River Park Foundation and provided \$5,000 from her council budget for the volunteer water monitoring and watch team which monitors the health of the San Diego River watershed. These funds will provide monitoring supplies, safety equipment, training material, and 10 people for the next 3-5 years.

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

No report.

#### **6. San Diego History Center – Presentation (*INFORMATIONAL/ACTION*) The Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan**

**Kevin McKernan** introduced the San Diego History Center's (SDHC or History Center) Charlotte Cagan and Bill Lawrence. The History Center completed the master plan in partnership with SDRC. He recommended the Board accept this plan and partner with the History Center and the City of San Diego in furtherance of the Junipero Serra Museum. Recently, the museum celebrated 85 years. The Junipero Serra Museum shows human culture and environment in a continual dialog and how the river has impacted San Diego and its history, including the Kumeyaay Nation, the Spanish-Mexican period, and the rich heritage and historic ecology of the watershed.

**Bill Lawrence** discussed historical ecology of the San Diego River to understand this interaction with the river across hundreds of years helps gain a full understanding of its effects. The Junipero Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan is 95 pages. The plan utilizes the rich history of the San Diego Historical Society's early maps and pictures. The library houses over 2.5 million photographs making it one of the largest in the country which included San Diego River floods and the Historic Flume construction.

The museum is located near to the San Diego River and close to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. These items will be used in the interpretive exhibits. The main gallery of the Serra was built in 1925. The museum will recast replicas of George Marston furnishings and decorations from that era using technology so public can see, feel and touch what items were built in the 1930s.

George W. Marston in 1928 founded the San Diego Historical Society. San Diego was a growing city and Marston began acquiring land on Presidio Hill, right above Old Town San Diego, to commemorate the site where Franciscan Padre Junipero Serra and Captain Gaspar de Portolá had built the first Spanish settlement in Alta California in 1769. William Templeton Johnson designed the Junipero Serra Museum which, for over sixty years, was the site of the San Diego Historical Society and Research Library. In 2010, the San Diego Historical Society officially changed its name to San Diego History Center.

The San Diego History Center serves over 81,000 visitors each year is a result of the enormous amount of rich, San Diego-related history. Educational programs are offered for school children, families, and adults. Special emphasis is devoted to K-12 programs which are tied closely to the school curriculum and focus on

strengthening children's skills while they learn about history. Hands-on activities are offered for family audiences, public programming, lectures, and panel discussions.

The San Diego History Center's core programs and services include: exhibitions; educational programs; the operation of a research library; and scholarly publications. Permanent and changing exhibitions interpret the history of San Diego.

**Charlotte Cagan** thanked the San Diego River Conservancy Governing Board members for inspiring them and providing support to make that happen. This is a unique and compelling interpretative plan, telling stories of the San Diego River. This is a very dynamic exercise which will elevate the status of the Serra Museum, and it will attract public attention. There is a move towards a new "heritage tourism initiative" where people will travel to experience the places and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past. The Serra Museum will put all the pieces together and show culture, history, ecology, archaeology and interaction with the San Diego River. She referred to the location of the original Serra Museum on the mouth of the San Diego River the "Plymouth rock of the west coast."

She explained this is a 3-way partnership between the City of San Diego, the San Diego History Center, and the San Diego River Conservancy. The City of San Diego owns the property and is the landlord. There are still internal issues that need to be addressed such as general access to the museum, ADA access, and bringing the historic building up to code.

The San Diego History Center met with the City's representatives, Stacey LoMedico and Todd Gloria, to address infrastructure updates and ADA ramping. Currently, the restrooms need upgrades and there is no heating/air condition in the building. The History Center plans to phase in these updates, rather than trying to do it all at once. This is a 2-year project that the History Center would introduce in phases, one of them being the access component.

**Todd Gloria** said the facility owned by the City of San Diego is outdated and a top priority is ADA access. To cover the costs he discussed access to City of San Diego Regional Park Funds (developer fee initiated). The City Council sent a request to the Mayor of San Diego to fund ADA improvements from the next infrastructure bond which will probably be in 2014. He explained the City of San Diego's finances have improved and infrastructure is the top priority, and this is one of the City's top projects. He shared this information with his colleagues to give a context of what occurred to date.

This museum has a very high elevation and there are steep hills and steps that lead from the parking area to the actual museum which sits atop the hill. The museum's tower has spectacular view of Mission Valley, but the view comes with a challenging topography. He thanked the SDRC Board for funding the effort to create a master interpretive plan for the Junipero Serra Museum.

**Ben Clay** asked about the costs associated with bringing the building up to date, the timing and ramifications. At what time might we be able to estimate the costs. Before proceeding any more with the upgrades let's get an idea of the associated costs for the capital improvements.

**Bill Lawrence** responded that the History Center is now funding the Historic Structures Report which is due in September. That report will detail the improvements needed and present it to the City of San Diego for review of the capital costs.

**Charlotte Cagan** confirmed the ADA ramping would cost approximately \$2 million.

**Todd Gloria** noted \$2 million ADA for ramping is not that much considering this is a historic building. This is a priority to the City and the History Center has brought a lot of great energy to this project. These organizations working collaboratively can take this jewel, make it really special and return it to the people where it ought to be. He knows the recommendation is to accept it, but he would like to accept it **and endorse it** as an organization seeking to lift up and acknowledge our river. **He made a motion to accept and endorse this report.**

**Dianne Jacob** seconded the motion. She added as a third generation native San Diegian this is awesome. After looking through the interpretive master plan, the Board applauds the San Diego History Center's outstanding job. Please let this Board know if they can do anything to help to bring back the real jewel. She thanked Todd Gloria for his help on the San Diego City Council. This means a lot to a lot of people in this region. Unfortunately there are many people in the San Diego region who have not had the opportunity to visit this place. It is such a great resource. She liked the idea of "Plymouth Rock of the West," that may stick. She thanked Charlotte for everything she has done.

***The San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board to accept and endorse the Junipers Serra Museum Interpretive Master Plan unanimously 9-0.***

**Charlotte Cagan** explained the History Center is approaching this as a public-private partnership. It helps when the History Center can talk to private donors and can say that public sources are committing their own resources, including the San Diego River Conservancy. This is a nice package that will appeal to some private donors. The San Diego History Center has a very strong advisory committee and her priority was to create as many community partnerships as possible and work with community groups because it enriches their work.

**Ben Clay** stated it is a rather unique set of circumstances. Soon we will hear about the San Diego River beginning at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, moving on to the Old CalTrans facility and maybe an interpretive exhibit of the old San Diego River, then around the corner to the Serra Museum, then up the river San Diego River Park Foundation's Discovery Center, then the follow the river upstream to Mission Trail Regional Park. The story goes on as we move further up the river's watershed. Obviously, further up there is potential for more trails from Santee and Lakeside on out. He believes The San Diego River Conservancy has a very unique opportunity here and a win-win for the region.

**Ruth Hayward** mentioned she used to visit the Serra when she was in grammar school. She would like to recommend a member of the San Diego River Conservancy be on the advisory board to assist the SDRC Executive Officer and this person could either be a knowledgeable volunteer or someone from the San Diego River Conservancy's Board.

**Charlotte Cagan** agreed that was a very good idea and she welcomed that suggestion.

**Ben Clay** agreed with what Ruth suggested. A key piece for the interpretive material is how everything ties to the San Diego River. This will afford the Conservancy a chance to put a representative from the San Diego River Conservancy on the History Center's advisory committee to provide input and tie in to the river and tell a story of what happened. He asked if there were any more comments. Hearing none he asked if there was a motion to recommend a member of the SDRC Board become part of the Serra Museum Advisory Committee.

***Dianne Jacob moved to recommend a member of the SDRC Board become part of the Serra Museum Advisory Committee, Todd Gloria seconded the motion and the San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board approved unanimously 9-0.***

## 7. San Diego River Conservancy Joining California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

### Presentation and Report:

Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer

Michael Beck, San Diego Director, Endangered Habitats League

Kevin McKernan said he was approached by Michael Beck, a member of this coalition to join. As you see by the supporting materials, both the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego, are already members of this organization. This organization advocates for habitat conservation plans which streamline the permit process of infrastructure projects and protects natural resources. The Hanlon-Walker acquisition the Conservancy completed last year came in part by federal Section 6 funds received because of the County's Habitat Conservation Plans. He introduced Michael Beck, San Diego Director of Endangered Habitats League who provided a brief presentation and opened up for questions afterward.

Michael Beck said California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition was an organization which started in southern California when habitat plans started in 1992-3 and it used to be called the 5-County Funding Group and has evolved into a statewide organization. In context this is federal funds and the money is available competitively.

It seems like this is something that has already benefited this organization with SDRC's purchase of the Hanlon-Walker properties. The way this Board can help this organization is to join. Coalition members include government agencies, non-profits, conservation organizations, and business interest that represent 20 habitat plans throughout California.

The coalition is a group that lobbies for funding and educates the members of congress about the value of the plans and tries to get an appropriation. They analyze how to speed up the preparation of regional Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) and develop material to use for an extensive outreach and education program. The coalition works on the policies related to the plans and carry out several Work Group activities and other projects. In addition they are determining how to show that Cap and Trade auction revenue (product of California climate change program mandated by AB32) used by NCCPs would reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ben Clay thanked Michael Beck and asked if there were any questions.

Dianne Jacob made a motion to approve Resolution 13-04 for the San Diego River Conservancy to join the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition.

*Todd Gloria seconded the motion and San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board approved unanimously 9-0.*

## 8. San Diego River Conservancy 2014 Meeting Schedule (*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)

Thursday	January 9 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Thursday	March 13 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Thursday	May 8 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Thursday	July 10 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Thursday	September 11 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Thursday	November 13 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 - 4:00 pm

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

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

Authorization to enter into agreements to implement State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) grant for invasive non-native plant control and restoration, SDRC already approved in Resolution 13-03, Recommendation: Adopt SDRC Resolution 13-05 authorizes the Executive Officer to enter into grant with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)

**Kevin McKernan** also received feedback from the SCC noting that no support letters accompanied SDRC application for this \$1,500,000 grant to SDRC's invasive non-native plant removal. The resolution set forth by the Governing Board of the San Diego River Conservancy, represents the local and state representatives in support of the SDRC grant application as follows: the Mayor of the City of San Diego, the San Diego City Council, the County of San Diego, the State of California via the following departments and agencies: Department of Finance, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Wildlife Conservation Board. The SCC did approve the grant and SDRC plans to execute the grant.

**Hayley Peterson** added Resolution 13-03 should be sufficient in and of itself to provide the authority to include receiving and spending of the \$1,500,000 grant from the SCC. In the past this Board has offered dual resolutions one to apply for funds, and one to receive and spend funds, and there is no harm in approving 13-05. In the future SDRC, will prepare one resolution with authority to apply for funds, accept funds and spend funds as necessary to carry out project.

**Ben Clay** supports Resolution 13-05, in the abundance of caution.

***Clay Phillips made a motion to approve Resolution 13-05, Ruth Hayward seconded the motion and San Diego River Conservancy's Governing Board approved the resolution unanimously, 8-0.***

Former Department of Transportation building in Old Town slated for transfer to State Parks

Qualcomm Stadium water discharge (May 9 2013)

Proposition 40 Project Status

- Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail
- Invasives Control and Restoration

Legislative information

Procurement Report

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of September 12, 2013**

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 September 12, 2013**

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 September 12, 2013**

ITEM: **5**

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

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of September 12, 2013**

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT,  
ORDER R9-2013-001 (INFORMATIONAL/ACTION)**

Presentation:

Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego  
Watershed Protection Program

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of September 12, 2013**

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY: 5YR CAPITAL  
OUTLAY AND FINANCING PLAN/2012-17  
(*INFORMATIONAL / ACTION*)**

The Trust for Public Land, in partnership with SDRC staff and input from partner agencies and NGOs, developed the San Diego River Conservancy's Capital Outlay Concept Plan and a "Funding Toolbox" (2012-2017), under a grant from the Coastal Conservancy out of SDRC Prop 84 set aside funds. This plan outlines the capital costs associated with SDRC's adopted Strategic Plan Update (2012-2017).

**Presentation and Report:**

Kelley Hart, Associate Director, Conservation Vision Services  
Kevin McKernan, Executive Officer

Recommendation: Board motion to authorize the Executive Officer to incorporate suggested changes and prepare a final version for SDRC file and submission to appropriate agencies including California Department of Finance.

## Capital Outlay Concept Paper: Introduction

**Plan Year:** 2014-18 (*revised*)

**Department:** Resources Agency, San Diego River Conservancy

This Capital Outlay Plan estimates capital costs associated with each of the San Diego River Conservancy's (SDRC's) Program Areas over a five-year time horizon. The Program Areas are described in detail in the *San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017*. Due to the lapse of one year, the costs estimated here start with 2014 and include estimates through 2018. Although the current plan does not technically extend to 2018, the programs, priorities and projects identified in the plan are consistent with the Conservancy's ongoing work (the first five-year strategic plan, its addendum, and the most recent strategic plan update) and are anticipated to be consistent with future plans.

The Capital Outlay Plan is intended to:

- (a) Supplement the Strategic Plan Update by outlining the capital costs associated with the activities described therein; and
- (b) Meet state guidelines for providing a five-year estimate of capital costs. As such, this plan follows the recommended state format for providing estimates and supporting narratives. They are detailed, by Program, in the pages that follow.

<b><i>Sum of Estimated Capital Costs of All San Diego River Conservancy Programs (in millions):</i></b>					
<b>Strategic Plan Element</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<i>Program 1: Conserve Land Along San Diego River</i>					
Secure Key River Properties	\$36.67	\$36.67	\$36.67	\$36.67	\$36.67
Develop and Implement Land Management Protocols					
<i>Program 2: Emphasize Recreation and Education</i>					
Complete the Trail	\$8.76	\$8.76	\$8.76	\$8.76	\$8.76
Develop Recreation and Education Programs					
<i>Program 3A: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources</i>					
Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0.50	\$0.50
<i>Program 3B: Protect and Preserve Cultural and Historic Resources</i>					
Establish a Programmatic Emphasis....					
Expand Partnerships...					
<i>Program 4: Enhance Water Quality and Natural Flood Conveyance</i>					
Continue Collaboration with RWQCB...					
Help Establish the San Diego River Research Center	\$0.10	\$0.40	\$0.10	\$0	\$0
<i>Program 5: Expand the Organization's Capacity and Reach</i>					
Develop and Implement a Funding Strategy					
Develop and Implement a Partnering Strategy					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46.53</b>	<b>\$47.43</b>	<b>\$47.13</b>	<b>\$45.93</b>	<b>\$46.53</b>

As noted in the chart above with gray shading, several programs do not have anticipated capital costs. For example, for Program 5, planners created a list of resources that may be available to the San Diego River Conservancy and its partners. This list is intended to be a “toolbox” of sorts to expand the capacity and reach of the San Diego River Conservancy and to assist the Conservancy and its partners in leveraging funding above and beyond traditional state sources. That document is available, by request, from the Executive Director of the San Diego River Conservancy.

A number of partners assisted the San Diego River Conservancy in preparing elements or providing information for this Capital Outlay Concept Paper: Rob Caringella of Jones, Roach, & Caringella (Program 1), Ann van Leer of Land Conservation Brokerage (Program 1), Robin Shifflet of the City of San Diego (Program 1), Rob Hutsel of the San Diego River Park Foundation (Program 1), Robin Rierdan of Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy (Program 1), Mary Niez of the County of San Diego (Program 1), Jason Giessow (Program 3), Matt Rahn of San Diego State University (Program 4), and Kelley Hart, Virginia Lorne, Mary Bruce Alford, Wendy Muzzy, Daniel Stevens, and Bianca Shulaker of The Trust for Public Land (various programs).

## Program 1: Conserve Land along the San Diego River

### Secure Key River Properties

**Program Category:** Environmental Acquisitions and Restoration

**Program Category Subtype:** *San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017*, Program 1: Conserve Land along the San Diego River

**Project Title:** Secure Key River Properties

**Funding Source:** Various

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Estimated Costs for Program 1:</b>	<b>\$36.67m</b>	<b>\$36.67m</b>	<b>\$36.67m</b>	<b>\$36.67m</b>	<b>\$36.67m</b>
<b>Total Estimated Program Cost</b>				<b>\$183,363,410</b>	

#### 1. Summary of Proposal

This proposal estimates the funding necessary to acquire fee title ownership of key properties along the San Diego River. Acquisition of these properties fulfills the mission of SDRC to acquire and conserve land, protect natural resources, and provide recreational opportunities within the San Diego River Watershed. Specifically, this activity supports Program 1 (Conserve Land Along the San Diego River) of SDRC's *Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017*.

SDRC has estimated acquisition costs to better understand current market trends, assist with budget development, and promote strategic future acquisition activities with its Board, governmental agencies, project partners, and potential funders.

SDRC's Strategic Plan Update calls for the acquisition of 739 acres to meet the goal of 1,450 acres originally set in the *Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011*. The projected cost of acquiring key lands totaling about 1,537 acres that was more recently identified by SDRC and its partners is about \$183 million or \$36.67 million per year between 2014 and 2018.

#### 2. Problem Identification

Certain lands in the San Diego River Watershed possess high biological, scenic, cultural, and recreational resource values. SDRC's legislative mandate recognizes the significance of these resources and the important role of SDRC in helping to protect these resources. For SDRC, as with other California state conservancies, acquisition of property is one of the primary methods to accomplish this.

The failure to acquire and protect key lands may lead to adverse impacts to resources of statewide and national significance, including state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species. Whereas entities such as local and federal government agencies and nonprofit organizations may acquire sensitive lands to protect them or enhance public access, SDRC is a state agency created to specifically address resource protection in the San Diego River area. As such, it affords some responsibility to undertake and/or participate in a fair share of these acquisitions.

### **3. Alternative Solutions Considered**

The following alternatives have been considered:

a) Rely on other state entities to acquire key properties.

The State of California houses agencies with various conservation and public access and recreation missions capable of undertaking acquisition activities. The Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Coastal Conservancy, and State Lands Commission could provide funding, staff, or both to secure lands in the San Diego River Watershed. However, these agencies are much broader in scope than SDRC, with projects covering the entire state. The San Diego River Watershed, then, would not be a focus of the agencies; SDRC acquisitions would compete with other worthy acquisitions in other areas of the state, to the potential detriment of San Diego River's resources. Due to its mandate to focus on the San Diego River area, SDRC has the ability to take a system-wide approach to conservation and public access, allowing for continuity and decision-making free from the limitations of jurisdiction or other constraints that other agencies often have.

The location of the SDRC office in San Diego enables its staff to be readily accessible, identify acquisition opportunities and shifting priorities, work effectively with landowners, and coordinate the overall acquisition program with local and federal entities and nonprofit partners.

Reliance on other state agencies to acquire key properties would not reduce the state's need for capital outlay funds for acquisition, but would shift the need and the responsibility for acquisition from SDRC to other state agencies. As fellow state agencies, they too face the same budget issues as SDRC.

Given its mandate and the advantages to undertaking projects over shifting responsibility to other state agencies, SDRC should continue to take the lead role in coordinating state efforts within the San Diego River area. While the area certainly benefits from involvement by other state agencies through their conservation planning and their grant programs, SDRC should continue to receive capital outlay funds for acquisitions it undertakes itself or grants in support of its partners.

b) Rely on non-state entities to acquire key properties.

SDRC's *Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011* states:

SDRC seeks to work cooperatively in partnership, where possible, with private, non-profit, and public entities and property owners interested in supporting conservation of the River and development of the River Park.

Using this approach, SDRC has successfully adopted a strategy in which some of the responsibility for acquisitions rests with these entities rather than with the state. For example, the San Diego River Park Foundation, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, City of Santee, and The Trust for Public Land have conserved key properties in the San Diego River watershed; some of the acquisitions would not have occurred without grants from SDRC.

SDRC's capital outlay funds provide important leverage for additional acquisition funds from other state, federal, and local sources. This is particularly significant for those sources, often federal agencies, that require state participation in acquisition projects. Under such a scenario, without SDRC funding, key acquisition lands can be subject to a longer process of securing funding from other state sources to qualify for federal funds. As a result, acquisitions may take longer to complete, increase in value, or become unavailable because of timing or other constraints.

c) Rely on local governments to use land use regulation to conserve land.

This alternative would depend on the jurisdictions within the San Diego River watershed (the City of San Diego, City of Santee, and the County of San Diego) to require conservation exactions over developable key properties as conditions to their development. While this approach would not conserve parcels in their entirety, it would enable the conservation of the most environmentally-sensitive portions of the land while allowing private landowners who are not willing sellers to realize their economic investment through appropriately-planned development.

Because properties in the urbanized areas of the San Diego River Watershed fetch the highest values for their land use type compared to their suburban or rural counterparts, SDRC may view land use regulation as a viable method for its local partners to conserve key properties. Specifically, land use regulation would provide the most cost-effective approach to conserving lands within the Mission Valley corridor of the City of San Diego, where current values, particularly for the commercial or multi-family uses popular in the area, are highest.

The recent adoption of the San Diego River Park Master Plan contains this type of regulatory mechanism to protect the river when future development or redevelopment occurs. While not a regulatory requirement, the City of Santee's General Plan also envisions protections for the river and provisions that development or redevelopment provide for the river park corridor. In the unincorporated county areas, the Multiple

Species Conservation Program may play some role in preventing river encroachment or development.

To SDRC's benefit, land use regulation should reduce the amount of capital outlay funds necessary for conservation acquisitions. However, SDRC would still need capital outlay funds to acquire key properties from willing sellers in certain instances, such as where conservation exactions do not apply. In sum, this alternative is a complementary strategy that should be pursued in specific circumstances and locations.

d) Consider acquisition of easements to conserve land.

The focus of SDRC's acquisition program has largely been on fee title acquisition of properties using capital outlay funds. However, in addition to fee title acquisition, SDRC and its partners may acquire other forms of ownership interests such as easements. Depending on several factors, conservation easements can vary in value from 10 to 95 percent of fee simple value. Thus, compared with fee title acquisitions, easement acquisitions can provide a cost-effective method to conserve lands where existing owners are inclined to protect their properties but are not willing to sell fee title interest. The cost savings would allow SDRC to acquire interests in more properties and work toward meeting the acquisition goals set in its Strategic Plans. In sum, this is a desirable alternative for particular circumstances and may be pursued where appropriate. SDRC capital outlay funds will be critical to the success of these acquisitions. This plan does not include estimates for conservation easement acquisitions because many variables affect their values; easement values must therefore be determined on a case-by-case basis,

e) Spread acquisition timetable over a longer timeframe.

SDRC projects the fee title acquisition of key lands to total about \$183 million or \$36.67 million per year between 2014 and 2018. To reduce annual costs, SDRC may extend the timeframe of acquisitions beyond 2018 and undertake fewer acquisitions each year. While SDRC may make a decision to deliberately spread acquisitions out over time, acquisition timeframes are generally beyond the control of SDRC due to the unpredictability of when property becomes available for acquisition and other outside factors, such as the schedules for non-SDRC grant applications. However, property values are subject to inflation, potentially resulting in higher future acquisition costs. (The current estimates assume a seven percent appreciation rate over the next five years.) SDRC may instead consider accelerating its acquisition program as much as possible to ensure that the agency meets its program goals.

#### **4. Detailed Project Description and Recommended Solution**

The project consists of the acquisition and protection of key properties in the San Diego River Area to support SDRC's conservation, recreation, natural resource restoration, culture and history, and water quality programs.

Representatives from SDRC, the City of San Diego, the City of Santee, the County of San Diego, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy, and the San Diego River Park Foundation identified acquisition priorities based on knowledge of biological, scenic, cultural, and recreation resource values and the potential availability of parcels for acquisition within the timeframe of the *Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017*. The priorities are consistent with the river reach prioritization discussion in SDRC's *Addendum to the Five-Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan* dated November 2011, in which the five reaches from the estuary to Lakeside are considered the highest priority areas due to the threat of development. The El Capitan Reservoir to State Route 67 Freeway reach received a medium priority designation, and the Headwaters reach received a low priority designation.

So that SDRC may accomplish its legislated mission and, in particular, its priority acquisition goals, it needs the capital funds to be appropriated in the amount requested. This solution is not mutually exclusive from the alternatives considered above; indeed, the solution should proceed in conjunction with the alternatives to fee title acquisition and with non-state acquisitions to maximize the opportunities to conserve key properties. SDRC supports this approach and states in its *Five Year Strategic and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011*:

The Conservancy's statutory objectives include "acquire and manage public land within the San Diego River Area." The Conservancy will implement these objectives through acquisition and other means, including donations, along the 52-mile length of the River. No one method of land conservation is favored; rather, each property is evaluated individually to determine the most cost and conservation-effective means to secure, preserve and manage the property in perpetuity. The Conservancy can secure and manage land directly or with partners but, in all cases, sellers must be willing. Land donations and voluntary dedications, including easements, are encouraged wherever possible.

The *Five Year Strategic Plan and Infrastructure Plan 2006-2011* set a goal to acquire 1,450 acres estimated at \$73,274,000. The current goal is to acquire approximately 1,537 acres at an estimated about \$183 million. These estimates assume all fee title acquisitions. Since SDRC and its partners could seek additional funds to match capital outlay funds, the estimated total acquisition cost should not be borne entirely by SDRC. Also, as discussed above, SDRC and its partners may conserve key properties via less-than-fee interest acquisitions and other methods that would reduce the total acquisition cost. The impact of additional outside funding and less-than-fee acquisitions on the total estimated program costs is unknown.

## **5. Summary of Cost Methodology and Assumptions**

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) assisted the SDRC by providing supporting documentation, including this land valuation work, for its *Five Year Capital Outlay and Infrastructure Plan* to supplement the *Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017*.

The estimated acquisition cost is based on information from a restricted use report prepared by the appraisal firm Jones, Roach, & Caringella in May 2013. Using current market data (see

Appendix A, Market Data Summary by Highest and Best Use Category), the report estimated average per-acre values for six land use types that an appraiser may determine as highest and best uses for properties. These uses are: Agricultural/Residential, Commercial, Floodplain, Industrial, Multifamily, Residential Suburban Density, and Upland Mitigation.

TPL estimated the acquisition cost of the key priority acquisition properties by first determining their zoning designations and best and highest uses as described by the restricted use report. TPL then multiplied the per-acre values to the lands' approximate acreage. Rough adjustments were made according to size and location of properties. The estimated cost does not include the cost of environmental studies, appraisals, escrow fees, staff time, or other charges associated with property acquisition.

It should be emphasized that the estimated acquisition cost of key properties is only an estimation provided for general planning and budgeting purposes only. Any and all actual land acquisition values will be based on property-specific appraisals using Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice prepared by the Appraisal Standards Board (USPAP) and/or Uniform Standards for Federal Land Acquisition (USFLA or yellow book) standards, completed by a qualified appraiser, and reviewed and approved by state and/or federal agencies depending on funding source. All land acquisition undertaken by SDRC is subject to a willing seller and willing buyer relationship.

Attachments:

Appendix A, Market Data Summary by Highest and Best Use Category

## Program 2: Emphasize Recreation and Education Complete the Trail

**Program Category:** Environmental acquisitions and restoration

**Program Category Subtype:** *San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017*: Program 2: Emphasize Recreation and Education

**Project Title:** Complete the Trail

**Funding Source:** Various

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Estimated Costs for Program 2:</b>	<b>\$8.76m</b>	<b>\$8.76m</b>	<b>\$8.76m</b>	<b>\$8.76m</b>	<b>\$8.76m</b>
<b>Total Estimated Program Cost</b>				<b>\$43,800,000</b>	

### 1. Summary of Proposal

This activity supports Program 2 of *SDRC's Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017*. Through leadership and collaborative efforts with various partners, SDRC has made great strides towards the development of the San Diego River Trail. Accomplishments include:

- Construction of the Ocean Beach Bike Path extension;
- The planning, permitting, and construction of the San Diego River Gorge Trail;
- Santee's construction of a 2,500-foot extension of the San Diego River Trail which terminates at the Carlton Oaks Golf Course. SDRC provided \$472,963 of its Proposition 40 set aside to the City to complete the project.
- The San Diego Regional Bicycle Plan included the San Diego River Trail, recommended its integration with Regional Comprehensive Plan and Regional Transportation Plan, and budgeted \$250,000 of TransNet funding for planning.
- The County has begun to invest its resources in the acquisition and design of the Historic Flume in East County and proposes to complete approximately 2.5 miles of the 36 mile Historic Flume Corridor. SDRC renewed its partnership with the County and agreed to pursue construction funding once compliance with CEQA had been accomplished.

Knowing that a completed San Diego River Trail will provide invaluable community connections along the entire 52-mile length of the San Diego River for the residents and visitors of San Diego, Santee, and Lakeside, SDRC also retained KTU+A to complete a gaps analysis that identifies every single gap in the trail system by reach and estimates the costs associated with building or improving each segment identified in the gap analysis.

Besides commissioning a gap analysis, SDRC formed an intergovernmental working group that reports progress on the planning and implementation of the San Diego River Trail. The working

group is an ongoing venue for the sharing of ideas and setting of funding priorities, and therefore this group assures collaborative planning and implementation of the trail.

Given SDRC's statutory charge and demonstrated leadership with respect to developing the San Diego River Trail, this proposal requests the capital funds needed to address the remaining gaps in the trail system as identified in the comprehensive *San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis (2010)*, with one exception. This request does not include funding for the pedestrian bridge needs identified in the plan, as that substantially increases the costs of this work and can be viewed as a second tier priority at this time.

## **2. Problem Identification**

The underlying problem is that the San Diego River holds tremendous untapped potential as a much-needed recreational/health resource for residents and visitors to the area. Many residents living near stretches of the river suffer from inadequate access to nature and to diverse recreational options. While significant progress has been made in building trail segments, the San Diego River Trail is not yet a connected, safe corridor for biking, walking, skating, running, or other low-impact linear park uses. Meanwhile, healthy lifestyles are increasingly difficult to maintain and rates of obesity and diabetes continue to rise. The river holds tremendous potential to provide much needed outlets to help residents and visitors maintain or increase healthy lifestyles, and in some cases provide alternative non-motorized transportation corridors for healthy, climate change-neutral commuting.

SDRC maintains a commitment to complete projects approved by the SDRC Governing Board, the San Diego River Trail Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), and the San Diego River Coalition, particularly those that are located in the riparian corridor that connects Mission Trails, Santee, and Lakeside reaches of the river. The comprehensive gaps analysis is ready for implementation, which will make the San Diego River Trail a functioning recreational system with adequate access points for residents and visitors. However, there are presently insufficient funds to complete prioritized projects.

SDRC will endeavor to maintain its commitment to SDRC approved projects, as well as the new priority projects identified for the next five years. Dwindling general obligation bond funds means that SDRC must place an even greater emphasis on obtaining existing or future general obligation bond funding, as well as securing alternative funding sources to accomplish SDRC's legislative mandate.

## **3. Alternative Solutions Considered**

### Rely Upon Others to Develop the Trail:

Recognizing that completion of the San Diego River Trail was one the SDRC's top priorities; the SDRC Governing Board took formal action to establish the San Diego River Trail as a civic

imperative and a regional collaboration. It created an Intergovernmental Working Group comprising key staff for each jurisdiction to address technical issues, funding and construction priorities, and construction and management coordination for the trail. A Gaps Analysis was completed which identified functional and physical barriers to completing the trail. All jurisdictions ranked and recommended priorities the based on the Gaps Analysis. These priorities were subsequently endorsed by the Governing Board following presentations by members of the IWG. SDRC encouraged that these priorities be included in each jurisdictions' Community Plans and Capital Improvement Programs (C.I.P.). Today, every jurisdiction has begun to fund and complete priority projects to close the most critical gaps. Thus, SDRC is already relying upon others to help in developing the trail, making it truly a joint effort. That said, SDRC has a critical role leading this effort. Capital dollars will enable SDRC to strengthen its on-going leadership and capitalize on momentum, leveraging its funds against funds raised locally.

#### Do Nothing:

Considering the tremendous amount of planning and coordination that has led SDRC to be so well equipped at this moment in time to thoughtfully begin plan implementation, it would lay the planning investment to waste not to fund the top priorities that have been strategically identified as high need and high value for the San Diego River Trail. This is the most critical time for SDRC to receive funding for trail investments because all of the players are aligned and the most important projects identified. The good momentum will be lost without an ongoing demonstration of leadership and commitment of dollars to continue to spur local investment and progress. Note: this alternative is included for purposes of reflecting a scenario in which no funding is available to take action.

#### **4. Detailed Project Description/Recommended Solution**

The *San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis (2010)* details the precise gaps, proposes projects, and contains the basis for the estimates in this capital outlay concept. *San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis (2010)* is herein incorporated by reference to serve as the detailed project description and recommended solution.

#### **5. Summary of Cost Methodology/Assumptions**

The *San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis (2010)* details the precise gaps, proposes projects, and contains the basis for the estimates in this capital outlay concept. *San Diego River Trail Gaps Analysis (2010)* is herein incorporated by reference to provide the summary of cost methodologies and assumptions. Note that the \$43.8 million estimated for capital costs herein does not include costs for pedestrian bridge design and construction estimated as part of the gaps analysis.

## Program 3A: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land

**Program Category:** Environmental acquisitions and restoration

**Program Category Subtype:** *San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017*: Program 3A: Preserve and Restore Natural Resources

**Project Title:** Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore the Land

**Funding Source:** Various

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Estimated Costs for Program 3A:</b>	\$1m	\$1m	\$1m	\$500k	\$500k
<b>Total Estimated Program Cost</b>				<b>\$4,000,000</b>	

### 1. Summary of Proposal

SDRC has initiated a watershed based invasive, non-native plant control program in the San Diego River Watershed. Specifically, this activity supports Program 3, Project 1 of SDRC's *Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017*, which is "Remove Invasive Non-Native Plants and Restore Biological and Hydrological Process to the River."

SDRC has done initial baseline mapping, completed a mitigated negative declaration, and received an Army Corps regional permit, CADFW 1600 permit, CALTRANS right of entry, and authorization from USFWS for the program. Invasive species removal has begun at multiple sites for multiple invasive species.

While some invasive species are located in just some portions of the watershed, *Arundo* needs to be eradicated from the entire watershed. SDRC has successfully completed three *Arundo* eradication projects so far, restoring 58 acres of the 354 acres of invasive plants that were initially mapped. SDRC is using proven methods of treatment, retreatment, and revegetation. Invasive species control costs vary greatly from site to site depending on public/private ownership and parcel size, topography, species composition and other limiting factors. The range of costs is approximately \$20,000 to \$60,000 per acre.

### 2. Problem Identification

Three hundred fifty-four acres of high priority invasive plant species have been mapped in riparian areas that need to be controlled and replanted. *Arundo*, tamarisk, Mexican fan palm, and pampas grass are the bulk of the acreage, but non-native trees (e.g. Brazilian pepper tree) are also in abundance. All of these species degrade habitat quality and pose a significant fire and flood risk. Invasive species removal has begun, but significant work remains.

*Arundo* is the primary focus of the program, as this species is causing particularly severe impacts to both abiotic and biotic riverine processes and riparian habitat. As recently documented in the *Arundo* Impact Study ([www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)), *Arundo* has pronounced effects on multiple factors that shape riverine processes. These modifications include changes to sediment transport, hydromodification, and an increase in the incidence of fire in riparian ecosystems. These impacts have severe ecological consequences on the river, degrading the habitat for native flora and fauna, several of which are state- and/or federally-listed species. In addition, *Arundo* physically displaces native vegetation and converts naturally open spaces to densely vegetated areas. In addition to all of these ecological considerations, *Arundo* poses a significant threat to infrastructure and water resources, exacerbating flooding by contributing to overbank flows and depleting belowground aquifers through unusually high water usage. Several years of study have shown that the sites that have been successfully treated have an increased presence of sensitive and endangered bird species and self-sustaining healthy native riparian plant community.

### **3. Alternative Solutions Considered**

#### Do Nothing:

This alternative does not achieve statutory mission of SDRC. Note: this alternative is included for purposes of reflecting a scenario in which no funding is available to take action.

#### Rely Upon Others to Undertake Restoration:

Jurisdictional gaps and mandates create significant areas throughout the watershed that would not be treated. The persistence of the invasive species in the upper watershed would then perpetually re-colonize treated areas downstream. SDRC's watershed-wide jurisdiction and specific statutory mandate uniquely position it to achieve the goal of invasive species removal in the San Diego River.

#### SDRC to lead this project:

This watershed-wide program is a Tier 1 project in the Southern California Wetlands Recovery project's Work Plan, reflecting both the need for the project and the SDRC's capacity to implement the project. In addition, several projects that are encompassed in the San Diego River watershed-based invasives eradication program were listed as priorities in the 2012 Annual Work Plans for SDRC and the San Diego River Coalition, an organization comprising more than 70 community based conservation groups and stakeholders.

The San Diego Association of Government's recently completed plan 'Management Priorities for Invasive Non-Native Plants' specifically highlights continued support for watershed-based *Arundo* eradication programs. This plan states that *Arundo* is the most detrimental invasive non-native plant in the County, indicating its severe abiotic and biotic impacts. Also, landscape-level coordinated management of *Arundo* is occurring, and the San Diego River watershed is specifically identified as meaningful, coordinated work occurring under the leadership of SDRC.

#### **4. Detailed Project Description/Recommended Solution**

SDRC has created a watershed-wide program for invasive species management (see description above) and needs funding to implement the program.

#### **5. Summary of Cost Methodology/Assumptions**

Original estimates indicated that it would cost \$5 million to restore these 354 acres. This was based on a rough estimate that it costs about \$20,000 to treat one acre of invasive species. Since restoration is already well underway and about \$1 million has already been spent, the current estimate is for funding needs of \$4 million to complete this work.

The following is the list of funding sources initially identified, with updates provided here as well since restoration work has already been partially funded:

- \$575,000 Proposition 40 River Parkways Program (Resources Agency) (mostly completed, and about \$350,000 already encumbered. Need remaining \$225k of SDRC's set aside
- \$175,000 Department of Defense
- \$400,000 Regional Water Quality Control Board (mostly done/in progress)
- \$233,000 Department of Fish and Game (already spent)

Since SDRC estimates about \$1m are already spent, the request is for \$4m.

## Program 4: Enhance Water Quality & Natural Flood Conveyance Help Establish the San Diego River Research Center at SDSU

**Program Category:** Environmental acquisitions and restoration

**Program Category Subtype:** *San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan Update 2012-2017: Program 4: Enhance Water Quality & Natural Flood Conveyance*

**Project Title:** Help Establish the San Diego River Research Center at SDSU: RiverNet Watershed Monitoring Infrastructure

### Funding Source:

The total cost for the project is estimated at \$905,000. The partnership consisting of SDRC, San Diego State University (SDSU), and San Diego River Park Foundation has already received \$300,000 in initial startup funding for concept development, planning, and design. This included \$75,000 from the Coastal Conservancy for preliminary planning and design, \$200,000 from SDRC for the design and installation of four monitoring stations, and \$25,000 in matching funds from SDSU. To build out a comprehensive real-time monitoring network for the watershed, an additional eight stations are needed. **The remaining costs are estimated at \$605,000.**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Estimated Costs for Program 4:</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Estimated Program Cost</b>				<b>\$605,000</b>	

### 1. Summary of Proposal

This activity supports Program 4 of *SDRC's Strategic Plan Update, 2012-2017*. In partnership with SDSU and the San Diego River Park Foundation, SDRC has initiated a long-term watershed monitoring program that collects, shares, and understands environmental information, called RiverNet. RiverNet creates a unique interdisciplinary outdoor laboratory and classroom that can serve as a major contributor to watershed management, restoration, and conservation decision-making. The monitoring stations collect basic water quality parameters (temperature, pH, flow/depth, photosynthetic active radiation, cyanobacteria, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and turbidity) and meteorological data. The RiverNet monitoring station platform has been collecting data in the San Diego River since 2009, but to complete existing system, the installation of eight mobile autosampler stations are needed.

The concept has been vetted with partners and stakeholders throughout the watershed, including the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, City of El Cajon, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Diego River Park Foundation, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, City of La Mesa, San Diego River Conservancy, City of Santee, San Diego CoastKeeper, U.S. Forest Service, and Helix Water District.

## **2. Problem Identification**

The San Diego River Watershed is the second largest watershed within San Diego County (440 square miles), and has the largest population. The watershed contains important natural resources such as a large groundwater aquifer, vast riparian habitat, and coastal wetlands. Nearly sixty percent of the watershed is currently undeveloped; a majority of the viable ecosystem occurs in the upper reaches, with the lower portions being heavily urbanized. Much of the habitat contains many endangered and threatened species, including the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Arroyo Toad, Least Bell's Vireo, and Southwest Pond Turtle.

As one of the fastest growing regions in the United States, San Diego has drastically increased its use and impact on the San Diego River watershed. Demands on this limited resource have dramatically changed over the years, risking the river's long-term sustainability, ecosystem health, and water quality. Today, the San Diego River winds its way through a complicated matrix of natural, non-native, urban, and agricultural lands. This gauntlet poses a serious threat as the population increases, resulting in increased sediment transport, changes in water volume, and the input of a myriad of water pollutants. Currently, the EPA has listed nine areas in the watershed that are impaired and listed under Section 303(d) (do not meet water quality standards under the Clean Water Act). Listings are for eutrophication, fecal coliform, pH, total dissolved solids, bacteria, low dissolved oxygen, and phosphorous.

Nonpoint source runoff during storm events is a major contributor to current impairments. Storm water sampling is logistically difficult and time-intensive. Concentrations of contaminants can change rapidly throughout a storm event, so sampling several times during a storm event is desirable. Basic water quality indicators (pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity) can be recorded continuously (15-minute intervals) at the various locations (described below) in the watershed, using instruments left in the stream. However, the determination of most contaminants of concern, including nutrients, requires that water samples be taken in the field during the storm.

## **3. Alternative Solutions Considered**

### Do Nothing:

This alternative does not achieve statutory mission of SDRC. This also continues a legacy of having insufficient information on which to base management and decision-making within the watershed. The lack of a more thorough dataset for the river also has costly regulatory implications. . Note: this alternative is included for purposes of reflecting a scenario in which no funding is available to take action.

### Enhance Grab Samples:

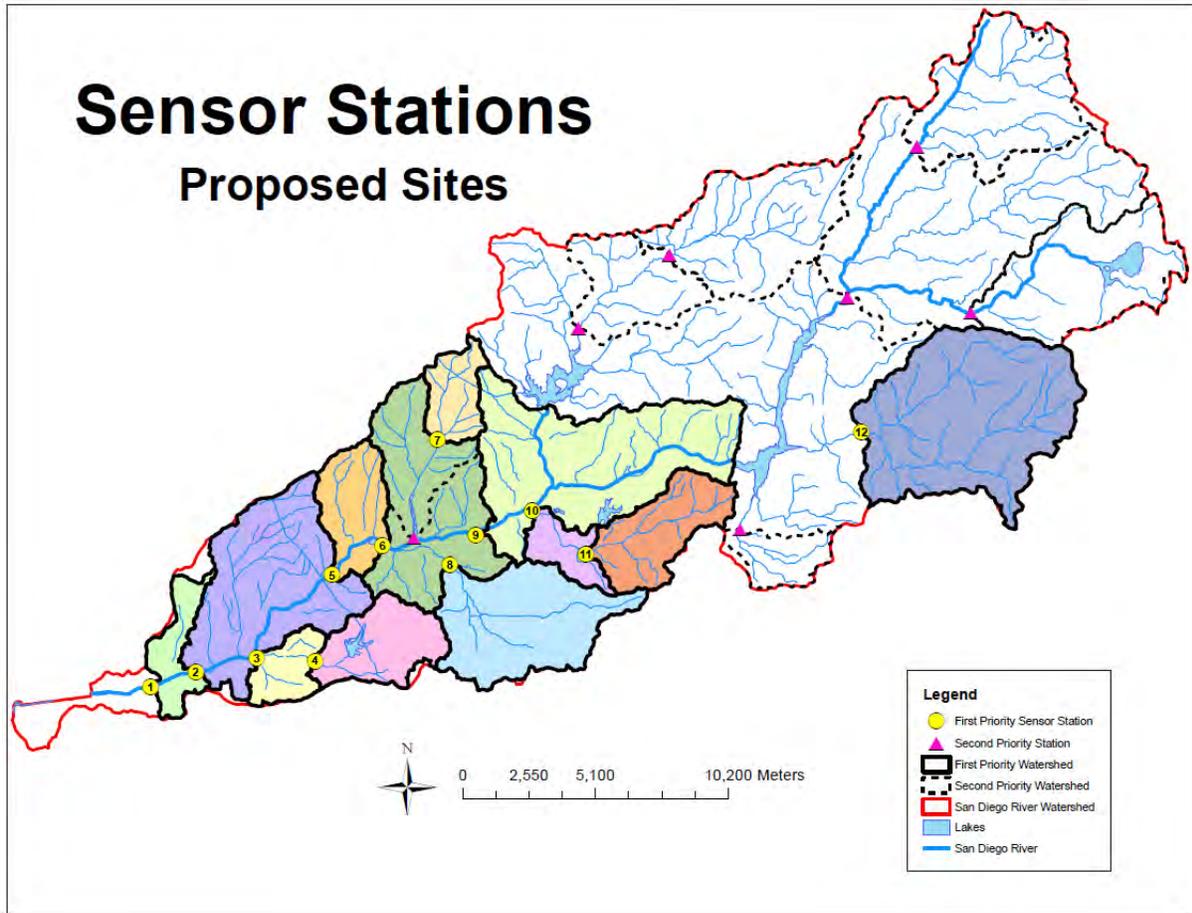
Samples can be collected manually, which requires a dedicated team of people. While enhancing grab samples may increase data collected within the watershed, this solution does not provide the temporal or spatial resolution needed. This method is also extremely time and labor intensive and does not aid in a more rapid identification of problems within the watershed.

The environmental sensors used by RiverNet provide several distinct advantages to conventional methods of monitoring the environment. First, the sensors are autonomous and require only periodic maintenance and calibration. Autosamplers are activated automatically during a storm event and collect samples at specified intervals during the storm. They are particularly suited to sampling in San Diego conditions, where storm events are typically of short duration, making it difficult to capture peak discharge using manual sampling. Second, they provide real-time information, making possible early detections of critical events, such as environmental contaminations or floods. All information will be integrated into a web-based application, distributing real-time data and storing long-term monitoring information for academic, public and agency access.

#### **4. Detailed Project Description/Recommended Solution**

SDRC, SDSU, and the San Diego River Park Foundation created a partnership to develop the RiverNet program to support watershed partners, municipal governments, and agencies. Identifying the critical need for this type of information, the partners worked with other stakeholders to identify key priority areas for monitoring station infrastructure development.

The goal of this project is to implement a program for informing management, restoration, and conservation decision-making within the San Diego River Watershed. The proposed locations of the RiverNet infrastructure were developed based on information about the ecology, hydrology, land use, and existing monitoring efforts to provide a comprehensive and complementary assessment network.



**5. Summary of Cost Methodology/Assumptions:**

Total costs for the project are based on the current costs associated with the installation of the infrastructure, sensors, and communications needed to provide real-time data collection and autosamplers for the RiverNet project. The partnership has already installed four sensor stations (located at priority sensor stations 2-5 on the attached map) and needs eight more. Each new sensor station will cost approximately \$45,000 (\$360,000 total). The permitting, installation, and calibration of the stations will be completed in approximately two years, at a cost of \$125,000. Indirect and administrative rates include an additional \$75,000 for a total cost of \$560,000.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of September 12, 2013**

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:

Water Bond update

Project Status:

- Riverford Road- San Diego River Trail (Lakeside's River Park Conservancy)
- Historic Flume Trail, El Monte Valley (SD County, in construction)
- River Gorge Trail and Trailhead- San Diego River Trail (USFS)
- Invasives Control and Restoration  
Midwest TV (SDRC direct implementation) and SCC grant for work in the Los Coches Creek watershed (tributary to San Diego River, Lakeside's River Park Conservancy sub-grant)

Procurement Report

Tierra Data, Inc. (on call biologist)

\$1,500 savings achieved by SDRC from board book savings

News Article:

Santee cracking down on homelessness



## Santee cracking down on homelessness

By [Karen Pearlman](#) 1:53 p.m. Aug. 8, 2013

SANTEE — With the San Diego River running through Santee, plus other greenbelt areas within the city's borders, illegal campsites along the riverbed and elsewhere set up by the homeless have been an ongoing issue.

Volunteers with the Regional Task Force on the Homeless tallied 18 people living unsheltered or in their cars during a one-day count in January of this year. A survey in April 2013 by the San Diego River Park Foundation identified 160 active encampments along 30 miles of the San Diego River from the El Capitan Reservoir to the Pacific Ocean.

Santee Mayor Randy Voepel said a riverbottom sweep he took part in several months ago found more than 30 homeless, twice as many as he said he's seen over the past 10 years.

"The riverbottom complexion has changed dramatically," Voepel said. "It used to be older men that were longtime riverbottom residents. It was a civilized culture there. But recently, San Diego's problems have moved up and we now have these methamphetamine tweakers that have moved in."

The city of Santee has taken a proactive approach, first by making efforts to connect the homeless to food, shelter and social services via the Santee Food Bank and other public service groups. Deputies from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department also conduct sweeps of the riverbed every two months to find campsites and tag them with eviction notices.

Deputy Mark Snelling with the Community Oriented Policing Unit said transients are given notice that they are trespassing and then have a week to 10 days to remove their property.

"If they are present when the deputies are tagging the campsites, we can cite them for illegal camping," Snelling said.

When deputies return a few weeks after the initial sweep, anyone found living at the tagged campsites can be arrested for trespassing. In the first six months of 2013, the sheriff's deputies in Santee issued 43 citations for illegal camping.

After deputies have issued the illegal camping citations, the Santee City Attorney's Office pursues the charges by appearing in court to prosecute the illegal camping and related offenses.

"Stay away" orders prohibiting transients from returning to the riverbed are also given out. Judges have the discretion to ban repeat offenders from re-establishing campsites in same geographic area as a condition of suspending a fine or a jail sentence.

Snelling noted that "there has been more violent crime committed against the homeless than they have perpetrated themselves."

Voepel said he was greatly concerned over the unusually high number of women he saw in the riverbed, as well as the young people who are spending time in the area as well.

"It's pretty ugly," Voepel said. "These women have sores on their faces, looking so bad with sunken eyes. And then there are Santee kids going to the riverbottom to score dope deals. It's a dirty subculture, but we are sweeping every two to three weeks. We do observe the U.S. Constitution in Santee and we devote a tremendous amount of time and resources."

Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation founder and executive director, whose group studies and cares for the areas along the San Diego River said the encampments have been found to be a "significant source" of pollution to the river.

A recent survey by the foundation estimates that transient camps along the river account for 35 percent of the trash sites and 71 percent of the trash volume by weight.

"Over the years, our volunteers have come across significant numbers of hypodermic needles, latrine sites and other public health issues, and numerous fires have been started where people are living along the river," Hutsel said. "We want to get people the assistance they need so they aren't living in this condition."

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of September 12, 2013**

ITEM: **9**

SUBJECT: **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2013, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

State of California  
San Diego River Conservancy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT  
**Meeting of September 12, 2013**

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT